



# Around Spitzbergen – in the Realm of Polar Bears and Pack Ice

on board  
**m/v Ortelius**  
10 July 2024 – 19 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 is sailing as a 108-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17.6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 12 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



# Captain Per Andersson

and his international crew.

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>Jerry Olsson</b>	[Sweden]
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>Veronique Verhoeven</b>	[Netherlands]
Bosun:	<b>Neil Apawan</b>	[Philippines]
Bosun:	<b>Philip Malang</b>	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Claudio Ghiglione</b>	[Italy]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Charlotte Taplin</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Elizabeth Robinson</b>	[US]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Koen Hoekemeijer</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Juan Berenstein</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide	<b>Annelou Hulsker</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Slava Nikitin</b>	[Russia]
Expedition Guide	<b>Mikhail Barbanov</b>	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide	<b>Júliá 'Bee' Baldursdóttir</b>	[Iceland]
Kayak Guide	<b>Alexis Bellezze</b>	[Argentina]

**Welcome onboard!**

**Day 1: 10 July 2024**

# Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 1600: 78°14.6' N - 015°32.5' E

Wind: S7 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 9°C

Finally! The day had come, it was time for us to board our new home for on our upcoming expedition, *m/v Ortelius*! We arrived at the port in Longyearbyen to see calm, glassy waters. Some of us only had landed 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 take a few photos of *Ortelius* while we made our way up the gangway.



We were warmly welcomed by all the crew and staff who assisted us in finding our cabins. With some time left, we explored the ship to get our bearings, and were able to 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 given all the information we needed such as how to move safely around the ship, being made aware of things we could and could not do, and how to put on our emergency life jackets. Having learned this, it was then time for an abandon ship drill. So after hearing the seven short and one long blast of the ship's horn we went to our cabins, retrieved our lifejackets, and went to our muster station in the bar. Then we were led to our lifeboats so we would know where to go in case of a real emergency.

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

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



## Day 2: 11 July 2024

# Lilliehöökreen & Ny-Ålesund

GPS position at 08:00: 78°43.3' N - 009°28.8' E

Wind: S5 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 6°C

Good morning, *Ortelius*!

Today we started off first with our last mandatory briefings: the Zodiac briefing and the polar bear safety briefing. As we will use the Zodiacs daily, it is very important to get familiar with them. And



even more importantly, safety around polar bears! Meanwhile, the Captain moored *Ortelius* in front of Lilliehöökreen, a beautiful broad glacier front. We took the chance to test out our muck boots. We will use these every day, so it's important that they fit well.

After checking our muck boots, we went outside to view the beautiful blue icy glacier front. Lilliehöökreen was named after Gustaf Bertil Lilliehöök, a Swedish commander. During the morning, Claudio explained to us that if we wanted to be in time for Ny-Ålesund, a short transit was to be

made. So we left in time, ate lunch for the first time onboard, and then we arrived at Ny-Alesund at 14:00 approximately.

Ny-Ålesund is a permanent research town, with an all-year permanent population of approximately 30 to 35 people from 11 countries and several research institutes. In summer, this amount can be up to 180 people! The team shuttled us to the jetty where we got off and were able to roam freely around the town. We saw many researchers during the day, some of them fishing, while some returned from hikes and collecting field samples.

At Ny-Ålesund, we had the opportunity to visit the shop, the museum, and to take a small hike to the mast. The mast is located about 300 meters southeast of Longyearbyen, right in polar bear territory. The airship mast was built in 1926 during Roald Amundsen's North Pole expedition with the airship *Norge*. Originally, it was part of a hangar, and now it remains as one of the most important historical remains in Spitsbergen, an artefact of the many attempts and eventual success of reaching the geographic North Pole. In town, there is also a statue of this legendary polar explorer; the man who reached *both* the North Pole and the South Pole, and the first to navigate the Northwest passage: Roald Amundsen. Unfortunately, his ultimate fate is unknown – he disappeared on a rescue mission the airship *Italia*.



Our first day almost came to an end! Around 17:30, everybody went back to the ship. At 18:45, we had our recap from our first expedition day, our expedition leader Claudio briefed us about



the plans for tomorrow and that the weather was still unknown (due to the limitations of signal, because we were still close to Ny- Ålesund). Bee followed up with a small recap on how and why ships have different movements; this was particularly relevant as we had experienced significant movement (and some even seasickness) during the night and the evening before. Elisabeth concluded with a summary of all the different nationalities that were currently present at Ny- Ålesund, and the types of research that is currently being done. This was particularly interesting as most

of those nationalities are with us onboard!

