



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

12th July 2025 – 21st July 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 and writer. 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, POLAR CODE), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER, that allows her sailing for 44 days no needing stop. *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 Remmert-Jan Koster

[The Netherlands]

and his international crew of 53

Chief Officer:	Sjoerd Van Hoek	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Ian Vincent	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Alexsandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Second Engineer:	Jhunwel Yuzon	[Philippines]
Third Engineer:	Yurii Vitkovskiy	[Ukraine]
Four Engineer:	Alexandru Petrache	[Romania]
ETO:	Yehor Borodkin	[Ukraine]
FITTER:	Ricson Labor	[Philippines]
FITTER:	Marcy Vicente	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Arvie Edemi	[Philippines]
Motorman	Rogie Collado Parra	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Efren Carido Bueno	[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]
Cook	Rene Quevedo	[Philippines]
Cook	Jefferson Macarubbo	[Philippines]
Baker	Ferdie Santos	[Philippines]
Galley Steward	Senen Tancio	[Philippines]
Restaurant Supervisor	Mhel Alolor	[Philippines]
Dining Steward	Agus Edy Putra	[Indonesia]
Dining Steward	Mealyn Trangia Ronda	[Philippines]
Dining Steward	Aldrin Toledo	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Supervisor	Jerome Dela Cruz	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Steward	Anecita Peligrino Bernaldez	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Steward	Ambrocio Lappay	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Steward	Menchie Lagartija	[Philippines]
Laundry Steward	Judy Malang	[Philippines]
Laundry Steward	Kimberly Mabagos	[Philippines]
Bosun	Eniano Agarín	[Philippines]
Bosun	Philip Malang	[Philippines]

Able Seaman	Edgar Pagsiban	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Priscifel Bazarte	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Rojie Taba	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Jesfony Pacaldo	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Zosimo Lugao Celocia	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Christopher John Sarial	[Philippines]
OS:	Rey Neil Robles	[Philippines]
Bartender	Jake Montevirgen	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader	Adam Burke	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader	Hazel Pittwood	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Mark Whiffen	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Marcelo Tarapow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide	Aitana Forcén Vazquez	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	Rao Xingpeng	[China]
Translator/E.Guide	Yu Kan Cheng	[China]
Expedition Guide	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Jody Gaylord	[USA]
Ship's Doctor	Joyce van Veldhuizen	[The Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Saturday 12th July, 2025. Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Embarkation Day

2100 GPS Position: 78° 10' N / 013° 30' E

Wind: SW 20 km/h • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +8°C



Today will be remembered in a different way. We have traveled from different parts of the world, speaking different languages but bringing with us the hope of enjoying a few unforgettable days aboard *m/v Ortelius*.

The arrival on the ship was special because we did not board it at the dock but rather sailed to it in Zodiac boats, as if this were a good omen for what was to come – a time to explore, looking for wildlife, landscapes, glaciers, and stories to tell in the future.

Just after 6:00 PM, the ship set sail, leaving Longyearbyen behind. Almost immediately we were called to receive safety instructions that would be very useful for the following days.

After the mandatory class and practice in front of the lifeboats, we deposited our lifejackets in our cabins and went to the bar where we received the official welcome from Captain Remmert and our Expedition Leader, Adam. Champagne or orange juice set the stage, as we enjoyed some delicacies prepared by the galley team!



Then we started getting to know each other, creating new friendships with people we had never seen before and with whom we would share great Arctic experiences.

The dinner pleasantly surprised us, organized by the Manager of the William Hotel. The restaurant looked magnificent, and the waiters attended with unique friendliness and charisma.



Just an hour later, Neptune, the mythological god and ruler of all seas, made his presence known, shaking the ship a little as if warning us that we were entering his domain. It was nothing we couldn't handle, but... we became aware of what life at sea is about. Knowing the planned activities for the next day, we chose to enjoy the scenery a bit longer, unpack, and then... we tested whether our bed was comfortable... and it certainly was!



Before we turned in, a voice announced that you will be called deck by deck to go to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect our muck boots, ready to start early in the morning.

We went to rest, dreaming of where we would wake up tomorrow, what landscapes would accumulate in our retinas, and what discoveries were waiting for us in the Arctic!

Day 2 – Sunday 13th July, Ny Ålesund, Ny London

21:00 GPS Position: 79°21.'N / 009°41'E

Wind: SE 14 Km/h • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +5.3°C

This morning ,we woke to bright Arctic light and the stillness of Ny-Ålesund, one of the northernmost settlements in the world. Before disembarking *Ortelius*, we attended mandatory briefings, including the AECO regulations, and the Zodiac briefing.



Once the briefings were complete, we made our way down the gangway and wandered among colorful wooden buildings, scientific stations, and wide-open surroundings. The crisp air and profound remoteness were sharp reminders of where we were.



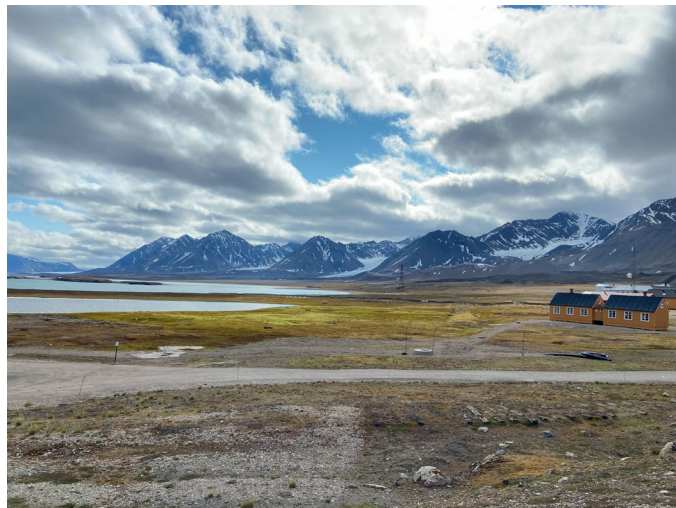
Nature did not disappoint! Reindeer grazed near the edges of town, Arctic terns called overhead, and a lucky few spotted Arctic foxes, one of which was being dive bombed by the terns. We also observed barnacle geese with goslings waddling in tow—a heartwarming sight in this stark landscape.



