



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

**North Spitsbergen:
Birding and Summer Solstice**
on board
m/v Ortelius
18th June 2024 – 25th June 2024



© Sara Jenner

MV *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 108-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17.6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 12 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



Captain Per Andersson

and his international crew of 53 (14 Nationalities)

Including....

Chief Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Archer Cultura	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr 'Vova' Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Alfredo Bonifaz	[Peru]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Philippines]
Ship's Physician:	Jeff Hersch	[U.S.A.]
Bosun:	Neil Apawan	[Philippines]
Bosun:	Philip Malang	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	[U.K.]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Claudio Ghiglione	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	Keechy Akkerman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Hazel Pittwood	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	Christophe Gouraud	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Barbara Post	[Austria]
Expedition Guide:	Mikhail 'Misha' Barbanov	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	Aitana Forcen Vazquez	[Spain]

We welcome you onboard!

Day 1: 18th June 2024

Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 1200: 78°14.2' N - 015°35.5' E

Wind: SE 6 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: +6°C

The day had finally come: it was time to board the good ship Ortelius for our expedition exploring North Spitsbergen! It was a beautiful, sunny day as we arrived at the port in Longyearbyen with calm, glassy waters. We were thankful of this because we embarked the ship by zodiacs! The Expedition Team and Hotel Staff had helpfully brought our luggage aboard and taken it to our cabins earlier in the day. All that remained was for us to take a few photos of Ortelius as we approached in the zodiacs before heading up the gangway.

We were warmly welcomed by all the crew and staff who assisted us in finding our cabins. We had a little time to explore the ship and get our bearings and grab a tea or coffee in the bar. Once everyone was onboard it was time for the mandatory ship safety video and briefing presented by Expedition Leader Sara and Chief Officer Romanas. We were given all the information we needed such as moving safely around the ship, the things we could and could not do, and how to put on our emergency life jackets. Having learned this, it was then time for an abandon ship drill so after hearing the seven short and one long blast of the ship's horn we went to our cabins, got our lifejackets, and went to our muster station in the bar. Then we were led to our lifeboats so we would know where to go in case of a real emergency.

After the drill we headed to the bar where Hotel Manager Vova and Expedition Leader Sara gave a welcome briefing, helping to explain how life would be on the ship over the coming days. With briefing formalities concluded, it was time to join Captain Per in the bar to raise a glass in celebration of the voyage. Cheers everyone! Then it was time for our first evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection provided by Chef Heinz and his galley team served by our friendly dining room staff. After dinner we were given our muck boots which we would use for going ashore; comfortable but also, very importantly, waterproof for our wet zodiac landings!

After a long day of travel for most of us it was time for bed to get some rest before the first full day of our trip tomorrow.

Day 2: 19th June 2024

Lilliehöökreen & Tinayrebukta

GPS position at 1200: 79°20.9' N - 011°42.8' E

Wind: Light air Sea State: Calm rippled Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: +10°C Sea Temp: +7°C

After a steady sail north from Longyearbyen and along the west coast of Spitsbergen we awoke to an announcement from our Expedition leader Sara, who had some exciting news for us. A female polar bear and her two cubs were spotted from the bridge when we entered Krossfjorden. We quickly dressed and went out on deck, not to miss this opportunity to see our first bear(s) of this cruise. We were able to watch the female bear feeding on a walrus carcass and the two sweet cubs, only a few months old, playing in the water. What an incredible start of this expedition!

After breakfast we all attended the mandatory AECO and zodiac briefing before we found our ship in front of an impressive glacier front at the head of the fjord. This calving front of the Lilliehöökreen is seven kilometer-wide. The scale of the place may have been hard for some to comprehend, but no one could fail to be impressed at the massive glacier framed against the surrounding mountains and with its parent snowfield rising above it. After all zodiacs were lowered into the water we were called to the gangway for a zodiac cruise. The blue skies and sunshine made for a



wonderful morning and the Lilliehöökreen tidewater glacier is definitely one of the most spectacular in Svalbard. Its massive face sweeps around the entire end of the fjord with plenty of birdlife including

black-legged kittiwakes, Arctic tern and Northern fulmars.



During lunch we enjoyed the cruise up towards Tinayrebukta. As we arrived there, the expedition team started to prepare and scout the landing place for us. All save for us to go, we took a short zodiac ride to the beach, where we started our hikes. Those wanting a more strenuous hike headed straight up to the ridge and followed it around. Here they encountered Reindeer with calves, rock ptarmigan and lots of birdlife. The middle hiking group was split in half and followed up the ridge but had time to take in the scenery and beauty of the area. Both of these groups were having fantastic views of a harbour seal. The short hikers have been also able

to watch a harbour seal close and taking time to appreciate the smaller aspects of the flora and the many mosses and lichens. Our time ashore passed quickly and soon it was time to return to the Ortelius for showers, the daily recap and briefing. After dinner, many choose to retire to the bar to celebrate what had been an incredible day exploring Spitsbergen.



