



**North Spitsbergen:  
Kvitoya, and farthest North  
19<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> August 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 advanced ice-strengthened vessel is designed from the ground up for polar adventure.

# Captain Ernesto Barria

## and his international crew

Staff Captain:	<b>Elizabar Kadaria</b>	Georgia
Chief Officer:	<b>Mikael Svedberg</b>	The Kingdom of Sweden
Second Officer:	<b>Don Buren</b>	The Netherlands
Third Officer:	<b>Giovanie Simone</b>	The Republic of the Philippines
Chief Engineer:	<b>Andrej Abakumov</b>	The Republic of Lithuania
Hotel Manager:	<b>William Barnes</b>	The Netherlands
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Albert Don</b>	The Netherlands
Head Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	The Federal Republic of Germany
Ships Doctor:	<b>Emma Röttger</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Leader:	<b>Marcel Paul</b>	The Netherlands
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Hazel Pittwood</b>	The United Kingdom
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Phillipa Low</b>	The United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Martin Anstee</b>	The United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Mikhail Barabanov</b>	The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Expedition Guide:	<b>Paolo Bellezze</b>	The Argentine Republic
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andrew Crowder</b>	The United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laurence Dyke</b>	The United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Koen Hoekemeijer</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Li (Rose) Hong</b>	The People's Republic of China
Expedition Guide:	<b>Tom van Hoof</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jess Owen</b>	The United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>John Rogers</b>	The United States of America
Expedition Guide:	<b>Alexander Romanovski</b>	The Russian Federation
Expedition Guide:	<b>Bill Smith</b>	The United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Bitao (Jerry) Zhao</b>	The People's Republic of China
Kayak Guide:	<b>David Horkan</b>	The Republic of Ireland
Kayak Guide:	<b>Alexis Belleze</b>	The Argentine Republic

## Day 1: 19<sup>th</sup> August

### Longyearbyen - Embarkation Day

**12:00 GPS Position:** 78°13.7'N / 015°36.0'E

**Wind:** W2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** +8°C, **Sea Temp:** +8°C

**Writer:** Laurence Dyke

Finally the day had arrived, the start of our Arctic expedition. Over the previous 48 hours, we had all congregated in the charming little town of Longyearbyen. We'd explored the settlement, checking out the restaurants, the museum, and the multitude of weird and wonderful shops, ranging from boutique hand-crafted woolen garments to large sports shops, and the world's most northerly department store.



Through the course of the day we had noticed the smart white and navy ship sat in the bay, our home for the next eight days, the expedition ship *Hondius*. We began to make our way down to the harbour for 16:00 and were greeted at the pier by the Expedition Team, who supplied us with lifejackets and helped us into the waiting Zodiacs, ready to shuttle us to the ship. The weather was glorious, the lightest of breezes ruffled the surface of Adventfjord, and the strong summer sun shone brightly through the loose clouds above us. After just a few moments, we were welcomed in through the shell doors in the side of the ship and made our way upstairs to Reception.



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© Mikhail Barabanov

The Hotel team, headed by William and Albert, were on hand to check us in and show us to our rooms. This was also an opportunity to explore the ship; we wandered on the many outside decks, found the Lounge and the Lecture Room, and then began to unpack our things in our lovely cabins.



Marcel, our Expedition Leader, welcomed us on board, and invited us all to come to the Lounge for a safety briefing before the ship set sail. We learned about Hondius, our safety gear, and what will happen in an emergency, and then followed this up with a practice of the abandon ship procedures. As we gathered on the outside decks we were greeted by our first wildlife spectacle; hundreds of crisp white beluga whales streamed past the stern of the ship, heading deeper into Adventfjord. A few came so close that their brief exhalations were audible, along with the splashing of their flukes as they dipped beneath the surface again.

As the afternoon gave way to early evening, Hondius lifted her anchor and set off westwards, out through Isfjord, and into the dipping sun. Days of intrigue and adventure await us all, set in the most spectacular Arctic wilderness.

## Day 2: 20<sup>th</sup> August

### At Sea and Eolusneset, Sorgfjorden

12:00 GPS Position: 80°00.9'N / 016°49.6'E

Wind: W4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: +3°C, Sea Temp: +8°C

Writer: Jess Owen

We woke up after our first night on board with anticipation about what our first full day would bring. We went to breakfast, and then gathered in the lounge to watch the mandatory briefings which included how to board and disembark Zodiacs, the AECO guide video, and some important points about polar bear safety.

Shortly after the briefings we heard an exciting call from Assistant Expedition Leader Pippa to say there were whales outside. We were treated to beautiful views of several different whale species. **Minke whales, humpback whales, fin whales**, and even a **sei whale**, were seen from multiple points around the ship. Many whale species visit the Arctic in the summer to take advantage of the rich feeding grounds and we had perfectly calm seas to spot them in.



We then collected our muck boots before heading to lunch. Whilst we were starting to get ready for our planned Zodiac cruise and landing at Crozierpynten, Expedition Guide Sasha spotted something white and fluffy on the shore. It was the magnificent king of the Arctic, the species we

had all been hoping for, the **polar bear**. We were excited to begin a Zodiac cruise to admire this magnificent bear, but shortly after it was seen it began swimming in the water. Bears are not to be approached whilst they are swimming, so we had to watch and wait to see where it went and how it was behaving.

Whilst waiting for the bear to return from its swim, Expedition Guide Jess gave a lecture about the whale and dolphin species we could see on our voyage, and talked about the species we had already encountered within less than 48 hours on board.



After learning about the whales we heard an announcement from Marcel to tell us to get dressed and ready to Zodiac cruise as the bear had made its way to the shore again.

We set off in the Zodiacs to what was to be a very magical encounter. A beautiful **polar bear** was standing in a river that ran into the sea. It was stood very still watching the water, sometimes glancing over to us and looking up and down the water. We formed a chain with our Zodiacs and began cruising along the shore in turn to enjoy the view. The bear suddenly splashed through the river and we realised it was trying to catch fish; a behaviour that has only been observed once in in Svalbard before! Normally the **polar bears** that live here eat seals, although they also sometimes eat **beluga whales**, as well as scavenging on other carcasses they find on the shorelines, so this was a very unique behaviour and moment to witness.



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We returned to the ship to study our photographs and reflect on our first Arctic experiences. At our evening recap we heard a series of photography tips from Misha, John taught us about the Swedish and Russian Arc of Meridian expedition which took place at Crozierpynten, and Bill told us how to 'Look, see, think, and do...'

Dinner was spectacular, as we've come to expect, and a few of us retired to the bar afterwards to enjoy a drink whilst watching the serene Arctic Ocean pass by.

## Day 3: 21<sup>st</sup> August

### Wahlbergøya and Alkefjellet, Hinlopenstretet

12:00 GPS Position: 79°21.0'N / 019°35.6'E

Wind: S2, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: +3°C, Sea Temp: +6°C

Writer: Martin Anstee

We woke to a fine morning; mild and with good visibility at Wahlbergøya, a small island in Hinlopen Strait, between east and west Svalbard. The news of the morning was that there were five **polar bears** in front of the ship.



© Mikhail Barabanov

We were entertained, pre-breakfast, by three bears in the water just off of the beach and another bear on the ridge above. There was one final bear a lot further distant on the hills behind the beach, visible only as a small cream speck in the landscape. The three bears in the water were a mum and her two cubs, what a treat, watching the cubs playing and interacting in the water as mum watched on. We had to drag ourselves away from the show and went in for another excellent breakfast.

