



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

East Spitsbergen – Home of the Polar Bear, Summer Solstice including Long Hikes

17th June – 24th 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 Mocanu	Romania
Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	Germany
2nd Officer:	Nino Cizmic	Croatian
3rd Officer:	Giovanni Simene	Philippines
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	Estonia
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	Poland
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	Germany
Ships Doctor:	Martin Kriz	Sweden
Expedition Leader:	Bitao 'Jerry' Zhao	China
Assist. Expedition Leader:	George Kennedy	Australia
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:	Gabi Kolodko	Poland
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso	Italy
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	China
Expedition Guide:	Katlyn Taylor	United States

Day 1 – Monday 17 June 2024

Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

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

Wind: WNW2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Part cloudy **Air Temp:** +6°C **Sea Temp:** 5.8°C

A fantastic 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 ship, M/V Hondius.

Once all passengers and their luggage were aboard Expedition Leader Jerry, and the Chief Officer commenced the mandatory ship safety briefing. During the safety briefing we were shown how the life jackets are put on and shown the flotation 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 18 June 2024

Location: Van Muydenbukta (am) Ingeborgfjellet (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 77° 44.4 N 014° 24.5 E

Wind: S2 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Clear Sky **Air Temp:** +4° **Sea Temp:** +4°

Fabulous calm conditions greeted us on waking up on our first morning in Svalbard. Overnight we had sailed south to the entrance of Bellsund, which is the entrance to not one, but three fjord systems. Our goal for the morning was a Zodiac cruise around Vårsolbukta under the great bird cliffs of Ingeborgfjellet, our intended landing for the afternoon. Having dropped off the long hikers for their 12 km walk to meet us later, we set off, the air buzzing with swarms of Little Auk, accompanied as usual by Kittiwake and a couple of defensive Glaucous Gulls. On the shore we could see remains of Camp Bell and Camp Millar, remnants of prospective, but unrealised, mining for minerals in the area – a venture of the Northern Exploration Company, led by Ernest Mansfield in the early 20th century. Negotiating some shallow reefs and waters, we took a close-up look the steeply dipping rock strata, and the pebbly beaches between.

Once back at the ship our leisurely lunch was interrupted when a polar bear and two cubs were spotted on shore heading east under what was going to be our afternoon landing spot. So once again we jumped into Zodiacs and spent a full afternoon, observing the mother and this year's youngsters, sliding on snow patches and making their way round into Fridtjovhamna, where some left-over ice had packed into the head of the fjord. By the time, the hikers had finished their hike and came over to join us. Every now and again, when we lifted our heads from the sight of the bears, we could the stunning back drop of the low glacier of Fridtjovbreen, and jagged mountains. Then we turned for the ship and the tide which rips through the narrow sound between Akseløya and the mainland Spitsbergen, coupled with a lumpy fetch made for a wet and bumpy ride back. Once on board, we relived our experiences over re-cap. Later in the evening we headed out to the open sea and for those who were still up after our action-packed day, we were rewarded by the distant company of several blue whales for a short while. An incredible moment to see these denizens of the open ocean.





LONG HIKE

After Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety briefing, at mid-morning we hopped on the zodiacs and were quickly dropped in the middle of Slettnesbukta from where our hike would begin. Phillip and Marco had scouted the area and greeted us on shore, then gave us a few instructions we had to follow during the hike of the day. Loads of ancient whale bones were scattered on shore providing good source of nutrients for mosses and flowers that were in full bloom with the summer solstice approaching. We started hiking eastwards following the coastline and passing by a few ponds filled with Barnacle geese and Eider ducks.

The day was quite sunny and warm, and early blooming flowers such as the Purple Saxifrage and the Whitlow Grass were in full display dotting the beautiful tundra that laid ahead of us. A few shy Svalbard Reindeer were mellowly grazing on the horizon, however when trying to approach them they moved away swiftly, probably due to the rare moment they had been seeing human beings on this plain.