Day 3: 20th June 2024

Texas Bar & Monacobreen

GPS position at 1200: 79°36.5' N - 012°29.7' E

Wind: Light air Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +6.3°C Sea Temp: +8°C

Just after 7:00am in the morning, Sara woke us up over the PA-system with the delightful message that the weather Gods were working in our favour, meaning Liefdefjorden looked good as we were approaching our destination. After another delicious breakfast, we landed on a beach near Texas Bar. Here we had three different hikes on offer; short, medium and long. No matter which adventure you picked, you got to enjoy the beautiful landscape, the view over the fjord and flowers like mountain avens, purple saxifrage, mountain sorrel and woolly louseworts. The long hikers made it all the way up to a high view point where they encountered a male Rock Ptarmigan. Medium and short walkers enjoyed the nice flowers and other bird species that



this place offers, such as the iconic King eider! Sara made sure everyone got to explore the Texas Bar, Norwegian, hunting hut from 1927 before, either heading for a swim or going back to the ship.

During lunch the ship repositioned further south, deeper in Liefdefjorden to reach Monacobreen – a large and very scenic glacier spilling into the fjord. This glacier is in retreat, as are many on Svalbard. As a result our ship sailed into waters where very little chart information exists, as this part of the fjord was once under the glacier! After finding a safe anchor position, zodiacs were launched and we cruised along the glacier front. Each zodiac group would have had a different experience travelling through this ethereal sea and ice-scape. Encounters included several Bearded seals, Arctic Skua/Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake and Long-tailed ducks. The cruise ended up with a great encounter with belugas! After the very enjoyable cruise, the fleet made its way back to Ortelius. We had our daily briefing and recap by Sara and the



expedition team. It was then time for dinner and a good night sleep.

Day 4: 21st June 2024

Alkefjellet

GPS position at 1200: 79°18.9' N - 019°02.1' E

Wind: SE 5 Sea State: Calm rippled Weather: Fog

Air Temp: -3°C Sea Temp: +6°C

When we awoke we found ourselves just in front of Faksevågen, a sheltered bay in Lomfjorden. Fog was surrounding Ortelius on all fronts and we could barely see land. Still, the expedition team started to get ready to scout for polar bears for our safety, but just before they stepped into the zodiacs, the fog worsened. Unfortunately, this morning the weather gods were not on our side and so “Plan A”, a landing with beach clean-up, had to be cancelled. “Plan B” was to sail south-east down the Hinlopenstrait to reach fast ice and look for wildlife. In the meantime, Christophe gave a talk about the Brünnich’s guillemot and prepared us with all the necessary information for our afternoon adventure. Hazel lectured later in the morning about the seals we had already seen and those we hoped to see during the remainder of the trip. Just before lunch and still sailing in the fog, we reached the fast ice between Spitzbergen and Wahlbergøya. A short while after going along the fast ice, with hardly any



visibility, we miraculously spotted a polar bear! Despite the fog everybody on board had the chance to have a good look at the animal, but it was a bittersweet moment as we realised the animal was very skinny. Later photos of the bear yawning revealed it had very few teeth, suggesting it was an older animal which had perhaps naturally reached the end of his days.

After lunch, the crew and expedition team started to prepare for a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet. This impressive cliff is one of the largest Brünnich's guillemot breeding colonies on Spitsbergen, with an estimated 60,000 breeding pairs! On our way to the southern end of the cliff we observed huge flocks of Brünnich's guillemot in the water. The bird life was magnificent and the cliff itself was a truly awe-inspiring sight; millions of years ago basaltic magma intruded into the



ancient layers of limestone in this region, and today this basalt layer is visible as these impressive cliffs. The sky was peppered with black and white birds, some swooped low almost touching our heads. The nearer we got, the more we could see, and hear...and smell!



As we drove along the cliff, we could observe that most of the Brünnich's guillemot were already incubating their egg and showing us their black backs. The kittiwake nests could be seen much higher up on the cliff face, and there were numerous glaucous gulls positioned on good lookout points over the colony looking for

feeding opportunities. As we reached the end of the cliff on the bright green slope, we spotted some black guillemots breeding in cracks of boulders and the sun started to appear out of the clouds. Feeling almost warm now in the sunny conditions, we enjoyed views of a small glacier front of the Odin Jökulen ice cap on the northern side of the bird cliff before we all headed back to the ship. After dinner we proceeded further north, and we were all excited for what the morning after would bring in the sea ice!

