



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Around Spitsbergen in the realm of Polar Bear and Ice

3rd July – 12th July 2024

M/V Hondius



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

**Captain Artur Yakovlev
and his international crew**

Staff Captain:	Matei Mocanu	Romania
Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	Germany
2nd Officer:	Nino Cizmic	Croatian
3rd Officer:	Giovanni Simene	Philippines
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	Estonia
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	Poland
Head Chef:	Gauraw Bawa	United Kingdom
Ships Doctor:	Rebecca Boys	United Kingdom
Expedition Leader:	Marcel Paul	The Netherlands
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Jerry Bitao Zhao	China
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Hazel Pittwood	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Philip Konietzko	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	Germany
Expedition Guide:	William Kennedy	France
Expedition Guide:	Gabi Kolodko	Poland
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso	Italy
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	China
Expedition Guide:	Katlyn Taylor	United States
Expedition Guide:	Julian Robinson	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Sainz Herrera	Argentina
Expedition Guide:	Joshua Peck	Falkland Islands
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	Denmark
Expedition Guide:	Grant Hewett	South Africa
Expedition Guide:	Fran Housdon	South Africa
Expedition Guide:	Aitana Forcén-Vázquez	Spain
Kayak Leader:	Fran Pothecary	United Kingdom
Kayak Guide:	Kelly Pearson	United Kingdom
Translator	Ting Gu	China
Translator	Chloe Jiaqi Wang	China

Day 1 – Wednesday, 3rd July 2024

Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 16:00: 78°13.8'N 015°36.2'E

Wind: S-3, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 5°C, Sea Temp: 8°C

It was with great excitement that we all arrived in Longyearbyen for our trip of a lifetime around the Svalbard Archipelago onboard the *Hondius*.

Many of us had arrived earlier today from Oslo, but some of us had already been spending some quality time in the picturesque town of Longyearbyen. The largest of the settlements on the island of Spitsbergen, it is home to c.2000 people in the summer months and has all the modern amenities and attractions one could wish for.

With *Hondius* docked nearby to town, it was time in the mid-afternoon to be welcomed aboard by the staff and crew. We settled into our cabins for the journey and got a quick moment to explore the ship and were soon called up to the lounge for a mandatory safety briefing.



After a safety drill and a trip to view the lifeboats, we were again invited to the lounge for cocktails and a welcome from Captain Artur and Hotel Manager Albert, followed by introductions from the Expedition team, led by Marcel.

After all the new information was absorbed, and with new names to remember, it was time for a well-earned dinner. The galley team had cooked up a storm and we all enjoyed the variety of

choices on offer, especially the roasted vegetables and the banana crumble to finish.

As many of us had been travelling in today from far and wide, it was time after dinner to rest our heads and prepare for all the adventures ahead in the realm of polar bears and ice!

Day 2 – Thursday 4th July 2024

Location: Lillehöökfjorden (am) and Ny Alesund (pm)

GPS position at 12:00: 79°07.8'N 011°41.5'E

Wind: NNE-5, Sea State: Smooth, Weather: Clear sky, Air Temp: 14°C, Sea Temp: 7°C

This morning before breakfast, *Hondius* entered Lillehookbreen under sunny skies. The ship stopped in front of a stunning glacier while we enjoyed our morning meal. What a great first morning scene on board to wake up to in the Arctic!

After breakfast, we conducted the last of our mandatory briefings from the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and about Zodiac and polar bear safety. We were now almost ready for our first landing - the only thing missing was our boots, so we filed down to deck 3 to get fitted.

Now fully briefed and properly kitted-out, we headed off to lunch as the ship steamed to our afternoon destination: Ny-Ålesund.



Ny-Ålesund is now a research station used for a wide variety of projects. Some of these projects require the use of very sensitive equipment, so the ship and all guests are asked to turn off all Wi-Fi and Bluetooth functions to not interfere with their measurements.

We were able to freely roam the little town of Ny-Ålesund and take guided walks for those interested in the history of polar exploration in this area. In town, we enjoyed views of reindeer and a variety of birds. A few of us had the chance to watch researchers trapping arctic terns and taking samples from them. Unfortunately, the terns were quite sensitive after being sampled, so many of them defended their nests fiercely against innocent passersby. Even a reindeer was subject to an aerial attack as it grazed too closely to the nests.



For those that were looking for an opportunity for some souvenir shopping, the gift shop was open for a few hours. Also in town was the museum. This was a great visit for those looking to learn more about the coal mining and scientific history of the settlement. Many guests also took pictures at the yellow river station, and some were even lucky enough to get a stamp from the station staff.

After a lovely visit in town, it was time to head back to *Hondius* for dinner. There was also a screening of a film about the yellow river station in the evening for Mandarin speaking guests.

Day 3 – Friday 5th July 2024

Location: **Texas Bar (am)** and **Monacobreen (pm)**

GPS position at 12:00: 79°36.5'N 012°43.8'E

Wind: N-4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast/Rain, Air Temp: 2°C, Sea Temp: 9°C

Glassy water and misty conditions awaited us at the entrance of the Liefdefjorden on the way to our first and truly expedition type day.

On the bridge a group of early morning scouting pairs of eyes spotted a polar bear roaming around the small archipelago of the Andøyane. The bear was raiding goose nests in search of protein-rich eggs. Immediately Expedition Leader Marcel woke us up with the good news, and Captain Artur promptly steered the ship so that we could have a good view from the bow and the outer decks, although we were restricted to a fairly distant viewing due to the Andøyane being a protected area for birds. A Zodiac was dropped in the water with two guides to assure our safety in case the bear would have decided to swim towards Texas Bar, our landing site for morning.

Hondius continued sailing whilst breakfast was served and we eventually disembarked on the northwestern corner of the fjord. Liefdefjorden is a 30km-long fjord that branches out to the west-southwest of the Woodfjorden. Named after a XVII century Dutch barque, the Liefde “love”, it welcomed us with a beautiful mountainous and glaciated scenery. We hopped in the Zodiacs and were shuttled ashore near the vicinity of an old trapper’s hut baptized “Texas Bar”. Here we divided in groups and went on long, medium, and short hikes around the steep and rocky slopes of the bay.

