

Scotland, Svalbard & Jan Mayen

Aboard *MV Greg Mortimer* | 6 – 20 June 2022





Blaikies Quay, Aberdeen Harbour

DAY 1 | Monday 6 June 2022

Position at 1600

Latitude: 57°08.706' N

Longitude: 002°05.321' W

Course: Docked at Aberdeen

Speed: 0.0 knots

Wind Speed: 10 knots from SE

Barometer: 1022

Air Temp: 10°C

Fàilte gu Alba! Welcome to Scotland!

“Little do you know your own blessedness; for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.”

—Robert Louis Stevenson, *Virginibus Puerisque*, 1881

The Granite City sparkled in the golden afternoon sun as our three coaches pulled up at Blaikies Quay, Aberdeen Harbour.

We were greeted by the Aurora Expeditions team, who took our photographs and helped us navigate the decks to our cabins - our homes away from home for the next 15 days.

Together we total 57 passengers, from Australia, USA, UK, Canada, Israel, Switzerland, Brazil, Belgium and Uruguay. 99 crew make up our food and beverage team, housekeeping team, engineers, officers and medical team. Our 14 Expedition Team have a huge variety of expertise, and in addition to English, can speak: French (Reza, Isabelle & Kirsty), Portuguese (Dani), Spanish (Dani), Polish (Piotr), and Russian (Sergei).

A buffet awaited us in the dining room – much appreciated by the hungry travellers. A welcome briefing followed, and we met our Expedition Leader, Howard, Hotel Director Patrice, Doctor Maria, and the entire Expedition Team, who you will be getting to know much better over the coming days.

Then, one final task before we could leave Aberdeen, the all-important safety drill. The sound of the ship's horn signalled us to don bulky orange lifejackets and muster in the lecture theatre. After roll-call, we followed our crew up to the spacious Deck 7, where our large orange Polar Class life vessels are stationed - these can hold 136 people each, for 5 days. With the safety drill completed, and then our blue expedition jackets swapped for size, finally we were cleared to cast off our lines and begin this truly exciting adventure.

The bar proved enticing with a few of us toasting the beginning of our voyage with new shipmates, then equipped with a healthy appetite, we made our way to the dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by our talented galley team, and served by our smiling and welcoming waiting staff.

After the many hours of travel to reach this corner of the world, it's time to kick back, breathe in the sea air, and enjoy the marvels of the beautiful countries we are about to discover.



Kirkwall, Orkney

DAY 2 | Tuesday 7 June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 58°59.186' N

Longitude: 002°57.407' W

Course: Docked at Kirkwall

Speed: 0 knots

Wind Speed: 5 knots from S

Barometer: 1034

Air Temp: 9°C

Scottish Phrase: Slàinte Mhath! (slan-juh va) Cheers! / Good health.

“A good tale never tires in the telling.”

—Scottish proverb

After departing Aberdeen in beautiful evening sunshine the night before, the *Greg Mortimer* arrived into the capital of the Orkney Islands, Kirkwall, early morning on Tuesday. We started our northbound adventure by exploring the mainland of Orkney by bus with local guides. Passing by Scapa Flow where the Royal Oak was torpedoed during the Second World War and now lies on the seafloor as a designated war grave, we continued on to the ancient archaeological site of Skara Brae. Here we walked through 5,000 years of human history and saw the incredibly well preserved remains of the Neolithic stone houses, which were uncovered by a huge storm, with their box beds, saddle querns (used to grind barley) and the large stone dressers. Nearby Skail House on the other hand brought us from the 17th century through to the 1950s with many interesting objects inside such as a wardrobe from a Spanish Armada ship, Captain Cook's crockery and a Neolithic necklace.

From here we travelled to the Ring of Brodgar, which was constructed around the same time as Skara Brae. Of the original 66 standing stones, just under half are still standing tall after all those thousands of years. The ditch surrounding the stones was dug to around 10m depth and 6m width using only deer antler tools, with estimates suggesting it took around 80,000 man hours to dig. We finished our tour of Orkney at the magnificent St Magnus' Cathedral, built from red sandstone in the 12th century. The bones of St Magnus himself lie hidden in one of the pillars by the altar and John Rae, the famous Orcadian Arctic explorer who discovered the North West passage and the fate of the Franklin Expedition is also buried here. Many thanks to our wonderful local guides for sharing these extraordinary sites and the unique stories of Orkney life and history with us all.

