



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

12th June 2025 – 19th June 2025

On board *m/v Ortelius*



M/V Ortelius was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland as a special-purpose research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was originally named “Marina Svetaeva” after a well-known Russian poet. The vessel was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in 2011, re-flagged in The Netherlands, and re-named Ortelius. She was extensively re-fitted in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). *M/V Ortelius* is 91.25 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.4 m. She has ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER. Ortelius is 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. Her home port is Vlissingen.



Captain Per Andersson

[Sweden]

and his international crew of 54

Chief Officer:	Sjoerd Van Hoek	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Mark Vincent	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	[Latvia]
Second Engineer:	Jhunwel Yuzon	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	William Barnes	[The Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Bogdan 'Bobi' Manevski	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Sous Chef:	Sergiy Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	Eniano Agarin	[Philippines]
Bosun:	Philip Malang	[Philippines]
Bartender:	Jake Montevirgen	[Philippines]
Ship's doctor:	Gert-Jan van der Ploeg	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Claudio Ghiglione	[Italy]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Hazel Pittwood	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	Saskia van der Meij	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Gabi Kolodko	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Matt Cheok	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Beth Hitchcock	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Rao Xingpeng	[PRC - China]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Thursday 12 June, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

16:00 GPS Position: 78°22.3' N / 015°64.7' E

Wind: NW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +8.2°C

The day had finally arrived. Our Arctic adventure aboard Ortelius was about to begin. Although the skies had been grey throughout the day, the sun made a perfectly timed appearance right as our guests began arriving at the dock in Longyearbyen around 4pm. One by one, they made their way up the gangway, greeted by sunshine and the fresh Arctic air.

After eagerly spending our first half hour exploring the ship and occasionally getting lost, we were welcomed aboard by Claudio, our Expedition Leader, along with Hotel Manager, William. As guests settled into their cabins, Captain Per was introduced and gave his signature cheers to every guest, setting a very warm tone for our journey ahead.



Once everyone was on board, we gathered for the mandatory safety drill. Wearing our lifejackets, we congregated at the muster station before heading up to the top deck. As Ortelius began to sail out of the harbour, northern fulmars accompanied us, gliding effortlessly beside the ship with their reflections dancing in the calm water. The sense of departure was real now, and excitement filled the air.



Dinner was our first meal together, and it did not disappoint. The dining room offered a generous buffet and enormous steaks that left many of us joking about the weight we were sure to gain by the end of the voyage. Laughter and conversation filled the room as we got to know our fellow travellers.

The evening continued downstairs in the lecture room with a boot party, where we picked up our rubber boots and enjoyed music and a little dancing to Hazel's throwback hits from the 90s and early 2000s. The ship began to sway gently as we entered open water. The sun remained in the sky well into the night, but eventually we drew our blinds and turned in. With new friends around us, and adventure on the horizon, we drifted off with excitement in our eyes for what the coming days would bring.



© Matt Cheok

Day 2 – Friday 13 June, Alicehamna, Buchananhalvøya

12:00 GPS Position: 79°46.8.'N / 011°56.9'E

Wind: NE 2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +3.9°C



This morning was our first wake-up call by our expedition leader Claudio. At 6:45AM he woke us up saying we were still sailing, but the weather was good, and we should be coming out to the decks to enjoy the beautiful Raudfjorden, the Red Fjord, that we were entering.

At 7:00AM Hotel manager William announced over the speakers that the door to the dining room on Deck 4 was open for our first breakfast on

board. The choice was extensive from fresh fruits to yoghurts, cereal, bread and some warm dishes. Many of us had slept great for their first night on board as we had a smooth sailing overnight.

At 8:15AM we were all gathered in the bar on Deck 6 to join the Expedition Team for the introduction and MANDATORY Zodiac/Polar Bear Safety briefing. Halfway through, Claudio got interrupted by the team, who were scouting on the bridge. A mother polar bear and her two cubs had been spotted. They must have been born last year in January and got out of the den around March/April. They were roaming the coast along the fast ice, trotting along at quite a fast speed of a least five kilometres an hour. We went outside to have a sneak peak. When they'd disappeared behind some moraines, we quickly went back inside to finish the briefing to be ready for our landings and cruising the zodiacs during this trip. In the end we spent three

hours out on the decks observing the polar bears in their natural habitat. The little ones were following mum, up and down the banks, swimming in front of the glacier back-to-back, and then rolled in the snow to get rid of as much water possible. Sliding down the slopes, finding a seal skin which they could still eat from. It was an amazing first morning on board MS Ortelius.



