



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears and Bowhead Whales

10th June – 17th June 2024

M/V Hondius



M/V Hondius was built in 2019, as the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Hondius represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. Hondius complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life at Sea). M/V Hondius is 107.6 m long, 15.3 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.3 m, Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super), 15 knots average cruising speed and has 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kw.

**Captain Arturo
and his international crew**

Staff Captain:	Matei Moconau	Romania
Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	Germany
2nd Officer:	Igor Nazarov	Russia
3rd Officer:	Giovanni Simone	Philippines
Chief Engineer:	Andrei Abakumov	Lithuania
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	Poland
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	Germany
Ships Doctor:	Rieneke Feenstra	The Netherlands
Expedition Leader:	Bitao 'Jerry' Zhao	China
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Laurence Dyke	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Christan Long	New Zealand
Expedition Guide:	Philip Konietzko	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	Germany
Expedition Guide:	William Kennedy	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Fran Potheary	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Joyce Mulder	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Jada Heister	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Anthonie Luteijn	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso	Italy
Expedition Guide:	Karin Amby	Sweden
Expedition Guide:	Katlyn Taylor	United States

Day 1 – Monday 10 June 2024

Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS 16:00 Position: Kullkaia (the Coal Pier)

Wind: NW3 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Sunny **Air Temp:** +15°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

What a beautiful day to begin our Arctic adventure, cloudless blue sky, bright sunshine and calm waters. The Expedition Team lifted luggage aboard and then greeted everyone as they walked up the gangway of our lovely ship, M/V Hondius.

With all passengers and their luggage happily aboard Expedition Leader Jerry, and the Chief Officer commenced the mandatory ship safety. During the safety briefing we were shown how the life jackets are put on and shown the floatation suits which are stored in all cabins for use in an emergency. As part of the briefing an abandon ship alarm was sounded so we all made our way to our muster stations, either in the Observation Lounge (Station B) or Restaurant (Station A). Once everyone had arrived wearing their lifejackets correctly, we proceeded to the lifeboat boarding area on Deck 6.

After this briefing, we received a welcome briefing from our Hotel Manager Albert and the Expedition Leader. Captain Arturo made a toast to start off the trip, a real captain's cocktail with prosecco, and canapes. It was noticeable everyone was very excited to start the trip! We had our first dinner on board, a wonderful buffet provided by Head Chef Ralf and his team. After a day of travel and lots of important information many of us headed to bed to be well rested for our first full day of expedition.





Day 2 – Tuesday 11 June 2024

Smeerenburgfjorden

GPS 12:00 Position: 79° 37.7'N 011° 28.6'E

Wind: N4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C

On our first day of activities in Svalbard we woke up approaching the rugged western coast of Spitsbergen. Good progress had been made during the night, despite the poor visibility and while breakfast was served in the restaurant M/V Hondius made her way into the northern entrance of Smeerenburgfjorden.

The early morning was mostly dedicated to mandatory briefing such as polar bear safety and Zodiac operations. However, since our Expedition Leader Jerry did not want to lose any opportunity for an outdoor activity, we soon found ourselves getting into the Zodiac for our first time. Sea conditions were ideal for a morning cruise and in the meantime the visibility had improved, and clouds had lifted up, allowing us to appreciate the jagged and pointy mountains which gave the name to this island of the Svalbard archipelago.

Cruising slowly into the bay that hid Smereenburgreen, we quickly discovered growlers and bergy-bits of different shapes and hues, tinged with blue, turquoise and white. Multiple glaciers and moraines stretched down from the valley, telling us a distant story of the glaciation of these islands; at the feet of those moraines, we found flocks of Black Guillemots, Eider Ducks and even a considerable number of King Eiders. The glacier was quite active and frequently calved into the bay creating small waves and discharging brash ice into the water. Less than an hour into our cruise a small pod of Beluga was spotted swimming alongside the front of Smereenburgreen.

Belugas, also known as White Whales, are gregarious marine mammals adapted to live in the cold waters of the Arctic Ocean. Measuring between 3 to 5 meters, they are easily distinguished by their pale-white

coloration and the lack of a dorsal fin. Belugas often forage near glacier terminus where calving activity stir up the water and sediments, providing a good opportunity for these agile cetaceans to feed on crustaceans and benthic invertebrates. What a nice morning to start our first day!



Back to the ship, lunch was served in the restaurant, followed by a nice cup of coffee and a short relaxing break. At 3pm we were invited to go out again on the Zodiac for a second cruise alongside the northern coast of Danskøya and into the historical bay of Virgohamna. During the early afternoon the wind had picked up a bit, creating a bit of a swell in the fjord; nothing difficult for our excellent guides who quickly took us on board and drove us towards shallower and calmer waters.

Virgohamna is known as 'Svalbard's Cape Canaveral'. Despite being used at the beginning of the 17th century as a whaling station by the Dutch, it gained its importance in the late 18th century when the Swedish engineer Salomon Andree decided to make his first attempt to reach the North Pole by using a hydrogen filled balloon. The first unsuccessful try was followed by a second one in the summer 1897. Andree with two other members of the expedition took off from Virgohamna and started to fly North, passing 82° of latitude. Unfortunately, the balloon could not maintain its height and after only 2 days, they crashed landed on the sea ice, from where they hauled provisions for 2 months eventually ended up on the remote island of Kvitøya. The fate of the expedition was only solved when their bodies were found by a Norwegian sealing ship 33 years after their departure from Virgohamna – photographic and diary entries record the sad end to the expedition. A dramatic story worthy of the heroic age of Arctic exploration.

