



Around Spitsbergen - In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice, Cleaning the shores

23rd July – 1st August 2023

M/V Hondius



Hondius was built in 2019 in Split, Croatia. She is 107.6m long, 17.6m wide, and has a maximum draught of 5.3m. With an ice class of PC6, a top speed 15 knots, and three diesel generators, she sails on low sulfur marine gas oil and has a capacity of 176 passengers in 83 cabins. This beautiful mid-century modern vessel is designed from the ground up for polar adventure.

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew

Staff Captain: **Elizabar Kadaria**

Chief Officer: **Mikael Svedberg**

2nd Officer: **Igor Nazarov**

3rd Officer: **Giovanie Simene**

Chief Engineer: **Andrej Abakumov**

Hotel Manager: **Michael Barnes**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Albert Don**

Head Chef: **Gawa Baurev**

Ships Doctor: **Jeff Hersh**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Adam Burke**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Hazel Pittwood**

Expedition Guide: **Bitao (Jerry) Zhao**

Expedition Guide: **Charlotte Taplin**

Expedition Guide: **Chris Long**

Expedition Guide: **Henrick Enckell**

Expedition Guide: **Hong (Rose) Li**

Expedition Guide: **Jakub Malecki**

Expedition Guide: **John Rogers**

Expedition Guide: **Koen Hoekemeijer**

Expedition Guide: **Michael Green**

Expedition Guide: **Mikhail Barabanov**

Expedition Guide: **Paolo Bellezze**

Expedition Guide: **Sahsa Romanovskiy**

Expedition Guide: **Ursula Tschertter**

Day 1 – 23rd July

Longyearbyen - Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°13.7'N / 015°36.02'E

Wind: NW 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 11°C



Around three o'clock in the afternoon, we arrived with the provided shuttle bus at the Coal Pier, a working jetty far out from the small town of Longyearbyen. Our home for the next 10 days, *Hondius*, was a welcome sight. Nearby, the huge piles of black coal were impressive reminders of the early times of mining on Svalbard.

Walking up the gangway, each and every one of us was greeted by the hotel crew guiding us to our cabins. Soon after many of us reappeared to roam through the ship trying to gain some level of orientation. Once discovered, the coffee machine right away became the most frequented area of the ship.

Very quickly the first announcement over the PA system called us to the observation lounge for the first mandatory briefing. Michael, the safety officer, explained how to put on the lifejacket as required for the lifeboat drill. Seven short signals followed by a long one told us to head to our cabins, to grab the life-west and to come back to either the Muster station A or B. The drill finished on the aft deck where Igor, the second officer, explained the procedure to board the orange lifeboats holding 100 persons each – naturally only in the unlikely event of a real evacuation.

With the drill completed, Captain Ernesto welcomed us with champagne and canapés Expedition Leader Sara introduced her team of 16 guides plus the doctor, Jeff. She continued to give us an overview of our journey stressing that plan A might be replaced by plan B, C, D or X. The video from AECO (www.aeco.no) explained the dos and don'ts when visiting polar regions respectfully.



After our first tasty dinner the guides sized up our feet to give us the correct Muck boots. These will be our footwear when in the zodiacs and on land throughout the journey. Some of us will need to get used to them.

Then, although the light around the ship didn't change a bit, silence spread through the ship as more and more of us went to their cabins thinking of the adventures ahead while falling asleep.

Day 2 – 24th July

Ny-Ålesund and 14 Julibukta

12:00 GPS Position: °79.00.7'N / 011°55.3'E

Wind: SE 2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 7°C, Sea Temp: 10°C

Our morning began with a visit to Ny-Ålesund, a charming small town located in Oscar II Land. This town holds the distinction of being the world's most northernmost research settlement at 79 degrees north.

During our time here, we had the opportunity to learn about the historical significance of the airship mast. This is the mooring point from which the Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, the Italian, Umberto Nobile, and American, Lincoln Ellsworth, left in the airship *Norge* in 1926. They were the first to successfully reach the North Pole.



Nobile left from here in 1928, in another attempt to reach the North Pole, in the airship *Italia*. They did reach the pole but unfortunately crashed during the return journey. Half of the crew were killed, though the rest, including a badly injured Nobile, were eventually rescued.

During our walking circuit of the station the excellent museum enriched our understanding of the area's past, particularly its mining history; the dog yard gave us a glimpse of the enduring legacy of sled dogs and their integral

role in polar expeditions; the gift shop allowed us to send postcards, to share our unforgettable experiences, and to collect souvenirs as cherished mementos; and the Arctic Terns kept our hands above our heads as they defended their nests.