At the end of our first expedition day, we went to dinner, and after, tired and content, to bed, ready for an early start tomorrow.

## Day 3: 12 July 2024

### Texas Bar & Monacobreen

GPS position at 09:00: 79°36.5.' N - 012°43.4.' E

Wind: SW5 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: 8°C



Good morning m/v *Ortelius* and welcome to Texas Bar! Yes, we were indeed at our next location and yes, Texas Bar is full of tasty liquors. However, drinking on an empty stomach is almost never a good idea so it was time to have breakfast first.

After breakfast, we went ashore to explore this beautiful area. It was a sunny calm day and our timing couldn't have been better. It was high summer and a wide variety of flowers and lichen were in full bloom. Purple saxifrage, moss campion, Svalbard poppy and polar willow, among others, dotted the grey rocks beautifully with splashes of color, and it was fascinating to see how such a variety of vegetation manages to survive and bloom in such a harsh climate and short summer season.



Today, it was time to stretch our legs a little. Some decided to join Misha for a long and intense hike, whereas others joined the more leisurely medium and short hikes. These shorter hikes offer more opportunity for photography, perfect for Texas Bar and its surroundings, which are really picturesque.

Texas Bar itself never had anything to do with either Texas or a bar. It was named randomly by a Norwegian trapper who clearly had a good sense of humor. The *bar* is still in use, and if you're a Svalbard resident you can book the bar and spend some nights there. In the winter it is also possible to travel by snow mobile from Longyearbyen to Texas Bar.

Although it really isn't a bar, visitors recently started leaving liquor behind for the next guests. So today the bar has a proper stock of liquor that a real bar would have too. Unfortunately for us, it was not allowed to have a nice drink. Perhaps it was also still a little early.

After our hikes, we shuttled per Zodiac back to the ship for a well-deserved lunch. In the afternoon a Zodiac cruise was planned. We would cruise in front of the famous Monacobreen glacier, named for the Prince of Monaco who gave it its name approximately 100 years ago when he visited the place on a *gentleman's expedition*. The glacier has a width of approximately 5km and as it is a fast-moving glacier, it often offers spectacular calving. Today we hit the jackpot. We witnesses one spectacular calving after another, and then some more! It was a fantastic afternoon and we couldn't be happier,

Tired, but awed, we returned to our beautiful ship for a recap and another delicious dinner!



Good night everyone!

## Day 4: 13 July 2024

### Oxfordhalvøya & Palanderbukta

GPS position at 08:00: 79°45.6' N - 021°33.5' E

Wind: SW2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Rain

Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 6°C

Good morning, *Ortelius*.

We have a special day ahead of us.

After a wake-up call from our expedition leader Claudio, the day continued with a delicious breakfast, after which we ventured onto the outer decks and up to the bridge to enjoy the beauty of the Arctic, as well as to admire the wildlife living in this diverse polar region.

As always, the first to greet us in the morning were birds: northern fulmar, black-legged kittiwake, Brunnich's guillemot, black guillemot, and Arctic skua.

Today our first destination was to land at Oxfordhalvøya.

Our plan was to perform a split landing and a Zodiac cruise. At the landing, we split into groups. Some of us went on a long hike, some on a medium hike, and some on a Zodiac cruise.



On land, we saw a lot of Arctic flowers, plentiful in this region of the Arctic, spotted a reindeer and watched an Arctic fox. It was very beautiful.

After the first landing, we went back to the ship for lunch to recharge our batteries and rest a little.

On the second landing, an even more incredible landscape of the polar desert called Palanderbukta was waiting for us. Just like in the morning, we were offered the opportunity to go on a long hike, medium, or short. On land, we saw nesting Arctic

Skua, many Arctic flowers, and plants such as Svalbard poppy, moss campion, polar willow, Arctic mouse-ear, northern campion, purple saxifrage, polar saxifrage and many others, also visible were phenomenal permafrost patterns, as well as many fossils. We heard a story from our expedition guides about the history, geology, and biology of this remote Arctic region. It was, overall, an incredible experience.

At 18.30, our Expedition Leader, Claudio, announced that after dinner, an incredible surprise awaited us - a Zodiac cruise along the famous bird cliff, Alkefjellet.

So, after dinner, we loaded into the Zodiacs and motored towards Alkefjellet. It was incredible! We saw over 60,000 breeding pairs

of Brunnich guillemots, black-legged kittiwake, glaucous gulls, and we spotted beautiful Arctic foxes again.



