



Spitsbergen, Northeast Greenland & Aurora Borealis, including Long Hikes

25 August – 7 September 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 Remmert-Jan Koster
and his international crew

Staff Captain:	Jan Dobro	Poland
Chief Officer	Nicolas Ordinas	Spain
2nd Officer:	Nino Cizmic	Croatian
3rd Officer:	Eline Schuurman	The Netherlands
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	Estonia
Hotel Manager:	William Jeroen Barnes	United Kingdom
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Bodgan Manevski	Mazedonia
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	Germany
Ships Doctor:	Katrijn Daenen	The Netherlands
Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Chloe Marechal	France
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Christan Long	New Zealand
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zhao	China
Expedition Guide:	Andrew Crowder	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Sabrina Kerth	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Sheung Keung Wong	Hong Kong
Expedition Guide:	Zoy Li	China
Expedition Guide:	Paipai Liu	China
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	Switzerland
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovski	Russia
Expedition Guide:	Jakub Malecki	Poland
Expedition Guide:	Koen Jongerling	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Koen Hoekemeijer	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spikova	Czech Republic
Expedition Guide:	Misha Barabanov	Luxemburg
Expedition Guide:	Julia Angermeijer	Germany

Day 1 – Sunday 25th August 2024

Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 16:00: 78°14.6'N, 015°32.5'E

Wind: S-6, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 9°C, Sea Temp: 8°C

Welcome to the high Arctic! Welcome to Longyearbyen. A place where people live in close contact with the cold and rigid environment surrounding them. This was our starting point for a surely to be amazing journey from Svalbard to Northeast Greenland and on to Iceland.



We arrived at our ship which would be our home for the next 14 days, M/V Hondius. It was a little windy, but otherwise dry and partly cloudy when we were welcomed on board. We were then directed to our cabins by the lovely hotel staff. Then, we enjoyed the comfortable observation lounge with a fresh cup of coffee or tea until it was time for the mandatory safety brief and exercise. Our safety officer explained what to do in a ship's emergency. When the drill started, we had to pick up our big bulky orange life vests from our cabin

and then proceed to our so-called muster stations. This was either the lounge or the restaurant. Now we all knew what to do and where to go in case of an abandon ship situation which we hope never will occur.

Afterwards, we were welcomed back to the lounge for the captain's cocktail, although the captain could sadly not join us tonight, since he was needed on the bridge. William, the hotel manager explained some important information about life on board and then we met our Expedition Leader Sara, who introduced us to the rest of the guide team. We were served some delicious snacks and toasted to the beginning of what will surely be a fantastic voyage.



Afterwards it was time for the buffet dinner in the restaurant, where some of us got to ask all our urgent questions to the guides dining with us. Later in the evening we were handed our rubber boots so we would be ready to go for our first excursion tomorrow morning.



Our big adventure had started, and we were all very excited about what the coming days would bring us.

Good night M/V Hondius!

Day 2 – Monday 26th August 2024

Location: Magdalenafjorden and Smeerenburg

GPS position at 12:00: 79°33.8'N, 011°05.3' E

Wind: S-1, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Partly cloudy, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

After a good night's sleep with some gentle rocking from the ship, we woke up to Sara's voice. She greeted us with three good mornings and then she informed us about the weather and the program for the morning. Today was our first real expedition day, but before we could leave the ship and board the Zodiacs for our new adventures, we first had to attend several briefings. These briefings were related to Zodiac procedures, Polar Bear safety and an AECO briefing which informed us about the behavioural guidelines during our visit to this beautiful and remote area. But first things first, it was breakfast time!



After breakfast, Sara efficiently ran us through all mandatory briefings and as she had started this already at 8 AM it left us time in the morning to do our first activity. We would do a Zodiac cruise in beautiful Magdalenafjord.



Magdalenafjord cuts about 10km inland in the northwest part of Spitsbergen. Although winters are very cold in Svalbard, this fjord does not always freeze due to the influence of the relatively warm *Gulfstream*. All the way inside the fjord you'll find an impressive Waggonwaybreen glacier. This is an active and relatively fast-moving glacier and that means spectacular calvings can be observed regularly. And this morning Waggonwaybreen did not disappoint. We saw some big *ice towers* collapse and huge ice walls disintegrating. It was wonderful to witness nature in its full glory.

After enjoying the glacier, we decided to head along the coastline in search of Harbor seals. In a shallow lagoon

like calm area, we found many seals and some of them were curiously checking us out closely to the boat. Others were relaxing on rocks and big boulders while taking in their classic *banana pose*.

A bit further out we found a small bay which is called Trinityhamna. This bay offers a natural harbor and therefore it was chosen by whalers in the early 1600's as a station to process whales. Remains of the blubber ovens used to boil out the oil from the blubber can still be seen on shore. Trinityhamna is sheltered by a small peninsula which is called Gravneset. Gravneset means *gravesite* and here the remains of 130 graves of whalers can be found. The first whalers were buried here in the early 1600's, but over the years the number of graves grew and end 1800's it was the last resting place for 130 whalers. Although whaling developed rapidly into a pelagic industry, sailors would still honour their perished brave colleagues by giving them a land funeral. These men had to work and survive in extremely harsh and challenging conditions, but the main



cause of death was scurvy. Over the years permafrost has pushed the graves back to the surface and well-preserved caskets and even bones can still be seen.

After this great morning start, we enjoyed lunch. But after lunch there was hardly any time to relax as our second activity was about to begin. We would visit *Smeerenburg* hoping to see walruses and we would do a Zodiac cruise in front of Virgohamna, another historical place where Salomon Andree set off in a balloon trying to reach the North Pole.



Smeerenburg was established by Dutch whalers in 1614. *Smeer* in Dutch means grease or blubber and since this was a whaling station the name was appropriate. Today the Dutch still use *smeren* when they put butter on a sandwich. On land we saw the remains of this more than 400 years old whaling station, and we also found the characteristic orange bricks that the Dutch used in this settlement.

What we also found were walruses! A good number of walruses was hauling out on the beach, and they all seemed sleepy and lazy. Walruses are solitary animals, but they do like to haul out together and crawl close and sometimes on top of each other. Walruses can be up to

1500KG and that makes them the second largest seal species after the Elephant seals. During the zodiac cruise some of us had some curious walruses close by and this allowed for some wonderful close-up photos and videos.

At 18:15 it was time for our daily recap. During recap Sara informs us about the plans for the next day and staff members offer short presentations about places we visited or animals we have seen. Today our captain also attended the re-cap as he had obligations on the bridge the previous day. Captain Remmert spoke inspirational words and promised us to do his utmost to make this the best trip ever. After dinner guide Sabrina shared a short story about the rifle that killed 4 people without being fired.

A long but satisfying day. And with the clock going back one hour we could enjoy a well-deserved long sleep.

Good night!



© Sara Jenner

Day 3 – Tuesday 27th August 2024

Location: On the way to Greenland, Sea Day

GPS position at 12:00: 77°35.2'N, 006°02.8'W

Wind: N-4, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** -2°C, **Sea Temp:** 2.9°C

As we were becoming used to, we were woken by Sara's soft tones... "Good Morning, Good Morning, Good Morning". During the night we had experienced a swell that rocked some of us to sleep but left others feeling not so good, with more than a few consulting the doctor. We were still rolling around mildly as we got up for breakfast. Outside it was grey and overcast with patchy fog and a chilly -1°C.

As we were going to be at sea all day our guide team had scheduled a whole series of lectures to inform and entertain us. They were delivered in 'pairs', to accommodate the different languages on board Hondius for this cruise, using the lecture room and observation lounge simultaneously. Jerry and Chloe started us off with a talk on the 'Whales of the Arctic', in English and Mandarin respectively. After a short break it was Misha's turn, talking about Salomon Andree and his doomed attempt to reach the north pole by hot air balloon, whilst Sabrina gave a German language lecture on the 'History of Svalbard'.



As we approached lunchtime the sea was less rough, and the fog had cleared to blue skies and bright sunshine. This encouraged us to get out on deck where we could get closer views of the **Fulmars** and **Kittiwakes** that had been escorting us all day. Later, some of us were lucky enough to see the first **Ivory Gull** of the trip, followed by a beautiful adult **Pomarine Skua**. Around the ship we also started to see small gatherings of the world's smallest auk, the **Little Auk**; they dived or skittered away across the surface as we approached, looking almost like black and white tennis balls with whirring wings. Back inside Andrew and Meike gave their respective talks on the 'Auks of the Atlantic'.

As the sun began to fall towards the horizon, the early evening light was magical. We went down for our evening recap, followed by another fabulous dinner served up by the brilliant galley team and delivered to us so professionally by the dining room team, always full of smiles. The first huge iceberg of the cruise was seen on the horizon as we settled down to hear Sacha tell us wonderful tales of his time working in the ghost town of Pyramiden.



Day 4 – Wednesday 28th August 2024

Location: Approaching Greenland, Sea Day

GPS position at 12:00: 75°15.2'N, 017°44.8'W

Wind: SW-3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 1.8°C

This morning those of us on the lower decks were woken up by an unfamiliar scraping sound along the hull of the ship. Curious, we peeked outside and were able to see large ice flows and small icebergs floating beside the ship: We had reached the sea ice of the coast of Greenland in the early morning hours. Sadly, the coastline was shrouded in thick fog, so visibility was very limited.



During the leisurely breakfast, the Hondius pushed further into the ice and many of us were out on deck to enjoy this unique ship cruise. Later in the morning, KJ gave an introductory lecture about Greenland, sharing interesting facts about its geology, history, flora, and fauna. He also showed many beautiful pictures of places we might get to see during the following days.

It was a relaxing morning on board, many of us enjoyed some time outside braving the cold, misty air.

At 11:00, the hotel department had therefore organized some hot chocolate to keep us warm while we took lots of pictures of the dramatic pieces of ice all around us. The captain kept the speed low, to be able to navigate safely through the increasingly dense sea ice conditions. Many pieces were several meters thick, indicating that it was multiyear ice.

Just after lunch, the fog disappeared quite suddenly, within 15 minutes we were able to enjoy a crystal-clear blue sky and our first views of Greenland's coast. We continued navigating in the sea ice while always keeping an eye out for



wildlife. We saw a few seals swimming in the water and some resting on ice flows. In the distance, some giant ice bergs were floating close to shore, and we were heading straight towards them.

The size of these huge pieces of ice, literal mountains, was hard to grasp, but as we approached, we realised that they were actually taller and longer than our ship itself. Some were more than 100 meters long, floating gently in the oncoming swell. It was a phenomenal experience to see them up close.

As quickly as it had lifted, the fog returned later in the afternoon. But the captain and the bridge crew kept it interesting, by deciding to attempt docking next to one of these huge ice bergs. Suddenly, we found ourselves face to face with a wall of ice and we watched their expert navigation excitedly. While they sadly didn't manage to safely dock the ship, it was nonetheless a fantastic experience.

Afterwards, Jerry and Jakub each gave a lecture about Ice and Glaciers in Mandarin and English (with German translation) respectively, giving us some more valuable insights into what we had just experienced and had to look forward to in the coming days.

After dinner, the lounge quieted down pretty quickly, everybody seemed tired after a long day with lots of new impressions.



Day 5 – Thursday 29th August 2024

Location: Magrethedal and Kejser Franz Josef Fjord

GPS position at 12:00: 73°18.0'N, 022°38.8'W

Wind: S-3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 7.1°C

We were woken by sweet Sara's Good Morning, Good Morning, Good Morning. We started the morning slowly as we were still approaching our destination. Challenging navigation through sea ice in a dense fog the previous day resulted in an extra hour to enjoy our breakfast. A big day was ahead! Our first landing in Greenland! The arctic weather was playing with us until the last moment.

The first views offered us mainly fog, with some moments of sun and blue sky, and fog again. But today was our lucky day. When we arrived at our planned landing side, Margrethedal, we were welcomed by an amazing view of a colourful landscape lit by sunlight. Hiking was the plan for the day. We had options to do a long 6–7-hour hike, medium 3-hour hike and a short hike. Right after breakfast, the guide team was already setting out to scout the area, which can have polar bears; however, they were able to confirm that it was safe to come ashore.



The terrain was challenging for all of us. There were no paths, the terrain went up and down, sometimes through mud and rivers. There were plenty of flowers. We were able to spot two muskoxen with our binoculars far away on a mountainside.