In the afternoon, our adventure continued at Fjortende Julibukta (14th July Bay), a name given by the keen oceanographer, Duke Albert I of Monaco, in honour of the French national day. Cruising along the bird cliff was a beautiful experience, where we saw Brünnich's guillemots, adorable Puffins, and Glaucous



Gulls with chicks. From the Zodiacs, the glacier front provided a dramatic and awe-inspiring view, a testament to the power and beauty of nature.



While ashore, we absorbed the flowers and greenery of the hanging gardens. Best of all, we were treated to an enchanting moment as five young arctic foxes playfully frolicked on the beach and up and down the slope. Their cuteness was simply irresistible, and to make it even more special, one of them was a rare blue morph.

Overall our day was filled with unforgettable moments, from delving into history and exploration in Ny Ålesund to marvelling at the wildlife and stunning landscapes in Fjortende

Julibukta.

Day 3 - 25th July

Magdalenafjord

12:00 GPS Position: 79°32.0'N / 009°36.7'E

Wind: Var 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

This morning we woke early to the site of fog outside the window in Magdalenafjord. This wasn't quite what we had hoped for, however, as we looked east up the fjord there was light at the end of the tunnel and a sign that the fog would lift during the morning.

So after a lovely breakfast of eggs, fruit and other bits and bobs, half of us loaded the Zodiacs and set out to explore the foggy Gullyfjord in search of Walrus and glaciers. Those back on the ship enjoyed an informative lecture by Hazel about the king of the arctic, the mighty Walrus.

As we rode the Zodiacs up Gullyfjord, the fog lifted enough for us to see the

Gullybukta glacier and a shaft of sunlight illuminated the green glacier melt water around us.





After watching the glacier and exploring the brash ice from recent calving events, we to the mouth of the fjord where there is a well-known Walrus haul out. There, in front of us on the sandy beach, lay 5-10 of the fattest Walruses you could ever see! With their white ivory tusks and their whiskers, these beauties certainly know how to steal the show. The few Walruses swimming in the water took turns spy hopping to check on the new visitors were before returning to

their clam fishing. Once the lecture was over, we changed positions and the Zodiac explorers were invited to Hazels second lecture, and those on the ship went to visit the glacier and Walruses.

During a delicious lunch *Hondius* repositioned. From there half of us went ashore to Gravneset to explore the beach and surrounding area. We saw historic blubber ovens and a graveyard with approximately 130 graves from the whaling era. As we explored, we found more aggressive but beautiful Arctic Terns, lots of driftwood and, a rare sight in Svalbard, beautiful golden sand.

The other half of us boarded the Zodiacs and found Harbor seals near the bottom of Brokebreen hauled out on large boulders in a lagoon. We then cruised up towards the head of Magdalenefjorden where the Waggonwaybreen glacier calves into the fjord. This glacier was very active, so we kept our distance. Much of the fjord was covered in brash ice from recent calving, which allowed for time sitting in silence listening to the popping of the ice.



© Mikhail Barabanov

As usual, we changed over, and all of us had the same opportunities. In the meantime, the divers embarked on their second dive of the trip, this time around an iceberg near the shoreline.

In the beautiful sunny evening, we made excellent use of that sandy beach as nearly half of us took the Polar Plunge into the icy glacier melt waters. It was truly a very special way to highlight another very special day.

Then it was back to our good ship *Hondius* for recap including Paolo's explanation of the fog we had seen earlier, and Chloe's display of plankton under a microscope! Then it was plated dinner followed by a soothing night's sleep in our cabins in the calm fjords.



© Sara Jensen

Day 4 - 26th July

Monacobreen and Texas Bar

12:00 GPS Position: 79°45.0'N / 019°08.0'E

Wind: SSE 2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 13°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

We awoke to stunning light conditions, a light mist coiling around the mountains as the sun tried its hardest to shine through, giving the whole area of Monacobreen an almost ethereal impression. Having strengthened ourselves with a hearty breakfast, to give us that small extra layer of fat against the cold winds of this mighty glacier, we set off on a full-ship zodiac cruise.



We started at the eastern end of the glacier, slowly making our way westward. In a leisurely way, we drifted along this 5 km long colossus, admiring all the tiny cracks and crevasses that form when this solid body keeps moving over the ground. Birds of many species were flying around, or sitting on ice, and noisily chatting. With ice of different hues of blue, and icebergs of different shapes, every aspect was a new treat.

The groaning sound of thunder as the glacier kept on cracking, sometimes calving on the front, filled the fjord with booming sound. Sometimes chatter, sometimes silence, as we swayed along and tried to take in this incredible sight.



As if this was not enough, a pod of belugas decided to join the fray, making its way towards the glacier. The white backs of the Arctic canary could be observed in between the ice, feeding on fish and crustaceans close to the glacier front, sometimes coming out to the edge of the slush ice, where we were waiting to take a look. The combination of beluga and glacier just made for an indescribable sighting.