Day 5: 22nd June 2024

Ice Day

GPS position at 1200: 80°58.0' N - 020°45.0' E

Wind: N 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Clear sky

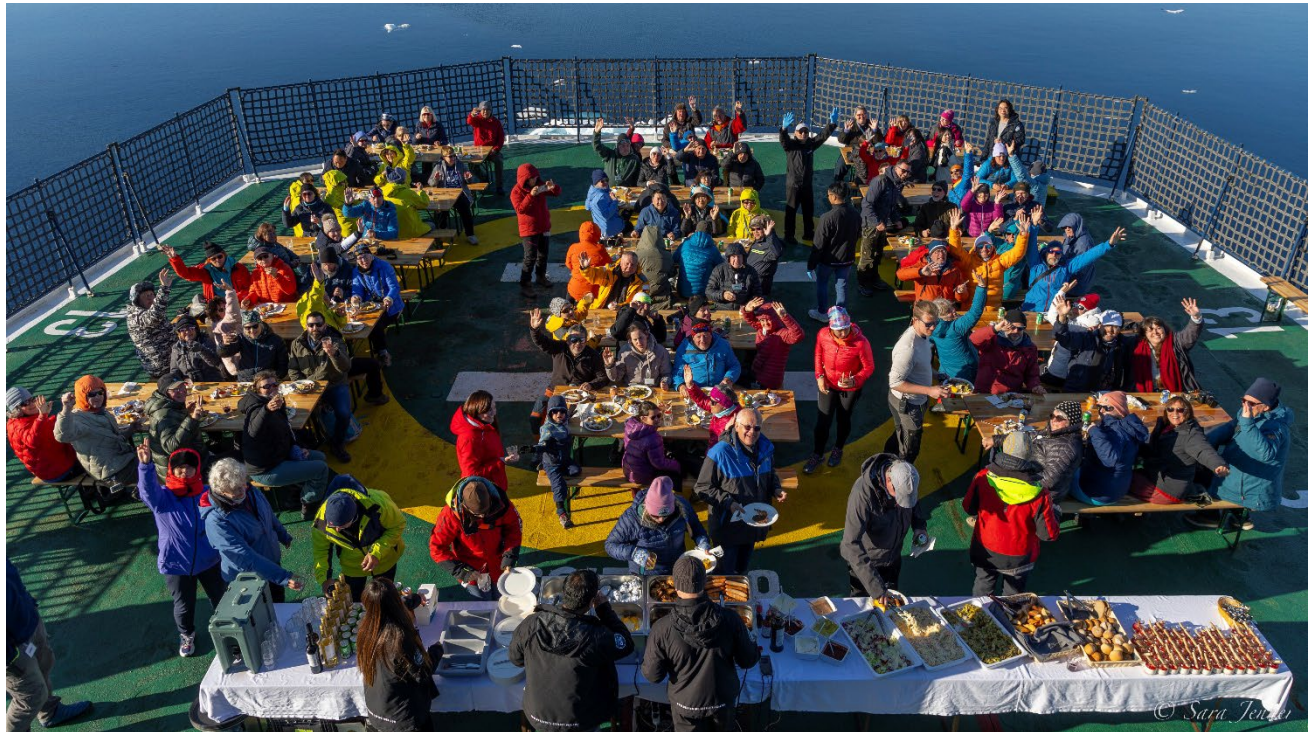
Air Temp: +17°C Sea Temp: +1°C



After a few days exploring on land, we woke up to a beautiful seascape of ice with the Seven Islands in the background. Today is a day spent navigating the sea ice looking for wildlife. We couldn't have better conditions. Beautiful sunshine, not a drop of wind and not a cloud in the sky; what else could we ask for? We felt very privileged to spend time in an environment that will be more and more difficult to experience in the future.

We spent all morning outside looking for life and were rewarded with many seals on the ice, including ringed seals and bearded seals. One particular sighting of a bearded seal stood out; as it swam

along the ship we watched it swimming gracefully under water. The birders also had a fantastic day, with long anticipated sightings of an ivory gull AND the rare Pomarine Skua!



Barbara gave an amazing lecture on Sea Ice as an ecosystem in the morning and in the afternoon, Sara gave a brilliant talk about polar bears. In the evening, we had a lovely barbecue on the helipad, where we could relax and enjoy some good food in the fresh air of the arctic 24-hour daylight. Weather was again perfect. The evening developed into the dance floor, while beautiful fog covering the ocean while sailing back South. We were even greeted by a brilliant fog bow! Young and old were doing the boogie to Hazel's BBQ party playlist.

