



North Spitsbergen Explorer, Versatile Landscapes, Sea Ice and Wildlife

Vlissingen – Longyearbyen

9 June – 16 June, 2025

On board *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 Jan Dobrogowski

and his international crew of 72 sailors

Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[Germany]
Second Officer:	Nino Cizmic	[Croatia]
Third Officer:	Erik van de Reijden	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Philippines]
Ships doctor:	Martin Kriz	[Sweden]
Expedition Leader:	Christan Long	[NewZealand]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Chloe Maréchal	[France]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Jerry Zhao	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide:	Jakub Malecki	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Paolo Bellezze	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Philipp Konietzko	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Rustyn Mesdag	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Brenya Green	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Andi Schwetz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Tiphanie May	[FalklandIslands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Monday 9 June, Longyearbyen: Setting Sail into the Arctic wilds

16h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E

Wind: E1 • Sea:Ripple • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C

The remote frontier of Longyearbyen stirred with quiet anticipation as many of us arrived on the very day our adventure was set to begin. By afternoon, the stillness of the bay was punctuated by the hum of activity—luggage was whisked from the quay to the *Hondius*, anchored at the pier of Longyearbyen, waiting like a steel sentinel in the icy waters.



By 4 PM, excitement buzzed through the brisk Arctic air. A line of eager guests had gathered, eyes bright with the promise of wilder rides lay ahead.

Once aboard the *Hondius*, time seemed to slip by unnoticed. Between orientation briefings, safety drills, receiving our Muck boots, welcome cocktails with our charismatic Captain Jan, and a beautifully prepared first dinner, the hours melted away. Yet as we cast off and the vessel carved a path out of Isfjord, the true wonder began to unfold.

Bathed in the soft glow of the Arctic evening, Spitsbergen's flat-topped mountains stood like ancient fortresses along the fjord. We were finally on our way—northward into the raw heart of the wilderness, where ice met sky and the silence held secrets millions of years old.



Our voyage had truly begun.

Day 2 – Tuesday 10 June, Lilliehöökreen & Camp Zoe

08h00 GPS Position: 79°01.6 'N, 011°37.8'E

Wind: SW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

Our first full day of exploration in the High Arctic offered a stunning introduction to the raw beauty and unique wildlife of Svalbard. In the morning, under calm and mirror-like sea conditions, we found ourselves cruising beneath the towering face of Lilliehöökreen, a mighty glacier that spills into Lilliehöökfjord. This impressive tidewater glacier stretches approximately 7 kilometers across and is fed by multiple ice flows from the interior of Spitsbergen. Its immense, crevassed face glowed in the soft Arctic light, and the stillness of the morning was occasionally broken by the crack and splash of a small calving event—a thrilling reminder of the glacier's constant, if slow, transformation.

Guests enjoyed Zodiac cruises among small icebergs and floating brash ice, where we encountered a bearded seal resting on an ice floe. Bearded seals, with their distinctive long whiskers and square-shaped heads, are well-adapted to Arctic life, often favoring areas of drifting pack ice where they feed on bottom-dwelling organisms such as clams and crabs. Their calm demeanor made for wonderful viewing and photography opportunities.

Meanwhile, our sea kayakers took to the water for the first time this voyage, navigating the icy fjord with excitement and curiosity. After fitting their drysuits and adjusting gear, they enjoyed a gentle and scenic paddle—a perfect initiation into Arctic kayaking.



In the afternoon, the ship repositioned to Camp Zoe, where we landed by Zodiac for our first hike ashore. Despite a chilly and overcast atmosphere, spirits remained high as guests split into fast, medium, and leisurely walking groups to explore the tundra landscape. The terrain offered surprises and moments of contemplation: the remains of an Arctic fox still in its winter coat, the skull of a reindeer, tracks in the soil, and early-season flowers hinting at the brief Arctic summer to come. One group, led by Meike and Brian, paused to appreciate a few minutes of Arctic silence, surrounded by wind, wilderness, and the stark beauty of Svalbard.

A memorable start to our expedition—filled with awe, discovery, and the quiet magic only the Arctic can provide.



Kayaking Triplog

Our first morning of kayaking! After a briefing aboard the *Hondius* and a quick introduction on how to handle a paddle, we loaded into the zodiac, driven by Paolo, and set off toward the glacier.

The sky was overcast, but the absence of wind made for ideal conditions—perfect for a first session and a chance to focus on technique. Once everyone had learned how to enter and exit their kayak from the zodiac, we slipped quietly onto the water.

We kept a safe distance from the glacier's face, but still had the chance to paddle among small icebergs drifting nearby. The glacier itself is massive—its volume alone rivals that of the entire Alpine glacier system. In the distance, we could hear the deep, resonant cracks of the ice shifting—a powerful reminder that the glacier is alive and always moving.



In the afternoon, we boarded the zodiac again with Paolo and set off for a new kayaking session, this time along the rugged cliffs of Generalhallet. Our goal: to quietly explore the coastline, searching for seabirds—and perhaps even seals.

As we paddled along the shore, we spotted several Brünnich's guillemots and a few puffins flying low over the water. Meltwater from snow and glacial ice poured into the sea through small torrents along the cliffs, rich with nutrients that feed the plankton—the very foundation of the Arctic food chain. With fish likely nearby, we soon had the chance to observe several curious seals watching us as intently as we were watching them.



We paddled past snow-covered mountains, along low cliffs interspersed with pebble beaches. The coastline revealed itself gradually, with small headlands hiding what lay ahead. Paolo kept a watchful eye—not just to guide us, but to ensure no polar bears were roaming nearby.

In total, we covered about 7 km. It was our first real immersion in this wild polar environment. From the seat of a kayak, you don't just witness the Arctic—you become part of it.

At the end of the session, we landed near a small trapper's cabin, a perfect spot to stretch our legs and take in a different perspective of the route we had just explored. Another layer of this Arctic adventure revealed itself—this time, with our feet on solid ground.

