



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

on board
M/V Ortelius
June 27th – July 04th, 2022



M/V *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 108-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17,6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 12 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



Captain Mika Appel

and his international crew of 54 (17 Nationalities)

Including

Staff Captain:	Per Andersson	[Finland]
First Officer:	Maikel Overbeek	[Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Anika Albrecht	[Germany]
Third Officer:	Eline Schuurman	[Netherlands]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	Carlos Fernandez Gomora	[Mexico]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Ivanovic	[Serbia]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Fillipines]
Ship's Physician:	Joris Kromhout	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Rinie van Meurs	[Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Christophe Gouraud	[France]
Lead Kayak Guide:	Adam Burke	[UK]
Kayak Guide:	Hella Martens	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Barbara Post	[Austria]
Expedition Guide:	Charlotte Taplin	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Somerville	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovski	[Russia]

Welcome you onboard!

Day 1 – June 27

Embarkation, Longyearbyen

GPS position at 1600: 78°13.8'N, 015°36.2'E

AirTemp:9°C Sea Temp:3°C Weather: partly cloudy Wind: NW1 Sea state: 0

After a long-awaited departure (a few years for some of us) we finally land in Longyearbyen, the largest settlement in the Arctic Archipelago of Svalbard. The pull of the Arctic; its varied landscapes, history, the fascination of ice, flora and fauna plagued by a harsh climate, the anticipation of encountering wildlife and birds only seen in the Arctic draws visitors from all corners of our planet. Our ship for the next 8 days, the *M/V Ortelius*, brings us together to explore the pristine environment of the high Arctic.



The *Ortelius* lays at the old Coal pier close to the airport. The Expedition Team is spread out at several locations throughout town to await those of us who accidentally end up at the wrong pier. Buses take us to the *Ortelius* where the welcoming hotel team is waiting for us and after a long couple of days we soon settle in to our comfortable and warm cabins.

When everyone is onboard and we have had the chance to get a warm drink and meet some of our fellow passengers, we gather in the lecture room for the mandatory safety briefings quickly followed by the safety drill.

At 19.00 we come together for an introduction of the Expedition Team, and a glass of champagne and welcome toast with our Captain Mika Appel. The energy is high and the excitement for the upcoming voyage is palpable. During dinner *Ortelius* leaves the port and takes us away from civilisation. It's a beautiful, calm evening and some of us spend some time on the outer decks enjoying our departure into the wild of the high Arctic. Most onboard, except for some night owls, are ready for a good night's rest after all travel and first impressions. While our sturdy vessel makes her way out of sheltered waters to start the journey North, we settle in for a peaceful sleep.

Day 2 – June 28

Ny London - Blomstrandhalvøya

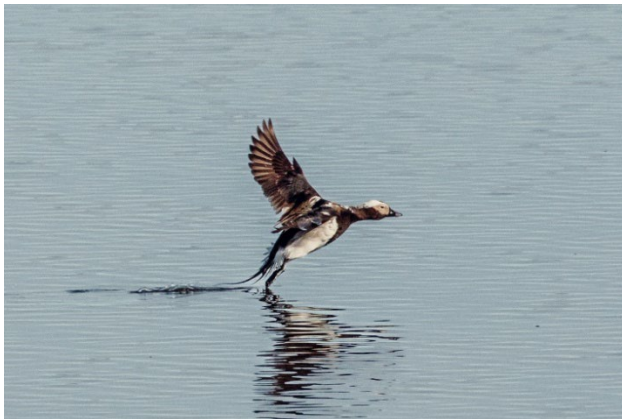
GPS position at 1200: 78°57.2' N, 012°02.4' E

Air Temp: 14°C Sea Temp: 3°C Weather: sunny Wind: NW2 Sea state: 1

Our first day begins with a delicious breakfast prepared by our chef. Straight after that we are handed out our rubber boots and our zodiac life-vests which we will keep with us during the entire trip. No time to waste, we jump right into the mandatory briefings on zodiac boarding, the AECO guidelines and polar bear safety, all given by the expedition team leader Rinie. Last but not least, our kayak guide Adam gives us the kayak briefing.

We don't have much time to feel slightly overwhelmed by all the information, as we head straight into lunch and are asked to be on standby for our first excursion shortly after.

We are greeted with glorious blue skies as we begin the afternoon with our landing at Ny London. The hikers head up the hill, to be rewarded with glorious views of the glacier over the ridge. The medium group enjoys a walk around the plateaus, exploring the remains of the mining operation which was begun by Mansfield in 1905, but abandoned shortly afterwards, in 1910. We also see a lot of wildlife, such as reindeer with a very new calf, and several bird species including long-tailed skuas, long-tailed ducks, ruddy turnstones with chicks, gray phalaropes, red-throated divers and ringed plovers, and not to forget arctic



terns, barnacle geese and a couple of pink-footed geese. The leisurely group takes a zodiac cruise around the bay and are lucky enough to spot their first polar bear! After observing it for a short while it decides to get into the water and swim across to a nearby island. When a bear gets into the water it becomes more vulnerable, so we leave it alone. How incredibly fortunate to spot a bear on the first landing!