The morning continued quietly until we reached a small stream which banks provided us good shelter from the breeze coming from the southeast. After lunch we continued East, towards the long mountain range of Ingerborgfjellet our destination of today activity. However, the hike was cut short since we received information from the ship that a mother bear with two cubs had been sighted on the shoreline towards where we were directed. With calm and ease our safety zodiacs approached the shoreline before we were meant to ford a small river. Life jackets and waterproof layers on before jumping into the rubber boat that our hiking guides started to drive to join the rest of the team for the afternoon operations.

Passing for hiking to zodiac cruise in the proximity of three polar bears. What an experience for our first day!



Day 3 – Wednesday 19 June 2024

Location: Bellsund, Recherchebreen (am) At Sea (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 77° 29.5 N 014° 41.0 E

Wind: ESE 3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C

We awoke in Recherchefjorden this morning with glassy calm seas and cloudy skies. We had beautiful views of the glacier from the windows at breakfast. The expedition team went out in the Zodiacs to begin scouting the area and preparing for our landing and hiking activities. The long hikers departed Hondius first and started out in front of the glacial lagoon and headed east along the coast.

The rest of the ship landed on the glacial plain to explore wildflowers and icy views. Birds were nesting up high on the cliffs and an Arctic fox was spotted running around looking for food. Several seals were spotted in the glacial lagoon throughout the morning. Reindeer grazed on the slopes of the cliffs most of the morning. Arctic terns, skuas and other species of birds were seen on the beaches and glacial plain.

The views of the glacier from high up on the moraine and at the edge of the glacial lagoon were stunning. The reflections in the lagoon added another layer to an incredible scene.



As we finished up our morning landing, the long hikers also wrapped up their morning activities. Unfortunately, the wind was very strong just outside the bay we were operating in, and they could continue no further. Due to the weather conditions we had to cancel our afternoon operations. Instead, we started steaming eastward to get a head start for tomorrow's exploration day in the sea ice.



Day 4 – Thursday 20 June 2024

Location: Sea Ice Ship Cruising

GPS 12:00 Position: 77° 34.5 N 020° 18.5 E

Wind: NNE3 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +1° **Sea Temp:** +2°C

After a night where the whole ship experienced some real Arctic weather as we rounded the southern tip of Svalbard – big waves and high seas - we awoke to the remnants of the rough weather system with grey skies and a bit of chop on the water. We soon made it to the edge of the ice, but it was a loose kind of brash ice initially, so we ploughed straight in looking for some more solid wildlife-bearing substrate. Our first success came not long after with a nice Harp Seal on the ice along with numerous Kittiwakes, Little Auks, Brunnich's Guillemots and Fulmars.

Mid-morning and the conditions had taken a turn for the better with bright sunshine now beaming down on us and the shelter provided by the island of Edgeøya calming the seas right down. We started our lecture program before lunch with Chris talking about the wonderful world of sea and glacier ice and then, as lunch was being served, the call went up for a Walrus sat out on an iceberg in front of the ship, which gave magnificent views as we cruised past.

It was a fine day now with bright sunshine and light winds and we continued to scour the ice from all directions and all decks from the bow to the bridge to Deck Eight, but it remained quiet out on the ice despite the stunning vista surrounding us. Our second lecture of the day then had Jade giving us a run-down of the last 4.5 billion years in 45 minutes (OK, maybe she over-ran by a few minutes!). Our continuous scanning out from the ship was then interrupted by some delicious hot chocolate out on the bow in celebration of the upcoming summer solstice – a great moment, surrounded by the amazing beauty of the icescape in front of us.

The pulse-rates quickened briefly in the late afternoon when some fresh-looking Polar Bear tracks crisscrossed the ice in front of the ship, but some extra intensive scanning failed to produce the culprit. It was now a stunning evening with beautiful soft evening sunshine bathing the ice floes and what could

make this evening extra special? That's right! A magical evening barbeque out on deck surrounded by incredible scenery and wonderful light.



