



# North Spitsbergen

Basecamp – Kayaking – Hiking – Photo Workshop – Cleaning the Shores - Diving

on board

**m/v Ortelius**

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**



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 sails as a 108-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17.6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.80 m. She has an ice strength rating of UL1/1A, and a top speed of 12 knots powered by one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



# Captain Per Andersson

## and his international crew.

Including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	<b>Warren Villanueva</b>	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	<b>Archer Cultura</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Aleksandr Bondarev</b>	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Volodymyr 'Vova' Cherednychenko</b>	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Alfredo Bonifaz</b>	[Peru]
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	<b>Edward Nunag</b>	[Philippines]
Sous Chef:	<b>Norman Estrada</b>	[Philippines]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Jeff Hersch</b>	[U.S.A.]
Bosun:	<b>Neil Apawan</b>	[Philippines]
Bosun:	<b>Philip Malang</b>	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Claudio Ghiglione</b>	[Italy]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Christophe Gourad</b>	[France]
Dive Team Leader	<b>Henrik Enckell</b>	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Keechy Akkerman</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Koen Hoekemeijer</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Juan Berenstein</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide	<b>Aitana Forcen Vazquez</b>	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	<b>Slava Nikitin</b>	[Russia]
Expedition Guide	<b>Mikhail Barbanov</b>	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide	<b>Allan White</b>	[Falkland Islands]
Dive Guide	<b>Tanja Bayer</b>	[Germany]
Dive Guide	<b>Clara Lachetti</b>	[Argentina]
Dive Guide	<b>Gonzalo Sabattini</b>	[Argentina]
Kayak Guide	<b>Loel Collins</b>	[Wales]

**Welcome on board!**

## Day 1: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 1200: 78°14.6' N - 015°32.5' E

Wind: NW 4 Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: +6°C Sea Temp: +7°C

The day had finally come, it was time to board the good ship Ortelius for our expedition exploring North Spitsbergen! It was a calm, partly clouded day as we arrived at the port in Longyearbyen with still, glassy waters. Some of us had only arrived in Longyearbyen a few hours before, and now we were about to start our adventure onboard M/V Ortelius. 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 snap some shots of Ortelius while we made our way up the gangway. What a beautiful and impressive ship she is.



We were warmly welcomed by all the crew and staff who assisted us in finding our cabins. We had some time to explore the ship, get our bearings and grab a tea or coffee in the bar. Once everyone was on board it was time for the mandatory ship safety video and briefing presented by Expedition Leader Claudio and Chief Officer Romanas. We were provided 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. Following this, it was 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, retrieved our lifejackets, and found our muster station in the bar. We were then led to our lifeboats so we would know where to go in the event of a real emergency.

After the drill, we headed to the bar where Hotel Manager Vova and Expedition Leader Claudio gave a welcome briefing, explaining how life would be on the ship in 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! Soon after, it was time for our first evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection provided by Chef Heinz and his galley team, and 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! This would be key for our wet Zodiac landings!

After a long, but exciting day of travel for most of us, it was time for bed to get some much-needed rest before the first full day of our trip began in the morning.

## Day 2: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Smeerenburg & Raudfjorden

**GPS position at 1200: 79°43.8' N - 010°52.6' E**  
**Wind: N 4 Sea State: Calm rippled Weather: Overcast**  
**Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +5°C**

It was time for the first operations of the week! The day started with two mandatory briefings about AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators) and how to stay safe in the Zodiacs. While Claudio was explaining what the day's plan A was going to be, it had already changed to plan B due to a polar bear sighting on our landing site! So, instead of landing at the historical site of Smeerenburg, an old Dutch whaling settlement, we took a Zodiac cruise to get a glimpse of the bear.



While we were watching the bear sleeping on a snow patch, we suddenly saw another bear walking along the shore! After some time watching both two bears, the bear walking on shore walked further inland once again, and we took our leave. We proceeded around Smeerenburg to see the walruses. Luckily the water was quite calm close by, so we had a good opportunity to see the smelly blubbery boys. Not bad for the first operation: two polar bears, walruses, and some Arctic history!



Our initial plan for the afternoon was cancelled due to fog and strong winds. Beyond a certain windspeed we can no longer safely operate. In this case, a search begins to find alternatives.