We visited the small but rich museum and the local shop stocked with postcards, Arctic trinkets, and reminders of human resilience in this far-off place.



Marcelo and Jodi led us on a walk to the historic airship mast, where Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile launched their daring flights to the North Pole aboard the airships *Norge* and *Italia*. Standing there, with the wind sweeping across the tundra and the ghosts of polar explorers in mind, it was easy to feel the weight of history.



After a well-earned lunch break on board, we set out again, this time to Ny-London. Split into hiking groups, we crossed the tundra led by our expedition guides, enjoying sweeping views of the bay, beautiful wildflowers in bloom including the well camouflaged polar campion. Birdlife was abundant, with sightings of long-tailed skuas, purple sandpipers, snow buntings and a distant glimpse of the endemic Svalbard reindeer.



The day ended with our evening recap, Adam outlined the plans for the following day and Marcelo introduced us to the history of Svalbard, followed by a short talk from Emily explaining just how terrific terns are, and how far they travel on their epic annual migrations.

It was then time for dinner, after which we were able to relax in the lounge with a drink and share stories from an unforgettable first full day!



Day 3 – Monday 14th, July, Texas Bar and Monacobreen

21:00 GPS Position: 80°02'N / 014°58'E

Wind: S 10 Km/h • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air Temperature: +8°C



The remote Arctic archipelago of Svalbard delivered another day of raw, unforgettable beauty as we made our way to the abandoned trapper's hut at Texas Bar—a rustic outpost tucked along the northern coast of Liefdefjorden. Under a crisp blue sky, the group divided into long, medium and shore groups of hikers. Summer had coaxed out an astonishing display of wildflowers across the tundra. Delicate blooms of woolly lousewort, moss campion, yellow saxifrage, Arctic mouse-ear, and mountain avens painted the otherwise rugged landscape in bursts of soft pink, white, and gold.



The adventurous among the group took part in a true Arctic rite of passage: a polar plunge into the frigid waters. Icy gasps and quick sprints back to shore followed, but the exhilaration was unmistakable—a chilling thrill framed by Svalbard’s stark beauty.



In the afternoon, the group ventured by Zodiac to Monacobreen, one of Svalbard’s most active tidewater glaciers. Towering blue ice met the sea in a dramatic wall, and the glacier was alive with sound—creaks, cracks, and the thunderous boom of calving ice breaking free into the fjord. Wildlife abounded; A bearded seal lounged lazily on a floe while black guillemots, sleek with white wing patches, were plentiful, and observers were treated to the sight of young fledglings still with downy fluff dotting the icy waters.



At the glacier front, thousands of Kittiwakes wheeled and cried overhead, drawn by nutrient-rich waters churned up by the melting ice. Then came the unexpected—a harbour porpoise gliding briefly through the fjord's icy water, followed shortly after by a young ringed seal, curious about the Zodiacs. The seal spent time swimming and diving next to us for some time. Dotted around the head of the fjord, three striking ivory gulls made a rare appearance, their pure white plumage nearly indistinguishable from the glacier behind them. Back onboard the ship and sailing out of Liefdefjorden, a minke whale surfaced passing silently and gracefully across the bow before vanishing again into the deep.



In the late evening the cetacean sightings continued with a feeding group of sei whales accompanied by a minke whale while fulmars fed on the surface, scavenging scraps.

It was a day that captured the spirit of Svalbard—stark, teeming with life, and humbling in its grandeur.

Day 4 – Tuesday 15th, July, Into the Pack Ice

21:00 GPS Position: 82°05,'050N / 022°42,'363'E

Wind: W 14 Km/h • Sea: Calm/icefield • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +0.1°C

Today, *Ortelius* reaches the sea ice area where we will spend the day looking for wildlife sightings. This morning everyone can take their time and enjoy breakfast after the intensive outdoor activities of the previous days. Sea The expedition team also finally had the opportunity to be able to bring a lot of informative lectures to share their knowledge with us. The visibility at sea has been good and bad at times and the deck crew on the bridge and the expedition team have been searching non-stop for signs of life along the ice area with binoculars.



Lectures on sea ice, polar bears and the birds of Svalbard took place in the bar, and in between the lectures people did not fail to admire the different shapes of the sea ice and the seals that appeared from time to time on the surface. On two occasions, we saw polar bear tracks from a long way off but when the ship reversed course the fog suddenly appeared and after several searches in different directions we lost sight of them.



Finally, in the afternoon, a polar bear suddenly appeared behind a snow hummock in the direction of the ship's port aft deck. This curious young bear was walking back and forth around us – amazing!



People were busy running around on the outer decks, cherishing their encounter with the bear as much as possible. Finally, as dinner approached, *Ortelius* slowly reversed course back south, and on this day we also reached the most northerly position on this voyage ----82 degrees and five minutes!



Day 5 – Wednesday 16th, July. Torelleset & Alkefjellet

21:00 GPS Position: 79°18'N / 022°06'E

Wind: NW 20 km/h • Sea: Rippled • Weather: P/cloudy • Air Temperature: +4°C

This morning, our plan was to land at Torelleset, a site known for its walrus haul-outs. However, as we approached, we spotted two polar bears ashore—a clear sign that today's plans would need adjusting. We decided to cancel the landing and shift to a Zodiac cruise, allowing us to observe the bears from a safe distance.