Our brave long hikers got on shore first and started their way into the mountains. They were extremely lucky to get very close to a group of huge muskoxen feeding just 20 meters from them. A few people even spotted an Arctic fox for a few seconds quickly running between rocks while we were enjoying a view from the top of a mountain plateau.



As the long hike took nearly 7 hours, we ate our prepared sandwiches for lunch in nature.

Both medium and short hikes were spectacular. A view towards Kaiser Franz Joseph fjord opened when we reached the first viewpoint. Keiser Franz Joseph is a major fjord system in the Northeast Greenland National Park area.



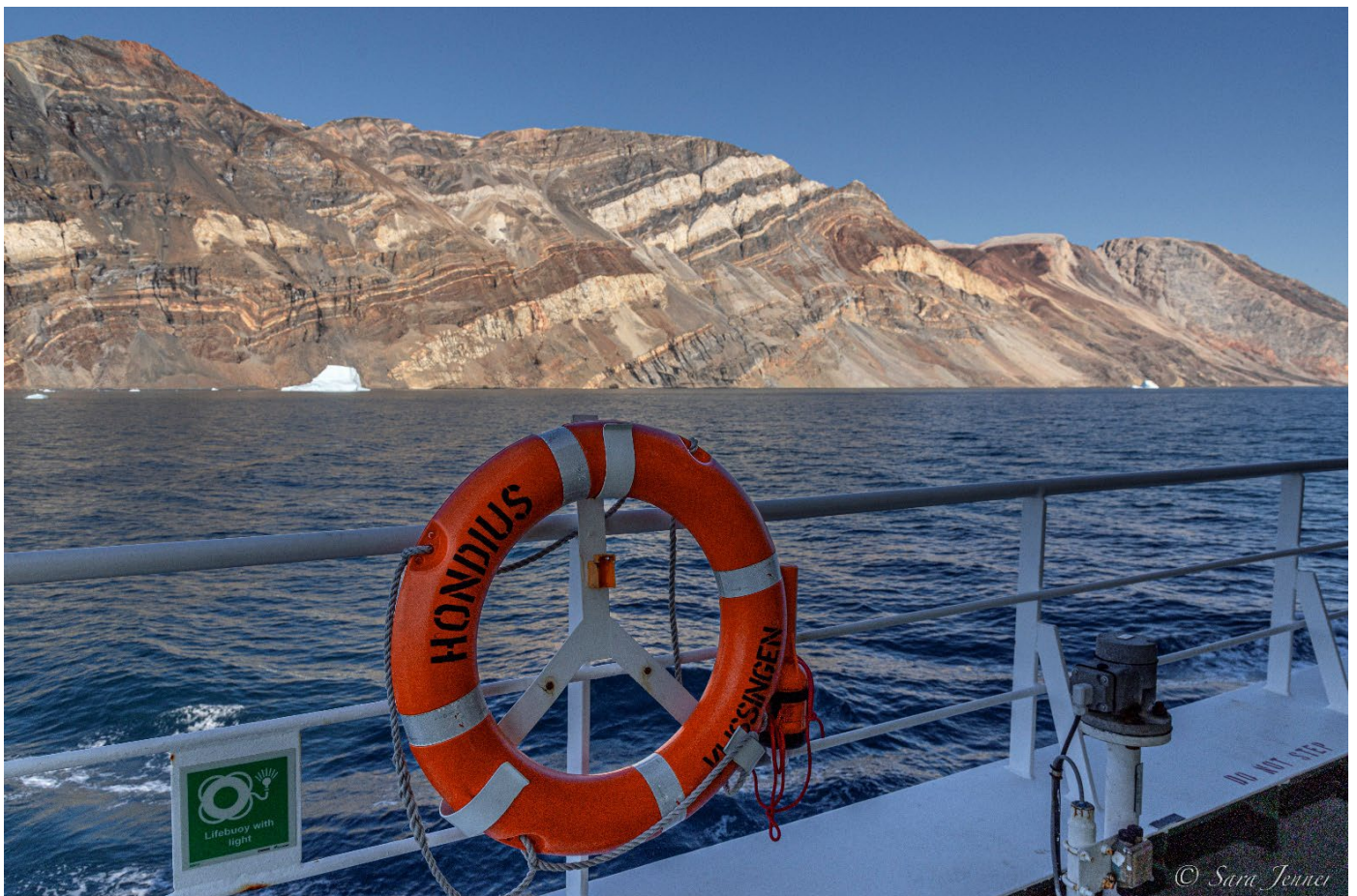
Our ship Hondius looked small in the distance next to huge icebergs that were floating on a dark blue sea with majestic mountains with sugar tops in the background.

Medium and short hikers returned to the ship for a late lunch between 1.30 and 2 pm. Long hikers joined the ship around 5 pm. Back on board Hondius, lots of

excited chatting about our morning experience and picture sharing was going on. We were all nicely tired, happy, and full of the first impressions from the first day in Greenland.

We took plenty of good photographs of flowers, landscapes, and wildlife.

When we gathered for our daily recap, Meike told us about all the plants we were able to see today, followed by Chloe's recap about life in the sea ice where we spent the previous day. Clouds slowly started covering mountain tops and it was time for dinner. What a fabulous day!!



© Sara Jenner

Day 6 – Friday 30th August 2024

Location: Renbugten and Blomsterbugten

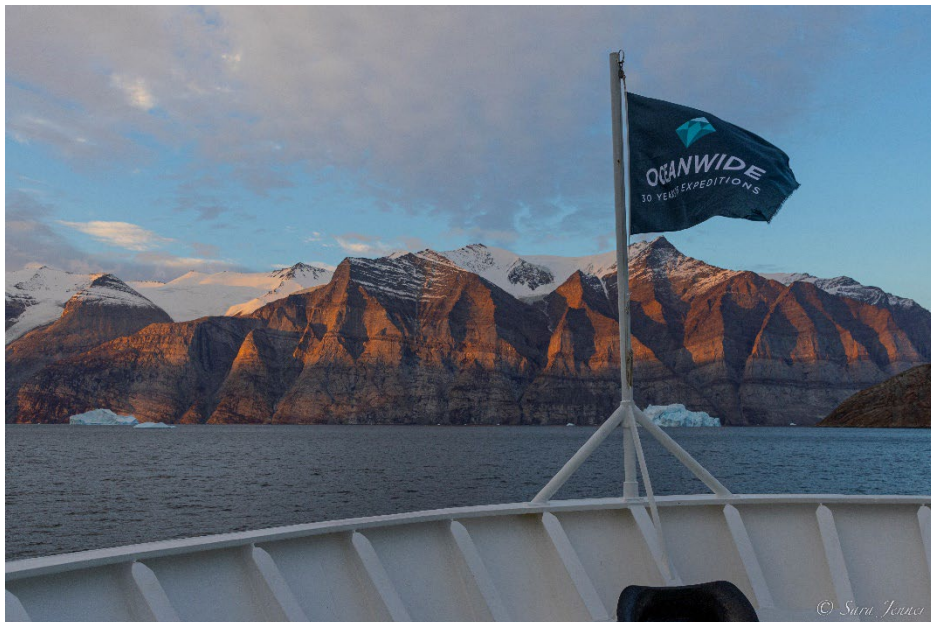
GPS position at 12:00: 73°19.2'N, 025°25.8'W

Wind: N-2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Clear, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

After the wakeup call from our EL Sara we started this day again with beautiful sunny weather. We first had a good breakfast before we got ready for our full ship zodiac cruise into Renbugten, a stunning area surrounded by mountains up to 1000m high.

The red group was called first to the shell doors followed by the blue group. We had more than one hour to explore our first real Greenlandic icebergs. We managed to go as close as safety allowed to get a full image of these icy giants. The colours, the peace and silence left us breathless, just overwhelmed by these powerful

products of nature and thousands of years of history. But also, the smaller bits and pieces of ice we saw were just amazing to explore. Listening to some explanations from our guides on how this ice was built and ended up here was definitely interesting – we all learned a lot.



As our Vessel Hondius had a bit of a distance to sail to reach our afternoon landing, we drove back to the ship and had our buffet lunch. While we were on our way to our next location, we enjoyed tea and coffee on the ship with beautiful scenery passing by. At 13:15 it was time for the long hikers to meet at the shell door for their next sportive hike in Blomsterbugten. A lot of excitement was amongst all of us as the weather was still just amazing and we were all happy to stretch our legs.

After the fittest of us started their adventure, the medium hiking group was next to leave the ship towards the landing side, a beautiful beach where Sara, our EL, welcomed us and gave us a quick briefing about the site and where to meet our guides and co-hikers. The short hikers followed and once everybody was ready also this group left the beach to start exploring this marvelous area.

Accompanied by bright sunshine, a clear blue sky and quite warm temperatures we were all excited and interested in what to find and enjoy. After the first couple of minutes, we all had to stop to adjust our clothing and equipment as it was really warm. Once everybody was comfortable and prepared with cameras and binoculars we continued our way up the first little elevation. We found a lot of interesting plants and flowers as well as lichens and mosses which we could investigate through magnifying glasses. A complete skull of a juvenile musk oxen and even an arctic hare crossed our way.



We looked at the amazing rock formations with their red, brown and yellow layered colours and couldn't get enough of the beauty surrounding us. We climbed up to a slope which cost some energy, but we were rewarded with a stunning view over the rocky landscape intercepted by lakes in different colours of water from dark blue to even red.



Way in the back we could observe a herd of musk oxen and their small ones which again left us just breathless. As we knew that this amazing hike must sadly come to an end, we slowly started on our way back still enjoying our surroundings and hiking friends. With our ship in sight, we made our way back to the beach happy and safe. Once we put our life vests on and packed away our cameras and binoculars, we jumped into the zodiacs and were brought back to the Hondius. We took our time to relax and get ready for the daily recap where we heard about our next adventure coming up tomorrow. Afterwards we went to our well-



© Sara Jenner

deserved dinner, as always delicious and lovely prepared by our kitchen and hotel team. Tired and happy we went to bed this evening....what a day!

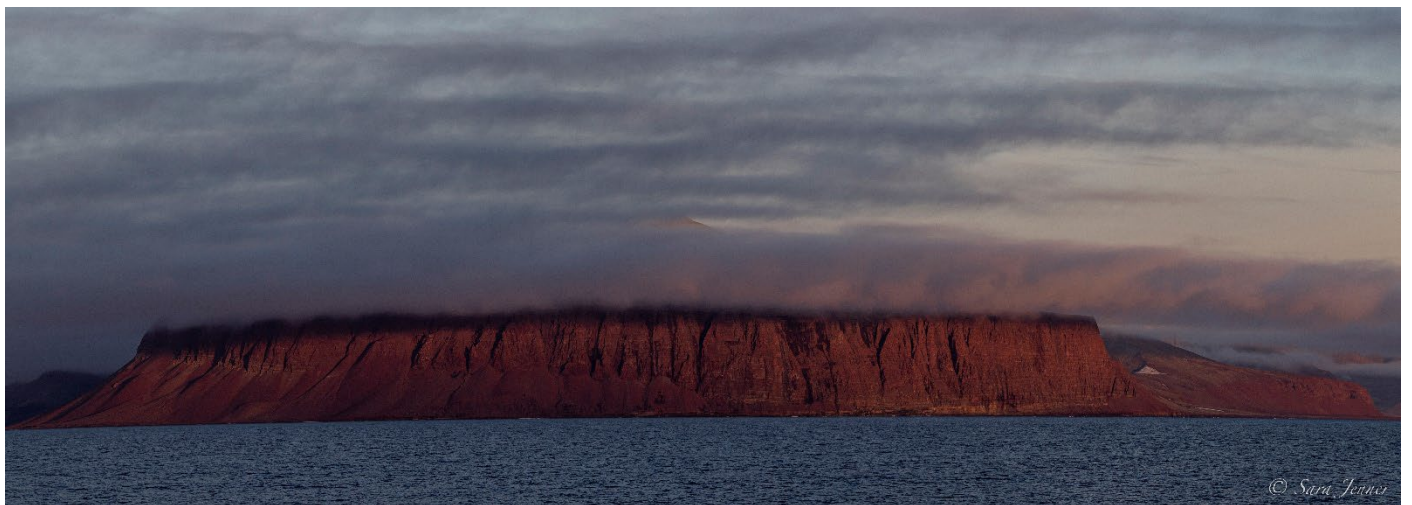
Day 7 – Saturday 31st August 2024

Location: Flemming Fjord

GPS position at 12:00: 71°44.6'N, 022°56.4'W

Wind: NE-2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 2°C, Sea Temp: 7.2°C

*Thread my path to Summer's End
This bequest I leave you – she says
You will see what could be evergreen
Turn to copper and fade to gray.*



© Sara Jenner

We woke up in a completely different place than we had planned. That's the nature of expedition cruises: plans sometimes have to change. Late last night, after receiving the latest weather reports, Sara, our expedition leader, made a joint decision with the captain to change the course and head to a different landing site. The reason was that



the area we were initially heading to was expected to be shrouded in thick fog, with nearly zero visibility. Greenland is the land of polar bears, which is why each of our guides carries a rifle on their shoulder and a flare gun on their belt. Lack of visibility is extremely dangerous, and in such cases, our guides have no choice but to cancel the activity. However, if you know about it in advance, you can develop a new plan and make sure the morning isn't wasted. Greenland is vast, so there's no shortage of landing sites.