Leaving the white whales to their feeding, we slowly headed back to the ship, passing by Sara who was waiting on the drinks boat with hot chocolates to warm up our cold faces and hands, much appreciated. We reboarded *Hondius* knowing that we were privileged to enjoy this special moment.

During lunch, acknowledged by many as the best meal on the ship, we relocated to Texas Bar. The plan specified different walks to admire the flowers and landscapes. The expedition team set off and came on land, but very soon after, the scouts found a polar bear not too far away, and the site was evacuated immediately.



After assessing the situation, we went on a zodiac cruise to find the bear on a small island resting in the flowers. For many this was the first polar bear they had seen, and what a sighting! It was laying down relaxing, so, while maintaining absolute quiet, we could observe this ferocious animal simply having a nap.



As we watched, it awoke and started moving. It wandered its way finally to the other side of the island and had another lay down. It would every so often move around, stretch, and then finish in a horizontal position. Genuinely lovely to see a bear so relaxed.

We stayed with it for quite some time, then went back to the ship for recap and barbecue night! Grilled meats, sweet treats, then dancing and drinking until late in the evening, to the music of the 80s, 90s and beyond.

What a day!

Day 5 - 27th July

Ice Edge

12:00 GPS Position: 80°54.5'N / 020°11.0'E

Wind: WNW 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

Overnight *Hondius* had travelled north in search of the edge of the sea ice. This allowed a bit of a sleep



after the energy of the previous evening. At 07:45 Sara announced to the sleepyheads that the ice had been reached. Our plan was to spend the day in the ice, enjoying the calm vistas of ice and reflections while looking for wildlife. Many keen eyes scanned the horizon for hours in the hope of spotting a bear (or any other animal).

The day was variously foggy and sunny, so some persistence was

required – but persist we did. We were rewarded with a Bearded Seal in the morning. Our northernmost position during the day was 8.

Meanwhile, we had a full programme of education, starting with Sara's talk on *Polar Bears*. After a leg stretch around the outer decks and some more scanning for wildlife it was time for Mikhail to give his talk about *Bird Migration*. The Mandarin speakers were not left out as Rose gave a talk about the Chinese research stations in the polar regions.

After a delicious buffet lunch, the day's routine continued with some time outside or on the Bridge to continue searching for wildlife, and some time to enjoyed Jakub's talk about *Ice - why we need it*. Jerry gave a lecture on the same topic in Mandarin for the Chinese speakers.



Finally, around 16:45, we spotted our first bear in the ice! Shortly after the first spotting, a second bear appeared in another direction. We spent time with the bears, taking pictures and observing the surroundings in which they live.



the cameras clicked like never before. What a treat.

Day 6 - 28th July

Seven Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 80°40.5'N / 020°56.6'E

Wind: Var 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C



Our plan for the morning was to make a landing to remove rubbish from the beach. As it happened, the morning cold of minus 2 degrees meant that the fog layer was very low with some light snow. Sara changed the plan and we boarded the Zodiacs to cruise the shoreline instead. We picked our way along the rocky shore and marveled at the clearness of the sea.

The cruisers could clearly see the bottom, but it was the five divers who enjoyed the clear water to the maximum. They made

their dive, also among the ice floes by the shore, until, too soon, ice came over the site they were recalled.

The Zodiac cruisers continued into the bay to watch several groups of Walrus including females with calves. All returned cold but happy following a wonderful cruise or dive among these majestic islands to enjoy a lovely buffet back on board.

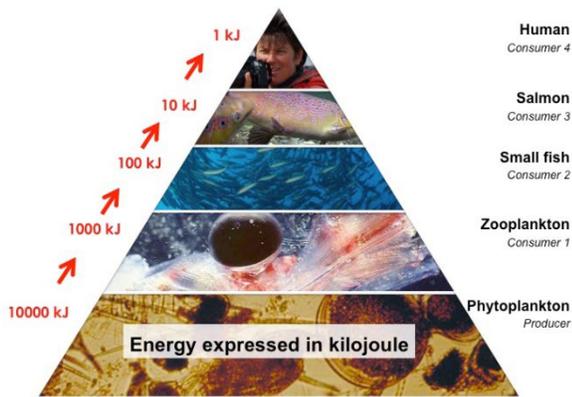
Following lunch, the Expedition Team retrieved a bag full of rubbish collected the previous season but abandoned on the beach. As part of the Clean Up Svalbard project, we sorted the garbage into various categories looking for writing to help identify the origin of the litter to help the scientists understand the source of the garbage in the sea around Spitsbergen.



The divers made a dive again in crystal clear waters, but after 15 minutes the current brought ice onto the site and they were again recalled.

Those on-board were treated to an excellent presentation on *Whales and Us* by Ursula. We all enjoyed the navigation through the pack ice in absolutely dead calm conditions with the sea like a mirror. Then the usual routine of recap, briefing, dinner and chatter until bedtime. Aren't we spoiled?

