



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen
In search of the Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
M/V Hondius
2nd June 2022 – 9th June 2022



The MV Hondius was built in 2019 in Brodosplit, Croatia, as an expedition vessel for Oceanwide Expeditions. Hondius is 107.60m long, 17,60m wide and has a maximum draught of 5.3m and has an exceptionally high Ice class of PC6, a top speed of 15 knots and 3 diesel generators. The Hondius sails on LSMGO. Now the ship is sailing as a 176-passenger vessel with 83 cabins. Our beautiful, modern ship carries 369m³ of fresh water and has a water plant producing 70m³ per day. Hondius is the perfect vessel for a true polar adventure!

Captain Artur Iakovlev

and his international crew of 69
including:

Chief Officer:	Diederik Scholten
Staff Officer:	Elizbar Kadaria
Second Officer:	Kirill Buriachek
Second Officer:	Sven Holzhausen
Third Officer:	Don Buren
Chief Engineer:	Florian Cretu
Hotel Manager:	William Barnes
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Andrius Juodvirsis
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel
Sous Chefs:	Milos Simeunovic Mihai Melinte
Ship's Physician:	Rogier Steins
Expedition Leader:	Eduardo Rubio-Herrera
Assist. Expedition Leaders:	Sara Jenner George Kennedy Claudio Ghiglione
Expedition Guides:	Meike Sjoer Hazel Pittwood Koen Jongerling Miriam Vermeij Andrew Crowder Laura Mony Juan Berenstein

We welcome you on board!

Day 1: 2nd June 2022

Embarkation, Longyearbyen

GPS position at 1200: 78°14.7' N, 015°37.2' E

Wind: NW 2 Sea State: Slight Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +10°C Sea Temp: +4.7°C



What a beautiful day to begin our Arctic adventure; cloudless blue sky, bright sunshine and calm waters. Perfect! The Expedition Team lifted luggage aboard and then greeted guests as they walked up the gangway of our lovely ship, M/V Hondius. Many guests explained they had been due to make this trip a couple of years ago, but unfortunately due to the covid pandemic it had to be rescheduled. So, you can imagine the excitement everyone was feeling to be finally starting this expedition after a long wait!

With guests and their luggage happily aboard Expedition Leader (EL) Eduardo, and Chief Officer Diederik commenced the mandatory ship safety briefing at 17:30pm. Dr Rogier Steins also introduced himself; he too had been scheduled to come on board a few years ago so shared the guest's joy at being on board!

During the safety briefing guests were shown how to put on life jackets and shown the floatation suits which are stored in all cabins for use in an emergency situation. As part of the briefing an abandon ship alarm was sounded so we all made our way to our muster stations, either in the Observation Lounge (station B) or Restaurant (station A). Once all guests had arrived wearing their lifejackets correctly, we proceeded to the lifeboat boarding area on deck 6. We were directed to our lifeboats and given further information by Second Officer Kirill Buriachek and Third Officer Don Buren, who would be the masters of these vessels in the (very unlikely) event of us having to use them. Afterwards, at 18:15pm, guests received a welcome and orientation briefing from our Hotel Manager William and EL Eduardo.

Our bird list, beginning from our time of departure from the port in Longyearbyen, already included **Common Eider**, **Black-legged Kittiwake** and **Black Guillemot**. Soon after leaving we started to see **Northern Fulmar**, notably much darker than those seen further south; most of the birds encountered around Spitsbergen have the blue colour morph of plumage, giving them a smoky grey-blue appearance. After the important matter of dinner time (a wonderful buffet provided by head Chef Ralf and his team) it was time for the third and final briefing of the evening, a video presentation from AECO (the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators) which informs visitors regarding correct behaviour towards the environment, people and wildlife of the Arctic. After a day of travel and lots of important information many of us headed to bed to be well rested for our first full day of expedition tomorrow.

At 23:00pm the handful of guests still awake were lucky enough to see two **Blue Whales!** The ship slowed to assess their direction of travel. Large whales are at risk of ship strike so it is vitally important we take their movements into account.

Thankfully, the animals remained at a safe distance and they were heading in the opposite direction to us at speed. There was no way we could have slowed or repositioned to get a better view of them; the blue whale is capable of a top speed of 28mph (45kmh) in short bursts (but more regularly cruise along at 1-5mph). Our ship's top speed is nearer to a maximum of 17mph (27kmh) which gives you an idea of just how fast these whales are, despite being huge!