While looking for a late afternoon activity site, Koen kicked off his Photo Workshop with a lecture on improving your wildlife photography. It was reassuring to discover the kind of budgets some

documentary makers and photographers work with in addition to being able to spend months out in the field waiting for that one special moment. Koen also reassured us that we had many expedition days left and that it is always possible to see something unique. So, fingers crossed for a little bit of luck.

Afterward, Claudio announced a late afternoon activity, a Zodiac cruise in Raudfjord. Raudfjord means “Red Fjord”, being named after the red-colored mountains surrounding the fjord.

In no time, we were Zodiac cruising around the fjord with beautiful glaciers calving into the fjord or terminating on land. We also saw fantastic birds; Kittiwakes, Brünnich’s and Black Guillemots, nesting Glaucous Gulls, Common Eider Ducks and even three King Eiders!

With the wind picking up and the fog setting in, we headed back to the ship to warm up again with another delicious dinner. What an incredible first day, with very typical Arctic conditions!

## **Day 3: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

### **Texas Bar & Monacobreen**

**GPS position at 1200: 79°31.3’ N - 012°24.5’ E**

**Wind: SW 5 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast**

**Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +7°C**

We woke up this morning in front of Monacobreen, a glacier named after Prince Albert the first of Monaco, who visited this region on oceanographic expeditions. The weather was cloudy, which only elevated the intensity of the blue hues coloring its vast bulk.

The glacier – impressive at 5 km wide - stretched out before us, neighbored by the almost equally impressive Seligerbreen.

After a quick breakfast, we embarked on our first full-length Zodiac cruise, edging closer to those vast columns of blue and white. We sailed among the ice, admiring icebergs, and listening in awe to the crackling of the escaping air bubbles from the melting ice all around us.



At some point, having photographed Kittiwakes resting on icebergs, we were graced by the arrival of several beluga whales close to the shoreline. Yellowish white in color, these canaries of the seas do not show too much of themselves, but their graceful and scarred backs could be seen emerging above the water line for a couple of seconds. Simply being in the presence of these animals, knowing they live in the landscape around us was cause for amazement for staff and passengers alike. After

a simply amazing morning, we returned to the ship cold but exhilarated and helped ourselves ravenously to the once-again delicious buffet.



In the afternoon, we undertook a landing and enjoyed some hiking at Texas Bar. This location, having no relation to either Texas or a bar, features a small trapper hut filled with (empty!) bottles of alcohol, in which one can start to understand the harsh life of Arctic hunters. The passengers were divided into different groups based on their fitness, hiking proficiency and determination. Texas bar is famed as being a great place to see many of the small vascular plant species that are found in Svalbard.

Indeed, plants such as Woolly Lousewort, Moss Campion, Purple Saxifrage and Mountain Avens carpeted the landscape with purple, yellow, and rose. These tiny plants are resilient, and are adapted for survival in this harsh environment. They utilize any opportunity given to them to the full!

Those in the longer hiking group ascended the first ridge and set off to get some distance between them and the ship. Their route took them all the way to the next valley where they had a beautiful view of Erikbreen, a truly majestic glacier. Small ridges can be seen as lines running through it, and some tiny blue lakes could even be seen on top. After a polar silence, the group returned to the landing site, to indulge in the polar plunge with everyone else.



Although conditions had been smooth for polar plunging at the beginning of the afternoon, right before the polar plunge a cold strong wind had suddenly picked up.

But this biting cold wind did not stop the determined polar plungers. Some didn't seem to feel the cold much at all, and instead just seemed to be walking into warm tropical waters. Others, however, had a truly cold experience! It was clear from the expressions on their faces that this water was truly cold! Hats (and other warm clothes) off to these brave souls!

Back on the ship, the polar plungers were in need of some warming up. Alas, the hot water from the showers at one point ran out and turned lukewarm.

Despite this overly refreshing end to our activities, it was another great day!

## Day 4: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Phippsøya & Parryøya

GPS position at 1200: 80°40.5' N - 020°54.4' E

Wind: Light Air Sea State: Calm rippled Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +5°C

Today was a remarkable day on our expedition cruise aboard the M/V Ortelius in the breathtaking Svalbard archipelago.

Our morning began with an amazing breakfast. The dining area buzzed with excitement as we fueled up for the day's adventures, enjoying the delicious array of food and the company of our fellow guests.