Even though the day was quite gloomy, the terrain was dotted with colorful flowers: purple saxifrages, whitlowgrasses, mountain Avens and Svalbard poppies introduced us to the colorful world of the Arctic tundra. Erratic boulders and glacier moraines told us of the long-lasting history of glaciation of Svalbard and after rounding up the groups near the shoreline the classic Polar Plunge was performed.

A short repositioning for came for *Hondius* during lunch time, moving deeper into Liefdefjorden right in front the most impressive tidewater glacier of the area: Monacobreen. This massive 4,5km-wide by 22km-long river of ice flows down from the northern side of the Isachsenfonna ice field, calving into the fjord, resulting in a huge variety in types and colors of small to medium-sized icebergs. The expedition guides drove us around the bay on a magnificent Zodiac cruise for just over two hours, before the cold wind and light-snow forced us to retreat to the warmth of *Hondius*’ lounge. The scenery in the water was sublime, surrounded by brash, glimmering bergy bits, we observed Arctic terns, black legged kittiwakes and a few Arctic skuas, hovering about our heads, whilst thunderous calvings from the 50 to 60m-high front of Monacobreen warned us to keep a safe distance.



At the evening recap, Marco talked about information about glacier formation and dynamics in which we learned about the surging behavior of Monaco glacier, wrapped up by Simon’s fun facts about the Arctic

tern. Right after dinner, the 80° North was announced on the PA system and the sandy island of Moffen dotted with a numerous group of Walruses appeared on the horizon in the mist.

What a day full of activity and excitement in the northwestern corner of the Svalbard archipelago!

Regular Kayak Group 5th July

Today was our first opportunity to paddle. Texas Bar offers a great introduction as there are sheltered lagoons to launch our kayak from the Zodiac and practice a few strokes. It was pretty cold today, we were all advised to bring hats, gloves, spare fleeces etc., but we were pretty protected and only a few snowflakes fell later in the morning.

After learning to steer as a tandem and with plenty of advice about keeping together we turned out of Hornbaekpollen to follow up the coast a few hundred meters, surprising some pink footed geese and goslings. As we moved away, we enjoyed the



sight of the parent birds encouraging the youngsters to jump from the rocks onto the water. Then we turned to head northeast under bird cliffs where barnacle geese were nesting and landed on the beach at Texas Bar where most of the kayak team stopped to polar plunge while the kayaks were returned to the ship!

Day 4 – Saturday 6th July 2024

Location: **Phippsøya (am)** and **Parryøya (pm)**

GPS position at 12:00: 80°40.6'N 020°56.8'E

Wind: NE-1, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 3°C, Sea Temp: 4°C

We awoke early this morning excited for the day to come. After a hearty breakfast we started activities in Seven Islands – the northernmost part of the Svalbard archipelago, and the northernmost landmass in the world reachable by normal means, just 1024 kilometers south of the North Pole. In comparison, Robert Falcon Scott started his ill-fated Terra Nova Expedition 1374 km from the South Pole. Many of the islands are named after English explorers, most notably Captain Nelson.

Phippsøya, the largest of the seven islands, was the site of the morning's activities, with half the group landing on the island, whilst the other group took a Zodiac cruise around the east coast of the island.

Our guides secured a perimeter around the landing site for our safety. On the island, we found the northernmost hut of Svalbard and had the opportunity to stretch our legs and enjoy a beautiful walk. We saw Arctic skuas, kittiwakes and snow buntings. The groups on the Zodiac cruise encountered a minke whale and the first walruses of the day. Later the groups switched so that everybody could enjoy the magic of this place.

After lunch, we were excited to enjoy a Zodiac cruise next to Parryøya Island. The afternoon was amazing: blue sky, no wind, a splendid landscape. We reached a little islet with hundreds of walruses where we had the opportunity to see some calves nursing. We stayed in silence at a safe distance, embracing the noises, games, fights and cuddling moments between these gorgeous smelly animals. Moving up the coastline along the cliffs we found kittiwakes, little auks and guillemots flying above us. Smiles all round in our Zodiacs at the end of our amazing day!



At the daily recap, Marcel explained about the activities of the day and the next day. Hazel managed to get us fall in love of the Walruses, and Julian told us all about “Old Rocks of Svalbard”.

After a delicious buffet dinner, we stayed for hours in the lounge with the expedition team. It was such an incredible day that it was almost impossible to go to rest, we needed to share stories and pictures and played some games.

Regular Kayak Group 6th July

It's not often you can get the chance to kayak in the Seven Islands but today in Phippsoya we had calm weather and smooth seas – perfect to launch our kayaks at the furthest most point for kayaking on this voyage.

We hugged the coast of Isflakbukta wondering about the extensive amount of driftwood on the beaches – all perfectly processed pine and spruce logs come from Siberia by way of the northern currents. We passed the landing site and kept on going round the southwest headland in improving weather but unfortunately, we were stopped by walrus in the water and on the rocks. Walruses are unpredictable and defensive when threatened, especially when there are pups about – so we kept our distance. We turned back knowing we would be able to see them from the safety of a Zodiac in the afternoon.



Day 5 – Sunday 7th July 2024

Location: **Edge of Pack Ice near 81° N**

GPS position at 12:00: 80°55.8'N 015°14.4'E

Wind: NE-4, Sea State: Calm ice 6/10, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 1°C, Sea Temp: 4°C

Marcel's morning call announced we were about to enter the ice at the edge of the drifting pack ice. With excitement, and after a good breakfast, we started to make our way into the ice. The sounds of the ice getting crushed and pushed away by the bow of *Hondius* brought excitement to everyone onboard!

Our first sighting of the day was a walrus in a vast icy landscape. While we continued our way, we were accompanied by many Northern fulmars and black legged kittiwakes. During the morning, Hazel invited everyone to her lecture about polar bears. Right before lunch we got a very big surprise! We sighted five bowhead whales. Everyone on the vessel was grabbing their clothes and gear and rushed out on the decks to get a glimpse of this rare marine mammal with an estimated population of just 200-300 living between Greenland and Franz-Josef land. During that magnificent sighting we were as well surprised by two Atlantic puffins flying around the ship for a bit.



In the afternoon, everyone was out again on the bow, the decks, or the bridge to spot more wildlife. The wind picked-up and fog patches made the search for wildlife challenging. In the early afternoon it was time for Marco's lecture, which couldn't fit better for the day, about sea ice formation and dynamics. Later in the afternoon, Will held his lecture about the epic history of Arctic expeditions in the 19th century which Rose simultaneously held in Mandarin for the benefit of Mandarin speaking guests.