Day 5 – Friday 21 June 2024

Location: Russebukta – landing (am) Zodiac cruising (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 77° 36.1 N 020° 55.6' E

Wind: W2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +2°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

After an epic summer Solstice celebration, we had an early wake up and a quick breakfast as today was the day for all to hike! Marco and Phillip invited anyone who was eager to test their stamina for a longer walk at Russebukta. The medium and short hikers followed shortly, and the prompt assembly resulted in an eventful hike for all. With a lush tundra under our feet and an overcast day creating a truly magical atmosphere, we went on our separate ways in all directions from the landing site.

For those who looked vigilantly under their feet it was an exciting opportunity to get a closer look at various Svalbard plants. As we walked away from the landing site there was a polar willow forest. Furthermore, whenever you glanced down you could find flora ranging from buttercups, purple saxifrage, draba, a variety of lichen and an arctic poppy that was slowly getting ready to bloom.

A large but dispersed herd of reindeer roamed around and posed for some timeless Svalbard photos. This relatively small species left a lot of antlers and clumps of fur for us to look at closely on the ground. Interestingly, the females also have antlers and they have them year-round. The males however only have antlers from April to July. Their herds are small and seeing more than 20 is a rarity, so what we saw was a big group for the Svalbard reindeer!

The morning continued and whilst some of us walked briskly and covered a large perimeter, some of the more leisurely enthusiasts took in the views and enjoyed some quiet time. And let's be honest - the Arctic quiet is beyond belief! Only a few places around the world offer this feeling of remoteness and peace.

Whether you are a bird amateur or enthusiast, it was impossible not to appreciate the amazing species flying and landing all around us. From long tailed ducks, red throated divers, king and common eiders and even the grey phalarope! These lovely smaller birds will fly off to the Tropics in the winter, most probably to the African coast. The females will lead off this migration, and the male phalaropes will follow.

However, the highlight for many was the adorable and curious *Vulpes lagopus* - the Arctic fox. The fox appeared wearing a partial winter and summer coat with white tipped ears. And then... a second one appeared just as we were finishing the landing. What an amazing encounter!

The morning ended, but we did not really sit down for one bit. Straight after lunch we were off to cruise Russebukta in search for some walrus. The largest seal species in Svalbard graciously presented itself on an ice floe at the beginning of the cruise and popped up in the water at the end. All of us explored the nooks and intricacies of the small islands of the area. We got close to some mesmerizing icebergs, looked in detail at the shapes that elements of nature create and pushed some ice around as Arctic Terns dove down to catch some food for themselves. Seeing them plummet into the icy water in their natural habitat was special.

In the evening Joyce spoke about her time researching Polar foxes, Kaitlyn explained a bit of reindeer behavior and biology and Phillip dug a little into the Pomors' presence on Svalbard.

After dinner Meike invited us to a surprise late time talk about Louis April on Nova Zemlya, a story of the 1880 Arctic expedition told all through Dutch paintings.



Day 6 – Saturday 22 June 2024

Location: Burgerbukta (am) Gnålodden (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 77° 02.4' N 015° 57.5' E

Wind: E3/4 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

As dawn broke, the Hondius had skilfully navigated through the night, bringing us to the southeastern edge of the Svalbard archipelago, specifically into the serene Hornsund fjord. The sun cast a golden glow over Burgerbukta, our first destination for the day, perfect for a morning exploration with the zodiacs. Long hikers began their trek from Morenenstranda towards Treskleloden, where they'd be picked up later in the afternoon.

Post-breakfast, we eagerly donned our warmest gear, equipped with high spirits and cameras, ready to embrace the day's adventures. The breathtaking views of the surrounding fjord mountains greeted us, and as we ventured closer to the glacier, a magical sight awaited—a pod of belugas gliding gracefully along the shoreline. Among them, we delighted in spotting two grey-coloured calves, distinct against the creamy white adults. The sheer joy of watching and hearing these majestic creatures breathe was beyond words, rendering photography unnecessary.