Day 3 – Wednesday 12 June 2024

Location: Woodfjorden (am), Bockfjord (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 79° 38.2'N 013° 13.2'E

Wind: W6 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +7°C

Early this morning while en route to Texas Bar, the expedition team spotted a polar bear on shore. It was feeding on a carcass for a while as the ship approached and then settled down to rest. We decided to change our plan from landing to a full ship Zodiac cruise to try and get a look at the bear resting on shore. Jerry woke everyone up early with the announcement of the bear sighting – what an exciting way to start your day!

As we loaded the Zodiacs, a second polar bear was spotted approaching the area of the sleeping bear. The new arrival woke up the first bear and they started interacting and came down to the shoreline. As we approached with the Zodiacs, we realized there was a carcass on the beach and they both began feeding. The pair seemed to be a mother with a cub from the previous season. The little cub was almost all grown up and was nearly the same size as it's mom. Both bears happily fed on the beach throughout our encounter. The cub was making little growling noises while eating, perhaps a sign of a bear happy with its meal. The bears were eating some kind of toothed whale, but it was very difficult to tell what exactly was on the menu while out in the Zodiacs.



When we returned to the ship there was some detective work to be done to determine what kind of whale the bears were feeding on at the beach. The freshest one that they were eating turned out to be a white-beaked dolphin.

As we turned our course for our afternoon landing, we enjoyed beautiful calm seas. Marco gave a lecture about sea ice but was interrupted by a breaching minke whale! Minke whales are not the most charismatic whale species, but this one had some energy to use! It jumped out of the water enough times that most people could get outside and enjoy at least one aerial display. We stayed with the whale for another few kilometres while it travelled, since we were both going the same direction.

We picked up speed again and made our way to Jotunkjeldene for our first landing of the trip. In the distance the expedition team sighted reindeer during their scouting efforts and when we landed on shore,

we saw plenty of evidence of their presence in the form of droppings all over the hillside. We landed in groups for hiking and after making our way out of the Zodiacs and dropping off our lifejackets we gathered on the hillside. Jotunkjeldene is known for its interesting geology and hot springs. Every hike passed by the lowest hot spring, enjoying flowering tundra plants along the way. Stunning views surrounded us as we ascended the rocky slopes. We even sighted two more minke whales in the water near the landing site that were busy feeding under flocks of Arctic terns. It was great to stretch our legs after being confined to the ships and Zodiacs since leaving Longyearbyen. We were met with a splashy and cold Zodiac ride to get back to Hondius for the evening, but nothing a warm shower and dinner couldn't fix!

After dinner we were closing in on the pack ice for the next day as we steamed northward. At about 9:50pm we crossed North of 80 degrees latitude! Many gathered on the bridge to watch the chart screens read out at our northerly position. Almost like a New Year's Eve count down.

Day 4 – Thursday 13 June 2024

Location: Sea Ice Ship cruising

GPS 12:00 Position: 80° 45.6N 013°05.2' E

Wind: W3 Sea State: 9/10 ice Weather: Overcast Air Temp: -1°C Sea Temp: +3°C

We were treated to a slight lie-in this morning after a couple of days of early morning starts and the beginning of the adventures almost seemed like they were planned, as we just began to nudge into the sea-ice at wake-up call. It was straight into the ornithological action from the get-go with flocks of Kittiwakes foraging in front of the ship, picking up little tidbits from the ice as we pushed through. The conditions were excellent (albeit a little chilly!) with great visibility and truly little wind so, after a fortifying breakfast it was all eyes to the ice as we searched for wildlife.

The birders were soon picking out sought after Ivory Gulls in amongst the Kittiwakes, their harsh cries usually alerting us to their presence as they were almost invisible against the white snow and ice. We were also enjoying fantastic views of Black Guillemots, Little Auks, Brunnich's Guillemots and Glaucous Gulls as they fed in the open water between the ice chunks and more surprisingly, a little Snow Bunting was hopping around the back decks, certainly regretting its life choices out here, a long way from land!



It wasn't long before we started seeing a few mammals to go with the abundant birdlife with several big, chunky Bearded Seals seen, along with a few smaller, cuter Ringed Seals and on this theme, the first lecture of the day started with Katlyn talking about some of the potential marine mammals that we may encounter. However, in what became a running joke through the day the lecture was cut short by the shout from the bridge of 'Polar Bear' out on the ice. No one (especially not Katlyn!) really minded the interruption for us to enjoy another great sighting of this beautiful apex predator.



The bear proved to be perfectly content with its life though and spent the entire time we were there asleep on the ice! After lunch, we reluctantly left the bear to its slumbers and carried on with our travels through this wonderful environment. Next on the lecture programme was Simon talking about the birdlife of Svalbard, summarizing what we have seen out here on the ice, on land and what we could potentially see on the rest of this trip. After this, it was back out on the deck where the sun made several valiant attempts to break through the clouds which we celebrated with more Ivory Gulls and more importantly (to some anyway!) hot chocolate with rum and cream out on the bow – a wonderful moment in this pristine and other-worldly habitat.

Speaking of valiant attempts, Katlyn then tried to complete her interrupted marine mammal lecture, but this again was doomed to failure as another shout came from the bridge, this time, it was for a magnificent Bowhead Whale off the port side. This rare, impressive cetacean was at the top of many peoples target list for the trip and even though the visibility was starting to close in we all got brilliant views of this huge whale as it surfaced pretty near the ship.



A fantastic end to our day in the sea ice, with many of our big targets found and some excellent conditions in which to experience this incredible environment – a fabulous and exciting day of wildlife watching.

