

### West-Spitsbergen & Northeast Greenland

# on board m/v Ortelius 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 – 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2024



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



### Captain Per Andersson

#### and his international crew.

#### Including:

Chief Officer: Sjoerd van Hoek [Netherlands]
Second Officer: Martin Hansson [Sweden]
Third Officer: Dirk Aits [Netherlands]

Chief Engineer: Floris Teunis [Netherlands]

Hotel Manager: Karolina Guziejko [Poland]
Head Chef: Heinz Hacker [Austria]

Sous Chef: Norman Estrada [Philippines]
Sous Chef: Ivan Yuriychuk [Ukraine]

Ship's Physician:

Bosun:

Neil Apawan

[Philippines]

Bosun:

Lauren Malatag

[Philippines]

Expedition Leader:

Florence Kuijper

[Netherlands]

Assistant Expedition Leader: **Beth Hitchcock** [United Kingdom]

Expedition Guide: Li Yeng [China]
Expedition Guide: Rao Xinpeng [China]

Expedition Guide: Charlotte Taplin [United Kingdom]

Expedition Guide: Elizabeth Robinson [United States]

Expedition Guide: Marco Rosso [Italy]

Expedition Guide: Martin Anstee [United Kingdom]

Expedition Guide Saskia van der Meij [Netherlands]

Translator Kai Lin Ong [China]

#### Welcome onboard!

### Day 1: 29th of August 2024

#### Longyearbyen, Svalbard - Embarkation

GPS position at 1600: 78°15.6' N - 015°24.0' E

Wind: S8 Sea State: small wavelets Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 8°C

Finally! The day had come, it was time for us to board our new home for our newly starting expedition, the Ortelius! We arrived at the Coal Harbour port in Longyearbyen with calm waters. Some of us only had landed a few hours before and now we were about to start our adventure onboard M/V Ortelius. Most of our luggage arrived together with the most of us. While we waited at the pier and got acquainted with some other passengers and taken the first photos of our new 'home' for the next two weeks, the Expedition Team brought all our luggage on board. Shortly after we made our way up the gangway.



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

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

After a long day of travel for most of us it was time for bed to get some rest. We sailed out of Isfjorden, heading north along the west coast of Spitsbergen.

#### Day 2: 30th of August 2024 Lilliehöökbreen & Ny-Ålesund

GPS position at 1200: 79°08.2' N - 011°41.7' E

Wind: E6 Sea State: small wavelets Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 9°C Sea Temp: 8°C

We woke up on our first day on board M/V Ortelius with the nice and soft voice of our Expedition Leader Florence. The ship slowly navigating into much calmer waters of Krossfjorden in the northwest of Spitsbergen. During the night a little storm had hit the western coast of Svalbard, and we witnessed some rolling and uncomfortable movements. Now inside the protected waters of the western fjords of Spitsbergen the navigation was much more pleasant.



Fog and low clouds covered the higher peaks that dotted the shoreline, giving a surreal and eerie atmosphere. Soon breakfast was served, and we quickly ran outside to get some pictures of the first glaciers and mountains of our trip. On starboard side we passed by Fjortende Julibukta, with its tide water glacier ending its run onto the frigid waters of Krossfjorden.

A morning of briefings awaited us where we learned about the AECO regulations in the Arctic, Polar Bear safety and Zodiac operations. After that we could finally enjoy nice views from the outer decks when we reached the end of the fjord. Right in front of our eyes the extensive wall of Lilliehöökbreen glacier was covering the entire landscape around the ship. This massive glacier front is composed of different flows that connect the upper part of Isachsenfonna and discharges glacier ice into the fjord's mouth. Clearly visible in front of us were the different medial moraine with their impressive amounts of sediments that were carried like conveyor belts under the steady, but slow movement of the glacier. With a front of 7

kilometers wide and 40 to 50m high, this massive river of ice is one of the most impressive of this side of the Arctic archipelago.

M/V Ortelius navigated the fjord in clockwise direction, before resuming her course south towards the entrance of Kongsfjorden. Certainly, another iconic place of Svalbard well-known for its historical aspects and still holds its scientific importance up to these days.



Ny-Álesund was founded in 1917 as a mining settlement mainly for coal extraction and it acquired its importance during the second part of the 1920s. The place was used by Roald Amundsen in its first failed attempt to fly over the North Pole in 1925, using two Dornier Wal flying boats. A year later the famous Norwegian polar explorer returned to the northernmost settlement of Svalbard with a different aircraft. The Norwegian government had made a deal with an Italian company led by the aeronautical engineer Umberto Nobile, who had designed and built the first airship of its kind called N1. American adventurer Lincoln Ellsworth had provided the finance to lead the expedition which would attempt the first flight over the

geographical North Pole.

The three men met on the 11th of May 1926 in the little mining settlement where a hangar had been built to host the airship and the 35-meter mast that we could still observe today. The airship was rechristened Norge and was ready to take off to make history. In 72 hours, the Norge flew over the North Pole pushed by favourable winds and good weather. Above the geographical North Pole, the flags of Italy, Norway and the USA were dropped.

No landing was made, and the airship reached Teller, Alaska without any issues. Amundsen had made history by being the first man to both have reached the South and North Pole.

A couple of years later Nobile and his men came back to Ny-Ålesund with a second airship, the N2 which took the name Italia. This time the expedition went through some unfortunate events and the Italia crash landed on the pack ice north of Svalbard, near Nordaustlandet. In an attempt to rescue his fellow colleague, Amundsen took off from Tromsø with his airplane and was never seen again.

Today Ny-Álesund still bears the sign of its historical past. The little train with few carriages for coal transportation welcomed us near the pier and as we walked into town and passed by the museum, we ended up near Amundsen's bust, commemorating this important Norwegian explorer. Some of us enjoyed pictures at the Yellow River Chinese station, while others had a stroll outside the settlement limits accompanied by two armed guides all the way to the mast that, over a hundred years ago, had held the



Norge before its historical voyage over the North Pole.

A lovely afternoon before making our way back to the ship for the first daily recap, followed by dinner and the first sign that the crossing toward Greenland had begun.

#### Day 3: 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 Sea day across the Fram Strait

GPS position at 12:00: 77°39.1' N - 005°54.5' W

Wind: WNW6 Sea State: small wavelets Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 1°C

Today we left Svalbard with MV Ortelius for our trip across the Fram Strait to Greenland. After the vessel has left the fjord, one can already begin to feel the swift currents and stronger swells. When breakfast opened, a few of us were still in our staterooms trying to get used to the swaying of the ship. Luckily the dining room was filled with most of us being very proud of our

non-seasick physiques.

After breakfast, Marco presented an insight about Greenland with its Northeast National Park and Scoresby Sund to our international passengers in the bar. He passionately shared his knowledge about geology, geography, and glaciology. Everyone felt so excited about our next destination, we were about to visit, so let's rock! Meanwhile in the lecture theatre, Rao introduced Mandarin-speaking passengers to



the process of sea ice formation and its importance in the climate and ecosystem. Many of us who were very shy to ask questions at the beginning of the voyage began to open our minds after listening to the lectures. Slowly we became more interested in our environment and began to see and think about it from a different perspective.

We had a lot of photo enthusiasts on this voyage with their long lenses, and Martin brought new inspiration and angles for them to shoot from. From landscapes to wildlife, from polar bears to seabirds. In the afternoon, the harsh sea breeze from the Arctic Ocean could already be felt outdoors. Although there was only an ocean in sight, some sensitive and curious people noticed that we were not too far from the ice.