What an amazing end to a great day.

Good night, *Ortelius*. Tomorrow we will have another day full of new discoveries.

## Day 5: 14 July 2024

### Torellneset & Brasvellbreen

GPS position at 08:00: 79°21.2' N - 020°44.6' E

Wind: N1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 7°C

This morning, we awoke once more to Claudio's incredibly soothing voice, telling us of the day's weather and informing us of the coming plans.

After a sumptuous breakfast, the plan was to do a split landing and Zodiac cruise at Torellneset, a well-known walrus haul-out site. Immediately, the walrus could be spotted from the ship, and we disembarked the passengers. Half of them went ashore, and in a carefully controlled line, were able to admire the very active walrus herds, fighting over the best sleeping spot, some deciding that the most comfortable place for a cheeky rest would simply be on top of other walrus, a decision which led to some animosity.



The walrus on the beach were all male, while along the shoreside, you could see female groups with calves swimming by, looking with curiosity and slight distrust at the guests with their cameras and brightly colored jackets. After some time, the groups switched. On the Zodiacs, you followed the shoreline to gaze at the swimming walrus, to find some geese and to simply enjoy the silky-smooth water.

The second group found a fox following the shoreline, stopping every now and then to pick up some kelp to feast on, sniffing for anything interesting, then continuing on its way. This went on for quite some time, until our time was up and we had to return to the ship, content to have seen the best kind of walrus behavior, and having taken thousands of pictures of the king of the Arctic.



Having destroyed the buffet at lunchtime, weighing several kilograms more than previously, we cancelled the afternoon landing at Wahlbergoya, instead opting to spend the rest of the day following the glacial front of Brasvellbreen, the third biggest ice cap in the world, second only to Greenland in the northern hemisphere. About 160 nautical miles long, this huge ice mass stretches out far into the horizon. Waterfalls formed all along the glacier, with huge water masses simply flowing out of holes in the ice. Incredible hues of blue, with ice everywhere in the water

due to the frequent calvings, walrus lying on some of them, the weather and sights simply invited people to stay on deck, enjoy, have a cup of tea and try to take in the enormity of what they saw.

Pictures scarcely rend it justice, and for a bit of a change, Charlotte held her lecture on walrus, giving good insight into why the walrus is the most impressive animal of these icy waters.



In the evening, after a recap, the crew prepared a barbecue outside, with dancing that followed. In this totally surreal landscape, surrounded by ice, water and emptiness, the moment felt like an unrealistic novel, too kitschy, too daydreamy, and yet still real. Another very special day in this unrealistically beautiful place.

**Day 6: 15 July 2024**

**Storøya & Kvitøya**

**GPS position at 09:00: 80°09.0' N - 028°06.6' E**

**Wind: SW4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partially Cloudy**

**Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 5°C**



The sight was beautiful.

We quickly lowered all the Zodiacs and set out to observe this majestic creature. From our Zodiacs, we watched as the polar bear eventually woke up, walked along the beach, and curiously observed us from the shore. It was a lovely morning, highlighted by this incredible encounter with our first polar bear.

Returning to the ship, we enjoyed a great lunch onboard. The meal was filled with enthusiastic discussions about the morning's polar bear sighting, making for a delightful atmosphere among fellow passengers and crew.

Post-lunch, we set course for the stunning island of Kvitoya, located in the northeast of Svalbard. As we arrived, two Zodiacs were sent scouting as per routine. Once again, luck was with us, and we spotted another polar bear, although this one was farther inland.

We lowered the Zodiacs and embarked on a cruise to get a better view of the bear. While the polar bear was quite distant, the experience provided a different but equally thrilling perspective compared to our morning encounter.

The day held more surprises as we stumbled upon a walrus haul out on a small rocky island. Observing the walruses and their calves from a safe distance was an amazing sight, adding to the day's wildlife encounters. The massive icecap of Kvitoya provided a stunning backdrop to our afternoon adventures.

Returning to the ship, we enjoyed a delicious dinner while reflecting on the day's incredible sightings and experiences. The evening continued with a briefing on the plans for the next day and an insightful presentation by Misha about Salomon Andrée's failed attempt to reach the North Pole by hot air balloon. The story captivated us all, ending the day on a note of wonder and historical intrigue.



As the sun dipped below the horizon, we retired to our cabins, eager for the next day's adventures in the Arctic wilderness.