Day 2: 3rd June 2022

Lilliehöökreen and Ny-London

GPS position at 1200: 79° 01.9' N, 011°37.2' E

Wind: Variable 2 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +6°C Sea Temp: +7°C

We awoke to our first full day afloat to enjoy a leisurely breakfast and an even more leisurely cruise down the fjord to the Lilliehöökreen Glacier. Although the glacier front had contracted backwards considerably over the recent past, for those of us visiting for the first time we could only be struck by its sheer enormity. Not the highest of glaciers, but immensely wide and disappearing up the valley towards its distant source, out of our sight into low cloud. The water in front of the glacier was sprinkled with pieces of ice, some with bright



blue hues. We started identifying the birds flying around the fjord with **Brünnich's Guillemot** and **Northern Fulmar** being the most common with a few **King Eider** and an **Arctic Skua**. A **Bearded Seal** was also a great find! Back on board, muck boots were distributed to all guests followed by a mandatory briefing about zodiac safety prior to the first planned landing in the afternoon.

Over lunch Hondius relocated to the Kongs fjord to undertake the first landing of the cruise. Half the guests entered the zodiacs to be taken to small bay that was the site of a failed marble mining operation by Ernest Mansfield and his Northern Exploration Company Ltd. They explored the perimeter of the remaining cabins (which are still in use by



researchers), the crane and the transport engine. In the bay a pair of **Long-tailed Duck** (pictured left) proved a great start to the wildlife seen which also included **Reindeer**, **Purple Sandpiper** and **Pink-Footed Goose**. One group were completely taken by surprise when a stunning winter plumaged **Rock Ptarmigan** landed almost at their feet and calmly settled down to feed. The other half of the guests were taken for a zodiac cruise in the fjord including winding through a field of small bergs of many shapes and hues, including one that was uncoloured and virtually transparent, looking like a huge

diamond as the sun shone through it. A **Minke Whale** surfaced in front of one zodiac but then promptly disappeared and was not seen again despite other zodiacs arriving on scene; typical 'slinky Minke' behaviour! Several **Common (Harbour) Seals** were spotted as well as a stunning **Long-tailed Skua**, sitting imperiously on a rock of the summit of a small hillock in the late afternoon sun. A magnificent end to the day!

Day 3: 4th June 2022

Magdalenefjord: Gullybukta and Gravsneset

GPS position at 1200: 79°33.8' N, 010°57.6' E

Wind: Variable 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +6°C Sea Temp: +6°C



We woke up to rain under a grey sky, but the stunning landscape compensated for this. While guests were slowly waking up, the Expedition staff were already getting ready for the day ahead. At 7:30am Hotel Manager William called us for breakfast and, whilst eating, we were admiring the beautiful landscape that Magdalenefjorden had to offer through the windows of the dining room. Dark, jagged peaks up to 900m high dappled with patches of mosses and the remains of winter's snow and ice. At 8:30am we were invited to meet at the shelf door to set off for our landing site, Gullybukta. The landing was split in between a small hike and a zodiac cruise. Luckily for us,

by now the rain had stopped. We went on a small hike that took us around the landing and up to a **Walrus** haul out. These gigantic tusked beasts were playing and foraging in the water, being surprisingly active compared to the usual behaviour we observe of them sleeping on the beach!

We would have spent the whole day watching these comical creatures ashore, but it was time for the groups to swap; those who had been ashore now went for a zodiac for a cruise around the fjord. Some of us went straight to a **Little Auk** colony, to watch these tiny birds flying whizzing to and from the cliffs where they were nesting. Other zodiacs took a route along the shore to look for other wildlife. The highlight though was yet more walruses: they curiously swam around the zodiacs giving fantastic views. The morning's activities drew to a close and we returned to the ship for lunch. The restaurant was buzzing with excitement as passengers shared their experiences from the wildlife filled morning.

After lunch it was time for another zodiac cruise, deeper into the fjord. This was a fantastic afternoon with lots of **King Eider** and **Arctic Terns** along with



harbour seals, some swimming and others hauled out resting. Thanks to a keen eyes guest some of us were able to see an **Arctic Fox**! Other guests were treated to a fantastic view of a **Minke Whale** (*pictured on previous page*) A beautiful blue and white glacier spanned across the end of the fjord. It was undoubtedly stunning, but we could see it was not in the best shape with brown and grey patches indicating this is a retreating glacier. As it continues to retreat, it will erode the rocks around it leaving large amounts of rock dust on the surrounding ice.