The manoeuvre was successful, and the plan worked! As we pulled back the curtains to let in the morning light, we could clearly see the towering mountains framing Fleming Fjord. The low clouds only obscured the mountain peaks a few hundred meters above sea level, but the lower layer of air remained clear. At times, small windows of blue sky appeared in the dense cloud cover, allowing rays of sunlight to break through and illuminate the mountain wall on the starboard side of Hondius. This made the colorful layers of rock glow in different shades – yellow, ochre, burgundy, and even hints of blue.

In the monolithic wall of the mountain range, a gap yawned like a gateway. This was destined to be our morning landing spot. Before breakfast was over, our guides loaded all the necessary gear into the Zodiacs and rushed ashore for scouting. Soon, we were given the green light. The first to go ashore were the long hikers – a small group of brave enthusiasts who would trek the longest distance across the tundra during this landing and possibly see more than the rest of us. Then the medium hikers went ashore – those who also enjoyed



long walks but preferred them to be less intense, allowing time for stops and photographing the local beauty. Finally, the slow hikers landed – those who preferred a leisurely pace, carefully studying the terrain, vegetation, rock formations, and other features, trying to absorb every shade, scent, and curve of the local nature, as every experience here is unique!

We stowed our life jackets in large white bags, divided into groups according to our preferences, and set out to explore this corner of Greenland. First, we had to climb the slope slowly and conserve our energy. Then a hilly plain covered with tundra vegetation unfolded before us. To our left, a narrow canyon gaped with a river running along its bottom. Just beyond the canyon, a steep mountainside began. To the right, there was also a slope, but less steep, and consequently covered with a colourful carpet of local plants. Somewhere high up on the slope, a musk ox was grazing peacefully – a tough-looking but also quite amusing creature.

According to the calendar, today is the last day of summer. However, the biogeographical calendar of Greenland's reality told us otherwise. The short Arctic summer here had long since ended. True autumn was upon us. All the flowers had long since bloomed, fruited, and withered, and only occasionally could we spot solitary flowers of the Arctic bellflower, Mountain Avenas, and, surprisingly, even the Purple Saxifrage. The Arctic willow was shedding seeds, decorating the tundra with numerous fluffy tassels. Its leaves had turned reddish, yellow, or even brown. The leaves of the dwarf birch had also turned dark burgundy and bright yellow, and its bushes grew mainly on slopes and rarely on flat sections of the plain. The leaves of the bilberry were also dark burgundy. Here and there, we could even see some berries that hadn't been pecked by snow buntings or nibbled by lemmings. But the most striking feature of the plant world was the bright red patches of barberry, visible from afar and densely covering the ground.



Autumn is the season for mushrooms, and Greenland is no exception. Here and there, mushroom caps of various kinds poked through – some small, some relatively large. Puffballs, resembling eggs laid by some unknown reptile, grew all around. Some were already releasing spores, and if stepped on, a greenish cloud would puff out from underfoot. Russulas, boletes, birch boletes, and many other mushrooms, whose names are known only to mycologists, dotted the landscape.

Different groups chose different routes. The long hikers disappeared into the unknown, leaving no trace. One group of medium hikers preferred to climb up the relatively gentle, tundra-covered slope of the mountain. They managed to

reach a considerable height and were fortunate enough to observe the musk ox from a fairly close distance. Another group of medium hikers opted for a walk along the relatively flat terrain towards the opposite edge of the valley. There, descending to the river, they discovered an interesting hydrological phenomenon known as "naledi" (ice patches). In winter, the rivers here freeze solid, and the short polar summer is often not enough to melt this ice completely. In some places, it remains all summer, with the river simply carving a small channel through it and flowing on. It was fascinating to see this naledi.

It's nice to walk through the tundra, but sooner or later, it's time to return, and after a good walk, one's appetite is quite sharp! One by one, all our groups returned to the landing site. We donned our life jackets, boarded the Zodiacs, and, full of impressions, returned to the Hondius.

While we were having lunch, the ship's bow winches hummed heavily as they hauled up the anchor. Soon, our ship set off, leaving the fjord behind for the open sea. We were in for a long journey from the Northeast Greenland National Park to the Scoresby Sund fjord system, so no shore landings or Zodiac cruises were planned for the second half of the day. As the Hondius picked up speed and moved away from the shore, the weather continued to deteriorate. It started to rain, and the wind picked up. These are the moments when the sense of coziness becomes acute. It's so nice to sit in the warmth by the window, sipping tea, while the weather rages outside.

Chloe, our marine microbiology expert, gave us a fascinating lecture on the all-powerful plankton – the ruler of the seas and master of the waters. In the evening, we had a recap, during which Sara, our expedition leader, briefed us on the plans for the next day. The day came to an end, and with it, the calendar summer ended as well. It's a bit sad, but there will be a new day that will bring us many new experiences, and someday, a new summer will arrive! The journey continues!

Day 8 – Sunday 1st September 2024

Location: Bjørne Øer

GPS position at 12:00: 71°01.9'N, 025°14.6'W

Wind: W-2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Rain/Fog, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 7.8°C



Last night, our ship, the MS Hondius, quietly slipped into Scoresby Sund, a massive fjord system on the east coast of Greenland. As dawn broke, our bridge team skilfully anchored us on the southeast side of Bear Island in Milne Land. Stepping out onto the deck, we were met with a sight that stopped us in our tracks—giant icebergs, stretching out to the horizon, their icy blue shapes glowing in the early morning light. It felt like we had sailed into another world.

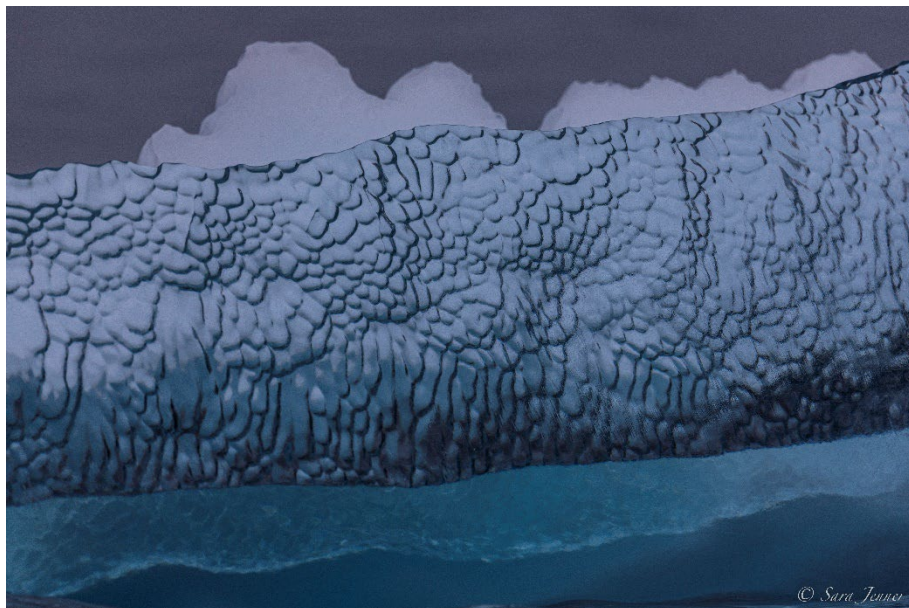
Fuelled by excitement (and a lovely breakfast), we geared up for the morning's adventure—a Zodiac cruise among the icebergs. It was raining steadily, and the temperature hovered around freezing, but nothing could dampen our spirits. We climbed into the Zodiacs and set off into the maze of ice, each iceberg more stunning than the last. Some were towering like cathedrals, others flat and wide, all of them shaped by the elements into unique, photogenic forms. Our guides were fantastic, sharing insights about how these icy giants came to be and what their shapes and colours tell us about their history.

As we cruised, the rain tapped a rhythm on our jackets, but we hardly noticed. A few birds braved the weather with us—juvenile black guillemots and arctic terns, darting in and out of view. The conditions were challenging, but there was something exhilarating about being out in the thick of it, battling the elements and soaking up the raw beauty around us.

When we finally returned to the ship, it was a relief to warm up in the lounge, wrapping our hands around mugs of hot tea and coffee. The morning's stories flowed freely as we shared our experiences, still buzzing from the adventure. Lunch was a treat, a comforting spread prepared by Chef Ralf and his team that hit the spot after a cold morning out on the water.

The rain hadn't let up by the afternoon, forcing us to change our original plans. Instead of landing ashore, Sara suggested another Zodiac cruise—a shorter one this time. Captain Remmert expertly repositioned the Hondius to the southwestern side of Bear Island, giving us a fresh angle to explore. The high peaks of Milne Land loomed in the distance, covered in a fresh layer of snow that made them look even more imposing.

And then we saw it — an enormous arch-shaped iceberg, ancient and mysterious. Its size and age were anyone's guess, but its beauty was undeniable. Everyone scrambled for their cameras, eager to capture the moment. Just when we thought it couldn't get better, our hotel manager William showed up in another Zodiac, handing out cups of hot cider. It was a simple, but perfect touch—just what we needed to warm up as we continued our cruise.



We spent the rest of the afternoon weaving between towering mountain peaks and gliding through the fog that had replaced the rain. The mist gave everything an otherworldly feel, but it wasn't cold, and there was so much to see that no one wanted to head back. By the time we returned to the ship, we were all grinning from ear to ear. This had been a day of true adventure, the kind that makes you feel alive.

Later, we gathered to recap the day's events and look ahead to tomorrow. Dinner was another beautifully prepared meal, but the real highlight was the view—gliding past towering icebergs as the Hondius sailed towards Hurry Inlet. It was the perfect end to yet another unforgettable day in Greenland.

Day 9 – Monday 2nd September 2024

Location: Hurry Inlet and Ittoqqortoormiit

GPS Position at 12:00: 70°37.3'N, 022°27.5'W

Wind: N-3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 5.1°C

Let's remember that day as it looked so foggy, and it ended up with some sun at the end of our morning landing in Nøkkedal in Hurry Inlet. But we started disembarking and got shuttled ashore. Because of the fog it was just a bit of a shorter landing, but the amazing features made by the permafrost were stunning. As we arrived at the beach it was Sara welcoming us as always and after we joined our group of hiking, we hiked uphill and inland. The first bit was a bit steep but after it was going up and down. Already after the first ridge we could see



the patterns formed by the permafrost. Permafrost is defined as ground (soil or rock and including ice or organic material) that remains at or below 0 degrees for at least two consecutive years. The permafrost is in a depth of around 1m and above that, it melts in the summer and freezes in the winter. So, it is always moving. As water is expanding when it freezes it pushes bigger rocks up and to the side and then we get this lovely round pattern. Because of these phenomena you cannot bury people in permafrost, many years later this effect will bring the bodies back up.



As we were hiking further inland, we tried to see the glacier in the back, but the fog decided to hide it for the day (only in the very end it showed a bit of it). We saw a couple of lakes and streams around. Then we stopped for a moment to enjoy the arctic silence. No movement, no pictures, just listening to the birds, the sound of silence and water. Afterwards, we started slowly heading back. At the beach some of us were lucky to see the arctic fox passing by and others were not as lucky and got a bit stuck in the mud – not only us, but also our guides.

