

## Kayak Trip Log – MV HONDIUS 14 – Scoresby Sound, Greenland

Vikingebugt, Wednesday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, morning operation

After a full sailing day crossing the Denmark Strait, we arrived to Greenland to start our kayaking adventure. The first operation took us to Vikingebugt, a narrow fjord stretching west with a wider fjord running south ending in a huge glacier. We started operations about 4 miles from the ablation zone of the glacier, the area where the front of the glacier crumbles and breaks off creating free floating icebergs in the process. The first outing is about familiarizing with the equipment and fellow kayak team members. Straight away, it was evident this is a strong, homogenous group of kayakers.

Guides were happy to see a group capable of paddling Greenlandic conditions and more importantly, connecting with the environment.

The session lasted approximately one and a half hour. During this time, we saw icebergs, bathed in the gorgeous sun, drifted past mountain sides covered in basalt columns and all with the backdrop of a massive glacier. Worth mentioning also the two polar bear sightings from the ship, a female with two cubs and a lonely bear!





Rød Ø (Red Island), Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, morning operation.

Early start today, some of us were on deck at the break of dawn scouting the horizon for any possible signs of the very rare Narwal. Then as the sun rose over us, the crispy morning gave room to a sunny clear sky and a mirror like sea. Sea kayakers got early in the water and after a short shuttle to our start location we started paddling towards the south, red, sunny face of Rød Ø or Red Island, and red it was!

Amongst the steep red cliffs, we could see a thin layering of basalt, we paddled clockwise around from south to west of the island. We went past crackling brash ice and started seen the first colossal icebergs to the north of us. As we moved towards them, we started noticing the sheer scale of these blocks of ice. We stopped for a brief interpretation and team picture! After a long, 2hr paddle we jumped back into the zodiacs for a photographic cruise.









### Hurry Fjord, 17<sup>th</sup> September

This day was a very special day. Finally we came to a place well known as Polar Bear territory. The guides since early in the morning were working on the watch from the Bridge to be sure that no surprises will alter the morning operation. Other important point was that Crew members (included our safety officer on the ship) were allowed to come! So we shared the experience with them and created the perfect bond for the next days having a common story to tell.

We landed at the end of a shallow sandy area, boarded our kayaks and paddled 4 kilometers down wind in a very cold condition. Was very fun!







Romer Fjord, 18<sup>th</sup> September. Split morning Operation

Beautiful Ship cruising with an intense sunrise to start the day with the perfect mood.

This day we split the group in two. Group one had the chance to share with the Trak kayakers an expedition of a long day deep inside the fjord to see bears, walruses, seals and hot springs from the kayaks. We brought our lunch boxes, water and extra clothes with us on the safety zodiac and after some kilometers of paddling around a very light thick ice layer, we decided to continue our tour from the zodiacs to see some bears spotted by the rest of the expedition in the other side of the coast. We enjoyed in silence the views, the beauty of these animals, their movements, the bear swimming close the shore and the ice flows around, the walruses swimming in the distance, a seal, and the beauty of knowing that we are there experiencing something will stay with us for ever.