From the bridge, we noted the unusual absence of walrus on the beach, which raised our suspicions. Torelleset is typically a reliable spot for walrus sightings, and their absence hinted that something was off. The presence of polar bears explained it—predators in the area often drive the walrus into the water. Sure enough, we later spotted a few walrus swimming offshore, likely displaced by the bears' presence. It was a calm and beautiful morning, with mirror-like seas and a quiet tension in the air.





In the afternoon, we cruised to Alkefjellet, one of the most dramatic bird cliffs in Svalbard. For the first time in a long while, the weather cleared, and the cliffs revealed themselves from a mile away, no fog, just sharp basalt faces teeming with life. We spent the afternoon immersed in the sounds and sights of thousands of Brünnich's guillemots nesting on the narrow ledges.



As the cruise drew to a close, we spotted an Arctic fox patrolling the shoreline, searching for unattended eggs. Just moments before, we had witnessed a glaucous gull stealing an egg, a stark reminder of how unforgiving life is in the High Arctic. Survival here is raw and relentless, and today, we saw it in action.



Day 6 – Thursday 17th, July. Sundneset and Diskobukta

21:00 GPS Position: 77°19'N / 019°04'E

Wind: NE 10 Km/h • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +5,8°C

This morning began bright and beautiful yet again. Our luck with the weather has been spectacular thus far. Little did we know this morning, however, that the warm sunshine and calm winds would be only the beginnings of the Arctic magic that would envelope us for the entire day.



After a hearty breakfast, we landed at the beach of Sundneset with its lush, vegetation-filled plains and valleys. The tundra was springy under our feet, and tiny flowers bloomed all around us. Reindeer fur and bleached bones and antlers were scattered across the landscape; this was obviously a rich feeding ground for polar bears and Arctic foxes.



We split into two groups for a bit of hiking. The long hikers set off first, making good time to a lake north of the landing site. Along the way, we were greeted by many lively reindeer happily feasting on the foliage, as well as two foxes. So that we didn't forget where we were, the ground gave us a taste of Arctic bog: many of us sank to our knees in sucking mud. It was a bit of a challenge to extract ourselves, but we managed; this, we remembered, is adventure cruising, after all.



The medium hikers set off in a different direction, reaching a lake with barnacle geese, long-tailed ducks, and common eiders bobbing around. A pair of reindeer could be seen at a distance, but as we made our way to them, we were delighted to have our attention diverted by an Arctic fox. Then another. And yet a third! This last fox was an exceptionally curious animal, nearing to within ten meters of us, giving us all a fabulous look at its still thick fur and coal black eyes.

Then came the call over the radio: "We're going to evacuate." We all had our time with foxes interrupted by the appearance of a polar bear. It was time to leave, and with haste. Closing our ranks and putting away our cameras, we made a safe retreat to the landing site and back to the ship – as a second bear was spotted. What a morning!

Our delicious lunch was abuzz with excited chatter about foxes, polar bears, and evacuations, plus a few stuck-in-the-mud stories.

After lunch we headed toward Diskobukta, our intended next destination. But again the Arctic had a different plan for us. As we neared Kapp Lee, we spotted a mother polar bear and her cub under a low ridge. Just around the point from that were a multitude of large male walrus hauled out. How could we not stop for that?



Into the zodiacs we hopped for perhaps the best outing of the trip so far. We watched the bears bathe in the ocean, wrestle and play fight, then lie down and get comfortable. After a while, we made our way over to the walrus, where we watched several have lunch, others tussle in the water, and most rest on shore. Finally, what every single one of us was hoping for actually happened: the bears came over the ridge to the walrus.



They sidled up close, where they were met with a wall of watchful walrus, tusks presented. A few walrus began to stampede, but they did not go far. An epic stare-off occurred between the cub and several dozen much larger walrus. Eventually the cub backed down and rejoined its mother a few meters away.

The mother bear poked with her nose at a hut, pawed at a few things on the ground, visited the walruses, then decided that she would rather take a nap. She sprawled out and made herself quite comfortable. The cub soon followed, and peace was restored between species.

The Arctic, however, was not yet finished bestowing her gifts. Three walruses swam out to our Zodiacs, very curious indeed about who or what we were. They approached one Zodiac one after another, surprising us with how far they could lift themselves out of the water. Eventually our time ran out and we had to return to the ship, but few of us actually wanted to leave. This was an incredible outing that will be remembered for years to come.

On board, we learned more about reindeer from Emily, in particular how reindeer can warm the outside air up to 70° C before it hits their lungs, and that all of Santa's reindeer are likely female. Hazel imparted a wealth of knowledge about walruses that explained some of the behavior we had just seen. All of this was followed by a fantastic dinner during which the question was asked more than once: How can we top this?

Today was, in a word, EPIC.

Day 7 – Friday 18th, July. Burgerbukta and Gashamna

21:00 GPS Position: 76°58' N / 016°33' E

Wind: E 8 Km/h • Sea: Calm • Weather: P/cloudy • Air Temperature: +4.5°C

We woke up listening to the warm voice of the expedition leader Adam who invited us to prepare to visit different places and thus continue discovering the wildlife that would surround us.

Burgerbukta is located at the bottom of Hornsund Bay, surrounded by majestic cliffs of bare rock.



Our Zodiac ride was unmatched. We saw waterfalls, some of them with reddish colors, possibly because they contained iron ore.



We found permanent contrasts of colors, green of the vegetation, bluish tones of the icebergs, white of the snow, black of the rock in the mountains.

We felt the cold wind coming down from the glacier, but our internal heat produced by emotions made it go unnoticed.



We also observed different types of birds, which were seen enjoying complete freedom. A seal appeared briefly when we were close to the glacier.