Day 6: 23rd June 2024

Smeerenburg & Waggonwaybreen

GPS position at 1200: 79°43.9' N - 011°01.7' E

Wind: SSW 4 Sea State: Calm rippled Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +6.2°C Sea Temp: +5°C

After a hearty breakfast, we boarded the zodiacs and headed for the sandy beach of Smeerenburg. On the way in, we rounded a point where a group of walrus were huddled together on the beach causing a ripple of excitement among the guests. After the first five zodiacs of guests had landed ashore they were led along the beach by guides Hazel, Misha and Allan to a viewing point where they could admire the walrus: true Arctic icons! The bewhiskered beasts were very relaxed and sleepy so for the best part of an hour we watched them. For the most part, it's fair to say that the Walrus were not that active, but

every now and again some sort of movement within their tight huddle would elicit quiet laughs from their audience as they jabbed at each other with their tusks or exhaled, snorting loudly.



Meanwhile,

the last five zodiacs to land were led by guides Christophe, Barbara and Aitana on an exploratory walk of the area which is of huge cultural and historical importance. Smeerenburg was the site of a Dutch whaling station way back in the first half of the 17th century. At its peak some 200 men worked there, processing whales that had been caught in the fjords of Svalbard. In a nutshell, it was a place that saw the death and destruction of bowhead whales on a horrendous scale. We imagined the beach littered with partially dismembered carcasses, the unbearable stench, and the clouds of birds that flew in to feed off the detritus. Little remains of the whaling station, but we could see some of the circular formations of 'blubber cement' that outlined where the huge try works sat that were used to extract oil from the blubber. A simple brass plaque mounted on a frame of Siberian driftwood marked the site, which is remembered as being Europe's first oil venture.

Halfway through the morning, the two groups switched places. Part of our time ashore was dedicated to a beach clean, a tradition that Oceanwide Expeditions tries to observe on at least one landing of every Svalbard voyage. A fantastic amount of plastic rubbish was collected as everyone got enthusiastically involved.

The staff radios crackled as a report came in from the Ortelius bridge watch that a Polar Bear had been spotted by officer cadet Erik! Assistant Expedition Leader Claudio was sent in a zodiac to investigate. It was across the water from us, in a bay called Virgohamna on Danskøya (Danes Island). Expedition Leader Sara instantly made the decision to close our landing and get all guest off land as soon as possible, not because we were in any risk of the bear but because it presented a fantastic opportunity to see this magnificent animal. She requested that all remaining zodiacs be launched from the ship and all guests be embarked into them without delay. Some of us were already back onboard and out of our outdoor gear but the exciting announcement that we were going to go and have a look at the bear had

us scrambling to get back into our waterproofs! The zodiacs gathered just off Virgohamna and made a slow approach towards where the bear was enjoying a relaxed stroll along the waterline. Our guides quickly identified it as a young male, perhaps only three or four years old. The best news of all was that he was in fantastic condition with healthy deposits of fat in all the right places for a polar bear! The zodiacs lined up just offshore and the bear gently wandered past us, stopping from time to time to check us out and sniff the air. At one point he stopped to paw a man-made relic that lay among the rocks. It was a truly phenomenal encounter with the creature we had all journeyed to the high Arctic hoping to see. The experience moved some people to tears and left pretty much everyone speechless. Among the thousands of photos taken of this beautiful creature were some truly spectacular framefilling images.

Lunch had opened while we were admiring the bear from the zodiacs, but the restaurant was empty for a time as we delayed our eating for time with the beautiful bear. Eventually we had to leave though, so after moving quietly away from the bear, once at a distance from him we sped back to the ship, stripped



off our outdoor gear, and headed for a well-earned meal. The anchor was raised, and Ortelius got under way for Magdalenafjord, further south down the coast. We arrived mid-afternoon, and soon all the zodiacs were on the water to take us out for an exploratory cruise of this spectacular place. The scenery was breathtaking; towering mountains, tumbling glaciers and steep scree-covered slopes where countless Little Auks made their home. Harbour seals popped up their heads here and there and a variety of birds were seen including common eiders, Arctic terns, black guillemots, barnacle geese, pink-footed geese and snow buntings. The birders were especially excited to see good numbers of king eiders. Several reindeer were also spotted, bounding across the steep mountain sides. We went into the fjord as far as we could go, where the Waggonway Glacier meets the sea. This curious name appears to be the result of a feint medial moraine that leaves two perfectly parallel lines down the middle of the glacier, which resemble the tracks of an old waggon.