5 trophic levels



2 trophic levels



Day 7 - 29th July

Alkefjellet and Faksevågen

12:00 GPS Position: 79°32.9.'N / 017°40.9'E

Wind: NE 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C



It was an early morning start today, but for good reason. Today we visited the beautiful and impressive cliffs of Alkefjellet, where an estimated 65,000 pairs of Brunnich's Guillemots breed during the summer. It was beautiful calm weather and not too cold, so we had the perfect ingredients for a morning zodiac cruise. We started off at the waterfalls and then slowly we made our way along the shore to

the higher cliffs which, at some places, are more than 100 meters tall.

The Brunnich's Guillemots are fantastic birds with impressive statistics, but also some less impressive statistics. To start with the latter; they are the most energy inefficient birds as they use the most energy per flown kilometer of all birds. They have relatively big bodies and small wings. To stay in the air, they need to flap their wings continuously and at high frequencies otherwise they would simply fall from the sky. Unlike Northern Fulmars and other seabirds, they can't soar on the winds. They use a lot of energy to stay in the air.

However, what they lack in flight energy efficiency, they make up for when diving. These birds eat small fish and sea worms, and they can dive to depths up to 150 meter which is an unbelievable achievement. In order to withstand the enormous pressure at such depths, it is believed that these birds use gas to control and manage the pressure. Dives can last up to 4 minutes. These birds are true free divers.





The Brunnich's Guillemots breed on these cliffs to protect themselves from foxes who come for their eggs and chicks and also to make it more challenging for Glaucous Gulls to successfully grab one of the chicks from the cliffs. The older more experienced couples have the best spots, but as they need very little space, the cliffs somewhat resemble big city life in large apartment buildings.

The birds come and go and the air is filled with the buzz of their rapidly beating wings.



During our zodiac cruise we spotted some foxes. One of them seemed to be a cub, very cute to watch as it walked the grassy areas of the cliffs. Time flies when you're having fun so soon it was time to return to our ship. We had a quick glance at the glacier and then made our way back.

After a delicious lunch it was time to stretch our legs, and more importantly it was time to do a proper beach cleanup. We couldn't do it yesterday, but today the conditions were excellent and the beach at Fakevågen was covered with washed up litter and fishing gear remains. Our beach cleanup was part of an AECO initiative, led on this trip by Eelco and Wouter from Wageningen University & Research. They informed us about their project during lectures. Their aim is not only to clean up Svalbard, but also to analyze the origins of the litter that has washed up on Svalbard's shores. We participated actively and managed to fill almost 2 zodiacs with litter. After dinner Eelco and Wouter invited us to join them and

analyze the litter together. This is a great initiative that creates awareness and hopefully active participation.

Day 8 – 30th July

Kapp Lee and Kapp Waldburg

12:00 GPS Position: 77°.09'2N / 020°55.4'E

Wind: SW 4, **Sea State:** Rippled, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

Early in the morning while we all slept, *Hondius*, sailed westward through the Freemansund strait, which separates the islands of Barentsøya and Edgeøya, towards Cape Doleritneset, also known as Kapp Lee, where, according to our plans, we were to make a landing on the shore.



Just like the previous day, precisely at 6:15, a melancholic and almost motherly warm "Good morning, good morning, good morning!" resonated from all the speakers hidden in the ceilings of our cabins, corridors, and other public spaces, performed by our beloved Sara. Almost simultaneously, the sound of the anchor chain echoed: the *Hondius* had arrived at its destination. Shortly after, the restaurant doors swung open, and we rushed to the buffet counter, filling our plates with omelettes, salads, fruits, and

other calorie-laden delicacies. Ahead of us was a long and exciting day full of impressions and adventures.

The weather behaved capriciously, as if Spitsbergen, having gifted us a series of sunny and windless days, decided to delicately remind us that we were, after all, in the Arctic and not somewhere on the French Riviera. A fresh wind blew, and the waves were quite high compared to the previous days, making the Zodiac landing significantly more challenging than the day before. We had to hold onto the handrails and accept assistance from our guides who were piloting the Zodiacs. Bouncing on the waves, we sped towards the shore, where Sara and her assistants were already waiting to greet us.

Doleritneset (Kapp Lee) is a unique place in every sense of the word. Firstly, it has a rich history, as one can still find remnants of Pomor hunting huts there. Brave Russian hunters once came here on small sailing boats and stayed for several months or even wintered, hunting walrus, belugas, and polar bears. Secondly, the dense tundra vegetation is particularly remarkable. It is not often seen in such northern latitudes. And thirdly, this stretch of the coast has long been favored by local giants –



the Atlantic walrus – who have established their haul-out place here. We had already seen walrus before, but we had never been able to get close to them on land. What a sight it was!