Back onboard we could enjoy an amazing lunch while the ship was sailing towards our



afternoon activity to visit the settlement Ittoqqortoormiit. The first sighting of this settlement showed us houses in different colours.

By Zodiac we disembarked and had a beach landing this time with some swell at the beach. So, we had to quickly disembark us, the waves were pushing from behind and even managed to splash some of us.

In the city we weren't allowed to take any picture of people without asking for their permission. There was a lovely little church with an electric organ, a tourist office where we could buy some little souvenirs. We could walk around the town up towards the cemetery where we saw an Arctic hare and a lemming. On top of some of the houses were some skeletons, trophies of hunters. The people who live there make their living by hunting seals, polar bears and musk ox. After a stroll in town, we went back onboard to listen to a story by Koen of one of the hunters who lives there with his family.



Day 10 – Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Location: Sydkapp and Ø Fjord

GPS Position at 12:00: 71°17.9'N, 024°56.9'W

Wind: SW-3, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 5°C, Sea Temp: 5.6°C

There's nothing quite like waking up to see dozens of enormous icebergs outside your window. Massive blocks of ice, true icy mountains of various shapes and sizes — from absolutely gigantic to just big. Each one with its own unique features and possibly its own history. Hondius, gently navigating among the icebergs, approached a place called Sydkap — one of the most scenic capes of Scoresby Sound. The waters around this cape are known as the "iceberg



graveyard," though, to be honest, the author of these lines prefers to call it the "iceberg garden." The currents in Scoresby Sound work in such a peculiar way that icebergs, after breaking off from the ice sheet, are eventually herded together near Sydkap. Here, they run aground and gradually dissolve in the seawater.

Our plan was simple: land on the shore and walk through the tundra. Hondius dropped anchor near a shore that sloped gently into a flat plain framed by mountains. Even from the ship's deck, you could see how vibrant and diverse the local vegetation was, painted in the autumn colours. Near a stream happily running down the slope and into the cold sea, there were several hunting cabins. Understanding that people might be there and wouldn't appreciate a crowd of tourists, we disembarked a respectful distance away. The beach was pebbly and sandy, making it a pleasure to land. The Zodiacs were quickly shuttling passengers back and forth. As usual, the long hikers went ashore first, followed by the medium hikers, and finally, the slow hikers.



Each group set off on their walk according to their preferences. The long hikers, led by KJ and Hana, bounded up the slope like mountain goats and soon disappeared from sight. The slow hikers took their time, as their primary goal was to explore the local nature in detail, which does not tolerate rushing. The medium hikers climbed up to the flat plateau and then spread out in different directions, each setting their own goals, before eventually meeting back at the landing site.

The tundra here was slightly different from what we had seen before. Instead of a flat carpet of vegetation, we saw countless mounds densely covered with

dwarf birch and moss. These plants made the tundra burst with colour. At times, we had to leap from mound to mound, as there were so many small ponds in the tundra (it just didn't feel right to call them puddles).

Some of us were lucky enough to spot musk oxen — massive, ancient creatures, contemporaries of the mammoth! Others had the chance to see Arctic hares — completely white, fluffy, and funny little animals. Ravens circled in the sky, occasionally announcing their presence with loud cawing. Fog swirled in the gorges of the mountains that

bordered our valley to the north. The weather was gradually clearing up, and the fog shrank back as the sun's rays finally dispersed it. We climbed higher on a hill to take in the fjord filled with icebergs. The wind, barely noticeable in the early morning, gradually freshened and picked up but didn't seem like it would cause any problems.

After a long or short time wandering through the tundra, it was time to return to the ship. Luckily, the tables in the restaurant were already set, and the crew was waiting for us for lunch. We donned our life jackets, got into the Zodiacs, and headed back to Hondius.



No further landings were planned after lunch. Instead, we headed to O Fjord—arguably the most picturesque fjord in all of Scoresby Sound. Huge icebergs, sharp mountain peaks towering about two thousand meters high, covered in snow, glaciers, azure waters of the fjord, and the sun — what more could one ask for? We spilled out onto the open decks, basking in the autumn sun of Greenland, admiring the stunning scenery. The expedition team, along with the hotel department, set up a table at the bow of the ship, offering us ice cream and drinks. We took pictures and were in high spirits.

In the evening, we had a recap where Sara, our expedition leader, told us about the plans for the next day. And then...! Ah, what happened next! Afterward, we headed to the open deck for a barbecue! Wow! The crew grilled meat and vegetables for us on open grills, and we sat at tables enjoying the views of the mountains and icebergs. Later, when the tables were cleared, some of us stayed on deck to dance.

Gradually, it grew dark, and the first stars appeared. We all hoped to see the northern lights, but alas, not this time. But no matter — it was still an unforgettable day! May everyone have more days like this in their life!



Day 11 – Wednesday 4th September 2024

Location: Harefjord and Rypefjord

GPS Position at 12:00: 70°56.4'N, 027°48.6'W

Wind: SSE-2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 3°C, Sea Temp: 5.8°C



© Sara Jenner

After a stunning sunset last night, we started our day with the same glorious blue sky. This made for incredible views of the landscapes and the gigantic iceberg graveyard that surrounded us. Those who were up in the early morning were able to enjoy the rising sun hitting the icebergs with a yellow/orange glow. Our morning activities were planned in the Harefjord. A big fjord with many beautiful landing sites. We chose to land on Hofmann Halvø. This place was made up of a small beach and not long after a long and relatively steep hill going up. Sara had given people the chance to enjoy the scenery at their own pace by opening a free roaming area called a perimeter landing. There were guides on the outskirts of the area making sure everything was safe.

There were still medium and long hiking groups going out for the people who wanted to go and explore the top of the hills. The saddle of the hill was around 250 m tall. From the top you could see into the other fjord called Rypefjord. The hill was quite wide and open where, to our luck many musk oxen were grazing. Every hiking group was able to approach a group of musk ox relatively close during this morning. They were not all as interested in human contact and most groups of musk ox followed the coast going further into Harefjord.

Many hiking groups also stumbled upon Rock Ptarmigan. They are so well



© Sara Jenner



camouflaged that the risk of stepping on one is actually possible. Luckily, they always know when other animals are around and flea on time. As they do not fly very far, we were able to take good photos of them. All together this was a perfect morning where everybody was able to take some time for themselves and try to reflect on where we are in the world and how unique our surroundings are.

In the afternoon clouds started to roll in and just before the afternoon activity it started to rain slightly. The cold and wet

weather was not very motivating after just having eaten our lunch. Even though our zodiac cruise through the iceberg graveyard just out of the Harefjord started out a bit wet we were all pleasantly surprised as the weather improved a lot during the zodiac cruise. The low hanging clouds hovering in the middle of the red mountains made for a very mystic and beautiful experience. There were icebergs in all shapes and sizes. Some were almost completely transparent which made for amazing photos. On the shoreline many zodiacs were also able to observe musk ox from quite close. For a while they seemed less afraid of the zodiacs than if we would have approached walking. A good chance for the short hikers that had not seen one from very close.

As the cruise progressed, we had the chance to see some extremely rare icebergs. Some were completely covered with organ pipes. These are carved out vertical lines that were created when that part of the iceberg was situated underneath the water. A feature that is created by the melting of the iceberg. You can come for years and years to the



polar regions and not see such marvellous icebergs. As the weather was still humid and cold most groups did choose to go back to the ship a little bit early.

During our recap on top of explaining the plans for the next day, Sara answered some questions from the question box. She explained how many polar bears are estimated in the Arctic and specifically in Greenland. Hana answered another question about the life of the Inuit people in Ittoqqortoormiit.



Finally, Chloe talked about Lichens and took the liberty to explain everything there is to know about water bears. The amazing and incredible microscopic animals that can survive in the most extreme conditions. As the sky was open above us many people were waiting for aurora borealis to appear. This was a long wait as the only accounts that were made that evening were at 02:00 and they were only seen as clouds in the sky. It was possible to see the colors after taking a picture of the sky. Let's hope for more clear nights to come to get a view of this spectacular phenomenon.

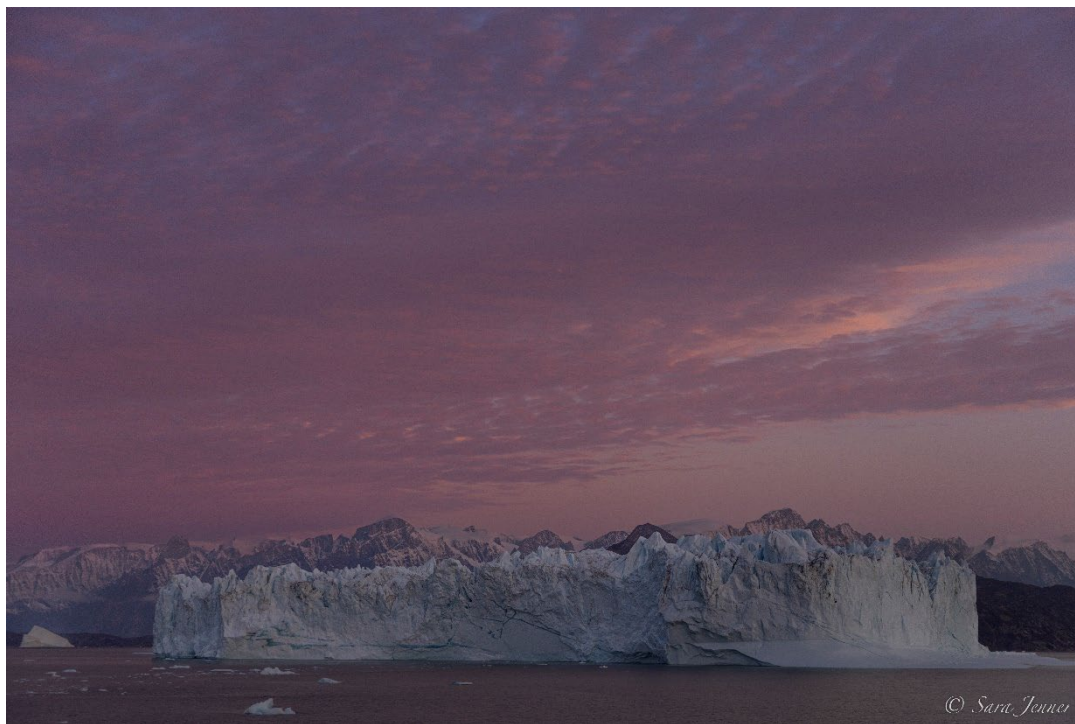


Day 12 – Thursday 5th September 2024

Location: Vikingebugten

GPS Position at 12:00: 70°27.0'N, 025°05.4'W

Wind: W-4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Snow, Air Temp: 2°C, Sea Temp: 7.2°C



Our last day in Greenland will be memorable for many of us!

At night the patience of some of us was rewarded by glimpses of northern lights dancing in the sky as Hondius sailed through Øfjorden to our next destination. Due to low-speed restrictions in this area and, therefore, relatively long repositioning time, we had no activity scheduled before lunch. The morning was filled with another set of interesting lectures.

Just after breakfast, Meike and Chris talked in parallel about dog sledding in the Arctic, respectively in German and English, followed by a lecture by Jakub about the future of glaciers, ice sheets and Arctic Sea ice. Meanwhile in the dining room a large group of our Chinese guests organized a dumpling-making party.



After lunch we arrived in Vikingebugt – our last destination in Greenland. The snow was falling heavily, and the calm sea started to freeze. We could observe the first stage of sea ice formation known as frazil, or grease, ice. Visibility was poor, so Sara announced a delayed standby hoping that the fog would lift. It turned out to be a good decision, as just an hour later the visibility improved, and zodiacs were dropped in the water.