We returned to the ship, passing Gravneset, a point that is the location of some 130 or more centuries-old graves of whalers and mariners, which is now a protected site of special cultural and historical

significance. A Sysselmann's (Svalbard Governor) hut could be seen nearby. Back on board, we got ready for the briefing that would prepare us for the next day's activities, before heading off to dinner. And so ended a truly remarkable day when the Lord of the Arctic, the polar bear, graced us with his presence and touched our hearts.



Day 7: 24th June 2024

Alkhornet & Ymerbukta

GPS position at 1200: 78°13.0' N - 013°52.1' E

Wind: Light air Sea State: Calm rippled Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +7°C

This morning we arrived at Alkhornet, admiring the impressive, towering cliff face that provides a perfect surface for nesting black-legged kittiwakes and fulmars, along with Brünnich's guillemots which do not nest build but instead rest their pear shaped eggs directly onto the ledges of rock. After the expedition team had safely scouted the site and taken their positions around the perimeter of the site the announcement was made for us to embark the zodiacs. We couldn't wait to get ashore and enjoy free-roaming within the boundary of the guides, choosing how to spend our three hours ashore. Some opted to energetically walk the entire area, including hiking up the slope to the locations of guides Christophe and Keechy who were underneath the imposing peak at the highest point of the perimeter. Alkhornet takes its name from being home to auks (Alk) such as the aforementioned Brünnich's guillemots, and being shaped like a horn (most closely resembling that of a rhino, not an animal we see in the Arctic!)

Other guests opted to stay lower down on the flat vegetation covered plain of the site, enjoying fantastic views of Svalbard reindeer which were so confiding they could almost be thought of as tame! They are not at all domesticated, but the fact they need to make the most of summer vegetation eating opportunities after lean winter times means that they are completely focused on feeding, even if that brings them into close contact with their human observers. Another wildlife highlight was observing a couple of Arctic foxes with their adorable cubs! These little ones can only have been a few weeks old and were very small indeed. They seemed to be enjoying exploring their new world, tumbling around as they played together waiting for their parents to bring provisions. In terms of bird life, Arctic skua, pink-footed and barnacle goose and snow bunting were enjoyed. After a few hours ashore it was time to head back on board for lunch.

After our afternoon meal we headed round the corner to Ymerbukta to enjoy the unique and memorable experience of touching a glacier! Esmarkbreen is a very slow-moving glacier with some of its terminating face on the land, meaning it is safe to be touched. After making the scenic drive across the bay to the landing site we stepped ashore and walked across the moraine through the muddy sediment towards the glacier. We were in awe of this amazing river of ice and it felt like a truly special way to bring our trip towards its end, knowing how vitally important ice is not only to the Arctic ecosystem but to global climate.



It was a beautiful afternoon with clear blue sky and sunshine and we relished every moment of our time, knowing it would be the last landing of our trip. We spotted king and common eiders and numerous seals hauled out on the fast ice in front of the glacier.

After spending time ashore for a couple of hours we reluctantly headed back to the landing site, boarded the zodiacs, and headed back to Ortelius to continue (or start!) packing our bags. Having returned our muck boots it was time for Captain Per's farewell cocktail in the bar, so we gathered there and joined him and the expedition team in raising a glass of prosecco or non-alcoholic alternative in celebration of our fantastic trip. Before enjoying our last evening meal together we watched the end of trip slide show prepared by expedition guide Misha. This was a spectacular photographic and videographic record of the experiences we had shared over the past week and we all loved recalling the incredible sights of Svalbard. This brought a tear to many people's eyes as we were reminded just how special this place is; the fauna and flora, landscapes and ice of this Arctic Archipelago would stay in our hearts and minds forever. We left the bar and made our way to the restaurant with smiles on

everyone's faces: did we really see and do all those things in just one week?! We felt so lucky.

After a delicious meal we were grateful to have the opportunity to see and give thankful applause to different departments of the ship, including hotel, housekeeping, galley and deck crew.

Day 8: 25th June 2024

Longyearbyen - Disembarkation

GPS position at 0800: 78°14.6' N - 015°32.5' E

Wind: N1 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: +7°C

After seven superb days our Svalbard expedition was over, but the memories we had made would live with us forever. With our luggage left outside our cabins ready for the staff and crew to take down the gangway, we headed to breakfast. After saying goodbye to the dining room crew we took our remaining belongings and disembarked onto the coal pier. There was just enough time to say farewell to the expedition team before we boarded the buses and left for our onward travel.



Thank you all for such a memorable voyage, for your company, good humour, enthusiasm, and patience when the weather decided we should do something different. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 913 nautical miles

Furthest North: 81°06.100' N - 020°35.769' E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Volodymyr 'Vova' Cherednychenko and all the crew and expedition staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you! We look forward to seeing you again on one of our ships for another adventure.

