



Around Spitsbergen - In the Realm of Polar Bears and Ice

28th June – 7th July 2023

M/V Hondius



Hondius was built in 2019 in Split, Croatia. She is 107.6m long, 17.6m wide, and has a maximum draught of 5.3m. With an ice class of PC6, a top speed 15 knots, and three diesel generators, she sails on low sulfur marine gas oil and has a capacity of 176 passengers in 83 cabins. This beautiful mid-century modern vessel is designed from the ground up for polar adventure.

Captain Toni Salo

and his international crew

Staff Captain: **Elizbar Kadaria**
Chief Officer: **Mikael Svedberg**
2nd Officer: **Igor Nazarov**
3rd Officer: **Giovanie Pancer Simene**

Chief Engineer: **Andrej Abakumov**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev**
Assist. Hotel Manager: **Alfredo Bonifaz**
Head Chef: **Bawa Gaurav**

Ships Doctor: **Annika Volder**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Marcel Paul**
Claudio Ghiglione

Expedition Guide: **Koen Hoekmeijer**
Pelin Asfuroglu
Marco Rosso
Erik Verheul
Tanja Bayer
Paolo Bellezze
Carina Ketterer
Mikhail Barabanov
Bill Smith
Saskia van der Meij
Meike Sjoer
Moniek Mestrom
Ursula Tscherter

Kayak Guide: **Adam Harmer**
Geraint Rowlands

Day 1 – 28th June

Longyearbyen - Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°14.2'N / 015°36.9'E

Wind: NW 3, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 8°C



Finally the big day has arrived! It was a lovely sunny day to have a coffee outside and enjoy the warm rays of the northern summer sun. When we arrived at the pier to embark on Hondius around 4PM, we were greeted by the Expedition Team members. They all were very friendly and helped us a great deal with our luggage, which was tagged carefully and transferred to the ship. After

sorting our luggage, we put our life jackets on and had our very first Zodiac ride to the vessel. There we received a warm welcome from the Oceanwide hotel department. Soon after, our expedition leader Sarah welcomed us on board and invited all of us to the observation lounge for a mandatory safety briefing and a ship's safety drill.

After completing the mandatory drill, we were once more invited to the observation lounge and raised our glasses with Captain Toni Salo. The anchor was lifted, and our journey began. We were on our way! Although we already had some delicious canapés, it was now time to further enjoy our galley team's creative menu in the dining room. We enjoyed our food while sailing past beautiful landscapes, and the sun was shining bright on the horizon. We were so far north that we had daylight 24/7, and that was a great experience on its own.

The day was almost done, but not just yet. We were called to get our muck boots from our energetic Expedition Staff. Most of our landings would be wet landings and most terrain we visit could be quite wet as well, so proper muck boots were required and supplied by the Expedition Team. Once we had found a comfortable pair, it was time to relax. For some of us that meant a drink in the bar while we got to know our fellow travelers. For the rest it was already bedtime. A long and exciting journey was ahead.



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Day 2 – 29th June

14 Julibukta & Ny Alesund

12:00 GPS Position: 79°07.6'N / 011°48.8'E

Wind: W 2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 5°C, Sea Temp: 8°C



What a great first day in Svalbard! We started the day with a mandatory AECO and Polar Bear Safety Briefings. Svalbard being one of the northernmost landmasses of the Earth, it is home to a very delicate and vulnerable ecosystem. As responsible tourism advocates, we care a great deal to make our impact in this unique place transitory. That is why we don't allow any guests to go on shore without attending these important briefings.

After completing mandatory briefings, we had our first Svalbard experience. We had a split landing and Zodiac cruise in one of the most famous bays of West Spitsbergen: 14 Julibukta. Half of us took the Zodiacs on a cruise and saw so many interesting species, including Barnacle Geese, Atlantic Puffins, Arctic Terns, Kittiwakes, and a Glaucous Gull chick. What a wonderful introduction to the birds of the High Arctic. Then we continue toward the calving face of 14 July Glacier, where we observed the fascinating world of ice.

Whilst first Zodiac cruisers enjoyed the glacier and the rich bird life, the rest of us made a landing. To our right we had great views of the glacier and distant reindeers, and to our left we got to explore the beautiful "Hanging Gardens of Svalbard." These included fantastic colourful flowers, such as purple saxifrage and moss campion. It was mind-blowing to see and experience how many species of plants to thrive in such harsh environments.



The second half of the day we were treated to a rare visit to Ny Alesund, known for its scientific research but also as the most northerly permanent settlement in the world. Once we moored, guests were able to freely walk amongst the museum and research bases, learning about the fascinating history of the town. Those who were interested in North Pole Race were delighted to



visit the museum and learn more about Roald Amundsen's expedition to the North Pole. Amundsen used Ny Alesund as his base when he flew over the North Pole with his airship, Norge. The day ended with wonderful meals prepared by our Galley Team.

Day 3 - 30th June

Gravneset/ Waggonwaybreen & Gullybukta

12:00 GPS Position: 79°33.6'N / 011°04.5'E

Wind: NW 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C



Today started with Plan B, as moving fog kept us away from the landing site at Gravneset. Even so, we were gifted with an exceptionally long Zodiac cruise. Soon after we started our cruise, we found ourselves eye to eye with several harbour seals lying on rocks that were exposed during the low tide. Their flippers and heads were lifted high up, creating a banana-like resting position typical for this small pinniped species. While the drivers brought us slowly and carefully closer to

them, more seals approached to take a curious look at us. Meanwhile, Black Guillemots posed for a nice photo.