Day 3 – Wednesday 11 June, Mushamna & Texas Bar

08h00 GPS Position: 79.52.4° N, 1.011°36.6' E

Wind: S2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Fog/Clear • Air temperature: +3°C

We were awoken in the morning by our expedition leader Chris inviting us to seize the day. There was a little change of plans due to fog at our planned activity site so we would be moving to another call Mushamna, a location featuring a large cabin and more importantly huge amounts of snow. Chris informed us that this would be the perfect opportunity to attempt to snowshoe!

The landing was split into two, first the long and short hikers went ashore and started their hike. A little while later the medium hikers came ashore and were given the opportunity to grab snowshoes. After a little instruction all groups went on great hikes either through the

snow or along the beach. At the end a few brave souls took part in the traditional polar plunge and dove into the freezing waters of the Arctic. It was a beautiful morning and over time the sun started to peak out through the clouds. We then all loaded back into our zodiacs and reembarked the ship for a quick lunch.



Whilst we ate the ship relocated to our next location called Texas Bar, a location with a small cabin used for holidaying in the Arctic. Here we would conduct a zodiac cruise of the huge fjord and see what we could find. In the distance we could see the glacier Monacobreen in shades of blue at the back of the fjord and just as we were launching a minke whale was spotted in the distance. The zodiacs took off in their pairs searching for wildlife and were successful. The species spotted included the minke whale, bearded seal, king eiders, reindeer and guillemots. The fjord was as still as glass and we could see beautiful reflections of the ship and the mountains. It all felt extremely peaceful.



During our cruise we also had a nice surprise, tucked away in a corner we came across part of the hotel team in a zodiac. Hotel manager Albert, chef Ralph and receptionist Judel had brought us a special treat... hot chocolate! We all got ourselves a nice warm glass of hot chocolate, come with a little extra flavour of a shot of rum. It was a wonderful way to celebrate a great day in Svalbard. All too soon it was time to head back to the ship in time for recap. Our expedition team gave us some short presentations on the things we have seen and then it was time to go to dinner.

Kayaking Triplog

We began the morning by heading out with Paolo in the zodiac and launching our kayaks near the beach and landing site, where an old trapper's cabin still stands. Nearby, a wooden structure once used for storing meat out of reach of polar bears—while also attracting them—serves as a haunting reminder of the past. It allowed trappers to lure the bears and hunt them more easily.

We set our course south along the coast, aiming to find the entrance to a small lagoon we hoped would be accessible despite the lingering ice. Luck was on our side—we found our way in, and were soon greeted by the sight of numerous common eiders taking flight as we approached.

The surface of the water was glassy calm, like a mirror reflecting the stillness of the Arctic morning. We paused for a few moments, letting the silence and atmosphere sink in. It was one of those rare moments where time seems to slow down.

Leaving the lagoon, we continued paddling along the coastline toward cliffs where large numbers of kittiwakes were nesting. Their unmistakable calls echoed around us, breaking the silence in a uniquely Arctic way.

After covering around 7 km, we returned to the zodiac. Paolo brought us back gently to the *Hondius*, wrapping up another beautiful morning on the water.

This afternoon, we are not far from the Monaco Breen glacier—but the sea is frozen over, making it impossible to approach the glacier by kayak. So we board the zodiac with Paolo, who drops us near the entrance to a partially frozen lagoon.

We launch our kayaks and begin exploring the area, weaving our way through chunks of ice and slushy patches. We paddle along the coast toward the trapper's cabin at Texas Bar, navigating through a fascinating geological landscape. The rocks here display a rich palette of colors and complex folds—testimony to the geological history of the Arctic.



The ice thickens as we continue, but our kayaks glide surprisingly well through the frozen maze. Passing between two small islands, we suddenly find ourselves in front of a solid stretch of ice that has closed off the passage. It's clear that we won't get much further without Paolo's help breaking a path.

We follow behind the zodiac, but with no passengers on board, even it struggles to make progress. Eventually, despite our best efforts, we're completely blocked by the ice. Laughter breaks out as we find ourselves well and truly stuck—an unforgettable (and surprisingly fun) Arctic experience.

The only solution is to reboard the zodiac. With all of us on board, the extra weight helps it push through the ice, and we manage to escape the frozen trap. Waiting for us is Albert the hôtel manager and the ship's head chef, who has brought a warm, comforting treat—delicious hot chocolate, just what we needed after our icy adventure. Paolo then brings us safely back to the *Hondius*.

Day 4 – Thursday 12 June, Alkjefellet & Faksevagen

08h00 GPS Position: 80°05.9 N, 016°36.5' E

Wind: SSE5-6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

We awoke this morning buzzing with anticipation—today was the day we'd cruise the towering cliffs of Alkefjellet by Zodiac. Fortune favored us with calm seas and a soft Arctic light as we boarded our boats and motored toward one of nature's most staggering bird spectacles: the nesting grounds of some **60,000 pairs of Brünnich's Guillemots**.

As we neared the cliffs, we slowed to a near crawl, the water around us teeming with life. Thousands of Guillemots floated and dove like dancers in a dark sea ballet—wings whirring, beaks flashing. Approaching the cliffs felt like slipping inside a living beehive; the sky pulsed with wings, and the air hummed with an unending chorus of calls, cries, and aerial acrobatics.

Once our senses adjusted to the sheer intensity of it all, we turned our attention to the majestic cliffs themselves—an epic tapestry of black **Dolerite** and pale **Marble**, sculpted by time and bursting with birdlife. Then, as if the day couldn't get more surreal, we spotted movement along the lower rock face: an **Arctic Fox**, striking and sleek, darted into view. In full daylight and just meters away, it snatched an adult Guillemot, vanishing up the slope with its catch, only to return moments later in search of another. We watched, riveted, as this ghost of the tundra gave us a raw glimpse into the rhythm of predator and prey.



After an unforgettable morning, we retraced our path, once again gliding through the feathered flotilla of Guillemots that peppered the sea like living confetti.