Day 5 – Friday 14 June 2024

Location: Alkefjellet (am) and Eolusneset (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 79° 53.1' N 017° 42.2' E

Wind: W5 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: +5°C

Hondius sailed through the night to the northwestern side of Svalbard, anchoring in the Hinlopen Strait for our morning exploration of the Alkefjellet cliffs. Despite the wind picking up, our excitement for the Zodiac cruise past these magnificent bird cliffs was palpable. The dramatic dolerite cliffs of Alkefjellet rise 150 meters straight from the sea, teeming with seabirds like Brünnich's Guillemots and Black Guillemots, creating a spectacular sight.

After breakfast, the wind and swell had intensified. The expedition team ventured out with two Zodiacs to assess the conditions, navigating high waves and getting splashed in the process. With waves crashing against the gangway, Expedition Leader Jerry decided it was safer to sail Hondius past the bird cliffs. As Captain Arthur sailed Hondius by, we enjoyed breathtaking views of the geology and thousands of birds perched on the cliffs, using telescopes to get close-up looks that brought big smiles to our faces.



Continuing our journey, Hondius set sail for the next destination while Laurence gave an enlightening lecture on glaciology. He explained that Svalbard is a natural laboratory for glaciology, with 59% of the archipelago covered in ice, featuring different types of glaciers and ice caps. We learned that the oldest ice on Earth is in Antarctica, over 2 million years old, while the youngest ice is just 20 years old on Mount St. Helens. Listening to Laurence explanation of the melting of the ice that by 2100 the sea level has risen with more than 50 meters. It made us realize that our grandchildren will not experience the Arctic as we see it today and have to adapt to a new reality.

For lunch, Head Chef Ralf and his galley team prepared a mouthwatering meal with options for every taste. As we sailed towards our afternoon destination, Sorgfjorden, the wind picked up and a bit of fog rolled in. The expedition team diligently scanned the horizon for bears. Once it was safe, we received the green light to go outside for our afternoon activities, which included a split landing and Zodiac cruise.

Eolusneset, still covered in snow, provided amazing views and historical landmarks. We hiked up to a lookout where a tall cross stands, raised in 1855 by skipper C. Holmgren in memory of fallen whalers. Contrary to earlier beliefs, the graves in the area were not related to a sea battle in Sorgfjorden but were instead a cemetery for 17th and 18th-century whalers. This fascinating history added depth to our adventure as we explored the area.

During the Zodiac cruise, our guides led us through Sorgfjorden, where we marvelled at the mountains and spotted reindeer and purple sandpipers along the shoreline. Onshore, near the whalers' graves, we were delighted to see an Arctic fox, still in its winter fur with a bit of its summer coat showing. This curious fox made sure to check out all the new visitors to its territory, and we all stood in awe of this Arctic treasure.



The evening concluded with our daily recap, where Expedition Leader Jerry shared plans for the next day. Marco provided insights on the geology of Alkefjellet, and Meike discussed the life cycle of the Brünnich's Guillemots that breed on the cliffs. This informative session rounded off a day filled with exploration and learning.

We ended the day with a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Ralf and the legendary chocolate cake for dessert, ready to sleep well after a day full of adventure, eagerly anticipating what tomorrow would bring.

Day 6 – Saturday 15 June 2024

Location: Sea Ice Ship Cruising – North Spitsbergen

GPS 12:00 Position: 79° 54.4 N 008° 42.0 E

Wind: NE3 Sea State: Ice 5/10 Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +6°C

Expedition Leader Jerry decided for another day in the sea ice looking out for Bowhead Whales and other wildlife. The staff were up on the bridge on an hourly rota throughout the night to see if they could be spotted, but it was a quiet night. Although no wildlife was spotted upon the ice, Joyce took a dive into the ocean depths and presented her lecture on life on the deep seabed. Even though it's not visible from above the water surface, the ocean floor is teeming with life! But then, just like the two days before, after 30 minutes, the lecture was interrupted by a wildlife sighting. In this case, an Arctic fox! Of course, as we were all excited, we grabbed our warm coats and binoculars and headed outside to spot the fox. The fox was walking so beautifully along the sea ice edge, and with the water so calm, a fabulous reflection could be seen.



As we continued looking for any wildlife, we could see some seals here and there, in the water as well as on ice floes. Kittiwakes, Guillemots and Ivory gulls were spotted throughout the day as well. Then it was time for lunch, after which the hotel team treated us to lovely ice cream! Afterward, Meike delivered a captivating lecture on historic Dutch whaling practices in Svalbard. She transported us back in time, illustrating how whalers operated and endured the harsh, frigid conditions. By sharing a brief segment of her documentary about the last Dutch Antarctic Whaler, she provided a personal and emotional glimpse into the history of Dutch whaling.

The afternoon was spent outside on deck, looking for anything in our vicinity. Simon even spotted an uncommon Dark Morphed Pomarine Skua!

At 16.00, one of our guests, Paul Wolff, a documentary maker, presented a film in the lecture room that depicted beautiful footage of wildlife from all around Svalbard. Right after, most of us went out again on the decks to make sure we did not miss any wildlife walking or swimming around us. Just when we started to think that today might not be the day for Bowhead Whales, a guest spotted something in the water. At first, it was too far away to identify it. As we got closer, it was clear to tell it was a Bowhead Whale. And it turned out not to be just one, but two - a female and calf! They were working effectively together, in a maneuver called 'skimming' where they swim along the surface with their mouths open, catching as many krill as possible. They swim in tandem so that the one behind catches all the krill that the front one misses – a most efficient strategy. Beautiful and intelligent gentle giants at work, truly special to witness!