As the intensity of the surge eased in the afternoon, and Elizabeth gave her lecture on marine mammals for all of us, it was clear that more people were adjusting to the frequency of the vessel's oscillations. It was great to have an afternoon where people went from not knowing anything about cetaceans to asking all sorts of novel questions and new ideas about their understanding. After the lecture, people clamored to the bridge and outdoor decks to join us as we tried to find unusual "whale tracks" and "sea fountains" at the surface.

Of course, at this point, bird lovers were not to be outdone as they followed Martin on the helideck at the back of the ship. Where they observed and photographed the fulmars' glide marks and the busy feeding Kittiwakes. In the evening before dinner, we had a recap and plan briefing for tomorrow. After Florence announced the program for the following day, Martin and Rao brought the thermohaline circulation action in the Shearwaters and Forward Strait to the fore.

#### Day 4: 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2024 Drifting Pack Ice

GPS position at 12:00: 76°46.1' N - 016°28.4' W

Wind: Variable 1 Sea State: calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 0°C

The morning began with an almost surreal stillness. We woke up to find ourselves surrounded by a vast expanse of sea ice, the world outside painted in shades of white and blue. There was an electric excitement in the air, even before the official wake-up call a polar bear had been spotted on the ice!

We rushed outside, our breath visible in the crisp Arctic air, eager to catch a glimpse of this majestic creature. The ship was moving slowly, carefully, not wanting to disturb the bear as it lay sleeping on a floating piece of ice. From our vantage point, we watched as the bear occasionally lifted her head, giving us a sleepy glance before settling back down. She seemed almost playful, rolling onto her back, and lazily showing us her enormous paws, as if she knew she had an audience.



Time seemed to stretch as we watched her, every moment filled with awe. But then, something remarkable happened—the bear became curious. Slowly, she began to move towards the ship, her powerful body cutting through the ice with ease. As she approached, our excitement grew. She came closer and closer until, at one point, she was so near that we couldn't see her anymore from where we stood on the deck. It was a moment of pure connection, as if the bear had decided to greet us on her own terms.



For four hours, we remained transfixed, sharing in this extraordinary encounter. It was a privilege, an experience that left us all elated and deeply moved. Just when we thought the day couldn't get any better, an announcement crackled over the PA - hot chocolate and Baileys were being served on the helideck. We laughed in disbelief, could this day truly be real?



The afternoon brought more than just relaxation. Charlotte, our bear specialist, gave a lecture on polar bear biology and anatomy, her passion for these incredible animals shining through every word. It was fascinating to learn more about the bear we had just observed, deepening our appreciation for her strength and resilience. As the day ended, we gathered for a recap, eager to hear the plans for tomorrow's adventures. Another delicious dinner followed, the perfect end to a day that felt like a dream. But this was no dream—this was the Arctic, in all its wild, breathtaking glory. And we were fortunate enough to be part of it, even for just a little while.

## Day 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024 Greenland Sea

GPS position at 12:00: 74°41.5' N - 015°41.7' W

Wind: NW3 Sea State: small wavelets Weather: Fog

Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 0°C

Today was a slow start, we looked out of our windows and fog lined the horizon, so we ambled to breakfast to fill up on coffee. After breakfast Beth gave us a fascinating lecture on the geology of Northeast Greenland. After lunch, we had a wonderful lecture from Martin about the birds of the Arctic. He really is an expert on his topic. The expedition team put on a documentary for us on the Polar regions accompanied by popcorn! A few of us were feeling seasick unfortunately, so we slept and tried to make ourselves feel better. We finished the day with recap and another delicious dinner.

## Day 6: 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2024 Fleming Fjord & Solfalsdal

GPS position at 12:00: 71°44.2' N - 022°58.0' W

Wind: N1 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 4°C

Today was our first day on land in Eastern Greenland! Something to celebrate as we had successfully sailed across the Greenland Sea and Fram Strait from Svalbard to Eastern Greenland. We continued our journey transiting south through Davy Sund and across the

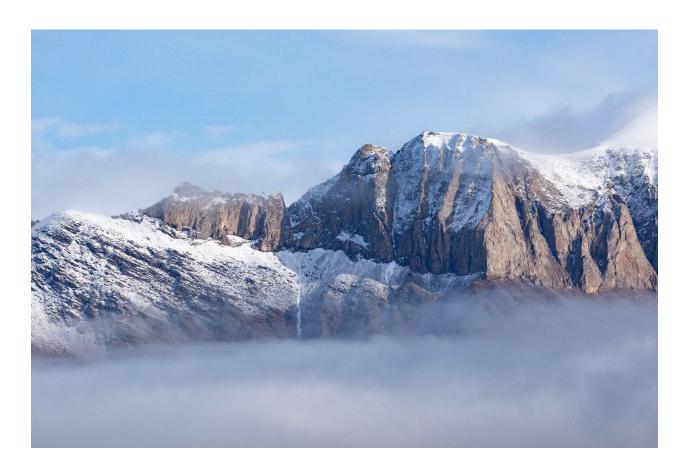
opening of Kong Oscar Fjord. We aimed for Scoresby Land, an area in Eastern Greenland named after English explorer William Scoresby, who mapped the surrounding area and fjords in detail during an expedition in 1822. Then we continued onto Fleming Fjord, named after Scottish scholar John Fleming, who was a naturalist, zoologist, and geologist. He was involved



with describing many species of mollusk which is connected to Fleming fjord because of the number of fossils found there. Fleming Fjord is also known as "Fleming Fjord Formation" which in the geological world is a known formation with terrestrial sediments and a large abundance of fossil content including dinosaurs and other rocks dating back to the Triassic period.



We arose at 07:45 to the lovely sound of expedition leader Florences' wakeup call before heading to the restaurant for a delicious breakfast. The first long hike of the trip set off early and was gifted with a sighting of the first musk ox of the trip!



We also had a photography hike, led by expedition guide Martin, and focused on the plants and stunning colors on the hillside and beaches. The medium walks also had lovely views of the fjord at different elevations. Our beach combers, the guests who wanted to take it easy and explore the landing site were treated to a visit from a curious Arctic Fox! Once all the hikes returned to the landing site, the polar plunge began! Brave souls wearing their swimsuits hesitantly ran into the cold water and plunged themselves in for a quick dip before quickly running back to the shore. It was a great spectacle!

After lunch we moved to a different landing site on the east side of the fjord, however the weather deteriorated. The wind and swell made a landing not safe for the afternoon and instead we decided to use that time to head to Scoresby Sund, or in Greenlandic called "Kangertittivag". On the top deck our expedition team held a photography workshop during our transit because although the wind was not on our side, the lighting was. Our first sight of Eastern Greenland was absolutely spectacular with the mountain peaks being illuminated by the sun. Next on the agenda, 180 miles to Scoresby Sund and more adventure awaiting!

#### Day 7: 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 Vikingebugta & Charcot Havn (Milne Land)

GPS position at 12:00: 70°27.8' N - 025°09.1' W

Wind: E3 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 2°C

After a night sailing 'outside' at sea, with some movement to put us gently to sleep, we went into the biggest fjord of Greenland, Scoresby Sund, where the waves died down. The first hours the fog was still hiding the beauty of our new destination from today. Later, as the 'white

veil' lifted, the majestic high peaks of the fjord came into view on port side of the vessel, revealing a stunning landscape. We even spotted some blue sky and a lot of us were on deck to take photos of the amazing landscape that we've just entered. In the far distance, but slowly but surely creeping closer, the first massive icebergs came into sight. The sun peaked through the clouds and shed a beautiful orange glow on the mountainsides and the ice. What a way to start this day.