In the evening, Marcel summarized our adventure in the ice and told us the plan for the upcoming day. After, Katlyn shared information about bowhead whales and many questions from the questions box got answered. After dinner we slowly started to make our way towards Alkefjellet in Storfjorden.

Day 6 – Monday 8th July 2024

Location: **Alkefjellet and Glydénøyane**

GPS position at 12:00: 79°41.9'N 019°46.0'E

Wind: SSE-5, Sea State: Smooth, Weather: Cloudy, Air Temp: 3°C, Sea Temp: 5°C

An early wake-up call, this morning we arrived early at Alkefjellet or the Auk Mountain. After a delicious breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs and headed off towards the cliff.

We started at the waterfalls where we could meet the first few pairs of Brunnich's guillemots of the nearly 60,000 that breed here. The weather turned out to be not so bad, and with the wind in our backs and the sun breaking through the clouds we enjoyed the wonderful scenery that opened up before us. We saw thousands of guillemots flying around the cliffs which were covered with nesting birds. We were told not to open our mouths in awe when looking up, to prevent the special guillemot delivery to be ingested. Suddenly we saw something on the move along



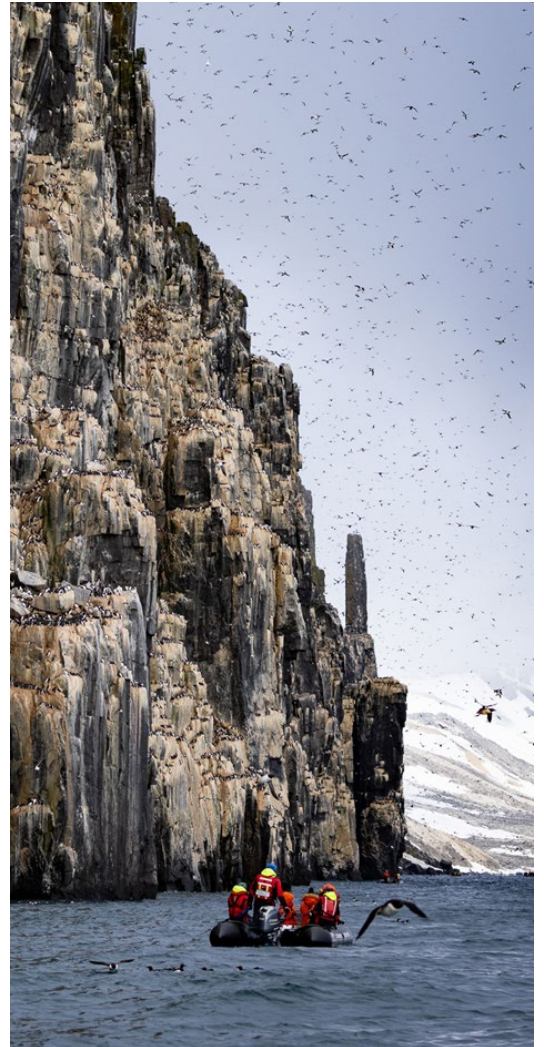
the cliffs: a fox was proudly running about with his freshly caught guillemot prey in his mouth. While enjoying a spectacular view of the glacier at the north side of the cliffs our drivers noticed the winds were picking up and decided to return to the ship. This was a very splashy drive in as the waves came in perpendicular to our Zodiacs.

When all were safe onboard, *Hondius* took off for another surprise the expedition team had in store for us. Another vessel from Oceanwide, *Plancius*, had spotted bears on an island in the



Hinlopen strait. We managed to spot all four bears in total. A mother with her cub and one male bear were moving around the island. Unfortunately the wind was unbearable (no pun intended!) so we could not lower Zodiacs to get closer. The captain manoeuvred *Hondius* in such a way we could get as close as possible. In between looking at bears we had a wonderful lunch and in the afternoon we still got plenty of time to watch the bears.

In the afternoon Simon gave a lecture about Auks and we learned a lot about these flying penguins of the North. After a wonderful dinner we sailed past the ice cliffs of Brasvelbreen, which unfortunately today were encased by fog.



Day 7 – Tuesday 9th July 2024

Location: **Kapp Waldberg and Kapp Lee**

GPS position at 12:00: 78°14.9'N 021°56.4'E

Wind: SSW-4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 3°C

After our day in the sea ice, we headed back south to concentrate our efforts around the narrow channel between Edgeoya and Barentsoya called Freemansundet; as we rounded the corner and approached our first stop of Kapp Walberg we could see the remnants of the sea ice that blocked the passage just last week and continued scouting didn't produce any dangerous wildlife that would have prevented us landing.



Once ashore for our split landing it was a fine morning with light winds and high cloud, and we all made our way up to the centerpiece of this site. A pair of fantastic, narrow gullies leading up to the ridge above the plain which, due to their structure and steep sides have made a perfect location for a wonderful kittiwake colony.

Once in the canyon it was like entering a different world with all the outside sights and sounds disappearing, leaving you with just the cacophony of a busy seabird colony getting in your head until it's all you can see and hear – a truly immersive experience!

Naturally, where you have this high concentration of birds, it produces a magnet effect for predators, in this case attracting numerous Arctic foxes. They certainly entertained during the first half of the landing, running around, in amongst the passengers as they searched for an inattentive kittiwake to pounce upon.



The tide was racing through Freemansundet as we returned to the ship producing an impressive torrent of ice chunks zooming along the shore, creating a videogame-like ride back to *Hondius*, the drivers expertly dodging between the fleet of mini-icebergs. A short transit down the straight and we were nearing our next destination of Kapp Lee. Following a tip-off, combined with some intensive scouting from the bridge, the staff located a polar bear walking along the shore near our planned landing site so inevitably the afternoon schedule had to be altered. It did though, present a different, some might say more exciting opportunity, so we prepared to go and Zodiac cruise near the polar bear.