After breakfast, we boarded the Zodiacs and headed ashore to Phippsøya, an island in the northern reaches of Svalbard. The air was crisp and clear as we embarked on long hikes across the rugged terrain. Our adventure started next to a historic trapper's hut; a fascinating relic of the past nestled on the shore. As we headed onward, we were delighted to spot barnacle geese and arctic skuas, their presence adding to the serene beauty of the landscape around us.





Returning to the ship, we enjoyed a hearty lunch, sharing stories of our morning explorations. The camaraderie among the group was palpable as we reflected on the incredible sights we had all seen.

In the afternoon, after a cautious scout for polar bears on and around Parryøya, we ventured ashore for a perimeter landing. The area was teeming with natural beauty, from resilient flora to the striking permafrost features that dotted the ground.

A sober yet fascinating discovery was a polar bear carcass, with its teeth and claws still visible. This was a stark reminder of the harsh realities of life in the Arctic.



We also took part in a massive beach cleanup, collecting plastic and trash that had washed ashore. It was a rewarding effort, knowing we were helping to preserve the pristine environment of this remote region.

Back on the ship, we gathered for the daily recap. Expedition leader Claudio provided an overview of the days achievements and outlined the exciting plans for tomorrow. Dinner was yet

another highlight, with an exquisite meal that perfectly capped off our adventurous day.

## Day 5: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Ice Day

GPS position at 1200: 80°50.0' N - 015°06.6' E

Wind: SW 4 Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy

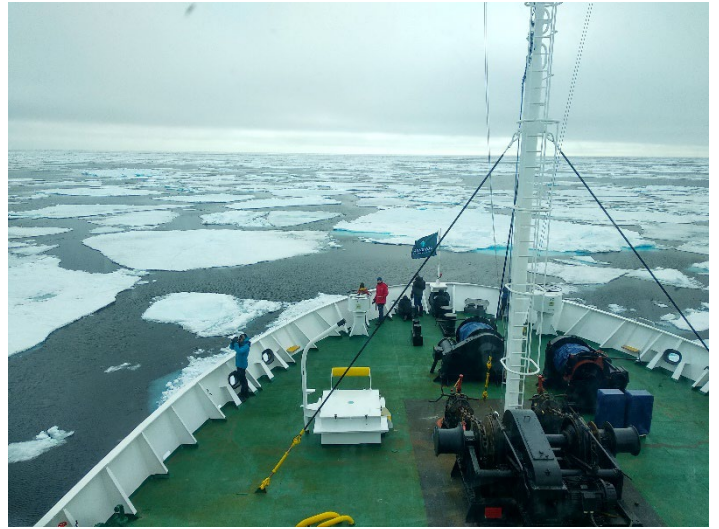
Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: 0°C



Good morning, Ortelius!

We had a special day ahead of us. Today, we planned to spend all of our time in the heart of the Arctic, in the pack ice, scanning for wildlife and enjoying the seemingly infinite ice flows that reach the North Pole.

After a daily wake-up call from expedition leader Claudio, the day started as usual with a delicious breakfast. Then it was time to venture out onto the outer decks and the bridge to enjoy the beauty of the Arctic and admire the wildlife of this polar region.



It was great seeing so many of us on the bridge helping the expedition team in their search for a polar bear. The visibility was excellent and with little to no wind, conditions outside were very good..



As always, the first to greet us in the morning were the birds of the Arctic: Northern fulmar, black-legged kittiwake, Brünnich's guillemot, black guillemot, Arctic skua and Atlantic puffin, but the main highlight, to the delight of bird lovers, was a chance meeting with an ivory gull.

We also saw harp popping their heads out of the water in curiosity of our presence in their vicinity.

Although it was still morning, the weather was too good to be true, so the hotel department treated us to hot

chocolate with rum and whipped cream. As the saying goes - it's always 5 O'clock somewhere on the planet!

At 15.00, expedition guide Koen gave a presentation about photography. Koen discussed the philosophy of photography and composition, but also about taking more time when you take a photo and about storytelling. It was an extremely interesting and useful lecture.

At 6.15 p.m., Claudio summed up the day, and we also learned about our plans for tomorrow.

After the recap, we had a great barbecue dinner outdoors with stunning views of the Arctic Ocean, where we were lucky to see a walrus floating on an ice floe. Towards the end, we found ourselves surrounded by blue, fin, and humpback whales, which was absolutely stunning. After a full day of scouting the ice, this was a well-deserved treat!

An amazing end to a great day.

Good night, Ortelius.