After breakfast we all got ready for a Zodiac cruise to see the bears. We boarded the boats and made our way slowly to shore to find an amazing, and very unusual sight. Four **polar bears** feeding on the same carcass, the carcass of an unfortunate **minke whale** that had long since died.

Everyone had fantastic views as we passed the bears feeding intently on the abundance of food. We could even hear the grunts and growls as one bear got, perhaps, a bit too close to another. The bears were relaxed and very focussed on their meal, not seemingly noticing the line of Zodiacs passing by.



After a few passes we left the bears to relax after their big meal. We travelled a little further along the coastline to see a large group of **walrus** hauled out on the beach. Some of the animals were also in the water and seemed curious occasionally surfacing near the Zodiacs to check us out. Another great wildlife sighting.

We returned to the ship for another wonderful lunch and just enough time to relax before our afternoon activity, a Zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet; an imposing cliff absolutely full of seabirds.

We were amazed by the sheer numbers of birds on the water, on the cliffs, and in the air. The vast majority of the birds were **Brünnichs guillemots**, breeding seabirds with many, many chicks on the water. One of the other birds we saw in reasonable numbers was the **glaucus gull**, we watched with mixed feelings as two gulls took guillemot chicks from the cliffs and watched a third, immature, gull try to snatch a chick from the sea. We watched with relief as the gull dropped the chick and it was reunited with its parent, real nature, in the raw, happening right in front of our eyes!



We learnt that where there are concentrations of seabirds you often find **Arctic foxes** and this was no exception.



© Martin Anstee



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Apart from the huge bird cliffs there were also spectacular waterfalls and a very scenic glacier to finish the cruise with. On the way back to Hondius we had to be careful to avoid the huge rafts of birds on the water, once back on board it was time to warm-up with a hot drink and cake.

At 18:15 it was time for our daily recap; Marcel gave us the plans for tomorrow and we were then informed about dead whales by Jess, **ivory gulls** by Andrew, and **Brünnich's guillemots** by Martin.

We drifted down to the restaurant for a relaxing dinner while chatting to friends and family about the days wonderful events.

However, the day was not yet over, at 11 pm we reached Bråsvellbreen; a huge ice cliff which loomed out of the mist, we were encouraged out to see this spectacular sight bathed in late evening sunshine, what a fantastic end to a wonderful day in Svalbard.



## Day 4: 22<sup>nd</sup> August

### Austfonna and Norvargodden, Storøya

**12:00 GPS Position:** 80°07.2'N / 028°45.6'E

**Wind:** SSW3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** +3°C, **Sea Temp:** +4°C

**Writer:** Alexander Romanovski

The plans for the day were grand! Each of us, drawing back the curtains and lifting the covers of the portholes, preparing to welcome the bright rays of sunlight into the depths of Hondius, anticipated a joyful day, brimming with adventures. Yet, the scene that met our eyes stirred a sense of bewilderment, for it was truly peculiar: a dense, grey mist enveloped everything around us with a thick shroud, looming over Hondius and robbing us of any sense of spatial orientation. Where are we? Where in the devil are we?

It was as if the Arctic, having second thoughts about how much it allowed us to experience, feel, and see over the past two days, decided to take compensatory measures to balance the course of our journey.

According to the readings from the radar and satellite navigation instruments, Hondius was moving slowly but steadily forward, skirting the southern coast of Nordaustlandet. The fog at times thickened so much that we had to peer closely to distinguish the flag of Oceanwide Expeditions fluttering on the bow. At other times, it slightly dispersed, revealing icebergs slowly bobbing on the waves. These icebergs had broken away from the massive ice dome of Austfonna, which covers a large part of Nordaustlandet. The wind was almost absent. The aforementioned flag occasionally came to life, as if to remind us of its presence, fluttering purposefully, and then it would hang limply, incapable of even the slightest movement.

The waters washing the southern shores of Nordaustlandet were no longer just fjords but an open ocean, and all oceans are known for their swaying motion. The ocean seemed to sleep, wrapped in a blanket of fog, breathing slowly. Inhale-exhale, inhale-exhale... Hondius crawled along its massive body like a lost and hapless ant. On each inhale, Hondius would rise, and on each exhale, it would lower itself, slicing through the water's surface with a sound as its bow moved forward.

During breakfast, still filled with hope, we repeatedly diverted our gazes from our omelettes and yogurts to the outside, wondering if the fog was starting to dissipate. Yet, the fog only seemed to thicken around our ship. The planned morning Zodiac cruise in the area of Isispynten had to be postponed to a later time. The weary Arctic sun reluctantly climbed higher. The fog, as if fearing its tired yet stern gaze, clung even tighter to the ocean's surface, refusing to disperse despite the sun's rays. Above us, the blue expanse of the celestial dome was now distinctly visible, but on the sides, as before, milk-like clouds of tiny water droplets spread out. After waiting a bit longer, the leadership of our expedition made the disappointing decision to cancel the Zodiac cruise. Even if we went, we wouldn't have seen any glaciers, icebergs, walrus, or - oh, the



horror! - polar bears. And with that circumstance, there's no room for jests. Well, failures do happen. No big deal, we'll get through it!

Strangely enough, the time before lunch flew by quickly. We listened to lectures delivered by our guides, stepped out onto the open decks to breathe in the fresh Arctic air, and to cast our gaze upon any icebergs that crossed our path.

After lunch, patches of fog began alternating with areas of good visibility. Our ship was headed towards Storøya. It's one of the easternmost islands in the archipelago. Most of it is covered by an ice dome, but there's also space to land and take a stroll. In today's itinerary, this activity was scheduled for the afternoon.



Suddenly, Hondius slowed down, and then came to a complete halt. The sound of the anchor chain echoed. Could it be that we had arrived? Determining this was impossible because the fog concealed from us anything beyond a couple of hundred meters from the ship. It was decided to wait for a while. The wind picked up, so there was a good chance it might scatter the fog, revealing the expanses of the Arctic before our eyes.

And this assumption turned out to be correct! We stood on the captain's bridge, on the decks, and at the ship's bow, gazing into the distance, and suddenly, the fog started thinning right before our eyes, and unbelievably so, for a moment, a stretch of land appeared before us! The fog, refusing to surrender without a fight, charged back and swallowed the strip of land along with

the rest of the world. Yet, this was short-lived. The fresh wind easily reclaimed all its lost territory in a matter of minutes. Now, not only the narrow strip of ice-free land was visible, but also the ice dome of Storøya. But that wasn't all! Soon, the strait between Storøya and Nordaustlandet opened up before us, and in the distance, the ice dome of Austfonna revealed itself. A few more minutes passed, and there was nothing left of the fog but a white streak over the sea far to the south. It was now unmistakably clear: disembarkation on the shore was destined to happen!



The Zodiacs were lowered into the water. The guides set out for reconnaissance – were there any **polar bears** hiding among the rocks? In the mean time we hurriedly dressed. The ship anchored quite a distance from the shore, not because it was shallow closer to the coast, but because this stretch of seafloor had not yet been explored and charted, as ships so rarely venture here!

And there we were, on the shore. Finally, we could examine everything in detail. We began to walk back and forth, exploring this uninhabited island. How wonderful it was, after a pause of several days, to stretch our legs and feel solid ground beneath our feet!