Under the attentive guidance of our guides, we approached the walrus and lined up in a row to observe these enormous creatures for about twenty minutes. Most of the walrus were peacefully asleep, but some lifted their heads, looked around, moved back and forth, slowly and clumsily shifting their weight from one flipper to another, and even playfully seemed to nudge each other with their long, sharp tusks. We hoped it was all in

good humour.

Afterward, upon returning to the landing site, we boarded the Zodiacs and set off on a small water journey to get a view of the walrus rookery from the water and hopefully spot other wildlife. Every now and then, small groups of walrus would surface around us, snorting loudly as they exhaled air before submerging again. It was astonishing to see how graceful and elegant they appeared in the water. It seemed even stranger to witness their sleeping counterparts ashore, resembling sacks of potatoes.



Suddenly, a loud cry pierced the radio waves: "Angel! I've caught an angel! I have an angel!!!" It was Chloe, our guide. Chloe is a marine biologist specializing in plankton research. She had managed to capture a creature called a Sea Angel in a specialized net, and she was ecstatic about it. Her excitement was contagious, and



we all shared her joy. We took turns approaching her, asking to see the "angel," and in response, she eagerly showed us her catch, a wing-flapping organism, placed in a glass.

As our time ran out, once again bouncing on the waves and showered with a fireworks display of salty sea spray, we headed back towards our ship. While we had our lunch, *Hondius* set course back to Freemansund, to our post-lunch landing spot - Kapp Waldburg. It was a very interesting landing site, but

according to our guides, it's not always possible to make a landing there. Weather conditions might not permit it, or a polar bear could be wandering along the shore.

However, believe it or not, we succeeded this time! Our guides skilfully maneuvered their Zodiacs back and forth between the shore and the ship and quickly ferried all of us to the beach. The planned walk wasn't meant to be a long one, nor was it necessary. The main attraction was the bird cliff. Over thousands of years, a stream running down the slope had carved a true canyon with vertical walls. This was the chosen nesting ground for black-legged kittiwakes. Hundreds and hundreds of birds had built their nests there and were raising their chicks. We could get very close to them, but we still maintained a respectful distance. The cacophony of calls was simply deafening. We settled on the slope and simply observed the everyday life of these hardworking feathered creatures.



Indeed, there's a golden rule: where there's a bird cliff, there's bound to be a burrow where Arctic foxes reside. And that was the case here.

Small and audacious creatures darted back and forth, getting tangled at our feet, and kept catching hapless birds. They would then scurry off to hide their lifeless bodies in a secluded spot to dig them up and eat them during the winter.

It was time to return to the ship. The Zodiacs were ready! Swiftly cutting through the waves, they shuttled us back to the vessel under the rays of the low Arctic sun. As soon as the last of us returned onboard, *Hondius* set a course to the south. We had nearly two hundred nautical miles to cover! It was a wonderful day filled with unforgettable experiences!

Day 9 – 31st July

Gnålodden and Samarinvågen

12:00 GPS Position: 77°00.6'N / 015°50.8'E

Wind: WSW 4, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C



Due to our long overnight transit, we were already on Plan B before breakfast. Luckily this was only a short delay to Plan A so, after an extra slice of toast, we were off to make our landing at Gnålodden. We have become accustomed to Svalbard's beautiful landscapes, but this place was at the top of the list. It had everything: the huge, towering rock of mountain above; the flocks of whirling birds; the rocky coastline with plenty of outcrops to climb; the meadow-like tundra with abundant

wildflowers; and the sunlight glistening off the sea. We were free to wander over the whole area finding hidden gems to suit our own tastes.

The constant calls from the birds help us understand the name Gnålodden, means “murmuring” in Norwegian. At the base of the rock strand one of the huts occupied by Wanny Wolstad. At the age of 39 she moved her family, including 2 school age sons, to Hornsund. There they spent 5 years – summer and winter – hunting and trapping. During this time, she shot 77 Polar Bears. Perhaps the Arctic Skua defending the nest near the hut had adopted a bit of her spirit.

After a short repositioning of Hondius over lunch we all boarded the Zodiacs for a cruise down sound to the face of Samarinbreen glacier. The sea was covered with just the right amount of glacial ice. It reflected the sun like floating diamonds as we picked our way slowly forward. It really felt like an adventure as we finally broke into the clear water at the glacier just in time for several ice calvings. To make the afternoon even more special Sara arrived just



then to provide ice cream cones in a selection of flavors. Floating in a sea of ice in front of a booming glacier eating ice cream. Yum.



The day was winding down, but not done yet. After a chance to wash and put on our best clothes we joined Captain Barria and Sara to toast the success of our voyage and thank all the Expedition Staff for their help. The Expedition Slideshow demonstrated how much we have done in these short few days. The final dinner gave us the chance to share laughs and memories, debate highlights, and exchange contact information.