After they turned back into the thicker ice, it was time to leave them alone and make up time to get to our next landing site for the following day. We had a quick recap at which Albert gave a little talk about the sad but harsh truth: information about disembarkation day. However, still having an entire day of activities ahead of us, Jerry informed us about the next day, after which it was time to put on layers of warm clothes and head outside for an Arctic BBQ! Surrounded by beautiful fjords, the BBQ and swaying on the dance floor brought an end to an unforgettable day.

Day 7 – Sunday 16 June 2024

Location: Poolepynten (am), Alkehornet (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 78° 24.3 N 012° 01.9 E

Wind: SE4 Sea State: Rippled Weather: Calm Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +6°C

Today was our last day and we set out to meet the ‘tooth-walkers’ of the Arctic - walrus. We were not disappointed, and a smooth Zodiac drive took us to the beach at Poolepynten from where we walked very quietly up to their haul out. Both male and female walrus have tusks (which gives them their nick name) and those of a male can be up to 1m long and weigh 5kg each. Although tusks may be used for defense and display, mainly they are used to pull themselves onto ice floes – especially after a tasty meal of clams when they haul out to digest. Walrus are super social creatures, huddling together in large groups, and their size and weight plus strong social bonds means they are not afraid to face up to polar bears or orca that are brave enough to take them on.

We divided into groups of 40 so that we could approach the walrus in small numbers, others went for walk first on the flat coastal plain of Prins Karl Forland, enjoying views of the west Spitsbergen mountains. Apart from a couple of curious walrus who checked us out from the water, they were undisturbed by our presence and continued to sleep, scratch, and huddle together all morning.



In the afternoon, we continued 3 hours on our journey back to the relative civilisation of Isfjord. As we came round into the fjord, the mountains to the north reared up including Tryghamma with its dramatic cliff of Alkehornet. Just like Alkejellet, this cliff is a haven for breeding Brunnich's guillemots (Alke = Auk) and like that cliff, it was teeming with the cries and calls of birds beginning to settle to nesting on the safe ledges. Once ashore we were once again inundated with wildlife experiences - - an Arctic fox getting harassed and chased off by an Arctic Skua; nesting purple sandpipers and a huge herd of reindeer some of which were so curious they came very close to our guests. Zodiac cruising also took place giving us alternative views of Alkehornet, and a few puffins on the water. As a finale, a few hardy people took to the water in a polar plunge!

Back on board, we had Captain's Farewell and toasted an incredible team – the ship's crew, the bridge and expedition team and not the least, the guests with their huge enthusiasm and energy for such a successful cruise. Ralph's galley then provided us with an excellent last meal after which we downloaded photos, returned our Muck boots, packed our bags and headed for a last drink in the bar to swap contact details with newfound friends.

Day 8 – Monday 17 June 2024

Disembarkation – Kullkaia, Longyearbyen, Svalbard

We woke to a different scene from the last few days – the coal pier in Longyearbyen where we had embarked! After getting our luggage off the ship, most of us headed to the airport although some had the chance for a last exploration of Longyearbyen. Some lucky guests had decided to stay on another trip, and head south and east to explore Svalbard! Wherever headed, we all had wonderful memories to take us home...

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 997.2 Nautical Miles

Furthest point north: 80° 45.6 N 103° 05.2 E 11:00 on Sea Ice ship Cruising Day Thursday 13 June 2024

North Spitsbergen Explorer
Polar Bear, Bowhead whales & More
M/V Hondius 10/06 - 17/06

- **1:** 10/06 **Longyearbyen** – Embarkation
- **2:** 11/06 **Smeerenburgbreen** - Zodiac cruise
- **3:** **Virgohamna, Danskoya** - Zodiac cruise
- **4:** 12/06 **Woodfjorden** - Polar Bears Sighting
- **5:** **Jotunkjeldene, Bockfjord** - Landing/Hiking
- **6:** 13/06 **In Pack Ice** - Polar Bear, Bowhead Whale & more
- **7:** 14/06 **Alkefjellet** - Ship Cruise
- **8:** **Eolusneset, Sorgfjorden** - Split Landing
- **9:** 15/06 **Pack Ice Edge**
- **10:** 16/06 **Poolepynten, Prins Carl Forland** - Landing
- **11:** **Alkhorneret, Isfjorden** - Split Landing
- **12:** 17/06 **Longyearbyen** - Disembarkation



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	10-jun	11-jun	12-jun	13-jun	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun	17-jun
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B					X		X	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstöpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	T								
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	T								
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B			X				X	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B	X	X					X	
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B			X					
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	T								
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Fuligule morillon	Kuifeend	T								
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidereend	B	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B		X	X			X		
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	V								
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ilseend	B		X		X				
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T								
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwoen	B			X					
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B								
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B								
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B								
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B		X	X		X		X	X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper	B		X		X				
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B								
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepierre à collier	Steenloper	B							X	
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B				X			X	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot	B								
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T						X		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B				X				
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B		X			X		X	
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B								
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse	Kokmeeuw	V								
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T			X		X			
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw	V								
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V								
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T								
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	B			X	X		X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet	B								
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papagaaiduiker	B	X	X	X		X		X	X
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze	Bergeronnette grise	Witte Kwikstaart	V								
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgorst	B	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	10-jun	11-jun	12-jun	13-jun	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun	17-jun
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B	X	x					X	
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	B				x		x		
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B				x		x		
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T				x		x		
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts	V								
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	B		x					X	
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis	T	X		x			x		
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis	V								
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	T								
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	T								
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T								
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T				x		x		
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Cachalot	Potvis	V								
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narval	Narwal	V								
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Hyperoodon arctique	Butskop	V								
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Orka	V								
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn	V			(X)					
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloega	B		x						
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B			x	x				
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B			x		x	x	x	
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	B	X			x		x	x	x

Jerry Zhao – Expedition Leader



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 an expedition guide. He has since guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia many times.