Also the kayakers have their first paddle, starting in the bay in front of the mining camp 'London'. The old mine is an interesting start, with the contrast between the dilapidated buildings and the arctic tundra slowly retaking the scene. We head east and follow the coast playing amongst the incredible coastal rock formations and enjoying spectacular scenery. Along the way we are graced with bird life such as long tailed duck, eider, terns and even a long tailed skua flies overhead.

We have a quick group photo with the beautiful Kongsbreen glacier in the background, before turning around and heading back to the ship. On the return journey we stay a little further out and paddle through glacial ice that has been drawn out by the tide. We are then met on the shoreline by a curious reindeer before heading back to the ship and a well-earned cup of tea or a drink at the bar.

We listen to the recaps and tomorrows' program. We cannot believe how many animals we have already seen in one single excursion. After the recap we are invited by the hotel manager Carlos to join his team in the dining room for our first plated dinner, and what a treat it is. Our chef Heinz has prepared delicious dishes for all tastes. Some guests still linger at the bar after that, tasting their way through the many drinks served by our bartender Jake. What an incredible first day!



Day 3 – June 29

Virgohamna & Smeerenburg - Indre Norskoya

GPS position at 0800: 79°43.4'N, 010°54.3'E

Air Temp: 11 °C Sea Temp: 5°C Weather: overcast Wind: SSW3 Sea state: 1

This morning as we are having breakfast, we arrive at Virgohamna. Low lying clouds reside above the bay giving it an eery, quiet feel with winds gusts coming and going. The expedition team are in the bridge trying to locate the Walrus we hope to see later this morning and luckily they are there! Great start of the morning!

We disembark everyone into the zodiacs at 0930, eager to not only see Walruses in



Smeerenburg, but also the local population of Harbour Seals in Virgohamna. Harbour Seals are typically not seen this far North, but the West coast of Spitsbergen is home to a separate population of the species. A rare opportunity therefore to see this seal species away from its' usual environment.

The zodiacs are divided into 2 groups, the first ones are going

directly to Smeerenburg to land and approach the Walrus haul-out and the second ones approach a tiny and shallow bay to see the harbour seals which usually lay on rocks to rest and can be curious enough to approach the zodiacs.

We encounter a Walrus in the water feeding on clams in the sandy bottom, occasionally surfacing for air and then going back down. There are about 20 resting on the beach. The dramatic landscape echoes in the background with great mountains plummeting up from the sea and glaciers oozing out from between the mountains.

Smeerenburg is also known as the most famous whaling station in Spitsbergen. 200 men worked at this station up until the late 17th Century. There were 250 whaling ships operating in Spitsbergen 1630s which processed 25-750 whales per year.

At 12 it is time to head back to the vessel for lunch. What a great morning!



Our second destination is Indre Norskoya at which we arrive at 1430. Dressed up to the eyeballs in warm gear the expedition staff is kitted up with their rifles and prepare the zodiacs for the passengers. We drive to the Northern side of Indre Norskoya in anticipation of seeing wildlife. An early discovery gets everyone excited about 3 polar bears near a carcass that has been seen on the shore. As we approach the place, everyone quickly grabs



their binoculars and sights a mother with two cubs sleeping 400 metres on the hill above us. The mother pops her head up occasionally and sniffs the air to check for other bears in the area. Out of nowhere another polar bear appears walking on the rocky coast towards the carcass! It is a young and very white female. Everyone is super excited about the luck of this kind of encounter, but that is not all! From the same direction we spot a 5th polar bear! It

is a massive male slowly walking behind the female in the direction of the carcass, and now we understand why the female with the 2 cubs are so high in the slope, she wants to avoid any kind of contact and danger with this massive male around.

It's a rare and incredible moment to watch 5 polar bears in the same location in Spitsbergen. Even most of our guides have not experienced this before!

As the wind starts to pick up more and more we head back to the ship with big smiles on our faces and leave the polar bear family and the 2 individual bears behind.

Everyone fills their bellies with hot, hearty food and the glasses are topped up as the evening commenced as we sit at anchor. Now onto the sea ice we go!