The lounge was even more loud and busy than usual, but eventually the need for packing and sleeping tore us away.

Day 10 – 1st August

Disembarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°13.7'N / 015°36.3'E

Wind: , Sea State: , Weather:, Air Temp: °C, Sea Temp: °C

Well, the final day is here. Our bags are packed and left outside our doors for the staff to collect. After breakfast at 0900, we disembark the ship and say goodbye to Sara and all her team. We can't thank them enough for all their knowledge and guidance on this trip!



Thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage and for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

**Total distance sailed: 1150 Nautical Miles
Furthest North: 80°56.099'N / 20°44.786'E**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria,
Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Michael Barnes,
and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!**

Hondius, 23 Jul – 1 Aug 2023

1. Longyearbyen
2. Ny Alesund
3. Fjortende Julibukta
(14th July Bay)
4. Magdalenafjorden –
5. Magdalenafjorden –
6. Monacobreen
7. Texas Bar
8. Pack ice
9. Seven Islands
10. Alkefjellet
11. Faksevagen beach cleanup
12. Kapp Lee
13. Kapp Waldburg
14. Gnalodden
15. Samarinvagen



Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V										
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	B										
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T										
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	B	x								x	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet	B										
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	B		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	B	x	x	x	x	x				x	x
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaaiduiker	B	x	x	x		x					x
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe	Hirondelle rustique	Boerenzwaluw	V										
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze	Bergeronnette grise	Witte Kwikstaart	V										
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Wiesenpieper	Pipit farlouse	Graspieper	V										
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	Traquet moteux	Tapuit	B							x			
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel	Merle noir	Merel	V										
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgors	B	x	x	x				x	x	x	
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Birkenzeisig	Sizerin flammé	Barmsijs	V										
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Spornammer	Bruant lapon	Ijsgors	V										
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wacholderdrossel	Grive litorne	Kramsvogel	V										
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rotdrossel	Grive mauvis	Koperwiek	V										
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Bergfink	Pinson du Nord	Keep	V										
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gertalke	Faucon Gertaut	Giervalk	V										

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	23-jul	24-jul	25-jul	26-jul	27-jul	28-jul	29-jul	30-jul	31-jul	1-aug
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B			x			x	x			
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	B			x	x	x					
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B										
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T					x					
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts	V										
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	B		x	x							
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis	T	x	x							x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis	V										
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	T										
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	T									x	x
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T	x	x							x	
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T										
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Cachalot	Potvis	V										
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narval	Narwal	V										
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Hyperoodon arctique	Butskop	V										
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Orka	V										
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn	V	x								x	x
Beluga	<i>Devinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloega	B				x						
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B				x	x		x			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B		x						x		

Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Adam Burke – Assistant 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 -Assistant Expedition 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.

Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide



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

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

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at Polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as Expeditions Guides, He has guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia many times.

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

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

Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide



Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean. She studied Wildlife Conservation at University and then spent the next 10 years travelling through South America, Australasia and Africa. Charlotte's love for boats began in 2013 where she worked on research and dive vessels visiting remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Her interest in Marine Biology grew in Australia and New Zealand while studying Humpback, Minke and Sperm Whales.

After driving overland in a land rover from South Africa to Jordan she then moved to Mozambique in 2018 where she started her own backpacker hostel. In her spare time Charlotte worked as a Researcher studying Whale sharks and Manta Rays along the Coast of Mozambique. During 2020-2022 she worked as a Deckhand/Divemaster on superyachts and ice breaker explorer vessels. Her hobbies include scuba-diving, surfing, free-diving and hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and she is so excited to have started her first season with Oceanwide in 2022.

Chris Long – Expedition Guide



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

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

what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East Antarctica.

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

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

Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader



Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first persons to bring tourists diving in Antarctica

He has been diving for over 30 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions for more than 20 years and has supervised thousands of dives in polar waters. Henrik also works as a submersible pilot and surface officer.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and has previously lived and worked in Japan and India several years before becoming an expedition guide full time. He now lives in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters and his son.

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

John Rogers - Expedition Guide



History came early to John as his home town of Concord, Massachusetts, is famous as the site of the first battle of the American Revolution and much early American literary culture. He learned to swim in Walden Pond, of Thoreau fame. His love of the outdoors started with family holidays to lakes and mountains.

His first career was in computer software development which allowed for numerous extended travelling holidays in the USA and then to New Zealand – where he still lives. The travelling continued with visits to every continent

– the final one being Antarctica in 2001 as a passenger and then for several seasons as a guide.

Along the way John has managed several trips north of the Arctic Circle backpacking, river rafting and exploring in Alaska, Norway and Iceland.