During lunch, the pilot came onboard and guided us out of Kirkwall harbour so that we could commence our journey towards the Faroe Islands and beyond. So that we're ready to hit the ground running and start exploring as soon as possible, our Expedition Team introduced our Zodiac operations and Scott gave some great tips for how we can best document the memories we're making through photographs. This fantastic first day onboard, was topped off with Captain's Cocktails where we met the all-important heads of department within the ship's crew and made a toast to our wonderful voyage north across the seas. Slàinte mhath (cheers!) to the exciting adventures ahead!



Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

DAY 3 | Wednesday 8th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 62°00'242 N

Longitude: 006°46'014 W

Course: Docked at Torshavn

Speed: 0 knots

Wind Speed: 10 knots from NE

Barometer: 1023

Air Temp: 9°C

“A first walk in any new country is one of the things which makes life on this planet worth being grateful for.”

—Charles William Beebe

First sight of the Faroe islands.

After a beautifully smooth crossing we berthed at Torshavn, the capital of the Faroe Islands. With its multi-coloured houses running down to the shore, it looked very Scandinavian. The morning brought a walking tour of this historical town with excellent local guides. We walked through Tinganes, the most ancient part of the town with its colourful old warehouses, 18th century cathedral and narrow winding lanes between small turf-roofed homes. A headland of smoothed foot worn rocks at the edge of the harbour was the site of the ancient Faroes parliament, possibly the oldest in the world (Iceland makes a similar claim). Still on the same site is the the Prime Minister's office and the island's administrative offices. This area has been the political and commercial centre of the Faroe Islands for almost 1,000 years, and our guide told us tales of love and misconduct, commercial life and political power. At any time, we could have bumped into the Faroes Prime Minister, but we were happy to meet the beautiful red chicken which greeted us all as she strutted around the lanes. She acted as though Tinganes belonged to her and her alone. This is a place where tradition and modernity co-exist side by side, just as in the rest of the 18 islands.

The afternoon brought a trip out to Kirkjubøur (pronounced “Chish-jubour”) which in the middle-ages was the ecclesiastical and cultural centre of the Faroes. It was the bishop's residence until the reformation when the Faroes diocese was abolished. The ruins of Saint Magnus Cathedral still dominate the site. Construction of the cathedral was begun in the late 13th century in a style of architecture inspired by Norwegian church building of the time. Close by was the Roystovan, standing in the wide, stone foundations of a portion of the bishop's palace. It has been the home of the farmers of Kirkjubøur for centuries and, incredibly, has been occupied by the same Faroes family for 17 generations. It is said that this large building is made of logs which had drifted all the way from Norway some 700 years ago. The birding group were more interested in several families of eiders close to the shore. Several females had very young chicks with them, which were only a few days old and very cute.

On our way out of Kirkjubøur we had magnificent views of the islands of Koltur, Hestur, Sandoy, and Vágar out to the west.



Vestmanna, Faroe Islands

DAY 4 | Thursday 9th June

Position at 0700

Latitude: 62°09.306' N

Longitude: 007°26.804' W

Course: 072.3°

Speed: 12.3 knots

Wind Speed: 25knots, from E

Barometer: 1023

Air Temp: 10° C

“Believe me my young friend, there is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats... simply messing.”

—Water Rat to Mole from *Wind in the Willows*

Our day began a bit early aboard the *Greg Mortimer* with a 5:45am visit to the bird cliffs of Mykines Island. Upon approach, we weren't sure how much wildlife inhabited the cliffs but as we got closer, we saw that the rocky stacks rising from the ocean had white tops. They were not snow-capped but instead covered in a thick layer of guano. Soon, loads of birds began to come into view: guillemots, gannets, puffins and fulmars filled the sky and soared over the water surrounding the cliffs. The weather too seemed to be in cooperation with this dance, with a fairytale-like sky adding to the ambience.