We were soon aboard the boats and after a bit of a trek we were soon level with the bear as it wandered unconcerned along the shore. It gave everyone brilliant views as we zig-zagged in front of it at a respectful distance but after a while it seemed to discover some kind of carcass on the beach, so we backed off and left it to feed in peace. The ride back to the ship was far from uneventful with a curious bearded Seal providing welcome distraction before a detour to our Plan-a landing site for a quick look at a small group of hauled-out walrus in front of the huts as several others frolicked about in the shallows.

A fine, wildlife packed day, from immense seabird colonies and sneaky foxes to some icons of the Arctic – another day in paradise!

Regular Kayak Group 9th July

After two days of sub optimal weather, we saw a brief window of opportunity to put our kayaks on the water in the afternoon at Kapp Lee. In the end it was indeed a brief opportunity as the wind picked up into a fresh south easterly soon after we launched the kayaks. So, we experienced what it is like to paddle into a stiff 15-17 kt wind before turning around and enjoying the wind on our backs. Unfortunately, though a lot more agreeable, and fun, this was also short lived as the wind and current conspired to take us right back to our morning landing site at Kapp Waldburg, the opposite direction to where *Hondius* was anchored! We collected back up at the Zodiac and endured a long slow drive back to the ship, However, though fingers and toes were cold, spirits were high, and we all agreed it had been a 'valuable learning experience'!

Day 8 – Wednesday 10th July 2024

Location: **Bergerbukta and Gnålodden**

GPS position at 12:00: 77°02.6'N 015°56.8'E

Wind: Variable 1, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Part Cloudy, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 4°C

The day started with a wake-up call in Hornsund. Hornsund is the most southerly fjord in Spitsbergen and one of the most spectacular in terms of scenery. It was known to the whalers of the 17th century for a long time and one of them, the Englishman Johnas Poole, named it Hornsund "They brought a piece of a Deer horn aboard, therefore I called this sound Horne Sound". In the Bay Gåshamna was for a short period of time in the 17th century also an English whaling station.

During breakfast, we anchored off the two bays Austre and Vestre Burgerbukta. The weather was kind to us today - no wind and the sun shining - so we can really enjoy our Zodiac cruise. We cruise slowly into the approximately 6 km long Vestre Burgerbukta and soon see on the map that we have long since entered the glacier. Like all the glaciers in Spitsbergen, the Paierbreen is retreating so much that the cartographers can hardly keep up.

The names in this part of the Hornsund were given by the Austrian Count Wilczek, who financed a support expedition for the Austro-Hungarian North Polar Expedition in 1872 and did not miss the opportunity to lead it himself. He was on his way to Novaya Zemlya to set up a depot there. On the way there he stopped in Hornsund and mapped it and gave it many of its names.



Although the Austro-Hungarian North Polar Expedition did not reach the North Pole, it did discover Franz Josef Land and became known as the Payer-Weyprecht Expedition, named after its two expedition leaders.

As we drove further into Burger Bay, we can hardly get enough of the steeply rising walls of carbonate rock in which we keep discovering small kittiwake colonies. In front of the glacier front, our Expedition Leader Marcel and his team served us hot chai latte. Some of us spotted a small herd of beluga whales at the entrance to the bay, while other Zodiacs spend a long time among the numerous small icebergs stranded on and in front of the almost black beach.

After lunch, we land at Gnålodden. Gnålodden is Norwegian and means something like the eternally humming mountain. And as soon as we land here, we realized that the mountain lives up to its name. Thousands of seabirds, mostly kittiwakes and Brunnich's guillemots, breed in the cliffs. Down in the lush green tundra stands a small trapper's hut. It is one of the auxiliary huts to the hut in Hyttevika and was used to extend the trappers' territory. The Arctic fox was hunted, especially in winter, as the white fur was the most sought-after and expensive. The fox traps were spread over a large area, and it was rarely possible to reach the furthest trap in one day. The trappers therefore made use of small auxiliary huts where they spent the night or, in bad weather and storms, sometimes several nights or weeks.

The hut at Gnålodden was also used for several years by one of Spitsbergen's most prominent female trappers. Wanny Wolstad was one of the first women to work as a trapper on Spitsbergen. Together with her husband, she spent six winters in Hornsund. Two of them were spent with her children, who were at an age when they should have been at school rather than hunting polar bears. Tragically, Wanny died in a traffic accident in Tromsø in 1959. But her story lives on and is vividly told by Will at the hut at Gnålodden. Otherwise, our guides have secured an area in which half of us could move freely while the others listen to a lecture about the geology of Svalbard given by Julian.

Finally, the day was wrapped up by Albert call for a fantastic barbecue. With little wind, small icebergs and ice floes floating on the glassy water we fully enjoyed this great surprise and while *Hondius* was making her way west out from Hornsund a considerable group of dancers continued the party on Deck 5 till it was time to go to sleep.

Regular Kayak Group 10th July

Today was widely regarded as the best day so far. The sun shone, the winds were in our favor and there was a light swell that added interest to our paddling. Burgerbukta is always beautiful – two branches of the fjord, both headed by glaciers and hemmed in by steep, folded rock walls. Quite a change to the tundra and flat-topped hills of the east side of Svalbard! We ended the trip in a small cove in Vibebukta, where a small patch of old sea ice remained, and a lagoon had been created in front of the glacier. Sheltered from the breeze here we disembarked our kayaks and enjoyed a quiet ride back to the ship, drinking-in the views for the last time.

Day 9 – Thursday 11th July 2024

Location: **Bamsebu and Recherchebreen**

GPS position at 12:00: 77°33.9'N 015°02.9'E

Wind: Variable-0, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast/Rain, Air Temp: 7°C, Sea Temp: 7°C

After a little bit of a lie-in after last night's BBQ party we enjoyed yet another fabulous breakfast. We were waiting for a landing at Bamsebu when we heard it was delayed - Simon had spotted something from miles away and Marcel had to send out scout Zodiacs to check it out - It was a polar bear walking on the beach straight towards the landing site.

With changed plans, we all went in the Zodiacs to see if we could get a good look at the bear. The cruise was



amazing, we got a very good view, and the bear was slowly strolling over the beach towards the cabins. Every now and then he disappeared behind the moraine, but always reappeared. At a certain moment an Arctic fox appeared right in front of our Zodiacs and started to feed on some bird carcasses. A grey phalarope, a very rare sighting in Svalbard, landed on the beach in front of us next to the fox. After all this Zodiac cruise turned out to be a wildlife bonanza!