## **Day 6: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

### **Signehamna & Tinayrebukta**

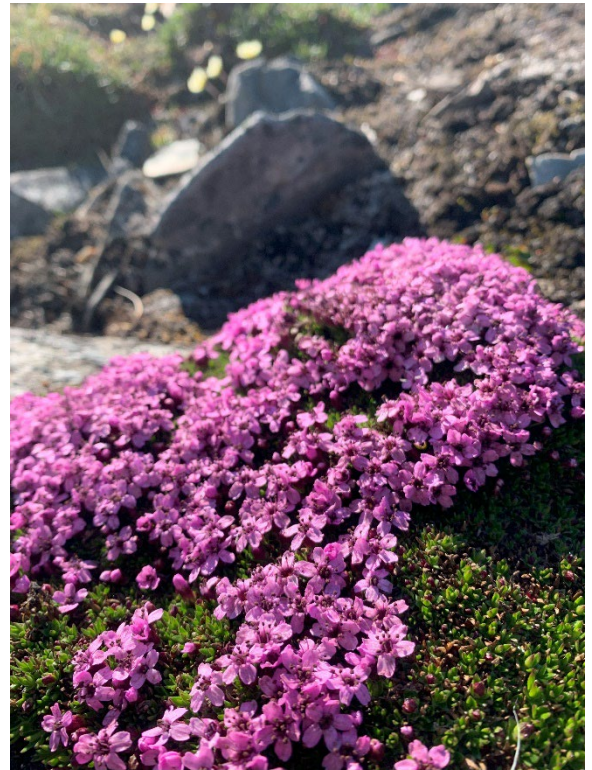
**GPS position at 1200: 79°16.2' N - 011°34.4' E**

**Wind: SW 5    Sea State: Calm rippled    Weather: Clear Sky**

**Air Temp: +10°C    Sea Temp: +7°C**

When we woke up this morning, we were not in the location we were initially planning to land. Instead, we woke up in Signehamna. Overnight the ship had made good progress which allowed us to have a full day of activities. The weather looked great, it was sunny and there was hardly any wind. Great conditions for a day out in Svalbard.

We landed in Signehamna bay, located at the west side of the fjord of Lilliehöökfjorden, where we visited the remains of a German weather station which had been established by Hans-Robert “Knöspe” Knoespel during World War II. Being able to control or predict weather was a strategically important aspect of warfare. After several German weather ships and airplanes were sunk or shot down, the Germans decided to build a land-based weather station in a more sheltered and hidden area to protect their location, and by doing so, gain a tactical advantage. Part of the weather station was automated, and the other part was manned. Six men were stationed in the station from mid-October 1941, with it being operational over winter also.



As usual the hiking groups were divided into two medium hikes and one short one that stayed closer to the beach. The medium hikes visited the remains of the weather station and then followed a route around a lake to look at several different bird species while enjoying the amazing landscape. The lake was still half frozen, and you could hear the ice singing in the wind. Aside from beautiful flowers and plants, as well as different bird species, we were treated with the sight of impressive reindeer as well. Together with exceptional weather, the morning was simply stunning.



We had worked up quite an appetite by this point, so when lunch was announced, we quickly made our way to the dining room. It was delicious as usual!

After lunch, we landed close to another beautiful glacier. Tinayrebreen is a hanging glacier that has a length of 10 km until it debouches into

Tinayrebukta. The weather in the morning had been beautiful, but in the afternoon, it was even better. No wind at all and an almost cloudless sky. No need for many layers, it almost felt like summer!

We landed at a beautiful beach where we were offered a long hike intended to cover some ground and reach significant heights. The medium hikers went in two different directions. One group went to a higher viewpoint, whereas the other walked onto the barren rocky grounds, towards a beach where at least nine harbor seals were sunbathing on the rocks. At first glance, the seals looked like bananas on the rocks. This is a position they only take when they feel safe and relaxed. This shape with their flippers in the air also helps them to keep their extremities dry when close to the water surface.



The landscape looked like a real Arctic desert with many small dunes comprised of debris from the glacier. But despite the 'empty' barren landscape, it is amazing to see how much vegetation still manages to grow here during the short summer period. Lots of flowers were in full bloom, coloring the tundra purple, yellow and orange from the lichen.

The guests that were looking to have a more relaxed afternoon experienced a Zodiac cruise in the fjord in conditions that was absolutely perfect.