We all went for breakfast at 08.00, while the captain and his team were approaching the anchorage site for this morning. Around 09.00 we dropped anchor, and the crew were lowering all eleven zodiacs onto the water. This morning, we were doing a full ship zodiac cruise into Vikingebugta with its magnificent glacier at the end. While we were waiting at the gangway the guides were in their zodiacs, scouting the vicinity for interesting objects. One of them spotted a polar bear in the bay north of Vikingebugta and of course we decided to make a detour first and head right to the end of that bay. The bear was slowly moving on the dark moraine, so although



it was a little further away it was easy to spot as it stood out with its yellowish fur. The ride in, and back to our original starting point of this cruise was already beautiful. We were surrounded by high peaks, some up to 1500 meters, with different geological features, such as sedimentary layers and some waterfalls.

Right at the entrance of Vikingebugta, at the northside of the bay, we watched a spectacular phenomenon caused by volcanic activity. A whole wall of amazing basalt columns. As the lava slowly cooled, these straight,

regular hexagonal shaped columns were formed. Some seemed like they were glued next to each other straight against the rock wall. Others looked like pencils stuck into the mountain, only

showing their 6-sided underside sticking out. Due to movement of the tectonic plates, there were columns that were bent curves or curled up. Even if you are not into geology, it was hard not to appreciate this beautiful geological art.



We moved along and drove into the fjord to go and have an upclose look at the glacier. From the ship the Brede Gletscher (Broad glacier) looked not too far away, but it was four miles. We entered the brash ice, small pieces of ice broken up from larger bergy bits and icebergs clotting the bay. The soft crashing sound when we drove in was cool. We also saw the first signs of sea ice forming. That first phase is called 'grease ice' and was probably formed overnight. When the ice would have been disrupted, and the temperature would have dropped

more than 'pancake ice' would have formed, or as Marco would say "pizza" ice. This is when small plates of ice bump into each other and the edge would 'curl up', looking like a pancake or pizza. Although the sun wasn't out, the light gave a somewhat mystical feel to our first acquaintance to the breathtaking scenery of the Scoresby Sund.

Back on board, we've witnessed a massive iceberg, an astounding 600 meters across, floating serenely in the cold, clear water, along our ship. The size of these gigantic icebergs is hard to grasp with nothing to compare it with. Only Ortelius, which is 100 meters long, but it is still hard to believe what nature produces in these waters. Over lunch and during the afternoon we transferred to a bay further north of Vikingebugta, called Charcot Havn. We cruised the 'ice giants' in the broad Hall Bredning Fjord of Scoresby Sund. These gigantic ice bergs spill out from the from the Daugaard – Jensen Gletscher.

To get to Charcot Havn took us about four hours. Therefor Florence had arranged an earlier dinner for all of us, so we could do a nice evening landing. The guides were already on land, where they had scouted for polar bears and set a perimeter where we could freely roam and take pictures. Driving to the landing site we passed some enormous icebergs again. Compared to which we were just little



dwarfs. Because of the shallow coastline and the low tide, the zodiacs could not get us right on the beach and therefore we had to wade through calf-deep water. Some of us were taken on the back, to prevent the lower small-sized boots from flooding. There was so much to photograph. The array of colors of the different vegetation was amazing. Dark red leaves of the Mountain Bearberry's, the yellow and light brown Dwarf Birch bushes, the last surviving flowers from the Purple Saxifrage, and the coloring leaves from the Arctic Bell Heather, together with the light-colored boulders. Just beautiful.

What an unforgettable day and evening this was, in such a remote part of the world!

#### Day 8: 5th of September 2024 Immikkeertikajik (Little Island) & Sydkap

GPS position at 12:00: 71° 16.4' N - 025° 04.1' W Wind: SW2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Rain

Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 1°C

The ship glided into the peaceful island of Immikkeertikajik (Little Island). We could see high up on the hill, two Arctic Hares on the tundra, their white coats almost glowing against the vivid reds and golds that carpeted the ground. It felt like stepping into another world—vast, untouched, and completely still.



We walked through gullies, the landscape rolling beneath our boots, heading to a viewpoint where the skeleton of a musk ox lay. The bones, bleached by time and weather, were a silent reminder of the wild nature of this place. Surrounded by the emptiness of the tundra, we felt small and far from the rest of the world.

After lunch, we landed at Sydkap, where two old Inuit hunting huts stood by the

shore, worn by time, but full of history. Some of us set off on a long hike up to the high ridge, determined to conquer the challenging terrain. As they climbed, a sudden blizzard rolled in, shrouding everything in a mystical blanket of snow. Yet, through the swirling whiteness, the hikers spotted Arctic Hares, blending perfectly with the storm. The hares lingered, almost as if





they, too, were captivated by the quiet magic of the moment.

Meanwhile, the rest of us walked across the tundra, marveling at the icebergs that stretched across the ocean. Their towering forms seemed to float endlessly, the vast expanse of white and blue fading into the horizon. The steady rain began to fall, drenching us, but it didn't matter—we were all mesmerized by the beauty surrounding us.

By the time we returned to the ship, cold and soaked, the warmth inside was a welcome relief. We huddled in the bar with chocolate cake, recounting our adventures with excitement and awe. The day had been long and full of surprises, but none of us could have predicted what came next.

As the evening light began to fade, we gathered at the bar and looked out the windows. Huge, jagged mountains loomed outside, their peaks cutting into the darkening sky. The ocean shimmered below, reflecting the golden light of the setting sun. In that moment, the Arctic felt both infinite and breathtakingly close—a place where the wilderness ruled, and we were just lucky enough to witness it.

#### Day 9: 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 Harefjord (Vindue Gletscher) & Rødefjord (Rødepynten)

GPS position at 12:00: 70°57.0' N - 028°18.2' W

Wind: Calm Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 3°C

The morning began with the brilliance of a deep blue sky reflecting off the ocean's calm surface, a perfect start to the day. After a quick breakfast aboard the ship, we boarded the zodiacs and made our way ashore to Harefjord. The air was crisp, and the scene that greeted us was almost otherworldly: a massive glacier, wedged between towering valley walls.



Splitting into small groups, we set off on different paths for a morning of exploration. Some of us, eager for a panoramic view, hiked upward, scaling the rocky slopes to a viewpoint that promised breathtaking vistas. Others stayed on the moraine, content to stand beside the glacier's edge, watching in awe as it groaned and shifted, the sunlight bouncing off its icy surface. The sun seemed to lift everyone's spirits; there wasn't a single face without a smile, as though the weather itself had gifted us a perfect day.

After lunch, the adventure continued as we set out on a zodiac cruise towards Rodepynten, a towering sandstone mountain famous for its striking, deep red colour. The fjord



was littered with icebergs, each one unique in shape and size, some as large as small buildings, others intricate and fragile. As we weaved between them, their sharp edges reflected perfectly in the way. And then, in a mesmerizing twist, sea ice began to form on the surface of the water, thin sheets crackling and shifting around us—another spectacle of nature, so subtle yet profound.

Just as we thought the day couldn't get better, the expedition team spotted something on the slopes above—a herd of musk oxen grazing on the rocky terrain. We quietly steered the zodiacs closer, careful not to disturb them, and there they were, magnificent and wild, completely in their element. Time seemed to slow as we watched them, each of us entranced

by the sheer beauty of the moment.

As the sun dipped lower, painting the sky with hues of gold and pink, we returned to the ship for our evening recap. The day's adventures played back in our minds as we shared stories, laughter, and a fantastic dinner. With hearts full and the sense of wonder still fresh, we drifted off to sleep, overjoyed by the day.