High on the cliffs, kittiwakes soared towards their nests, while at water level, black guillemots, Brünnich's guillemots, and even a few puffins enchanted us with their close-up presence. Our exploration continued towards the majestic Paierlbreen and Mühlbacherbreen glaciers, surrounded by awe-inspiring landscapes. A delightful lunch, prepared by Chef Ralf and his talented galley team, provided the perfect opportunity to reflect on the morning's wonders.

Meanwhile, the Hondius set sail for our next destination—Gnålodden, a favourite spot for many of our guides. A split landing and an onboard lecture by Gabi about the history of the polar bear in relation to humans, translated by Rose, enriched our knowledge and anticipation.

As we approached the landing site, it felt like stepping into our own wildlife documentary. The welcoming chorus of kittiwakes filled the air as we stepped onto the beach, their calls echoing from the cliffs above. Amongst the rocky landscape, a trapper's hunting cabin stood as a testament to the past. The cliffs teemed with black-legged kittiwakes, Brünnich's guillemots, and northern fulmars. Where there are birds, there are foxes, and we were fortunate to witness one fox dashing up the slopes, possibly in pursuit of its next meal.

The long hikers, after a full day of trekking, also reached the high viewpoint, soaking in the expansive view at Gnålodden which had treated us with its abundant wildlife and blooming purple saxifrage on the tundra slopes, making it hard to bid farewell to this beautiful haven.

The evening began with our daily recap, where expedition leader Jerry outlined the plans for the next day. Kaitlyn provided fascinating insights into the life of belugas, and Meike shared a thrilling story about the life cycle of the kittiwakes we had seen in such abundance.

The day concluded with a delectable dinner crafted by our favourite chef, Ralf. Content and exhausted from a day full of exploration, we anticipated a restful night's sleep, eager for the adventures that tomorrow would bring.

LONG HIKE

Today was the first day on which we were able to finish our long hike as planned. As we looked at the landscape from the boat in the morning, we still had some doubts that the long hike would take place today. The landscape was still quite snowy. But Marco and Philipp went out scouting as planned and a little later we were also ashore. We started our hike with snowshoes. We first hiked along the east coast of Burgerbukta and enjoyed a wonderful view over Hornsund. The weather is magnificent and even the 1433m high mountain Hornsundtind, the highest mountain in the south of Spitsbergen, is visible. Every now and then we took a break so Marco or Philipp could scout ahead. During one of these breaks, we spotted a humpback whale. During the lunch break we even saw some beluga whales. We covered the next few kilometres without snowshoes, so we made faster progress. We took our next break at an old trapper's hut in Adriabukta. Afterwards we climbed up to the Treskelen moraine ridge, which extends far into the Hornsund.

From here we enjoyed a marvellous view over the wild alpine landscape of Hornsund. A little later we arrived at Treskleodden and were picked up by the safety zodiacs that had accompanied us the whole time. We were so punctual that we were able to join the others at Gnålodden.





Day 7 – Sunday 23 June 2024

Location: Poolepynten (am) and Gjertsenodden (St. Jonsfjorden) (pm)

GPS 12:00 Position: 78° 27.0 N 012° 02.1 E

Wind: E2 Sea State: Rippled Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +6°C

This morning, we woke up in Forlandsundet, the sound between the 100-kilometer-long island of Prins Karls Forland and the main island of Spitsbergen. It was quite foggy at first, but soon cleared up, and we had a clear view of the Poolepynten headland which was named after the English whaler, Jonas Poole, who repeatedly visited Spitsbergen early in the 17th century.

There was a small haul out of walrus here that we wanted to visit. After a smooth Zodiac ride, we landed at the beach a few hundred meters away from the walrus. We approached the largest seal species in the Northern Hemisphere in small groups of around 30 people. Our guides explained to us that we had to be very quiet and so we approached the animals slowly in single line so as not to frighten them.

These very social animals lie very close together and sometimes on top of each other and are therefore difficult to count. But we estimated that there were at least 30 animals. The tooth walkers, as their Latin name *Odobenus rosmarus* translates, can weigh up to 1200 kg and their tusks can be up to 1 meter long and weigh up to 5 kg.