Day 4 – June 30

In the pack ice

GPS position at 1200: 81°20.7' N, 021°44.5' E

Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 2°C Weather: overcast Wind: W3 Sea state: 1

Already very early in the morning, at 4 o'clock, our ship reaches the sea ice edge. The first bits and pieces of sea ice appear, but visibility is very bad due to thick fog. So our captain decides to follow the sea ice edge in direction east until the visibility is better. During breakfast the fog begins to clear and soon our ship goes deeper into the ice. We find ourselves in a completely white world, what a magic sight! White sea ice as far as the eye can see. Only broken every now and then by open water around the many floes. We had to sail all the way up to 81°15'N, north of the Sjuøyane (Seven Islands), to reach the sea ice edge, but it was well worth it. Many of us spend a lot of time outside, enjoying this high Arctic scenery and joins the expedition team in their search for wildlife. A beautiful male king eider duck is seen early in the morning, certainly a rare sighting and great to photograph. Groups



of Brunnich's guillemots and little auks are heading out to sea and others are returning to forage among the ice floes. These birds are nesting throughout the Spitsbergen archipelago. Especially the large numbers of kittiwakes and some lesser black-backed gulls are attracting our eyes. They are following our ship, looking for young polar cods, that have been exposed by moving ice floes. Every now and then we spot some brownish-yellowish sea ice, a very good sign, as these are the famous ice algae, the primary producers in the sea ice ecosystem! Some ivory gulls are also seen, a very rare ice-associated gull with a white plumage, black legs and a yellow bill. The further north we go, the more seals we see resting on ice floes. We

mainly observe bearded seals, but also a few ringed seal females with pups and even three harp seals in the water. The whole food chain is present in this very productive area, but where is our top predator? The sea and ice are scanned by binocular and the naked eye and just before lunch the expedition team finds a polar bear! We keep the bear in sight as it moves across the ice at a steady fast pace. Some bears are attracted to ships but this one

shows no interest in us and it moves away towards the North. Even though we see the King of the Arctic only in the distance, it is so special to see him in his natural habitat, the sea ice! At 12:38 we reach the northernmost position of our journey: 81°30'N, woowow!!! During lunch time a big wall of fog is pressing in and we lose sight of our bear. Therefore our captain decides to move our ship slowly in direction south-west again. In the afternoon Barbara gives a lecture about the ecosystem of sea ice. She explains the formation process of the ice and talks about the life that grows inside and how it influences other ecosystems. We also learn about the arctic marine food web and the connection with the arctic terrestrial food web. Later in the afternoon Juan does a fabulous job in giving us an



introduction to photography. He talks about special settings that are needed for making pictures in the Arctic and everyone has many questions for him. Prior to dinner we enjoy a recap where Hella tells us more about seals and in more detail about the bearded seals. Christophe tells the story of Ivory Gulls, who are even seen to breed on icebergs! After dinner, many choose to retire to the bar to celebrate what has been an incredible day exploring the sea ice.

Day 5 – July 1

Woodfjorden & Liefdefjorden

GPS position at 1200: 79°39.3' N, 014°00.9' E

Air Temp: 11°C Sea Temp: 4°C Weather: Cloudy Wind: SW 6 Sea state: 3

It is a beautiful morning as Ortelius enters Woodfjorden, Andrée Land. This fjord is cutting about 65 kilometres into the north coast and has two side branches on the west side and two minor bays on the east side. The name Woodfjorden is referring to the large amounts of driftwood that cover some beaches. Whilst eating breakfast, we anchor in Jakobsenbukta. Here we have three different hikes on offer; novice, intermediate and advanced (hike).



Despite the windier conditions, everyone is eager to get out in the fresh, cool air and no matter which walk everyone picked, they get to enjoy the beautiful landscape. The view over the fjord is spectacular with views over the valley and into the glaciers. Many flowers were spotted, for example Mountain Avens, Purple Saxifrage, several species of Chickweed, Mountain Sorrels and Arctic Bell-heather.

Towards the end of the walk we do a beach clean up to do our part for the environment, so everyone picked up any bits and pieces of plastic they manage to find washed up along the shore from fishing nets, plastic containers and pieces of rope.

Back on board, the crew again has an amazing lunch ready for us to enjoy before we arrive in the Liefdefjorden, Haakon VII Land and the glacier at the end of the fjord; Monacobreen, named after prince Albert I of Monaco. Unfortunately due to the 32 knot winds we are not able to do the scheduled zodiac cruise or the hike above the glacier. Instead we drift till 2 km's from the glacier to enjoy the beautiful cracking sounds of the glacier and the mountains as they loom over us.





Tonight is barbeque night, which is held inside due to the weather. But with happy hour and tasty food prepared by our finest chefs we enjoy a fiesta anyway!

As the night continues everyone gets more and more relaxed and before we know it a party begins in the bar and with Carlos as DJ it really becomes a night to remember!

Day 6 – July 2

Kongsfjord & Engelsbukta

GPS position at 1200: 78°53.5' N, 011°18.8' E

Air Temp: 7.3°C Sea Temp: 4°C Weather: Cloudy Wind: S5 Sea state: 2

After the fun of last night, we enjoy a leisurely morning today. After breakfast, we begin with a ship's cruise in front of the majestic Kongsbreen. Here we are rewarded with sightings of puffins and little auks. A breeding colony of kittiwakes is also located on the cliffs beside the glacier, and many hundreds of kittiwakes can be seen feasting on the nourishment offered by the ecosystems which are fed by the rich waters in front of the glacier.