## Day 7: 16 July 2024

# Kap Lee & Mohnbukta

GPS position at 08:00: 78°12.2' N - 021°27.4' E

Wind: SW7 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partially Cloudy

Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 5°C

Today started in the Southernmost position we had been on during the trip so far. We awoke to find strong winds this morning in Freemansundet, meaning we instead going to head in the direction of Kapp Lee, located on the Headland of Edgeoya. This is the third largest island in the Svalbard archipelago and our landing site is located near Dolerittneset, on the Northwestern point.



Kapp Lee is a known walrus haul out location with an unfortunate historical background as a walrus hunting station. The history leads back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with Kapp Lee functioning as a Russian Pomor hunting station. The huts are still standing today and it is interesting to see a slice of history, and to be able to envisage what life would have been like to spend months on this desolate shoreline. After the Russian hunters vacated the location, Norwegian hunters and trappers moved in. They built the octagonal shaped cabin in 1904, which is still standing today. The other cabins erected were used for oil exploration in the 1960s. As we approached the landing site, the expedition team put in extra effort scouting as this area is well known for polar bears. Alas! On the beach the team found polar bear paw prints. The team scouted the area more and deemed safe to do a perimeter landing. Guests were brought ashore for a lovely leg stretch to see the historical huts, the walrus haul outs, and the stunning views over Storfjorden. After a good time ashore, guests were returned to m/v *Ortelius* in time for another delicious lunch.

This site is of even more importance as a Dutch scientist, Ko de Korte, resided in this location in 1968 studying skua populations. Korte would go on to take passengers to Svalbard through the "Plancius Foundation" in the early 1980s and work a ship captain named Albert Veldkamp, who later became his business partner. These two men also met a Dutch businessman by the name of Wijnand van Gessel, who owned a sailboat called *Rembrandt van Rijn*, and a tour company called Oceanwide Expeditions. They joined forces and created what is today, Oceanwide Expeditions! ☺ Earlier in the trip, while we were ashore in Texas Bar, our sailboat *Rembrandt van Rijn*, sailed by and excited waves were exchanged between the two crews.

In the afternoon we transited across Storfjorden to Mohnbukta for a glacier Zodiac cruise. The peaks of Teistberget, Panofskyfjettet, and Kroghfjellet towered over us as we explored the shoreline and the glacial fronts. Heuglinbreen, Hayesbreen, and Konigsbergbreen were absolutely stunning with the midnight sun glistening off their various shades of blue color. To the guests' surprise, a Zodiac approached them during their cruise with a fun surprise; hot chocolate! Our lovely crew prepared hot chocolate, rum, and whipping cream to serve the guests midway through their Arctic Zodiac cruise. Delicious! Back onboard for our evening recap with plans for tomorrow and Expedition guide Elizabeth presenting on walrus research in Svalbard. Now time to rest up for another action-packed day tomorrow!



## Day 8: 17 July 2024

### Gnålodden & Samarinbreen

GPS position at 08:00: 76°59.4' N - 015°15.6' E

Wind: N2 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Partially Cloudy

Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 6°C



Yet again, we were woken up by Claudio's soft, soothing voice, ready to start a new adventure. We had intended to spend the morning in Samarinbreen and the afternoon admiring the loud, shrieking kittiwakes at Gnalodden, but our Expedition Leader and our Captain, always alert, decided to swap the activities around in order to outplay the fog that followed us like a shadow.

However, the fog is clever, and just after the last passengers had landed at Gnalodden, the fog rolled in. We had just about enough time to admire the tall, pointy mountain with its shrieking kittiwakes (indeed the name Gnalodden translates into something like "the shrieking peak"), admire the old trappers' hut and roam around a bit before our armed guides herded us together towards the landing side. One never knows when polar bears might be looming around in the fog.



In the afternoon we did a split landing in the Samarinbreen glacier area. Half the passengers started with a Zodiac cruise around the glacier deep in the fjord, while the other half hiked up to the top of the stony hill and enjoyed a 360° view of the sunny fjord. Of course, afterwards we swapped, so everyone got to enjoy both activities.

We were greeted by a very pleasant surprise: the fjord turned out to be full of beluga whales. We even saw some calves swimming with their mothers.

As usual, we learned interesting polar facts from our guides at the daily recap following the day's activities and went to sleep excited for our final day of adventure tomorrow.