The main attractions for the day would be based out the small village of Vestmanna, which is a town on the west of the Island of Streymoy. Before the construction of the inter-island tunnels and roadway, this was a very isolated community. Our local guide informed us that the community has a unique dialect and history that they take great pride in. This is most exemplified in the sport of Faroe Island competitive rowing. During a tour of the town we got the opportunity to inspect the amazing hand built wooden boats used for this. They resemble ancient viking craft and carry six or seven people rowing and one coxswain. The boats can really move.

Getting a chance to visit the Vestmanna Church was a real treat. The church had been refurbished, but remains on the original foundation. The beams supporting the ceiling are left exposed and the lighting that hangs from it are meant to resemble the stars. The alter that was made by a local artist is quite unique, with a beautiful hand carved 'tree of life' adorned with doves.

For many of us, the true highlight of the day was the boat tour of the Vestmanna bird cliffs. In Faroese, this area is called Vestmannabjörgini (try saying that five times quickly). These jagged cliffs rise 300-600 meters straight out of the turquoise ocean on a scale that is difficult for the mind to comprehend. If you looked closely at some of the ledges covered in green grass, a sheep or two could be found in precarious spots. Views of the sheer beauty up and down the coast left many of our jaws hanging. The captain of our small vessel took his small craft in and out of narrow channels and through sea caves with tremendous skill. The up-close views of this vertical world will not soon be forgotten by any of us.

The ship gently cruised all evening along this magnificent coast and our dinner time conversation was full of speculation on what the Faroe Islands had in store for us the following morning.



Eiði

DAY 5 | Friday 10th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 62°15.855'N