Before lunch, we are treated to Rinie's lecture on polar bear biology and behaviour. This includes insights about how they breed and raise their cubs, which is especially interesting for us as we have been lucky enough to spot a mother bear with two cubs on day three of our voyage. We also hear stories of Rinie's many encounters with bears during his 34 years of experience, which include 250 cruises in and around Spitsbergen!

After a satisfying lunch, we head out of Kongsfjord and on towards our afternoon destination of Engelsbukta – the appropriately named "Angel's Bay". The crossing to Engelsbukta is windy and the fog is slowly encroaching on our position. As we enter Engelsbukta however the wind drops to almost nothing and the fog bank is held back by the wind in the channel.

Our hiking group heads out along the moraine to take in the whole sweep of the bay, while the other two groups follow slightly more direct routes towards the moraine lakes in front of Comfortlessbreen. Our paths join at the viewpoint above the lakes, from where we have a magnificent 360° view over the moraine landscape, and the colony of arctic terns nesting on one of the islands in the lake.



The hikers and the medium group then proceed to climb the rocky hill to enjoy the view over the glacier. From there, they can also enjoy watching a colony of harbour seals which are resting on the opposite bank of the glacial river. The leisurely hiking group also enjoys seeing the harbour seals playing in the water, and a mother and pup on the shoreline. On the way back to our landing beach, we all enjoy seeing an arctic skua who is making sure we keep our distance from his breeding partner, who is sitting on the nest. One of the remarkable things about this area is the number and diversity of flower species that we encounter, including polar campion and purple braya.



Also the kayakers have the opportunity to paddle along the coastline next to the glacier. As we approach the first glacial stream, we are met by playful harbour seals. As we float by enjoying their company we are met by several more. These mothers and pups are very curious and stay with us for the majority of the paddle.

The turquoise water of the bay plays host to a number of bird species including king eider, long tailed skua and some very territorial arctic turns. The waterfalls that fall from the hanging glaciers are superb and the low clouds cling to the mountain tops making this a magical spot for kayaking.

Before leaving the beach, a few brave souls take the opportunity for a polar plunge!

Then, once we were all safely back on board, Barbara gives us a very informative recap lecture about glaciers and icebergs, including how they are formed and their importance for local and global ecosystems. After a well-earned dinner, we settle in to enjoy another evening under the midnight sun.

Day 7 – July 3

At sea & Isfjorden, Colesbukta

GPS position at 1200: 78°08.4' N, 012°14.3' E

Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 4°C Weather: Overcast Wind: NE2 Sea state: 1

This morning there is no landing planned, so breakfast is served half an hour later than usual. The general plan is to sail along the sea shelf to try and find whales. Last night we already tried to do the same, but unfortunately the visibility was poor. Today the skies are clear. There is no fog and also the wind is not strong, which makes it easier to scan the surface of the ocean while standing on the open deck of Ortelius.

When everyone had just sat down for breakfast, we hear the announcement on the PA that a group of whales is spotted. Very soon the second announcement follows, and then the third one. Whales are everywhere, and there are many. The most amazing is not only the number, but also the variety of whales. There are Humpbacks, Minkies, Fin and Blue whales, the biggest creatures in the history of the planet. Also White-beaked dolphins and a group of Harbour seals are observed. All animals are feeding in the same area. There must be an incredible amount of food present. Everyone is standing on deck and on the bridge watching with our binoculars and taking hundreds of pictures. Nature is definitely putting on a show with this one!

After a while Ortelius increases speed and needs to continue to our destination of the afternoon. After lunch we enter Isfjorden and are able to see Barentsburg, the Russian settlement, before proceeding to Colesbukta, where the abandoned Soviet settlement Coalsbay is situated.



Colesbukta has a lot of green and soft tundra. Where there is a lot of grass, there is always a lot of reindeers. We already saw reindeers during our landing in Ny London, but today we have had a chance for better and longer encounters.

We disembark, get split into 3 groups and start our walk into the valley. A big herd of reindeer is seen only a few hundred meters away from the landing site. And there are more a little further away. They are not paying much attention to us, so we are able to take good pictures.



The kayakers start their paddle near the abandoned settlement at Colesbukta. As we paddle past the dilapidated piers, now only inhabited by the birds, we can see a pair of Glaucous gulls on a nest, tending three chicks. We continue so as not to disturb them and pass barnacle geese and eiders. As we leave the abandoned settlement behind, we have a chance to view two reindeer who come over for a closer look before heading back inland.

When we reach the delta where the glacial water meets the bay, we play in the channels until we can go no further and then we return to the bay and continue around its shores. Our group is joined by a king eider who stays with us for a while.

What an incredible paddle with such an abundance of wildlife journeying around the bay. An excellent way to spend our final afternoon.

The evening is opened with a farewell cocktail in the bar, the showing of Juans' photo slideshow and followed by dinner. The last evening onboard is always a little emotional, but the night is still young and a final party in the bar is brewing.