## Day 10: 7th of September 2024 Rypefjord (Rypenaes) & Øfjord

GPS position at 12:00: 70°57.7' N - 027° 36.4' W

Wind: Variable 2 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 2°C

The usual "Good Morning" call woke us up and Florence's voice invited us to move immediately outside to have a look at the most charismatic land mammals of Greenland: The Musk Ox!! We had been searching for these massive bovids all around Scoresby Sund in the last few days and eventually, our search paid off yesterday when some of us could enjoy them grazing and trotting on the verdant slopes at Rødepynt, whilst cruising amongst the ice mélange in Rødefjord.



Today perhaps we could have a chance to see them close by in their natural habitat, the lush tundra of Eastern Greenland. The morning was misty and low clouds were still covering the summits of the mountains surrounding Rypefjord.

This 30-kilometer ling body of water branches out northwest off the northern shore of  $\emptyset$ fjord; it is roughly 2.5 kilometer wide at the entrance and then widens out to 5 kilometer at the end, where the Eielson glacier flows down from the Greenlandic Ice Sheet. The fjord names derive from a family of birds, the grouse, to whom the iconic Rock Ptarmigan that we had seen a few days back belongs.



While having breakfast the guides were out scouting the area around the peninsula of Rypenaes and despite the extreme low tide they managed to find a place to land in the shallow waters of this protected bay. Soon the familiar noise of the zodiacs appeared around the vessel and first the long hikers, followed by the medium and beach dwellers were shuttled on shore.

Meanwhile the weather had improved and off we were on our muck boots across the lush tundra which covered a beautiful hummocky terrain full of small hills and ridges, where often small streams and ponds thrived. As the morning progressed the sun peered out from the clouds and the vibrant fall's colours were in full display; the yellow hues of Arctic willows alternated with the intense reddish tinges of the Bearberry, whilst the small orange leaves of the Dwarf Birch carpeted the ground.

Divided into small groups, each of us could explore the area at our own pace. Some of us could walk quite far from inland, allowing unique chances to spot Muskoxen and even Arctic hares from a close distance. Others ventured out towards the west of the peninsula, into a broad valley filled up with water, where other small herds of Muskoxen and waterfowl were spotted. For the short hikers more time was dedicated to stops and contemplation of the magnificent views across the fjord to the south and towards Eielson glacier.

Back on board, the anchor was lifted and MV Ortelius started her way East, navigating the pristine waters of one of the most scenic fjords in the inner Scoresby Sund. Øfjord is a sound with a fjord morphology that connects the Northwestern corner of Hall Bredning with Rødefjord. It stretches for about 60-kilometer Northeast to Southwest, and it is 5 kilometer wide on average. Imposing mountain walls fringe the northern and southern shore of the fjord,

making the navigation quite impressive.

That is probably why most of us dedicated quite some time on the outer decks right after lunch. Keen landscape photographers were marveled by the vertical cliffs often interrupted by hanging valleys in which small mountain glaciers discharged iceberg into the frigid waters of the fjord. We felt small and insignificant in front of this massive sculpture of Nature. Layers upon



layers of sediment deposited during the late Proterozoic on a shelf of what geologists called the supercontinent Rodinia, had been subjected to pressure and temperature metamorphism when the Caledonian orogeny event of the early Paleozoic created a long mountain chain that connected Scandinavia, East Greenland, Scotland, the Appalachians, and the Atlas Mountains of northern Africa. Today the result of such behemoth tectonic event was clearly visible on colourful stripy layers of gneiss dotted by granitic intrusions of the Krummedal sequence that is the highlight of this fjord.

The afternoon went by with Martin's presentation about Conservation Photography",



followed by
Florence
presenting the plan
for tomorrow,
Saskia sharing her
passionate
knowledge about
swimming and
smelly musk oxen,
closed by Charlotte
with the Arctic
Hare.

Dinner was served whilst MV Ortelius entered the

protected waters of the Bjøneøer where she found a good anchorage for the night. While the light faded away, we could see the beautiful silhouette of the mountains that awaited us for the next day.

#### Day 11: 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 Ikaasakjiip (Milne Land) & Bjørneøer

GPS position at 12:00: 71°02.9' N - 025°39.7' W

Wind: Variable 1 (3) Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 2°C

This morning was a slightly earlier morning for us as we tried to capitalize on the morning light over the mountains of Renland. We traveled all night east through Øfjord towards Bjørneøer, the "Bear Islands". These islands are located off northeast Milne Land, which would be the landing site for the morning. This area was explored in 1891 by an expedition



under the leadership of Carl Ryder where a polar bear was shot during the expedition, hence the name.



We started the morning at Milne Landing with a group of long hikers heading out first. The goal was to gain as much elevation as possible to get a good overview of Øfjord and the mountains on the north side. The stunning mountain peaks have names such as Grundtvigskirken, Trio Grand, Labyrinth Glacier, Commandment Peak and

Consolation Point. Our medium hiking groups also attempted various routes to reach overlooks of the surrounding areas. The hike reached a beautiful plateau and walked past lakes and ponds with stunning reflections of the mountains. All in all, the hikes ranged from about 2 – 6 kilometers.

In the afternoon we repositioned the ship within the Bear Islands, or the Greenlandic name of Nannut Qeqertaat. Each island doesn't necessarily have its own name but is numbered I to XI but also names are: Qalikattooq, Sulussuut, Taseertit, Nanuaraq Kangitteq, Iserartiit, Nanuaqquat Kittiit, Amaarteq, Nanuaraq Avannarteg.



We headed out for our first split landing and zodiac cruise. Half of the passengers went ashore for a short hike and half of the passengers went on a zodiac cruise. The zodiac cruise saw around 10 Musk Ox from the water and different bird species. Some of the cruisers even circumnavigated the island, cruising for up to 15 kilometers. While onshore the guests split into smaller groups and roamed around the island. More muskoxen were seen with the beach combers getting a nice close encounter. When we all got back onboard, Flo introduced the plans for tomorrow which would be our last full activity day in Scoresby Sund. Beth gave a recap about the various mountaineers who attempted to summit the mountain peaks around the area. Most interesting was the peak called "Grundtvigskirken" or nicknamed "The Cathedral". A lovely evening underway sailing through Hall Bredning towards the entrance of Scoresby Sund. After sunset the day was not over yet with the northern lights quickly seen just after midnight. The guests who had the energy to go out on deck greatly enjoyed it!

## Day 12: 9th of September 2024 Ittoqqortoormiit

GPS position at 12:00: 70°37.3' N - 022°27.8' W

Wind: NNW8/10 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 2°C

After 11 days of sailing through the wilderness areas, we finally arrived at the only human settlement on the east side of Greenland — Ittogqortoormiit!

This town of just over 350 residents, its name translates as "those who live in the big houses". The closet neighboring town in Greenland is Tasiilaq about 800 kilometers away to the southwest. In 1924, a Danish explorer Ejnar Mikkelsen, left from Copenhagen with building materials,



provisions, and a winter party of 7, started their settling project. About 85 Greenlanders arrived in the next year, and it started to be a real home for east Greenlandic hunters.

During breakfast MV Ortelius dropped anchor. Soon after we all were waiting eagerly at the gangway. Boarding the zodiacs, we were full of curiosity and anticipation, to see what it is like to live in this isolated place. There were many places open, that could be visited by us like the supermarket, the church, and the visitor center where a lovely local Inuit was happy to take a photo with some of us and tell a little bit about the life he was living here. Also to be visited



were some memorial statues and a residential facility. We walked and discovered the whole town to figure out how people could live here.