The landscape around us was surreal. Majestic mountains of sedimentary rocks look beautiful, with their countless horizontal cake-like layers highlighted by fresh snow. The other end of the bay was dominated by a big glacier terminating in the sea with a tall blue cliff. The freezing fjord trapped small and large bits of glacier ice floating in the water, like they were flies in a spider's web. And the weather kept on improving. We embarked in the zodiac around 14:30 and slowly cruised around medium-sized icebergs. With the air temperature near the freezing point, but with no wind, it didn't feel too cold, so we could truly enjoy the lazy pace at which our expedition team navigated us through the ice, with frequent stops with engines turned off to contemplate the calmness of the arctic scenery for the last

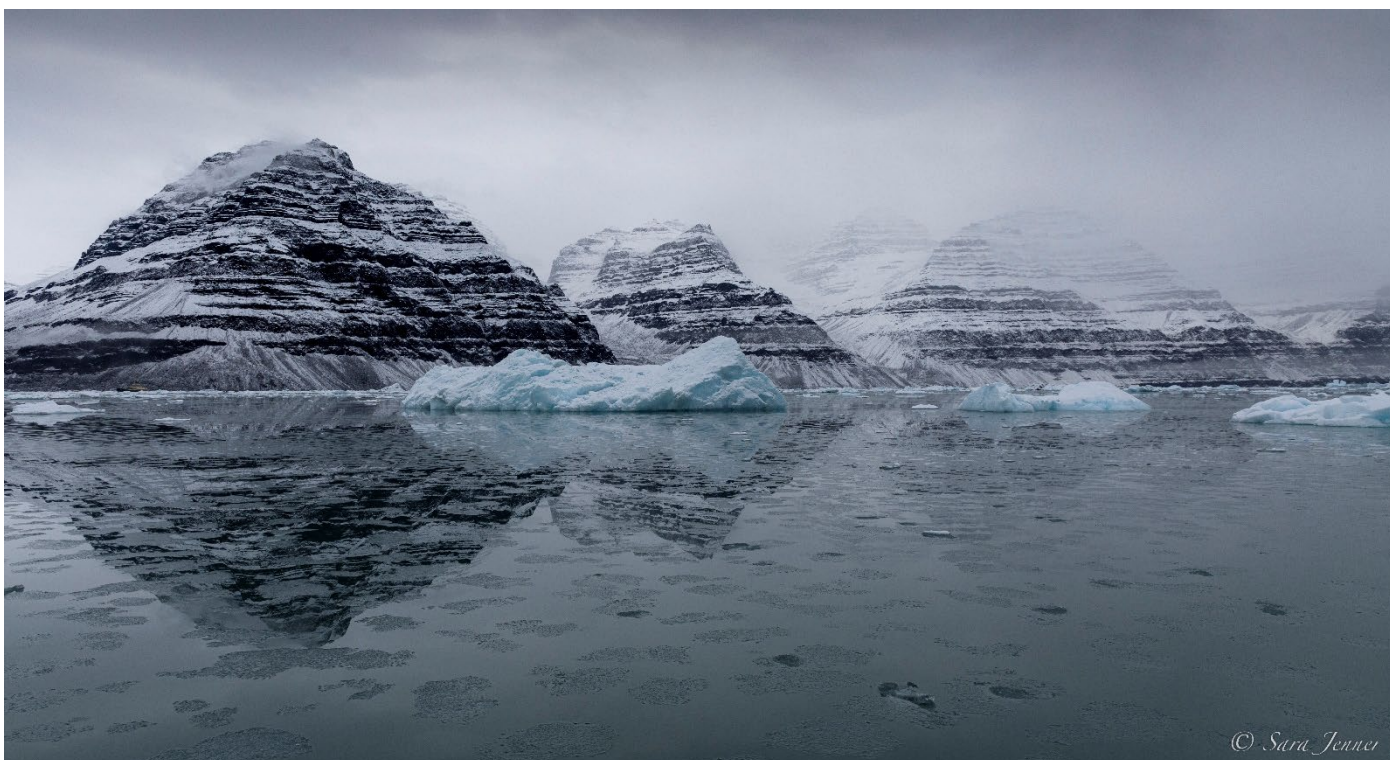
time. Slowly but steadily, we approached the glacier. To make this cruise even better, at the right (west) corner of the glacier Sara and other team members served us hot chocolate.

And just as we started to think that this cruise couldn't get any better, we noticed a polar bear! We immediately pointed our longest lenses and binoculars at a distant mountain slope where some of us saw the king of the Arctic walking towards the glacier. Fresh snow and some 2-3 km distance from the bear didn't make this observation any easier, but still we were happy and privileged to share the place with the largest carnivore that you can meet on the lands of the Earth. And then another bear was spotted! The other one was peacefully sleeping nearby.



In line with nature protection regulations in Greenland we soon retreated towards Hondius to make sure the bears were not disturbed by our presence. Before disembarking, some zodiacs set their course to the basalt rock outcrops at the entrance to the fjord where we admired fantastic shapes of basalt rocks. These relatively young ("only" some 55 million years old) volcanic intrusions remember the time when the Atlantic Ocean only started to form, as Greenland and Northern Europe finally separated from each other. As the lava cooled down it also shrank a little bit and mineral crystal structure within basalt promoted the formation of columns with hexagonal cross-sections, roughly

perpendicular to the cooling front. With several periods of eruptions spanning over a longer time the columns (or "organs") bend in different directions.



All of us were back onboard by 17.30. Soon afterwards we met in the observation lounge for a recap and then in the dining room for dinner. Many of us agreed that this day was the most beautiful experience of our journey.

Day 13 – Friday 6th September 2024

Location: Heading towards Iceland

GPS Position at 12:00: 68°44.1'N, 020°35.0'W

Wind: SW-6, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Fog, Air Temp: 0°C, Sea Temp: 4.3°C

After a beautiful sunset and a little Northern Lights activity last night, it was a relaxed morning on board. We were now sailing south towards Iceland on the open ocean. Unfortunately, some of us had to deal with a bit of sea sickness, but for the most part everybody was up and about.

After a leisurely breakfast, we were called to return our boots on Deck 3. It is sad to think that this journey is coming to an end so soon, but what a rollercoaster it has been. Once everybody returned their rubber boots, it was time for the day's first lecture by Koen about Northern Lights. He showed a very informative video, explaining how Northern Lights are created by solar winds that collide with the Earth's magnetic field. The chemical reaction that follows leads to the beautiful green, pink and red colours dancing in the night sky. Afterwards, Koen also explained how to best take pictures of this phenomenon by setting up your camera correctly and showed some impressive examples from his travels in the Arctic regions.



Later, Misha gave a lecture about Marine Mammal acoustics. He explained all about how and why whales use sound to communicate with each other and we even got to hear some recorded sounds of different whales.



Then it was time for lunch and a little rest as the Hondius continued plowing through the waves heading south. The heavy swells from earlier in the morning had died down a bit and the sun was starting to come out.

In the afternoon, Sarah gave an informative talk on threads to marine mammals, explaining how the fishing industry, but also climate change and plastic pollution affect marine mammal populations and what could and should be done in order to protect the oceanic giants.

Right on queue, after Sarah had finished her lecture, we received a call from the bridge, that whales had been spotted close

to the ship. So, we all grabbed our jackets, by now we were accustomed to getting dressed in a flash of time and rushed to the bow of the ship. Sure enough, after a few minutes of impatient wait, we got to see a fin whale surface right next to the ship. It came up a few times showing its dorsal fin and then dove down. What a wonderful experience.

Before dinner, we were then invited to this voyage's last recap, the Captain's Goodbye ceremony where Misha presented the slideshow, a beautiful summary of this amazing trip.

Day 14 – Saturday 7th September 2024

Disembarkation in Akureyri, Iceland

GPS Position at 8:00: 65°41.5'N, 018°04.4'W

Wind: ESE-5, Sea State: Moderate, Weather: Sunny, Air Temp: 10°C, Sea Temp: 9.7°C

This morning Iceland welcomes us with beautiful sunshine. As we sail into Akureyri we enjoy the panoramic views of the rolling hills and the clear blue water of the bay. Iceland's "Capital of the North" is a bustling town with a picturesque city center and a well-established tourism industry. The perfect final destination for our trip. Yet, getting back to civilization feels foreign to us. For the past two weeks, all our senses have become heightened to absorb the vast emptiness that is East Greenland.

We learned to **feel** the cool breeze that was our constant companion and the icy fog clinging to our cheeks.

We learned to **listen** to the Arctic silence, which was surprisingly full of sounds – the crashing waves, the restless birds, the cracking ice.

We learned to **smell** the fresh morning air, the sweet scent of autumn as we walked over the tundra and let's not forget the lovely smell of walrus sleeping on the beach.

But most of all we learned to **see** – landscapes larger than life, mountains, valleys, fjords and ice. Sunrises and sunsets, foggy fjords clearing in a matter of minutes, revealing breathtaking views of snowy peaks and vibrant valleys. Giant icebergs floating peacefully until they suddenly topple over and come crashing down. When we first walked on the tundra, we thought it looked monotone and barren, but now we root for the tiny flowers braving the Arctic cold. We admired the colours and ingenious adaptations of both flora and fauna, always fighting at the edge of survival. We saw musk ox and walrus, seals and birds, and even a pixel polar bear. And finally, we saw peace. Nature as undisturbed by human presence as anywhere.



So re-entering society with the hustle and bustle on shore seems almost a bit overwhelming. It has been only 14 days, yet it feels much longer. Our minds (and memory cards) are overflowing with new impressions, and it will take weeks to process them all.

What an expedition it has been! We experienced the full array of Arctic weather, from fantastic sunrises to unforgiving fog, from sunny afternoons to relentless icy rain. Plan B, C and D were pulled out of the drawer frequently, and everyone's flexibility and resilience were tested more than once. But thanks to Sara's careful decision making and our

adaptiveness, every day turned into a special experience that none of us are soon to forget. We never know what a trip like this will bring, this one truly was an “expedition”, but I think we can all agree that East Greenland has been spectacular.

For some of us, we will take the bus to Reykjavik and fly back home tomorrow, for others, the trip continues for a few more days in Iceland. As we disembark on the pier, we are sad to say goodbye to the expedition team, the entire crew of the Hondius, who have taken such good care of us these past two weeks and our new friends. Perhaps we will see each other again in the future, in a different part of the polar world.

Whatever your future plans are, we hope that you carry these extraordinary memories with you for many years to come. We hope that you can reflect upon the challenges that life in the Arctic faces, that we ourselves had to face. And that you perhaps take home some of that Arctic silence and bring it to your life.

It's important to every now and then just stop, listen, breathe and enjoy!

In the name of Captain Remmert, Expedition Leader Sara, Hotel Manager William and the entire Crew of M/V Hondius, we thank you for choosing to travel with Oceanwide Expeditions. It was a pleasure to have you on board and we hope to welcome you again in the future, as guests and as friends.

NORTHERN MOST POSITION: 79°48.3'N, 010°17.7'E

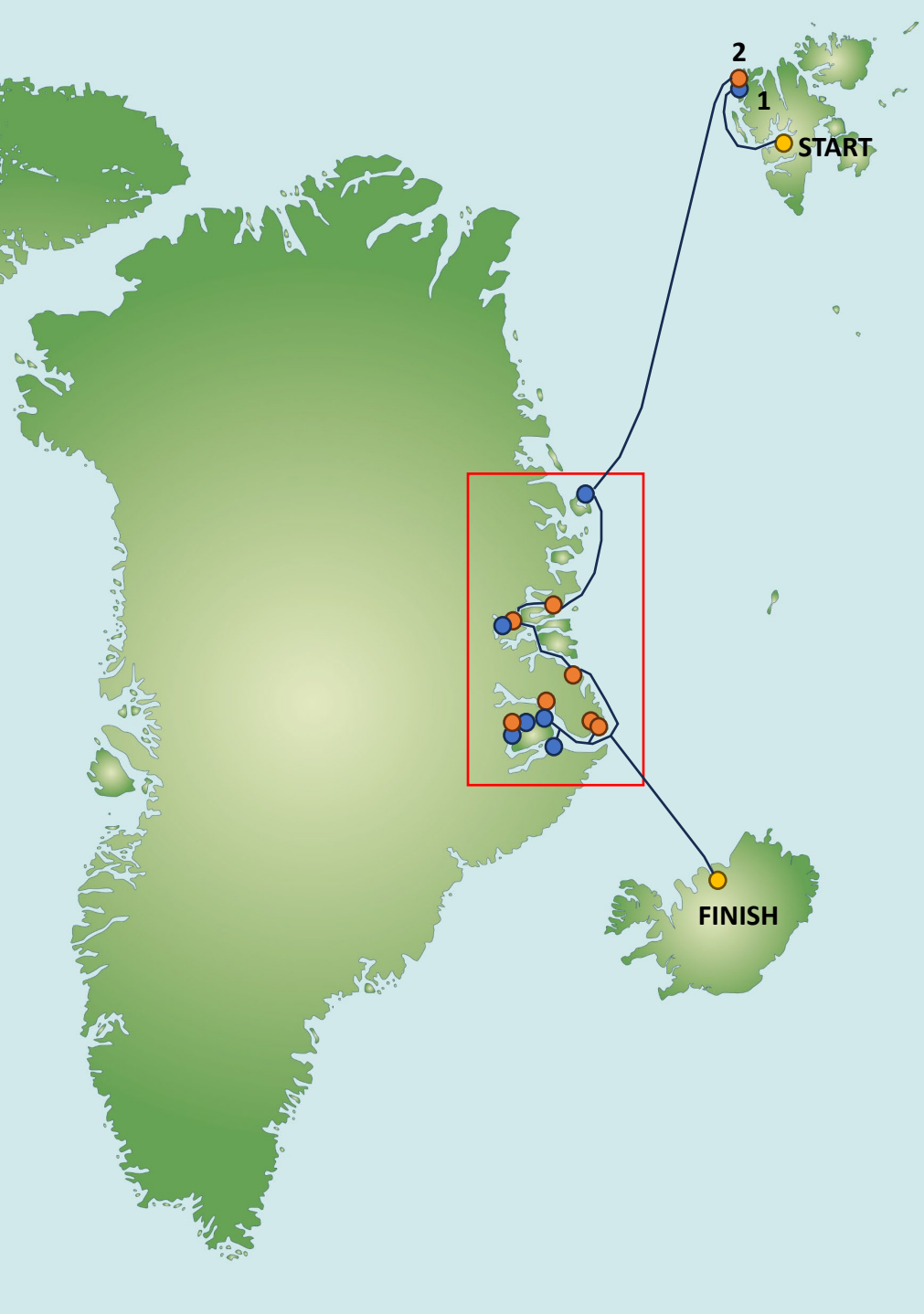
DISTANCE SAILED:

2133.4 NM



Goodbye and thank you from the Expedition Team!





Svalbard – Greenland – Iceland 25 August – 7 September 2024

onboard MV Hondius, Oceanwide Expeditions

START – Longyearbyen, 25/08

1. Magdalenafjorden cruise, 26/8
 2. Smeerenburg & Virgohamna, 26/8
 3. Shannon Island – sea ice cruise, 28/8
 4. Marghrethedal, 29/8
 5. Inner Kejser Franz Joseph Fjord cruise, 30/8
 6. Blomsterbugt, 30/8
 7. Flemingfjord, 31/8
 8. Bjørneøer (Bear Islands) cruise, 1/9
 9. Hurry Inlet, 2/9
 10. Ittoqqortoormiit village, 2/9
 11. Sydd Kapp, 3/9
 12. Øfjord ship cruise, 3/9
 13. Harefjord landing, 4/9
 14. Harefjord cruise, 4/9
 15. Vikingebugt, 5/9
- FINISH – Akureyri, 7/9

English Name	Latin	German	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher						X								
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternaucher									X	X	X			
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel		X	X	X			X	X		X			X	
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Baßtöpel													X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	Grosser Sturmtaucher													X	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Dunkler Sturmtaucher													X	
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans						X		X	X					
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans						X								
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans														
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente		X							X	X				
King eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente														
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalke					X				X	X	X			
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Wanderfalke														
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente										X	X			
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn											X			
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer					X	X			X					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling							X		X					
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer		X												
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt									X					
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer									X					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer														
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe			X		X						X			
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe		X							X				X	
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe									X					
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua										X				
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe														
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe														
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	Heringsmöwe								X						
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoideus</i>	Polarmöwe											X			
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe														
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe			X	X								X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	X	X	X	X				X				X		
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme														
Brinnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme		X											X	
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste		X	X											
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher			X											
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher		X	X										X	
Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Schneeeule														
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer					X	X	X			X	X			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze														
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer					X					X		X		
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescans</i>	Pazifikpieper											X			
Raven	<i>Covus corax</i>	Kolkrabe					X				X		X			
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Birkenzeisig														
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	Polarbirkenzeisig											X			

MAMMALS																
English Name	Latin	German	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross		X												
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe				X							X			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe											X			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe				X										
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze														
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund		X												
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal														
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal														
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal														
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal														
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal														
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal														
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal														
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal														
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)														
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)														
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin														
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär												X		
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs										X				
Arctic Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	Schneehase						X			X	X				
Muskox	<i>Ovibus moschatus</i>	Moschusochse					X	X	X			X	X			
Arctic Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Grauwolf														
Collared Lemming	<i>Dicrostonyx torquatus</i>	Lemming										X				

Sara Jenner - Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Chloé Maréchal - Assistant Expedition Leader



Chloé is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Armed with a European master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, she's on a mission to share her expertise and promote the conservation of the marine environment. But here's the twist—while everyone else is busy oohing and aahing over flashy dolphins and majestic whales, Chloé's heart belongs to the unsung heroes of the ocean—the often underrated world of plankton and the mysteries of unseen microbes. She's here to show that even the tiniest organisms can have big personalities!

In April 2013, Chloé's dedication and skills were recognized when she was chosen as the prestigious 2013-14 European Rolex Our World Underwater Scholar. This remarkable opportunity allowed her to work alongside renowned leaders in the fields of marine science and diving industry, providing her with diverse experiences and invaluable insights. During this transformative year, her first encounter with Antarctica left an indelible mark, igniting a lifelong passion for polar exploration.

Chloé isn't just a science nerd with a thing for plankton. She's an adventurous soul with an insatiable curiosity. She's dived across all continents, lived in 20 countries, and now sails on her 12-meter aluminum boat. Together with her partner she has recently crossed the challenging waters of the North Sea.

Currently, Chloé calls northern Norway her home, residing just above the polar circle. When not guiding, she explores underwater wonders, uncovers forgotten wrecks, and maps uncharted underwater caves. Her passion for the ocean, sailing, and work with Oceanwide Expeditions fuel her relentless pursuit of adventure.

Chris Long - Assistant Expedition Leader



Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an untouched emerald green river. Most of their food comes from a huge vegetable garden or is fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set

off to explore what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River, Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 65 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, East Antarctica and the Atlantic Ocean.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska on a small yacht and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway. Here he endured two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races. He also guides with Oceanwide in Svalbard each summer.

In 2022, Chris published a best-selling autobiography "*The Boy From Gorge River*" and when he is not at sea you will find him training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license or exploring a new corner of the globe.

Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide



Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completing 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 Expeditions Guides, He has guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia many times.

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning

to learn wildlife photography.

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

Jerry 一直都很喜爱自然野生动物和旅行。从美国 Drexel University 毕业后，开始从事旅游业。开始作为高端客户旅行顾问和领队走遍了欧洲。然后作为一家旅行社的合伙人，主要从事路线规划和员工培训。为寻找更多的冒险，Jerry 去往世界各地学习所需技能，足迹踏遍 7 大洲 4 大洋，然后在 2015 年作为探险队员加入 Oceanwide 探险队。他曾多次前往北极点，北极斯瓦尔巴地区，和南极地区，在这期间他自学关于极地的地理, 野生动物和环境知识。他热爱大自然和野生动物并喜爱与人分享他的故事。

Andrew Crowder - Expedition Guide



Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a life long history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on Western Palearctic species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge. As part of that journey of discovery, he has also developed self-taught skills in wildlife photography.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a CMAS Class 2/BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world helped spawn his other main interest: cetaceans. Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these amazing animals, undertaking scientific surveys and guiding on cruise ships in UK, European and Polar waters.

Andrew recognises the powerful emotional reaction in humans when they have amazing wildlife encounters. He uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences and thereby promote the conservation of our precious natural world.

Meike Sjoer – Expedition Guide



From early on Meike has been a passionate naturalist and traveller who just loves birds.

At the age of 7 she bought her first bird book. Being outdoors all the time, she wanted to learn more about the amazing creatures she encountered. Investigating and learning about nature and wildlife has been a passion ever since.

Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a television director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If not travelling, she is directing the prime-time wildlife television program Vroege Vogels.

When time permits, she volunteers as a nature guide for the Dutch institute for nature and education. As a teenager Meike started sailing the oceans but her true love for the life in the oceans began 14 years ago when she started working with Sea Shepherd on the mediateam.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing knowledge and the passion for this magical polar world with you.

Deutsch

Es war in den Wäldern der Niederlande das Meike in Ihrer Kindheit die Liebe zur Natur, Tier & Pflanzenwelt und Abenteuer entwickelt hat. Vögel hatten immer einen besonderen Platz in Ihrem Herzen.

Meike ist von Natur aus ein Storyteller. Andere teilhaben zu lassen, an Ihren Erfahrungen in der Natur war Teil Ihres Jobs als TV Director fürs Niederländische Fernsehen. In den letzten 26 Jahren waren die Themengebiete Ihrer Sendungen Natur, Tier & Pflanzenwelt und Umwelt. Wenn die Zeit es erlaubt begleitet sie auch Exkursionen für das Niederländische Institute for Nature and Education.

In der Antarktis und Arktis gelingt es Ihr weitere outdoor Erfahrungen zu schaffen, die Menschen herauszufordern eine stärkeres Gefühl und Bewusstsein für unsere Umwelt zu entwickeln.

Meike arbeitet für OEX seit 2018 in der Nördlichen und Südlichen Hemisphäre. Durch Ihre Erfahrungen ist es ihr möglich das Wissen und die Leidenschaft für die magische Polarewelt mit Euch zu teilen.

Sabrina Kerth - Expedition Guide



Sabrina is originally from Germany and has always loved to travel. She moved abroad for her bachelor's and came to Norway in 2017 to study Tourism in the far north as an exchange semester. She fell in love with the Norwegian nature and lifestyle and decided to move to Svalbard to work for a local tour operator in Longyearbyen.

She has lived on the island fulltime for a few years, experiencing both the long polar night and midnight sun. Working both as a guide and in support operations, she has been showing this incredible place to guests from all over the world. Her favourite time of the year is February, when the light returns, and it is possible to go on snowmobile trips all over Svalbard.

But after some seasons of total darkness, she now spends her winters a little further south in Lapland, Sweden, managing a wilderness lodge and working as a dogsledding guide. She is particularly interested in the

history of Svalbard and loves to read stories about life back in the days.

In the winter, she goes cross-country skiing with her Alaskan husky and in the summertime, she likes to camp, hike and kayak.

Deutsch

Sabrina kommt aus Deutschland und war schon immer gerne am Reisen. Sie ist für ihren Bachelor ins Ausland gezogen und dann in 2017 nach Norwegen gekommen um im Norden ein Auslandssemester in Tourismus zu machen. Sie hat sich sofort in die norwegische Natur und den Lebensstil verliebt. Deswegen hat sie sich dann dafür entschieden nach Spitzbergen zu ziehen und in Longyearbyen für einen lokalen Tourenanbieter zu arbeiten.

Sie hat für mehrere Jahre Vollzeit auf der Insel gewohnt, sowohl während der langen Polarnacht als auch in der Mitternachtssonne. Als Guide hat sie schon Gästen aus aller Welt Spitzbergen zeigen dürfen. Ihr Lieblingsmonat ist Februar, wenn die Sonne nach langer Dunkelheit endlich zurück ist und man schöne Schneemobiltouren überall hin unternehmen kann.

Aber nach einigen Saisongen in kompletter Dunkelheit, wohnt sie jetzt im Winter etwas weiter südlich im Schwedischen Lapland. Dort arbeitet sie als Manager einer Wildnislodge und als Hundeschlittenguide. Sie interessiert sich sehr für die Geschichte von Svalbard und liest gerne Geschichten über das damalige Leben auf der Insel.

Im Winter geht sie gerne mit ihrem Alaskan Husky langlaufen, und im Sommer geht es mit Zelt wandern oder Kajak fahren.

Eric Wong - Expedition Guide



Eric Wong is a mountaineer and documentary photographer from Hong Kong who Specialises in landscape, mountaineering and wildlife photography in the Alps, Himalaya and Polar regions.

In 2016 he became the first foreigner graduated in the Khumbu climbing centre and qualified as professional mountaineer with the famous tribe Sherpa climbers in Nepal. In 2017 he started his trekking tour career in the Alps and Himalaya, and he started his climbing projects in various mountain ranges.