After a well-deserved lunch to recharge our batteries, we prepared for the next adventure: Gåshamna. Today it looks deserted but it used to be a whaling station back in the 17th century.

As usual, the different groups began to walk in different directions, demonstrating that the physical activities carried out in the previous days had significantly improved aerobic capacity and increasingly the routes with steep and rocky climbs were successfully overcome. The photos taken from those vantage points were worth it.

Near the place where the boats were waiting for us to return to the ship, we found a staggering number of enormous whale bones scattered on a green blanket of moss that today gives it a new meaning, as if wanting to hide the traces of a past that will never return.

We arrived at the boat a little tired, but the Captain had a pleasant surprise prepared for us. Today's dinner would be on the helicopter flight deck, the sky would be our ceiling and mountains and glaciers would be the walls! The menu consisted of a BBQ, accompanied by drinks that helped quench our thirst and enhance our temperature.



There was no lack of music or a select group of dancers who showed their intact skills to follow the rhythm of the songs that made the moment happy.

All this is more than a five-star restaurant, isn't it?





Day 8 – Saturday 19th, July. Bamsebu and Varsolbukta

21:00 GPS Position: 77°48.' N / 012°32' E

Wind: S 8 Km/h • Sea: Calm • Weather: P/Cloudy • Air Temperature: +5.2°C

From the ship, we saw a very pretty cabin that still showed its strength.

Bamsebu was an old whaling station but dedicated especially to hunting beluga whales. The crude images of different accumulations of bones appear before our eyes, possibly following the order that the whalers wanted to assign them: number of whales or the catches made by each of the whaling boats that could still be seen showing their keel to the sky although without the splendor of the past.

There are approximately 500 beluga skeletons, from which the fat and skin were extracted. They were hunted with harpoons but also with nets that belugas have the habit of swimming in groups. The struggle in the 1930s was obviously unequal. But we must also remember the two women who wintered from 2019 to 2021 fighting to raise awareness of the effects of climate change and the deterioration that human activity can cause to the environment. A shout out to Hilde Fåln Strøm and Sunniva Sorby for their initiative. (Visit Hearts in the ice).



We saw reindeer and were able to find about twenty different flowers, mosses and lichens scattered nearby.





We returned to the ship, and after lunch we prepared to visit Vårsolbukta, a wide bay in Bellsund known for its flat beaches, vegetation and rich birdlife. Once again the different groups took their paths and traveled through this plateau guarded by mountains.



Ernest Mansfield had searched for gold and platinum in these regions but without much success. Three of its houses built between 1908 and 1910 remain standing, ignoring the passage of time. We saw about forty reindeer, some of them with their young, walking peacefully on the plain.



We also found the remains of some small wagons that seemed to have been used on rails to transport the minerals extracted from there



Day 9 – Sunday 20th, July. Poolepynten and Alkhornet

21:00 GPS Position: 78°08' N / 014°21' E

Wind: SE 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Sunny • Air Temperature: +5.2°C

Adam's voice announced to us that we were about to arrive at our destination and that a group of walruses had already been seen resting on Poolepynten beach.



In a few minutes the expedition guides headed to the coast and verified that there were no polar bears in sight, which guaranteed a successful excursion.

The beach is a place of scientific study on marine pollution so it is not possible to remove the garbage that can be found there, especially plastics, bottles and nylon ropes.

About 20 walruses, all together, one leaning on the other, ignored us. Some of them chose to take a swim and approach the beach again, perhaps with the intention of saying goodbye until the next visit, which we hope will be soon!



Although the visit was shorter than usual, we were able to quietly observe the walrus. After lunch we arrived at Alkhornet, where we enjoyed a great sunny day. Marcelo led the group of long hikers, who proved to be in excellent athletic condition. We observed countless birds in the mountains, more than 50 reindeer in the plain, but finally when we were returning to the beach where the Zodiacs were, we were able to see a couple of foxes that still sported their summer fur.

The fox that accompanied us during part of our walk captured a bird that it carried in its teeth. Every now and then the fox would stop and try a bite.

Back on the ship, we met for the captain's farewell cocktail. We could see how everyone had chosen to dress more elegantly. After the final recommendations that Adam gave us, the Captain offered a toast hoping that we would meet again on board in the not-too-distant future, either in these northern latitudes or there to explore Antarctica.

Kana prepared a very emotional presentation containing photos and videos taken during this incredible trip. During dinner, we became aware that the trip would end soon. Many guests exchanged their details to stay in touch. We were all very grateful to the onboard team, applauding them and showing their affection.

Day 10 – Monday 21st, July. Disembarkation, Longyearbyen

21:00 GPS Position: 78°22.3' N / 015°64.7' E

Wind: SSW 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +7°C

We are now moored in Longyearbyen again and disembark with suitcases full of indelible memories. We will share our adventures, experiences, photos and videos, but above all we will share our enthusiasm for passion for wildlife, animals, plants, oceans, glaciers and also the air we breathe. We will return home, to our jobs, to our routines but we will no longer be the same as before. We have seen a lot things but we still have more to see.

Ortelius was our home for several days and now we are left with our hearts full of emotions and desires to share our experiences. Today it was the Arctic, but we will surely find other places where we can experience this closeness to nature and history.

Richard Bach wrote in his book "Illusions" that goodbyes are necessary for the next reunion in the future. Perhaps this thought can serve as a consolation, and we can wait patiently and happily for the next opportunity to be together again.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1273 nautical miles

Most northern point sailed: 82°05.050 N, 022°42.'363 E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Remmert Koster, Expedition Leader Adam Burke, Hotel Manager William Barnes and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a great pleasure and a privilege travelling with you.