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

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

Laurence Dyke - Assistant Expedition Leader



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.

Deutsch

Laurence stammt aus dem Cornwall im äußersten Südwesten Großbritanniens und ist direkt an der Küste aufgewachsen also nie weit von Wasser und Booten entfernt.

Laurence hat einen Hintergrund als Geograph mit besonderem Schwerpunkt in der Glaziologie, eine Wahl, die von der erstmaligen Beobachtung eines Gletschers in den österreichischen Alpen aus der Nähe inspiriert wurde.

In den letzten 7 Jahren hat er in der Wissenschaft sowohl in Großbritannien wie auch in Dänemark gearbeitet, um zu begreifen, wie und warum sich riesige Gletschersysteme in Grönland in der Vergangenheit verändert haben. Zu begreifen, wie sich die Kryosphäre verändert hat, ist entscheidend für die Vorhersage wie sich die Gletscher in der Zukunft entwickeln.

Laurence besuchte 2010 während seiner Doktorarbeit zum ersten Mal die Arktis und war sofort von den wilden Landschaften der hohen Breiten gefesselt. Seine anschließende Forschung führte ihn auf zahlreiche Expeditionen in entlegene Gebiete Grönlands, Spitzbergens und der kanadischen Arktis. Laurence ist auch ein leidenschaftlicher Verfechter der Polarwissenschaften, wenn es die Zeit erlaubt, produziert er Videos und Artikel über Forschungen aus Grönland und der weiteren Arktis. Laurence hält Lesungen über Glaziologie und Geographie.

Chris Long –Assistant Expedition Leader



Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an untouched emerald green river. Most of their food comes from a huge vegetable garden or is fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set

off to explore what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River, Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 65 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, East Antarctica and the Atlantic Ocean.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska on a small yacht and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway. Here he endured two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races. He also guides with Oceanwide in Svalbard each summer.

In 2022, Chris published a best-selling autobiography "*The Boy From Gorge River*" and when he is not at sea you will find him training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license or exploring a new corner of the globe.

Philipp Konietzko - Expedition Guide



Growing up in the countryside in northern Germany, Philipp was always eager to be out in nature. No matter if with his self-made raft, with his sailing dingy, or on the bicycle, he was always on tour and out in nature.

While he was studying electrical engineering in Berlin, he used all his semester breaks to travel by bicycle, preferably in the north. In winter 2015, he spent one entire month on Svalbard with his tent and some skis. That's when he finally caught the arctic bug and fell in love with Svalbard and the vast landscapes of the north. Since then, he

has managed to come back to Svalbard every year for at least three months.

He worked a lot as a trekking guide on multi-week hikes, but soon started to work on small and larger expedition ships as well. As a guide and wildlife monitor on scientific expeditions, he had the opportunity to go to places on Svalbard where only a few people go.

When he is at home in the north of Germany, he works as an engineer and spends his leisure time working on his farm-like house with the associated apple tree orchard, where he is also beekeeping. He also has a little workshop where he brazes bicycle frames, and of course he is riding these bikes a lot.

His fields of special interest are the history and expedition history of Svalbard and the Arctic in general. But there are so many exciting things to discover in every field, and so he is looking forward to your questions, which often inspire him to explore new topics.

Sven Joest – Expedition Guide



Sven is an arctic enthusiast from Bonn, Germany, with a passion and expertise in the area of geomorphology. During his undergraduate study in geography at the University of Bonn, it was his semester abroad in Joensuu, Finland, that sparked his interest in the wilderness of the north and the arctic.

Since then, he has pursued his enthusiasm for adventure through several trips to northern Norway, and is currently continuing his academic journey with a master's degree specialising in Peace and Conflict

Transformation, at the Arctic University of Tromsø, Norway, which is the most northern university in the world. From here he is able to pursue his passion for the outdoors and the cold by skiing, hiking, and exploring these vast and remote environments.

As an enthusiastic hobby photographer, and an increasingly keen birder since volunteering at a bird nature reserve on the island of Fehmarn, you'll most likely find him out on deck taking snaps of the landscapes and the wildlife in his spare time during the voyage.

Excited to continue expanding his knowledge and experience in all aspects of the polar expanses, he welcomes you to chat at any point during the adventure about any questions you may have or your own polar interests and stories.

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



William was brought up in the west coast of France in an Irish household. From a very young age he travelled to visit relatives on the emerald isle and the bug for discovering other cultures and lifestyles caught him.

Curiosity brought him all over Europe, working as a farmer in Iceland, building cabins in the Pyrenees, bartending in Scotland, carpentering in Norway and becoming a kitchen chef in Sweden. While living yet another adventure on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, he discovered the polar world and its famous adventurers.

He since then has been sailing the Arctic and Antarctic waters, blending his passion for history, storytelling, and travel by shining the light on unsung polar heroes, events and adventures.

When not on the ships he lives in Malmö, Sweden where he found a place to call home. Hiking and sailing are his main past times along with playing rugby and ice hockey, depending on the season.

Fran Pothecary – Expedition Guide



Though originally from the flatlands of east England, Fran has lived in the Highlands of Scotland for the past 35 years where she started her career in outdoor guiding and instruction. She loves the wild and remote places of the world and is happiest walking, kayaking, climbing, biking and skiing in these places. Her most memorable sea kayak expedition was spending three months journeying up the Inside Passage from Vancouver to Juneau with a team of able-bodied and disabled paddlers.