North Spitsbergen

18 - 25 June, 2024



- 1. Longyearbyen
- 2. Lilliehöökreen
- 3. Tinayrebukta
- 4. Texas Bar
- 5. Monacobreen
- 6. Mushamna
- 7. Ice
- 8. Alkefjellet
- 9. Sea ice
- 10. Smeerenburg
- 11. Virgohamna
- 12. Waggonwaybreen / Magdalenafjord
- 13. Alkhornet
- 14. Ymerbukta

Species list: Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land				
English Name	Scientific	German	French	Dutch
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon imbrin	Ijsduiker
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeel duiker
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans	Oie rieuse	Kolgans
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider à duvet	Eider eend
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalke	Faucon gerfaut	Giervalk
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde de Miquelon	Ilseend
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpensneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Sneeuw hoen
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Pluvier Grand-gravelot	Bontbek plevier
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteen strandloper
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepierre à collier	Steenloper
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grande Labbe	Grote jager
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaart meeuw
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Goéland cendré	Stormmeeuw
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoor meeuw

English Name	Latin	18 June	19 June	20 June	21 June	22 June	23 June	24 June
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X	X			X	X
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			X			X	X
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		X	X			X	X
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>		X	X			X	X
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			X				
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>		X	X				
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						X	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X		X				X
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					X		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		X	X		X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>				X		X	
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					X		
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>							
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>			X		X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>				X			
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>				X		X	
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		X				X	X
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X

English	Latin	18 June	19 June	20 June	21 June	22 June	23 June	24 June
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>		X				X	
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X		X		
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>					X		
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>					X		
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>							
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		X				X	
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		X					
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>							
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>							
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>							
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>							
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>							
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>							
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>							
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>							
Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>			X				
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>		X		X		X	
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>							X
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X				X	X

Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader



For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born. Ever since Sara has been travelling the globe in search of wild and remote places and has spent many

months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents, and she has travelled extensively in the polar regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea, Ross Sea, Falklands, South Georgia, NZ and Australian Sub Antarctic Islands, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, when she decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

During 2020-2021 she worked extensively on a leopard seal identification project and took the opportunity to fulfil a lifetime dream of visiting South Georgia in winter by working on the M/V Pharos, which is deployed by the South Georgia Government as a fishery patrol vessel.

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.

Claudio Ghiglione – Assistant Expedition Leader



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK).

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective is to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide Oceanwide.

Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book 'Polar Lights' with whom he shares the passion for nature photography.

Keechy Akkerman - Expedition Guide



Growing up in a big city (The Hague, The Netherlands) the outdoors has always fascinated Keechy, especially the Polar Regions. She has travelled to Norway repeatedly; for holiday, to work on a sheep farm, and to conduct research on the island Jan Mayen. During her studies in Biology and Geology her passion led her to follow several courses at the University Centre in Svalbard, and she fell in love with the area.

For Keechy's final internship with TNO (The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) in 2015, she had the amazing opportunity to participate in a scientific expedition (SEES) to Edgeøya, located in the southeast of the Svalbard archipelago. The aim of the expedition was to study the impact of anthropogenic activity in one of the most remote and pristine areas on earth, thereby highlighting the relevance of Arctic research in the context of current transitions. This expedition was in collaboration with Oceanwide Expeditions and after talking to the guides, she became very enthusiastic to work as a Polar Tour guide as well.

In 2016 Keechy moved to the UK to take on a PhD on lake ecosystems in Greenland. Her fieldwork allowed her to complete the Arctic Circle Trail in Greenland, a 10-day hike from the ice sheet to the coast. She spends most of her weekends exploring all the national parks the UK has to offer, in the form of hiking, camping, climbing, paddling and winter mountaineering. After her PhD she decided to change career paths and start sharing her love for nature and outdoor activities (with the younger generation) as an outdoor instructor for Outward Bound and as an Expedition Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions!

Hazel Pittwood – Expedition Guide



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. With the Jurassic Coast on her doorstep, it was inevitable that she would develop a love for being beside, on or in the sea!

Hazel has worked and volunteered in a variety of wildlife focused roles, from surveying for rare reptiles on heathland nature reserves to caring for injured bats and other small mammals and birds for local wildlife rescue groups.

Whilst she is broadly enamoured with the natural world, Hazel is first and foremost a marine mammal and seabird specialist. In 2014 she began volunteering as a marine mammal and seabird surveyor, collecting sightings data regarding these animals for UK based conservation charities. In 2017 she worked for six months on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay as a marine mammal guide and surveyor.