Back on board, everyone met in the lounge. You could tell it had been a good day by the atmosphere of excited chatter in the room. At 18:15pm Eduardo, our expedition leader, invited us in the lounge to show tomorrow's plans. He was followed by some recaps about birds: Andrew talking about Skuas and Meike about Little Auks. The day ended with a delicious dinner prepared by our favorite chef Ralf and a celebratory drink at the bar served by Rolando and John, our lovely bartenders. We knew we would sleep well tonight after a day full of expedition and couldn't wait to see what tomorrow would bring.

Day 4: 5th June 2022

Fuglefjorden, Smeerenburg and Danskøya

GPS position at 1200: 79°47.1' N, 011°23.1' E

Wind: Variable 1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +5.8°C

When we opened the curtains in the morning a sunny day with calm waters was waiting for us. After breakfast one group of passengers went out for a morning zodiac cruise in the fjord, while the other group stayed at the ship for an excellent lecture about Polar Bears by Sara. Later in the morning the groups swapped their activities. Today's location for our exploration was the fjord of the birds (Fuglefjorden). Roaming through the broken sea ice we found a variety of birds: **Black-legged Kittiwake**, **Black Guillemots**, **Atlantic Puffins**, **Common Eider** and **King Eider** ducks and the **Arctic Tern**. We were also treated to great views of **Bearded Seals**, both in the water and resting on the ice. Once again a sharp sighted passenger spotted an **Arctic Fox**; this one was moulting its white winter coat into its brownish summer fur.

In the afternoon we visited the historic Dutch whaling settlement of Smeerenburg (meaning 'blubber town') which used to be home to two hundred inhabitants living in sixteen houses and numerous blubber ovens used for boiling down whale blubber to obtain oil. In addition to this, further historical interest was provided nearby when we undertook a zodiac cruise to Virgohamna (situated on Danskøya) to see the remains of a structure used to support a huge hydrogen balloon used by Swedish engineer/physicist, Salomon August Andrée, along with Knut Frænkel and Nils Strindberg, in an attempt to reach the North Pole in 1897.

Alongside the history there was plenty of opportunity to enjoy wildlife during the afternoon.

Walrus delighted everyone on shore at Smeerenburg and we had some truly special encounters with **Harbour Seals** later whilst zodiac



cruising. In the evening, we had a special meal: an Arctic barbecue on the back deck! We headed outside for this unique dining experience, a full buffet and barbecue in front of the Smeerenburgreen. With music playing and free drinks for the evening the atmosphere was very festive and plenty of us saw out the end of the day on the dancefloor.



Day 5: 6th June 2022

Into the Pack Ice – over 80° North

GPS position at 1200: 80°04.1' N, 011°34.2' E

Wind: Variable 1 Sea State: Ice Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +4.6°C Sea Temp: +4.7°C

Hondius had sailed through the night to a position just north of the archipelago of Svalbard, to achieve two targets. Our first was to cross the latitude line of 80 degrees North, which we did at 07:31 on the 6th June, 2022. This is a position not many people can say they have crossed because it is so far north. Also, we had left all remaining land to our south and the North Pole was now just 1,111 nautical miles dead ahead of us, as the Captain pointed the ship in that direction. However, to get there from this point you have to overcome an immense physical barrier. We had arrived of the edge of the pack ice, our second target, and from here to the pole is an immense frozen sea. At its southern edge it is broken up by the combined action of the energetic sea and the warming temperatures of the coming summer. At 09:00 Captain Artur turned Hondius into the ice and we able to spend nearly the whole day in this magical environment. We could look back to the iconic mountains of northern Spitzbergen and gaze forward towards the ice locked, northern pole of planet earth. Inside, Laura gave a particularly relevant talk on 'Sea Ice'.

From early morning, with guests still asleep in their cabins, the expedition team had been scouting for polar bears that stay on the pack ice to hunt seals. We immediately began to spot seals hauled out in solitary seclusion on the ice floes.