Longitude: 007°16.372'W

Course: 101.9°

Speed: 3.5 knots

Wind Speed: 17 knots from SE

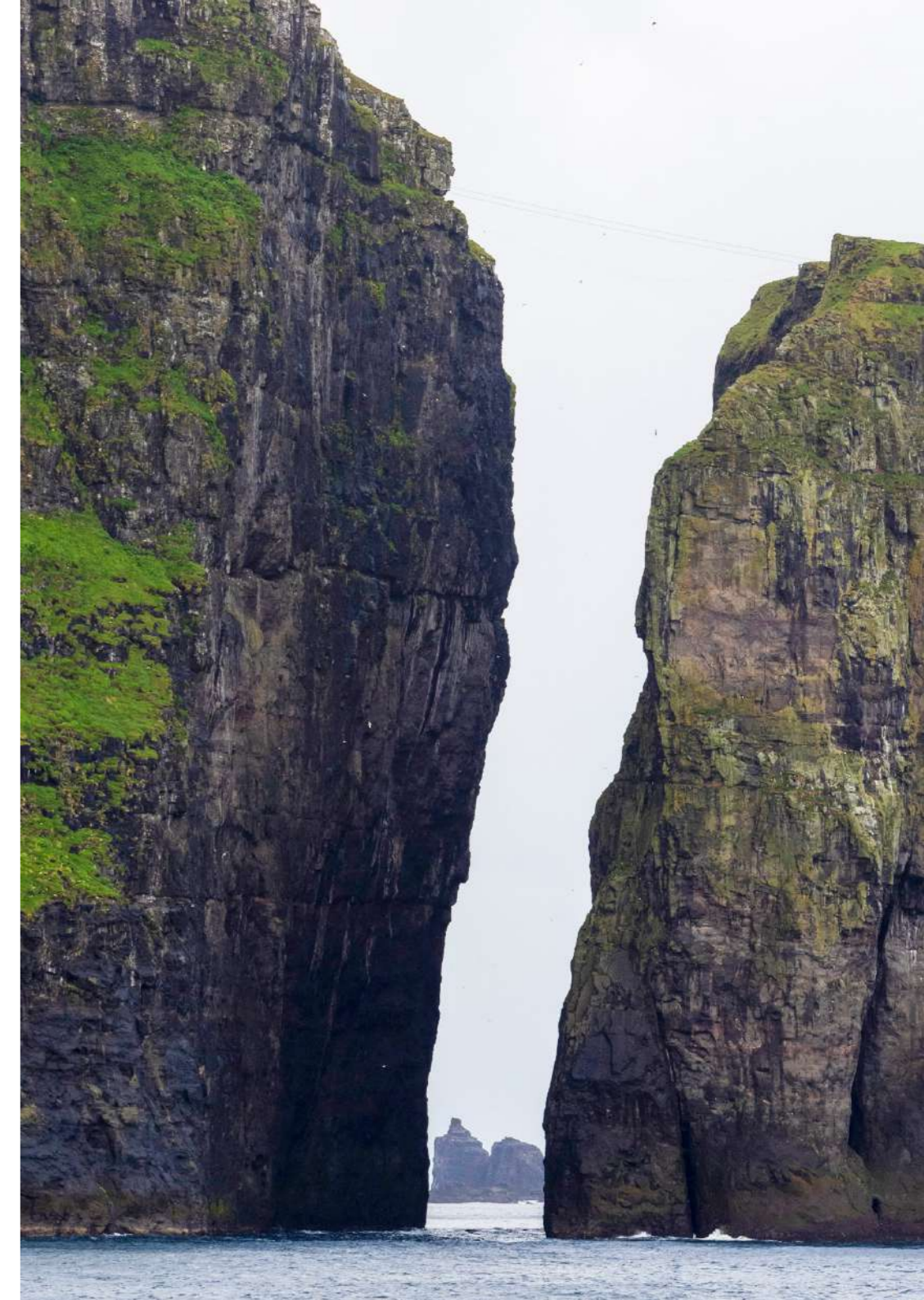
Barometer: 1016

Air Temp: 9°C

Fact of the Day: The national language of the Faroe Islands is Faroese. Danish is the official second language and is taught in schools at an early age. English is also taught in schools and is spoken by most people.

We left the magnificent cliffs of Vestmanna behind us and turned the course towards Eysturoy Island. After breakfast we reached today's destination – a small fishing village – Eiði. After getting permission to land from the harbourmaster, we dropped our Zodiacs and embarked on a bumpy and wet ride towards the harbour. Today we finally had a chance to taste the Faroes weather, and it seems that stories of 300 rainy days a year were true. Upon landing, we made our way up the hill towards the centre of the village. A quick look inside the late 19th century church with an amazing colourful interior and we all spread out across the village. Some of us took a long road to a viewpoint at the west end of Eiði, some took a stroll around Niðara Vatn lake, where plenty of birds could be seen: kittiwakes, fulmars, Arctic terns and a couple of hooper swans. We all had plenty of time to walk around the narrow streets of peaceful and laid back Eiði, accompanied by gentle showers of refreshing and somewhat warm Faroes rain and a fresh smell of wet grass. After few hours in the village, we made our way back down to the harbour where our Zodiac drivers were awaiting us to take us back to the ship for lunch. This would be the last time we would set our feet on dry land before embarking on our long journey North, through Jan Mayen towards Svalbard.

In the afternoon the captain and his crew took us on a ship cruise around the narrow straits of the Faroe Islands. We first navigated along the northern coast of Eysturoy and passed two sea stacks - Risin and Kellingin. The local legend says that the stacks were two giants that got turned to stone after unsuccessful attempt to 'steal' and tow the Faroes north to Iceland. Leaving Eysturoy behind, sailed towards the cliffs of Kalsoy. Cruising slowly along its western coast we listened to Daniel, who gave us few geological facts about the origin of the Islands. We also saw countless seabirds nesting on the steep cliffs of Kalsoy. Playful fulmars followed the ship along, with kittiwakes, puffins, guillemots flying around. Upon reaching the northern tip of Kalsoy, we laid our eyes on a very dramatic landscape of steep cliffs, caves and a Kallur lighthouse on top of one of the hills, as well as some daredevil sheep grazing at the edge of the cliffs. Heading around the corner, the Captain turned the ship southeast and we cruised between Kalsoy and Kunoy with very strong head winds funneling through the narrow straight between two islands. We passed the village of Trøllanes on our starboard side and headed towards Mikladalur where we could see the statue of Kópakonan – the Seal Woman. We then turned around, leaving the Faroe Islands behind and heading towards the remote islands of Jan Mayen.



At Sea in the North Atlantic

DAY 6 | Saturday 11th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 64°36.405' N

Longitude: 007°20.209' W

Course: 353.9°

Speed: 9.4 knots

Wind Speed: 20 knots from E

Barometer: 1017

Air Temp: 4°C

“The three great elemental sounds in nature are the sound of rain, the sound of wind in a primeval wood, and the sound of outer ocean on a beach. I have heard them all, and of the three elemental voices, that of the ocean is the most awesome, beautiful and varied.”