A little group of us even discovered a bit more of the mountainous area behind the town, with a nice view of the bay and the delta from the northeast of town. The new snow on top of the

mountains showed winter is coming soon and the lifestyle of Greenland is going back to the ice.

In the afternoon we had expected to head to Hurry inlet for the final landing of the voyage, but the strong winds off Scoresby Sund were already evident in the bay outside the town. As MV Ortelius sailed through the fjords in strong winds, two of the master photographers among the passengers showed us and shared their wonderful photos and ideas for photographic compositions taken on this trip. This sharing session both took us back to those moments of our journey and provided us with a more innovative perspective on what we were looking at and photographing.

Before dinner, Elizabeth told us about the secrets of Inuit architectural colors, and the captain was helping all the passengers to mentally prepare for the 6-meter waves that we would be facing as we crossed the Denmark Strait, as well as some of the safety precautions that passengers need to be aware of when in rough sea conditions. How can we go on a polar journey without some rough sea?



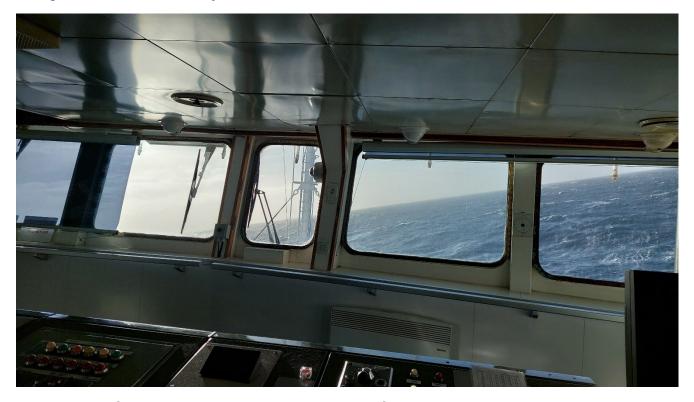
#### Day 13: 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 Sea day at Denmark Strait

GPS position at 12:00: 67°26.0' N - 019°18.4' W

Wind: N7 Sea State: Rough Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 4°C

It's a sea day today crossing the Denmark Strait. The sea was a little rough, with about 5-to-6-meter waves. Serving the meals has been a little tricky with a couple of incidents. The morning has been relaxing. Some of us were in the bar on deck 6, going through our pictures and Sue was again working on a beautiful painting. Others were on the bridge watching the swell and waves. There were documentaries from the Frozen Planet series, shown in the bar during the first half of the day.



In the afternoon, at 15:00. Lyn made a beautiful presentation about Iceland to give us a little more information about Iceland and some of the attractions. We had made it safely across the Denmark Strait and reached Iceland. We anchored in the bay of Eyjafjordur for the night. No more waves, so a last good rest before we disembark tomorrow after a wonderful trip.

At 20:30, Captain Per hosted the captain's cocktail and farewell. The flag and a small float were auctioned off. Martin prepared an amazing slideshow showcasing pictures and videos of the trip, that we all could take home.

## Day 14: 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 Akureyri - Disembarkation

GPS position at 08:00: 65°41.9' N - 018°04.62' W

Wind: N5 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 4°C

At 0530 we heaved the anchor and sailed into the port of Akureyri, Iceland, the third and final country of our voyage. After almost two weeks it is unfortunately time to say goodbye. But the memories we'd made will live with us forever. We were asked to put our luggage outside our cabins at 0730, ready for the staff and crew to take down the gangway, while we enjoyed our last breakfast on board. After saying goodbye to the dining room crew, we grabbed our hand luggage and walked down the gangway onto the pier. Then it was time to say farewell to the expedition team before we boarded the buses and left for our onward travel. Unfortunately, our adventure was over. Some of us had planned a few more nights in Akureyri before heading home. Which could only have been a good decision to stay and enjoy this beautiful island a little more.

Thank you all for such a memorable voyage, for your company, good humour, enthusiasm, and patience when the weather decided to change our plan A or B. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Northernmost position: 79°21.42' N - 011°40.24' E

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

#### Western Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

#### M/V Ortelius 29/08/24 - 11/09/24

- 1: 29/08 Longyearbyen Embarkation
- 2: 30/08 Lillieöökbreen Ship Cruising
- 3: Ny Ålesund Landing
- 4: 31/08 Fram Strait At Sea
- 5: 01/09 **Drifting Pack Ice** Bear & Seals
- 6: 02/09 Greenland Sea At Sea
- 7: 03/09 Fleming Fjord Landing/Hiking
- 8: 04/09 Vikingebugt Zodiac Cruising
- 9: Charcot Havn Landing
- 10: 05/09 Immikkeertikajik Landing/Hiking
- 11: Sydkap Landing/Hiking
- 12: 06/09 Vindue Gletscher Landing/Hiking
- 13: **Rødefjord** Zodiac Cruising
- 14: 07/09 Rypenaes Landing/Hiking
- 15: Øfjord Ship Cruising
- 16: 08/09 Milne Land Landing/Hiking
- 17: Bjørneøer Landing/Zodiac Cruising
- 18: 09/09 Ittoqoortoormiit Landing/Hiking
- 19: 10/09 **Denmark Strait** At Sea
- 20: 11/09 Akureyri Disembarkation



#### Western Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

#### M/V Ortelius 29/08/24 - 11/09/24

- 1: 29/08 Longyearbyen Embarkation
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- 5: 01/09 **Drifting Pack Ice** Bear & Seals
- 6: 02/09 **Greenland Sea** At Sea
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- 9: Charcot Havn Landing
- 10: 05/09 Immikkeertikajik Landing/Hiking
- 11: Sydkap Landing/Hiking
- 12: 06/09 Vindue Gletscher Landing/Hiking
- 13: **Rødefjord** Zodiac Cruising
- 14: 07/09 Rypenaes Landing/Hiking
- 15: Øfjord Ship Cruising
- 16: 08/09 Milne Land Landing/Hiking
- 17: Bjørneøer Landing/Zodiac Cruising
- 18: 09/09 Ittoqoortoormiit Landing/Hiking
- 19: 10/09 **Denmark Strait** At Sea
- 20: 11/09 Akureyri Disembarkation



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

Ross' Gull	Rhodostethia rosea	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw
Ivory Gull	Pagophila eburnea	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoor meeuw
Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern
Common Guillemot	Uria aalge	Trottellumme	Guillemot marmette	Zeekoet
Brunnich's Guillemot	Uria lomvia	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brunnich	Dikbekzeekoet
Black Guillemot	Cepphus grylle	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet
	Alle alle	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk
	Fratercula arctica	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaai duiker
	Plectrophenax nivalis	Schneeammer	Plectrophane des neiges	Sneeuwgors
Common Redpoll	Carduelis flammea	Birkenzeisig	Sizerin flammé	Barmsijs
Arctic Redpoll	Carduelis hornemanni	Polarbirkenzeisig	Sizerin blanchâtre	Witstuitbarmsijs
Raven	Covus corax	Kolkrabe	Grand Corbeau	Raaf
Northern wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	Steinschmätzer	Traquet motteux	Tapuit
			·	·
English	Scientific	German	French	Dutch
Walrus	Odobenus rosmarus	Walross	Morse	Walrus
Bearded seal	Erignathus barbatus	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob
Ringed seal	Phoca hispida	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob
Harp seal	Pagophilus groenlandicus	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob
Hooded seal	Cystophora cristata	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts
Common /Harbour seal	Phoca vitulina	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond
Minke Whale	Balaenoptera acutorostrata	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis
Sei Whale	Balaenoptera borealis	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis
Blue Whale	Balaenoptera musculus	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis
Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis
Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae	Buckelwal	Baleine á bosse	Bultrug
Bowhead whale	Balaena mysticetus	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis
Sperm Whale	Physeter macrocephalus	Pottwal	Cachelot	Potvis
Narwhal	Monodon monoceros	Narwal	Narval	Narwal
Northern Bottlenose Whale	Hyperoodon ampullatus	Entenwal (Dögling)	Hyperoden arctique	Butskop
	r typeroodori arripullatus	<u> </u>		
Orca (Killer Whale)	Orcinus orca	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Zwaardwalvis
Orca (Killer Whale) White-beaked Dolphin		, , ,	Orque Lagenorhynque	Zwaardwalvis Witsnuitdolfijn
White-beaked Dolphin	Orcinus orca	Schwertwal (Orca)	•	