The tusks are also the reason why the walrus were almost extinct, as they are made of the finest ivory. Walrus feed almost exclusively on mussels. Scientists have found up to 70kg of mussel meat in the stomachs of walrus, but not a single shell. After their extensive feeding trips, walrus lie on land for a long time to digest. We could clearly smell this!



Whilst one group visited the walrus, the others walked along the beach and through the tundra. We saw lots of driftwood that was all transported with the trans polar drift from the Russian arctic towards the coast of Svalbard.

After lunch, we continued our journey into St. Jonsfjord. Here we all landed together at Gjertsenodden and split into three groups. Down on the shore is a small hut built by one of the last polar bear hunters on Spitsbergen, Per Johansson. But it was never used for hunting purposes, only for recreational purposes.

The long hikers climbed the side moraine of the Gaffelbreen from here and had a marvelous view of the glacier Gaffelbreen, which means the fork glacier. The way back led them through gentle, green tundra, meeting up with the medium and the short hikers. It was already much greener here in St. Jonsfjord than in Hornsund, thanks to the warm current of the Gulf Stream. Flowers like moss campion, lousewort and the mountain avens were flowering everywhere. Shortly before we got back to the landing site, we were lucky enough to see a ptarmigan still in its white winter plumage. And lastly, before boarding the Zodiacs, many people took advantage of the calm relatively warm weather and jumped into the water – for the infamous Polar Plunge!





Back on board, we toast with the captain to a wonderful and successful trip. What a wonderful time, what an experience – a time we will never forget.

After a delicious dinner from Ralph's galley, it's time to hand back our Muckboots, pack our bags, download the photos and the slideshow, and then have a last toast to the trip in the bar.



Day 8 – Monday 24 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. Wherever headed, we all had wonderful memories to take us home.

DISTANCE SAILED: 950 nautical miles

Goodbye and thank you from the Expedition Team



Total distance sailed on our voyage:



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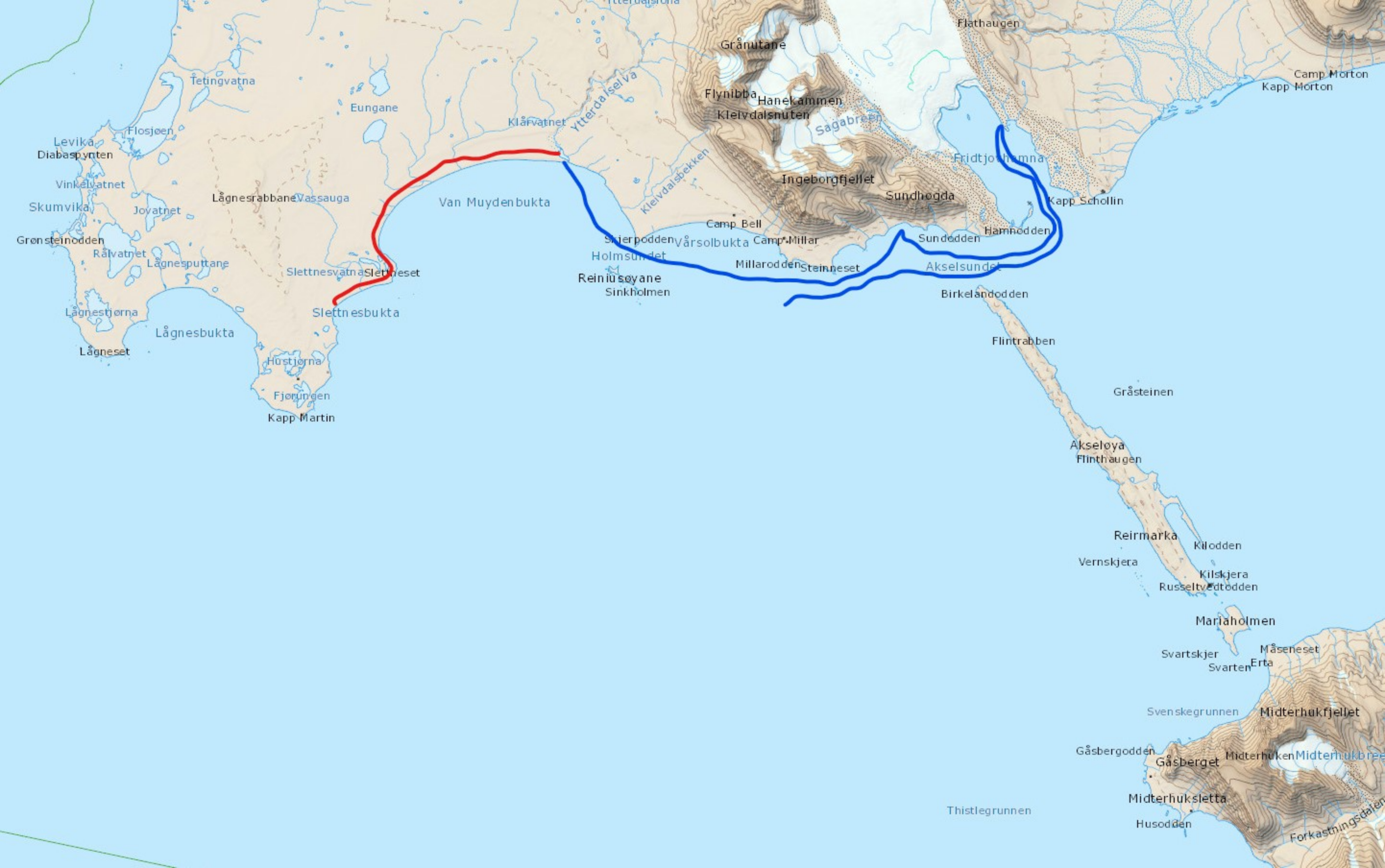
M/V Hondius