—Henry Beston

Our first full day at sea. We'd imagined viewing seabirds from the decks, perhaps even spotting the blows of distant whales, but when we pulled back the curtains this morning, everything beyond 50m from the ship remained a mystery because of the thick fog that enveloped us.

Away from the bustling seabird cliffs, and with reduced visibility, we felt almost alone on the gently rolling North Atlantic. But every now and then, a pair of gannets or fulmars soared out from the mist and performed their graceful dance beside us for a few minutes. Their long narrow wings stretched out, steady and stiff, maybe slight muscle adjustments to change direction as they read the wind and waves, their eyes scanning the ocean for subtle signs of food. We cannot fathom what they are seeing or thinking, all we can do is watch and let them mesmerise us.

We gathered in the lecture theatre where Snowy gave us an excellent run-down of Arctic seabird identification. If any of us couldn't tell our gulls from our guillemots before, we sure can now, and we are looking forward to expanding our species lists as we cover new ground.

All the North Atlantic Ocean could muster was a half-hearted swell, which the X-Bow® of the *Greg Mortimer* sliced smoothly through. Many of us felt well enough for a movie session, so we enjoyed *The White Planet* in the lecture theatre, building our anticipation levels for the next chapter of this adventure. We've travelled from the Neolithic dwellings of Orkney, to the unthinkable high Faroese bird cliffs, and now the mysterious Jan Mayen awaits us as we head closer and closer to the icy North.

Just after dinner, Howard announced our approach to the Arctic Circle. For many of us, crossing this line at 66°30'N is the furthest north we have ventured, and from now on, we will barely see the sun dip below the horizon. We raised our glasses to toast our arrival, and maybe we even checked through the window, just in case there was a noticeable change... but no. The line we just crossed is invisible, and there is still a thick mist outside. Not even a walrus holding a welcome sign (well, not one that we could see through the mist anyway).



At Sea in the North Atlantic

DAY 7 | Sunday 12th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 68°16.291'N

Longitude: 0018°20.067'W

Course: 353.1°

Speed: 8.2 knots

Wind Speed: 16 knots from NE

Barometer: 1028

Air Temp: 2°C

“Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean – roll!

Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain:

Man marks the earth with ruin – his control stops with the shore.”

—Lord Byron

We were greeted with another foggy morning today. A 15 knot wind, however, from the north-east helped to thin the fog and increase the visibility throughout the day. By the evening you could see at least 5 miles to the horizon and by 10pm we had a nice peek of the sun through the heavy cloud ceiling. This raised some hopes for a decent view of Jan Mayen for tomorrow.

Although this was another sea day, there was much going on, and much to ponder.

Most of us here love exploring, we love action, excitement, we love to feel life to the fullest. We love nature and heck, we don't even mind getting some of that nature on us. If we didn't, we would not be on an expedition. Days like today are essential. All action by itself can feel somewhat empty. Intermittent times for reflection and contemplation are what add meaning and value to all that adventure. If nothing else, it makes us appreciate it more.

So, what was going on?

This was our first full day in the Arctic Ocean, a roughly circular basin outward from the North Pole covering some 14,056,000 square kilometers, almost the size of Antarctica.

As we looked out upon the ocean today, many expeditioners continued to keep their eyes peeled for seabirds as the fog lifted, but it was a quiet day out there. It might be that our route by passed the major type of upwellings that congregate the food sources for the seabirds. Ian, later in the afternoon, did spot a small flock of kittiwakes.

We heard a number of great presentations today, all passionate in their own way. Dani gave a wonderful talk on Cetaceans, giving us a preview of the types of whales we might see in these Arctic waters if we pay attention. She provided many fascinating details about how whales evolved to camouflage themselves through counter-shade, how they communicate, sleep and most people's favourite, how they give birth.

Ian gave a presentation in which he shared, not only some fantastic cinematography by his own hand, but also, about his own personal experiences filming in these wild places and the perseverance and commitment it takes to get those shots.