Small, sporadically moss-covered hollows, the flowers of drooping saxifrage, and round boulders adorned with black lichen. A typical Arctic desert. Here and there, we stumbled upon whale bones. Apparently, a few centuries ago, brave whalers harvested this rare creature in these waters and used this barren shore to render the whale oil. Vertebrae, jawbones, ribs—those were

all that remained of the marine giants. Scattered amidst them were **walrus** bones as well. It's possible that fearless Russian Pomors also stopped on Storøya to hunt for **walrus**.



However, the shore wasn't only scattered with bones. Enormous mounds of plastic awaited us: floats from fishing nets, the nets themselves, buoys, bottles, buckets—there was no shortage of items! This is the price we pay for progress and the comfortable life of humanity. It was unpleasant to look at all of this, and to the best of our abilities, we tried to clean up at least a little. We dragged all the plastic we could gather to the spot of our landing, after which the guides packed it into two huge bags and took them back to the ship.



Some tiny islets very close to our shore were occupied by walrus. Huge, fat beasts claimed every square meter, sleeping in unison, only occasionally waking up and casting a glance around. Among them were **walrus** calves too. Like all children in the world, they obviously didn't want to sleep, they wanted to play. Rolling around, they crawled on the bodies of their sleeping parents, making various amusing sounds. Taking advantage of the opportunity, we took photographs. But then something happened: as if on command, all the **walrus** woke up, and one by one, they dove into the water. In a matter of mere seconds, the islet emptied, and the **walrus**, now alert and swaying on the waves, showcased their tusks, loudly snorting gazing around.

The time had come to leave Storøya. One by one, the Zodiacs ferried us back to the ship. It was time for dinner and rest, as tomorrow promised to be no less exciting!



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## Day 5: 23<sup>rd</sup> August

### Kræmerpynten and Andréeneset, Kvitøya

**12:00 GPS Position:** 80°10.4'N / 033°39.4'E

**Wind:** S2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** +1°C, **Sea Temp:** +2°C

**Writer:** John Rogers

Our expedition is North Spitsbergen – Kvitøya and Farthest North, and today is Kvitøya Day! Kvitøya is Norwegian for White Island (øya is Norwegian for island). This name is appropriate because 99% of the island is covered by an ice cap. Only 2 small rocky bits of land are not ice covered – Kræmerpynten, in the northeast, and Andréeneset, in the southwest. In between the ice reaches depths of 300 meters and forms a continuous ice cliff at the coastline.



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Our morning activity was at Kræmerpynten. We could see on arrival the small spits of land and watched as the scouting party went to investigate. We knew that landings are rare on Kvitøya but hoped for the best. Alas, the ice was too thick along the shore to allow access to the beach. However, conditions were perfect for a Zodiac cruise, so away we went.

The sea was nearly flat with almost no wind. This gave great reflections of the blue sculptures made from the scattered sea ice and glacial ice around the shore. It also allowed for easy, fast

travel so we ventured very far from Hondius. With a number of Zodiacs on the water, and radio communication, all of us were able to get to the highlights as they were found.



We visited several small groups of **walrus** cows with calves – both on the ice and in the water. When they were feeding, they re-surfaced very near to us. We sat quietly and enjoyed watching them in their home. Many of the ice floes were covered in **black-legged kittiwakes**. We approached them slowly, but inevitably one took flight, prompting a beautiful flurry of wings as the sky filled with birds. We cruised closer to the ice cap and the glacier fronts where it meets the sea. These tall dramatic cliffs were carved with deep crevasses and we heard the rumble of calvings. We knew that we were far north, and that the sea ice had only recently moved away from this area. Still, it was a bit startling to see the patches of slushy ice on the surface where formation of the winter sea ice layer had already started. Marcel and the Hotel Team must have known that we would be cold because a Zodiac with the Oceanwide flag arrived to serve us freshly baked banana bread and hot apple cider.

As Hondius repositioned to Andréeneset we had lunch and learned the history of this place from John in his talk on The Quest for the North Pole. One of the expeditions he described was led by Salomon Andrée. They attempted to reach the pole by balloon but failed, and eventually perished here on the barren, rocky coast of Kvitøya.

The fog outside began to close in during the journey and never cleared. We were denied even a glimpse of the site where the remains of Andrée and his companions were discovered more than

30 years after launching. The conditions prevented even a Zodiac cruise, making us more thankful for the glorious morning.



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One consolation was that our education continued with a talk from Hazel on **polar bears** titled 'Icon of the North'. Her pictures and stories made it clear that we have been lucky with bear sightings so far, but also whet our appetites for tomorrow's visit to the ice.

Speaking of appetites, Kvitøya day turned into barbecue evening. The Captain took us out of the thick fog and into pleasant evening light in an area of drift ice for a meal on the back decks. After dinner we learned that Oceanwide has a tradition that barbecue evening is followed by dancing into the night. The tables and benches were cleared to transform the decks into a dance floor - with fog bows and near sunset light instead of disco balls! The various DJs got busy with favorite tunes played for all generations. Shake that thing!

This expedition seems to always find a way to turn a disappointment in Plan A into a triumph in Plan B!





## Day 6: 24<sup>th</sup> August

### The Arctic Pack Ice

**12:00 GPS Position:** 81°46.7'N / 021°37.5'E

**Wind:** WSW4, **Sea State:** V. Low, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** +1°C, **Sea Temp:** +1°C

**Writer:** William Maclean Smith

The day started slowly, as passengers with throbbing heads and aching limbs emerged from their cabins after a superb barbecue and dance party on the aft deck the night before... to be confronted by poor visibility.

However, as promised in the wake-up call at 08:00, Hondius emerged from the mist shortly after breakfast, engine throbbing, and cruised across the calm sea towards the ice on the horizon.

The serious competition now began as passengers lined the rails and bridge; scanning with their binoculars to see who would be the first to spot a **polar bear**. Just after 10 in the morning we hit the edge of the ice field and we were given a visual and audio illustration of the enormous power of the vessel as it's strengthened hull shuddered with a deep metallic booming as it pushed and scraped relentlessly through the thick ice floes of the Arctic Ocean. Within a few moments the vessel was ensconced in another world, one of relentlessly shifting morass of ice and a completely unique perspective – there is something stark, almost brutal, about the endless pack ice, but it is also incredibly beautiful.



Eyes continued to strain, glued to binoculars, passengers and guides alike scanned the fuzzy horizon eager to find wildlife. However, the ice remained relatively empty. The only signs of life were the odd lonely seal bobbing curiously on the surface as Hondius crunched past in the ice. Our guide lecture programme continued throughout the morning with Mikhail delivering a detailed introduction to the exciting research into the fascinating world of 'Marine Mammal Acoustics' followed appropriately by Andrew who focussed on 'Citizen Science' in wildlife photography and encouraged everyone to send their wildlife photographs in to research and identification organisations such as Happy Whale. These organisations allow you to track the animals we have encountered; it's possible to get reports of their location when they are seen in the future.



By late morning the mist had closed in and visibility was suddenly very poor. Some of us pondered on the hardships and desolation generations of whalers and adventurers must have experienced navigating through this disorientating, frozen seascape. Perhaps also pausing to think that this shifting world of chaotic ice is the true home of the **polar bear** and it is supremely adapted to thrive in this pitiless place.