She has a Diploma in Outdoor Education and a M.Sc. in Managing Sustainable Mountain Development. In 2013 after 10 years working in recreation management for the Cairngorms National Park, she joined the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and spent several seasons as a Field Guide, including overwintering at Rothera Research Station. Further contracts included a year as Station Leader at King Edward Point on South Georgia where gentoo penguins, elephant seals, fur seals and leopard seals were her fellow residents on the island all year – as well, of course, her 8 human companions. Post-Covid and another summer with penguins on Signy in the South Orkneys, she came back to the ships and branched out into the Arctic with trips to Svalbard, Greenland and Iceland.

Working for Oceanwide has brought her in contact with amazing people many of whom have become friends. She loves to see the expressions on people's faces when they first encounter whales and penguins in their own environment – from the fragile hull of a sea kayak! And hearing the buzz about it in the bar afterwards. She splits her time between guiding on (and off) ships, working for BAS and watching Sergio Leone westerns.

Joyce Mulder – Expedition Guide



Joyce is a passionate guide with an interest for exploring and understanding the marine life in polar regions. Her journey began in 2018 as a whale-watching guide in the Azores, where she developed a deep appreciation for marine life. After this, she studied the Arctic snowfall variability at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, laying the foundation for her future career in Polar research.

Continuing her academic pursuits, Joyce studied Arctic biology at the University Centre in Svalbard in 2019, acquiring insights into the valuable ecosystems of the far north. With a bachelor's degree in Coastal and Marine Management, she followed a master's program in the same field in Ísafjörður, Iceland, making it her home from 2021 to 2023.

Her academic journey also brought her to the Norwegian town of Tromsø, where she studied fish migrations, further honing her expertise in marine biology. For her master thesis, she joined a research vessel in Greenland, where she studied the benthic communities by mapping the seabed in previously unexplored regions in both 2022 and 2023.

Now, Joyce brings her knowledge and interest for marine wildlife to Oceanwide Expeditions as an expedition guide. Through her role, she shares her expertise and fosters a deeper appreciation for the polar regions.

Jade Heister – Expedition Guide



Jade is a science communicator from the Netherlands. She is currently working as a tv editor, where she writes for different tv programs for a family audience on public channels. She is mostly involved in programs that show earth's biodiversity, as she strives to make all (Dutch) children and adults love and understand nature.

Jade is a nature lover herself. She loves to hike, ski and explore on horseback. She has always been fascinated with the polar regions, and she feels right at home in cold climates. Back home in the Netherlands, she enjoys to practice

improvised theatre and taking up new DIY projects such as woodworking. Which she admits to not always finish, caught up with the new creative idea already.

She has a degree in molecular life sciences, with a master in science communication and education. She will always geek out on any biological or chemical phenomenon, with a special interest in genetics and evolution. She has been a primary school science teacher for two years and she has performed in a scientific theatre show that has aired for two seasons all across the Netherlands.

Her love for the ocean and all marine life – big and very very small – continued to grow. This resulted in a summer spend assisting in multiple citizen science and outreach ocean conservation programs in South Africa. In addition she has been a whale watching guide in Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, before she joined Oceanwide as an expedition guide.

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



Meike Sjoer, a dedicated birder, nature enthusiast, and polar expedition guide, has spent her life immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Growing up in the heart of the Dutch forest, Meike developed a profound love for nature from a young age, a passion that would shape her extraordinary journey as a birder and wildlife explorer. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Utrecht. During her studies Meike discovered a natural inclination towards sharing her wildlife experiences with others.

For the past 26 years, she has devoted her talents as a television director for the Dutch National Television. In this role, she dedicated herself to directing programs that involved stories of nature, wildlife, and environmental conservation. Meike's talent for filming and editing led her to directing the renowned Dutch National Wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels* for the past 15 years. Beyond her television work, Meike is a certified nature guide for the Dutch Institute for Nature and Education. When she is not sailing across polar waters, she takes great pleasure in guiding birding and wildlife tours within the second largest National Park of the Netherlands.

Additionally, driven by her deep concern for the well-being of our planet, Meike was part of the Sea Shepherd media team for 5 years and played a role in raising awareness about the urgent need to protect marine life and preserve delicate ecosystems.

Yet, it is in the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic that Meike finds her greatest fulfilment. Here, surrounded by icy vastness and majestic wildlife, she is happiest creating outdoor experiences that challenge individuals to connect with their inner selves and develop a profound respect for the planet we call home. Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing her passion and knowledge for wildlife with you.

Anthonie Luteijn – Expedition guide



Anthonie is a passionate surfer and a life-long ocean lover. He loves to travel and discover different places around the world. He enjoys the cultural and nature diversities of different countries, and he likes to meet and connect with the people he meets along the way.

Anthonie grew up, right on the beach, in the southwestern coastal province of The Netherlands, called Zeeland. For his studies, he moved to Delft where he completed his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and his master's degree in Hydraulic Engineering at the Technical University of Delft. He has a coastal specialisation, which embraces a great interest in oceanography. During this study program, he took part in several projects around the world and conducted research on an artificial fish migration river in the Netherlands.

In the summer months, Antonie enjoys sharing his passion for the oceans as a surf coach. He sees the ocean as a diverse and unique place which feels like home. Out at sea on the ship he enjoys sharing this passion with everyone on board.

One of the projects he has done was on the plastic waste problem in Indonesia. By creating a real-world, coupled economic-environmental model, focusing on one of the plastic polluted rivers.

He is very much looking forward working as an expedition guide on board with Oceanwide this season. The polar regions are incredibly unique places in the world to visit. And Antonie thinks it is a privilege for everyone to take these life-long memories home and to share the experiences with family and friends!