1. Ingeborgfjellet
2. Ingeborgfjellet (Zodiac Cruise)
3. Recherchefjorden
4. Russebukta
5. Russebukta (Zodiac Cruise)
6. Burgerbukta (Zodiac Cruise)
7. Gnalodden
8. Poolepynten
9. St. Jonsfjorden









Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	17-jun	18-jun	19-jun	20-jun	21-jun	22-jun	23-jun	24-jun
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B		X	X		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>	Basstölpel	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		X	X	X	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B	X	X	X		X	X		X
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	V					X			
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B					X			
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			
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelda boréale	Ilseend	B					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	Alpensneeuwhoen	B								X
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B			X				X	
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	X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetsstrandloper	B								
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	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B					X		X	
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B							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 glaucoides</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T								
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								
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	B								
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								
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>Cepphus 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	Papegaaiduiker	B	X	X		X		X	X	
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgor	B	X	X	X		X	X	X	X

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	17-jun	18-jun	19-jun	20-jun	21-jun	22-jun	23-jun	24-jun
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B	X		X	X	X		X	
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	B								
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B				X				
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T				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		X							
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	T		X							
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T							X		
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T									
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									
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloeaga	B							X		
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B		X							
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B			X		X	X			
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	B	X	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.

George Kennedy – Assistant Expedition Leader



George is an Australian social scientist specialising in polar geopolitics. He completed a Masters in Anthropology at Monash University in 2016 and a Graduate Diploma in Antarctic Governance at the Australian Institute for Marine and Antarctic Science in 2021. Since completing his studies, George has worked within the policy office of the Australian Antarctic Division, collaborating with other Antarctic Treaty Parties to develop sustainable tourism practices, environmental protection frameworks and fisheries management strategies.

Prior to his political studies, George worked as an ALS Paramedic in Australia, as well as a community development coordinator for conservation organisations in Latin America. George has a passion for travel, boats, and motorcycles. Over a three-year period, he rode a motorcycle from Patagonia to Mexico, exploring Latin America on two wheels. It was during his time in Patagonia that his passion for the Polar Regions developed, working closely with conservation organisations in Tierra del Fuego and visiting Antarctica for the first time in 2017. George has been guiding in Antarctica and the Arctic since 2019, sharing stories of its incredible wildlife, landscapes and, of course, its unique politics!