After lunch we sailed first towards Ingeborgfjellet on the northern coast of the Bellsund. The wind had picked up dramatically and was too much to operate our Zodiacs safely and this landing was unfortunately cancelled. The Captain made a sharp turn and sailed straight back to the southern side of Bellsund towards Recherche fjord to find a more sheltered spot at Recherchebreen (Recherche-Glacier) where we were offered our last event of this expedition: an amazing Zodiac cruise near the abandoned end moraine and inside the lagoon in front of the glacier. In the evening we had a toast with our captain to a successful voyage and later that evening during dinner all hotel departments presented themselves and got a warm applause. It was time for one last drink in *Hondius'* bar which were served, as always, by Rolando and Mark with a smile.

Day 10 – Friday 12th July 2024

Disembarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 08:00: 78°14.6'N 015°32.5'E

Wind: W-1, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 9°C

Slowly but steadily, *Hondius* made her way into Svalbard's largest fjord, Isfjord and pulled alongside the quay. Sadly, time had come to conclude our amazing trip around this remote Arctic archipelago. We had a fantastic week in the frigid waters of the Arctic and the barren tundra of Svalbard, with some amazing wildlife encounters, hikes, Zodiac cruises along the fjords and around the glaciers and navigation through the sea ice. Most importantly, we found new friends with whom to share future travels and memories. Once alongside Longyearbyen's coal jetty, we walked down the gangway, waved, shook hands and hugged with the expedition team, before starting our way home.

NORTHERN MOST POSITION: 80° 55.9'N 15° 15.5'E

Goodbye and thank you from the Expedition Team



Around Spitsbergen in the realm of Polar Bear and Ice

3rd July – 12th July 2024

M/V Hondius

- 1. Lilliehookbreen (Ship Cruise)
- 2. Ny- Alesund
- 3. Texas Bar
- 4. Monaccobreen (Zodiac Cruise)
- 5. Seven Islands – Phippsøya
- 6. Seven Islands - Parryoya (Zodiac Cruise)
- 7. Alkefjellet (Zodiac Cruise)
- 8. Kapp Waldberg
- 9. Kapp Lee (Zodiac Cruise)
- 10. Burgerbukta(Zodiac Cruise)
- 11. Gnalodden
- 12. Bamsebu (Zodiac Cruise)
- 13. Recherchefjorden(Zodiac Cruise)



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternläufer	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B		X	X							
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Bastardpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	T										
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrynchos</i>	Kurzschneibeltgans	Gie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B							X	X	X	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B		X	X	X				X	X	X
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rogtans	B										
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eiderend	B	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachtneiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B							X			
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Hareide boréale	Ijsend	B		X								
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	BT										
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschnepfuhuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuhoen	B										
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenfleifer	Grand Gravelot	Bonbekplevier	B		X								X
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenfleifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B										
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B										
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B		X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Knoelstrandloper	B										
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B										
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepiere à collier	Steenloper	B										
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorsühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B										X
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot	B										
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraumböwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T					X					
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraumböwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B										
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B			X							
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaarmeeuw	B										
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse	Kokmeeuw	V										
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoideus</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T										
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argente	Zilvermeeuw	V										
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Herringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V										
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Hansemöwe	Goéland noir	Grote mantelmeeuw	B										
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosennöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T										
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinnöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoorneeuw	B					X		X	X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottelunne	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet	B										
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnäbelunne	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbezekoet	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Chelidon grylle</i>	Gylflesse	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alca alle</i>	Krabbenläufer	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageiläucher	Macaroux moine	Papegaaiduiker	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgorz	B	X	X	X	X				X	X	X

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B			X	X						
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Beardrob	B							X			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B					X					
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T					X					
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts	V										
Common / Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	B		X						X		
Mink Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergrivinis	T	X	X								
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse rivinis	V				X	X					
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe rivinis	T										
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone rivinis	T										
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T										
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Gronlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T					X					
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Potwal	Cachalot	Potvis	V										
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narwal	Narwal	V										
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Eitenwal (Döging)	Hyperoodon arctique	Bultskop	V										
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Orka	V										
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn	V										
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloege	B								X		
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	ijsebeer	B			X				X	X	X	
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B							X	X	X	
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	B		X	X				X	X	X	X

Marcel Paul - Expedition Leader



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

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

With his interest in history, ice, cartography, exploration, and as a keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that was keeping him indoors most of the time.

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

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

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

Jerry Zhao – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Hazel Pittwood -Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Philipp Konietzko – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Sven Joest – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Gabi Kolodko - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Simon Davies - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marco Rosso - Expedition Guide



Marco was born in the country of Pasta & Pizza. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city in Italy, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

After a few years working in the industry, he decided to embark himself on a quest. For two years he carried his tent and camping equipment; backpacking from the steamy jungle of Mexico and Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Peruvian Andes and the dry highlands of Bolivia. Rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfy his innate curiosity, thus self-teaching Earth Science natural processes such as geological volcanism, sea ice and glaciers formation and dynamics, wind patterns and oceanic currents.

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

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

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

During her spare time, she has continued to develop her passion for traveling, and has visited more than 47 countries and looks forward to visiting many others in the near future.

Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Julian Robinson – Expedition Guide



Originally from the SE of England, Julian has lived in Aberdeen, Scotland, since 2000.

He is a geologist and since studying geology for a BSc at Durham University and researching Structural geology at for a PhD at Cardiff University, Julian went on to have a successful career in oil and gas exploration and development. He worked on a variety of projects with exposure to many different geological settings across the world. At his current stage of life, he saw a great opportunity to combine geology with his lifelong passion for the outdoors and

began guiding with Oceanwide in 2024.

He is at home in the mountains of Scotland and enjoys several pursuits such as hiking, orienteering, climbing, biking and ski touring, although it is paragliding that he is most passionate about: he has visited many parts of the world seeking out some of the most interesting places to fly such as the Karakoram of Pakistan. It is, however, the rare crisp days soaring above the Scottish Highlands that he enjoys more than anywhere else. He also flies competitions and has represented his country several times in World and European championships.

Valeria Sainz Herrera- Expedition Guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentinian photographer with almost seven years of business background. She grew up in Buenos Aires, which is the capital of Argentina, a beautiful place with a lot of culture and interesting things to do. Throughout the years she founds that one of her biggest passions is to travel. So, travelling as much as she could, she found in photography a profession that defines her in so many ways and gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations around the world.