Bearded Seals was the most common species recorded during the day but we also identified three **Hooded Seals**, the first of the trip. Back indoors, Hazel gave a fascinating presentation on 'Arctic Pinnipeds' (flipper footed animals such as the seals and walrus) and Koen on the 'History of Svalbard'. Meanwhile, outside, most of the now familiar seabirds were seen in good numbers **Fulmar, Black Guillemot, Brünnich's Guillemot** and **Little Auk**. Today was a bit of red-letter day for birds because we sighted two rare and highly sought after gulls of the Arctic (albeit

briefly). Firstly, in the morning, a **Sabine's Gull** in splendid breeding plumage flew quickly across the bow and never stopped going. In the afternoon, an **Ivory Gull** was spotted sitting on the ice, next to a **Glaucous Gull** and a dark phase **Arctic Skua**. No sooner had the ivory gull been sighted it took to the air and flew away from the ship. In these circumstances only a few lucky people got to see one and even fewer, both. Also, despite the great visibility and a significant number of eyes glued to binoculars and telescopes, we were unable to spot the proverbial 'needle in a hay stack': a white bear in a vast white wilderness.

Day 6: 7th June 2022

Fjortenda Julibukta and Ny-Ålesund

GPS position at 1200: 79°07.6' N, 011°49.1' E

Wind: E 2 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Part Cloudy

Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +6.5°C

Another day with beautiful sunshine, calm weather and outstanding scenery. As we were called for breakfast, the expedition staff were readying the zodiacs and scouting the landing site. Fjortenda Julibukta (14th July bay) was a colorful landing with a lot of green mosses cloaking the cliffs, some **Purple Saxifrage**, orange lichens and white ice. Even before we were called for boarding, some of us were excitedly waiting on deck 3 for the zodiacs to pick us up and take us out exploring. We were so excited to get back on land after a full day on the ship! The first group started with the landing where we could roam freely between the bird cliffs, the ice and the rocks. We could admire the first flowers blooming as summer was slowly starting. On one side of the landing site we could admire a majestic glacier and, on the other side, a cliff full of nesting birds, mostly **Kittiwakes**. After an hour and a half of walking around the landing site we were called back for the zodiac cruise... and what a cruise it was! After venturing to see the glacier we went along the cliffs, admiring **Atlantic Puffins, Arctic Skuas, Brünnich's Guillemot, Glaucous Gull** and **Barnacle Geese**. Along with the birds, we enjoyed great views of **Svalbard Reindeer** and admired the beautiful, layered geology of red and orange meta sedimentary rocks along with the flowering **Purple Saxifrage**.

We returned to the ship to have lunch and during that time Hondius started moving toward our afternoon landing site. We could feel that the trip was getting closer to the end as we started sailing south, closer to Longyearbyen. During the

afternoon, we visited the scientific settlement of Ny-Ålesund. An interesting place where some meteorological, geological and biological data are taken. We did a short walk to the mast, outside of the settlement, where Meike and Miriam talked about the history of the place. Then, we went back into town to visit the souvenir shop, post office and little museum. We bought some souvenirs for our family and friends and sent a postcard from the most northerly post office in the world. Around 5:30pm we were all ready to go back to the ship after a truly wonderful day.

As with every day since we boarded Hondius, recap was our pre-dinner a ritual. Eduardo presented the plans for tomorrow, followed by Miriam talking about the 'Arctic Garden', describing the plant life of this region. Meike then spoke about the North pole zeppelin (balloon) flight that left from Ny-Ålesund with, on board, Roald Amundsen. Everyone was relaxing after dinner assuming the day's excitement was over, but we then encountered a large gathering of whales feeding together! The bridge team skillfully brought the ship to a halt; three **Fin Whales** swam close past the bow, whilst **Humpback Whales** were breaching at the stern. As if that wasn't enough, there were also some **Minke Whales** and **Sei Whales** and numerous large groups of **Harp Seals**! This was a truly outstanding sight; it is incredibly rare to see four different whale species feeding in the same area at the same moment. We could tell it was a special moment as all of the guides, bridge officers and the captain were excited about what was happening around the ship.



Day 7: 8th June, 2022

Ymerbukta and Alkhornet

GPS position at 1200: 78°14.7' N, 013°57.4' E

Wind: S 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: +6°C

We arrived at our final full day in Svalbard already! Time had passed by so quickly. Today started with a split landing with the first group going ashore being escorted around a plateau upwards from the beach landing site. This pleasant walk across the tundra rewarded us with some really nice encounters with **Svalbard Reindeer**; the fact they are so inquisitive and approached us meant there was with plenty of opportunity for photos. An **Arctic Fox** was also seen darting up the mountainside with unbelievable ease and numerous **Ptarmigan** (*pictured below*) were both heard and seen! We were also treated to a flyover from some **Arctic Skua**. Plant life seen included **Buttercup** and **Arctic Willow** with their fluffy catkins.