While the fog continued to lift, giving way to bright sunlight, we headed toward the first glacier of the day. From far we could see a large iceberg painted bright blue by the sunlight. There were thousands of photos taken of this stunning and rare deep blue ice. We continued cruising toward the Waggonwaybreen glacier front, where we enjoyed listening to the crackling sound of brash ice.





After all guests were back on board, some 20 people were shuttled to a lovely sandy beach at Gravneset. Here early whalers butchered countless whales in the surrounding waters during the 16th and 17th centuries. About 130 graves were found here, giving insights into the tremendously strenuous life of whalers. Soon sounds of screams and laughter filled the air as one guest after another bravely plunged into the cold polar water. It was a lot of fun, and rumour has it a blue orca was seen taking plunge with our Kayak Guide, Gez.

In the afternoon we landed on a long beach in Gullybukta, where we quietly and slowly walked in small groups toward a large aggregation of resting walrus, the true kings of the Arctic. At first it looked as if they were not going to do much. But eventually one of them lifted his head, disturbing the others. We learned that those with small teeth were juveniles, while large bodies and massive teeth characterized older males.



Meanwhile the other half of the guests did a Zodiac cruise to visit the impressive glacier front of Gullybreen. It was much higher, steeper, and more broken up compared to the Waggonwaybreen we visited that morning. Back on Hondius we learned about plans for tomorrow. As always, our galley team treated us with wonderful plated dinner service.

Day 4 – 1st July

Amongst the Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 79°52.5'N / 014°27.4'E

Wind: NNW 3, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Fog, Air Temp: 1°C, Sea Temp: 2.2°C



As the ship rounded the peninsula at Velkomstpynten and sailed into Woodfjorden, we were greeted with beaming sunshine in this glorious wonderland. Woodfjorden is the fourth longest fjord in the Svalbard archipelago and is about 64km long. As Hondius pushed through the pack ice, Captain Toni explained that being able to push through the ice was dependent on there being some spaces in the ice sheet. If these

small areas of visible seawater diminish, headway becomes impossible. So we pushed farther into this jigsaw puzzle of ice that stretched as far as the eye could see, looking for the clearest pathway.

Passing the coastline, we spotted several Svalbard Reindeer, which are the only large grazing mammal in the European High Arctic. This makes them exceptional for studies concerning the introduction of pollutants to changing ecosystems. Ringed Seals were also seen from time to time resting on ice sheets. Polar Bears, though born on land, spend most of their time on sea ice. In fact, the scientific name for the Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*) means seafaring bear. So everyone was living in hope that we would catch a glimpse of this apex predator in its natural habitat.



All binoculars were trained on the ice, but the bears unfortunately proved to be elusive. We were then treated to a series of diverse and fantastically illustrated lectures from the guiding team. Ursula gave us greater insight into whales. We had previously seen Minke Whales on the expedition, so it was great to find out more about them. Lectures were punctuated by ice cream



on the bow, which was a welcome distraction. The only difficulty was working out if you should have one scoop or two!

Our next lecture was on photography, which reassured us that the seemingly endless functions on modern cameras could be mastered with 10 top tips. The environmental scientists then took to the stage and enthralled us with their insights into factors effecting climate in the Arctic region, which includes but

is not exclusive to the jet stream and salinity effecting ocean currents.

The day was rounded off with an invite to a BBQ on deck with a glass of mulled wine and a 70's style disco. This may have been the most northern disco ever!

Day 5 – 2nd July

Alkefjellet & Vaigattoyane Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 79°27.9'N / 019°15.0'E

Wind: SE 3, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 2.7°C



The day started with the great news that we had made it through the pack ice of northern Svalbard, meaning a circumnavigation of Svalbard was happening. Early in the morning we arrived at Alkefjellet, where the day started foggy and chilly. All passengers were encouraged to dress up in their warmest outfits to board the Zodiacs for a beautiful cruise at Alkefjellet, which translates to “Mount

Guillemot” for obvious reasons. Some 60,000 pairs of Brünnich’s Guillemot breed in these amazing dolerite cliffs.

We began our cruise at the beautiful waterfalls and drifted along the cliffs toward the glacier. Tens of thousands of Brünnich’s guillemots were surrounding us on the cliffs, in the air, and in the water. A lucky few even saw an Arctic fox. Toward the end of our Zodiac cruise, we were

treated with a beautiful view of the glacier just when the sun made an appearance. A warm drink and lovely lecture by Sara about Polar Bears were offered on our return to Hondius.



During lunch we continued through the Hinlopenstretet toward Wahlbergoya, where we encountered our first Polar Bear. The sea ice near Friesoyane and Von Otteroya proved to be a good spot for Polar Bears. Barely twenty minutes later, another bear was spotted walking on the ice, and surprisingly another bear suddenly appeared from the other side of the ice. A decent hour was spent looking at these beautiful animals before the bears disappeared in the fog.

After these amazing Polar Bear sightings, we all grabbed a cup of tea to warm up. Then we joined Tanja and Saskia for their lectures about the history of polar wives and women on the ice. Many of us decided to celebrate seeing the Polar Bears with a nice glass of wine in the bar before getting ready for another day.



Day 6 – 3rd July

Kapp Waldburg & Sundneset

12:00 GPS Position: 78°12.0'N / 021°07.9'E

Wind: NW 5, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Partly Cloudy, Air Temp: 4°C, Sea Temp: 5°C



We dropped anchor this morning at 06.00 AM after the expedition staff scouted the area for bears. Everything looked safe, only roaming Reindeer and Kittiwakes flying all around. On this bright and sunny morning, we hoped to visit the stunning canyon at Kapp Waldburg in Barentsøya (Barents Island). Two of our expedition guides went in the Zodiacs to prepare for scouting on land but could hardly get the boats to the shell door due to rough seas and high

waves. This made us wait for an hour to see if the conditions would improve.