After lunch, eager for education, we attended the next lecture as photography expert Koen gave us his 'Top 10 Wildlife Photography Tips'. His absolutely beautiful images gave us inspiration and aspiration to reach a high standard with our own photography.

Bill followed a little later in the afternoon with a talk 'Whaling and Sealing'... a tale of death and destruction in the Arctic. This was timed brilliantly as we cruised through the white expanse, [looking, seeing, thinking!] and were able 'engage brain' and visualise how difficult it must have been for businesses to operate and to explore in these polar waters.

Late in the afternoon, Marcel invited us to join the Expedition Team on the bow, we were just about to cross the fabled 82 degrees north. William and Albert welcomed us onto the bow with hot chocolate, rum, chocolate cakes, and chocolate-dipped bananas courtesy of Head Chef Ralf. As the ship crossed over the line Captain Ernesto blew the ships horn and a ragged cheer emerged from the passengers and staff alike.

Later in the afternoon, Bill produced a special (and humorous) '82 degrees' certificate signed by himself, Marcel, and the captain to commemorate the furthest North Hondius has been this Arctic season, and the furthest north she will venture this year. Sasha completed the educational programme of a relaxing day by providing evening entertainment with a witty and enlightening account of his time as a lonely resident in the abandoned Russian mining settlement of Pyramiden.



## Day 7: 25<sup>th</sup> August

### At Sea and Ny Ålesund

**12:00 GPS Position:** 79°34.4'N / 010°19.9'E

**Wind:** ESE3, **Sea State:** Flat, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** +3°C, **Sea Temp:** +8°C

**Writer:** Tom van Hoof

When we awoke in the morning, it seemed like the world was moving. Did we drink too much in the lounge the evening before? No, Hondius was battling against strong winds and rough seas. We were lucky to be in such a strong vessel.

Those of us that still were in for breakfast went into the Dining Room and on the way saw that our original plans had been changed. The thick belts of ice last night, and strong winds and swell this morning had delayed our progress. After breakfast we had a series of wonderful short lectures, headed by Marcel who talked about the science community of Ny Ålesund, which we intend to visit this afternoon, Martin elaborated about the incredible flight abilities and migration patterns of the **Arctic tern**, and Pippa explained everything you want to know about our cute furry friend the **Arctic fox**. As we were still battling against strong winds to reach Ny Ålesund, Tom gave a lecture about his 21 years of visiting the Arctic, explaining what it's like doing geological fieldwork and the research questions geologists try to answer by examining rocks.





After another fabulous lunch we finally managed to reach Kongsfjord and headed towards Ny Ålesund. Here we were free to wander around this small town. We visited the old train, the post-office, the shop, explored all the sights sounds and smells of the most northern outpost on Svalbard. It's a strange place, a town made almost entirely of scientists, but a place of cooperation and progress; we saw stations from many countries including The Netherlands, Germany, South Korea, China, Norway, The United Kingdom, among many others. It was great to stretch our legs, to wander freely, and to enjoy the incredible views of Kongsbreen and Kronebreen – this town is set in the most spectacular landscape imaginable.

John was standing out by the airship mast where he told the incredible story of Nobile and his adventures over the North Pole. Along the way we passed a row of our guides; guarding the route out to the mast and back, Martin was amongst them with his spotting scope and was able to show us the reindeer, eider ducks, and harbour seals, all visible from the open tundra here.

When we were back at the ship, Captain Ernesto moved Hondius further into Kongsfjorden to give us a fantastic view of the glaciers Kongsbreen and Kronebreen. We congregated on the bow to view these incredible rivers of ice. The blue of the freshly calved ice was particularly beautiful, especially against the red rocks of the surrounding peaks.

After dinner we gathered in the Lounge for happy hour and a pub quiz given by Pippa and Hazel. A raucous evening developed, and competition was especially fierce near the front of the room! The baby photos from the staff and crew were really difficult to guess, with the exception of Sacha's – even as an eight year old, his strong looks shone through.







## Day 8: 26<sup>th</sup> August

### St. Jonsfjorden and Barentsburg

**12:00 GPS Position:** 78°31.3'N / 012°24.7'E

**Wind:** SW3, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** +6°C, **Sea Temp:** +9°C

**Writer:** Andrew Crowder

As we went down to breakfast this morning, we sailed into St Jonsfjord, to our target landing site of Gjertsenodden. We headed out in the Zodiacs in our chosen hiking groups; the long hikers went first for a strong, fast, three-hour trek, followed by the main group of people looking to tackle the medium effort walk. Finally, the remaining guests landed for the leisurely walk. After a safety briefing from our guides we set out onto the tundra to follow our various routes; it felt good to stretch our legs properly. Along our path we were able to observe many of the interesting geological features, including patterned ground, frost-shattered rocks, and the nearby glacier of Gaffelbreen. We also saw **reindeer** and **Arctic akua**. Perhaps the highlight was a completely white **Arctic fox** running across the slopes, which many of us were lucky see. Back at the landing site we were able to visit the trapper's hut, still in use but no longer for trapping, before stepping out (bravely or foolishly?) into the icy sea for the legendary polar plunge (*insert screams and hollering here!!*).



Over lunch we transitioned to Poolepynten, only to find blustery winds, fog, and no walrus at home at their usual haul-out. However, as we sailed past we still spotted a **humpback whale** doing some impressive lunge-feeding right next to the shoreline and three **white-beaked dolphins**. It was decided that off-ship activities would be impossible for the afternoon, so a lecture series was quickly scheduled. John led off with his history of arctic whaling, followed by Bill on ‘Paintings of the Sea’ – an historical journey of seascape art – and Rose, on the universal problem of marine plastic.

In the evening we all gathered together in the Lounge for the final time to join Captain Ernesto in raising a glass to mark the end of our fabulous expedition. This was also the chance to thank Marcel and his amazing team who had looked after our safety and helped us share experiences that will remain with us forever. As a way to enhance those memories, Misha put together a stunning slide show of our trip, which we able to watch and then take home with us. Finally, it was down to our gala dinner which included the opportunity to thank many of the other staff who had looked after us so well and made us so welcome on our Arctic adventure.





## Day 9: 27<sup>th</sup> August

### Longyearbyen - Disembarkation Day

**8:00 GPS Position:** 78°14.6'N / 015°32.6'E

**Wind:** W1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** +8°C, **Sea Temp:** +8°C

**Writer:** Laurence Dyke

In the early hours of the morning, after eight days of almost continuous motion, Hondius gently came to a rest alongside the pier in Longyearbyen. Our voyage is over, and we sleep peacefully in a quiet cabin, the gentle hum of the main engine stilled. Perhaps, as we slumber, we are processing the sights, sounds, smells, and emotions we have experienced throughout this magnificent trip, encompassing most of Svalbard, and stretching to the absolute northernmost limit of where it is possible to go with even an ice-strengthened ship.

We were woken gently by Marcel's voice for the last time, some of us headed out in the early hours of the morning, but for the rest of us, it's time for our final breakfast, and fond goodbyes to the wonderful hotel and restaurant crew who have helped make our voyage unforgettable.

As the buses arrive on the pier, it's time to disembark. We step off onto dry land and back into the real world once more. We give our farewells to the expedition team, the entire crew, and Hondius. Goodbye, or perhaps, just au revoir.