Back onboard, a hearty lunch refueled us as the ship repositioned to Faksvågen for the afternoon. There, our expedition team set a safe, bear-free perimeter for us to explore. Some strapped on snowshoes for a trek through the powdery hills, while others lingered along the beach, soaking in the silence and scale of this untouched Arctic fjord. From the hilltops, the views unfurled in every direction—white wilderness meeting cobalt sea, a reminder of the grandeur that surrounded us.

But the true crescendo of the day came on the return Zodiac ride across the fjord. There, lounging like Arctic royalty on an ice floe were a dozen walrus. Massive and ancient-looking, their sheer bulk on land was staggering—males can weigh over 1,500 kg.

To witness such creatures—symbols of the frozen North—so close, and in their element, was a gift. One that left us awestruck and silent, save for the soft click of cameras and the sound of our own breath catching in wonder.

Another extraordinary moment in a day we'll carry with us forever.



Kayaking Triplog

This morning, we found ourselves near the towering cliffs of Alkefjellet—home to one of the largest colonies of Brünnich’s guillemots in the Arctic.

With a southerly wind blowing, Paolo dropped us off by zodiac at the southern end of the colony. From there, we let ourselves drift gently with the wind, paddling effortlessly along the base of the cliffs.

The scenery was breathtaking. These basalt cliffs, sculpted by centuries of wind and ice, are riddled with cracks and fissures, where meltwater trickles down in thin streams. The freezing and thawing have fractured the rock into ledges, perfect for nesting. It’s a natural fortress—safe for guillemots, and difficult to access for predators like the Arctic fox. Still, glaucous gulls circle overhead, always on the lookout for a fallen chick or an unguarded egg.

A thin layer of mist drifted across the cliffs, with low clouds adding a mysterious, cinematic atmosphere—something straight out of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Tens of thousands of birds nest here, and we had the privilege of observing them up close. Guillemots wheeled above us in vast numbers, their calls echoing against the stone. They were everywhere—in the sky, on the ledges, in the water. It was yet another unforgettable moment in the Arctic.

We covered around 4 km, carried by the wind, with barely a paddle stroke—completely immersed in the rhythm of this wild place.

Day 5 – Friday 13 June, Day at sea

08h00 GPS Position: 81°34.9'N / 013° 54.2'E

Wind: S3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

What an extraordinary day we had today as we continued our journey into the mesmerizing sea ice north of Svalbard, roughly around 82°N and 14°E! We woke up around 07:45, ready to plunge into another day of exploration, even though a bit of a foggy veil had descended, limiting our visibility.

Despite the misty conditions over this part of the Arctic Ocean, our spirits were high as we made our way to a delicious buffet breakfast. Soon after, we were out on the decks, the bridge, and the bow, eagerly scanning the ethereal landscape for signs of life. While the elusive polar bear remained hidden



from view, we were absolutely delighted to spot several seals gracefully navigating the icy waters. The sharp-eyed among us also cheered at the sight of elegant ivory gulls, a true Arctic emblem, cutting through the fog. Before our buffet lunch, we gathered for a truly insightful lecture from our guide, Tiph, who shared fascinating details about the seals we had just seen. It really brought a deeper understanding to our wildlife encounters. Lunch was a welcome break, fueling us for the afternoon's adventures.

In the afternoon, our guide Pierre stepped in with an engaging lecture all about polar bears, keeping our dreams of seeing them alive! The expedition team then made an exciting attempt at a sea ice landing. We watched with anticipation as the ice conditions were assessed, hoping for that unique experience of stepping out onto the frozen expanse. Unfortunately, due to the persistent limited visibility, the landing had to be cancelled for

safety.

The day culminated in a truly unforgettable evening! After a lively recap with the Expedition Team in the bar, we donned our warmest layers for a fantastic BBQ dinner right on the outer decks of Deck 5. It was a proper polar party, complete with free-flowing drinks, great music, and even some dancing! The camaraderie was wonderful, and it was the perfect way to celebrate our deep dive into the high Arctic.

As the Inuit proverb wisely reminds us, "When your feet are cold, cover your head." Today, we embraced every facet of the Arctic, from the foggy conditions and the thrill of spotting seals and ivory gulls to the joy of learning and celebrating together under the vast Arctic sky. Each day out here is a profound experience!



Day 6 – Saturday 14 June, Day at sea

08h00 GPS Position: 81°50.5'N / 013°57.2'E

Wind: SE2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

This morning, we woke up to a dreamlike Arctic scene. The sun was out, bathing everything in golden light, and from the deck we could see the vast expanse of pack ice stretching endlessly to the horizon. It was a breathtaking sight—ice in all directions, shimmering under a flawless sky. After a hearty breakfast that warmed us against the morning chill, the expedition team announced plans for a very special landing: we were going onto the fast ice.

Excitement buzzed through the ship, but nature reminded us who's in charge. A dense fog rolled in unexpectedly, wrapping the Hondius in a cold, white veil. For a while, we didn't know if the landing would be possible. Then, a crackle over the speaker system: Chris, our expedition leader, gave us the go-ahead. Cheers followed. This was not an everyday event—landing on the pack ice is rare, unpredictable, and utterly thrilling. In small groups, we made our way carefully down the gangway onto the frozen surface. The moment our boots touched the ice was surreal. We were standing on a moving, drifting sheet in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. Beneath our feet, meters-thick ice had formed from countless winters, shaped by wind, sea, and time. Some of it was fast ice—frozen to the coast—but other parts drifted and cracked like a giant living puzzle.



As the sun reappeared, the fog dissolved and we had time to fully take in our surroundings. The ship, *Hondius*, looked majestic from this new perspective, sitting quietly among the floes. Cameras clicked, laughter echoed, and we shared moments of wonder and joy.

In the afternoon, the fog returned, gently nudging us back onboard. We began our journey south toward the shores of Spitsbergen. Later, Jakub gave an insightful lecture on the sea ice around Svalbard—its cycles, importance to climate, and fragile beauty.