Day 8 – July 4

Disembarkation Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°14.1'N, 015°37.6'E

Air Temp: 11°C Sea Temp: 4°C Weather: cloudy Wind: SSE4 Sea state: 1

Unfortunately, every trip comes to an end. Disembarkation starts early in the morning. The crew takes care of our luggage, so all that rests is our goodbyes to our newly made friends, fellow travellers and all the welcoming faces of the Ortelius we have come to know so well. The Ortelius lays at anchor in the middle of the bay, so we embark the zodiacs for one final time, before saying goodbye to the expedition staff at the jetty and the buses take us away. Some of us may have some days left in Svalbard or mainland Norway, others may have to get back to work when coming back home. Regardless, we all take home many great memories, thousands of photographs and new friends made. The Arctic is an incredible and unique part of our planet and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to observe and soak up this pristine and fragile environment!



Thank you all for joining us on this remarkable adventure, for your great company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 743 Nautical Miles

**On behalf of
Oceanwide Expeditions,
Captain Mika Appel,
Expedition Leader Rinie van Meurs,
Hotel Manager Carlos Fernandez Gomora
and all the crew and staff,
it has been a pleasure travelling with you!**



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Rinie van Meurs - Expedition Leader



After a formal education in Forestry and Nature Conservation, Rinie started to travel around the world in search of wildlife and in particular birds.

However, he was already attracted by the polar regions since he was a boy. After he finished his study, he went in the early eighties on private trips to Iceland and Northern Scandinavia; this was as Arctic as he could afford. However, he knew, further north the pack ice in the high Arctic Ocean that was his goal. To explore one day the sea ice, as the early explorers did, that was something he could only dream of.

Until 1989, he managed to find a job on board of the “old” Plancius as a potato peeler for his first season in Spitsbergen. After he came back, he knew he was definitely hooked on the high latitudes. Rinie became one of the industry’s first expedition leaders and a pioneer in exploring new landing sites in Spitsbergen and the Antarctic. Only around Spitsbergen he has made more than 200 expedition cruises. He knows Spitsbergen better than his own backyard!

Since '89 then he has logged in his seaman’s book more than of 300 expedition cruises including; East- and West Greenland, the Canadian high Arctic, Franz Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya, Geographical North Pole, Antarctica, South Georgia, the Falklands, the sub Antarctic Islands of New Zealand, and many islands along the Atlantic Ridge.

During these years, spending so much time exploring the Arctic and having the opportunity to encounter so many Polar Bears in the ice, he has become absolutely passionate about these magnificent animals. Give him a ship with the right ice class and Rinie will take you to the Polar Bears. He has become an expert in leading Polar Bear trips. He is also leading every fall Polar Bear trips on the Hudson Bay. He has published four photo books on the Polar Regions of which one was about the Polar Bears of Spitsbergen.

Christophe Gouraud – Assistant Expedition Leader



Christophe was born in France and has been passionate about birds ever since he was a child. After spending five years in Canada studying ecology, Christophe travelled to Alaska. He lived on the tiny Middleton Island as a research assistant to study the ecology of seabirds, mainly the Black-legged Kittiwake. He explores polar and tropical regions since 2007 and joined many cruises from Spitsbergen to the Russian Far East, from Antarctica to South Georgia, and from Amazonia to the Seychelles.

Christophe also worked with birds as a biologist field worker in Morocco, United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan. Christophe found another way to travel by inventorying collections of birds that have been collected worldwide during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Adam Burke – Kayak Leader



Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

Hella Martens – Kayak Guide



Born in The Netherlands and raised by adventurous parents Hella became infected with the travel virus and a deep fascination for animal behaviour and the natural world early in her childhood.

When 5 years old she drew and wrote a small booklet on the life of an Orca family, unaware of the life journey she would embark on 20 years later.

A BSc. degree in Wildlife Management, Policy and Education led her into the realm of the oceans' giants. Passionate about the threats our planet and its inhabitants are facing, her belief is that education is the most powerful tool to create ambassadors for the natural world. Since 2004 Hella has studied cetaceans in Scotland, the Canary Islands, Canada, Australia and Mexico. She has worked as a naturalist in New Zealand and lived and worked in the Azores for 4 years as a whale watching guide and lecturer. Hella has also been trained and contracted as an offshore marine mammal observer in the seismic industry.

In 2016 her biologist's dream was fulfilled by being able to explore the polar regions of our planet. After two polar winters leading whale watching and northern light excursions in Northern Norway, Hella's year is currently divided between guiding expedition cruises to the European and Russian Arctic and to Antarctica as a lecturer, zodiac driver and kayak guide. Time off is spent traveling, outdoors or enjoying the quiet French countryside with her family and furry creatures.

Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide



Pierre is a veterinarian specialized in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organizing marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback

whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

Barbara Post - Expedition Guide



Barbara Post was born in Austria and has since her childhood days a sincere interest in nature and mountaineering. Therefore, the biology study in Innsbruck, a city in the Alps, fitted perfectly to her interests. During her bachelor study program, she already started to work for several projects as scientific research assistant, always related to mountain research. She also did microscopic analyses (taxonomy) of the macrozoobenthos fauna in freshwater ecosystems of Spitsbergen. At this time, she started to love cold ecosystems worldwide and decided to write her Master thesis in the Lake and

Glacier Ecology Research Group, whose expertise lies in Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine research. With a thesis about water bears living on the surface of glaciers, Barbara finished her Master of Science/Zoology.

Barbara is Co-author in two book chapters about “Polyextremophiles – Life in the Ice”. Keen to share her knowledge, she is involved since 2003 in an education program called “Youth into Science” where she is lecturing and guiding pupils. Her last research project was about bacteria in glacier ice at the University of Innsbruck. Since 2012 she is a passionate nature guide in the Arctic, her travels include Norway, Jan Mayen, Svalbard, Iceland and Greenland. In 2014 she started to join expeditions to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula.

Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide



Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a very young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean.

She studied Wildlife Conservation in University and since then has spent the last 7 years travelling through South America, Africa and Australasia. In 2013 Charlotte started working on research and dive vessels including a dive liveaboard boat which visited remote regions of the outer Great Barrier Reef. This was where her passion for boats began and since then she has travelled the world on ice

breaker explorer vessels. Charlotte's interest with cetaceans started in Australia in 2015 where she spent the next 3 years studying Humpback Whales, Minke Whales, Sperm Whales and Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins.

After driving overland from South Africa to Jordan in 2015 she moved to Mozambique where she started her own backpacker hostel and worked as a Researcher studying Whale Sharks and Manta Rays. Her hobbies include scuba diving, surfing, free-diving hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and it is her dream to visit the Antarctic. She is so excited for the future ahead with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Laura Somerville – Expedition Guide



Laura is originally from Scotland, and is currently living in the eastern part of Switzerland. Her first degree was in physics, and she began her working life as an actuary, working for a life assurance company in the field of financial statistics and risk analysis. However, her passion for the natural world and for sustainability issues led her down a different path.

She has studied marine biology at the University of Glasgow in Scotland; at the University of Iceland, she studied fish ecology and marine mammals. Her interest in environmental pollution in the Arctic led her to UNIS (the University Centre in Svalbard), where she has taken part in a research project measuring snow albedo (the “whiteness” of the snow) in the northern fjords of Svalbard. The social and economic aspects of sustainability are Laura’s current research focus, and she has studied economics and international affairs at the University of St Gallen in Switzerland, and is currently working towards a master’s in education for sustainable development at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

If you are interested in ice swimming, you can ask Laura about the time she trained in ice bathing and breathing techniques with Wim Hof (the “Ice Man”) in the Netherlands. She also has quite strong opinions about Scotch whisky, especially the Islay malts. She speaks English, German, French and a little bit of Spanish.

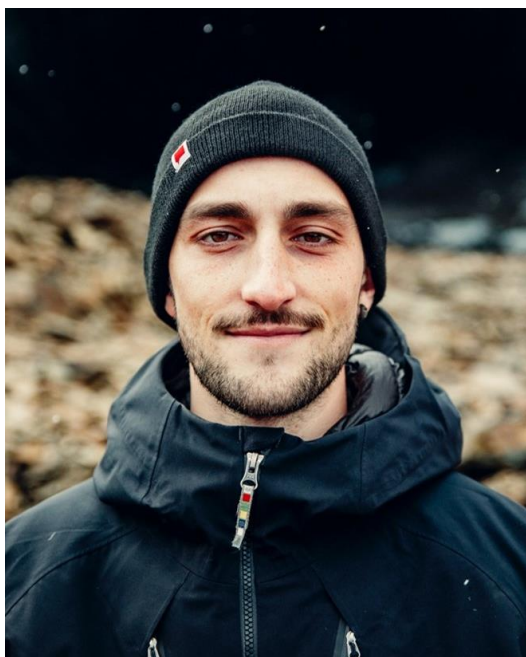
Français

Laura est originaire d’Ecosse et vit actuellement en Suisse. Son premier diplôme était en physique et elle a commencé sa vie professionnelle en tant qu’actuaire, travaillant pour une compagnie d’assurance-vie dans le domaine des statistiques financières et de l’analyse des risques. Cependant, sa passion pour l’environnement et le développement durable l’a conduite sur une autre voie.

Elle a étudié la biologie marine à l’Université de Glasgow en Écosse; à l’Université d’Islande, elle a étudié l’écologie des poissons et les mammifères marins. Son intérêt pour la pollution dans l’Arctique l’a amenée à l’UNIS (le centre universitaire de Svalbard), où elle a participé à un projet de recherche mesurant l’albédo (la “blancheur”) de la neige dans les fjords du nord du Svalbard. Les aspects sociaux et économiques du développement durable sont l’axe de sa recherche actuelle. Elle a étudié l’économie et les affaires internationales à l’Université de Saint-Gall en Suisse et prépare actuellement une maîtrise en éducation pour le développement durable à l’Université de Göteborg, en Suède.