By 1PM it was time for lunch. We returned to the Restaurant on Deck 4, where another great buffet had been served. It was the perfect opportunity to refuel and socialise after the crazy morning we had out on deck.

In the afternoon, we arrived at Alicehamna. As our expedition leader Claudio already explained, we hardly stay with plan A. Being flexible would give us the best experiences. Around 2:30PM we boarded the zodiacs for the first time. Getting in line to go down the gangway and be shuttled to shore. The team had already been scouting for polar bears, so it would be safe for us to land. Just behind the landing site was a shallow lagoon with the most beautiful turquoise colour. This is where we spotted two Arctic Skuas, a pair of Long tailed ducks, some Arctic terns and a Purple Sandpiper wading through the icy water. We all followed a path up the hill called Brucevarden. At the top was a cairn with a grave from a skipper called Erick Zakariassen Mattilas, who died of scurvy in the spring of 1908 having overwintered at the main station here in Raudfjorden together with four others. The view from up here was priceless, overlooking the whole fjord decorated with glaciers. Getting back down we could have a look inside the Raudfjordhutta from a Swedish trapper named Sven Olssen. He built it in 1927. It was quite hard to imagine how he'd lived here, by himself winter after winter. Impressive!

At 6:15PM, the expedition team gathered us in the bar for the daily recap. We heard about the plans for tomorrow and Hazel shared her passion about the blue whales with us so we could understand a little more about the special mammal we saw yesterday. This was after Beth took the stage to enlighten us all about geology which she absolutely succeeded in.

By 7PM, it was time for dinner. We were served a plated dinner in the Dining Room, which offered the perfect conclusion to a day full of discovery and learning. As the evening unfolded, we sailed into beautiful Liefdefjorden, surrounded by snow-covered mountains, to go for anchor for the night. A few more photos, before we get into our cabins, already looking forward to tomorrow's explorations.

Day 3 – Saturday 14 June, Monacobreen and Texas Bar

12:00 GPS Position: 79°36.5'N / 012°42.9'E

Wind: SW • Sea: Calm Rippled • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temperature: +4°C

We woke this morning to the most glorious day, bright sunshine, mild temperatures and no wind. The scenery was stunning all around us as our lovely ship, Ortelius was at anchor in front of the stunning Monacobreen glacier with its huge ice cliffs.

Some of us were up early to enjoy this amazing spectacle before breakfast, others got up with Claudio's wakeup call and went straight to the dining room for another tasty meal to start the day.



After breakfast we were invited to join the expedition team for a zodiac cruise among the ice and to witness the scenery close up. We were excited to see our first bearded seal of the trip followed by another two shortly afterwards. We saw a number of seabirds; common eider, black guillemot and Arctic tern to name a few.



We were stunned by the beauty of the ice close up and enjoyed the silence of the natural surroundings. It was a beautiful morning! The best was yet to come when a polar bear was spotted in the distance. The zodiacs gathered at the required minimum distance and we all got to see the bear as it made its way across the bay.

We got back to the ship just in time for lunch and enjoyed another super buffet, followed by some time to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

It was then time for us to get dressed in our outdoor clothing again and to enjoy another landing. This time to an area called Texas Bar, a very beautiful location with a beach, some hills with fantastic views and an old trapper's hut which is still used as a shelter for those venturing out from Longyearbyen.



The afternoon was spent exploring this beautiful area with the sound of geese and seabirds nesting in the cliffs above but there was some excitement to end the landing with the polar plunge. Some hardy souls decided to throw themselves into the icy water for fun!



Once back on board Ortelius it only got more exciting as another polar bear was seen on the opposite shore. We watched as the bear moved along the shoreline and then went into hunting mode as it stalked and then ran at a small group of reindeer. Needless to say, the reindeer were too fast and the bear went without a meal this time.

Instead we went for another great dinner in the restaurant followed by a late recap and plans for tomorrow followed by a well earned rest! What a day!