Evening brought our daily recap, a delicious dinner, and a lively polar quiz hosted by Brenya. It was the perfect way to end a remarkable day—one filled with rare experiences, shared wonder, and the icy heart of the Arctic.

Day 7 – Sunday 15 June, Magdalenefjorden and Gravnesodden

08h00 GPS Position: 80°10.9' N, 009°00.4'E

Wind: WSW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

We awoke to another promising morning in Northwest Svalbard. This time, in Magdalenefjorden. First stop, Gully Bukta. While the sun did not show itself, the adventure of the day did. A large, blue glacier and a walrus haul out awaited us. Guests boarded the zodiacs shortly after breakfast on board and we made our way toward the awaiting sights

via Zodiac cruise. The walrus of the area rose to the occasion to host us, where they joisted, swam, slept, and continued to surprise us with their active behaviour in the water. The less active on the beach showed us what walrus life out-of-water looked like – pleasantly uneventful cuddle puddles that could last endless hours upon endless days. If it weren't so smelly, I believe many of us would be tempted to join such a comfortable gathering.



Behind us, the glacier loomed and a call over the radio suggested moving that direction shortly would be in favour – king eiders awaiting nearby the icy front. If this wasn't enough for the birders among us, black guillemots, arctic terns, little auks, common eiders, and ivory gulls also made their appearance by the surrounding ice. As the morning progressed, so did the weather, and we found ourselves back on board in due time as the cold seeped in one Zodiac at a time.



After a quick lunch, we were on the move again, but not a far sail, just around the corner from Gully Bukta awaited our next (and final) destination, Gravnesodden. The weather did not let up for us, the winds continued and then the rain. Did this stop us from enjoying our final moments in Svalbard? Absolutely not. We had big plans – a split landing – Zodiac cruise accompanied by a landing rich in early 1600's whaling history. On site was the Sysselmeesters cabin, whom was present on site and greeted us with a smile. The tide was low on arrival and made for a pleasant sandy beach landing. Here guests had the opportunity to free-roam within the perimeter set by our bear monitoring team. Some visited the roped-off graves and whaling artifacts, some roamed the sandy shore, and others set off up the mountain to work off the past weeks deserts that Chef Rolf has lured us with. Whichever they chose, it was accompanied by a Zodiac cruise along the fjords coast into a shallow bay where no less than 30 ringed seals played, swam, and amused us. Around the corner, another glacier, but not without working for it. High winds and choppy sea conditions made the adventure splashy and extra exciting. Until now, we have seen only calm days. This was a real taste of Arctic ocean (literally). The way back to the ship was speckled with bright blue icebergs.

A hot shower and our finest packed-attire brought us to the evenings final gathering – Captain's Farewell and Cocktails. We raised a toast to each other and our time together here in Svalbard and reflected on the memories made through the trip's slideshow. Until next time...

Kayaking Triplog

The wind was strong this afternoon, but the southern coast of the fjord offered some shelter. We launched with Paolo once again, heading out in search of seals, which are often seen in this area.

We moved quietly along the shoreline, and after just a few hundred meters, we spotted the first seals. Curious by nature, they slowly approached, watching us as we glided silently over the water. It was a special moment—being followed by these wild animals, seemingly intrigued by these boats that moved without a sound.

As we continued, the wind picked up, funneled and intensified by the surrounding mountains and chilled by nearby glaciers. We passed a few grounded icebergs, safely stuck on the seafloor, which gave us a chance to paddle right up close.



Rounding the final headland, the wind grew much stronger, gusting across the water. But thanks to the progress the group had made during the week, we were able to continue on until we caught sight of the Waggonwaybreen glacier in the distance.

It was clear, though, that the conditions were worsening—the gusts were becoming fierce, carrying chunks of ice with them. It was time to turn back.

With the wind now at our backs, the return was much easier. We paddled downwind, carried by the elements, until we rejoined Paolo and the zodiac.

Back onboard the ship, we warmed up again—our bodies tired, but our minds full of vivid images: glaciers, gusts of wind, and the quiet, unforgettable presence of Arctic wildlife.

Day 8 – Monday 16 June, Farewell from the Arctic: disembarkation in Longyearbyen

08h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E

Wind: W2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

In the soft light of early morning, we arrived in Longyearbyen. As we gathered for one final breakfast on board, there was a quiet sense of reflection in the air. Outside, the crew gently unloaded our suitcases, a silent reminder that our Arctic adventure was drawing to a close.

Disembarking from *Hondius* was not easy. Over these past days, she has been far more than a ship—she's been our shelter, our launchpad into the wild, and our floating home. Within her walls we've shared laughter, awe, and moments that will stay with us for a lifetime.

Together, we ventured deep into the high latitudes, witnessed landscapes sculpted by ice and time, and encountered wildlife most only dream of—polar bears, walrus, whales, and the mesmerizing dance of seabirds in the Arctic skies. Along the way, strangers became companions, and companions became friends.

Now, with hearts full and cameras brimming, we begin the journey home. Though we leave the ice behind, its spirit travels with us—etched into memory, carried in stories, and felt in quiet, unforgettable moments.

Thank you for joining us on this remarkable voyage. Your curiosity, warmth, and camaraderie made this journey truly special. Wherever your path leads next, we hope it brings you back to these wild places—and perhaps, one day, back to us.

Until we meet again—safe travels, and fair winds.