## Day 9: 18 July 2024

### Alkehornet & Ymerbukta

GPS position at 08:00: 78°12.7' N - 013°52.9' E

Wind: SW6 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partially Cloudy

Air Temp: 10°C Sea Temp: 9°C



Today was a fantastic day on the water with the sun glistening on the ripples of the ocean. We all felt exhausted, but our bones pushed us forward to breakfast to prepare for another day. We filled up with eggs and sausages and then once again layered up ready for a landing at Alkehornet. This is a spectacular rock formation, rising high above the surrounding land, and playing host to a huge kittiwake and Brunnich's guillemot colony. There were many

reindeer foraging on the slopes and on the flat ground. They seemed very inquisitive, so they came to us to take a closer look.

Lunch came round soon enough and afterwards we embarked the Zodiacs to visit Ymerbukta to view the glacier that touched the shores. It was only a short walk to get to the glacier, but one with an incredible ending where we could touch and walk on the glacier. It was warm and sunny and for two more hours we enjoyed every moment as our guides watched over us to ensure no polar bears made a surprise appearance.

We came back aboard, showered and got ready for the Captain's farewell cocktail. We thanked the expedition staff for the fantastic job they had done the last nine days, guiding us through the Arctic to see the landscapes and wildlife. Koen had created a slideshow to show us all the memorable moments, bringing tears to our eye, we will remember this forever. Dinner was the best so far and also where we thanked all the hotel and laundry staff for all their hard work. We hope to see you again aboard! 😊



## Day 10: 19 July 2024

### Longyearbyen - Disembarkation

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

Wind: NW3 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Partially cloudy

Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 8°C



After nine superb days, our Svalbard expedition was over, but 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 humour, enthusiasm, and patience when the weather decided we should do something different. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1251 nautical miles.**

**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 travelling with you! We look forward to seeing you again on one of our ships for another adventure.**

### **Kayak Trip Log OTL 6**

#### **12th July Morning - Texas Bar**

We started our amazing kayak trip around Spitzbergen from one of the icons of this archipelago. An old but still active hunters' hut. Glaciers retreating around us gave us the first panorama from the perspective of a kayak. We saw Monacobreen in the distance, all surrounded by the sharp shape of the mountains of the west coast of Svalbard. We saw our first glaucus gull, the emblematic ivory gull and some Arctic terns. Finally, we landed and visited the hunters' hut. Super start!

#### **12th July Afternoon – Monacobreen**

A stunning first Glacier front. The bay was full of brash ice, we were able to handle it little by little. We had the chance to see from very close a bearded seal over an ice flow. The glacier was calving in the distance and making strong, thunderous noises, creating an impressive audible backdrop. We saw an Arctic skua chasing a kittiwake over us. Monacobreen is one of the fastest flowing tidewater glaciers in Svalbard. When we were back on the ship, we watched a beautiful and moving video about it made by Greenpeace with the Italian musician Ludovico Einaudi.

#### **13th July Evening - Alkefjellet**

We kayaked during the clear night of the Arctic in front of these famous rocky cliffs surrounded by 120,000 guillemots and other birds. We also saw an Arctic fox hunting, the birds flying over us, falling in the water very close, and experienced the noise of this huge colony. With the ocean pushing us from north to south making everything so easy, it was magical.

#### **14th Morning – Torellneset**

We started with the Zodiac, but we had to cancel because of the presence of significant numbers of walrus in the water coming in from the ocean. We saw a mother and calf, with the mother protecting it. Beautiful and powerful animals.

During the night we experienced a very nice barbeque with the rest of the passengers.

#### **16th July Afternoon – Mohnbukta**

Today, we paddled in front of two glacier-front that used to be one. The ice looks very dirty, full of stones, sand, and other detritus. Some harbor seals were playing close to us, following us from the back.

In the middle of the session, Elisabeth, with some of the crew members brought us a nice hot chocolate with whipped cream and rum... perfect timing!