**From the staff and crew of Hondius, thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage and for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!**

**Total distance sailed: 1289 Nautical Miles  
Furthest North: 82°00.031'N**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria,  
Expedition Leader Marcel Paul, Hotel Manager William Barnes,  
and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!**



8

9



7



6

Kvitøya

5

Nordauslandet

2

4

3

Kong Karls Land

8

Ny Ålesund

Pyramiden

Hondius, 19 – 27 Aug 2023

1. Longyearbyen (day 1)
2. Eolusneset, Sorgfjorden (day 2)
3. Wahlbergøya (day 3)
4. Alkefjellet (day 3 )
5. Storøya (day 4)
6. Kraemerpynten, Kvitøya (day 5)
7. Ice, fog and 82° North (day 6)
8. Ny Ålesund (day 7)
9. St. Johns fjorden (day 8)
10. Barentsburg (day 8)
11. Longyearbyen (day 9)

Prins  
Karls  
Forland

9

Barentsburg

10

Longyearbyen

Spitsbergen

Sveagruva

Barentsøya

Edgeøya

Hopen



## Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	中文名	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	19-aug	20-aug	21-aug	22-aug	23-aug	24-aug	25-aug	26-aug	27-aug
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	白嘴潜鸟	Ijsduiker	V							x		
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	红喉潜鸟	Roodkeelduiker	B									
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	北方暴风鹱	Noordse stormvogel	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	北方塘鹅/北鳶鸟	Jan-van-gent	T									
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	大天鹅	Wilde zwaan	T									
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	豆雁	Taigarietgans	V									
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	粉脚雁	Kleine rietgans	B		x						x	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	白颊黑雁	Brandgans	B							x		
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	白额雁	Kolgans	V									
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	灰雁	Grauwe gans	V									
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	黑雁	Rotgans	B									
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	雪雁	Sneeuwgans	V									
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	赤颈鸭	Smient	T									
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	绿翅鸭	Wintertaling	B									
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	绿头野鸭	Wilde eend	T									
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	针尾鸭	Pijlstaart	B									
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	凤头潜鸭	Kuifeend	T									
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	鸥绒鸭	Eidereend	B		x		x					
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	王绒鸭	Konings eider	B									
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	小绒鸭	Stellers eider	V									
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	长尾野鸭	Ilseend	B							x		
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	黑海番鸭	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T									
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	鹊鸭	Brilduiker	V									
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	岩雷鸟	Alpensneeuwhoen	B									
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	蛎鹬	Scholekster	V									
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	剑鸻	Bontbekplevier	B					x		x		
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	欧洲黄金鸻	Goudplevier	B									
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	三趾鸻	Drieteenstrandloper	B		x	x						
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	斑胸滨鸻	Gestreepte strandloper	V									
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	紫滨鸻	Paarse strandloper	B		x	x	x	x		x	x	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	红腹滨鸻	Kanoetstrandloper	B									
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	滨鸻	Bonte strandloper	B									
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	中杓鸻	Regenwulp	T									
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	红脚鸻	Tureluur	V									
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	红翻石鸻	Steenloper	B									
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	灰瓣蹼鸻	Rosse franjepoot	B									
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	红领瓣足鸻	Grauwe franjepoot	B									
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	中贼鸥	Middelste jager	T					x				
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	短尾贼鸥	Kleine jager	B		x	x	x	x		x	x	

Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	长尾贼鸥	Kleinste jager	B									
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	大贼鸥	Grote jager	B			x						
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	萨宾氏鸥	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B									
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	红嘴鸥	Kokmeeuw	V									
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	海鸥	Stormmeeuw	V									
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	北极鸥	Grote Burgemeester	B	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	冰岛鸥	Kleine burgemeester	T									
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	银鸥	Zilvermeeuw	V									
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	小黑头鸥	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V									
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	大黑头鸥	Grote mantelmeeuw	B									
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	三趾鸥	Drieteenmeeuw	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	楔尾鸥	Rossmeeuw	T									
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	象牙鸥	Ivoormeeuw	B			x						
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	北极燕鸥	Noordse stern	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	崖海鸦	Zeekoet	B									
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	厚嘴海鸦	Dikbekzeekoet	B	x	x	x	x			x	x	
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	白翅斑海鸕/黑海鸕	Zwarte zeekoet	B	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	小海雀	Kleine alk	B					x	x		x	
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	海鹦	Papegaaiduiker	B		x	x				x	x	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	家燕	Boerenwaluw	V									
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	白鹡鸰	Witte kwikstaart	V									
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	草地鹨	Graspieper	V									
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	漠即鸟	Tapuit	B									
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	黑唱鸲	Merel	V									
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	雪鹀	Sneeuwgors	B		x	x				x		
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	金翅鸟	Barmsijs	V									
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	铁爪鹀	Ijsgors	V									
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	田鸲	Kramsvogel	V									
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	白眉歌鸲	Koperwiek	V									
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	燕雀	Keep	V									
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	矛隼	Giervalk	V									

## MAMMALS

English	Latin	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	19-aug	20-aug	21-aug	22-aug	23-aug	24-aug	25-aug	26-aug	27-aug
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	海象	Walrus	B			x	x	x			x
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	髯海豹	Baardrob	B			x					
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	环斑海豹	Ringelrob	B								
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	格陵兰海豹	Zadelrob	T	x	x				x		
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	冠海豹	Klapmuts	V								
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	斑海豹	Gewone zeehond	B				x		x		
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	小须鲸	Dwergvinvis	T		x						