Elle a pris des bains de glace et a étudié les techniques de respiration chez Wim Hof («The Ice Man») aux Pays-Bas, et elle a des avis assez forts sur le whisky écossais, surtout sur les malts d’Islay. Elle parle anglais, allemand, français et un peu d’espagnol.

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.

Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geoecological researches.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

Joris Kromhout – Ship's doctor



Joris is a professional doctor in emergency medicine and is currently in training to become an anesthesiologist in the University Medical Center in Utrecht. Due to his experience on the intensive care unit, he knows what to do in case of an accident or life-threatening situation. Furthermore, he is also trained in dealing with everyday ailments. As a doctor he has gained experience in rural Tanzania, where he had to work with limited resources in remote areas. Back in Holland, he now and then works as a first aid doctor at big events.

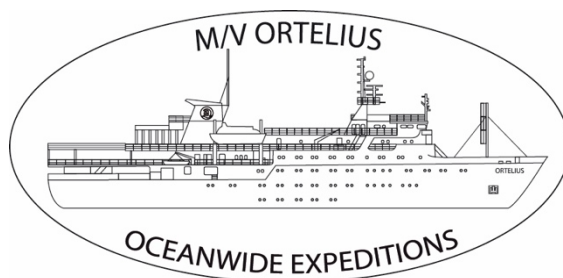
Joris has always had a big interest in nature and wildlife; before starting medicine school he studied biology for two years. Being an outdoor lover, he spends his days off traveling around the world and exploring new places. For instance, he hiked through the Himalaya region in Nepal and drove through New-Zealand with his own campervan. On windy days you can find him kitesurfing at the Dutch or Spanish coast and he loves to go for a long run. Exploring the Arctic has always been one of his biggest dreams and he hopes to go there many more times.

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	27-jun	28-jun	29-jun	30-jun	1-jul	2-jul	3-jul	4-jul
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	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	
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans					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	Harelda boréale	Ilseend		x					x	
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend								
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuhoen		x			x	x		
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier		x					x	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper		x						
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper		x			x	x	x	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Krutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoelstrandloper								
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper							x	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tourmeperre à collier	Steenloper		x						
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot		x						
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot								
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager								
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzeraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager		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		x			
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw					x			
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester		x	x		x	x	x	x
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw				x				
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw								
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw								
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	
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabelumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Grilteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fregata arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaaiduiker		x	x			x	x	
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Plectrophane des neiges	Sneeuwgorst	x	x	x		x	x	x	x

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	27-jun	28-jun	29-jun	30-jun	1-jul	2-jul	3-jul	4-jul
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus			x		x			
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob		x		x				
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob				x				
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob				x			x	
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts								
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond			x			x	x	
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis		x					x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis								
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	
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis								
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Potwal	Cachalot	Potvis								
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narwal	Narwal								
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Hyperoodon arctique	Butskop								
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Orka								
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuldolfin							x	
Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloega								
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer		x	x	x	x			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos								
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier		x			x		x	



Basecamp - Spitsbergen

June 27 – July 04, 2022

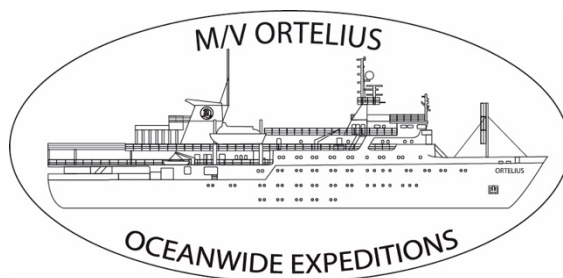
Day 2, June 28, Tuesday: Ny London, Blomstrandhalvøya

WELCOME ABOARD!

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 6 ****

- 07.45 Wake-up call by our Expedition Leader Rinie
- 08.00 Breakfast is served in the dining room (Deck 4 behind reception)
- 09.15 **Mandatory briefings** in the Lecture Room (Deck 3 forward)
- TBA** You will be called by deck to come to the Lecture Room (Deck 3 forward) to collect your rubber boots. PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS!
- +/- 11:00 **Mandatory briefing** for guests who have booked for the **Kayak** activity, in the Lecture Room (Deck 3 forward)
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room (Deck 4 behind reception)
- TBA** Weather permitting, we expect to land at Blomstrandhalvøya, Kongsfjorden. Here is a mining camp called 'London' and a marble quarry was manned in the first years of the 20th century. This is also home of interesting birdlife and reindeer. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this afternoon.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar on Deck 6
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room (Deck 4 behind reception)