### **17th July Morning – Gnaloden / Burgerbukta**

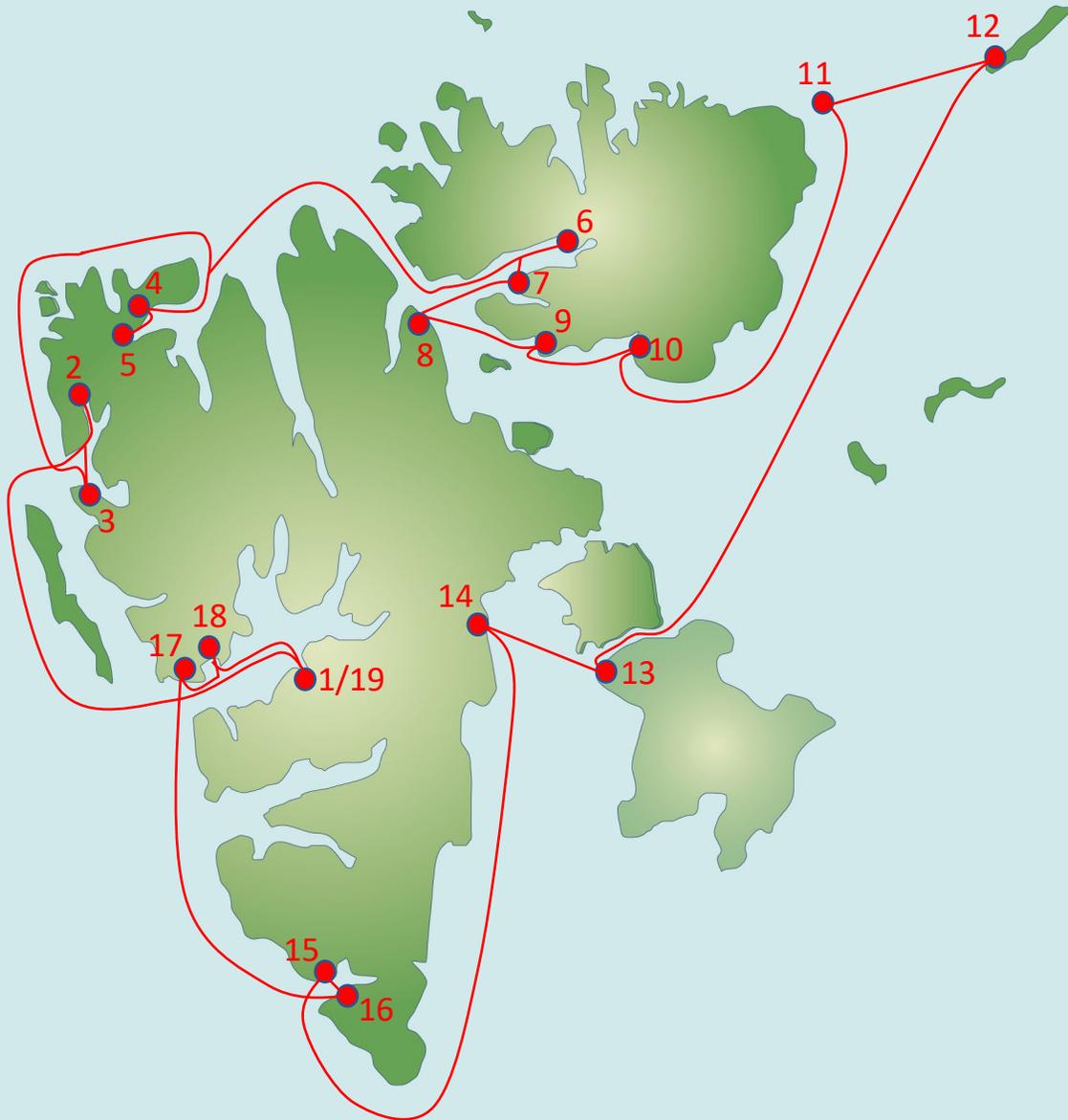
The day was windy, and after thirty minutes, a massive fog bank rolled towards up. We decided to follow the coastline in the direction of Burgerbukta and stay in the shelter of the mountain chain. It was perfect! The beginning was challenging, but finally we made this day a very special one. In the end, we decided to head into the bay to do the polar plunge with the rest of the passengers. We crossed shallow waters, but we made it! Yes!

### **17th Afternoon – Samarinbreen**

The best way to say goodbye to this Arctic archipelago. Again, enjoying the view of the west coast and the beauty of a unique glacier front where we found a group of belugas parenting their newborns. We heard more ice calvings, bringing thundering cracks and splintering ice. Then came reflections and silence.

I'm very glad to share with you the beauty of moving around the water using as engine our bodies and our strength. I really loved it and enjoyed it with all of you. I think you feel it, like me. We were the lucky ones this time. And we had the chance to celebrate life in a very particular way: from a comfortable tiny kayak. Thank you very much. I hope to see you all soon in a new polar adventure.

# Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear&Ice 10.07 - 19.07, 2024



1. Longyearbyen
2. Lilliehöökbreen
3. Ny-Ålesund
4. Texas Bar
5. Monacobreen
6. Oxfordhalvøya
7. Palanderbukta
8. Alkefjellet
9. Torellneset
10. Bråsvellbreen
11. Storøya
12. Kvitøya
13. Kapp Lee
14. Mohnbukta
15. Gnålodden
16. Samarinbreen
17. Alkhornet
18. Ymerbukta
19. Longyearbyen

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



English Name	Scientific Name	10 July	11 July	12 July	13 July	14 July	15 July	16 July	17 July	18 July
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>									
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>									
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>									
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X		X					
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>									
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>									
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>									
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>							X		
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>									
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		X							
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		X							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X								
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>									
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>									
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>									
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>									
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>									
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>									
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>									
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	X	X	X	
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>			X	X	X		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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# Charlotte Taplin – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean. She studied Wildlife Conservation at University and then spent the next 10 years travelling through South America, Australasia and Africa. Charlotte's love for boats began in 2013 where she worked on research and dive vessels visiting remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Her interest in Marine Biology grew in Australia and New Zealand while studying Humpback, Minke and Sperm Whales.

After driving overland in a land rover from South Africa to Jordan she then moved to Mozambique in 2018 where she started her own backpacker hostel. In her spare time Charlotte worked as a Researcher studying Whale sharks and Manta Rays along the Coast of Mozambique. During 2020-2022 she worked as a Deckhand/Divemaster on superyachts and ice breaker explorer vessels. Her hobbies include scuba-diving, surfing, free-diving and hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and she is so excited to have started her first season with Oceanwide in 2022.

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# Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide

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Elizabeth was born and raised in Minnesota, a state in the middle north of the United States. Minnesota is known for having over 10,000 lakes and nature around every corner; something she took full advantage of growing up. Before the age of eighteen, Elizabeth travelled to all fifty US states, and became a Junior Park Ranger at over thirty National Parks.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mammalogy, accompanied by additional degrees in Psychology, English Writing and Environmental Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on African elephants and squirrels. Recently, she graduated from the University of Bristol (UK) with a Master of Science degree in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. Her dissertation focused on cetacean conservation and understanding how policy is integrated within conservation efforts.

Elizabeth has lived and studied whales in many places such as Hawaii, British Columbia, Alaska, Norway, and the UK. She has previously worked as an orca kayak guide, a snorkel guide in Hawaii, a wildlife documentary co-producer, and a marine mammal researcher. She has spent the last eight years studying species such as orcas, humpback whales, right whales, porpoises, and pinnipeds. She is passionate about cetacean conservation, specifically endangered species. Elizabeth currently calls both the US and the UK home and is happiest at sea.

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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. Snorkeling 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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# Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide

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Annelou grew up in a seaside town in the Netherlands known for its navy base and fisheries. There she spent most of her time sailing, hiking, or looking for shiny rocks and shells on the beach. This is where her passion for the Earth began, which she decided to turn into her career.

Annelou specialized in Earth Sciences and graduated from Utrecht University. She specialized in physical geography, where her focus is on land-surface processes, natural hazards, geomorphology, climate reconstruction and climate changes and a minor in sustainability.

The connection between the academic and practical aspects of Earth Sciences, which involves a lot of fieldwork and is highly hands-on, is what she enjoys most. She loves to share her understanding of the Earth in general and the Arctic in particular. She also got a special interest in the history of whaling as it played a large role in her hometown's history.

She is overjoyed to be able to combine her passion for the Earth with traveling the seas by ship.

In her free time she still loves to collect shiny rocks. Most of the time she can be found on the water sailing somewhere in Europe with her family, hiking, or, when at home, bouldering and climbing.

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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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# Júlía(Bee) Baldursdóttir- Expedition Guide

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Born in Iceland into a family of nature loving, tree hugging explorers, Júlía developed a love for the arctic nature and for travelling at a very young age.

Age 15 she moved to Berlin where she studied linguistics and later psychology.

Initially a side job in 2013, tour guiding quickly grew into a passion for Júlía and soon became a full time job, both on land and on sea. In 2016 she enrolled in a Tour Guiding Program at the University of Iceland and became a nationally

certified Tour Guide. For almost a decade, she has travelled in arctic regions, especially in Greenland and in Iceland.

It is probably no surprise that when she is not on a vessel, Júlía spends most of her free time exploring the world on her own. In spite of (or, perhaps, because of) the months spent in the colder region of the world every year, when travelling for pleasure, Júlía is particularly drawn to the sunny Caribbean, though of course her other big passion, salsa dancing, doubtlessly plays a large role in that as well.

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# Alexis Bellezze – Expedition Guide

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Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the centre of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy.

After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal “Dick”

Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he works as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide.