We did spot a Polar Bear on the other side of the channel, which got us all excited. At 08.15 AM we enjoyed two lectures. Carina was talking about water treatment on board the Hondius in English in the lounge, while Mischa enthusiastically shared his passion for Marine Mammal acoustics in German in the lecture room. Due to the strong current running between the two islands and the wind picking up to over 30 knots per hour, we unfortunately had to cancel the landing.



We repositioned to our afternoon landing spot, Sundneset, a little farther west of Barentsøya. While doing that, we stopped to have a look at another Polar Bear (possibly the same as earlier) we had spotted swimming near the coast and later walking over the ice.

After another delicious lunch, everybody was excited to go for a hike at Sundneset. From Hondius we could see the beautiful coastline: green valleys, dark flat-topped mountains still with patches of snow, and lots of driftwood lying on the beach. As no big trees grow on Spitsbergen, all driftwood comes with the currents from Siberia. Spitsbergen does have forests, but not ones you can get lost in. Its Polar Willow is one of the smallest willows in the world, measuring only 2-9 centimetres in height.

Hikers were brought to shore, but at some point the sea got so rough that the anchor of Hondius wasn't holding. It looked like we would have to return immediately for safety reasons. But luckily we were able to stay out a little longer and enjoy the many flowers, mosses, and lichens. Several

groups passed by some grazing Reindeer, and we could watch them from up close as their fur blew in the strong wind. Taking the Zodiac back to ship meant we all took a non-voluntary shower before arriving. But that's part of the Arctic experience.

All happy faces again at the end of this beautiful, sunny day. We must mention the recap from Sara today, as it was interesting to see all the sizes of the whales here in the Arctic. The largest is the Blue Whale, which measures a length of up to 31 meters: from the front of the lounge all the way to the entrance of the lecture room. Incredible! Then some staff walked in with a life-sized yearling Humpback Whale, already measuring 8,5 meters. The sun kept following us the whole evening as we were on our way to Hornsund.

Day 7 - 4th July

Burgerbukta & Samarinvagen

12:00 GPS Position: 77°03.5'N / 015°51.6'E

Wind: NW 5, **Sea State:** Sea Rippled, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C



Today we first ventured in West Burgerbukta, eager to explore its icy wonders. Setting off on a Zodiac cruise, we marveled at the towering ice cliffs that surrounded us. The air was crisp, and the anticipation filled our hearts with excitement. Midway through the cruise, we spotted a floating bar, a welcome surprise in the midst of the Arctic beauty.

We couldn't resist the temptation to savor hot chocolate with Rum, its warmth enveloping us as

we soaked in the breathtaking scenery. The floating bar became a cozy haven amidst the icy expanse. As we continued our journey, an Ivory Gull gracefully soared through the sky. Its wings shimmered in the sunlight, casting a magical aura. We admired its elegance, a fleeting encounter with one of nature's captivating creatures.

The Zodiac cruise led us closer to the mesmerizing blue ice formations, their ethereal beauty captivating our senses. The glacial landscape seemed like a frozen paradise, untouched by time.

Back on the ship, we relished a delicious lunch, replenishing our energy for the adventures yet to come. In the afternoon we embarked on another Zodiac cruise, and our destination



was Samarinvågen. As we approached a humpback whale greeted us, gracefully floating in the water. Its powerful presence filled us with awe, a reminder of the magnificence of marine life.

We landed in Samarinvågen, stepping foot on the untamed terrain. The majestic humpback whale lingered nearby, adding an enchanting touch to our exploration. The landscape revealed hidden treasures, and the combination of the rugged shoreline and the whale's presence created an unforgettable experience.



Burgerbukta, the floating bar with hot chocolate, the Ivory Gull, the blue ice, lunch, the Zodiac cruise to Samarinvågen, and the humpback whale encounter were chapters of a remarkable Arctic adventure. The memories etched in our hearts would forever serve as a testament to the grandeur of nature.

Day 8 – 5th July

Bamsebu & Snatcherpyten

12:00 GPS Position: 77°33.8'N / 015°02.4'E

Wind: E4, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C



An early alarm call and we stumbled sleepily from our bunks and looked out to get a taste of the weather. Already we knew it was relatively calm, as we could feel no movement in the ship as it sat at anchor off Ingeborgfjellet. Everything seemed perfect for a landing until we were informed that the wind was gusting around 30 knots and the tide was running at 3 knots. Marginal conditions for operations, so our trusted leader Sara made the safe decision to cancel.

The bridge ordered the anchor to be raised, and we set off to implement plan. Meike stepped in at short notice and delivered a lecture on Fulmars, a species used as an indicator of marine litter impact. Ursula talked to the German passengers about whale species in the Arctic. The greatest interest for most, however, was out the lounge windows as we absorbed the stunning and ever-changing Svalbard mountain landscape.



Great relief from the expedition staff, as conditions were favourable at Bamsebu. Sarah sent in the usual guide scout team to check for Polar Bear safety, and they declared it safe to land beside the beautifully constructed hut.

The beach was macabre, with heaps of beluga bones piled just above the high-water mark. Passengers were divided into language groups, and guides lead a variety of highly



instructive walks along the beach. The weather was magnificent, unusually warm with brilliant sunshine. We were reluctant to return to Hondius for lunch.

Hondius anchored up and sailed again for another landing at Snatcherpynten, a huge expanse of tundra and gravel stretching along the coast, with a crazy looking squint hut as a feature above the beach. This building was unusual, as it has two floors and is the oldest hut structure still standing in Svalbard.