Day 4 – Sunday 15 June, Seven Islands – Sjuøyane

12:00 GPS Position: 81°07.7'N / 017°50.2'E

Wind: SSW 3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: -1.°C

Claudio's voice came over the PA system awakening us to quite a different day from the previous. Snow lined the railings, the Seven Islands came and went from visibility. We steadily made our way through the gap between Phippsøya and Parryøya to our Anchorage in Isflakbukta for the ice floe bay. This proved very appropriate today as the fast ice clung to the shore, creating a thin potentially fragile crust that prevented us from reaching the beach outstretched beyond.

Two zodiacs and four guides headed out to investigate two nearby islands in search of life to wallowing on the shores. However, the visibility was reducing as the snow was becoming heavier to the decision was made to take the opportunity to head north towards the pack ice!



We had approximately 70 nautical miles to go which meant it could still be reached before dinner, so off we went, back through the islands and northbound towards the expanse of ice stretching from the most northern region of our planet.

Whilst we were underway, Matt introduced us to photography in the Arctic region, providing some tips and letting us know of what he would offer in the coming days. Following this we had few moments of sharing from a kind photographer amongst the guests.

Many people enjoyed some time to catch up on sleep after an exciting few days where the constant fear of missing something keeps our minds from resting and allowing us to retreat to bed in the endless daylight.

Hazel filled us in on some very desirable information having had so many wonderful polar bear sightings the last few days. We really have seen it all from cubs with their mother, a hunting bear in the brash ice and a bear swimming for long distances. It was hard to imagine what could be next! Hazel's lecture answered many of our questions and gave a better insight into the life of these apex predators which roam the high latitudes of the north.

We had an early recap while we were still at sea before reaching the ice. Just as we were wrapping up there was a call over the radio that we were coming to the first of the sea ice and a polar bear had been spotted! Some rushed out on deck while others grabbed jackets and cameras.



Lenses pointed towards a bear which lay on the ice. It stood up and walked towards its catch – a seal of some kind – not easy to make it out given the skinned state it was in! We watched the bear for nearly 2 hours before backing off and taking the time for our own dinner. Later we returned and spent the evening with this incredible bear sighting. There really isn't much more we can ask for in terms of polar bear observations!

Day 5 – Monday 16 June, Into the Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 81°04.9'N / 009°24.8'E

Wind: NW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: -0.6°C

Following the excitement of the previous evening, Ortelius spent the night slowly cruising in a south-westerly direction, along the edge of the pack ice. The bridge officers and their assistants kept a watchful eye on the ice, hoping to find another Polar Bear. Alas, the night passed without any further sightings.



We awoke to a beautiful day in the high Arctic, with a thin veil of cloud diffusing the harsh sunlight. The pack ice off our starboard side stretched all the way to the horizon. It was a beautiful sight. Just as breakfast was coming to an end, Captain Per turned Ortelius to starboard and with great excitement we entered the ice. Although we had done so briefly the night before to enjoy the Polar Bear sighting, this time we kept going, deeper and deeper into a magical, beautiful world of ice which left everyone spell bound.

Guests, expedition staff and bridge crew scoured the icy horizon for signs of life. The scale of the challenge became quickly apparent as we strained our eyes in a bid to identify anything that looked different to the surrounding expanse of ice. Many icy shapes that resembled bears and seals were spotted, creating brief spells of excitement, but they all proved to be false alarms. As the morning wore on, the wildlife continued to elude us and we headed off to lunch without seeing anything other than some birds, such as Ivory gulls, Little auks, Kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots.

At 11AM, many of us went to the bar to attend a lecture about sea ice by Expedition Guide Beth. This was extremely pertinent since we were all enjoying the extraordinary privilege of being in the pack ice. That's less than 540 miles from the North Pole! This is a rapidly vanishing world, which some climatologists are predicting could be gone as soon as 2040. It is unfathomable to think that the habitat on which so many iconic Arctic species depend, will soon be gone. With the Arctic warming 2-3 three times faster than anywhere else on Earth, it is an inevitable and heart-breaking fact that the Arctic Ocean will become ice-free in as little as 15 years. What a privilege it was to be here!