Daniel took us to school with Glaciology 101. Although he threatened us with a test, in the end, Daniel made Glaciology fun. He reminded us that we had just come from a textbook Post Glacial landscape in the Faroe Islands, that we were on our way to an Active Glacial Landscape, and gave us lots of features to look for when we get to Svalbard. By the time class was done, we got to take home the recipe and some good tips for making our own glacier at home, give or take a few tens of thousands of years.

Another note for the day is it was Philippines' Independence Day. There are some 60 persons on board who are of Filipino descent. These are the people behind the scenes who keep us afloat, they sustain us and keep us comfortable. This was a great reminder that we owe much gratitude to them. At dinner, a number of the restaurant staff graced us with a serenade of the Philippine National Anthem. The beginning of a powerful closure for the day.

As we fall asleep tonight, and maybe imagine being in the shoes of what we think of as the “REAL” explorers, maybe we will look out on the horizon and realise how big the ocean is, and even with our big ship, that we are still so insignificant and vulnerable. So, with that thought, maybe we are explorers in our own little way, and tomorrow we will see new lands. Maybe Jan Mayen will rise up out of the horizon and Beerenberg will tower above us, or maybe it will be mystically and slowly revealed to us. No matter, there will be discovery and we will do it together.



Jan Mayen

DAY 8 | Monday 13th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 71°06.062' N

Longitude: 008°23.744' W

Course: 214.6°

Speed: 11 knots

Wind Speed: 5.6 knots from S

Barometer: 1020

Air Temp: 2°C

“The worn and torn pipes of a giants organ or the deteriorating spires and towers of a medieval church.”

—Brunnich's guillemot breeding cliffs described by Lundgren and Carlsson

The early morning mist cleared, revealing the dramatic landscape of the Jan Mayen coastline. Fulmars trailed the ship, skirting on the prevailing winds as they used the lift to propel them along our hull as if they were leading us to land. As we neared our proposed location of operations, the anticipation grew. None of us had been here before and we really didn't know what to expect. It was a region very few people have visited or even seen. We scanned the coastline for the best site for our Zodiac cruise along this rugged yet vibrant island. Dramatic sea cliffs housed an abundance of fulmars, guillemots, little auks, puffins and kittiwakes to name a few. Eider ducks rested on the calm waters just off the coast as we cruised by, looking in wonder at the diverse geology of this island hidden in the middle of the north Atlantic.

We were amazed by the sheer magnitude of these towering structures at each and every corner, and the last turn was even more rewarding as we stumbled into some impressive sea stacks lined with nesting birds and geological patterns in the rocks, resembling pieces of art. Heads tilted back and constantly looking up, these cliffs just kept delivering the best of what Jan Mayen has to offer.