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.

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.

Gabi Kolodko - Expedition Guide



Having been exposed to the pristine wilderness of Alaska, Canada, and Lapland before turning ten, she developed a deep-rooted passion for cold climates and the great outdoors. She has dedicated every summer to sailing, a journey highlighted in 2012 when Gabi crossed the Baltic Sea from Poland to Scandinavia and back aboard the Zawisza Czarny, a historic 42-meter vessel originally built in 1952.

Her draw towards art, culture and history has led her to explore and focus on the rich tapestry of Antarctica's past and present.

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond mere travel; she is a dedicated practitioner of the Wim Hof method, engaging in ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A significant encounter in 1993 with a herd of Musk Oxen at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast solidified her fondness for this majestic Arctic animal. In Antarctica, the jury is still out (but Emperor chicks are top on the list).

As an alumna of the Nature Outdoors Leadership School, she is a certified Wilderness First Responder and an esteemed member of the Polar Tourism Guide Association.

Her journey, marked by a profound connection to the Arctic wilderness and a lifelong pursuit of adventure, positions her as a passionate advocate for the natural world and its preservation. Through this lens, she aims to share the beauty and challenges of the polar regions with others, fostering a deeper appreciation for these extraordinary landscapes.

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.

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



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.

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.

Martin Kriz – Ships Doctor



Dr Martin Kriz, senior consultant in surgery and full-time member of the American College of Surgeons FACS, and The Swedish Society Of Surgeons, completed his initial training in Lund Sweden at the University Hospital and subsequently, in Helsingborg County Hospital, where he specialized in cancer surgery and emergency surgery.

Currently he works in his own private practice and at the University Hospital in Lund Sweden.

Besides his specialization in surgery, he is also a specialist in Hyperbaric and Naval Medicine and is a diving

physician accredited by the EDTC (European Diving Technology Committee).

Furthermore, he is a Specialist in Aero and Space Medicine, AME (aero medical examiner) accredited by the Swedish Transport Agency.

Dr Kriz has extensive surgical experience and has also worked as a surgeon internationally, in such places as head surgeon in a Kenyan rural mission hospital in Mutomo, a jeep doctor for The Swedish Rotary Doctors in Kisumu, and in Afghanistan, where he spent a year as head of the Swedish military medical division within ISAF. In addition, he works as a diving physician for the Swedish Armed Forces. He worked as a surgeon in Bangladesh at Emirates Friendship Floating Hospital and at the Friendship hospital in Shyamnagar in 2019.

He was invited by the Hospital No 1 in Ulan Bator to go to Mongolia in 2013 and 2014 where he performed operations and instructed local surgeons in surgical techniques.

On several occasions Dr Kriz has been working as chief surgeon and SMO, senior medical officer, in St Helena, British Overseas Territories, one of the most remote and until recently inaccessible places on earth. He has also worked as a ship doctor for Oceanwide in Arctic and Antarctic regions on several occasions.

He is married and has one son. All his life he has been backpacking all over the world with his camera. He plays golf badly, skies downhill quite well and is quite an experienced scuba diver.



DAILY PROGRAM

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 17/06/2024

Day: 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

Welcome aboard! 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!



DAILY PROGRAM

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 18/06/2024

Day 2: Ingeborgfjellet

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.

09:30+/- We invite the long hikers to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a long hike at Ingeborgfjellet.

*Long hikers please pick up your packed lunch from the dining room at breakfast.
They will be sitting on one of the tables during breakfast for you to take ashore.*

10:15+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 zodiac cruise in for a landing at Lagnesbukta.

10:30+/- We invite the **Red** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 zodiac cruise in for a landing at Lagnesbukta.

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

15:00 +/- We invite the medium hikers to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Ingeborgfjellet.

15:10 +/- We invite the short hikers to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Ingeborgfjellet.