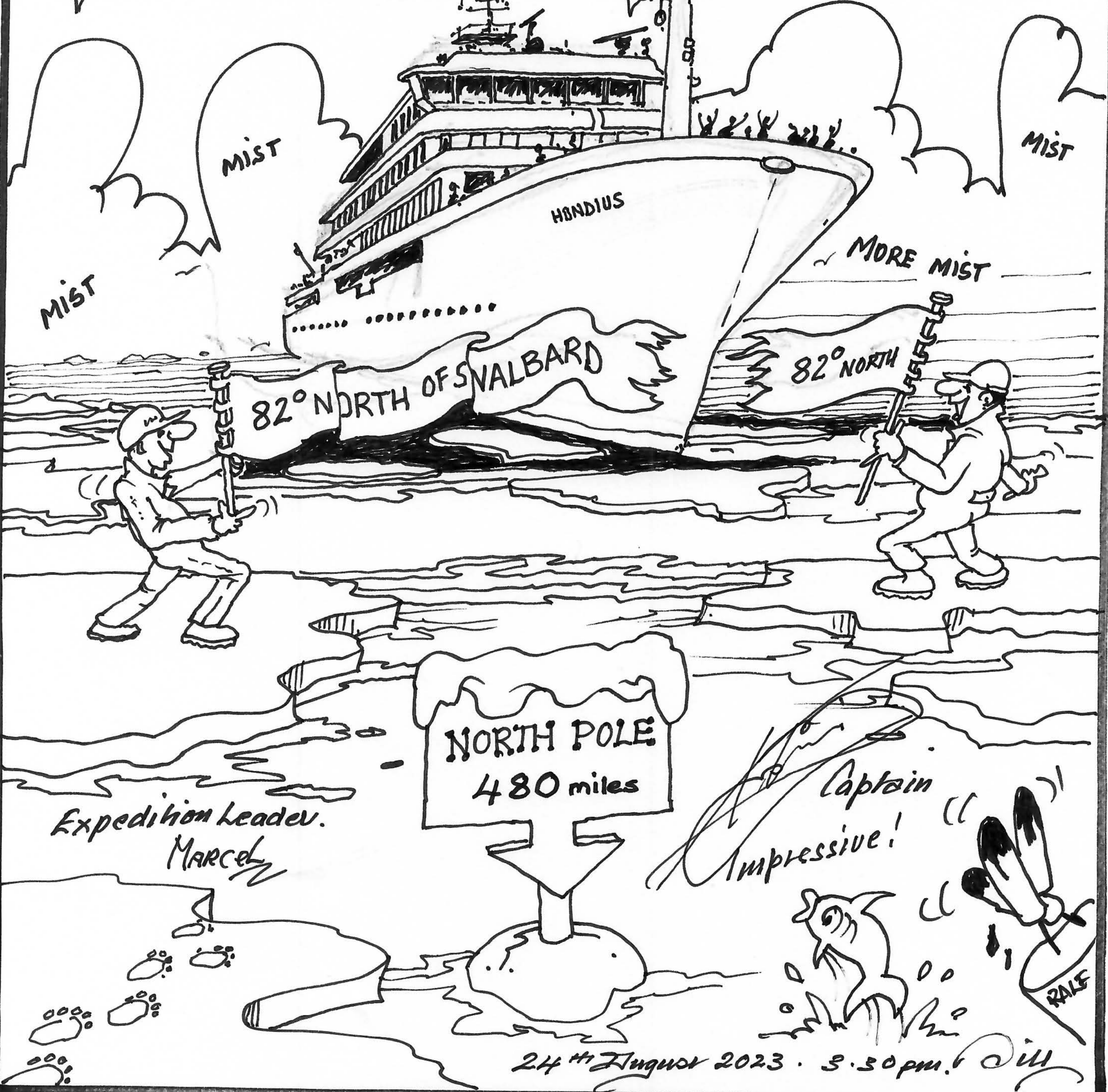


# WOW

another Oceanwide Expeditions list!

# 82

# NORTH



Expedition Leader.  
Marcel

NORTH POLE  
480 miles

Captain  
Impressive!

RALE

24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 . 3.30 pm. *Bill*

MIST

OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS

HONDIUS SURVIVOR

OF THE

MIST

MIST

MIST

MIST

MIST

MIST

MIST

MIST

# POLAR PLUNGE

## 40°C

ST JOHN'S FJORD  
AUGUST 2023

MIST

MIST

MIST

MIST

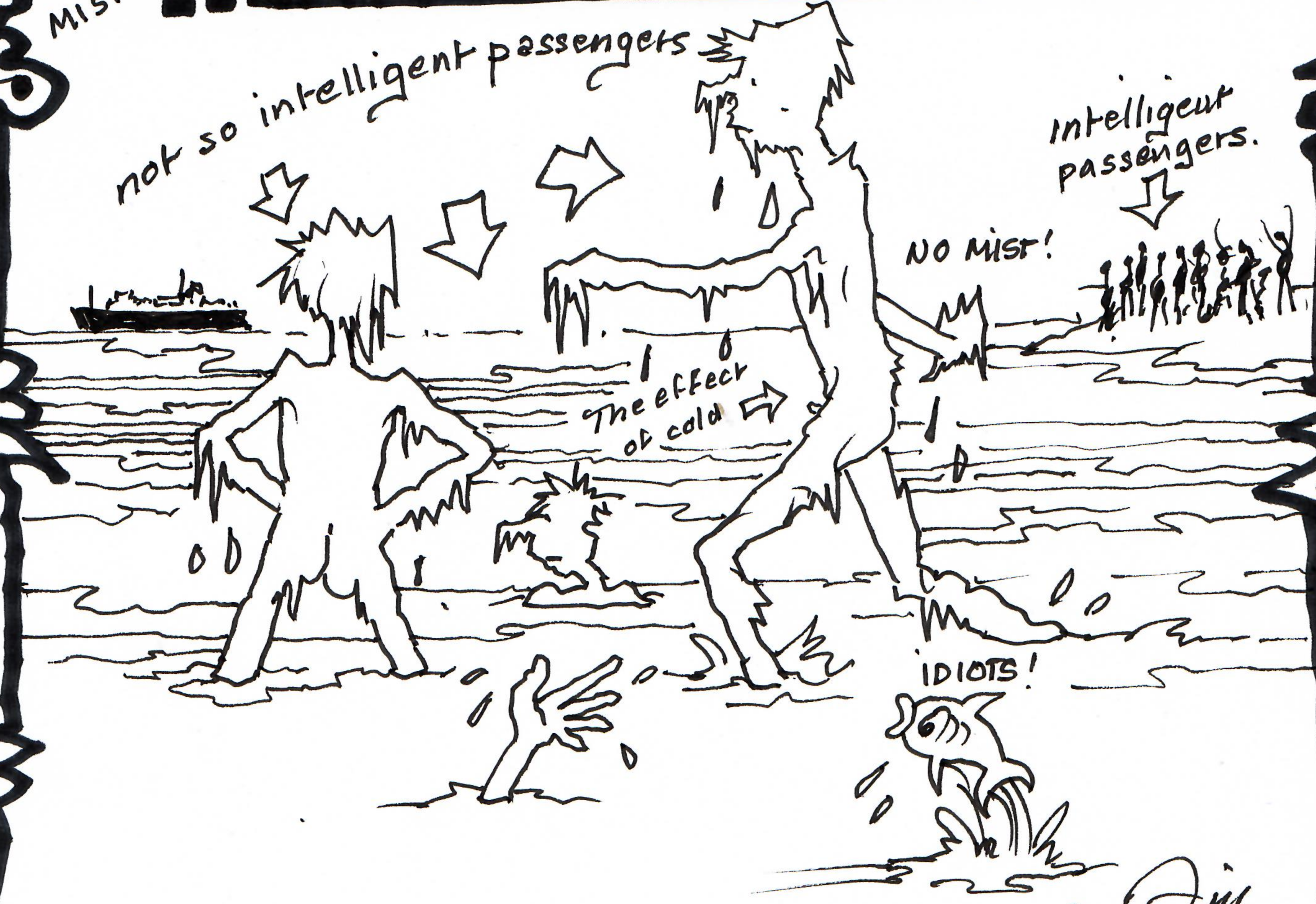
not so intelligent passengers

intelligent passengers.

NO MIST!

The effect of cold

IDIOTS!



*Jim*

---

# Marcel Paul - Expedition Leader

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From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups trekking to Austria, Switzerland, England, Wales, and Scotland.

His own travels over the last 30 years brought him to more than 65 countries on all 7 continents.

With his interest in history, ice, cartography, exploration, and as a 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 was keeping him indoors most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge about Spitsbergen, the uniqueness of the islands and their eco systems by working with the scientists.

He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he spent time in the summer at the Dutch polar station in Ny Ålesund, again as field assistant. From 2017 Marcel has been working as a polar guide in the Arctic followed by Antarctica in 2018.

Today he still spends about half the year onboard with Oceanwide whilst sailing around Spitsbergen, Greenland, Jan Mayen, Antarctica, Falklands, and South Georgia. The rest of the year is spent either at his homes in Holland and Slovakia or traveling with his wife and their dog.

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## Hazel Pittwood - Assistant Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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

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# Pippa Low – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 10 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and the polar regions. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

Upon completion of her degree, Pippa has worked as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant on various research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research.