We found several graves, one marked with an ancient wooden cross. It was quite moving to think of the people who had worked and died here in such a remote location. On shore adjacent to the hut lay the sad remnants of yet another failed Svalbard industrial mineral extraction enterprise. The islands are littered with them, and we were reminded of Bill's Arctic lecture about the death and destruction of whales, seals, men, and ships.

The weather continued to be extremely warm as we leisurely wandered across the landscape photographing flowers, interesting rocks, signs of perm-frost, mountains, and Hondius anchored patiently for our return. We then received other informative presentations by our guides.

Day 9 - 6th July

Ymerbukta & Alkhornet

12:00 GPS Position: 78°12.1'N / 013°55.0'E

Wind: SW 3, **Sea State:** Rippled, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C



What a last day in Svalbard! This morning we woke up to an extraordinary day: cloudless sky, a warm and sunny Arctic summer day. Our first landing was in Ymerbukta. Half of us stretched our legs toward Esmarkbreen (Esmark Glacier) at the end of the landing side, while another half took a Zodiac cruise in the bay. To our delight, halfway to the glacier front we encountered Polar Bear footprints. The large ones clearly belonged to a mother Bear, while the smaller

footprints indicated a little cub accompanying her. We had seen many spectacular glaciers during our voyage, but this was the first time we had a chance to get that close to a glacier front. As expected, so many wonderful photos were taken.





After a delicious pizza lunch, we were ready for the last landing of the voyage. And what an ending it was! We landed in the skirts of the Alkhornet, a beautiful mountain that reminded some of us of the Dolomites in Italy. The steep cliff of the mountain is favoured by many breeding bird species, such as Kittiwakes and Guillemots. This of course attracts Arctic Foxes to the area. And to our delight, we found a den

with 12 cubs (some swore they counted 13).

We respectfully took turns watching the little cubs enjoying the sunny day. The cubs were extremely curious and playful, which led to a very exciting sighting. Some of us also ventured up to the mountain, where we were greeted by many grazing Reindeers with calves.



Around 5pm we reluctantly bid farewell to this incredible landing site and headed back to Hondius. Back on board, we had Captain Toni's farewell cocktail and end of the trip slideshow prepared by Misha. Most of us had tears in their eyes watching the beautiful images Misha put together. The Galley Team also treated us with one last gala dinner, where we had the chance to say thank you to the wonderful Hotel team who made our stay so unforgettable.

Day 10 – 7th July

Disembarkation Day- Longyearbyen Port

12:00 GPS Position: 78°10.12'N / 014°19.28'E

Wind: NW 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 9,5°C

Our bags were packed and left outside our doors for the staff to collect. After a last breakfast, we disembarked the ship and said goodbye to Sara and her team. We can't thank them and the rest of the staff enough for all their hard work. We leave with some sadness but also with many fond memories we will never forget.



Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous Arctic voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 930,5 nautical miles
Farthest north: 80°06.7'N / 016°42.3'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Toni Salo, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Oleksandr Lyebbyedyev, and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!





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|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Longyearbyen | 28.06.2023 |
| 2. 14 Julibukta / Ny Alesund | 29.06.2023 |
| 3. Gravesnodden / Gullybukta | 30.06.2023 |
| 4. Ice day | 01.07.2023 |
| 5. Alkefjellet / Wahlbergoya | 02.07.2023 |
| 6. Sundneset | 03.07.2023 |
| 7. Burgerbukta / Samarinvagen | 04.07.2023 |
| 8. Ahlstrandhalvoya / Snatcherpynten | 05.07.2023 |
| 9. Ymerbukta / Alkhornet | 06.07.2023 |
| 10. Longyearbyen | 07.07.2023 |

Sara Jenner – 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, Weddell Sea, Ross Sea, Falklands, South Georgia, NZ and Australian Sub Antarctic Islands, 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.

Marcel Paul - Assistant Expedition Leader



From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups on trekking's to Austria, Switzerland, England and Scotland. His own travels over the last 20 years brought him to all 7 continents. With his interest in history and as keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that is keeping him indoor most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge from the area by working with the scientists. He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he went to the Dutch polar station in Ny Alesund, again as field assistant.

From 2017 Marcel has been working as a polar guide in the Arctic followed by the Antarctic in 2018. He now spends about half the year working in both polar regions and the rest of the year is spent either at home in Holland or traveling.

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.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales

and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife.

Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkelling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and portraits of people all over the world.

Koen believes that travelling does not only enrich your life, it also makes you more humble, more appreciative and it provides new levels of perspective and understanding. Koen has won the prestigious WWF Frans Lanting Photo contest, and in 2020 he won the Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Photography competition. It's Koen's dream to one day have a Vizsla dog and own a small cabin somewhere in northern Norway surrounded by snow and trees.

Pelin Asfuroglu – Expedition Guide



Pelin was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey.

Growing up in a very big city, she was amazed by the stories she read about the adventures of early explorers and mountain climbers who travelled to the most remote places in the world.

She discovered her real passion for great outdoors at age 17 when she first started paragliding.

Thanks to the great extracurricular student activities offered in her University, she ended up spending most of her time paragliding, mountain climbing, caving and sailing. During the long summer holidays, she worked as a trekking/mountain guide in diverse locations throughout Turkey.

Her love of outdoors has taken her so many wonderful places in the world; from the Himalayan Mountains to the Amazon rainforests. Pelin finally settled in Chilean Patagonia in 2013 where she has worked as an outdoor guide leading multi-day hiking and wildlife trips.