Since then, Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise, expedition and small ships in various locations worldwide. Guiding highlights have included Baja California with friendly Gray whales, huge gatherings of Humpback whales in Antarctica, four months with the semi-resident Bottlenose dolphin population of Cardigan Bay in Wales and working as a snorkelling guide with Orca (killer whales) in North Norway.

She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

We hope to see an incredible diversity of marine mammal and seabird species on your trip, and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm!

Christophe Gouraud – Expedition Guide



Christophe was born in France and has been passionate about birds ever since he was a child. After spending five years in Canada studying ecology, Christophe travelled to Alaska. He lived on the tiny Middleton Island as a research assistant to study the ecology of seabirds, mainly the Black-legged Kittiwake. He explores polar and tropical regions since 2007 and joined many cruises from Spitsbergen to the Russian Far East, from Antarctica to South Georgia, and from Amazonia to the Seychelles.

Christophe also worked with birds as a biologist field worker in Morocco, United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan. Christophe found another way to travel by inventorying collections of birds that have been collected worldwide during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Barbara Post - Expedition Guide



Barbara Post was born in Austria and has since her childhood days a sincere interest in nature and mountaineering. Therefore, the biology study in Innsbruck, a city in the Alps, fitted perfectly to her interests. During her bachelor study program, she already started to work for several projects as scientific research assistant, always related to mountain research. She also did microscopic analyses (taxonomy) of the macrozoobenthos fauna in freshwater ecosystems of Spitsbergen. At this time, she started to love cold ecosystems worldwide and decided to write her Master thesis in the Lake and

Glacier Ecology Research Group, whose expertise lies in Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine research. With a thesis about water bears living on the surface of glaciers, Barbara finished her Master of Science/Zoology.

Barbara is Co-author in two book chapters about “Polyextremophiles – Life in the Ice”. Keen to share her knowledge, she is involved since 2003 in an education program called “Youth into Science” where she is lecturing and guiding pupils. Her last research project was about bacteria in glacier ice at the University of Innsbruck. Since 2012 she is a passionate nature guide in the Arctic, her travels include Norway, Jan Mayen, Svalbard, Iceland and Greenland. In 2014 she started to join expeditions to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula.

Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide



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

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

latitudes.

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

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

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

Allan White - Expedition Guide



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small-ship expedition cruising concept. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Thirty years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 78° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and heroic age polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez - Expedition Guide



Aitana is a passionate oceanographer and adventurer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as a polar guide. Originally from Spain, she spent 12 years in New Zealand, where she earned her PhD in Physical Oceanography— focusing on unravelling the mysteries of how the ocean moves.

Her expertise extends to large-scale currents, waves, ice and water mass formation, and climate, with an unwavering enthusiasm for discussing these topics. Aitana's conversations can seamlessly

transition from the intricacies of oceanography to her love for endurance sports and the art of knitting.

With a strong background in ocean-going fieldwork, Aitana served as the Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, a groundbreaking initiative examining the export of cold water from the Ross Sea. She made history as one of the most junior-ever physical scientists to assume the role of voyage leader on the R V Tangaroa, New Zealand's esteemed research vessel, during an oceanographic voyage to the Southern Ocean.

Aitana's career has been as diverse as the marine environments she has explored. From driving a weather boat for two editions of the America's Cup as a meteorological technician to transitioning into the private sector, where she provided vital marine forecasts for port operations and Defence exercises. In these roles she has been a key player in ensuring the safety and efficiency of maritime operations. When adventure allows it, Aitana shares her knowledge with university students as an associate lecturer, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

In her free time, Aitana is an avid open water swimmer, a dedicated communicator and content creator, and a seeker of unconventional road trips off the beaten path.

Jeff Hersh PhD, MD- Ships Doctor



Jeff has more than 30 years as a practicing physician, primarily as an Attending Physician in the Emergency Department and as the Chief Medical Officer of one of the United States' Disaster Medical Assist Teams responding to disasters around the world. He has been board certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, and Disaster Medicine.

He is also somewhat of an academic geek, and holds a medical degree from the University of Miami as well as numerous other degrees including a PhD in Theoretical Physics from Yale University and a MS in Electrical Engineering from George Washington University. He has held faculty appointments at Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Tufts, U Mass, and Harvard.

Jeff enjoys paragliding (he is an advanced pilot), diving (PADI open water), running, swimming, and exploring the theoretical analysis of the fundamentals of time. He is an avid traveler and looking forward to working with Oceanwide Expeditions.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen Welcome on Board!

Date: 18th June 2024

Day 1 Longyearbyen

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the Bar located on Deck 6.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. 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 and dress warmly. All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which is the **Bar on Deck 6**. Please ensure you have your own room key with you as this will be needed to muster, and it will also indicate which lifeboat you are assigned.