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1009,7 NM

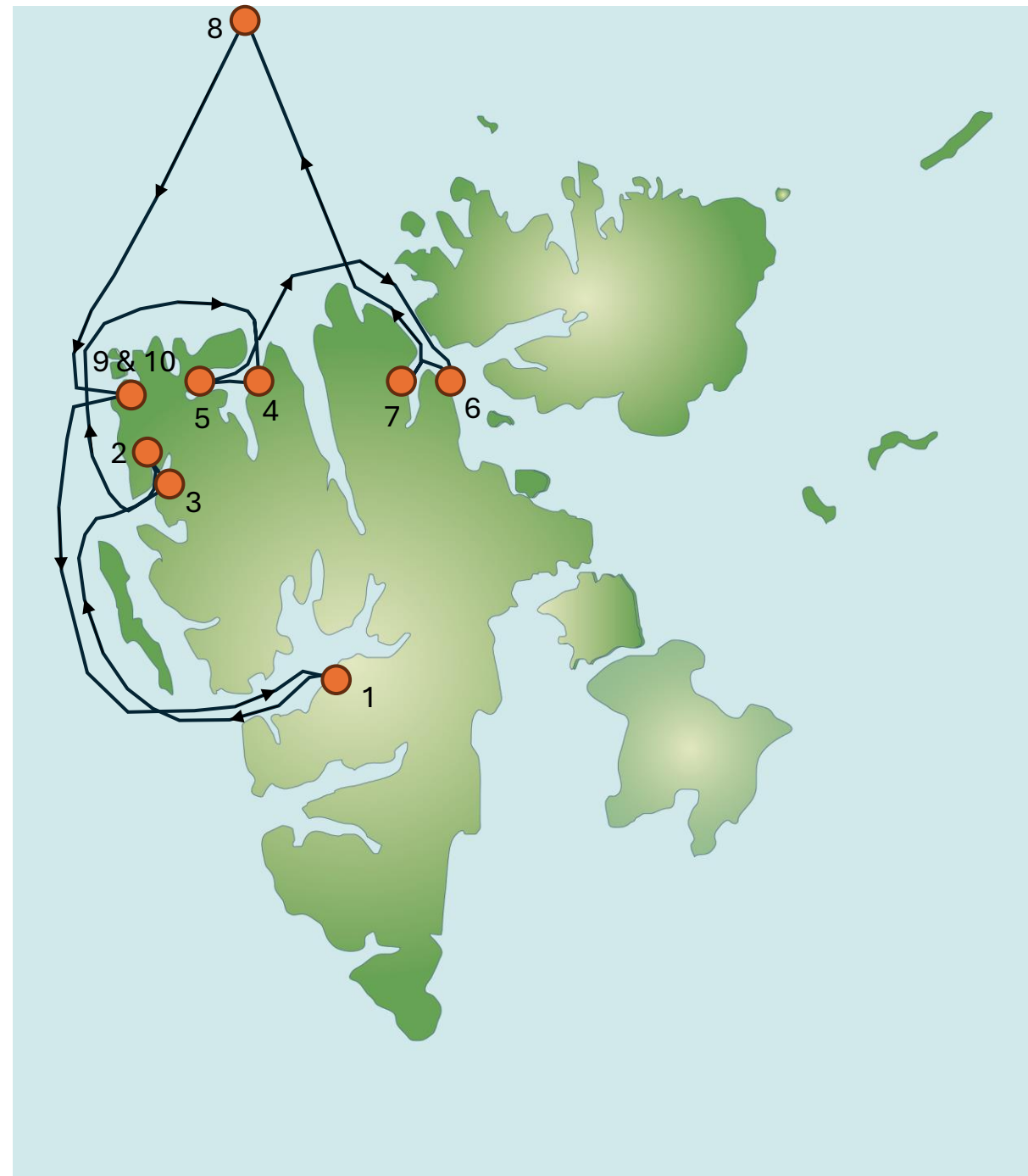
Northernmost point: 82°001'N, 016°20.5'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Jan Dobrogowski, Expedition Leader Chris Long, Hotel Manager Albert Don and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

M/V Hondius, 9-16 June 2025

1. Longyearbyen – embarkation – 9 June
2. Lilliehookbreen – zodiac cruise – 10 June
3. Camp Zoe – landing – 10 June
4. Mushamna – landing – 11 June
5. Texas Bar – zodiac cruise – 11 June
6. Alkefjellet – zodiac cruise – 12 June
7. Faksevagen – landing – 12 June
8. Sea ice edge around 82°N and 13 ° E – 13-14 June
9. Gullybukta – 15 June – zodiac cruise
10. Gravneset – 15 June – landing
1. Longyearbyen – disembarkation – 16 June



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	9-jun	10-jun	11-jun	12-jun	13-jun	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	V			x					
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	B	x		x	x				
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	B	x	x						
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	B	x	x	x					
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	V		x	x					
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	B	x		x	x				
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	B	x	x	x				x	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	B	x	x	x				x	
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	B		x						
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	B	x	x	x	x				
English Name	Latin	German	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	9-jun	10-jun	11-jun	12-jun	13-jun	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	B	x		x					
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	B		x						
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	B	x							
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	B	x							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	V	x							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	V							x	
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	B					x			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	B	x	x	x	x			x	x
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	B	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	B	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabben-taucher	B	x	x	x	x			x	
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	B	x	x		x				
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	B	x	x	x	x			x	x

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	9-jun	10-jun	11-jun	12-jun	13-jun	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	B	x		x	x			x	
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	B		x	x	x	x	x		
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	B				x			x	
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	B		x					x	
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	T			x	x				
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	V								
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	T								
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	T								
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	T								
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	B		x						
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	B	x			x				
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>				x	x	x			x	

Chris Long – 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 emerald green river. Most of their food came from a huge vegetable garden or was 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 out 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 60 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 and East Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.

Chloé Maréchal – Asst.Exp. 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.

Jerry Zhao – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at Polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as 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.

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

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

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

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

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

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.

Alexander Romanovskiy – Exp. Guide



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the 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 geoecological researches.

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!

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Born in Argentina (Dec 80') and raised in Italy, Paolo finally moved to Scotland where he settled in 2006. Nowadays, when not at sea, he splits his time between Argentina and Scotland.

Before expedition cruises Paolo spent 12 years working shoreside in merchant shipping. He was a Product Manager for a Norwegian company developing Voyage Planning and Marine Weather Forecasting Systems for merchant ships.