Her interest in Polar Regions was kindled when she first travelled to Antarctica. In other words, she caught the Polar Fever.

Pelin holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Leiden. She specially is interested in Polar Exploration history and loves to share her knowledge with the guests.

Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



Marco was born in the country of Pasta & Pizza. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city in Italy and after a few years working in the industry he decided to embark himself on a quest.

For two years he carried his tent and camping equipment, backpacking from the steamy jungle of Mexico and Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Peruvian Andes and the dry highlands of Bolivia; rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind and machine artifacts.

During the last seven years he has been leading groups as a trekking and camping guide in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia such as Torres del Paine W trek, Paine Massif O Circuit, Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre circuit as well as the southernmost trekking in the world, Dientes de Navarino trail.

One step further from Patagonia lies the Antarctica peninsula, where he is willing to share with you an incredible camping experience in this truly pristine and untouched environment.

Erik Verheul - Expedition Guide



Erik has a lifelong passion for snow and ice. As a kid, every winter he was out on the ice, skating, as much and often as he could. Later his curiosity led him to explore the African and South American continents. But here too it was the snow-capped volcanoes that had his special interest, and he climbed some of the most beautiful ones. Therefore, it was inevitable that one day his attention shifted to the North, to Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen, and the Northern Pack Ice.

During his first visit to Spitsbergen in 2008, it was the memorial stone on Amsterdam Island that told him the story

of the discovery of- and the first two wintering's on the island. And that started his passion for the Arctic history. The adventures of the first explorers, the terrifying stories in the diaries of the winterers and the incredible stories of the whalers all made him want to find out more and more about these fascinating times.

In “normal” life Erik works as a civilian for the Royal Netherlands Navy. He holds a master’s degree in telecommunications management and works as a consultant communication and information systems. But even with this nine to five office job adventure lured around the corner. He managed to convince his admiral to equip a scientific expedition to Jan Mayen, four hundred years after the discovery of the island. In 2014 the Zr. Ms Zeeland set sail to the North. Like Spitsbergen, Jan Mayen has an old Dutch memorial stone too, and while the scientists did their research, Erik’s skills as a stone carver came in handy for the renovation of this memorial stone.

The history of the Arctic is not a dull summary of events, everything that happens there seems to end up with a fascinating story. Erik likes to share these stories with you whenever he can. Whether you like it or not.

Tanja Bayer – Expedition Guide



Tanja was born 1966 in Germany and lives in Oberursel. Since 2009 she has been travelling and working on different ships to the Antarctic Peninsula as a Diver and Doctor.

Since 2015 she is working for Oceanwide Expeditions as Ship's Physician and Dive guide, in this Arctic Season for the first time as Expedition Guide. She loves the Polar Areas and their fascinating fauna and flora, fighting their live in this harsh environment. Especially the marine mammals, the glaciers and the historic sites with their stories are her favourite topics.

She likes to show the people the nature, going on a nice and safe hike and have fun! When diving she gets fascinated by the colourful and diverse life underwater. In Germany she owns a Dive center and Diving School, plans and leads Diving Expeditions all around the world. If there is some time left, she works as Emergency Doctor and locum.

Tanja speaks German and English.

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Born in Argentina (Dec 80') and raised in Italy, Paolo finally moved to Scotland where he settled in 2006. Nowadays, when not at sea, he splits his time between Argentina and Scotland.

Before expedition cruises Paolo spent 12 years working shoreside in merchant shipping. He was a Product Manager for a Norwegian company developing Voyage Planning and Marine Weather Forecasting Systems for merchant ships.

He also started Paragliding at the age of 14 and has been very involved in the sport as a school owner instructing both beginners and advanced courses for over 20 years. When not paragliding, Paolo likes to sea kayak and he mixes Field Guide with Kayak Guide roles onboard.

In 2021 he started working full time in expedition cruises, since then he has guide in several expeditions such as Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands, Greenland West coast, Greenland East coast, Iceland, Faroes Islands and British Isles.

Aside from sea kayaking and flying he is into hiking, motorbikes and spending time with friends. He is passionate about polar regions and sharing the experience with our guests.

“Happiness is only real when shared” (Chris McCandless)

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



This is Carina, she grew up in the swiss capital of Bern far away from the sea. Her studies in renewable energies and environmental engineering gave her a curiosity in energy production and civil engineering. She would like to share this curiosity with you! Carina is a sports nut and runs triathlons in her spare time. But don't worry, she has vowed to slow down the tours to half-tempo.

Carinas favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural

habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination with these cute animals and their dominion.

Beeing the happiest outside, Carina chose to make the world her workplace and to become an international guide for Oceanwide Expeditions.

Carina is a passionate and optimistic person who always likes to learn new things and has a broad interest in geography, history, archaeology, the arts and the natural sciences. As the cheesy Instagramposts say: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". So step up and let Carina share her passion for civil engineering and penguins with you and take part in your once in a lifetime adventure!

Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide



Born in St Petersburg, Russia, but raised in Luxemburg, Mikhail now lives in Switzerland, where he delights in camping all over the local mountainscape.

He spent quite some time in the academic world, obtaining master's degrees in Marine Mammal Science and in Ecology and Nature Conservation. After working for several field seasons as a scientist in distant places on marine mammals and birds, he was keen to pursue a way to combine his passion for travelling, outreach and the higher latitudes.

His deep interest for the polar regions was formed on a visit to Antarctica with Oceanwide in 2018 as part of a university course. At the time, he was stunned by the pristineness and the vibrance of life found in the Southern Ocean and wanted to find a way to return in a professional capacity. As he prefers the world's colder regions, Oceanwide provided the opportunity to immerse himself in the polar world.