After lunch, the search continued as Ortelius pressed on, deeper into the ice. Her strong hull meeting the heavy ice-floes head on and pushing them aside with ease. We admired the skillful and gentle manner in which Captain Per and his officers guided the ship through the ice, taking great care not to smash up the precious floes on which Polar Bears and seals depend. From time-to-time heavier floes rocked our mighty ship, as she "bounced" off them and steadily worked her way ahead.



At 3:30PM, Expedition Guide Martin invited us to join him in the bar for a lecture about the Birds of Svalbard. Since the only wildlife that had showed itself in the pack ice today was several species of birds, it was a great opportunity to learn more about those that inhabit this hostile region of the planet. Martin's excellent talk coincided with the arrival of the daily delivery of freshly baked goodies for afternoon tea, which we enjoyed as the Arctic pack-ice glided silently by the windows.

The wildlife remained elusive. So much so that many expressed surprise that we had not seen any marine mammals. But the Arctic Ocean is some 5.4 million square miles in size, and finding individual animals in that vast wilderness is always a colossal challenge. It requires an enormous amount of luck, and the lack of wildlife today highlighted just how fortunate we were with our Polar Bear encounter the previous evening.

At the evening briefing Expedition Leader Claudio shared the plans for the next day, and some of the expedition team reviewed a few highlights from the day. Then it was time to don multiple layers of warm clothing and head out to the helicopter deck for a tasty barbecue prepared by the hotel department. It was a novel and unforgettable experience, with a wonderful world of ice all around us. With everyone well fed, the tables and seating were cleared away, and the dancing started. The high spirits and party atmosphere continued for several hours.



Day 6 – Tuesday 17 June, Into the Pack Ice, Magdalenefjord

12:00 GPS Position: 80°03.4'N / 009°59.2'E

Wind: W 5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +1°C

After a well-deserved sleep in following our late evening barbeque under the Arctic sky, we woke to a soft, overcast morning. Thankfully, we had made our way out of the pack ice overnight. While enjoying our first sips of tea and coffee, Hazel spotted a fin whale in the distance through her binoculars. Though brief, the sighting was a lovely way to start the day, and we took the morning at a relaxed pace over a warm breakfast.



Later in the morning, we gathered for a photography workshop hosted by Matt and Claudio. The session was a real highlight as each guest had the chance to share their ice photography compositions from the ship. These ranged from sweeping wide angles to detailed close ups. The creativity and variety among everyone's photos were both impressive and inspiring. It was not only a chance to learn more about technique but also a great moment to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of each person's perspective.

Following this, Saskia gave an engaging and informative talk on the Sir Hubert Wilkins' Nautilus Expedition. Her storytelling brought history to life and sparked many conversations about early polar exploration and the incredible courage of those pioneers.

In the afternoon, we set out on a zodiac cruise in the stunning Waggonwaybreen area of Magdalenefjord. The conditions were brilliant and bathed in sunshine casting a surreal glow over the calm waters. The scenery was nothing short of spectacular. Wildlife seemed to appear at every turn, from the fluttering presence of little auks and guillemots to the high climbing



Svalbard reindeer and clusters of eiders along the shore. The glacier was the centrepiece of the experience, its deep blue tones and cracking ice echoing across the fjord in dramatic soundscapes.

Back on board, we were treated to a delicious a la carte dinner that capped off the day's activities in fine style. As the evening settled in, we had a late recap session before gathering to watch the captivating documentary OCEAN by David

Attenborough. With every passing day, the expedition seems to grow richer. We are all fully immersed and loving every minute of this journey through the high Arctic.



Day 7 – Wednesday 18 June, Poolepynten, Alkhornet

12:00 GPS Position: 78°15.5'N / 012°40.1'E

Wind: E 1 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +2.7°C



This morning, Ortelius keeps heading south towards Prins Karls Forland, which was one of the very first parts of Spitsbergen seen by Willem Barentsz in June 1596 and explored by Scottish polar explorer William Speirs Bruce from 1906 - 1909. We planned to do a landing at Poolepynten. It has lots of lagoon landscapes, drift wood on its northern side and Walrus are always hauled-out at the beach. A hut used by Svalbard coast guard stands at the end of the east coast and 550m west from the huts. There is a “official” plastic trash sampling baseline

field for scientist to study the amount of rubbish and fishing nets that have been washed onshore.