We tried to maximize our time off the ship this afternoon, so that meant our daily recap was instead scheduled for after dinner. This was also the time to fire all kinds of ship- related questions to our captain. Initially there were few questions, but once the ice was broken (no pun intended), the captain was inundated with eager waving hands.

What a special day it has been!

## Day 7: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

### Gaffelbreen & Poolypinten

GPS position at 1200: 78°31.0' N - 012°52.3' E

Wind: SSE 4 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +8°C

Good morning, once more!

Time flies when you're having fun, and unfortunately, today would be our last activity day. But, not for the first time this expedition, our plans had changed. Instead of visiting the beautiful location of Poolypinten, we had decided to maximize our time by instead visiting Gaffelbreen first and then spending the afternoon viewing walrus.

Gaffelbreen is a much shorter ship transfer, and this enabled us to spend more time at this glacier.



The expedition team had tentatively *promised* we would be able to touch a glacier and they kept their word! It was a beautiful, relaxed morning where we could walk from guide to guide at our own pacing, which also made for a nice change!

At the higher viewpoints we could see the entirety of the glacier. Many of us took this moment to reflect upon the trip and the amazing places we had seen in the last seven days.



A fast Zodiac shuttle brought us back to the ship for an early lunch. In

the meantime, the ship had made its way to Poolypinten, and soon we could see huge walrus hauling themselves up onto the beach.

Poolypinten is a special place as the land consists mostly of sand. Currents and tidal changes have created this triangular shaped peninsula and contrary to, for example, our landings yesterday, the land underfoot here was quite soft and mushy. It is a large, stretched area and in the distance, we could see many reindeer. Closer to the beach, driftwood was scattered around. Trees can't grow in Svalbard, so where did this wood originate from? Well, surprisingly, this wood has made its way all the way from Siberia. The trees were cut in the Taiga and were then sent to the factories along rivers such as the Liv. These factories scoop up or catch the trunks, but they don't manage to catch them all. These trees end up in the ocean, and thanks to currents they wash up ashore in places such as Svalbard. It is estimated that this journey can sometimes take three years! Some of the wood we saw is likely to have been dozens, if not hundreds of years old.



The walrus were home today, and it was lovely seeing them all lying together. Some seemed to be in a deep sleep whereas others were trying to find a relaxed sleeping position. The walrus is the second largest seal species after the elephant seal, and males can reach a maximum weight of

approximately 1500kg.

We spent significant time with the walrus before we slowly headed back to the landing site. We covered some ground directly behind the beach where we could see various flower and plant species, but we also saw different bird species such as the beautiful Arctic skua, Arctic Tern and snow buntings.

Our last day had been full of action, and it was the perfect ending to our time in Svalbard. During the expedition recap, our captain spoke some inspirational farewell words and Claudio summarized the route of our expedition. Then, it was time to enjoy a fantastic slide show. Guide Juan had been working late hours every day to make this beautiful and moving memory which we enjoyed very much. What a great gift to take home!

Time for our last 'gala' diner on board. To the surprise of nobody, dinner was exquisite, and before dessert was served, hotel manager Volodimir thanked his entire hotel crew.

Behind the scenes, all of the crew members work very hard to contribute to a successful trip, and they deserved our appreciation, thanks and applause!

There was just enough time for for one last after dinner drink and maybe some more photos.

See you tomorrow!

## Day 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 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. However, the memories we had made will 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 humor, 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: 830 nautical miles  
Furthest North: 80°51.144' N**



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

# North Spitsbergen

25.06 - 02.07, 2024



1. Longyearbyen
2. Smeerenburg
3. Ayerfjorden
4. Monacobreen
5. Texas Bar
6. Phippsøya
7. Parryøya
8. At Sea in pack ice
9. Signehamna
10. Tinayrebukta
11. Gaffelbreen
12. Poolepynten
13. Longyearbyen



English Name	Scientific Name	25 June	26 June	27 June	28 June	29 June	30 June	1 July
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			X			X	X
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			X			X	X
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>							
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				X			
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			X			X	
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>		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	X
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>							X
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							X
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			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	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>					X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		X	X	X		X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>							
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X	X		X	
English	Scientific Name	25 June	26 June	27 June	28 June	29 June	30 June	1 July
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>		X			X		X
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X	X			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>							
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>					X	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>					X	X	
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>					X	X	
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				
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X				X	
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>						X	

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# Claudio Ghiglione – Assistant Expedition Leader

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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.