On the shuttling operations to and from the ship some people were lucky enough to get close views of **Atlantic Puffins** sitting on the water. The zodiac cruise took guests to the face of the Esmarkbreen glacier whose impressive face is more than one kilometre wide. **Arctic Terns** were everywhere and we were able to observe many facets of their behaviour including pair bonding displays, mating and nesting. A pair of **Red-throated Divers** flew overhead and at least some zodiacs managed to see



a juvenile **Bearded Seal** sitting on a small rock! This animal was less than half the size of an adult, but it still had a good set of whiskers. Finally, for some brave (mad?!) souls, the infamous 'Polar Plunge' into freezing arctic water from the beach took place at 12 noon.

After lunch we had another split landing. The zodiac cruisers went into the Trygghamna Fjord to explore the landscape from the sea including the Harrietbreen & Kjerelfbreen Glaciers; **Common Seal** and **Arctic Fox** were amongst the wildlife highlights. Ashore, the mighty rock faces of Alkhornet towered over the surrounding ground that we climbed to from the beach. The highest point reaches 431 metres and houses a veritable seabird city during the breeding season. The most numerous are the **Black-Legged Kittiwakes** and **Brünnich's Guillemot**, which occur in seemingly uncountable numbers (thought estimated populations put them at least 25,000 pairs of each species). The kittiwakes could be seen flying down to pool to collect mud and vegetation together and carry it to the cliffs to construct their nests. Back on Hondius we gathered for a final time to join the Captain's farewell party with cocktails and Expedition Photographer Juan's superb slideshow. We copied this brilliant memento of our trip to our own memory cards and USB sticks to treasure when we returned home and to share with our family and friends.

Day 8: 9th June 2022

Longyearbyen - Disembarkation

GPS position at 1200: 78°14.0' N, 015°37.4' E

Wind: W 2 Sea State: Port Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +6°C

Surely our Arctic adventure was not over already?! Sadly yes, after our final wake-up call at 7:00am by Expedition Leader Eduardo it was time for our last breakfast on board M/V Hondius. Luggage and passengers were transported ashore in Longyearbyen by zodiacs (one last little cruise!) The friendly Expedition Team said farewell and off everyone went with big smiles and memories to treasure forever!



Thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage; for your enthusiasm, support and good company. We very much hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 706.1 nautical miles

Furthest North: 80°04.388' N, 11°35.399' E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Artur Iakovlev, Expedition Leader Eduardo Rubio Herrera, Hotel Manager William Barnes and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

1. Longyearbyen
2. Lillehöökreen
3. Ny-London
4. Gullybuykta
5. Gravneset
6. Fuglefjorden
7. Smeerenburg
8. Zodiac cruise Virgohamna
9. Smeerenburgbreen, BBQ
10. Northern most point
11. Fjortende Julibukta
12. Ny-Alesund
13. Ymerbukta
14. Alkhornet
15. Longyearbyen



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	2-jun	3-jun	4-jun	5-jun	6-jun	7-jun	8-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker		x				x	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	Taigarietgans							x
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans		x					
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	x	x				x	x
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidereend	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	x		x	x			
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ilseend		x					
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwoen		x					x
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier				x		x	x
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	x	x				x	x
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer	Tournepierre à collier	Steenloper		x					
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	x		x	x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager		x					
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager		x					
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Eifenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw					x		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	x	x	x	x		x	x
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaiduiker	x		x	x	x	x	x
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgorst	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	2-jun	3-jun	4-jun	5-jun	6-jun	7-jun	8-jun
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus			x	x			
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Barrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob		x		x	x		x
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob							
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob						x	
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	x		x	x	x		
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis						x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis						x	
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	x						
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis						x	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug						x	
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn						x	
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos		x					
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Rentier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier		x					

Eduardo Rubio - Expedition Leader



I describe myself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for sharing nature with others.

After studying physics, I got my PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position I became a lecturer of physics and Astronomy as well as a guide in expedition cruise ships. In 2018 I decided to become a full-time guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic and in the Arctic.

My interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips I have undertaken, I offer lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), about our Universe, and the mysteries of our ocean's depths, to mention some. At sea, besides being an engaged guide and lecturer, I love to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore. In every trip I made, I always aim to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live. Born in Guatemala (1978), I speak English, Spanish and German.

Sara Jenner – Assistant Expedition Leader



For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born. Ever since Sara has been travelling the globe in search of wild and remote places and has spent many

months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents and she has travelled extensively in the polar regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Falklands, South Georgia, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, when she decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

During 2020-2021 she worked extensively on a leopard seal identification project and took the opportunity to fulfil a lifetime dream of visiting South Georgia in winter by working on the M/V Pharos, which is deployed by the South Georgia Government as a fishery patrol vessel.

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.

George Kennedy – Assistant Expedition Leader



George is an anthropologist and political scientist currently studying at the Australian Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science. He has a keen interest in cultural identity and contemporary geopolitics in the polar regions. His current research focusses on the complex dynamics between indigenous, scientific and political stakeholders in their pursuit of environmental protection in Antarctica and the Arctic.

In his practice as an anthropologist, George has worked predominantly with community development organisations in Latin America. His work has focussed on identifying collaborative solutions to support environmental conservation and sustainable tourism in Patagonia and the Amazon basin.

Prior to his work in anthropology, George served as a paramedic in Australia, still occasionally throwing on the uniform to work with Ambulance Victoria in Melbourne.

Second only to expedition cruising, George's great passion is motorcycle travel. He has ridden from Mongolia to India, around Australia, and most recently from Patagonia to Mexico on his Kawasaki KLR650.

Claudio Ghiglione – Assistant Expedition Leader



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK).

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective is to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide Oceanwide.

Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book ‘Polar Lights’ with whom he shares the passion for nature photography.

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



From early on Meike has been a passionate naturalist and traveller who just loves birds.

At the age of 7 she bought her first bird book. Being outdoors all the time, she wanted to learn more about the amazing creatures she encountered. Investigating and learning about nature and wildlife has been a passion ever since.

Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a television director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If not travelling, she is directing the prime-time wildlife television program Vroege Vogels.

When time permits, she volunteers as a nature guide for the Dutch institute for nature and education. As a teenager Meike started sailing the oceans but her true love for the life in the oceans began 14 years ago when she started working with Sea Shepherd on the mediateam.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing knowledge and the passion for this magical polar world with you.

Hazel Pittwood - Expedition Guide



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. A childhood spent pond dipping, bug hunting and exploring the countryside and coast nurtured her love of the natural world.

She has worked in practical conservation and community engagement roles for a variety of habitats, including heathland and coastal nature reserves. Hazel also has experience surveying rare protected species and is a trained wildlife rescue volunteer and marine mammal medic

Whilst she is broadly learned about the natural world, Hazel has specialised in marine mammals and seabirds since 2014. At that time she began volunteering as a marine mammal and seabird surveyor, collecting sightings data regarding these animals for UK based conservation charities. In 2017 she worked on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months, delivering talks and leading wildlife watching sessions out on deck.

Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise ships for over three years. This role has taken her to Norway and Svalbard, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, the Faroe Islands, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and Central America. She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

The polar regions host an incredible diversity of seabird and marine mammal species and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he chose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

Miriam Vermeij – Expedition Guide



During her youth she travelled a lot with her parents and sister in Europe. Miriam developed an interest in nature at a young age and lots of time was spent outdoor, exploring local insects and plants. Following her interests, she followed an environmental science study and got a degree with a specialisation on soil pollution. Nowadays she is a self-employed environmental planning officer.

From 1999 the travelling outside Europe started and after a trip to South America, the Falklands and Antarctica in 2006 she got the passion for the poles. The first contact with the Arctic was in 2011 and after another trip in 2013 she came back as field assistant on the Dutch polar expedition (SEES) in 2015 and to the Dutch polar station in Ny Alesund in 2016. Since 2017 she has been guiding in the Arctic, followed by the Antarctic in 2018.

In Holland Miriam is a nature guide since 2003. First in the local forest and since 2008 also in one of the largest national parks in Holland: De Biesbosch. There she is guiding school kids and adult groups on walking and boating trips. She is also part of the board that manages the local forest.

Andrew Crowder - Expedition Guide



Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a lifelong history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on UK and European species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge. As part of that journey of discovery, he has also developed self-taught skills in wildlife photography.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a CMAS Class 2/BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world helped spawn his other main interest: cetaceans. Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these animals, including undertaking scientific surveys and guiding on cruise ships in the Arctic and UK waters.