Nowadays she spends her life between Argentina and Brazil; working during the summer season as a Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island named Ilhabela in Brazil, working in the tourism area or in Ushuaia (Argentina) as a photographer at the Ski Center.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or trekking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like diving, kayaking and sailing.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream for her, and now are part of her life.

Joshua Peck – Expedition Guide



A native Falkland Islander, Josh has always been fascinated by the natural world and exploring new destinations.

Growing up in the wildlife haven of the Falklands - with the polar regions on his doorstep - Josh has spent most of his life living alongside penguins, seals and whales, most recently in South Georgia where he was based for 4 months working for the Government of South Georgia.

Josh loves living and working in remote locations and on isolated islands, especially in his homeland of the Falklands, where he has been involved in conservation projects since an early age. Josh has also travelled and worked extensively around the world from the USA and Canada to Iceland, Zambia, Australia and Poland.

Following on from obtaining degrees in History and Politics in Bristol and London in the United Kingdom, Josh returned home to the Falkland Islands to pursue his passion for wildlife and wild places, co-founding a local tour company with two childhood friends in 2016. Focussing on nature and historical tours, Josh worked for the following four seasons guiding and sharing his love of his home with the many guests that visited.

An avid photographer and an international footballer for his home country (soccer), he is always looking for new experiences and places to visit to broaden his horizons, and is looking forward to more adventures with Oceanwide Expeditions this season.

Tom van Hoof - Expedition Guide



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

During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO₂ on climate change during the past millennium.

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

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

Deutsch

Tom hat sich in die Arktis verliebt als er 2001 einen Master-Kurs für Studenten der Klimatologie am Universitätszentrum von Svalbard besuchte. Während seiner Doktorantenzeit an der Universität Utrecht hat er einige Sedimentkernbohrungen in Seen Skandinaviens und der USA organisiert und durchgeführt. Während seiner Promotion veröffentlichte er eine Reihe von wissenschaftlichen Artikeln über die Rolle von CO₂ in Zusammenhang mit dem Klimawandel des letzten Jahrhunderts.

Nach einem Jahr in Tucson, Arizona (USA), wo er nach seiner Promotion als wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter an der Universität von Arizona tätig war, kehrte Tom in die Arktis zurück, wo er 2005 begann für den holländischen Geologischen Dienst zu arbeiten. Als Paläontologe (Fossilienliebhaber) kam er für eine Reihe von Expeditionen nach Spitzbergen zurück, um Gestein zu sammeln und andere Geologen zu führen.

Toms akademisches Hintergrundwissen Geologie und Paläoklimatologie ist breit angelegt und reicht von Klimaveränderungen in den letzten 1000 Jahren bis zur Ökologie Kohle bildender Sumpfsysteme vor 300 Millionen Jahren. Er ist gerne draußen unterwegs, besonders in der arktischen Wildnis. 2018 hat Tom den Holländischen Geologischen Dienst verlassen und sein eigenes Unternehmen im Bereich Geologie gegründet.

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



Born on a farm in central Denmark, later working as an air traffic controller in Copenhagen for many years, now living near the coastline on the countryside south of the capital.

A keen interest in wildlife has been a lifelong companion, and the majority of travelling through the years has been to all 7 continents, where animal life- and behaviour was the main focus.

Whether it was swimming with the orcas in northern Norway, dogsledding in Finland, experiencing the abundance of wildlife in southern Africa or enjoying the magnificence of landscapes and animal

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Jens is a sociable and talkative person, loving to share all the experiences with our guests – and his enthusiasm has made him guiding friends and colleagues on several occasions.

He also possesses a deep interest in the polar expeditions – both to the Arctic and Antarctic – made by the brave men a hundred years ago, exploring the last frontiers by ships, planes, airships and dogsleds.

When not travelling, spare time is used enjoying the massive migration of birds of prey near his home, mountain biking, trekking in the Scandinavian wilderness and flying gliders together with all the predatory birds.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream of being an expedition guide, Jens is looking forward to his first season in the Antarctic with passion and enthusiasm, sharing the magnificent experiences that await all on an expedition cruise.

Grant Hewitt – Expedition Guide



Grant is a South African waterman with a deep love for nature. Originally from a farm in Zimbabwe, he relocated to South Africa's East Coast at a young age. It was here that he developed a strong connection to the outdoors, particularly the sea.

Grant graduated with a degree in Geography and Photojournalism from Rhodes University. He then went on to complete his Honours Degree in Environmental Water Management where his passion grew for Earth System Processes.

Grant now works full-time in the Expedition Industry, combining his knowledge with his love for nature. Grant has been lucky enough to work in many regions throughout the world including Madagascar, Seychelles, Antarctica, South Georgia and various areas in the North Atlantic.

Grant is also a PADI-certified free diver, sea kayak guide and National Sea Rescue Institute survival swimming coach/ocean educator. When he is not on expeditions, he is usually found in the ocean somewhere around South Africa chasing swells to surf or paddling through unexplored rivers.

With a true passion for wildlife and the natural world, he loves sharing these experiences and moments with like-minded people.

Fran Housdon – Expedition Guide



Fran was born in Cape Town South Africa and raised by a family of sailors, writers, and outdoor enthusiasts. After completing her honours degree in journalism, Fran went on to work as an environmental journalist and all-around media person covering climate change, sustainability, and technology for organizations and non-profits across Australia, South Africa, and the US.

While working remotely, ran a surf camp & lodge on the south coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal and spent time exploring and surfing around Indonesia. Since then she has spent the past few years working as a guide, zodiac driver and lecturer on ships all over the globe, with a heavy focus on the Indian Ocean and the polar regions.

Outside of this, she is a kayaker, plant lover, PADI free-diver, very slow trail runner, and enthusiastic naturalist. She is passionate about all aspects of conservation and sustainability and hopes to spend the rest of her life writing, reading and preserving beautiful places.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez - ExpeditionGuide



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.