Simon Davies - Expedition Guide



Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a master's degree in Ecology focusing on seabirds, he has undertaken a broad range of wildlife related contracts around the world.

His career has predominantly been focused on birds (with the only notable 'blip' coming during a year researching Meerkats in South Africa) during which his focus has ranged from research to conservation to guiding and much in between. Most recently he has been working in Scotland and Sweden studying both breeding birds and migratory species through

ringing/banding, a wide range of surveys and other tracking methods.

He is an experienced guide, having led bird and wildlife tours in Australia and many tours, walks and talks in his native UK, enthusiastic about sharing the wide range of seabirds in the colonies he loves.

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

A large part of his recent work has also been training others in bird ringing/banding and surveying, hopefully inspiring others to a career in research or conservation.

Most of his spare time is also spent birding and wildlife watching and he has undertaken many trips around the world including Australia, Europe, India, Venezuela and the USA, always chasing the next bird!

Marco Rosso - Camping 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 subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

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 artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfy his innate curiosity, thus self-teaching Earth Science natural processes such as geological volcanism, sea ice and glaciers formation and dynamics, wind patterns and oceanic currents.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natales, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leaders in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia, such as Torres del Paine, Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre circuits as well as the southernmost trekking in the world, Dientes de Navarino.

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

Karin Amby Daniels - Expedition Guide



Karin was born and raised in Dalarna, Sweden. She explored the forests around her home from a early age. Camping out in tents, snow-caves and wind-shelters has been an important part of her life since childhood. As a teenager she became fascinated by the polar regions. White wide barren landscapes pulled her to the north. In 2001-2004 she studied to become a Guide. In her final year she had a five week internship in Spitsbergen. That changed her life forever and In 2007 she moved to the Arctic Archipelago permanently. She stayed for nine years and learned a lot about the polar regions. During her time in Spitsbergen she studied biology at The University Centre in Svalbard, worked as a scientific field assistant, started her own guiding business and worked in the tourist information and museum. She is a dedicated Botanist with a broad knowledge in Arctic plants. She also has a burning interest in everything that grows in extreme conditions.

Karin has a special bond to water. If its not frozen its warm enough to swim in according to her and if it's frozen mostly an axe or chainsaw can solve the problem. In 2016 she left Spitsbergen, went back to

Sweden and worked in a refugee camp. As the camp closed down she continued her "desk based" career for some time, but soon found out that working Monday to Friday every week was not a life for her. Since 2018 she works as a guide for Oceanwide expeditions. When she is not on a ship exploring the polar regions she can be found in the beautiful village Älvdalen in Sweden. Here she spends a lot of time in nature, preferably on the dogsled or on skis. So far she has been guiding in Sweden, Spitsbergen, Greenland and the Norwegian coast.

Deutsch

Karin wurde in Dalarna, Schweden geboren und wuchs dort auf. Schon früh erkundete sie die Wälder rundum ihres Zuhauses. Camping, Schneehöhlen und Wildschutz ist seit ihrer Kindheit ein wichtiger Teil ihres Lebens. Als Teenager war sie fasziniert von den Polarregionen. Weiße weite und karge Landschaften zogen sie in den Norden. Von 2001 bis 2004 bildete sie sich aus um als Guide arbeiten zu können. Im letzten Jahr Ihres Studiums absolvierte sie ein fünfwöchiges Praktikum in Spitzbergen was ihr Leben veränderte. 2007 war der Umzug in das arktische Archipel. Sie blieb neun Jahre und lernte viel über die Polarregionen. Während ihrer Zeit in Spitzbergen studierte sie Biologie am Universitätszentrum in Spitzbergen, arbeitete als wissenschaftliche Feldassistentin, gründete ihr eigenes Führungsgeschäft und arbeitete in der Tourist-Information und im Museum. Sie ist eine engagierte Botanikerin mit einem breiten Wissen über arktische Pflanzen. Sie hat auch ein brennendes Interesse an allem, was unter extremen Bedingungen wächst. Karin hat eine besondere Bindung zu Wasser. Wenn es nicht gefroren ist sei es warm genug, um zu schwimmen. Und wenn es gefroren ist, kann eine Axt oder Kettensäge das Problem lösen!

2016 verließ sie Spitzbergen und kehrte zurück nach Schweden. Sie arbeitete dort in einem Flüchtlingslager. Als das Lager geschlossen wurde, setzte sie ihre "Schreibtisch basierte"-Karriere für einige Zeit fort, fand aber bald heraus, dass die Arbeit von Montag bis Freitag kein Leben für sie war. Seit 2018 arbeitet sie als Guide für Oceanwide Expeditionen. Wenn sie nicht auf einem der Schiffe ist um die Polarregionen zu erkunden, findet man sie im schönen Dorf Älvdalen in Schweden. Hier verbringt sie viel Zeit in der Natur, am liebsten auf dem Hundeschlitten oder auf Skiern.

Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide



Katlyn is an Expedition Guide originally from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She grew up learning tidepool animals on the Oregon Coast.

She comes from a background as a captain and guide on whale watching boats all over the US. She has worked in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific for over 9 years. In 2023 she shifted her career to expedition guiding and has worked in Antarctica and Alaska. She has guided trips in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska throughout the past summer.

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

She received bachelors' degrees from Oregon State University in Marine Biology and International Studies. She's a Junior Fellow with the Safina Center of Stonybrook University. Her biggest passion and love are marine mammals, especially whales. She co-hosts a show called The Whalenerd's Podcast, a science communication project about whales and other ocean related topics.

Rieneke Feenstra – Ship's doctor



Rieneke Feenstra is a Physician from The Netherlands where she has been working on the ER as a specialized Emergency Physician for about nine years.