TBA means To Be Announced



Basecamp - Spitsbergen

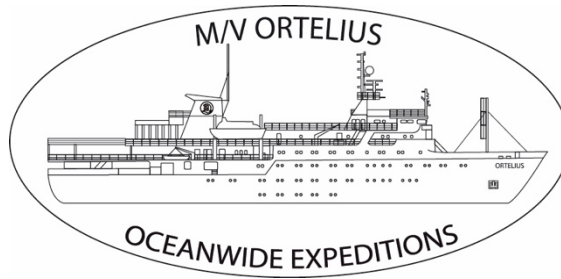
June 27 – July 04, 2022

Day 3, June 29, Wednesday: Amsterdamøya, Fugleholmane & Indre Norskøya

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 6 ****

- 07.15 Wake-up call by our Expedition Team Leader Rinie
- 07.30 Breakfast is served in the dining room
- TBA** Weather permitting, we expect to land at Smeerenburg, Amsterdamøya, and hope to find walrus. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this morning, with a good view on the walrus from the water!
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room
- TBA** Weather permitting, we hope to get you in the zodiacs for a zodiac cruise at Fugleholmane and Indre Norskøya to find some typical Spitsbergen wildlife. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this afternoon.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room

TBA means To Be Announced



Basecamp - Spitsbergen

June 27 – July 04, 2022

Day 4, June 30, Thursday: Pack-ice!

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 6 ****

Exploration day in the pack-ice in search of polar wildlife!

Dress warmly and join the expedition staff on the outside decks.

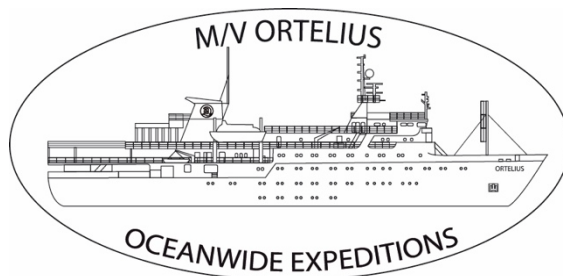
- 07.45 Wake-up call by our Expedition Team Leader Rinie

- 08.00 Breakfast is served in the dining room

- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room

- 18.30 Recap in the bar

- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room



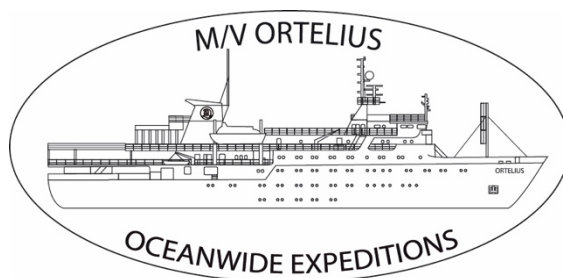
Basecamp - Spitsbergen

June 27 – July 04, 2022

Day 5, July 1, Friday: Woodfjorden & Liefdefjorden

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 6 ****

- 05.00 – 06.00 *Ortelius* will approach Mofen Island. Dress warmly and come out on deck in search of the elusive Sabine's Gull!
- 07.15 Wake-up call by our Expedition Team Leader Rinie
- 07.30 Breakfast is served in the dining room
- TBA** Weather permitting, we expect to land at Jakobsenbukta, Andrée Land, and hope to offer you different walks. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this morning
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room
- TBA** Weather permitting, we expect to land at Idabukta, Haakon VII Land, and offer a walk to a view point on Idabreen. Those not joining this walk will get the opportunity to zodiac cruise the Monacobreen. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this afternoon
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 18.30 Arctic Dinner!!!



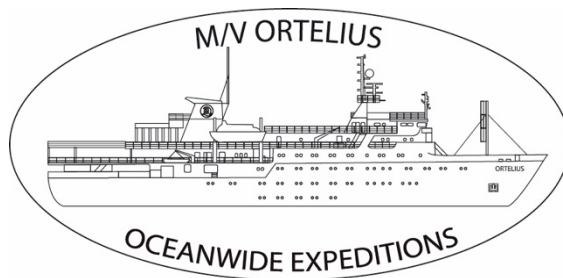
Basecamp - Spitsbergen

June 27 – July 04, 2022

Day 6, July 2, Saturday: Tinayrebukta & Engelsbukta

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 6 ****

- 07.15 Wake-up call by our Expedition Team Leader Rinie
- 07.30 Breakfast is served in the dining room
- TBA** Weather permitting, we hope to land at Tinayrebukta, Haakon VII Land, and hope to offer you different walks. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this morning
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room
- TBA** Weather permitting, we expect to land at Engelsbukta, Oscar II Land. We hope to offer you different walks. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this afternoon
- 18.30 Recap in the bar with your expedition team
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room



Basecamp - Spitsbergen

June 27 – July 04, 2022

Day 7, July 3, Sunday: Ship cruise & Colesbukta

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 6 ****

07.45 Wake-up call by our Expedition Team Leader Rinie

08.00 Breakfast is served in the dining room

In the morning we will be sailing looking for whales while the hotel manager will call you by deck number to settle your ship's account.

12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room

TBA Weather permitting, we expect to land at Colesbukta, Nordenskiöld Land. We hope to offer you different walks. Weather permitting, the kayak program should be on this afternoon

18.30 Recap in the bar

19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room