



Circumnavigation of Svalbard



OFFICIAL VOYAGE LOG

Voyage Dates: **July 18th to July 28th, 2018** ❄ Total Distance: **1.282,5 Nautical Miles**

Captain: **Oleg Tikhvinsky** ❄ Expedition leader: **Ryan Hope-Inglis** ❄ Assistant expedition leader: **Bettina Breuer**

Date	Location	Position	Weather	Activity	Details & Sightings
18/07	Longyearbyen, Adventfjord	78° 15.2' N 015° 34.1' E	Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 6°C Wind: NW 2 Sky: C	E	Welcome on board! Departing from Longyearbyen. We enjoyed the views as we sailed up the Adventfjord. During dinner, we spotted a group of beluga whales. Later we collected our Expedition parkas and rubber boots.
19/07	Ny Ålesund	78° 58.0' N 011° 44.8' E	Air Temp: 11°C Sea Temp: 6°C Wind: SE 2 Sky: O	L	Ryan gave us the AECO, Zodiac and polar bear briefing. Afterwards we had a guided tour at Ny Ålesund by our expedition team. One of the most northern settlements, but only for scientists. We went to the famous air mast where Amundsen was flying to the North Pole. Some reindeers were spotted just behind the Chinese research station. After lunch, we listened to Sergey's "Introduction to Svalbard".
19/07	Gravnesodden, Magdalenafjorden	79° 33.0' N 011° 03.51' E	Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 6°C Wind: 0 Sky: r	L	We did a landing at Gravneset where a harbour seal was swimming around. We saw the glacier and some of us even went on top of it.
20/07	Smeerenburg Fjorden	79° 37.8' N 011° 26.5' E	Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: NE 2 Sky: O	ZC	A beautiful Zodiac cruise in front of the Smeerenburgreen. We were lucky and could see several calvings of the glacier.
20/07	Ytre Norskoya	79° 51.9' N 011° 38.3' E	Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: 0 Sky: O	L	In the afternoon, we went hiking at Ytre Norskoya and spotted a family of polar foxes.



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20/07	Moffen	79° 59.9' N 014° 35.8' E	Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: NNW3/4 Sky: O	SC	After the dinner, Glühwein was served on the outside deck to keep us warm while we watched Walruses hauling out on Moffen and swimming next to the Sea Spirit.
21/07	Ice Edge	81° 34 N 017° 01.1' E	Air Temp: -1°C Sea Temp: -1°C Wind: 0 Sky: o/f	SC	Our ship reached the ice edge and the northern most point (81°34'N) of our cruise at 9.03 o'clock in the morning. It was very foggy. Hence, we decided to do a ship cruise along the ice edge. A beautiful and astonishing scenery watching the Sea Spirit slowly piercing through the ice. Louis then held his lecture about "Science and Adventure in the Arctic". After lunch, we listened to a lecture about the "Arctic Biodiversity" by Yan.
21/07	Karl XII-øya	80° 39.23' N 024° 57.56' E	Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: 0 Sky: O	ZC	On the way to the island we made a short stop to watch a fin whale feeding and a minky whale swimming around the ship. After the arrival at Karl XII-øya we decided to do a Zodiac cruise due to the heavy fog. During our cruise we found a polar bear. Our very first one on this voyage. The bear was lying on the ground relaxing and sleeping as it seemed. After a while, we decided to continue cruising around the island just to find a second polar bear. We stopped again and observed this majestic bear for some time. It was a very fulfilling evening.
22/07	Isflabukta, Phippsøya	80° 40.97' N 020° 56.38' E	Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: 1 Sky: b	L, SK	Within the created perimeter so that everyone could roam around freely was an old hunting hut. During our landing we found a dead polar bear while a walrus with only one tooth was relaxing near the beach. We also observed an Arctic Skua with two chicks. After lunch, Louis gave his lecture about "Climate".
22/07	Sorgfjord	79° 54.8' N 016° 48.9' E	Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: S 6/7 Sky: O	L	We had a beautiful evening with a free walk on this little island. Sanna explained us the geology of the Heckla Hoeck formation which is the reason why the main island of Svalbard is called Spitzbergen.
23/07	Kinnvika	80° 02.55' N 018° 13.42' E	Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: SSE 5 Sky: O	L, ZC	It was a bit windy but nonetheless it was worth going out to visit the old scientific research station build and used by Finland and Sweden in 1958/1959. While one half of us explored the buildings the other half went on a Zodiac cruise. During the Zodiac cruise, we visited a bird cliff which was like a little oasis of life in between the barren