It's been foggy since early morning like it is always in summertime. Visibility always comes and goes, and many reindeer are busy feeding on the upper plain south of the coast after the heavy snow melts. Various arctic terns start to feed and fly around the drift wood searching for good shelter for their upcoming breeding season.

After the expedition team's scouting, all passengers were divided into 2 groups taking turns to have a close view of snoring walruses.



In the afternoon we sailed together to Alkhornet. This landing site boasts a lot of wildlife. Thousands of Kittiwakes nesting on the cliff, Reindeers feeding in front of us without any stress, Geese and Snow buntings flying around us, and a group of Belugas just passing by Ortelius before we landed. The beautiful landscape makes us just want to sit for few hours and soak it all in.





At the end of the day, Captain Per and Expedition Leader, Claudio hosted the farewell cocktail with everyone.

A trip slide show was made by the team to mark this special memory, and with this trip log, we hope we all had a good time together. It is not a goodbye but more of a see you soon, hope you get back to home safe and one day wish we will meet in another part of the world.

Day 8 – Thursday 19 June– Longyearbyen, Disembarkation

08:00 GPS Position: 78°22.3' N / 015°64.7' E

Wind: NW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air Temperature: +3.8°C

The time had come for us to say goodbye and leave the ship that had been our home during this unforgettable journey around Svalbard. After days filled with adventure, wildlife sightings and breathtaking Arctic scenery, we returned to where it all began, in Longyearbyen.

After enjoying one last breakfast together, we disembarked the beautiful Ortelius at 9AM. Emotions ran high as we embraced the Ortelius family and said our farewells. The connections formed during the voyage made it difficult to say goodbye to the team who had guided, supported and shared this experience with us.

Our suitcases had already been placed on the dock, ready to be collected. With bags in hand and memories to last a lifetime, we stepped off the pier and onto the buses into town. Some of us continued on to new travels, while others began the journey home, each carrying a part of the Arctic with us.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 854.5 nautical miles

Most northern point sailed: 81°35.807 N, 011°56.785 E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader Claudio Ghiglione, Hotel Manager William Barnes and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a pleasure and a privilege travelling with you.

Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team



Back row: Gert, Allan, Martin, Rao, Matt

Front row: Gabi, Beth, Claudio, Hazel, Saskia



1. Longyearbyen
2. Raudfjorden
3. Alicehamna
4. Monacobreen
5. Texas Bar
6. Via Phippsøya to sea ice
7. Sea ice day
8. Morning in sea ice
9. Waggonwaybreen
10. Poolepynten
11. Alkhornet

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard - OTL 03

English Name	Latin	German	12-jun	13-jun	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun	17-jun	18-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher							X
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstölpel							
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan							
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans		X	X			X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans			X			X	X
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Gaugans							
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans							
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans							
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	X	X	X		X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente			X			X	
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente							
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente			X				
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente							
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schellente							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn							
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer							
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling							
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer		X	X				X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt							

Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer							
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel							
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel		x					x
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer							x
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen							
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe		x	x			x	x
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe		x					
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua							
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe							
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe							
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe		x	x	x	x	x	x
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Polarmöwe							
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe							
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe					x		
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe			x	x	x		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe		x			x	x	x
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme							
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher					x	x	x
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	x	x			x	x	x
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze							
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Wiesenpieper							
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer							
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel							
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer		x	x		x	x	x
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Birkenzeisig							
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Spornammer							

Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wacholderdrossel							
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rotdrossel							
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Bergfink							
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalke							

MAMMALS

			12	13	14	15	16	17	18
English	Latin	German							
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross			X			X	X
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe			X				
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe							
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe							
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze						X	
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund							
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	X	X				X	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	X					X	
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal						X	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal							
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal							
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal							
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal							
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Döbling)							
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin							
Beluga	<i>Devinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal							X
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär		X	X	X			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs							
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Rentier		X	X			X	X
Sibling vole	<i>Microtus rossiaemeridionalis</i>	Südfeldmaus							
Short tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Erdmaus							

Claudio Ghiglione – Exp. Leader



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK).