John's approach to the history is to concentrate on the stories of the places and people who inhabit and have explored to the extremes of the earth. Polar history is filled with remarkable stories of adventures, perseverance, triumph and defeat. He encourages anyone on this voyage with specialized knowledge, or with a family connection, to help him others share in this fantastic legacy.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Michael Green - Dive Team Leader



He began diving in 1980 learning with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour. Leaving the Navy, he continued to dive mainly around the U.K. dive into the wrecks always looking for a new story to learn.

He is qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. He has worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the Last five years. He enjoys spending time giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions.

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

Look around you, enjoy these beautiful flames they are amazing. He is looking forward to spending some time with you over the coming days. Please ask any questions you may have as soon as you have them, we are here to help!

Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Ursula Tschertter - Expedition Guide



She grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of her childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed her life radically. She gave up her original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation she combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

She is a true minke whale enthusiast. A thousands of hours she observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years she obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). She nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 she started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home she produced life-sized foldable animals, which she carries to schools and ships. Visit her lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as her urge to learn and explore is her need to share her knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach her at any time, as she loves to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

Jeff Hersh - Ship's Doctor



Jeff has more than 30 years as a practicing physician, primarily as an Attending Physician in the Emergency Department and as the Chief Medical Officer of one of the United States' Disaster Medical Assist Teams responding to disasters around the world. He has been board certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, and Disaster Medicine.

He is also somewhat of an academic geek and holds a medical degree from the University of Miami as well as numerous other degrees including a PhD in Theoretical Physics from Yale University and a MS in Electrical Engineering from George Washington University. He has held faculty appointments at Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Tufts, U Mass, and Harvard.

Jeff enjoys paragliding (he is an advanced pilot), diving (PADI open water), running, swimming, and exploring the theoretical analysis of the fundamentals of time. He is an avid traveler and looking forward to working with Oceanwide Expeditions.



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice
Welcome Aboard!

Date: Sunday 23rd July 2023

Day 1: Embarkation – Longyearbyen

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

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket.

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the Restaurant on Deck 4

All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 (Cabins 401-414, 601-619, 701-714) will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5

18:15+/- We would like to invite you to Captains Cocktails in the **Observation Lounge** on Deck 5. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and you will meet your Expedition Team.

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

20:45+/- The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to Deck 3, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you!

20:45 **Divers** please meet you dive team in the Lecture Room on Deck 5 for the **MANDATORY** dive safety briefing.

Daily programmes will be displayed around the ship and on TV screens.

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page” - St. Augustine



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Monday 24th July 2023

Day 2: Ny-Ålesund and 14. Julibukta

- 07:00 Wake- up call.
07:30-8:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:30 **MANDATORY** AECO, Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety Briefing in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance will be checked.
- 09:30 We hope to disembark you by the gangway on Deck 4 for a landing at Ny Ålesund. Please listen to announcements for exact timings.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

**No mobile phones, Bluetooth and/or GPS devices to go ashore.
(SEE NOTICES ON THE SHIP)**

Please be back onboard by 12 o'clock at the latest.

- 13:00 Jerry will give a short presentation about Ny-Ålesund in the Lecture Room in Chinese.
- 14:15 Please can the **Divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 14:15+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at 14. Julibukta.
- 14:30+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at 14. Julibukta.

Groups will swap during the afternoon.

- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 20:45+/- Eelco and Wouter will give a presentation about the clean-up our shores project in the Lecture Room on Deck 4.

*"How can you expect a man who's warm to understand one who's cold?"
- Alexander Solzhenitsyn"*



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Tuesday 25th July 2023

Day 3: Magdalenefjord

- 07:15 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:45 Hazel will give a presentation about Walrus in the Lecture Room to the **Blue** Group.
- 09:00+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Gullybreen.
- 10:15+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Gullybreen.
- 11:00 Hazel will give a presentation about Walrus in the Lecture Room to the **Red** Group, this will be translated into **Mandarin**.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:30 Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 13:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Landing at Gravenesodden.
- 13:45+/- Please can be the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Waggonwaybreen.

Groups will swap during the afternoon.

We hope to offer a **POLAR PLUNGE** at the end of the landing so please wear your swimwear under your waterproofs. Please do not bring the towels from your cabin, we provide the towels.

- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

*“The difficult is what takes a little time; the impossible is what takes a little longer”–
Fridjof Nansen*



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Wednesday 26th July 2023

Day 4: Monacobreen and Texas Bar

- 07:15 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:45+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Monacobreen.
- 09:00+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Monacobreen.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:15+/- Please can the **long hikers** be ready at the shell doors, this will be a 3- 3.5-hour hike at a fast pace.
- 13:30 Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 14:00+/- Please can the **medium hikers** (2-2.5 hours) be ready at the shell doors for a landing at Texas Bar.
- 14:15+/- Please can those wishing to do a **leisurely walk** be ready at the shell doors for a landing at Texas Bar.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

“A journey is a person in itself, no two are alike and all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip, a trip takes us.” - John Steinbeck



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Thursday 27th July 2023

Day 5: Ice Edge

- 07:45 Wake- up call.
- 08:00-9:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- We will spend the day along the ice edge looking for wildlife, therefore encourage you on the outside decks and on the bridge to help search.
- Please note:** The lecture program is subject to change depending on visibility and wildlife sightings, so please listen to announcements.
- 09:15 Sara will give a lecture about Polar Bears, this will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.
- 11:15 Mikhail will give a lecture about Bird Migration in the lounge, this will be given in **English**.
- 11:15 Rose will give a lecture about Chinese Research Stations in the Polar Regions in the Lecture room, this will be given in **Mandarin**.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 15:30 Jakub invites you to the lounge for his presentation titled 'An Introduction to Ice - why do we need it?' this will be given in **English**.
- 15:30 Jerry will give a presentation in the lecture Room about Ice in the North, this will be given in **Mandarin**.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Friday 28th July 2023

Day 6: Seven Islands

- 06:45 Wake- up call.
07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- Please can the **non-Mandarin speaking guests** be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Parryøya.
- 08:15 Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 08:30 Rose will do a presentation about Plastic Pollution in **Mandarin** in the lecture room.
- 10:30+/- Please can the **Mandarin speaking guests** be ready at the Shell Doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Parryøya.
- 11:30 Chloe will give a lecture in the lounge titled 'Drifting world: The curious life of plankton', this will be given in **English**.
- We hope to do a **beach clean-up** today so encourage guests to wear gloves and bring a small bag with them for small pieces of marine rubbish, we will provide bags for large pieces of rubbish.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:30 Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 14:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Phippsøya.
- 14:45+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Phippsøya.
- 18:15 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

*"It must be remembered that the men whose desires lead them to the untrodden paths of the world have generally marked individuality."
- Sir Ernest Shackleton*



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Saturday 29th July 2023

Day 7: Alkefjellet and Faksevågen.

- 06:15 Wake- up call.
06:30-07:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 07:30 Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
07:30+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Alkefjellet.
- 07:45+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise of Alkefjellet.
- 10:45 Hazel will give a short presentation about the birds we have seen so far on this voyage in the Lounge, it will be given in **English** and translated into **Mandarin**.
- 11:30-12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 12:45+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell Doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Faksevågen.
- 13:00 Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 14:15+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Faksevågen.
- We hope to do a **beach clean-up** today so encourage guests to wear gloves and bring a small bag with them for small pieces of marine rubbish, we will provide bags for large pieces of rubbish.
- 18:00 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
18:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 20:15- Eelco and Wouter will invite you to join them in the Lecture Room to help analyse the litter that was collected during the clean- up.

"but who wants to be foretold the weather? It is bad enough when it comes, without our having the misery of knowing about it beforehand."

- Jerome K. Jerome



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Sunday 30th July 2023

Day 8: Kapp Lee and Kapp Waldburg.

- 06:15 Wake- up call.
- 06:30-07:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 07:30+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Kapp Lee.
- 08:15+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Kapp Lee.

Groups will swap during the morning.

- 11:30-12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 13:00 Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Kapp Waldburg.
- 14:30 Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Kapp Waldburg.
- 18:00 Please join the expedition team in the lounge for daily recap.
- 18:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 20:00 Eelco and Wouter will give a presentation about their findings about the litter that was collected during the voyage.

*"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered."
- G. K. Chesterton*



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: Monday 31st July 2023

Day 9: Gnålodden and Samarinvågen.

- 07:15 Wake- up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:15+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Gnålodden.
- 09:30+/- Please can the **divers** meet at the compressor room.
- 10:30+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Gnålodden.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:30+/- Please can the **Red** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Samarinvågen.
- 14:45+/- Please can the **Blue** Group be ready at the Shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Samarinvågen.

During the day you can settle your accounts with the Hotel Department, they will announce when they are ready to process payments. We will collect your rubber boots before dinner, please listen for announcements.

- 18:15 Captain's Farewell Cocktails in the Observation Lounge and a viewing of the slideshow, which will be available after dinner in the Lecture Room.
- 19:00 Final Gala Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

In search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice

Date: 1st August 2023

Day 10: Longyearbyen.

07:15 Wake up call.

Please leave your large luggage in the corridor outside your room for the staff to collect **no later than 07:30**.

Crew and staff will bring it to the pier, where you will need to personally identify it and bring it your bus.

You can leave your hand luggage in the room; you will have to keep this hand luggage with you the rest of the day.

07:30-08:30 A breakfast buffet is served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

09:00 +/- Please be ready for disembarkation by gangway from Deck 4, but please listen for announcements before approaching the gangway.

Buses will be departing from the quayside to town.

Thank you for a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour, and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future and share more polar adventures with you.

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