After working in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica as a research assistant, she fell in love with Antarctica. Pippa now works as a full-time guide and assistant expedition leader in both the Arctic and Antarctica. In-between seasons, she still finds time to work on research projects.

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# Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide

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Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has just spent a month in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day.

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# Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide

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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.



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# Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Andrew Crowder – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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# Laurence Dyke – Expedition Guide

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Laurence is from Cornwall in the far southwest of the UK and grew up on the coast, never far from the water and boats.

Laurence has a background as a geographer with a special focus in glaciology, a choice inspired by seeing a glacier up close for the first time in the Austrian Alps.

For the last 7 years he has worked in science, both in the UK and Denmark, working to understand how and why huge glacier systems in Greenland have changed in the past. Understanding how

the cryosphere has changed is crucial for predicting what will happen in the future.

Laurence first visited the Arctic in 2010 whilst undertaking research for his PhD and was immediately captivated by the wild landscapes of the high latitudes. His subsequent research has taken him on numerous expeditions to remote areas of Greenland, Svalbard, and Arctic Canada.

Laurence is also a passionate advocate for polar science, when time allows he produces videos and articles about research from Greenland and the wider Arctic. Laurence lectures in glaciology and geography.

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# Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide

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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. Snorkeling 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 ;).

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# Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide

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Originally from China, Rose Li Graduated from Wuhan college with a major in Interior Design. She has worked on well-known international cruise ships since 2014 as an expedition guide and in Asia as a VIP services shift leader and Head cruise ambassador on a Mediterranean cruise line.

She has worked in the polar regions since 2017, as expedition guide, Zodiac driver, Chinese interpreter and guest services manager.

She has many talents such as dancing, drawing, skiing, hosting, and loves creating new activities. Her two academic passions are history and geology.

During her spare time, she has continued to develop her passion for traveling, and has visited more than 40 countries and looks forward to visiting many others in the near future.

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# Tom van Hoof - Expedition Guide

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Tom fell in love with the Arctic when he was attending a climatology masterclass as student at the University Centre of Svalbard in 2001.

During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO<sub>2</sub> on climate change during the past millennium.

After living a year in the desert of Tucson, Arizona (USA), where he was working as a Postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona, Tom returned to the Arctic when he started working for the Dutch Geological Survey in 2005. As a biostratigrapher (fossil-lover) he returned to Spitsbergen for a number of expeditions, collecting rocks and guiding fellow geologists.

Tom's academic background in geology/ paleoclimatology is a broad one, ranging from climate change during the past 1000 years to ecology of coal forming swamp ecosystems 300 million years ago. He loves to be outside especially in the Arctic wilderness. In 2018 Tom left the Dutch Geological Survey and started his own geological consultancy business.

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# Jess Owen - Expedition Guide

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Jess is from the South East of England and lives on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to their local wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula and she is very excited to be returning to Antarctica this season.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching, and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew.

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# John Rogers - Expedition Guide

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History came early to John as his home town of Concord, Massachusetts, is famous as the site of the first battle of the American Revolution and much early American literary culture. He learned to swim in Walden Pond, of Thoreau fame. His love of the outdoors started with family holidays to lakes and mountains.

His first career was in computer software development which allowed for numerous extended travelling holidays in the USA and then to New Zealand – where he still lives. The travelling continued with visits to every continent

– the final one being Antarctica in 2001 as a passenger and then for several seasons as a guide.

Along the way John has managed several trips north of the Arctic Circle backpacking, river rafting and exploring in Alaska, Norway and Iceland.

John's approach to the history is to concentrate on the stories of the places and people who inhabit and have explored to the extremes of the earth. Polar history is filled with remarkable stories of adventures, perseverance, triumph and defeat. He encourages anyone on this voyage with specialized knowledge, or with a family connection, to help him others share in this fantastic legacy.



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# Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide

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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!

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# Bill Smith - Expedition Guide

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“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 55 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 55 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

He has the following qualifications: -

- Royal Yachting Association Advanced Powerboat Instructor
  - Royal Yachting Association Senior Sailing Instructor
  - Royal Yachting Association Windsurfing Instructor
  - British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor
  - British Association of Ski Patrollers National Patroller
  - British Association of Ski Patrollers First Aid Trainer
- Snow Sport Scotland Ski leader
  - President of the Assynt Highland Games
  - Honorary member of Assynt Crofters Trust
  - Member of the Federation Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip.

## Deutsch

“Super Bill” wie er von seinen Mitarbeiter und Mitreisenden genannt wird, ist ein spassiger Aussenwelt Enthusiast, Karikaturist und früherer Leiter von Kunst und Design Ausbildung am Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill kam zu Oceanwide Expeditions als Führer als die Plancius gebaut und über den letzten Jahre ist er süchtig nach den Polargegenden geworden.

Er hat 55 Jahre Erfahrung in Kunst und Design für die Industrie. Er hat auch über 55 Jahre Erfahrung als Führer und Instruktor in verschiedenen Aussenwelt Aktivitäten.

Bill genießt es für jede Reise Karikaturen für den Log zu entwickeln.

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# Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide

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Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completed his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end groups throughout Europe.

He then became partner in an international traveling consulting firm and focused on route planning and employee training.

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at Polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as Expeditions Guides, He has guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia many times.

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

When he is not in polar regions, he likes to spend his time in the forest, dessert, and plains in Northwestern part of China. He loves nature, wildlife, and he loves to share all that he knows to everyone who comes across.

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# David Horkan - Kayak Leader

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David is one of Ireland's most accomplished kayakers, with a passion for pushing the boundaries of the sport. A skilled guide, coach, and athlete, David excels in multiple disciplines, including whitewater rivers, surfing, and long-distance racing. In 2022, he made history as the first ever Irishman to win the prestigious Devizes to Westminster international kayak race.

Growing up on the West Coast of Ireland, David began kayaking at the age of 12 and quickly developed a love for the sport. After taking a break during university, he returned to kayaking with renewed vigor,

seeking out new challenges and exploring the world through his love of the water.

As a professional kayaker, David has also set records for the fastest team to kayak around Vancouver Island and the fastest crossing of the Irish Sea. In addition to his competitive achievements, David has also guided kayaking expeditions in remote locations such as Patagonia, Antarctica, Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.

In addition to his kayaking expertise, David is also a certified Canoeing Ireland instructor in whitewater, paddle surfing, and sea kayaking. He is also an ISKGA Advanced Guide and a Leave No Trace trainer, making him well-equipped to share his love of the outdoors with others. When not on the water, David is an avid kitesurfer, cyclist, and stand-up paddleboarder.

David is also a technical consultant for Online Sea Kayaking and partners with leading brands such as Aquabound and Kokatat. Through his knowledge and experience, he helps these companies develop and improve their products, ensuring the best possible experience for kayakers around the world.

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# Alexis Bellezze – Kayak Guide

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Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal

“Dick” Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

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# Emma Röttger – Ships Doctor

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Emma was born and raised in the Netherlands. This is also where she trained as a physician. After obtaining her medical degree she further specialised in Emergency Medicine, finishing her training in January of 2020. The Covid-19 outbreak brought unexpected challenges in her new role as a consultant, but she enjoys every aspect of her chosen field.

During her training to become a medical doctor, she had the opportunity to work in various countries such as Egypt, Ghana, Australia and New Zealand. This allowed her to experience different

ways of working, different health care systems and a good amount of improvisation skills.