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# Christophe Gouraud - Assistant Expedition Leader

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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.

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# Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader

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Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first persons to bring tourists diving in Antarctica

He has been diving for over 30 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions for more than 20 years and has supervised thousands of dives in polar waters. Henrik also works as a submersible pilot and surface officer.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and has previously lived and worked in Japan and India several years before becoming an expedition guide full time. He now lives in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters and his son.

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# Keechy Akkerman - Expedition Guide

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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!

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# Koen Hoekemeijer - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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# Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide

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Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina. He is embarking on his first Antarctic Expedition Cruise with Oceanwide Expeditions.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying outdoors and on the mountains. His hobbies are trekking, camping, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country

on holidays. Nowadays he enjoys discovering new landscapes around the end of the Andes chain with his friends.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in tourism for more than 5 years in Ushuaia and has amazing skills related to guest management, being a sociable and talkative person. He speaks natively Spanish, English and some German as he did an exchange back in 2014 after finishing high school.

Going to Antarctica has been a lifetime dream of his, as being born at the southernmost city in the world and the nearest city to the white continent really set the path for the years to come. He plans on starting a Polar career learning from every aspect, from wildlife to history, and someday become an Expedition expert.



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# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez - ExpeditionGuide

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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.

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# Slava Nikitin – Expedition guide

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Slava was born in Russian town Sergiev-Posad (Moscow region).

Studied in Moscow University of sport: Teacher of physical education, swimming teacher, rehabilitation, management of sport. Started to travel in school years and still looking to expand the geography of his trips. Slava's travel credo is to get closer to every new country, using the local transport or hitchhiking to find out more about local people, their culture and history. He threw down many shoes on backpacker's paths in Russia, Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South

America, Australia, Arctic and Antarctic.

For much of the last 15 years he was traveling around the World as a photographer, writer, guide and translator. During his travels he loves to do lots of activities such as trekking mountain (Mt Elbrus (5642m), Mt Everest base camp, Mt Annapurna base camp, Mt Cook base camp etc), white water rafting, kayaking, diving, surfing, snowboarding etc. Known as a photographer, travel-writer, guide and translator in Russia, he also made presentations and photo exhibitions at school and university. His mountaineering and lifeguard skills on the water and recent experience in a rescue operation are very useful for client's security in crevasse rescue team. In 2013 he got an opportunity to visit Antarctica on a sail boat for the first time and to dive (literally and mentally) in Antarctic waters. It was the starting point of his idea to work in the cruise industry in Antarctic and Arctic on board of the expedition ships. Afterwards he made another dream come true, he put his feet on the North Pole. At this moment, Slava spent 4 full seasons working in Polar regions (Arctic and Antarctic) on board of expedition ships as a guide and found a use for his long-time interest of sea kayaking and polar history. Slava also has presentations about: R. Amundsen, F. Nansen, R. Scott, E. Shackleton, R. Peary, F. Cook, F. Bellingshausen...

Slava is very happy to share his experience and positive vibe with people.

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# Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide

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

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

latitudes.

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

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

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

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# Allan White - Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Tanja Bayer - Dive Guide

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Tanja is at home in Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt / Main in Germany. She has been diving since 1990 and has more than 4200 dives. In Oberursel she is running her own Diving Center 'TaWo Diving' since 1996.

As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.

Her 'second' profession is being a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in Antarctica and since 2015 also in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

As a Dive Guide and Diving Expedition Leader she takes divers all around the world. Asked for her favourite dive sites, she mentions 'Planeau Bay' in Antarctica. Cold water diving is really something special and challenging.

You have to be experienced and always aware of hypothermia. But it is a great feeling to touch an iceberg or to see all this colorful animals surviving in this harsh regions.

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## Clara Iachetti – Dive Guide

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Clara is Argentinean, who is born in Buenos Aires. Since she was a child Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. In 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and a European M.Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. Since 2012 she has been working in the Austral Centre of Scientific Investigations (CADIV- CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra de Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful algal blooms, and nowadays as a researcher at CADIC. For the last 10 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending some time in the Shetland Islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

On top of her scientist career, she is a member of Beagle Secretos del Mar, a non-profit organisation that supports marine conservation in which she is responsible for the education program, lecturing and diving. Living in Ushuaia (and previously in Bariloche) has also led her passion towards mountaineering, mainly backcountry skiing and climbing.