No stranger to adverse weather and difficult living conditions, Mikhail is always looking to find places and moments that exude true calm and serenity. As an avid photographer and videographer, he is always seen carrying his gear around from place to place, trying to improve his craft and capture wildlife in their natural behaviour.

Usually in high spirits, he works as a guide on a variety of expeditions, on which he can be found always ready to help and looking to increase his savoir-faire in all things ocean and wildlife.

Bill Smith - Expedition Guide



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 58 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

As Bill lives in the North-west of Scotland he is President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee and former Chieftain Assynt Highland Games.

Bill is an Honorary Member Assynt Crofters Trust and recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.

Saskia van der Meij – Expedition guide



Saskia is an adventurous girl born in the Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt on a young age how great it is to be active in nature. Getting up early, when the world is still asleep, that's when you hear nature at his best.

For more than 20 years she was a dedicated product manager for a nature-orientated tour-operator offering tailor-made self-drive holidays with stays in special accommodations. She's coming home to amazing destinations like Alaska, Canada, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and

Southern Africa.

In November 2019 she followed her heart and managed a lodge in Namibia for a few months. That was the start of her new career. Working as Head Service on a Tallship taking guests to beautiful places around the Baltic Sea, the interesting north of Norway looking for whales and northern lights and expeditions to mind-blowing Spitsbergen/ Svalbard. In the meantime, also complete various guide-training programs.

Being active outdoors makes her really happy. Multiple-day hikes in the Andes or Himalayas, canoeing around remote islands in Canada or camping on a mountain top overlooking glaciers in Alaska. Ask her and she's up for it. Her heart beats faster when nature 'talks' to her. What better way to share her passion and also finding a way to contribute to nature conversation at the same time!

Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She loves motivating people and sharing her enthusiasm with others is what goes naturally. Colleagues describe her as an energetic Jack-of all-trades with eye for detail.

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.

Moniek Mestrom – Expedition Guide



Moniek is a bit more adventurous than the usual doctor. She was born and raised in the Netherlands but always wanted to explore the world since she was a little girl. She has visited diverse places all over the world, often combining work with holiday.

After working in the Netherlands, Indonesia and Suriname it was finally time to go to Antarctica! Since her first visit to Antarctica in February 2017 on board the MV Plancius she is addicted. She has been back on board every season, on one of the Oceanwide ships, in the Arctic and Antarctica! It's not a

secret that South Georgia is her absolute favorite destination!

When she isn't traveling or working for Oceanwide you will find her at the Emergency Department in the Netherlands, a complete opposite to the serene, calm and beautiful nature of the Polar regions. As you can imagine, she spends quite some time convincing her boss at home for more leave to continue exploring this amazing world.

Always looking for possibilities to learn more about expedition medicine, in the field or taking courses, visiting conferences, (expedition dive medicine, advanced wilderness life support etcetera) and who knows, maybe one day she might even want to overwinter in the extreme cold. As one of the four doctors of the Medical Committee of Oceanwide Expeditions she is always trying to improve the medical care onboard.

She loves the sea and wildlife, so obviously she also loves to drive the zodiac (be aware!) and she spends most of her time outside whenever she can to watch the beautiful animals all around the ship.

Ursula Tschertter - Expedition Guide



She grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of her childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed her life radically. She gave up her original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation she combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

She is a true minke whale enthusiast. A thousands of hours she observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years she obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). She nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 she started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home she produced life-sized foldable animals, which she carries to schools and ships. Visit her lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as her urge to learn and explore is her need to share her knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach her at any time, as she loves to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

Adam Harmer – Kayak Leader



Adam has been paddling for over 20 years and this includes on all seven Continents. He calls the mountains and the Ocean his home.

Currently Adam lives in North Wales UK. He spends much of his life training and assessing outdoor instructors around the world.

Whether that is sea kayaking in Canada or Chile or raft guides and instructors on rivers in Africa.

Adam is also more than happy when he is working at home, where he shares his

passion and extensive outdoor experience in training outdoor professionals and guides.

A previous winner of the Yukon 1000, the Worlds Longest Kayak race, first descents in Africa and South America and coaching under the Golden Gate Bridge and Antartica so some of his highlights.

Adam also loves sharing the outdoors with people, sharing the interaction of nature, the sounds of waves crashing or seeing something special means the world to Adam.

He has two children and loves taking his family on 'Outdoor Adventures'

Geraint (Gez) Rowlands - Kayak Guide



Gez had his first kayak, age 10. It was a fiberglass red Comanche, with white go faster stripes that he was particularly proud of. He matched the colour scheme to the kayak that Dave Manby, his paddling hero, paddled on the 1st descent of the Dudh Kosi. The river that flows down Everest.

Spending most of his early paddling career racing slalom kayaks for Wales he finally got to meet his paddling hero when he took part in the 1st British youth expedition to the Grand Canyon. This was the springboard that sent him traveling to every continent on the

planet as a guide, descending the river corridors of the amazon rainforest, avoiding crocodiles on the Zambezi river in Africa, and watching humpback whales in Antarctica.

One of his claims to fame is being the co-author of white-water safety and rescue and a number of the Rescue 3 water rescue manuals. These days he splits his time between guiding, training firefighters in water rescue as well as being a Paramedic for the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Gez still remembers how special his 1st kayaking moments were, in his red kayak with go faster stripes and he would like to share that enthusiasm and sense of adventure with you.