He also started Paragliding at the age of 14 and has been very involved in the sport as a school owner instructing both beginners and advanced courses for over 20 years. When not paragliding, Paolo likes to sea kayak and he mixes Field Guide with Kayak Guide roles onboard.

In 2021 he started working full time in expedition cruises, since then he has guide in several expeditions such as Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands, Greenland West coast, Greenland East coast, Iceland, Faroes Islands and British Isles.

Aside from sea kayaking and flying he is into hiking, motorbikes and spending time with friends. He is passionate about polar regions and sharing the experience with our guests.

“Happiness is only real when shared” (Chris McCandless)

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Meike Sjoer – Expedition Guide



Meike Sjoer, a dedicated birder, nature enthusiast, and polar expedition guide, has spent her life immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Growing up in the heart of the Dutch forest, Meike developed a profound love for nature from a young age, a passion that would shape her extraordinary journey as a birder and wildlife explorer. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Utrecht. During her studies Meike discovered a natural inclination towards sharing her wildlife experiences with others.

For the past 26 years, she has devoted her talents as a television director for the Dutch National Television. In this role, she dedicated herself to directing programs that involved stories of nature, wildlife, and environmental conservation. Meike's talent for filming and editing led her to directing the renowned Dutch National Wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels* for the past 15 years. Beyond her television work, Meike is a certified nature guide for the Dutch Institute for Nature and Education. When she is not sailing across polar waters, she takes great pleasure in guiding birding and wildlife tours within the second largest National Park of the Netherlands.

Additionally, driven by her deep concern for the well-being of our planet, Meike was part of the Sea Shepherd media team for 5 years and played a role in raising awareness about the urgent need to protect marine life and preserve delicate ecosystems.

Yet, it is in the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic that Meike finds her greatest fulfilment. Here, surrounded by icy vastness and majestic wildlife, she is happiest creating outdoor experiences that challenge individuals to connect with their inner selves and develop a profound respect for the planet we call home. Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing her passion and knowledge for wildlife with you.

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

During her spare time, she has continued to develop her passion for traveling, and has visited more than 40 countries and looks forward to visiting many others in the near future.

Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide



Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

Deutsch

Pierre ist Tierarzt und hat sich auf Meeressäuger spezialisiert. Er arbeitet im Gebiet der Meeresbiologie seit 18 Jahre und organisiert Ausbildungen über Meeressäuger rundum die Welt seit 2004. Er vertritt die Regierung Luxemburgs an der Walfangkommission und CCAMLR, und arbeitet mit mehreren internationalen Umweltschutzorganisationen um die Erhaltung von Meeressäuger zu promovieren und deren Gefangenschaft zu bekämpfen.

Er macht gerade eine Doktorarbeit am Ozeanologie Lab der Universität Lüttich in Belgien. Seine Doktorarbeit beschäftigt sich mit stabile Isotopen und Schadstoffen in Buckelwalen aus Mosambik und Ecuador.

Er ist ein eifriger Vogelbeobachter und hat viel Spass an Fotografie. Das Meer ist seine Leidenschaft, und Wasser ist sein Element.

Philipp Konietzko – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

When he is at home in the north of Germany, he works as an engineer and spends his leisure time working on

his farm-like house with the associated apple tree orchard, where he is also beekeeping. He also has a little workshop where he brazes bicycle frames, and of course he is riding these bikes a lot.

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

Deutsch

Aufgewachsen auf dem Lande in Norddeutschland, hat es Philipp schon immer in die Natur hinausgezogen. Egal ob mit seinem selbst gebauten Floß, der eigenen Segeljolle oder dem Fahrrad war er immer draußen unterwegs.

Während er in Berlin Elektrotechnik studierte, nutzte er jegliche Semesterferien, um mit dem Fahrrad zu reisen, wobei es ihn besonders in den Norden zog.

Im Winter 2015 verbrachte er einen kompletten Monat mit Zelt und Ski auf Spitzbergen. Hier wurde er vollends vom Arktisvirus infiziert und verliebte sich in die raue Natur und die endlosen Weiten des Nordens. Seitdem verbrachte er jedes Jahr mindestens drei Monate auf Spitzbergen.

Hier arbeitete er zunächst hauptsächlich als Trekkingguide auf mehrwöchigen Touren, fing aber schon bald darauf an, auf kleinen und größeren Expeditionskreuzfahrtschiffen zu arbeiten. Seine Arbeit als Guide und Logistiker für wissenschaftliche Expeditionen führte ihn an Orte auf Spitzbergen, die nur wenige Menschen besuchen.

Wenn er zu Hause in Norddeutschland ist, arbeitet er als Ingenieur. In seiner Freizeit kümmert er sich um seinen Resthof mit zugehöriger Streuobstwiese, auf der auch seine Bienen stehen. In seiner kleinen Werkstatt lötet er Fahrradrahmen aus denen Fahrräder entstehen, mit denen er auch ausgiebig fährt.

Besonders interessieren ihn die Geschichte und Expeditionsgeschichte von Spitzbergen und den Polarregionen. Aber es gibt auf jedem Gebiet so viel Spannendes zu entdecken und daher freut er sich besonders auf eure Fragen, die oft zur Beschäftigung mit neuen Themen anregen.

Rustyn Mesdag – Expedition Guide



Rustyn Mesdag was born in Seattle, Washington. He was working as an alpine guide, when in 2004 he relocated to Chilean Patagonia where he started a guide service outside of Torres del Paine National Park, specializing in long distance treks and big wall climbing.

For 25 years he has been leading climbers, travelers and trekkers through the most extreme terrains around the world. Aside from the guide service, he moonlighted as a travel writer, published an English speaking travelers newspaper in Patagonia, operated equipment centers & immigrated between four countries.

Always looking for the next adventure, Rustyn still finds himself working around the world, in such places as South America, Antarctica, Canada, Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland, the Amazon and East Africa - helping others explore. Rustyn speaks English, Dutch and Spanish and is more than happy to sit and spend time discussing world travels, off-grid living, alpine climbing and the in's & out's of cold weather equipment management.