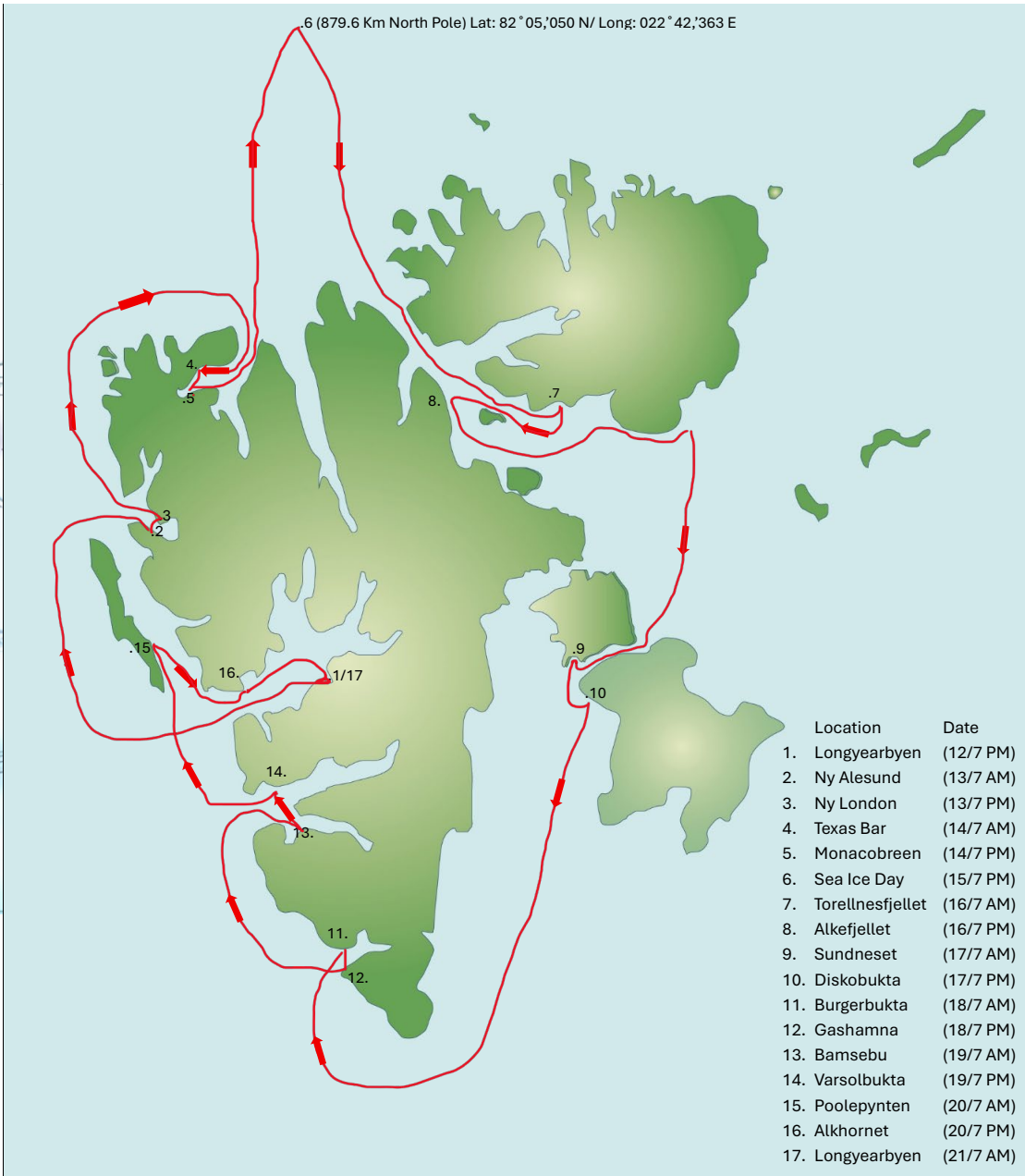
Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team



Back row: Rao, Emily, Adam, Mark, Aitana, Marcelo

Front row: Joyce, Jodi, Kana, Hazel

MV “Ortelius” (OCEANWIDE) From 12-July to 21-July 2025.



Passengers:	108 in 50 cabins.
Staff & Crew:	Crew 44 Guides 8 Doctor 1 3 Pilots
Length	90.95 Meters
Breadth	17.20 Meters
Draft	5. 6 Meters
Ice Class	UL1 (Equivalent to 1A) PC 6*
Displacement	4090 Tonnes
Propulsion	6 ZL 40/48 SULZER
Speed	10.5 knots average cruising speed
Flight Deck Helicopter (2)	12 Zodiac Boat Mk 5. 60 HP
PC6: Suitable for navigation in medium first-year ice, which may include old ice inclusions.	Ice Thickness: 70 to 120 cm (2.3 to 3.9 ft) by WMO. Call Sign: PCGQ



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land

English Name	Latin	12-Jul	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul	20-Jul
Red-throated diver 紅喉潛鳥	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X						X	X
Northern Fulmar 暴风鰲	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pink-footed Goose 粉腳雁	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				X					
Barnacle Goose 白颊黑雁	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		X				X	X	X	X
Common Eider 欧绒鸭	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
King Eider 王绒鸭	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	X	X	X			X			
Long-tailed Duck 长尾鸭	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		X				X			
Rock Ptarmigan 岩雷鸟	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>		X				X			
Ringed Plover 环颈鸻	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		X						X	X
Purple Sandpiper 紫滨鹬	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X	X				X	X	X	X
Ruddy Turnstone 翻石鹬	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		X							
Grey Phalarope 灰瓣足鹬	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		X	X						X
Arctic Skua 棕色贼鸥/ 北极贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	X	X	X				X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua 长尾贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>		X							
Great Skua 大贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>					X				X
Glaucous Gull 北极鸥	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kittiwake 三趾鸻	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull 白鸥	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>			X	X			X		
Arctic Tern 北极燕鸥	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Common Guillemot 崖海鸦	<i>Uria aalge</i>					X				
Brunnich's Guillemot 厚嘴崖海鸦	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot 白翅斑海鸕	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk 短翅小海雀	<i>Alle alle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin 海鹦	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Meadow Pipit 草地鹨	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>									X
Snow Bunting 雪鹨	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X			X	X	X	X