Arctic Fox	Alopex lagopus	Polarfuchs	Renard arctique	Poolvos
Spitsbergen Reindeer	Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier
Sibling vole	Microtus rossiaemeridionalis	Südfeldmaus	Campagnol des champs	Oostelijke veldmuis
Short tailed Vole	Microtus agrestis	Erdmaus	Campagnol agreste	Aardmuis

English Name	Chinese	Scientific Name	29 Aug	30 Aug	31 Aug	01 Sep	02 Sep	03 Sep	04 Sep	05 Sep	06 Sep	07 Sep	08 Sep	09 Sep	10 Sep
Great Northern Diver	北方大潜鸟	Gavia immer													
Red-throated diver	紅喉潜鸟	Gavia stellata		Х											
Northern Fulmar	暴雪鹱	Fulmarus glacialis		Х	Х	Χ	Х								Х
Northern Gannet	北方鲣鸟	Morus bassanus													
Barnacle Goose	白颊黑雁	Branta leucopsis													
Brent Goose	黑雁	Branta bernicla													
Pink-footed Goose	粉脚雁	Anser brachyrhynchus													
Common Eider	<b>欧</b> 绒鸭	Somateria mollissima													
King Eider	王绒鸭	Somateria spectabilis													
Long-tailed Duck	长尾鸭	Clangula hyemalis								Х					
Rock Ptarmigan	岩雷鸟	Lagopus mutus hyperboreus								х					
European Golden Plover	<b>欧金</b> 鸻	Pluvialis apricaria													
Red Knot	红腹滨鹬	Calidris canutus													
Sanderling	三趾鹬	Calidris alba						Х							
Purple Sandpiper	<b>紫</b> 滨鹬	Calidris maritima		Х											
Dunlin	<b>黑腹</b> 滨鹬	Calidris alpina													
Whimbrel	中杓鹬	Numenius phaeopus													
Ruddy Turnstone	翻石鹬	Arenaria interpres													
Grey Phalarope	瓣蹼鷸	Phalaropus fulicarius													
Pomarine Skua	中贼鸥	Stercorarius pomarinus													
Arctic Skua	短尾贼鸥	Stercorarius parasiticus		Χ											
Long-tailed Skua	长尾贼鸥	Stercorarius longicaudus													
Great Skua	北贼鸥	Stercorarius skua													
Sabine's Gull	叉尾鸥	Xema sabini													
Glaucous Gull	北极鸥	Larus hyperboreus		Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Χ	Х	Х	Х	
Lesser black-backed Gull	小黑背鸥	Larus fuscus													
Great black-backed Gull	大黑背鸥	Larus marinus													
Black-legged Kittiwake	三趾鸥	Rissa tridactyla		Х	Х										
Ross' Gull	羅斯鸥	Rhodostethia rosea													
Ivory Gull	象牙鸥	Pagophila eburnea				Х	_		Х		_				
Arctic Tern	北极燕鸥	Sterna paradisaea	Χ												

Common Guillemot	崖 <b>海</b> 鸦	Uria aalge											
Brunnich's Guillemot	<b>厚嘴海</b> 鸦	Uria Iomvia		Х									
Razorbill	刀嘴海雀	Alca torda											
Black Guillemot	<b>黑海</b> 鸠	Cepphus grylle											
Little Auk	侏海雀	Alle alle		Х									
Atlantic Puffin	大西洋海鸚	Fratercula arctica	Х	Х									
Snow Bunting	雪鹀	Plectrophenax nivalis					Х	Х		Х	Х		
Ringed Plover	环颈鸻	Charadrius hiaticula					Х	Х					
Raven	乌鸦	Corvus corax						Х	Х		Х	Х	
Red Poll	<b>普通朱</b> 顶雀	Acanthis flammea								X			
Northern Wheatear	穗䳭	Northern wheatear									X		
English	Chinese	Latin											
Walrus	海象	Odobenus rosmarus											
Bearded seal	髯海豹	Erignathus barbatus							Х				
Ringed seal	环斑海豹	Phoca hispida				Х		Х					
Harp seal	竖琴海豹	Pagophilus groenlandicus											
Hooded seal	冠海豹	Cystophora cristata											
Common /Harbour seal	港海豹	Phoca vitulina		Х	Х								
Minke Whale	小须鲸	Balaenoptera acutorostrata											
Sei Whale	塞鲸	Balaenoptera borealis											
Blue Whale	蓝鲸	Balaenoptera musculus											
Fin Whale	长须鲸	Balaenoptera physalus											
Humpback Whale	<b>座</b> 头鲸	Megaptera novaeangliae											
Bowhead whale	弓头鲸	Balaena mysticetus											
Sperm Whale	抹香鲸	Physeter macrocephalus											
Narwhal	独角鲸	Monodon monoceros											
Northern Bottlenose Whale	瓶鼻鲸	Hyperoodon ampullatus											
Orca (Killer Whale)	虎鲸	Orcinus orca											
White-beaked Dolphin	白喙斑纹海豚	Lagenorhynchus albirostris											

Beluga	白鲸	Delphinapterus leucas										
Polar Bear	北极熊	Ursus maritimus			Χ		Х					
Arctic Fox	北极狐	Alopex lagopus										
Spitsbergen Reindeer	斯匹次卑尔根驯 鹿	Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus		X								
Musk Ox	麝香牛	Ovibos moschatus				X		X	X	X	Х	
Arctic Hare	北极兔	Lepus arcticus	·		·	Х		Х	·	Х		

### Florence Kuyper - Expedition Leader



Florence is a cosmopolitan with a passion for the polar regions, remote nature, deserts, history and nomadic people around the globe. After receiving her Masters degree in Educational and Organisational Psychology in the Netherlands, Florence had a European career as a consultant-manager in the field of social affairs.

In 2004 she went for the first time to the big white desert 'Antarctica' and her passion for this continent has drawn her back 'South' ever since.

But Florence can also do extreme heat: she crossed 1,200 km of harsh Mongolian desert on foot, together with a team and her Bactrian camel. Florence lived on a British historical base on the Antarctic Peninsula "Port Lockroy" where she worked as Base Leader. She also works on sailing yachts in the Arctic and Antarctica. Florence has worked as a guide and expedition leader in both polar regions since 2012 and she looks forward to sharing her knowledge and unlimited passion for the polar regions with you.

### Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide



After graduating from her Geology honours degree in 2018 at Glasgow, Beth balanced two jobs until she succumbed to full time in the guiding world in 2021. Beth worked as a deckhand / guide on a tall ship and, when on the land, as an Engineering Geologist working mainly on Scotland's road and railway networks.