15:20 +/- We invite the leisurely hikers to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Ingeborgfjellet.

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

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 19/06/2024

Day 3: Recherchefjorden Breen and Fleur De Lyshamna

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:30+/- We invite the long hikers to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a long hike at Recherchefjorden.

Please can the long hikers be at breakfast at 7:30. And please make packed lunch available in the dining room during breakfast.

09:00+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a landing at Recherchefjorden Breen.

09:00+/- We invite the **Red** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a landing at Recherchefjorden Breen.

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

14:15 +/- We invite the medium hikers to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Ilgeborgfjellet.

14:25 +/- We invite the short hikers to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Ilgeborgfjellet.

14:35 +/- We invite the leisurely hikers to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Ilgeborgfjellet.

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

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 20/06/2024

Day 4: Exploring the sea ice.

During the day we plan to be exploring the sea ice to the Southeast 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 wildlife spotting's. If we have wildlife close by the ship 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 Chris of "Sea ice and Glacier ice"

12:30-13:30 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 Jade's lecture about "4.5 billion years in 45 minutes".

17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

18:30 Arctic Special dinner will be served on the Outside deck.



DAILY PROGRAM

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 21/06/2024

Day 5: Russebukta

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 all those wanting a **long hike** to the zodiac loading area on deck 3 for a long hike at Russebukta. Note this long hike is available to **any passengers who want to join** and there is no need to pack lunch.

09:20+/- We invite all those wanting a medium hike to the zodiac loading area on deck 3 for a **medium hike** at Russebukta.

09:30+/- We invite all those wanting a short hike to the zodiac loading area on deck 3 for a **short hike** at Russebukta.

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

14:30 +/- We invite the **Red** Group to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a landing zodiac cruise around Russebukta.

14:45 +/- We invite the **Blue** Group to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a landing zodiac cruise around Russebukta.

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

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 22/06/2024

Day 6: Burgerbukta and Gnålodden

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:15+/- We invite the long hikers to the Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a long hike in Hornsund.

We ask that the long hikers arrive first for breakfast at 7:30. Please prepare a packed lunch which will be available in the dining room during breakfast.

09:30 +/- We invite the **Red** Group to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise around Burgerbukta.

09:45+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise around Burgerbukta.

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

14:45+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a landing at Gnålodden.

15:00+/- We invite the **Red** Group to Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a landing at Gnålodden.

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

East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 23/06/2024

Day 7: Poolepynten and St Jonsfjorden

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:45+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a landing at Poolepynten
- 10:00+/- We invite the **Red** Group to the Zodiac boarding 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.
- 14:15+/- We invite all those who hope to enjoy a **long hike** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a long hike at St Jonsfjorden. This long hike is available to **all Guests who wish to join**.
- 14:30+/- We invite all those hoping to enjoy a medium hike to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a **medium hike** in St Jonsfjorden.
- 14:40+/- We invite all those wanting a short hike to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a **short hike** in St Jonsfjorden.
- We hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of the landing, so please wear your swimwear under your regular expedition clothing. We will provide the towels so there is no need to bring them from your cabins.*
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for Captain's Fairwell cocktails.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.
- 20:45 We will collect your muck boots on deck three.



East Spitsbergen, Home of the Polar Bear - Summer Solstice, Including Long Hikes

Date: 24/06/2024

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 complimentary busses to town in the morning at 0900. We will also offer several shuttles from town to the airport throughout the day. Details can be found below, depending on your flight. All luggage must be left outside your cabins by 7:30am and we will move it to the pier.

- *For all those with **flights SK4497** please use **NO** luggage tag. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. Your airport shuttle from town will be at 10:30*
- *For all those with **flights SK4491** please use **Blue** luggage tag. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. Your airport shuttle from town will be at 13:00*
- *For all those with **flights SK4493** please use **Orange** luggage tag. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. Your airport shuttle from town will be at 14:30*
- *For all those with **flights DY391** please use **Dark Blue** (with white paper) luggage tag. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. Your airport shuttle from town will be at 17:30*

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.