Fran Pothecary – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Ting - Expedition Guide/Translator



Ting Gu was born and raised in Shanghai, China. She had a strong foundation in the field of finance. After graduating from university with a degree in finance, she gained two years of valuable practical experience in the financial industry. However, her heart yearned for a future that was more expansive and unpredictable. Fueled by this desire, she embarked on a globe trotting adventure, embracing the unknown with open arms. With each journey, she discovered a profound sense of fulfillment and purpose in her role as a tour leader. She is also an experienced global tour leader and interpreter, guiding clients across continents and oceans, allowing them to

immerse themselves in diverse cultural landscapes.

She is trilingual, fluent in Chinese, English, and Spanish. Armed with academic achievements, linguistic proficiency, and cross-cultural insights, she embarked on a fulfilling career as an interpreter. In her profession, she leads diverse groups of clients from various cultural backgrounds, ensuring they have unique and memorable experiences. Outside of work, she is an avid enthusiast of skiing and scuba diving, embracing extreme sports and constantly progressing on her dream of learning to fly a plane.

She possesses a deep passion for ecology and sustainable tourism. Her commitment to the environment and conservation is evident in every aspect of her work and personal life. Beyond her role as a tour leader, she actively engages in environmental initiatives and participates in conservation projects. Whether it's volunteering for beach clean-ups, supporting kids in African tribes, or advocating for eco-friendly policies, she dedicates her time and efforts to protect the planet's delicate ecosystems. She demonstrates that small actions can collectively make a significant impact on preserving the planet for future generations.

Chloe Wang - Translator



Chloe, originally from China, has always had a profound passion for nature and its diverse living creatures. She earned a Master's degree in marine microbiology and biogeochemistry in Denmark, which allowed her to explore her fascination with the ocean's mysteries. Her interest in polar ecosystems and landscapes peaked during a three-month research project in Arctic biology in Svalbard university centre. Following this, she worked as a marine biologist or translator, guiding in polar regions.

Chloe hopes to use her scientific expertise and linguistic skills to bridge

the gap between complex scientific concepts and the broader public. She is dedicated to raising awareness and support for environmental and biodiversity conservation in our planet's fragile polar ecosystems.

Outside of her research and work, Chloe enjoys outdoor adventures, freediving, and photography.

来自中国的 Chloe 一直对大自然和各种生物怀有深厚的热情。她在丹麦攻读了海洋微生物学硕士学位，这让她有机会探索海洋的奥秘。在斯瓦尔巴大学中心进行的为期三个月的北极生物学研究项目，让她对极地生态系统和地貌的兴趣达到了顶峰。随后她选择在极地地区担任向导。

Chloe希望利用她的科学专业知识和语言技能，为来到极地的人们架起一座沟通的桥梁。她致力于提高人们对生物多样性和环境的认知，以保护我们星球脆弱的极地生态系统。

在研究和工作的同时，Chloe喜欢户外运动、自由潜水和摄影。



Dr Rebecca Boys - Doctor

Rebecca is a British doctor currently working in the Highlands of Scotland. She undertakes a mixture of work in Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine for the UK National Health Service, alongside her work as an expedition doctor.

On her days off, Rebecca greatly enjoys adventuring in the mountains of the Highlands of Scotland where she lives.

Occasionally she has been known to be tempted for a wild swim in the local lochs or the sea.

Being an aspiring mountaineer and climber, Rebecca is currently pursuing a diploma in mountain medicine; further enhancing her skills and knowledge in providing medical care in remote and high-altitude settings. Her love for the outdoors is complemented by her enthusiasm for wildlife photography and trying to capture the beauty of the natural world with each expedition.

Recently Rebecca worked as a doctor for British Antarctic Survey. During this time, she completed a summer season in South Georgia which is now one of her favourite places in the world. Just one memorable highlight was St Andrews Bay with its breath-taking glacial mountain landscape and enormous colony of half a million King Penguins. Her year at the British research station of Rothera further increased her love for exploring the polar regions. Experiencing the magic of an Antarctic winter was something she will never forget.

Rebecca eagerly anticipates volunteering as the ship's doctor for Oceanwide in the Arctic, drawing from her experience aboard the Royal Research Ship Sir David Attenborough. She looks forward to ensuring the health, safety, and adventurous spirit of all travellers to facilitate their own enjoyment of the wonders of the polar regions.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 03/07/2024

Day: 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

Welcome aboard! Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the bar located on Deck 5.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:15+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the **Restaurant on Deck 4** All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:30+/- We would like to invite you to **Captains Cocktails** in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and you will meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:30+/- The Expedition Team invites you to **Deck 3** the zodiac loading area to collect your Muck boots. You will be called by deck. Please bring your thick socks for the perfect fit and Please listen for the announcements.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 04/07/2024

Day 2: Lilliehookbreen & Ny-Alesund

07.45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00 Please join us for AECO, Bear safety, and Zodiac safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

Red group will be in the observation lounge at deck 5.

Blue group will be in the lecture room, both at deck 5.

11.30 The Expedition Team invites you to **Deck 3** the zodiac loading area to collect your Muck boots. Please bring your thick socks for the perfect fit and Please listen for the announcements as we will be calling you down deck by deck

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

14:00 We invite the **Red group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac landing at Ny-Ålesund. Followed straight after by the **Blue group** around 14.15 A map will be available at reception for you to take a photo of for orientation.

During our landing in Ny-Ålesund, you can roam freely on the roads within town. You are welcome to visit the shop and museum, but please remove your boots when visiting the shop. Please do not enter any other buildings without permission. Public toilets are available at the harbour office near the dock. Please turn off your Wi-fi and Bluetooth on your mobile phone so as not to interfere with scientific research equipment.

15:00 We invite the **Red group** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a 20 minute talk with a look at Amundsen's Mast.

15:30 We invite the **Blue group** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a 20 minute talk with a look at Amundsen's Mast.

18.00 Last zodiac will leave the shore.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for our daily recap.

19:15 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 04/07/2024

Day 2: Lilliehookbreen & Ny-Alesund

07.45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00 Please join us for AECO, Bear safety, and Zodiac safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

Red group will be in the observation lounge at deck 5.

Blue group will be in the lecture room, both at deck 5.

11.30 The Expedition Team invites you to **Deck 3** the zodiac loading area to collect your Muck boots. Please bring your thick socks for the perfect fit and Please listen for the announcements as we will be calling you down deck by deck

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

14:00 We invite the **Red group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac landing at Ny-Ålesund. Followed straight after by the **Blue group** around 14.15 A map will be available at reception for you to take a photo of for orientation.