Annika Volder - Ship's Doctor



Annika was born and raised in The Netherlands in a small farmer's village just outside Amsterdam. Being outdoors was a big part of her childhood, playing around with friends and helping with the horses at a friend's farm. With her parents she travelled a lot, mostly to places with amazing nature, such as California, Canada, Iceland and many others.

She studied Medicine in Utrecht and after graduating from Medical School worked several years as a resident in Emergency medicine and intensive care in different hospitals before specializing as an Emergency Physician in Amsterdam. Since 2015 she is working as an Emergency Physician in a hospital just north of Amsterdam. She also got certified as a Medical Examiner of Divers in 2018.

Travelling has been one of her passions since childhood. From the Northern part of Norway, Iceland and Patagonia every trip is another amazing experience, enjoying nature and wildlife and meeting new friends. During her travels photography became a hobby.

When not working or travelling she enjoys riding and taking care of her 2 horses and reading books (mostly thrillers and travel stories). She also likes cooking and going out for fine dining.



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Welcome Aboard!

Date: Wednesday 28th June 2023

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 bar located on Deck 5.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:15+/- 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

18:30+/- We would like to invite you to Captains Cocktails in the **Observation Lounge** on Deck 5. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and you will meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant** on Deck 4.

20:45+/- The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to Deck 3, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you!

Daily programmes will be displayed around the ship and on TV screens.

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page” - St. Augustine



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Thursday 29th June 2023

Day 2: 14. Julibukta and Ny Ålesund

- 06:30 Wake- up call.
07:00-8:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00 **MANDATORY** AECO, Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety Briefing in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance will be checked.
- 09:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at 14. Julibukta.
- 09:45+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at 14. Julibukta.

Groups will swap during the morning.

- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please could the **kayakers** meet your kayak guides in the lecture room for their **MANDATORY** kayak Safety briefing and introduction.
- 15:00+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready to disembark by the gangway on Deck 4 for a landing at Ny Ålesund.
- 15:15+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready to disembark by the gangway on Deck 4 for a landing at Ny Ålesund.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

**No mobile phones, Bluetooth and/or GPS devices to go ashore
(SEE NOTICES ON SHIP)**

- 18:45 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

“How can you expect a man who's warm to understand one who's cold?”
- Alexander Solzhenitsyn”



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Friday 30th June 2023

Day 3: Magdalenafjord

- 06:30 Wake- up call.
- 07:00-8:00 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 Gravenesodden.
- 08:15+/- Please can be the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Waggonwaybreen.
- 08:30 Please can the **kayakers** be ready on at the forward shell door on Deck 3.

Groups will swap during the morning.

We hope to offer a **POLAR PLUNGE** at the end of the landing so please wear your swimwear under your waterproofs. Please do not bring the towels from your cabin, we provide the towels.

- 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 Gullybukta.
- 14:45+/- Please can be the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise Gullybreen.

Groups will swap during the afternoon.

- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."
- Robert Swan



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Saturday 1st July 2023

Day 4: Monacobreen and Texas Bar.

- 07:00 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-8:30 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 Texas Bar.
- 08:45 Pelin will offer a lecture in the Observation Lounge to the **Blue** Group titled 'An Introduction to the Arctic'. This will be given in English and translated into German.
- 10:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Texas Bar.
- 11:15 Pelin will offer a lecture in the Observation Lounge to the **Red** Group titled 'An Introduction to the Arctic', this will be translated into Chinese.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:15+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Monacobreen.
- 14:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Monacobreen.
- 14:45 Please can the **kayakers** be ready at the forward shell door.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Saturday 1st July 2023

Day 4: Monacobreen and Texas Bar.

- 07:00 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-8:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:45 Pelin will offer a lecture in the Lounge titled 'An Introduction to the Arctic', given in **English** and translated into **German**.
- 10:30 Koen will give a lecture titled '10 tips to Improve your Wildlife Photography' in the Lounge, given in **English** and translated into **Chinese**.
- 10:30 Ursula will give a lecture about the 'Whales of the Arctic and their feeding ecology', in the Lecture Room, this will be given in **German**.
- 12:00 Bill will give a short presentation about the Geology of Svalbard in the Lecture Room, given in **English** and translated into **German**.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:45 Ursula will give a lecture in the Lounge about the 'Whales of the Arctic and their feeding ecology', in **English** and translated into **Chinese**.
- 13:45 Koen will give a lecture titled '10 tips to Improve your Wildlife Photography' in the Lecture Room in **German**.
- 16:00 Marco will give a lecture in the Lounge about Sea Ice in **English** and translated into **German**.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served.

Please note: The lecture programme is subject to ice and weather conditions and our progress towards Texas Bar and Monacobreen so please listen to announcements.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Sunday 2nd July 2023

Day 5: Ice Edge.

- 07:15 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
Please note: The lecture program is subject to change depending on wildlife sightings, so please listen to announcements.
- 08:45 Sara will give a lecture in the Lounge about Polar Bears in **English** and translated into **German**.
- 10:15 Marco will give a presentation about Sea Ice in the Lecture Room in **Chinese**.
- 11:30 Saskia will give a lecture about Polar Wives in the Lounge in **English**, translated into **Chinese**.
- 11:30 Tanya will give a lecture about The History of Women in Svalbard in **German** in the Lecture Room.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:45 Mikhail will give a lecture about Marine Mammal Acoustics in **English** in the Lounge and translated into **Chinese**.
- 13:45 Carina will give a lecture in **German** about Water Treatment in the Lecture Room.
- 16:00 Carina will give a lecture about Water Treatment in the Lounge in **English** and translated into **Chinese**.
- 16:00 Mikhail will give a lecture about Marine Mammal Acoustics in the Lecture Room in **German**.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served.