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					landscape surrounding it. Later, we swapped the groups. After lunch, Eduardo told us more about the Polar Bears in his lecture.
23/07	Palanderbukta	79° 33.1' N 020° 59.5' E	Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 6°C Wind: 0 Sky: 0	L, ZC	We separated into three groups. One for a long hike, one for a medium hike and the last one for a short walk. Even though we had different groups we all had the same goal: to reach the Palanderbreen. In the end all groups reached it. Even though it was a very barren landscape we found some fossils of brachiopods on our way and the combination of the "Svalbard desert" with the ice of the icecap surrounding us made it a very exciting landing in the typical Arctic. After dinner, we decided to go out again to have a look at the Palanderbreen from the seaside. Even though we had the fog coming in we had a very good cruise in front of the glacier. There were a couple of bearded seals on ice floes and a juvenile walrus in the water.
24/07	Alkefjellet	79° 35.6' N 018° 28.5' E	Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 4°C Wind: SE 4/5 Sky: 0	ZC	It was a bit foggy, rainy and windy when we went out but it was worth it. We drove along the steep cliffs of the coastline and got overwhelmed by the astonishing number of Brünnich's Guillemots flying around us and nesting at the edges of the cliff. About 60.000 pairs of Guillemots are living there. We also saw two polar foxes running along the cliff to hunt.
24/07	Wahlbergoya	79° 19.8' N 019° 38.4' E	Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 3°C Wind: E 5 Sky: 0	L	The fog was thicker than in the morning but we still managed to do this landing. We were able to see a group of walrus squeezed together and relaxing on this flat part of the island's beach.
25/07	Freemansundet	78° 13.9' N 021° 38.9' E	Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 3°C Wind: WNW 3 Sky: b	SC	Just before the Sea Spirit entered the Freemansundet between the islands Edgeøya and Barentsøya our bridge team spotted a couple of white dots. After the captain brought the ship nearer to Barentsøya we were able to confirm that these white dots were four polar bears. One was alone and the other ones were a female with her two cub. After enjoying watching the bears, we continued our journey and found some reindeers near the shoreline. Near the end of the cruise through the Freemansundet an other two polar bears were spotted. Therefore, we stopped again for a while until we proceeded on our way.



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25/07	Kapp Waldburg	78° 15.4' N 021° 56.6' E	Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 4°C Wind: 0 Sky: O	L, SK	We planed to land at Kapp Lee but when we arrived the fog was to thick to do a landing. Hence, we went to Kapp Waldburg where we had a really great time. At the landing side, in a small canyon we went to a bird colony of Kittiwakes. In some of the nests were chicks cared by the adults. Two polar foxes were also around. They were sneaking up on the Kittiwakes, hunting and killing them. But they were also playing around and relaxing. It was beautiful to watch them pursuing the birds and toying with each other. In the meantime, a couple of reindeers enjoyed eating the plants and mosses around the bird cliff.
26/07	Gnålodden, Hornsund	77° 00.57' N 015° 51.1' E	Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 4°C Wind: W 4 Sky: O	SC	Again, we had fog coming in to our landing site but this time it was not the reason why we had to cancel our landing. This time, our scout team found a male polar bear strolling along the beach. Therefore, we made a Zodiac cruise to watch the bear. He seemed to be very curious at the beginning. Walking up and down along the beach. After a while, he decided to rest and was laying down. When we left him alone he was probably asleep.
26/07	Burgerbukta, Hornsund	77° 02.8' N 015° 59.1' E	Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 3°C Wind: 0 Sky: O	SC, SK	We went out to do a Zodiac cruise along the glacier front and to see the bird cliff next to it. We also saw some icebergs which calved off of the glacier floating in the water. They were very clear and had a beautiful blue colour.
27/07	Bamsebu	77° 33.9' N 014° 56.5' E	Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 4°C Wind: W 4/5 Sky: O	L	Near the beach where we landed were several large piles of Beluga bones from the time of extensive whale hunting in that region. We also found the remains of a dead polar bear a little bit behind the hut which is called "Bamsebu". A couple of guests went back to the ship while the others started a walk of 4 km. During this walk they found a dead little Auk, spotted a couple of reindeers and had arctic Skuas flying around them.
27/07	Recherchefjorden	77° 29.6' N 014° 39.9' E	Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 5°C Wind: SE 4-6 Sky: O	L	We landed directly in front of the Recherchebreen. Five reindeers were running around until they stopped at some point to feed on the mosses. We also had some Dunlin flying around and a harbor seal swimming in the bay area. Especially the polar plunge from the beach made this last landing a very special and unforgettable one.





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28/07	Longyearbyen, Adventfjord			E	We hope to see you again! Have a good journey home.
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Activity Key

Activities: **L** = Landing, **SC** = Ship Cruise, **ZC** = Zodiac Cruise, **SK** = Sea Kayaking, **B** = Berth Alongside, **E** = Embarkation / Disembarkation

Beaufort Scale (Wind)

0 = 0 kts (calm); **1** = 1-3 kts (light air); **2** = 4-6 kts (light breeze); **3** = 7-10 kts (gentle breeze); **4** = 11-15kts (moderate breeze);
5 = 16-20 kts (fresh breeze); **6** = 21-26 kts (strong breeze); **7** = 27-33 kts (near gale); **8** = 34-40 kts (gale); **9** = 41-47 kts (strong gale);
10 = 48-55 kts (storm); **11** = 56-65 kts (violent storm); **12** = more than 65 kts (hurricane)

Sea Disturbance Scale

0 = 0 ft (calm); **1** = less than 1 ft (very smooth); **2** = 1-2 ft (smooth); **3** = 2-3 ft (slight); **4** = 3-5 ft (moderate); **5** = 5-8 ft (rather rough);
6 = 8-12 ft (rough); **7** = 12-20 ft (high); **8** = 20-40 ft (very high); **9** = more than 40 ft (precipitous)

Sky

b = Blue Sky; **O** = Overcast sky (Unbroken cloud); **F** = Fog; **bc** = Sky Partly Cloudy; **d** = Drizzle; **r** = Rain; **s** = Snow; **c** = Cloudy