During our landing in Ny-Ålesund, you can roam freely on the roads within town. You are welcome to visit the shop and museum, but please remove your boots when visiting the shop. Please do not enter any other buildings without permission. Public toilets are available at the harbour office near the dock. Please turn off your Wi-fi and Bluetooth on your mobile phone so as not to interfere with scientific research equipment.

15:00 We invite the **Red group** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a 20 minute talk with a look at Amundsen's Mast.

15:30 We invite the **Blue group** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a 20 minute talk with a look at Amundsen's Mast.

18.00 Last zodiac will leave the shore.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for our daily recap.

19:15 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 05/07/2024

Day 3: Texas Bar and Monacobreen Glacier

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:30+/- We invite the long hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a long hike at Texas Bar.

08:45+/- We invite the medium hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a medium hike at Texas Bar.

09:00+/- We invite the short hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a short hike at Texas Bar.

09:15+/- Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Texas Bar.

At the end of the morning, we hope to offer the opportunity for the brave ones to experience a polar plunge. Wear your swim clothing under your normal clothes. We bring the towels, do **NOT** bring towels from your room!

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

14:30+/- We invite the **Blue group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Monacobreen.

14:45+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Monacobreen.

15:00+/- Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Texas Bar.

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 06/07/2024

Day 4: The Seven Islands, Phippsøya & Parryøya Island

Today we hope to land and cruise the Seven Islands, the northernmost part of the Svalbard archipelago. The islands are the northernmost landmass reachable by normal means, being 1024.3 km (637 mi / 553 nm) south of the North Pole.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

09:00+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a Landing at Phippsøya.

09:15+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Phippsøya.

During the morning the groups will swap!

09:30+/- Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Phippsøya.

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

15:00+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Parryøya.

15:15+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Parryøya.

15:30 +/- Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Parryøya.

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

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



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 07/07/2024

Day 5: Ice day

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

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

10:00 As we are spending the day in the natural habitat of the polar bear we would like to invite you to the observation lounge for a lecture by Hazel about Polar Bears. This lecture will be given in English and translated in mandarin.

11.30 Please meet the expedition and hotel team at the bow to celebrate the most northern position of this trip.

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

15:00 We would like to invite you to the observation lounge for Marco's lecture titled "Introduction to sea ice formation and dynamics". This lecture will be given in English and translated in mandarin.

16:30 Will invites you to the Lecture Room for a lecture exploring the epic history of Arctic expeditions in the late 19th century.

16:30 Rose invites you to the Observation Lounge for a lecture in Mandarin exploring the epic history of Arctic expeditions in the late 19th century.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 08/07/2024

Day 6: Alkefjellet & Palanderbukta

This morning, we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet which translates literally to “mountain of the guillemots,”. Alkefjellet is a major bird cliff that is home to around 60,000 pairs of breeding Brünnich’s guillemots as well as a smaller number of glaucous gulls and kittiwake. It is also a good place to see Arctic Fox – if we are lucky!

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:00+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet.

08:15+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet.

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

14:00+/- We invite the long hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a long hike at Palanderbukta.

14:15+/- We invite the medium hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a medium hike at Palanderbukta.

14:30+/- We invite the short hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a short hike at Palanderbukta.

14:45+/- Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Palanderbukta.

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

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

After dinner we will be ship cruising the islands in the Hinlopenstretet looking for wildlife



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 09/07/2024

Day 7: Kapp Waldberg & Kapp Lee

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:00+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a landing at Kapp Waldburg

08:30 Rose invites the **Red Group** in the lecture room for her lecture on ocean pollution.

Both groups will swap during the morning

10.00+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Kapp Waldburg

11.00 Rose invites the **Blue Group** in the lecture room for her lecture on ocean pollution.

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

14:00+/- We invite the long hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a long hike at Kapp Lee.

14:15+/- We invite the medium hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a medium hike at Kapp Lee.

14:30+/- We invite the short hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a short hike at Kapp Lee.

14:45+/- Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Kapp Lee.

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 10/07/2024

Day 8: Burgerbukta & Gnalodden

Times below are the best estimates we have, please listen to announcements!

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 Can the first group of single kayakers please be ready at the aft shell door on deck three for a kayak adventure in Burgerbukta.
- 09:15 We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta.
- 09:30 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta.
- 09:45 Can the double kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for a kayak adventure in Burgerbukta.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:30 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Gnalodden.
- 14:45 Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck three for kayaking at Gnalodden.
- 15:00 Julian invites the **Blue Group** in the lecture room for a lecture on the Geology of Svalbard.

Both groups will swap during the afternoon!

- 16:00 We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a landing at Gnalodden.
- 16:30 Julian invites the **Red Group** in the lecture room for a lecture on the Geology of Svalbard. This lecture will be translated into Mandarin.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Please dress warm and join us on deck for a special Arctic dinner!



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 11/07/2024

Day 9: Fleur de Lyshamna & Ingeborgfjellet

Times below are the best estimates we have, please listen to announcements!

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00 We invite the long hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a long hike at Fleur de Lyshamna.

09:15 We invite the medium hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a medium hike at Fleur de Lyshamna.

09:30 We invite the short hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a short hike at Fleur de Lyshamna.

09:45 Can the kayakers please be ready at the front shell door on deck 3 for a kayaking adventure at Fleur de Lyshamna.

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

14:30 We invite the **Blue Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for our final landing at Ingeborgfjellet.

16:00 We invite the **Red Group** to Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for our final landing at Ingeborgfjellet.

18:00 We will be collecting your muck boots at the shell doors on deck 3. Please wait for announcements as we will call you deck by deck.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team and the captain in the bar for our final recap, the captains farewell cocktail, and the slideshow of this trip.

19:00 Farewell plated dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4.



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 12/07/2024

Day 10: Longyearbyen

07:15 Wake-up call. Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before going to breakfast, latest 07.30!

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

- *For all those with **flights SK4491** please use use **Light blue luggage tag**. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. First airport shuttle from town will be at 11:25 - Second airport shuttle from town will be 11.45*
- *For all those with **flights DY391** please use **Orange luggage tag**. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. Your airport shuttle from town will be at 17:45*

08:30+/- We invite all guests to disembark, please wait for announcement.

Identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport.

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