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective is to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide Oceanwide.

Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book 'Polar Lights' with whom he shares the passion for nature photography.

Hazel Pittwood –Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Allan White - Expedition Guide



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small ship expedition cruising concept. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Twenty eight years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 76° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui and their Labrador Bosun.

Saskia van der Meij – Exp. 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.

Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide



Having been exposed to the pristine wilderness of Alaska, Canada, and Lapland before turning ten, Gabi developed a deep-rooted passion for cold climates and the great outdoors. Each summer, she devoted herself to sailing, and in 2012, her adventures included crossing the Baltic Sea from Poland to Scandinavia and back aboard the Zawisza Czarny, a historic 42-meter vessel originally built in 1952.

With a Master's in Fine Arts and a fascination for art, culture, and history, Gabi's curiosity led her to explore the unique human-animal relationships in polar regions, combining her interest in zooanthropology with the stories of Antarctica's early exploration and modern conservation. Her first journey to Antarctica in 2019 only deepened her connection to the continent's striking landscapes and rich history.

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond her travels; she actively practices the Wim Hof method and regularly takes on ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A memorable encounter with a herd of Musk Oxen in 1993 at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast sparked her love for Arctic wildlife, with the Gentoo Penguin now topping her list of favorites in Antarctica.

She loves being part of life-changing voyages, rediscovering the polar regions with each new group of guests. Driven by a passion for adventure and a genuine desire to share the wonders of the poles, Gabi aims to inspire awe and respect for these breathtaking and fragile landscapes, offering others a transformative glimpse into the natural world.

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 spent time 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 enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day. Martin has also guided in The Arctic, Antarctica and some of the sub-antarctic Islands as well as some of the least visited Islands in The Atlantic such as Tristan da Cunha.

Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide



Matt is an adventure photographer and videographer from Sydney, Australia.

His work has taken him to some of the planet's most remote and captivating destinations – from the polar regions of Antarctica, Svalbard and Greenland to the majestic African savannah, landlocked steppe countries of Central Asia, and rugged mountains of South America.

In Antarctica, Matt's favourite subjects to capture are the playful gentoo penguins and the dramatic polar landscapes in the late afternoon light.

As a photography educator, Matt enjoys sharing his expertise with fellow travellers and inspiring them to connect with the natural world.

Matt's career path has been full of surprises. He previously worked as a commercial and insurance lawyer in Sydney, but he's now much happier pursuing his passion for photography and adventure.

When he's not guiding, Matt spends much of his time camping, thru-hiking, drinking lots of Bialetti coffee, and exploring the outdoors, having recently returned from the Fann Mountains in Tajikistan.

Onboard, you'll find Matt out on deck, cameras in hand. Don't hesitate to approach him with any photography questions or just for a friendly chat!

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.

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.

中文

饶出生在哈尔滨这座充满冰天雪地的城市，这也是他非常怕热的理由——因为他是北方人。

家乡让他从小就爱上了冰雪和海洋。2011 年，他从武警部队退役，并在大学毕业后，在旅行社担任了 6 年的国际领队，在旅行的过程中，他先是去欧洲学习西方历史，然后去了非洲学习野生动物。

在他第一次去南极后，他发现实际上大多数国内书写的知识，比如百度百科，在关于极地的许多常识信息都是完全错误的。从此他决定做些改变。

现在距离他第一次领队旅行已经 5 年了，在这段时间里，他试图在船上学习任何他能学到的东西。他有一些朋友也在极地地区作为探险队或翻译。他们一同试图在国内进行科普教育。

他总是鼓励人们在旅途中学习。现在的世界变化之快，每个现代城市看起来都是一样的。民俗文化和野生环境被“现代社会”所取代。这也是为什么现在野生环境为目的地的旅游在旅游业中越来越受欢迎的原因。

Gert-Jan van der Ploeg –doctor



To ensure medical care, Gert-Jan van der Ploeg will be on board this trip. This 40-year-old Dutch medical doctor lives and works in the north of the province of North Holland. He was trained as a general practitioner at the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam and is also a specialized general practitioner in emergency care. In recent years he has gained experience in various aspects of Dutch (acute) healthcare. For example, he worked as a general practitioner in Aruba.