Brenya Green – Expedition Guide



Brenya grew up in a small town along the Grand River in Southern Ontario, Canada. After relocating to Toronto to pursue a career in Social Work, her journey took an unexpected turn into the world of expedition ships and has been in the industry since 2016.

Her primary focus over the years has been the polar regions, Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Antarctica, but she has also worked in Scotland, Iceland, Seychelles, and Madagascar and has often found herself spending more time at sea than on land. Through the years, she has filled many different roles from

office leadership to field guide.

When she's not on board, Brenya is focused on building her off-grid cabin located in Washington State.

Andi Schwertz – Expedition Guide



Andi was born in Budapest and grew up in Germany. Andi has always been fascinated by animals and nature, especially marine mammals ever since she was a child. She wanted to be a whale researcher, became a whale expert, without studying at a university, but through passion. She initially graduated in sociology, but then ran her own cocktail bar for 10 years. However, her enthusiasm for sea creatures never left her and she began to travel the world to be close to these fascinating animals and to observe them.

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is

yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

German

Geboren in Budapest, aufgewachsen in Deutschland war Andi als Kind schon immer von Tieren und Natur fasziniert gewesen, besonders Meeressäuger hatten es ihr angetan. Sie wollte Walforscherin werden, wurde zu einer Walexpertin, zwar ohne Studium an einer Universität, aber mit Passion. Sie widmete sich in ihrem früheren Leben dem Studium der Soziologie und betrieb 10 Jahre lang ihre eigene Cocktailbar. Ihre Begeisterung für die Meeresgeschöpfe liess sie dennoch nie los und sie begann die Welt zu bereisen um diesen faszinierenden Tieren nahe zu sein und sie zu beobachten.

Als Taucherin und Freediverin konnte sie vielen Walarten besonders nahe kommen und Abenteuer erleben. Zum Beispiel ist sie im arktischen Norwegen bereits dreimal mit Orcas geschwommen. Weil sie ihre Leidenschaft mit Herz und Begeisterung teilen möchte, kam sie zu Oceanwide. Sie konnte bereits im Frühjahr dieses Jahres Erfahrungen sammeln als Trainee in der Antarktis. Die polaren Regionen mit ihrer speziellen Fauna üben eine ganz besondere Anziehung auf sie aus. Sie interessiert sich ausserdem für Landschaftsfotographie und hat tolle Tips für gelungende Handysfotos. Ausserdem ist eine ihrer weiteren Leidenschaften Yoga, was sie auch als Yogalehrerin praktiziert. Sie spricht englisch, deutsch, ungarisch und ein wenig spanisch und französisch. Andi freut sich auf weitere tolle Abenteuer als Teammitglied von Oceanwide!

Tiphanie May - Expedition Guide



Tiphanie is an 8th generation Falkland Islander living in Stanley. She was raised on a small group of islands called Speedwell Island Group, owned and worked by her parents as a sheep farm and family crab business.

Tiph was raised surrounded by Falkland's wildlife with her family island boasting rookeries of Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins as well as several other breeding birds. The islands also include haul outs of South American sealions and elephant seals. Surrounded by all this wildlife it was of no surprise that she found nature

fascinating. From the penguin couple that lived under her house to the wonderful variety of creatures found in the crab pots, marine life was a theme. This led to her to travel to the UK at 16 to study to be a marine biologist.

Tiph spent 6 years in the UK studying to get her BSc (HONS) Marine Biology and MSc in Marine Biology. Using her holidays to volunteer in the Falklands for various conservation projects to gain experience. Upon completing her studies, she joined the Government Fisheries Department, spending 200 days per year at sea monitoring seabird activity and collecting research material. The sea has been a big part of her life, from a young age she worked to haul crab pots with her father's boat. Later she went on to work for an experimental sustainable fish farm which allowed her to get her RYA qualifications in Power Boat. Tiph currently works full time operating a small boat in the Falklands.

Tiphanie started working in the tourist industry at the age of 23. Having grown up with no roads her whole life, 4X4 tour driving just made sense. Tiph has worked to provide a variety of tours such as hiking, 4X4 and penguin colony visits. In 2018, Tiphanie was offered the amazing opportunity to go to Antarctica and South Georgia with Oceanwide as guide. She fell in love with the scale of the landscape and has never looked back.

Martin Kriz – Ships Doctor



Dr Martin Kriz, senior consultant in surgery and full-time member of the American College of Surgeons FACS, and The Swedish Society Of Surgeons, completed his initial training in Lund Sweden at the University Hospital and subsequently, in Helsingborg County Hospital, where he specialized in cancer surgery and emergency surgery.

Currently he works in his own private practice and at the University Hospital in Lund Sweden.

Besides his specialization in surgery, he is also a specialist in Hyperbaric and Naval Medicine and is a diving

physician accredited by the EDTC (European Diving Technology Committee).

Furthermore, he is a Specialist in Aero and Space Medicine, AME (aero medical examiner) accredited by the Swedish Transport Agency.

Dr Kriz has extensive surgical experience and has also worked as a surgeon internationally, in such places as head surgeon in a Kenyan rural mission hospital in Mutomo, a jeep doctor for The Swedish Rotary Doctors in Kisumu, and in Afghanistan, where he spent a year as head of the Swedish military medical division within ISAF. In addition, he works as a diving physician for the Swedish Armed Forces. He worked as a surgeon in Bangladesh at Emirates Friendship Floating Hospital and at the Friendship hospital in Shyamnagar in 2019.

He was invited by the Hospital No 1 in Ulan Bator to go to Mongolia in 2013 and 2014 where he performed operations and instructed local surgeons in surgical techniques.

On several occasions Dr Kriz has been working as chief surgeon and SMO, senior medical officer, in St Helena, British Overseas Territories, one of the most remote and until recently inaccessible places on earth. He has also worked as a ship doctor for Oceanwide in Arctic and Antarctic regions on several occasions.