MAMMALS

English Name	Latin	12-Jul	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul	20-Jul
Walrus 海象	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>					X	X			X
Bearded seal 髯海豹	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X				X		
Ringed seal 环斑海豹	<i>Phoca hispida</i>			X						
Harp seal 竖琴海豹	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>				X					
Hooded seal 冠海豹	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>				X					
Common /Harbour seal 斑海豹	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		X						X	X
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>			X						
Minke Whale 小须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>			X						X
Sei Whale 塞鲸	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>			X						
Fin Whale 长须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>									X
Beluga 白鲸	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>							X		X
Polar Bear 北极熊	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>				X	X	X			
Arctic Fox 北极狐	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X			X	X		X	
Spitsbergen Reindeer 驯鹿	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X				X		X	X

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved

on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

Hazel Pittwood –Asst. Exp. Leader



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. With the Jurassic Coast on her doorstep, it was inevitable that she would develop a love for being beside, on or in the sea!

Hazel has worked and volunteered in a variety of wildlife focused roles, from surveying for rare reptiles on heathland nature reserves to caring for injured bats and other small mammals and birds for local wildlife rescue groups.

Whilst she is broadly enamoured with the natural world, Hazel is first and foremost a marine mammal and seabird specialist. In 2014 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 for six months on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months as a marine mammal guide and surveyor.

Since then, Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise, expedition and small ships in various locations worldwide. Guiding highlights have included Baja California with friendly Gray whales, huge gatherings of Humpback whales in Antarctica, four months with the semi-resident Bottlenose dolphin population of Cardigan Bay in Wales and working as a snorkelling guide with Orca (killer whales) in North Norway.

She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

We hope to see an incredible diversity of marine mammal and seabird species on your trip, and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm!

Mark Whiffin - Expedition Guide



Mark holds a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology and is an ornithologist and birder with extensive field experience. His passion for birds and travelling started from a very young age in East Sussex, England and expanded from there.

After finishing studying at university, he participated in, and led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to remote areas of the world in search of birds with a particular emphasis on threatened and endemic species.

Mark first visited Antarctica in 2018 employed by the British Antarctic Survey, and subsequently spent five years living and working on Bird Island, South Georgia as a Zoological Field Assistant working with the penguins and petrels. He developed a deep love for the Southern Ocean, its scenery and the birds that call it home, "seeing the first Cape Petrels on any trip always gives a feeling of arriving home".

In his free time Mark enjoys trekking, running or cycling. He is also a keen photographer and videographer who enjoys documenting and sharing his passion for birds, travel and wild places, his images have been used various NGOs, employers, newspapers and online. He looks forward to sharing your expedition with you.

Marcelo Tarapow – Expedition Guide



Marcelo Tarapow has a Master's degree in Social Sciences, specialized in History from the National University of Quilmes, retired Rear Admiral of the Argentine Navy, Honorary Professor at the Nikola Vaptsarov Academy (Bulgaria) and Graduate in Naval Systems.

He participated in twelve expeditions to Antarctica between 1988 and 2017, occupying different roles until being the leader on his last two occasions, spending around 900 days in Antarctic activity.

He has also carried out studies in Environmental Preservation, Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Tourism.

He has been a professor in pre-Antarctic courses taught in Argentina, Colombia and Bulgaria, especially on navigation, meteorology, the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol.

He is the President of the Academy of Antarctica, a lecturer and researcher especially on topics related to the White Continent, having presented on historical Antarctic expeditions in Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, France and Romania.

He is a member of the Council at Polar Educators International for the 2024-2025 biennium.

His main hobbies are swimming, cycling, tango, reading, an enthusiastic collector of ancient objects linked to Antarctic history and an amateur photographer.

Always ready to learn from other cultures, listen to stories, passionately share their experiences and care for the environment.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide



Aitana is a passionate oceanographer and adventurer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as a polar guide. Originally from Spain, she spent 12 years in New Zealand, where she earned her PhD in Physical Oceanography—focusing on unravelling the mysteries of how the ocean moves.

Her expertise extends to large-scale currents, waves, ice and water mass formation, and climate, with an unwavering enthusiasm for discussing these topics. Aitana's conversations can seamlessly transition from the intricacies of oceanography to her love

for endurance sports and the art of knitting. With a strong background in ocean-going fieldwork, Aitana served as the Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, a groundbreaking initiative examining the export of cold water from the Ross Sea. She made history as one of the most junior-ever physical scientists to assume the role of voyage leader on the R V Tangaroa, New Zealand's esteemed research vessel, during an oceanographic voyage to the Southern Ocean.

Aitana's career has been as diverse as the marine environments she has explored. From driving a weather boat for two editions of the America's Cup as a meteorological technician to transitioning into the private sector, where she provided vital marine forecasts for port operations and Defence exercises. In these roles she has been a key player in ensuring the safety and efficiency of maritime operations. When adventure allows it, Aitana shares her knowledge with university students as an associate lecturer, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

In her free time, Aitana is an avid open water swimmer, a dedicated communicator and content creator, and a seeker of unconventional road trips off the beaten path.

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。

Yu Kan (Kana) Cheng - Translator



Kana, with a Chinese name, Yu Kan, pronounced as "You Can," means "creating value in the universe" in Chinese. This belief shapes her perspective that life is about finding meaning, instilling in her a positive attitude that you can achieve anything in life. Yu Kan was born and raised in Hong Kong, a city famous for its towering skyscrapers. But actually, Hong Kong also has stunning coastal and mountain landscapes.