In her free time she enjoys spending time in the mountains, be it the Alps, the Dolomites or further abroad. Combining her passion for mountaineering with her medical profession is a dream coming true as she is currently doing a post-graduate in Mountain Medicine.

Emma is looking forward to her polar adventures but does hope you won't need her too much in her professional role.



## DAILY PROGRAM

# North Spitsbergen

Kvitoya, Farthest north

### Welcome Aboard!

Date: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 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

17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket.

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the Restaurant on Deck 4

All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 (Cabins 401-414, 601-619, 701-714) will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5

18:15+/- 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.

***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

# North Spitsbergen

Kvitoya, Farthest north

Date: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day 2: At sea and Crozierpynten

- 07:45 Wake- up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30 **MANDATORY** AECO, Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety Briefing in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance will be checked.
- 11:00 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!
- 11:30 **MANDATORY kayak briefing in the lecture room.**
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Crozierpynten in Sorgfjorden
- 14:15 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Crozierpynten in Sorgfjorden
- During the afternoon the groups will swap**
- 14.30 Please can the kayakers be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for their first Kayak outing.
- 18.15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner in the **Restaurant** on Deck 4.

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





## DAILY PROGRAM

# North Spitsbergen

## Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Monday 21<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day 3: Wahlbergøya and Alkefjellet

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09.15 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Wahlbergøya
- 09.30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Wahlbergøya
- 09.45 Please can the Kayakers be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14.30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Alkefjellet
- 14.45 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Alkefjellet
- 15.00 Please can the Kayakers be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3
- 18.15 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner in the **Restaurant** on Deck 4.

*"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

# North Spitsbergen

## Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Day 4: Foggy morning & Storoya

- 06.45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09.00 Please join Laurence in the lounge for a lecture about glaciers and glaciation. This lecture will be given in English and translated in Mandarin.
- 11.00 Please join Pippa in the lounge for a lecture about the king of the Arctic, the Walrus. This lecture will be given in English and translated In Mandarin.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- Stand by for announcements in the afternoon as timings depend on wind and ice conditions as we approach Storoya.**
- 15.00 +/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Storoya
- 15.15 +/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Storoya
- During the afternoon the groups will swap.**
- 19:30 Dinner in the **Restaurant** on Deck 4.

*"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

# North Spitsbergen

## Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Wednesday 23rd August 2023

Day 5: Kvitøya

- 06.45 Wake- up call.
- 07.00-08.00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08.15 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise and a possible short landing at Kraemerpynten.
- 08.30 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise and a possible short landing at Kraemerpynten.
- 08.30 Please can the Kayakers be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14.30 Please join Marcel in the lounge to find out what the plans are for tomorrow.
- 14.35 John invites you into the lounge room for his lecture on the quest for the north pole. This will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.
- 16.00 +/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise and a possible short landing at Andréeneset.
- 16.15 +/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise and a possible short landing at Andréeneset.
- 16.15 +/- Please can the Kayakers be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3.
- 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

# North Spitsbergen

## Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Wednesday 24th August 2023

Day 6: Ice day

07:45 Wake- up call.

08:00-9:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*We will spend the day in and along the ice edge looking for wildlife, therefore we encourage you onto the outside decks and on the bridge to help search.*

**Please note:** The lecture program is subject to change depending on visibility and wildlife sightings, so please listen to announcements.

09:30 Mikhail invites you in the Observation lounge for his lecture on Marine Mammal Acoustics. This will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

11:15 Andrew invites you into the lounge for his lecture on the Growing Importance of Wildlife Photography. This will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

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

14:30 Koen invites you into the lounge for his Top 10 Tips to Improve Your Wildlife Photography. This will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

16.30 Bill invites you into the lounge for his lecture on Whaling and Sealing In the Arctic. This will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

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.

20:30 Please join Sasha in the Lecture Room to hear tales about his time living in Pyramiden, this will be given in English only.

*"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered."  
- G. K. Chesterton*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# North Spitsbergen

## Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Friday 25th August 2023

Day 7: Ny-Alesund

Due to unexpected ice last evening and till the early part of the night, we have been delayed in our travels down south. Our sincere apologies for that.

08:00-9:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

09.30 We invite you into the lounge for a mini-series of 3 short lectures. Marcel will give you more information about Ny-Ålesund and how things work in this science community. Followed by Martin who will give a short lecture about Arctic Terns, a bird we will see a lot in Ny-Ålesund. And Pippa will be talking to you about Arctic fox, also seen regularly when visiting Ny-Ålesund. All lectures are given in English and translated into Mandarin.

11.00 Tom invites you into the lounge for his lecture on fieldwork in Spitsbergen and more specific about his own time here over the last 2 decades. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR PHONES AND LEAVE THEM IN YOUR CABIN FOR THE AFTERNOON TOGETHER WITH YOUR SMART WATCH**

15.00 We hope to disembark you by the gangway on Deck 4 for a landing at Ny Ålesund. Please listen to announcements for exact timings.

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.

20.30 Happy hour in the lounge, please join us to toast and celebrate this expedition! All drinks are half price!

**Arctic Quiz!** Please make a team and join us in the lounge for a night of Trivia on all things Arctic!





## DAILY PROGRAM

# North Spitsbergen

## Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day 8: St.Jonsfjord & Foggy afternoon

- 06.45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08.15 Please can the long hikers be ready at the Shell doors for a long hike at St.Jonsfjorden.
- 08.20 Please can the medium hikers be ready at the Shell doors for a medium hike at St.Jonsfjorden
- 08.30 Please can the leisurely hikers be ready at the Shell doors for a nice short walk at St.Jonsfjorden
- 08.30 Please can the Kayakers be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3.

At the end of the morning, we will give the brave an opportunity to do a polar plunge. Please wear your swimming clothes under you clothing and get ready for a dip in the Arctic water. We will provide towels, do **NOT** bring towels

- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14.00 Please join John in the Lounge for his lecture on the history of Arctic Whaling. This will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.
- 16.00 Please join Rose in the Lounge for her lecture on Marine Plastics. This will be in Mandarin.
- 16.00 Please join Bill in the Lecture room for his lecture on ocean art entitled Paintings of the Sea

This afternoon please settle your accounts with the Hotel Department; they will announce when they are ready to process payments.

- 18:00 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 dinner of this trip will be served in the restaurant on Deck 4.



# DAILY PROGRAM

## North Spitsbergen

Kvitoya, Farthest North

Date: Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day 9: Longyearbyen

- 05.30 For the early departure of flight SK4499, please leave your large luggage in the corridor outside your room for the staff to collect **no later than 05:30!!** There will be no wake-up call this early.
- 07.15 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, where you will need to personally identify it and bring it your bus.
- You can leave your hand luggage in the room; you will have to keep this hand luggage with you the rest of the day.
- 07:30-08:30 A breakfast buffet is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 08:45 +/- Please be ready for disembarkation via the gangway at deck 4. Please listen for announcements before gathering at reception.
- Buses will be departing from the quayside to town, in front of Svalbard Butikken. Till your bus leaves for the airport, you spend some time on your own behalf.
- 11.00 Busses for flight DY397 will depart from **Svalbard Butikken to the airport.**
- 13.00 Busses for flight SK4425 will depart from **Svalbard Butikken to the airport.**

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