Andrew recognizes that few wildlife encounters spark such an emotional reaction in humans as when they see whales and dolphins. He uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences and thereby promote the conservation of our precious natural world.

Laura Mony – Expedition Guide



The ocean had always been part of Laura's life. She started spending time on sailboats when she was a baby and she sailed around the world crossing several oceans when she was between 12 and 14 years old. That trip increased her passion for the ocean because she discovered its vastness and its importance on the earth's dynamic.

Laura had the chance to start traveling very young and has been all over the world alone, with a backpack, with family or friends. These trips gave her the opportunity to develop an open mind and an intellectual curiosity about the

climate phenomena that govern our planet.

Born in France, she grew up in the French part of Canada where she did her bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering. During her bachelor's degree, she became fascinated by the polar regions and wanted to continue her studies in that field. That is why, at the end of her degree, she left Canada for Tasmania, Australia, to do her Master in Marine and Antarctic Science. During that degree she deeply studied this fascinating continent with a specialization in geophysics and glaciology. When she is not guiding, she explores the world with her camera, or she is discovering the backcountry of Quebec with her skis. She likes to discover remote area and meet with local populations.

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina. He is embarking on his first Antarctic Expedition Cruise with Oceanwide Expeditions.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying outdoors and on the mountains. His hobbies are trekking, camping, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country

on holidays. Nowadays he enjoys discovering new landscapes around the end of the Andes chain with his friends.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in tourism for more than 5 years in Ushuaia and has amazing skills related to guest management, being a sociable and talkative person. He speaks natively Spanish, English and some German as he did an exchange back in 2014 after finishing high school.

Going to Antarctica has been a lifetime dream of his, as being born at the southernmost city in the world and the nearest city to the white continent really set the path for the years to come. He plans on starting a Polar career learning from every aspect, from wildlife to history, and someday become an Expedition expert.

Rogier Steins – Ship's doctor



He was born in Utrecht, The Netherlands. He studied medicine in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. As a part of his education he went to Calgary, Canada for research in orthopaedics and Cape Town, South Africa for an internship trauma surgery in Groote Schuur Hospital. After he graduated medical school, he worked at the emergency department in the Hague and the surgery department in Utrecht. He decided to specialise in family medicine because he has a broad medical interest and likes human psychology. 3 years later he finished his specialisation as a general practitioner.

He is currently working as a general practitioner in his hometown Utrecht and also temporarily working for the public health service (GGD) in Utrecht during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Besides working as a family doctor in Utrecht, he likes to combine his work as a doctor with his passion for adventure. In 2019-2020 he worked as a family doctor on Aruba and spent a lot of time on the water kitesurfing. In the beginning of 2020, he helped out at camp Moria in Greece as a medical volunteer for the Boat Refugee Foundation.

In his spare time, he likes to go kite(surfing), snowboarding, travelling and read about personal growth. He is really looking forward to exploring the Arctic region together with you.

If you have any (medical) questions, don't hesitate to ask!



North Spitsbergen
In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!

2nd June 2022
Day 1 – Embarkation, Longyearbyen

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage!

Tea/coffee is available in the lounge located on Deck 5.
PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 17:30 Ship safety briefing, in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.
- After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket.
- All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to MUSTER STATION A which is the Restaurant on Deck 4
All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 (Cabins 401-414, 601-619, 701-714) will go to MUSTER STATION B which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5.
- 18:15 +/- The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a Welcome Briefing, to orientate you to life on board and the plan for the forthcoming days.
This will take place in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5.
- Please listen for announcements for exact timings as they will be determined by our departure time.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner in the restaurant on Deck 4.
- 20:30 We would like to invite you to the lounge for AECO safety briefing and staff introductions. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY** and will be checked.

“It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves” -Edmund Hillary



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding *Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!*

3rd June 2022

Day 2 – Lilliehookbreen and Ny London

- 07:00 Wake- up call
07:30-8:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

During the course of the morning, we will sail into Lilliehookbreen so we encourage you to spend time on the outside decks looking for wildlife and enjoying the views of this magnificent glacier.

- 10:00 Muck Boot Distribution. Please listen for announcements, as you will be called deck by deck to Deck 3. Please bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you!
- 11:00 A **mandatory** zodiac and safety briefing will take place in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance will be checked. This will be followed by a briefing for the afternoons landing at Ny London.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

14:00 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Ny London.