"the ice and the long moonlit polar nights, with all their yearning, seemed like a far-off dream from another world, a dream that has come and passed away. But what would life be without dreams?"- Fridtjof Nansen



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Sunday 2nd July 2023

Day 5: Alkefjellet and Wahlbergøya.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 07:00 | Wake- up call. |
| 07:30-08:30 | Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 08:30-08:45 | We ask you to be ready at the Shell Doors for a Zodiac Cruise at Alkefjellet. |
| 11:30 | Sara will give a lecture in the Lounge about Polar Bears in English and translated into German . |
| 12:30-13:30 | Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4. |
| 13:30 | Marco will give a presentation about Sea Ice in the Lecture Room in Chinese . |
| 14:15-14:30 | We ask you to be ready at the Shell Doors for a Zodiac Cruise at Wahlbergøya. |
| 16:45 | Saskia will give a lecture about Polar Wives in the Lounge in English , translated into Chinese . |
| 16:45 | Tanya will give a lecture about The History of Women in Svalbard in German in the Lecture Room. |
| 18:15 | Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap. |
| 19:00 | Dinner will be served. |

"the ice and the long moonlit polar nights, with all their yearning, seemed like a far-off dream from another world, a dream that has come and passed away. But what would life be without dreams?"
- Fridtjof Nansen



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Tuesday 4th July 2023

Day 7: Slideshow and Captain's Farewell Cocktail. Samavigenbreen Kapp Waldburg and Sundneset

- 06:30 Wake- up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00+/- We ask the **Red** Group to be ready for a landing at Kapp Waldburg.
- 08:15 Erik will give a lecture about Whaling and Wintering on Svalbard in the Lecture Room to the **Blue** Group, it will be given in **English** and translated into **German**.
- 09:15+/- We ask the **Blue** Group to be ready for a landing at Kapp Waldburg.
- 11:00 Erik will give a lecture about Whaling and Wintering on Svalbard in the Lecture Room to the **Red** Group, it will be given in **English** and translated into **Chinese**.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:30+/- Please can the **long hikers** be ready at the Shell Doors for a landing at Sundneset. This will be a 3-3.5 hour walk at a fast pace.
- 13:45 Please can the **kayakers** be ready at the forward shell door.
- 14:00-14:15 Please can the **medium hikers** (2.5 hours) and those wishing to take a **leisurely walk** be ready at the Shell Doors for a landing at Sundneset.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served.

*"It must be remembered that the men whose desires lead them to the untrodden paths of the world have generally marked individuality."
- Sir Ernest Shackleton*



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Tuesday 4th July 2023

Day 7: Samarinvågen and Burgerbukta

- 07:45 Wake- up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready for a Zodiac Cruise at Burgerbukta.
- 09:45+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready for a Zodiac Cruise at Burgerbukta.
- 10:00+/- Please can the **kayakers** be ready at the forward shell door.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:00+/- We ask the **Red** Group to be ready for a landing at Samarinvågen.
- 14:15+/- We ask the **Blue** Group to be ready for a Zodiac cruise at Samarinvågen.
- 14:30+/- Please can the **kayakers** be ready at the forward shell door.
- Groups will swap during the afternoon.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

"but who wants to be foretold the weather? It is bad enough when it comes, without our having the misery of knowing about it beforehand."

- Jerome K. Jerome



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Wednesday 5th July 2023

Day 8: Ingeborgfjellet and Ahlstrandhalvøya

- 06:30 Wake- up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00+/- Please can the **long hikers** be ready for a landing at Ingeborgfjellet. This will be a 3-hour hike at a fast pace.
- 08:30+/- Please can the **medium hikers** and those wishing to do a **leisurely walk** be ready for a landing at Ingeborgfjellet.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- Groups will swap during the morning.
- 14:15+/- Please can the **long hikers** be ready for a landing at Ahlstrandhalvøya. This will be a 3-hour hike at a fast pace.
- 14:45+/- Please can the **medium hikers** and those wishing to do a **leisurely walk** be ready for a landing at Ahlstrandhalvøya.
- 15:00+/- Please can the **kayakers** be ready at the forward shell door.
- 18:45 Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for daily recap.
- 19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

“A journey is a person in itself, no two are alike and all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip, a trip takes us.” - John Steinbeck



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Thursday 6th July 2023

Day 9: Ymerbukta and Alkhornet.

- 06:30 Wake- up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready for a landing at Ymerbukta.
- 08:15+/- Please can the Blue Group be ready for a Zodiac cruise of Ymerbukta.
- 08:30+/- Please can the **kayakers** be ready at the forward shell door.

Groups will swap during the morning.

- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:15+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready for a landing at Alkhornet.
- 15:00+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready for a landing at Alkhornet.

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 before dinner, please listen for announcements.

- 18:45 Captain's Farewell Cocktails in the Observation Lounge and a viewing of the slideshow, which will be available after dinner in the Lecture Room.
- 19:00 Final Gala Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in the water, its substance reaches everywhere, it touches the past and prepares the future."- Loren Eisely



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

Date: Friday 7th July 2023

Day 10: Longyearbyen.

07:00 Wake up call.

Please leave your large luggage in the corridor outside your room for the staff to collect **no later than 07:30**.

Crew and staff will bring it to the pier by Zodiac, 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+/- Please be ready for disembarkation by Zodiac from the shell doors on Deck 3, but please listen for announcements before approaching the shell doors.

09:00 Buses will be departing from the quayside to the town.

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.

"it's when you are safe at home that you're having an adventure. When you're having an adventure, you wish you were safe at home." - Thorton Wilder