During 2017 and 2018, he successfully completed several remarkable projects which included Eiger, Matterhorn and Grand Jorasses in the Alps, speed ascent North America highest peak, Denali (6190m); solo climb Winter Fuij (3778m); solo climb Winter Island Peak (6189m); and solo climb Ama Dablam (6812m) in Himalaya.

Besides his climbing projects, Eric and his climbing partner established a non-profit initiative mentoring program designed for young individuals who aspire to become alpinists and polar explorers to promote clean, lightweight, and low impact climbing and exploration.

In 2019, Eric started his Polar guiding career and started to work in both the Arctic and Antarctic areas. Eric is also a documentary photographer and adventure columnist. Eric's work has been published in National Geographic, Leica Fotografie International Gallery Master Shot and several travel and outdoor magazines.

Eric Wong, 來自香港的登山家，生態和極地紀實攝影師，專注於阿爾卑斯山脈，喜馬拉亞山脈和南北兩極進行不同的拍攝項目。

2016 年，他成為首位在Khumbu climbing centre畢業並與尼泊爾當地雪巴人（喜馬拉雅山脈的一個部族）一起獲得職業登山家資格的外國人。他成功完成了多個卓越的項目，包括阿爾卑斯山的艾格峰、馬特洪峰，北美最高峰德納利（6190米）的速度攀登，冬季富士山（3778米）的單獨攀登，冬季島峰（6189米）的單獨攀登，以及阿馬達布拉姆峰（6812米）的單獨攀登。2019年，Eric開展他的極地嚮導生涯，並在北極和南極地區工作。協助科學家完成不同的研究，並且教育旅客有關南極的生態環境。Eric的攝影作品和見於 National Geographic 《國家地理雜誌》、《Leica攝影國際畫廊大師作品集》和多家知名的旅遊雜誌。

Zoy Li - Translator



Originally from China and major in tourism management with bachelor's degree.

Worked for a high-end tailor-made travel agency in China which focused on operating groups to polar region since 2014. There she had several job functions: travel consultant, product planning, sales-support, tour operation & tour leader, and got many chances to lead groups to Arctic, Europe, Central America, Galapagos, South America till Antarctic. In 2019, she started to join the expedition cruises, worked as Interpreter & Expedition guide on board, and had experienced a multiple of wildlife expeditions in various remote areas in this world, and so fascinated by every element from nature, she has great passion on sharing the most breathtaking scenes with every distinguished passenger for the polar region.

来自中国湖南，本科学历，旅游管理专业；

从 2014 年开始，在中国的一家高端定制旅行社工作，主要负责极地地区的团队运营。在那里，她身兼数职：

旅游顾问、产品规划、销售支持、出团操作和出行领

队；曾带领团队前往北极、欧洲、中美洲加拉帕戈斯群岛、南美洲和南极；

2018年转邮轮行业，在船上担任歌诗达邮轮亚洲航线的旅游经理；从2019年开始转探险邮轮，在船上担任翻译和探险向导。多次参与野生动物探险活动的经历，足迹遍布世界各个偏远地区，逐渐增强了她对大自然各种元素的迷恋，尤其热衷于极地，每年就像动物迁徙一样夏季回到北极，南半球的夏季回到南极。

Paipai Liu - Expediton Guide



Pai Pai is a native of Beijing, China, where she worked for several years as an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) surgeon at China's top ENT hospital. Growing up, she split her time between China and France, where she completed seven years of her education. As a result, Pai Pai is trilingual, comfortably speaking English and French along with her native Mandarin Chinese. This facilitated her subsequent travels to over 60 countries, often volunteering as an organizer, interpreter, and medical assistant along the way.

Pai Pai's first time in Antarctica was as a guest on a 23-day expedition. Since then, her interest in Antarctic preservation grew rapidly. The combined professionalism and warmth of the team left a deep impression on Pai Pai, eventually moving her to join as an assistant

interpreter.

She looks forward to sharing this experience with you and her commitment to animal welfare and environmental protection.

派派是中国北京人，曾经在全国最棒的五官科医院担任耳鼻喉科医生。她在成长过程中一半时间在中国，一半时间在法国完成了七年的学业。因此，除了母语普通话，她还能说英语和法语。这使得她之后有机会游历了 60 多个国家，并经常以组织者、翻译和医疗助理的身份进行服务。

派派第一次去极地是作为 23 天南极探险之旅的客人。从那时起，她对极地保护的興趣迅速增长。团队的温暖氛围还有专业精神给派派留下了深刻的印象，最终促使她加入探险队担任翻译和极地向导工作。

她期待着与未来的客人分享这段经历，以及她对动物福利和环境保护的承诺。

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



This is Carina, she grew up in the Swiss capital of Bern far away from the sea. Her studies in renewable energies and environmental engineering gave her a curiosity in energy production and civil engineering. She would like to share this curiosity with you! Carina is a sports nut and runs triathlons in her spare time. But don't worry, she has vowed to slow down the tours to half-tempo.

Carina's favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination with these cute animals and their dominion.

Being the happiest outside, Carina chose to make the world her workplace and to become an international guide for Oceanwide Expeditions.

Carina is a passionate and optimistic person who always likes to learn new things and has a broad interest in geography, history, archaeology, the arts and the natural sciences. As the cheesy Instagramposts say: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". So step up and let Carina share her passion for civil engineering and penguins with you and take part in your once in a lifetime adventure!

Deutsch

Das Adjektiv "stillsitzen" beschreibt Carina in etwa so, als würde man der Schweiz "Meeresanstoss" zuschreiben. Carina ist draussen zuhause. Sie ist eine Sportskanone und rennt, schwimmt und fährt in ihrer Freizeit gerne Triathlon. Es fällt ihr sicher noch ein wie man auf einem Schiff in der Antarktis einen Triathlon organisieren kann.

Carina ist im schönen Bern aufgewachsen, weit weg vom Meer. Wenn sie gerade nicht einen Berg hoch rennt, liebt sie es zu reisen. Schon ihr Studium für erneuerbare Energien und Umwelttechnik absolvierte sie zu Teilen in Berlin und Rapperswil.

Seit sie denken kann ist ihr Lieblingstier der Pinguin. Im Jahre 2019 war es endlich soweit und es ging als Touristin in die Antarktis. Dabei durfte sie zum ersten Mal die Pinguine in ihrer natürlichen Umgebung beobachten. Diese Reise hat sie dazu bewogen sich als internationaler Guide bei Oceanwide Expeditions zu bewerben und die Faszination für Pinguine und ihrem Lebensraum mit vielen neuen Menschen zu teilen.

In ihrem Beruf als Ingenieurin beschäftigt sie sich neben Solaranlagen, Wärmeerzeugungsanlagen auch mit der Wasseraufbereitung und möchte auch dieses spannende Thema mit euch teilen. Carina freut sich, euch auf eurem Abenteuer zu begleiten und euch mit interessanten neuen Geschichten zu faszinieren.

Alexander Romanovskiy – Expedition Guide



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography, and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geo ecological research.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly, and interesting to explore!

Jakub Małecki – Expedition Guide



Jakub was born in Poland in 1985. As a kid, he dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but later his focus shifted towards astronomy. Eventually, he obtained a masters and doctoral degree in Earth Sciences and became a glaciologist. As he puts it, researching remote, glacier-covered regions is almost like landing on another planet, so the childhood dream has partly come true.

Since 2007 Jakub has been studying glaciers across the world, either directly or remotely, i.e., using satellite or aerial images. His main interest is how glaciers respond to changing climate in different environmental settings. Most of his glaciology work Jakub carries out on Svalbard, the arctic archipelago located midway between Norway and the north pole, where he fell in love with ice. Since then, Jakub joins expeditions to remote regions on an every-year basis.

Jakub considers public education by the science community at least as important as delivering new knowledge, so he is a keen glaciology communicator, book author and a frequent guest to the Polish media outlets and science festivals where he comments on polar and mountain affairs. Apart from glaciology, Jakub is a huge enthusiast of planetary sciences and space exploration and tries to play the ukulele.

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he chose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling

more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

Koen Hoekemeijer - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Hana Spickova - Expedition Guide



Hana is a chemist who is working the last two years at the University Centre on Svalbard. She comes originally from the Czech Republic and has spent the last 11 years in Norway.

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master's degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking, and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America, and Patagonia. She worked

as a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.

Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Deutsch

In St. Petersburg, Russland, geboren und in Luxemburg aufgewachsen, lebt Mikhail nun in der Schweiz, wo er durch die dortige Berglandschaften zeltet.

Sein Studium in Deutschland und Schottland beendete er mit einem Master in Meeressäugerkunde und einem Master in Ökologie und Naturschutz. Nach mehreren Feldsaisons als Wissenschaftler in entfernten Gegenden versuchte er einen Weg zu finden, seine Leidenschaft für Reisen, Bildung und die höheren Breitengrade zu vereinen.

Sein tiefgründiges Interesse an den Polarregionen entsprang durch eine Antarktisreise als Teil eines Universitätskurses im Jahre 2018. Dort war er überwältigt von der Unberührtheit und der Fülle an Leben des südlichen Ozeans und wollte in einer professionellen Funktion zurückkehren. Da er die kälteren Regionen der Erde vorzieht, bot Oceanwide ihm die Gelegenheit, sich in die Polarwelt zu vertiefen und diese richtig zu erleben.

An schlechtes Wetter und schwierige Lebensbedingungen gewöhnt, versucht Mikhail Orte zu finden, die wahre Ruhe und Stille ausstrahlen. Als begeisterter Fotograf und Videograf sieht man ihn immer seine Ausrüstung mitschleppen, in dem Versuch, seine Fähigkeiten zu verbessern und die Tierwelt unverändert in ihrem natürlichen Lebensraum darzustellen.

Er arbeitet als Guide auf einer Vielzahl verschiedener Expeditionen für Oceanwide. Hier ist er meistens in bester Stimmung anzutreffen, immer bereit, zu helfen und sein Wissen und seine Fähigkeiten zum Thema Ozean und Wildleben auszubauen.

Julia Angermeier – Expedition Guide



Julia was born Germany in a small village outside of Frankfurt.

She has always had a love of the outdoors. Camping, hiking, mountaineering, kayaking have been her favorite activities since her childhood.

She started her professional career as an Intensive Care Nurse in 1998 and finished her studies in 2003. She continues this profession today in her time off.

The majority of her time, however, is spent in Puerto Natales (Chile) where she works as a trekking and outdoor guide in Torres Del Paine Nationalpark and other regions in Patagonia some of the most remote and beautiful parts of the world.

In 2019 she started working as a camping- and expedition guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in Antarctica. From the first day on she fell in love with the beautiful and breathtaking nature of the deep south. Becoming a Polar guide was now her goal.

Julia's "Speciality" are still people...telling the known and unknown stories of the most interesting people in the history of exploration of the polar regions became her passion.

Julia looks forward to sharing these amazing adventures with her guests on every trip.

Deutsch

Julia wuchs in einem kleinen Dorf ausserhalb Frankfurts auf und hatte schon immer viel Freude daran ihre Zeit in and und mit der Natur zu verbringen. Zelten, Wandern, Bergsteigen, Kayak fahren sind ihre liebsten Freizeitbeschäftigungen. 1998 startete sie ihre Karriere als Krankenschwester und in 2003 beendete sie ihr Studium zur Fachkrankenschwester für Anästhesie und Intensivmedizin, einen Beruf in dem sie heute in Ihrer 'Freizeit' immer noch tätig ist.

Die meiste Zeit des Jahres jedoch verbringt Julia in Puerto Natales (Chile) wo sie als Wanderführerin und Outdoor Guide im Nationalpark Torres del Paine und anderen Teilen Patagoniens, einigen der schönsten und entlegendsten Regionen der Welt arbeitet.

Im Oktober 2019 begann sie als Camping Guide für Oceanwide Expeditions in der Antarktis zu arbeiten. Es war Liebe auf den ersten Blick. Vom ersten Tag an war Julia gefesselt von der atemberaubenden Schönheit des tiefen Südens. Ein Polar Guide zu sein...das war nun ihr Ziel!

Julias 'Spezialgebiet' sind (wie auch zu Hause in Deutschland) Menschen...bekannte und unbekannte Geschichten einiger der Interessantesten Personen der Expeditionsgeschichte der Polarregionen zu erzählen, bekam ihre Leidenschaft.