14:30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Ny London.

All groups will swap during the afternoon.

19:00 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for Daily Recap and Captains Cocktails.

19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

“You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to loose sight of the shore” -Christoph Columbus



North Spitsbergen
In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!

4th June 2022
Day 3 – Magdalenefjord and Amsterdamoya

- 07:00 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-8:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Gullybukta.
- 08:45 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Gullybreen.

All groups will swap during the afternoon

- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:30 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Amsterdamoya.
- 14:45 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Amsterdamoya.

All groups will swap during the afternoon

- 19:00 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for Daily Recap.
- 19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

“Half the confusion in the world comes from not knowing how little we need” -Richard Byrd.



North Spitsbergen
In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!

5th June 2022
Day 4 – Fuglefjorden and Amsterdamoya

07:00 Wake- up call.

07:30- 08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

08:30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise of Fuglefjorden.

10:15 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Fuglefjorden.

Sara will be giving a presentation about Polar Bears in the lounge for those guests not zodiac cruising, this will repeated during the morning so all guests can attend.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

14:30 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Amsterdamoya.

14:45 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Amsterdamoya.

All groups will swap during the afternoon

19:00 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for Daily Recap.

19:30 Dinner will be severed in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

"Superhuman effort isn't worth a damn unless it achieves results." — Ernest Shackleton..



North Spitsbergen
In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!

6th June 2022
Day 5 – Pack Ice

07:30 Wake- up call.

08:00- 09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

We hope to reach the ice edge in the early morning so please join the expedition team on the outside decks and help look for wildlife.

11:00 Laura welcomes you to her lecture about Sea Ice and the effects of Climate Change in the lounge.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

15:00 Hazel would like to invite you to the lounge for her presentation on Pinnipeds (Seals and Walrus) of the Arctic.

16:30 Koen would like you to join him in the lounge for his lecture about 'The History of Svalbard'.

18:30 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for Daily Recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." We will require a substantially- Albert Einstein..



North Spitsbergen
In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!

7th June 2022
Day 6 – 14. Julibukta and Ny Alesund

- 07:00 Wake- up call.
- 07:30- 08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:30 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at 14. Julibukta.
- 08:45 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise of 14 Julibukta.

All groups will swap during the morning

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

14:30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Ny Alesund.

14:45 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Ny Alesund.

There will be a guided walk leaving from the Amundsen Bust for the **Blue** group at 15:30 and for the **Red** group at 16:30.

The shop will be open until 17:00 and accepts most credit cards. If you wish to have your passport stamped with a souvenir stamp, please take it ashore with you.

18:30 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for Daily Recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

We ourselves see in all rivers and oceans. It is the image of the ungraspable phantom of life; and this is the key to it all Herman Melville – Moby Dick.



North Spitsbergen
In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding
Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!

8th June 2022
Day 7 – Ymerbukta and Alkhornet

- 06:30 Wake- up call.
- 07:00- 08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Ymerbukta.
- 08:15 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise of Ymerbukta.

All groups will swap during the morning.

We hope to offer a Polar Plunge this morning. If you would like to take an Arctic dip, please wear your swimmers under your expedition clothes. We will provide the towels. This will be at the end of the morning's activities.

- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:30 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Alkhornet.
- 14:45 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Alkhornet.
- 19:00 Join the expedition team in the lounge for the Captains Farewell Cocktail and a viewing of the voyage slideshow.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

During the afternoon/evening you can settle your accounts with the Hotel Department, they will announce when they are ready to process payments. We will collect your rubber boots after dinner.

“The greatest adventure of all is life itself” -Bertrand Piccard.



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EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen **In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Birding** ***Welcome aboard M/V Hondius!***

9th June 2022
Day 8 – Longyearbyen

- 07:00 Wake-up call
- 07:15 Please leave your large luggage in the corridor outside your room for the staff to collect. Crew and staff will bring it to the pier, where you will need to personally identify it and bring it your bus.
- 07:30-08:30 A breakfast buffet is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 08:30-09:15 Please be ready at the shell doors for a zodiac transfer to the pier.
- 09:00-09:30 Buses will be departing from the quayside to Longyearbyen city centre.

Thank you all for a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour, and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future and share more adventures with you.

“Victory awaits him who has everything in order – luck, people call it.” Roald Amundsen.