18:00+/- Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.

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

20:15 You will be called deck by deck to collect your Muck boots from the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.

Please note that we will be sailing into open seas. If you are concerned about sea sickness, please take your medication before you really feel the movement of the vessel. Also, ensure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Whilst at sea please walk slowly around the ship, keep one hand for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!

"All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting." - Rudyard Kipling



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 19th June 2024

Day 2 Lilliehöökreen and Tinayrebukta

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:45 **MANDATORY AECO, Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety Briefing** in the Lecture Room on Deck 3. Attendance will be checked.

10:00+/- We hope to disembark you by the gangway from Deck 4 for a Zodiac cruise of Lilliehöökreen.

Please ensure you are dressed in waterproofs and your life jacket is fastened securely before approaching Reception. Remember to swipe out with your cabin card.

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

14:30+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a landing at Tinayrebukta, we ask that those who want to do the long hike (2.5 hours) come to the gangway first.

18:45 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.

19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 20th June 2024

Day 3. Texas Bar and Monacobreen

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:45+/- We invite the **long hikers** to the gangway for a landing at Texas Bar.

09:00+/- We invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing Texas Bar.

We hope to be able to offer a **polar plunge** at the end of the landing, please wear your swim wear under your expedition clothing. We provide the towels so please do not bring them from your cabins.

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

14:30+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a Zodiac cruise of Monacobreen.

18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

*"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring.
Will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." – T. S. Eliot*



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 21st June 2024

Day 4. Faksevågen and Alkefjellet

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

09:00 Christophe invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Brünnich's Guillemots in anticipation of visiting Alkefjellet this afternoon.

11:15 Hazel welcomes you to join her for a lecture about the Seals of Svalbard in the Bar.

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

14:30+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a Zodiac cruise of Alkefjellet.

18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

"We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago."- Rose Elizabeth Bird



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 22nd June 2024

Day 5. Along the Ice Edge

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Expedition Day in the Ice

We will spend the day along the ice edge looking for wildlife, therefore encourage you to spend as much time as possible on the outside decks and on the bridge to help search.

Please note, we will decide upon a lecture programme as the day unfolds, depending on, weather, visibility, and sightings, so please listen to announcements.

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

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

19:00 Dinner will be served outside, so please dress warmly.

“And now there came both mist and snow, the ice was here, the ice was there, and it grew wondrous cold, the ice was all around, and ice, mast high, came floating by, it cracked and growled, and roared and howled, as green as emerald, like noises in a swound!” - Samuel Taylor Coleridge



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 23rd June 2024

Day 6 Smeerenburg and Magdalenefjorden.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:45+/- We hope to disembark you by the gangway from Deck 4 for a landing at Smeerenburg.

The name "Smeerenburg" means "Blubber Town". Its whaling station served as the main base for Dutch whaling in the first half of the 17th century, which was the period when whale hunting was still happening along the coastline and in the fjords of Svalbard. The most obvious sign of its days as a whaling station are the large cement-like remains of blubber from ovens where the blubber was boiled. However, today Smeerenburg is famous for being a known haul out site for Walrus, so we hope to find these enormous, blubbery, charismatic creatures resting ashore.

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

15:30+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a Zodiac cruise of beautiful Waggonwaybreen and the historic site of Gravneset.

18:45 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.

19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 24th June 2024

Day 7 Alkhornet and Ymerbukta.

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
08:15+/- We hope to start disembarking you for a landing at Alkhornet.

Any time after breakfast you can pass by Reception to settle your account, please ensure this is done before 17:00.

Disembarkation: There will be two buses to take everyone into the centre of Longyearbyen at 09:00 and 09:15. If you are on the afternoon flight and would like your luggage to go straight to the airport, please put a **blue luggage tag on your bags which you can collect from reception today. For those guests staying longer in Longyearbyen, you do not need a luggage tag.**

- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00+/- We hope to start disembarkation for a final landing at Ymerbukta.
17:30+/- We will collect your Muck Boots, please wait until you are called to return them to the Lecture Room on Deck 3.
18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.
A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices.
19:00 A farewell gala dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing unto the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory" - Sir Francis Drake.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

Date: 25th June 2024

Day 8 Longyearbyen

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 7am.

07:15 Wakeup call.

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

08:30+ We will start disembarkation by gangway. There will be two buses to run everyone into the centre of Longyearbyen at 09:00 and 09:15 respectively.

All luggage with a blue tag needs to be placed in the luggage truck that will go directly to the airport ready for the afternoon flight.

For those guests staying in Longyearbyen please ensure your luggage is placed in the bus with you when you go to town.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Ortelius, 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.

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