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# Gonzalo Sabattini - Dive Guide

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Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic

Activities (FAAS\_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenty's Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top of diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

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# Loel Collins - Kayak Guide

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Loel comes from a small village in the mountains of Snowdonia National Park, North Wales in the UK. Over a forty-year career he has worked around the globe, in North and South America, Europe, Arctic Greenland and Canada, the middle and far East as a kayak and canoe guide and coach. In the winter you can find him telemark skiing and training other outdoor professionals in rescue and emergency care.

He has a background as a performance psychologist with a focus on performance in expedition and adventure. He lectures at The University of Edinburgh in Moray House, the School of Education and Sport where he teaches and researches in adventure sports coaching and leadership.

He has several first kayak descents of remote gorges to his name as well as many expeditions to wilderness areas, among them the highland rain forests of Papua New Guinea, the Himalaya in Northern Pakistan and Nepal, and the Arctic of Northern Canada and Greenland.



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## Jeff Hersh PhD, MD- Ships Doctor

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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, Basecamp

## Welcome on Board!

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> 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, Basecamp

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Day 2

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 **MANDATORY AECO, Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety Briefing** in the Lecture Room on Deck 3. Attendance will be checked.

10:30+/- We hope to disembark you by the gangway from Deck 4 to Smeerenburg.

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.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

15:00+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a landing at Fuglesongen.

19:00 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

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Monacobreen & Texas Bar (Zodiac cruising, Landing, Hiking, Kayak & Diving)**

07:15 Wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Claudio

07:30 Breakfast in the Restaurant on Deck 4

08:30

## Morning activities

08:45+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a **Zodiac cruise** in the front of the famous and iconic Monacobreen.

09:15+/- We invite **kayakers** to the gangway to join the activity.

12:00 Everybody back onboard

12:30 Lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4

13:30

## Afternoon activities

14:30+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway for a **landing & hiking** at Texas Bar.

15:00+/- We invite **kayakers & Divers** to the gangway to join the activity.

17:30 **Polar Plunge** ashore at the end of the activities!

18:00 Everybody back onboard

19:00 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Seven Islands (Landing, Hiking, Cleaning shores Kayak & Diving)**

07:15 Wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Claudio

07:30 Breakfast in the Restaurant on Deck 4

08:30

## Morning activities

09:00 +/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a **landing, hiking & cleaning shores** at Phippsoya.

09:15 +/- We invite **kayakers & divers** to the gangway to join their activities.

12:00 Everybody back onboard

12:30 Lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4

13:30

## Afternoon activities

14:45 +/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway for a **landing, hiking & cleaning shores** at Parryoya.

15:00 +/- We invite **kayakers & Divers** to the gangway to join their activities.

18:00 Everybody back onboard

19:00 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> 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

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Day 6 Poolepynten (Prins Karl Forland).**

- 07:45      Wake-up call.
- 08:00      Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.  
09:00
- 09:30      Please join **Misha** in the Bar deck 4 for a lecture: ***Marine mammals acoustics.***
- 11:00      Please join **Allan** in the Bar deck 4 for a lecture: ***Fridtjof Nansen's great Arctic drift (1893-96).***
- 12:30      Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.  
13:30
- 14:30+/-   We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a **landing** at Poolepynten.
- 18:15      Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00      Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

*"the 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

## UPDATE

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

### **Day 7 Gjertsenodden and Poolepynten.**

06:45 Wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Claudio

07:00 Breakfast in the Restaurant on Deck 4

08:00

#### Morning activities

08:15+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a **landing** at Gjertsenodden to visit a glacier front.

**11:45** Everybody back onboard

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

**12:00** A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

**13:00**

#### Afternoon activities

**13:45+/-** We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a **landing** at Poolepynten to visit a walrus haul-out.

17:00+/- Everybody back onboard

**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

Date: 2<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Longyearbyen Disembarkation

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room at 7:00 as we will need to shuttle it to the pier while you have breakfast.

07:00 Wakeup call.

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

08:30+ We will start disembarkation. There will be buses to run everyone into the centre of Longyearbyen around 09:00.

All luggage with a **blue** or **orange** tags need to be placed in the right luggage truck that will go to the airport.

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

For those guests joining us for the next voyage, you can either choose to stay on board or have the day in town, if you disembark, please ensure you are back to the jetty before 16:00 and 17:00.

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.