After earning her degree in accounting and working in an office, Yu Kan realized her passion for nature and adventure surpassed her interest in an office job. Seeing people's joy and growth has brought her more fulfillment than working with numbers. Therefore, she transitioned to the outdoor education industry, where she spent 10 years providing experiential learning in an outdoor setting for children aged 8-18. Witnessing the growth and development of these children has been her most significant achievement.

Fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, Yu Kan has had the opportunity to work and live in various countries, including China, Malaysia, Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Her travels across different continents have made her comfortable and deeply interested in exploring diverse cultures.

In 2024, Yu Kan joined Oceanwide Expeditions. She is excited to offer a unique and memorable experience to all passengers.

中文

Kana, 中文名是宇芹 (Yu Kan), 意为“在宇宙中创造价值”。这一信念塑造了她的人生观, 认为生命的意义在于找到价值, 并给予她积极的人生态度: 你可以在生活中完成一切。宇芹在香港出生和长大, 这座城市以其高耸的摩天大楼而闻名。但实际上, 香港也有迷人的海岸和山脉景观。

在获得会计学学位并在办公室工作后, 宇芹意识到她对自然和冒险的热情超过了对办公室工作的兴趣。看到人们的快乐和成长带给她比处理数字更多的满足感。因此, 她转入户外教育行业, 花了10年时间为8至18岁的孩子提供户外体验式学习。见证这些孩子的成长和发展是她工作中最显著的成就。

宇芹精通粤语、普通话和英语, 这使她有机会在不同国家工作和生活, 包括中国、马来西亚、澳大利亚、英国和新西兰。她在不同大陆的旅行使她对探索多样文化感到舒适和深感兴趣。

2024年, 宇芹加入了Oceanwide Expeditions。她非常期待为所有乘客提供一次独特而难忘的体验。

Emily Clarke – Expedition Guide



Emily grew up by the ocean and has always found it a source of inspiration and wonder. She has a strong sense of adventure and embraces opportunities whenever they arise, which has resulted in some amazing journeys.

A passion for wildlife conservation, travel and working with people has led her to work onboard expedition vessels.

Familiar with life at sea, Emily divides her time between two fairly different roles. The first as an expedition guide, and the second as a Marine Mammal Observer in the oil and gas industry,

working onboard seismic vessels; protecting marine mammals from anthropogenic sound sources in the ocean.

Emily has over 15 years' experience working with wildlife, both in natural habitats and in rehabilitation. She has spent over ten years working with gorillas, which saw her travel to remote parts of Africa collecting data on wild gorillas, and taking part in conservation and community development projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

During her time off, Emily enjoys paddle boarding, kayaking and diving, in-between preparing her latest lectures and planning her next adventure.

Jodi Gaylord – Expedition Guide



Jodi grew up in a relatively warm part of the world (Texas, USA), never even seeing a snowfall until she was 21 years old. When she moved to the mountains of Salt Lake City, Utah, to finish her university degree, she fell head over heels in love with the fluffy white flakes that blanketed the region every winter. Since then, she has wanted to spend more and more time in colder and colder climes.

After working in the medical field while pursuing her degree in the history of ancient medicine, she pursued her love of nature and wild animals by becoming a professional wildlife photographer, running her own business for 13 years. It was during her photography travels that she first experienced the polar regions, traveling to the Canadian High Arctic in 2010. She became mesmerized by the icebergs, and was quite surprised to find herself falling for a place without trees – something she had not thought possible before. It was during her first trip to Antarctica in 2017 that the polar bug (disguised as a penguin) finally bit her in an absolutely incurable way. She knew that she had to share these amazing places with other people, so she decided to become a guide. Throwing herself into learning the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, she also studied how to be a safe and effective polar guide, which culminated in her completion of the Expedition Guide Academy's Comprehensive Guide Course in 2023. When she is not on ship, she spends her time in a warm place – her home in Hawaii, where scuba diving, snorkeling, and asking “Why am I doing this?!?” while participating in triathlons are among her favorite past times.

Joyce van Veldhuizen-Ships Doctor



Joyce is 33 years old and has been a doctor for 8 years and a general practitioner for 2 years. She was born in Gouda (the Netherlands) and has lived in Rotterdam since her studies. She speaks Dutch and English. She studied medicine and completed her general practitioner training at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. She works two days a week at a general practice in Rotterdam and also takes on many shifts at the out-of-hours GP service. This gives her a flexible schedule and the opportunity to join exciting trips like this as a doctor! Traveling and outdoor life are among her greatest hobbies. It has always been her dream to go to the

North Pole as a doctor!

In the past, she has worked in Internal Medicine and at the Emergency Department. Her hobbies include sports—she enjoys running and has been doing CrossFit for over 8 years. She also loves cooking, hiking, and reading. Additionally, she is passionate about mindfulness, meditation, and yoga.

She is really looking forward to experiencing this adventure with all of you! Feel free to approach her with any medical or non-medical questions, and she will do her best to help you.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 12th July 2025

Day 1: Embarkation – Longyearbyen

WELCOME ABOARD!

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check that 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. You must go back to your cabin to get your life jacket and dress warmly. All guests must then 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 to.

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 Dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

2030 +/- You will be called deck by deck to go to the **Lecture Room on Deck 3** to collect 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, which 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.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

**PLEASE ENSURE ANY DEVICES WITH WIFI ARE SWITCHED TO
AIRPLANE MODE OR TURNED OFF UNTIL DINNER TIME**

Date: 13th July 2025

Day 2: Ny-Alesund and Ny-London

- 0715 Wake-up call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0830 We will have a **MANDATORY** AECO/Zodiac and bear safety Briefing in the **Bar on Deck 6.** *Please check in at the door: you must attend in order to be able to go ashore and in our zodiacs during this trip.*
- 0945 We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Ny-Alesund.**
Payment in the shop is preferred by card only.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1400 +/- We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Ny-London.**
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Plated dinner 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!