Gert-Jan is currently working as a general practitioner in the North Holland countryside and is a medical manager at an ambulance service. In these positions he often deals with acute care problems, which is where his passion lies. This passion is also reflected in one of his other activities, namely that of a (voluntary) firefighter. In addition, on an on-call basis, he teaches doctors in training to become specialists in the application of emergency care in primary care situations. He also teaches Medical First Aid on board of ships for students at a maritime school.

In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, running, riding his motorcycle, listening to and making (drumming!) music. He also enjoys reading, history and traveling, especially to the more remote areas of the world. This is his second time on board one of Oceanwide Expeditions' ships and his first time at the Arctic. He wishes you a pleasant journey without any medical problems, but if necessary, he will be there for you.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 12th June 2025

Day 1: Embarkation – Longyearbyen

WELCOME ABOARD!

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage; **if you are missing any luggage, or find bags in your cabin which are not yours, please visit reception on Deck 4.** Please be patient as hotel staff may be busy with embarking guests – thank you 😊

Tea/coffee is available in the **Bar located on Deck 6.**

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1700 +/- Ship safety briefing in the **Bar on DECK 6.** Attendance is **MANDATORY.**

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket and dress warmly. All guests must go to the **MUSTER STATION** which is the **Bar on Deck 6.** Please ensure you have your own room key with you as you will need this to check in, and it will also indicate which lifeboat you are assigned.

1800 +/- Please join the Expedition Team and Hotel Manager in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a welcome briefing to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.

1900 - 2000 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

2000 - 2030 Go at the reception to check flights/buses before going to the boots room.

2030 +/- You will be called deck by deck to go to the **Lecture Room on Deck 3** to pick up your Muck Boots: please bring your thick socks.

Please note that we will be sailing into open seas. If you are concerned about sea sickness, the doctor will be available if you require medication. Medication should be taken as soon as possible after embarkation. Please ensure that all your belongings are stored away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 13th June 2025

Day 2: Alicehamna and Buchananhalvøya

- 0645 Wake-up call: Good Morning!
- 0700-0800 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0815 +/- Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the team introduction and **MANDATORY Zodiac/Polar Bear Safety briefing.** Attendance will be checked.
- 1045 +/- We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Alicehamna;** an incredible landscape, with stunning views across Raudfjorden (Red Fjord), historical interest and Arctic flora.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1245 +/- *Last zodiac back to the ship*
- 1300-1400 A buffet lunch is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1430 We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Buchananhalvøya.** We hope to offer hikes for all abilities to enjoy this beautiful, scenic area between two glacier fronts in this iconic area of Northwest Svalbard.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1800 +/- *Last zodiac back to the ship*
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap, including plans for tomorrow
- 1900 Plated dinner will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated

If conditions are good, we encourage you to make the most of the evening light by being on the outside decks or on the bridge; enjoy the landscape and look out for wildlife!



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 14th June 2025

Day 3: Monacobreen and Texas Bar

- 0645 Wake-up call.
- 0700-0800 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0815 +/- We hope to start disembarkation for a **Zodiac Cruise of Monacobreen**, one of the most iconic glacier fronts in Svalbard. This is named after Prince Albert I of Monaco, for his 1898-1907 oceanographic expedition to map the area. If we are lucky, we may spot wildlife such as bearded seal, ivory gull and beluga.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1200 +/- *Last zodiac back to the ship*
- 1230-1330 A buffet lunch is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1415 We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Texas Bar.** This site is named after a trapper's hut which you will see ashore and is a fantastic place for hiking along with a variety of flora and fauna.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1715 **POLAR PLUNGE!!!** We will provide you the towels, please don't take towels from the cabins
- 1800 +/- *Last zodiac back to the ship*
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap, including plans for tomorrow
- 1900 Plated dinner will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated

If conditions are good, we encourage you to make the most of the evening light by being on the outside decks or on the bridge; enjoy the landscape and look out for wildlife!



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 15th June 2025

Day 4: Seven Islands – Sjuøyane

Today we explore the Seven Islands (Sjuøyane): the Northernmost landmasses of Svalbard, located at 80° North. The two largest islands, Phippsøya and Parryøya, are named after English Polar Explorers, John Phipps and William Parry.