He is married and has one son. All his life he has been backpacking all over the world with his camera. He plays golf badly, skis downhill quite well and is quite an experienced scuba diver.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 09/06/2025

Day: 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

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

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

If you have been travelling with us **from the last voyage** you are required to participate in the emergency **MUSTER** only. Not the safety video.

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

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

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

20:45 Kayakers, please meet Julian and Kelly in the lecture room on deck 5 for your kayak safety briefing

Tonight we head for the open sea, please 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!

Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck betide us.

Let us journey to a lonely land I know.

There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star agleam to guide us,

And the Wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.

Robert Service, The Call of The Wild.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 10/06/2025

Day 2: Lilliehookbreen and Camp Zoe.

In the morning, we hope to do a zodiac cruise at the stunning Lilliehookbreen glacier after our MANDATORY AECO and Bear safety briefings.

06:45 Wake-up call. Good morning!

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

08:00 Please join us for AECO, Bear safety, and Zodiac safety briefing, in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY** so please join us straight after breakfast.

09:45+/- We invite the **Arctic Terns** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Lilliehookbreen.

10:00+/- We invite the **Copepods** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Lilliehookbreen.

In the afternoon, we plan to land at Camp Zoe on the shores of Krossfjorden. This is a fantastic place to stretch our legs and go for a hike.

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

14:15 We invite the Long hikers to the shell doors for a long hike at Camp Zoe.

14:30 We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Camp Zoe.

15:00 We invite the short hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Camp Zoe.

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

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

“For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.” – Raymond Priestley



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 11/06/2025

Day 3: Mushamna and a zodiac cruise

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:30 We invite the Long hikers to the shell doors for a snowshoe hike at Mushamna.

08:45 We invite the short hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Texas Bar.

10:00 We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Mushamna

We plan to do a polar plunge at the end of the landing, so please put your swim suit under your expedition gear. We will have a towel ashore for you so don't worry about bringing your towel from your cabin.

In the afternoon we hope to do a zodiac cruise somewhere around an ice edge. We will be assessing conditions to find somewhere that isn't foggy.

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

15:00+/- We hope to invite the **Copepods** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise

15:15+/- We hope to invite the **Arctic Terns** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise

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

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

"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



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 12/06/2025

Day 4: Aklefjellet and Faskvagen.

In the morning, we plan to cruise Alkefjellet, one of the Arctic's most dramatic seabird cliffs. Towering basalt walls rise 100m from the sea, providing nesting grounds for 60,000 breeding pairs of Brünnich's guillemots during the summer months.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:45 We hope to invite the **Arctic Terns** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise.

09:00 We hope to invite the **Copepods** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise.

In the afternoon, we hope to offer a landing at Faskvagen.

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

14:00 We invite the long hikers to the shell doors for a snowshoe hike at Faskvagen.

14:15 We invite the short hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Faskvagen.

15:00 We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Faskvagen.

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

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

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



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 13/06/2025

Day 5: Exploring the sea ice

During the day we plan to be exploring the sea ice to the north of Svalbard in search of wildlife.

We strongly encourage you to be on the outside decks, the bridge, and the bow to enjoy this spectacle spotting for wildlife. Listen for announcements regarding and wildlife spotting's. If we have wildlife close by the announcements will only be made inside the ship to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

If we have some time in the open ocean, or encounter adverse weather conditions, then we will have some lectures. This could be in the morning, or afternoon. Please listen for announcements in regards to this.

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

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

19:00 BBQ dinner will be served on the back of deck 5! Dress warmly and lets enjoy a polar BBQ together

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



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 14/06/2025

Day 6: Exploring the sea ice North West of Svalbard

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

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

If we have some time in the open ocean, or encounter adverse weather conditions, then we will have some lectures. This could be in the morning, or afternoon. Please listen for announcements in regards to this.

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

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

19:00 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



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 15/06/2025

Day 7: Magdalenefjorden

06:45 Wakeup Call.

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

Today we plan to make a zodiac cruise and landing in the stunning Magdalenefjorden. The morning will consist of a zodiac cruise to the Gullybreen Glacier, and past a walrus haul out. In the afternoon we will land at Gravneset and zodiac cruise to look for seals.

08:15+/- We hope to invite the **Copepods** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise Gullybukta.

08:30+/- We hope to invite the **Arctic Terns** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Gullybukta.

11:30- 12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

13:45 We hope to invite the **Arctic Terns** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac landing at Gravneset in Magdalenefjorden.

14:00 We hope to invite the **Copepods** Group to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise in Magdalenefjorden.

Please note that groups will change halfway through the afternoon, so everyone will get to do a zodiac cruise and landing.

17:45 Once back on the ship please leave your muck boots on deck 3

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the Lounge for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the voyage slideshow.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB, SD Card or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices.

19:30 A final farewell 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.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 16/06/2025

Day 8: Longyearbyen

07:15 Wake-up call. Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 7:30am.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Longyearbyen, we will provide free busses to town and the airport. All luggage must be left outside your cabins by 7:30am and we will move it onto the pier.

*For all those with flights DY397 at 12:15; use a yellow luggage tag.
For passengers on flight SK4491 at 14:45; please use a Red luggage tag.
For passengers on flight SK4493 at 19:40; please use a Blue luggage tag.*

*For all those with any flights not listed please take your luggage and load it on the bus provided to town.
At around 08:45 all passengers will go on the busses to town center. You will be dropped at Svalbard Butikken.*

*For passengers on flight DY397; There will be a bus to take you to the airport from Svalbard Butikken at 10:30.
For passengers on flight SK4491; There will be a bus to take you to the airport from Svalbard Butikken at 13:00.
For passengers on flight SK4493; There will be a bus to take you to the airport from Svalbard Butikken at 17:45.*

08:45+/- We invite all guests to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport before boarding your 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." - Thorton Wilder