Eine weitere Leidenschaft ist es Menschen wieder mit der Natur zu verbinden und Ihnen die Schönheit um Sie herum erfahrbar zu machen. Ihnen eine Pause zu verschaffen von Computern, sozialen Medien und Alltagsstress und Ihnen eine wundervolle und vielleicht auch lebensverändernde Erfahrung zu bringen. Julia freut sich sehr und ist jedes mal aufs Neue gespannt darauf diese wunderschönen Abenteuer mit ihren Gästen zu teilen.



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Welcome on Board!

Date: 25th August 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 Observation Lounge on Deck 5.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00+/- 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 will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the Restaurant on Deck 4. All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5.

18:00 Please join the Captain and Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5** for a celebratory toast to the voyage.

This will be followed by an introductory briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.

19:00-20:00 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.

20:00+ We will call you deck by deck down to **Deck 3** to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size

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



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 26th August 2024

Day 2: Northwest Svalbard

06:45 Wake-up call

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

08:00 Please join Sara in the Observation Lounge for the **Mandatory** AECO, Zodiac and Polar Bear Briefing, attendance will be checked.

09:15+ We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise of Waggonwaybreen.

09:30+ We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise of Waggonwaybreen.

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

14:30 We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Smeerenburg.

14:45 We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Cruise of Virgohamna.

Please note groups will swap during the afternoon.

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

19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

20:30+ After dinner Sabrina welcomes you to the Lecture Room, for a short story time about a interesting event in Svalbard.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters.

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!

"When your feet are cold, cover your head." - Inuit proverb



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 27th August 2024

Day 3: Heading towards Greenland

Please note the clocks will go back 1 hour overnight.

07:45 Wake-up call

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

09:15 Jerry will give a lecture in the lounge about Whales of the Arctic; this will be given in **Mandarin**.

09:15 Chloe will give a lecture about 'Whales of the Arctic' in the Lecture Room, this will be given in **English**.

11:15 Misha invites you to join him in the lounge for a presentation titled 'The Salomon Andree story - 43 hours to the North Pole', this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.

11:15 Sabrina will give a lecture about the History of Svalbard in the lecture room in **German**.

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

13:45 For all those guests wanting to do the **long hikes**, there will be a **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge.

16:15 Andrew welcomes you to the lounge for a lecture about Auks of the Arctic, this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.

16:15 Meike will give a lecture about Auks of the Arctic in the Lecture Room in **German**.

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

19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

20:30+ Sasha invites you to a story telling session in the Lecture Room about his time working as a keeper in the abandoned Soviet ghost town of Pyramiden in Svalbard.

"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore"- Christoph Columbus



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 28th August 2024

Day 4: Approaching the East Coast of Greenland

Please note the ships clock will go back 1 hour over night.

07:45 Wake-up call

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

We hope to spend a few hours ship cruising along the ice edge today as we make our final approach towards the Northeast National Park. During this time, we encourage you to join the expedition team on the outside decks or on the bridge, looking for wildlife.

Depending on what time we reach the ice, the lecture programme may change, so please listen to announcements.

10:00 KJ welcomes you to the lounge for a lecture titled 'First Impressions of Greenland'. This will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin and German**.

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

16:15 Please join Jakub in the lecture room for a presentation titled 'On thin Ice- Why do we need it?'. This will be given in **English** and translated into **German**.

16:15 Please join Jerry in the lounge for a presentation about Ice in its many forms, this will be given in **Mandarin**.

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

19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"It is of no purpose to discuss the use of knowledge. Man wants to know, and when he ceases to do so he is no longer man". - Fridtjof Nansen



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 29th August 2024

Day 5: Magrethedal and Kejser Franz Joseph Fjord.

- 07:30 Wake-up call
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4. Please can long hikers go into breakfast first and remember to make your lunch bag to take with you.
- 09:45 Please can the **long hikers** be ready to go ashore at Magrethedal, this will be a 6-hour hike approximately.
- 10:15 We welcome the **medium hikers** ashore for a landing at Magrethedal, this will be a 3-3.5-hour hike.
- 10:45 We welcome the **short hikers** ashore for a landing at Magrethedal, this will be for 2-2.5 hours. Zodiac shuttles will be available for those that wish to go back to the ship sooner.
- 13:30-14:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- We will spend the afternoon ship cruising beautiful Kejser Franz Joseph Fjord.
- 16:15 Please join Sara in the Lounge for a presentation about M/V Hondius, a look behind the scenes, this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.
- 16:15 Please join Carina in the Lecture Room for a presentation about M/V Hondius, a look behind the scenes, this will be given in **German**.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"It is of no purpose to discuss the use of knowledge. Man wants to know, and when he ceases to do so he is no longer man". - Fridtjof Nansen



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 30th August 2024

Day 6: Blomsterbugten and Renbugten

- 06:45 Wake-up call
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:00+/- We invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of Renbugten.
- 08:15+/- We invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise of Renbugten.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:15+/- We invite the **long hikers** for a long hike at Blomsterbugten (5+/- hours).
- 14:00+/- We welcome the **medium hikers** ashore for a landing at Blomsterbugten, this will be a 3-3.5 hour hike.
- 14:30 We welcome the **short hikers** ashore for a landing at Blomsterbugten, this will be for 2-2.5 hours. Zodiac shuttles will be available for those that wish to go back to the ship sooner.
- 19:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:30 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams." – John Muir



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 31st August 2024

Day 7: Flemming Fjord

06:45 Wake-up call

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

08:15 We invite the **long hikers** ashore at Flemming Fjord, this will be for a hike of about 5+/- hours.

08:30+/- We welcome the **medium hikers** ashore for a landing at Flemming Fjord, this will be a for a 3-3.5-hour hike.

09:00+/- We welcome the **short hikers** ashore for a landing at Flemming Fjord, this will be for 2-2.5 hours. Zodiac shuttles will be available for those that wish to go back to the ship sooner.

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

We will spend the rest of the afternoon ship cruising down the coast of Liverpool Land as we head towards Scoresby Sund.

16:15 Please join Chloe in the Lounge for a presentation titled 'The Wandering life of Plankton', this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin and German**.

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

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

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

"What is the urge to travel? I think it comes from the desire to see what is behind the next hill; a sense of adventure and restlessness." - Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen, A member of the military Sirius Dog Sledge Patrol



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 1st September 2024

Day 8: Bjørne øer

07:45 Wake-up call

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

09:15 We invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of Bjørne øer.

09:30 We invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise of Bjørne øer.

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

14:30 We invite **Mandarin speaking guests** for a landing at Bjørne øer.

16:00 We **invite all other guests** for a landing at Bjørne øer.

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

19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward." - David Livingstone



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 2nd September 2024

Day 9: Hurry Inlet, Nøkkedal and Ittoqqortoormiit

06:45 Wakeup call.

07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
Please can the long hikers go to breakfast first.

07:45 We invite the **long hikers** for a landing in Hurry Inlet at Nøkkedal, this will be a 4+/- hour hike.

08:30 We welcome the **medium hikers** ashore for a landing in Hurry Inlet at Nøkkedal, this will be a 3+/- hour hike.

09:00 We welcome the **short hikers** ashore for a landing at Hurry Inlet, this will be for 2+/- hour. Zodiac shuttles will be available for those that wish to go back to the ship sooner.

We hope to offer a **polar plunge** at the end of the landing, if you wish to take part, please wear your swimwear under your expedition clothing. We provide the towels so please do not bring them from your cabin.

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

15:30 We invite the **BLUE** group for a landing at Ittoqqortoormiit.

15:45 We invite the **RED** group for a landing at Ittoqqortoormiit.

There will be shuttles back to the ship all afternoon, the last shuttle will be 18:15 please do not be late.

19:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for daily recap.

19:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"People do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." - Sir Edmund Hillary



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 3rd September 2024

Day 10: Sydkap and Øfjord.

06:45 Wakeup call.

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

08:00 We invite the **long hikers** for a landing at Sydkap, this will be a 4.5-5-hour hike.

08:30 We welcome the **medium hikers** ashore for a landing at Sydkap, this will be a 3-3.5+/- hour hike.

09:00 We welcome the **short hikers** ashore for a landing at Sydkap, this will be for 2-2.5-hour hike. Zodiac shuttles will be available for those that wish to go back to the ship sooner.

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

16:15 Chris will give a presentation about Working with Husky Dogs in the Lounge, this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.

16:15 Meike will give a presentation about Greenland Sledge Dogs in the lecture room, this will be given in **German**.

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

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

During the evening, we will sail through Øfjord, meaning 'Island fjord', it was named in 1891 by Carl Ryder during his 1891–92 East Greenland Expedition. The steep sided fjord is between two large islands, Renland and Milneland and it is common to find large icebergs grounded in here so should make for a very picturesque backdrop for our dinner and evening entertainment.

"People do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." - Sir Edmund Hillary



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 4th September 2024

Day 11: Harefjord and Rypefjord

06:45 Wakeup call.

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

08:15+/- We invite the **long hikers** for a landing at Harefjord, this will be a 4+/- hour hike.

08:30+/- We welcome the **medium hikers** ashore for a landing at Harefjord, this will be a 3-3.5+/- hour hike.

08:45+/- We invite **all other guests** for a perimeter style landing at Harefjord, giving you the chance to roam at your own pace and enjoy your last afternoon ashore in Greenland.

Harefjord (Hare Bay) is the innermost branch of Scoresbysund, furthest to the west and nearest to the Inland Ice. The slopes around inner Harefjord are mostly pretty steep, but the occasional patch of tundra, gives muskoxen and the name giving Snowy hare space to live and to roam around and it is in these areas are where we hope to lead our hike and form our perimeter landing.

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

15:00+/- We invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of Rypefjord.

15:15+/- We invite the **BLUE** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Rypefjord.

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

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

20:30 Eric invites you to the Observation Lounge for a storytelling session about his time mountaineering in the Alps and Himalayas.

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

- Rose Elizabeth Bird



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 5th September 2024

Day 12: Vikingebugt

- 07:45 Wakeup call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Chris will give a presentation about Working with Husky Dogs in the Lounge, this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.
- 09:15 Meike will give a presentation about Greenland Sledge Dogs in the lecture room, this will be given in **German**.
- 11:30 Jakub invites you to the Lounge for a lecture titled, 'The Future of Ice', this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin** and **German**.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:45 We invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of Vikingebugt.
- 14:00 We invite the **BLUE** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Vikingebugt.
- Vikingebugt is the largest of a series of small inlets in the broad outer portion of the Scoresby Sund fjord, it is approximately 14 km long and 6 km wide. A medium-sized glacier, Bredegletscher, drains from a small ice cap into the head of the inlet but Vikingebugt is probably most famous for its spectacular hexagonal basalt columns.
- After our Zodiac cruise we will ship cruise along Volquaart Boon Kyst, we encourage you to enjoy your last views of Greenland before we set sail for Iceland.
- 17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 18:30 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 6th September 2024

Day 13: Heading towards Iceland.

07:45 Wakeup call.
08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Please pass by reception any time after breakfast to settle your account at reception, please ensure this is done before 17:00.

PLEASE NOTE THE SHOP WILL SHUT AT 12:00

09:00 We invite all guests to return their muck boots to Deck 3, please ensure they are clean before doing so.

09:30 Koen welcomes you to the Lounge for a presentation about Aurora Borealis. This will be given in **English** and translated into **German** and **Mandarin**.

11:30 Misha invites you to the Lounge for a lecture about Marine Mammal Acoustics, this will be given in **English** and translated into **German** and **Mandarin**.

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

16:15 Sara invites you to a lecture about Marine Threats in the Lounge, this will be given in **English** and translated into **German** and **Mandarin**.

18:15 Join the Expedition Team in the Lounge 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 final gala dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime". - Sir Francis Drake.



Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis, Including Long Hikes

Date: 7th September 2024

Day 14: Akureyri.

07:15 Wakeup Call.

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room by 07:15am as we need to move it to the pier for you during breakfast.

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

08:15+/- Before anyone can leave the ship, we need to gain custom clearance which means that the Icelandic custom officials will need to see the passport of every passenger before we start disembarkation. Therefore, therefore once you are called, please come to the Lecture Room on Deck 5 with your passport.

09:00+/- We invite all guests to disembark.

For those guests who have prebooked the bus from Akureyri to Reykjavik, please ensure you take your luggage with you on the bus.

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.

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