She likes to travel all over the world and has been visiting all continents besides Antarctica. She likes to combine the travelling with her occupation. That's why she has been working for half a year in the hospital of Bonaire and also for half a year as a General Practitioner on Saba.

She also thinks it is important that she can contribute something to the society. So she has been working as a volunteer in the refugee camp of Lesbos.

Although she has worked recently mainly in tropical places, her dream has always been to go on an expedition to the polar regions because of the wonderful nature and a new challenge. So she was therefore very pleased with the invitation to participate in this excursion to Antarctica.

She hopes that everyone has had a fantastic experience and goes home healthy.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 10/06/2024

Day: 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

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 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:00+/- 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.

19:00 Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:15 The Expedition Team invites you to **Deck 3** the zodiac loading area to collect your Muck boots. You will be called by deck. Please bring your thick socks for the perfect fit and Please listen for the announcements.

Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!

Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck betide us.

Let us journey to a lonely land I know.

There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star a gleam to guide us,

And the Wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 11/06/2024

Day 2: Smeerenburg and Ytre Norskoya

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:00+/- AECO, Bear safety, and Zodiac safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY** and will be checked.
- 10:30+/- We invite the **Blue, Red** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 zodiac cruise in for a Zodiac cruise of Smeerenburg.
- Please note the groups will swap during the morning.
- 10:45+/- We invite the **Green, yellow** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 zodiac cruise in for a Zodiac cruise of Smeerenburg.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 15:00+/- We invite the **Green, yellow** Group for a landing at Ytre Norskoya.
- 15:15+/- We invite the **Blue, Red** group for a Zodiac cruise around Ytre Norskoya.
- Please note the groups will swap during the afternoon.
- 19:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

“For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.”
– Raymond Priestley



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 12/06/2024

Day 3: Texas Bar and Jotunkjeldene

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 We would like to invite long hikers to the gangway for a long hike at Texas Bar.
- 09:15+/- We invite all other guests to the shell doors for a landing at Texas Bar.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:45+/- We invite the Long hikers to the shell doors for a long hike at Jotunkjeldene.
- 15:00+/- We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Jotunkjeldene.
- 15:15+/- We invite the shore hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Jotunkjeldene.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 13/06/2024

Day 4: Exploring the sea ice

During the day we plan to be exploring the sea ice to the north of Svalbard in search of wildlife. We encourage you to be on the outside decks, the bridge, and the bow to enjoy this spectacle. Listen for announcements regarding and wildlife spotting's. If we have wildlife close by the announcements will only be made inside the ship to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

11:00 We would like to invite you to the observation lounge for a lecture by Katlyn introducing the Whales of Svalbard.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:30 We would like to invite you to the observation lounge for Simon's lecture about the Breeding birds of Svalbard.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 14/06/2024

Day 5: Alkefjellet and Faksevagen

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00+/- We invite the **Green, yellow** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet.
- 09:15+/- We invite the **Blue, Red** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00+/- We invite the **Blue, Red** Group for a landing at Faksevagen.
- 14:15+/- We invite the **Green, yellow** group for a Zodiac cruise around Faksevagen
- Please note the groups will swap during the afternoon.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

“For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.”
– Raymond Priestley



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 15/06/2024

Day 6: **Along the ice edge**

Throughout the night we are going northward, back to the edge of ice. The Bridge team and Expedition Team will be looking for more bears and whales through the night and all day. We will follow the ice edge to the west and south roughly following the edge of the continental shelf to look for more whales and polar bears. We will wake you up during the night if we find spectacular whales or bears.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 10:00 We invite you to the **Observation lounge** to join Joyce for her lecture titled “Benthic communities on the sea floor”
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:30 Meike invites you to the **Observation lounge** for a lecture about “Dutch History of Whaling in the Arctic”
- 17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 18:30 A special barbecue dinner will be served on the back of Deck 5, please join us, and bring your dancing shoes.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 16/06/2024

Day 7: Poolepynten and Alkhornet

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00+/- We invite the **Blue** and **Red** Group to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Landing at Poolepynten
- 10:00+/- We invite the **Green** and **Yellow** group to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a landing at Poolepynten
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 15:15+/- We invite the **Green**, and **Yellow** Group for a landing at Alkhornet.
- 15:30+/- We invite the **Blue** and **Red** group for a Zodiac cruise around Alkhornet.

Please note that the groups will change activities halfway through the afternoon so everyone will get to do both activities.

We hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of the landing, so you need to wear your swimwear under your regular expedition clothing. We will provide the towels so please do not bring them from your cabins.

- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team and Captain for Captains farewell cocktails in the Observation Lounge
- 19:00 Farwell plated dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & more

Date: 17/06/2024

Day 8: Longyearbyen

07:15 Wake-up call.
Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before going to breakfast.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Longyearbyen, we will provide free busses to town and the airport. All luggage must be left outside your cabins by 7:30am and we will move it onto the pier. For all those with flights DY397 at 12:15 and SK4491 at 14:45 please find your luggage on the pier and take it to the luggage truck also on the pier. This will take it straight to the airport where you can pick it up later. For all those with no flights listed please take your luggage and load it on the bus provided to town.

At around 9am all passengers will go on the busses provided to town center. You will be dropped at Svalbard Buttikken.

For passengers on flight DY397; There will be a bus to take you to the airport from Svalbard Buttikken at 10:30am.

For passengers on flight SK4491; There will be a bus to take you to the airport from Svalbard Buttikken at 13:00pm.

08:30+/- We invite all guests to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Hondius, we wish you safe onward travel, and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.