0645 Wake-up call.

0700-0800 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

0815 +/- We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Isflakbukta on Phippsøya**, which offers great hiking opportunities. Offshore, we may see Atlantic walrus and a variety of seabirds. We also hope to offer a beach cleanup. *Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.*

1200 +/- *Last zodiac back to the ship*

1230-1330 A buffet lunch is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

1415 We hope to start disembarkation for going ashore at **Horgvika on Phippsøya**. Although on the same island as our morning activity, this bay offers different scenery and wildlife to be seen, along with alternative hikes. *Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.*

1800 +/- *Last zodiac back to the ship*

1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap, including plans for tomorrow

1900 Plated dinner will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated

If conditions are good, we encourage you to make the most of the evening light by being on the outside decks or on the bridge; enjoy the landscape and look out for wildlife!



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 16th June 2025

Day 5 – Into the pack ice

This will be the first of our days exploring the Arctic pack ice looking for wildlife. We hope to find birds, seals, whales and, of course, polar bear. We encourage you to spend as much time as possible on the outside decks and on the bridge to help us search: the more eyes looking for animals, the better chance we have to spot them!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE QUIET ON THE OUTSIDE DECKS:

NOISES/SOUNDS CAN SCARE AWAY WILDLIFE!

- 0745 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0800-0900 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1100 **Beth** will give a lecture about **Sea Ice.**
Please join her in the **Bar on Deck 6**
- 1300-1400 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 1530 **Martin** will give a presentation about **Birds of Svalbard.**
Please join him in the **Bar on Deck 6**
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap.
- 1900 Dinner will be served outside: wrap up warm! 😊

We will continue to look for wildlife during the night; in the event of any good wildlife sightings, we will wake you up via the Public Announcement system.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 17th June 2025

Day 6 – In the pack ice

This will be our second day (half day) spent exploring the Arctic pack ice looking for wildlife. We hope to find birds, seals, whales and, of course, polar bear. We encourage you to spend as much time as possible on the outside decks and on the bridge to help us search: the more eyes looking for animals, the better chance we have to spot them!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE QUIET ON THE OUTSIDE DECKS:
NOISES/SOUNDS CAN SCARE AWAY WILDLIFE

- 0745 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0800-0900 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1100 **Saskia** will give a lecture about **The First Nautilus North Pole Expedition.** Please join her in the **Bar on Deck 6.**
- 1300-1400 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1515 We hope to start disembarkation for a **Zodiac Cruise of Waggonwaybreen.** This glacier is located in a very scenic fjord called Magdalenefjord: one of the most iconic in the NW of Svalbard and is 10 km long and 5 km wide. If we are lucky, we may spot wildlife such as Harbour seal, King eiders and other birds.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Buffet dinner** will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated
- 2030 We will offer the latest BBC movie called OCEAN with Sir. David Attenborough. Please join us in the **Bar on Deck 6.**



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 18th June 2025

Day 7 Poolepynten and Alkhornet

06:15 Wake-up call.

06:30-07:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

07:30+/- We hope to start disembarking you for a landing at Poolepynten, this is a known haul out site for Walrus.

Any time after returning from your morning landing you can pass by Reception to settle your account, please ensure this is done before 17:00

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

14:30 We hope to start disembarkation for a final landing at Alkhornet.

18:00 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

19:00 A farewell gala dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

20:30 After dinner we will collect your muck boots in the lecture room, please keep your life jacket as you will need it for disembarkation the following day.



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Into the pack ice – Polar Bear Special

Date: 19th June 2025

Day 8 - Longyearbyen

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 7am as we will need to shuttle it to the pier while you have breakfast.

07:15 Wakeup call.

07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. Please make sure that your luggage are outside your cabin before Breakfast.

08:30+ We will start disembarkation with the gangway.

There will be two buses to run everyone into the centre of Longyearbyen at 09:00 and 09:15 respectively, they will drop you at Butikken.

All luggage needs to be identified by you before it is placed in the luggage truck. You will be picked up by bus from Butikken at 10:45 for transfer to the airport.

For those guests staying in Longyearbyen please ensure your luggage is placed on the bus with you when you go to town.

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