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These

are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

Beth also enjoys spending time in the mountains of Scotland where she works when she is not guiding on board ships. She grew up sailing around the islands of the west coast of Scotland - home to some fascinating geology where she spent many field trips during her undergraduate years. This sparked the desire to explore and embark on adventures to discover new landscapes and cultures around the world.

### Li Ye - Translator



Li was born and raised in China, her childhood dream was to travel the world and she had visited more than 50 cities in more than 20 countries around the world.

She fell in love with polar expeditions on her first trip to Antarctica and plans to continue her career in this field to become a professional expedition guide.

Li has wide range of hobbies; she likes calligraphy, incense, tea, sports and travel. When not working in the polar region, Li also likes to try new things.

It's hard to imagine such a slim girl like her once went to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to learn Muay Thai by herself. Li is also an influencer who loves to share her experiences traveling around the world and working in the polar regions.

### Xinpeng Rao - Expedition Guide



Rao was born in Harbin China, the city full of snow and ice. This is still the reason he gives to others that he is really afraid of hot, he is a true northern man.

His hometown made him full of love in ice and ocean. After he retired from CAPF army and finished college in 2011, he works as an international tour leader in Travel agency for 6 years, during that time, he first went to Europe for western history, then Africa for wildlife.

After his first time in Antarctica, he actually found that most of the information written in Chinese such as Baidu in some common sense about Polar region were totally wrong. Then he decided to make some change.

Now 5 years since that first tour leader trip, during this time he tried to learn anything he could. He has some friends also working in polar region as a staff or a translator. They together making Science popularization in China.

Rao always encourage people to learn from the place they have been. Now the world changing so fast, every modern city looks like same. Original culture and wild environment were taken place by "modern". That is also the reason why now the wildlife tour is more and more popular in tourism industry.

## 夏洛特·塔普林---探险领队

夏洛特在英国康沃尔郡的海岸长大。 从很小的时候起,她就一直对野生动物和 海洋着迷。她在大学学习野生动物保护, 然后在接下来的十年里游历了南美洲、澳 大利亚和非洲。

> 寺对船只的热爱始于 2013 年,当水船上工作,前往大堡礁的偏远 澳大利亚和新西兰研究座头鲸、

7学的兴趣与日俱增。

为回后,她于 2018 年搬到了莫桑 言。夏洛特在业余时间担任研究员 20 年至 2022 年期间,她在超级 。她的爱好包括水肺潜水、冲浪

、自由潜水和徒步旅行。被大海包围的感觉,是让夏洛特最向往的,因此,自 2022 年起,夏洛在泛海探险开启了她人生的新旅程。

小须鲸和抹

在乘坐 比克,在那 , 研究莫桑 游艇和破冰

# Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide



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

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mammalogy, accompanied by additional degrees in Psychology, English Writing and Environmental Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on

African elephants and squirrels. Recently, she graduated from the University of Bristol (UK) with a Master of Science degree in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. Her dissertation focused on cetacean conservation and understanding how policy is integrated within conservation efforts.

Elizabeth has lived and studied whales in many places such as Hawaii, British Columbia, Alaska, Norway, and the UK. She has previously worked as an orca kayak guide, a snorkel guide in Hawaii, a wildlife documentary co-producer, and a marine mammal researcher. She has spent the last eight years studying species such as orcas, humpback whales, right whales, porpoises, and pinnipeds. She is passionate about cetacean conservation, specifically endangered species. Elizabeth is very proud to have recently received her United States Coast Guard 100-ton Master Captains license and sailboat endorsement! She currently calls both the US and the UK home and is happiest at sea.

# Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

# Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide



Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has just spent a month in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day.

# Saskia van der Meij – Expedition guide



Saskia is an enthusiastic girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Multiple-day hikes in the Andes or the Himalayas, kayaking around remote islands in Canada or camping on mountain tops overlooking Alaska's glaciers.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-

oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In that time, while co-guiding a trip in Iceland, she knew she wanted to be a nature guide.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant hotel manager in two different private game lodges. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen and became an expedition guide on several ships. She called Antarctica home for three months last winter/summer. As a camping guide she took guests out for a night on this amazing continent.

She has a wide interest and understanding, from animals and landscapes to ice and history with its interesting explorer stories.

Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these breathtaking destinations.

# Ong Kai Lin (Lyn) - Translator



was raised and educated Lyn Singapore where she was a teacher for more than a decade. Since young, she has been very adventurous, having been to Mount Everest base camp at the age of 13 and 3 times on Mount Kinabalu, she knew that city life was not what she wanted. After traveling to more than 15 countries, the arctic was where she felt the most at home. She moved to Iceland 8 years ago to start her own travel agency and has been working as a local guide since.

Lyn has a great love for nature and adventures. Her free time are spent

traveling, hiking in the mountains and taking pictures of landscapes and wildlife. She believes that more people should see how beautiful nature is and understand the need to protect it.

## Annika Volder - Doctor



Annika was born and raised in The Netherlands in a small farmer's village just outside Amsterdam. Being outdoors was a big part of her childhood, playing around with friends and helping with the horses at a friend's farm. With her parents she travelled a lot, mostly to places with amazing nature, such as California, Canada, Iceland and many others.

She studied Medicine in Utrecht and after graduating from Medical School worked several years as a resident in Emergency medicine and intensive care in different hospitals before

specializing as an Emergency Physician in Amsterdam. Since 2015 she is working as an Emergency Physician in a hospital just north of Amsterdam. She also got certified as a Medical Examiner of Divers in 2018.

Travelling has been one of her passions since childhood. From the Northern part of Norway, Iceland and Patagonia every trip is another amazing experience, enjoying nature and wildlife and meeting new friends. During her travels photography became a hobby.

When not working or travelling she enjoys riding and taking care of her 2 horses and reading books (mostly thrillers and travel stories). She also likes cooking and going out for fine dining.



## **Welcome on Board!**

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Day 1 - Longyearbyen.

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

#### PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00 MANDATORY ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. Your attendance will be recorded.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded. On hearing the alarm, you must return to your cabin to get your life jacket and dress warmly. All guests should then proceed to the **MUSTER STATION** in the **Bar on Deck 6.** Please ensure that you have your room key to present at the muster station as it indicates which lifeboat you are assigned to.

- 18:00+/- Please join the Captain and Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by briefings from the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain our plans for the forthcoming days.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 20:15 We will start distributing Muck boots from the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. Please listen for your deck to be called, and bring thick socks so you can try them for size. You will keep the boots until the end of the voyage.

Please note that we will be sailing into open seas this evening. If you are concerned about sea sickness, please take your medication before you feel the movement of the vessel. Also, ensure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Whilst at sea please walk slowly around the ship and keep one hand free to hold on. DO NOT let doors swing freely and keep your fingers out of door frames!





Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## Day 2 – Exploring Spitsbergen's West Coast

07:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:15	Mandarin version of introduction to the trip and your Expedition Team followed by the MANDATORY AECO, Zodiac & Polar Bear Safety Briefings in the Lecture Room
09:45	<b>English</b> version of introduction to the trip and your Expedition Team followed by the <b>MANDATORY AECO</b> , <b>Zodiac &amp; Polar Bear Safety Briefings</b> in the <b>Bar</b>
10:30+/-	Ships cruise along Lilliehöökbreen, a beautiful glacier front
12:30-13:30	Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
15:00+/-	Landing at Ny Alesund.
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Date: 31st August 2024

Day 3 – at sea

08.00-09:00	Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:30	CH Sea Ice Lecture by Rao in the Lecture Room on Deck 3.
09:30	$\underline{EN}$ Introduction to Greenland and Northeast National Park Lecture by Marco in the Bar on deck 6
11.15	EN & CH Photography Lecture by Martin in the Bar on Deck 6
12:30-13:30	Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
13:45	All Chinese passport holders, take your passport to reception to register your visa
15:30	EN Introduction to marine mammals in Svalbard and Greenland Lecture by Elizabeth in the Bar on deck 6
16:30	<b>Birding</b> on the back deck. The best time to observe birds at this time of year is at seas as many have left the land where they nest in the summertime. Join Martin for observations and photography
18:30	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Date: 31st August 2024

Day 3 – at sea

07:45 Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence

08.00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Lectures in the morning. Listen for announcements.

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

Lectures in the afternoon.

18:15 Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.

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



Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024

Day 4 – In search of Sea Ice

07:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence
08.00-09:00	Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
11.30	Group photo on the Heli deck (Deck 6 aft)
12:30-13:30	Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
14:30	Information for everyone interested in Long Hikes
15:30+/-	EN & CH The Art in the Landscape Lecture by Beth in the Bar
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Date: 1st September 2024

Day 4 – at sea

07:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence
08.00-09:00	Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:30	Lecture CH in the Lecture Room on Deck 3.
09:30	Lecture EN in the Bar on deck 6
11.15	Lecture CH in the Lecture Room on Deck 3.
11.15	Lecture EN in the Bar on deck 6
12:30-13:30	Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
15:00+/-	Lecture
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Day 5 - Exploring the coastline

07:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence
08.00-09:00	Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
10.30	EN & CH The Art in the Landscape Lecture by Beth in the Bar
12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.	
	Afternoon landing at <b>Germania Havn</b> on Sabine Ø
14:00	Long Hikers will be invited to the gangway to head ashore
14:30	Photographers will be next to go to the gangway
14:45	Medium Hikers and Beach Dwellers will be called to the gangway
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

### Day 6 - Exploring Fleming Fjord

07:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence
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08.00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

09:00	Those who are registered for the <b>long hike</b> , please be ready at the gangway
09:30	Those who are registered for the <b>Photography walk</b> , be ready at the gangway

O9:45 All remaining guests are welcome to the gangway for a medium walk or time at the landing site

Take your swimming costume for the **polar plunge** which will be at the end of the morning landing. We will take the towels.

13:30-14:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

15:30 +/-	g
	Fleming Fjord, overlooking Nathorst Fjord

- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Date: 4th September 2024

### Day 7 - The Ice Giants of Scoresbysund

07:45 Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence

08.00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

09:30 Begin our zodiac cruise in **Vikingebugta** 

Listen for your colour group to be called. Embarkation order: Red - blue -

yellow

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

Afternoon	Cruising the giant ice bergs in <b>Hall Bredning</b> that spill out from the Daugaard – Jensen Gletscher
17:45	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's

activities, and recap on today.

18:30 Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:00 +/- Evening landing at **Charcot Havn**. Please listen for announcements on timings.



Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

09:30

## Day 8 - Exploring an area which was home for Thule Inuit

07:15 Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence07.30-08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.Morning Landing on the island of Immikkeertikajik.

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

We will welcome you to the gangway in colour groups

### Afternoon landing at Sydkap

Yellow - Blue - Red

14:15	Long Hikers please come to the gangway
14:45	Those who would like a medium walk will be welcomed to the gangway
15:00	Last to disembark will be those who walk near the landing site
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
20:00	After dinner we will make our way through <b>Øfjord</b> , with spectacular high mountains. We recommend some time outside to enjoy this famous passage.



Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Day 9 - Exploring inner Scoresbysund

06:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence	
07.00-08:00	Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.	
	Morning Landing on the island of <b>Sorte</b> Ø.	
09:00	We will welcome you to the gangway by activity groups – Medium hikers – slower hikers – Beach dwellers	
12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.		
	Afternoon landing at <b>Rødepynten</b>	
14:45	Disembarkation begins, listen for your colour group Blue – Yellow - Red	
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.	
19:00	Dinner is served	



Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Day 9 - Exploring inner Scoresbysund

06:45	Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence	
07.00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.		
	Morning Landing on the island of Harefjord.	
09:45	We will welcome you to the gangway by activity groups – Medium hikers – slower hikers – Beach dwellers	
12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.		
	Afternoon zodiac cruise at <b>Rødefjord</b>	
15:00	Disembarkation begins, listen for your colour group Blue – Yellow - Red	
18:15	Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.	
19:00	Dinner is served	



Date: 7th September 2024

#### Day 10 - Exploring inner Scoresbysund

Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence07.30-08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Morning Landing in Rypefjord.

09:30 We will welcome you to the gangway by activity groups – Long Hikers – All Other Hikers – Beach Dwellers

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

Afternoon on board cruising the dramatic mountains of **ØFjord** 

15:00+/- Martin will present a **lecture on Photography and Conservation** in the Bar for everyone.

Afterwards, there will be a photography session on the outside decks

18:15 Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Date: 8th September 2024

Day 11 - Exploring Bjørneøer

06:45 Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence07.00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Morning Landing on the North East tip of **Milne Land**08:00 Long Hikers to the gangway

08:30 We will welcome you to the gangway by activity groups – All Other Hikers – Beach Dwellers

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

Afternoon Landing and zodiac cruise at **Bjørneøer (Bear Islands)**14:45

Blue and Yellow groups to the gangway for the shuttle to the landing site

Red group will be called to the gangway for a zodiac cruise

SWAP – those ashore will go zodiac cruising. Those zodiac cruising will be taken ashore.

Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.

Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.





Date: 9th September 2024

Day 12 – Visiting the local community.

07:45 Wake-up call by Expedition Leader Florence 08.00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant. Deck 4. Morning Landing on at Ittoqqortoormiit 09:15 Those who want a short hike away from the town first. The walk is about 2 km. You will get an hour to look at the town at the end of the walk. 09:30 Those who just want to go ashore to visit the town, without a walk 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4. Landing at Hurry Inlet 15:30 Hikers will go first – Beach dwellers disembark last 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the bar for a briefing on tomorrow's activities, and recap on today.

Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

19:00



Date: 10th September 2024

## Day 13 - The Denmark Strait Experience

No wake-up call

08.00-09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Relaxed morning sorting photos and enjoying the rolling ocean swell.

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

15:00	Destination Iceland Lecture by Lin in the Bar
18:00	Captains Cocktails evening in the Bar.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
20:30	<b>Slideshow presentation</b> of our full arctic voyage from 29 <sup>th</sup> August to 11 <sup>th</sup> September



Date: 11th September 2024

Day 14: Akureyri – Disembarkation.

Please ensure your luggage is placed outside your cabin at **07:30** when you go to breakfast, so we can move it to the pier.

For those booked on the transfer from Akureyri to Reykjavik, ensure your **BLUE** luggage tag is visible. If possible, don't put tags on the main carrying handles as they get torn.

Hand luggage left in the cabin must be clear of the beds.

07:00	Wakeup call.
07:30	Breakfast buffet is served in the Restaurant.
09:00	General disembarkation for all guests Either you have arranged your own plans or have booked on the transfer from Akureyri to Reykjavik.

IF YOU GET THE TRANSFER TO REYKJAVIK, PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR LUGGAGE ON THE PIER BEFORE GETTING ON THE BUS.

From Captain Per Andersson, the Expedition Team and all Crew on board *MV Ortelius*, we wish you a safe onward journey, and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