He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reached the Antarctic Polar Circle, Fair Island, Jan Mayen, Svalbard, North Spitsbergen into the Pack Ice, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, West and East coast of Greenland, Canada, Iceland, Ibiza (Spain), Telluride (Colorado, USA) and many lakes in Patagonia. He travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle of Paraguay, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama.

Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple day kayak trips in this pristine area. He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

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# Veronique Verhoeven – Ship's doctor

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No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

....but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer too.

For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career.

That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Welcome on Board!

**Date: 10<sup>nd</sup> July 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!***



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Day 2 – Krossfjorden & Kongsfjorden**

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 Please collect the boots in the Lecture room, deck 3 Forward. We will call you deck by deck, please listen for announcements

11:00+/- We hope to disembark you by the gangway from Deck 4 for a zodiac cruise in the area in the front of it's beautiful glacier.

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

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

14:00+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a landing at Ny-Alesund.

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

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

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

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 **landing & hiking** at Texas Bar.

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 **Zodiac cruise** in the front of the famous and iconic Monacobreen.

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

17:45 Everybody back onboard

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.



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Oxfordhalvoya, Palanderbukta & Alkefjellet**

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

07:30 Breakfast in the Restaurant on Deck 4

08:30

## Morning activities

9:00 +/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway for a **landing** at **Oxfordhalvoya**. We will offer long hike, medium hike, and short hike.

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** at **Palanderbukta**. We will offer long hike, medium hike, and short hike.

18:00 Everybody back onboard

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

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

## After dinner activities

21:00 We invite **kayakers** to the gangway to join their activities

21:30 +/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway for a **Zodiac cruise** at **Alkefjellet**

22:30 Everybody back onboard



# DAILY PROGRAM



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Datum: 14<sup>ter</sup> July 2024**

**Torellneset – Wahlbergoya - Brasvellbreen**

07:15 Wake up call from our Expedition Leader Claudio

07:30 Breakfast in the restaurant on Deck 4

08:30

## Morning activities

9:00 +/- We hope to start disembarkation via the gangway for a landing and zodiac cruise at Torellneset. Half of you will go onshore for a small walk and the other half will go on a zodiac cruise, then each group will swap. Everyone will do both activities.

9:30 +/- We invite the kayakers to come to the gangway to join the activity!

12:00 Everyone 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 via the gangway for a landing at Wahlbergoya. We will offer a hike in the area to look for wildlife. We may also offer a beach clean-up during the landing.

15:00 +/- We invite the kayakers to join the for kayaking.

18:00 Everybody back onboard

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

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

## After dinner activities

TBA We invite all of you on the outside decks to enjoy spectacular views of the Brasvelbreen glacier and its waterfalls!



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 15th July 2024**

**Expedition morning over 80 ° North and Kvitoya**

07:45 Wake up call from our Expedition Leader Claudio

08:00 Breakfast in the restaurant on Deck 4

09:00

## Morning activities

9:15 +/- Today will be a morning of exploration looking for ice and wildlife, with the opportunity of a potential landing in a remote region of Svalbard. Exploration means we will make a plan based on the conditions and what we find. Please listen for announcements for timings and operations

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

13:30

## Afternoon activities

14:00+/- We hope to start disembarkation via the gangway for a landing at **Kvitoya**. This is a place famous for Andree's Swedish expedition, we want to try to visit the final camp of this expedition. Kvitoya is the end of the world in the Western European Arctic.

18:00 Everybody back onboard

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.



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 16<sup>h</sup> July 2024**

**Kapp Waldberg & Kapp Lee (Landing & Kayaking)**

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** at Kapp Waldberg where we are planning to visit a Kittiwakes colony (Birds colony).

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

14:15+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway, for a **landing & hiking** at Kapp Lee to visit an iconic Arctic location and the Walrus colony present at the landing site.

14:45+/- We invite **kayakers** to the gangway to join the activity.

17:45 Everybody back onboard

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.



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 17<sup>h</sup> July 2024**

**Gnalodden & Samarinbreen (Landing & Kayaking)**

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 at **Gnalodden** followed by a polar plunge for those brave souls! Don't bring your own towels, we will provide them for you.

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

14:15+/- We hope to start disembarkation by gangway for a landing and zodiac cruise at **Samarinbreen**. Then we would like to swap so everyone gets a chance to go on land and for a zodiac cruise.

14:45+/- We invite **kayakers** to the gangway to join the activity.

17:45 Everybody back onboard

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.



# DAILY PROGRAM

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Alkhornet and Ymerbukta

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

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

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

**Date: 19<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 tags need to be placed in the right place.

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.