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 14th July 2025

Day 3 – Texas Bar & Monacobreen

0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!

0730-0830 Breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

0845 +/- 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, boasting a variety of flora and fauna.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.

At the end of our time ashore we will give you the opportunity to
POLAR PLUNGE!!! Please wear your swimwear under your clothes.
**We will provide you with towels; please don't take towels from your
cabins.**

1230-1330 Lunch is served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

1400 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 whale.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.

1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar on Deck 6 for our daily recap.

1900 Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 15th July 2025

Day 4 – Into the pack ice

*We will be spending the day in this wonderful and unique landscape,
exploring the Arctic pack ice and 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.**
- 0915 Please join **Hazel** in the **Bar on Deck 6** for her lecture about **Polar Bears.**
- 1100 +/- **Aitana** will give a lecture about **Sea Ice.** Please join her in the **Bar on Deck 6.**
- 1230-1330 Lunch will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1530 +/- **Mark** will give a presentation about **Birds of Svalbard.**
Please join him in the **Bar on Deck 6**
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

*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!*



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 16th July 2025

Day 5 – Torellneset & Alkefjellet

- 0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845+/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Torrelneset**. We will provide options for long, medium and short hikes. This site also has a known haul out for Atlantic Walrus; we hope to see them here.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1500 Disembarkation for a **zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet**. These spectacular, dramatic cliffs are home to 60,000 breeding pairs of Brunnich's guillemot. Kittiwake, Glaucous gulls and other seabirds also breed here. If we are lucky, we might see Arctic fox!
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 17th July 2025

Day 6 – Sundneset & Diskobukta

- 0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845 +/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Sundneset**. We hope to offer hiking options at this lowland-tundra with its rich vegetation. We hope to spot a variety of bird life and may see Reindeer feeding here.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1445 Disembarkation for a **landing at Diskobukta**. This site is a fantastic place for hiking across the vast Arctic desert landscape.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 18th July 2025

Day 7 – Burgerbukta & Gåshamna

- 0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845+/- Disembarkation for **zodiac cruise at Burgerbukta.**
Named in honour of the Austrian photographer and painter, Wilhelm Burger (1844-1920) who took part in an Arctic expedition in 1872.
We hope to offer a zodiac cruise at this beautiful area with its dramatic scenery and majestic waterfalls. We will also be looking for wildlife.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1400+/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Gåshamna ('Goose bay')**
This is a picturesque, mountainous bay situated in Hornsund.
We hope to provide options for long, medium and short hikes.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Dinner will be served outside – dress warmly!



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 19th July 2025

Day 8 – Bamsebu & Vårsolbukta

- 0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845 +/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Bamsebu (Ahlstrandhaløya).**
This area of historic interest was once a beluga whale hunting site and nowadays is home to a wide variety of plant life and birds. Bamsebu is the name of the well-preserved hunter's cabin which is still used today.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 1400 +/- Disembarkation for going ashore at **Vårsolbukta**
Little auk nest within the rock crevices here and the lush moss tundra attracts Svalbard reindeer. We hope to see these species and more.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

This is your last chance to buy souvenirs on board, so if you would like anything from the shop, situated at reception, please pay them a visit



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 20th July 2025

Day 9: Poolepynten and Alkhornet.

06:45 Wake-up call: Good morning!

07:00-08:00 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

08:00+/- Disembarkation to **go ashore at Poolepynten**. This is a known haul out site for Atlantic Walrus.

**Any time after returning from your morning excursion,
please pass by Reception to settle your account.
This needs to be done before 17:00. Thank you!**

12:30-13:30 Lunch is served in the **Restaurant, Deck 4.**

14:30 Disembarkation for **going ashore at Alkhornet**.
For our final landing of this trip we hope to go ashore at this beautiful site which is named after the distinctive horn shaped mountain that towers over the lush vegetation below. Wildlife that could be seen here includes Svalbard reindeer and Arctic fox.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the **Bar on Deck 6** for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

19:00 Farewell dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

20:30 After dinner please return your muck boots to the **lecture room located on Deck 3**. Please leave your life jackets in the cabin.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 21st July 2025

Day 10 - Longyearbyen

Ensure all luggage is placed outside your cabin by 07:15 latest as we need to move it to the pier while you have breakfast. Keep the public areas clear when luggage is being moved.

- 07:00 Wakeup call.
- 07:30-08:30 Breakfast is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**. Please make sure that your luggage is outside your cabin before going to Breakfast.
- 09:00 Disembarkation for guests on flight **SK4491** – BLUE baggage tags.
Please identify your luggage on the dock before boarding your bus.
The luggage will be loaded into a truck and will meet you at the airport.
The bus will take you into town for a drop-off at Svalbard Butikken for some free time. It will depart from the same place at **10:15**
- 09:00 Disembarkation for guests on flight **SK4497** – RED baggage tags.
Please identify your luggage on the dock before boarding your bus.
The luggage will be loaded into a truck and will meet you at the airport.
The bus will take you into town for a drop-off at Svalbard Butikken for some free time. It will depart from the same place at **16:30** for the airport.
- 09:00 Disembarkation for guests on flight **DY391** – YELLOW baggage tags.
Please identify your luggage on the dock before boarding your bus.
The luggage will be loaded into a truck and will meet you at the airport.
The bus will take you into town for a drop-off at Svalbard Butikken for some free time. It will depart from the same place at **17:55** for the airport.
- 09:00 Disembarkation for guests staying in Longyearbyen.
Please collect your luggage and take it on the bus to town with you.

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