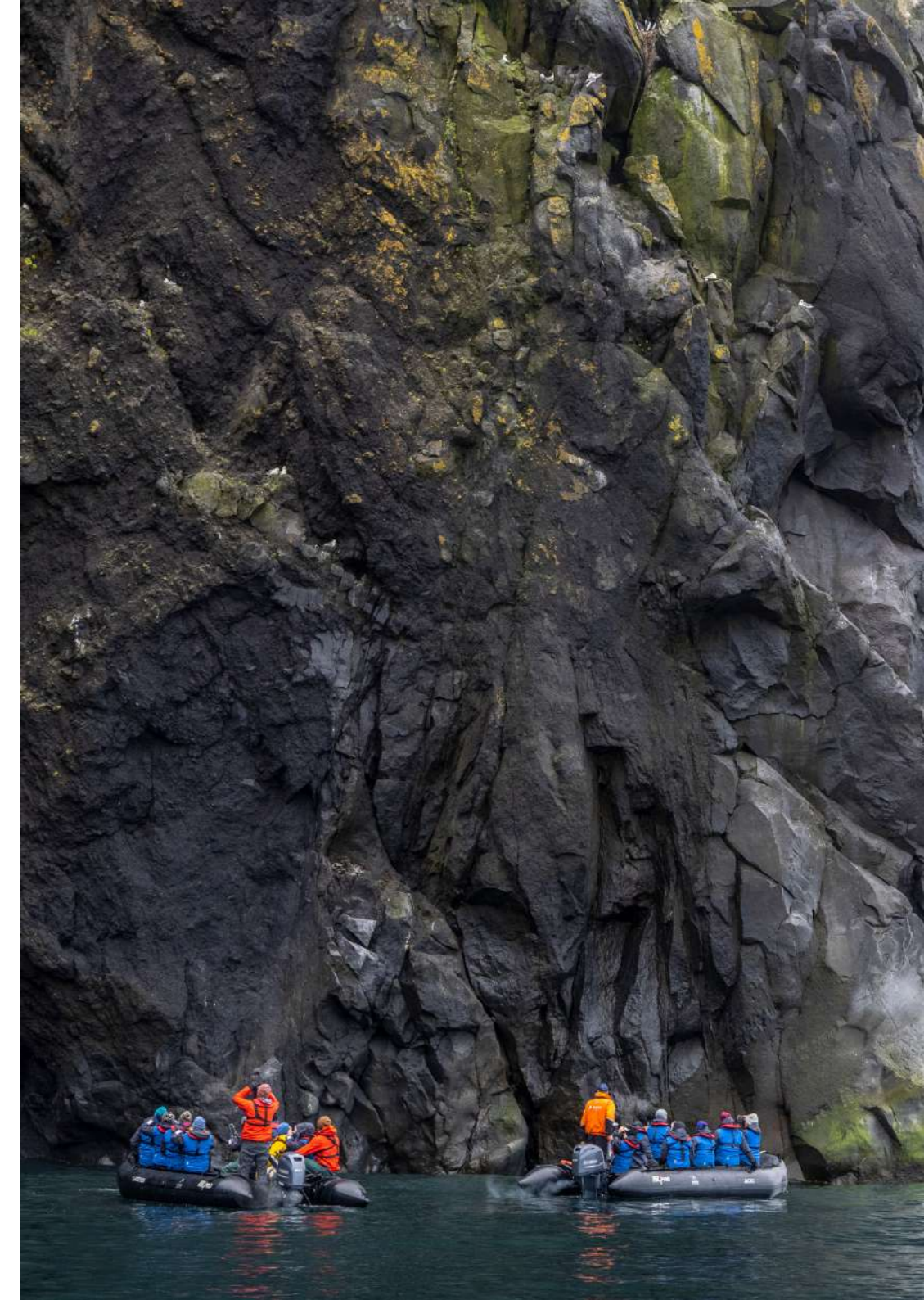
For the kayakers, the conditions were ideal to take advantage of getting close to sheer cliff faces, volcanic beaches, and towering sea stacks - a close-up exploration of the geological elements of this amazing island. Dan brought this back to the ship, in the form of a lecture about the rock formations and the basaltic flows that are synonymous with this region.

A shroud of cloud still sat over the island, but the sun was emerging from the blanket of mist. Without warning, the outline of Beerenberg, a massive volcano which stands 2,277m tall revealed itself in all its splendour. Layers of clouds above and below framed this colossal mountain providing a jaw-dropping view.

Continuing north, the calm waters resulted in some exquisite whale watching opportunities. A fin whale sighted off the port bow, a northern bottle nose whale breaking the surface, and the sightings continued. A captive audience of onlookers caught a glimpse of these great leviathans as we moved further north to our Arctic destination.



The sun was shining, and the air temperature was a balmy 3 degrees but it was preparing us for the adventure ahead, not to mention a gentle reminder that things are about to get colder.



At Sea, North Atlantic

DAY 9 | Tuesday 14th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 74°20.451'S

Longitude: 001°09.983'W

Course: 032.9°

Speed: 13 knots

Wind Speed: 10 knots from E

Barometer: 1025

Air Temp: 2°C

“Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean – roll!

Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain:

Man marks the earth with ruin – his control stops with the shore.”

—Brunnich's guillemot breeding cliffs described by Lundgren and Carlsson

Our last full sea day provided tranquil seas and bright skies with clouds high enough to give views across to the horizon, as we looked north to our final destination of Svalbard. With this in mind, we started to prepare for our Arctic adventures on land with a briefing from the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators about the codes of conduct and guidelines in place here in Svalbard. Our aim in visiting these unique and fragile environments is to experience and absorb the nature and beauty of the region to the full, while leaving no trace of our presence when we leave. Part of this process is to ensure that our clothing and equipment is biosecure and that no seeds or organic material could be carried from Scotland, the Faroes or further afield into this delicately balanced Arctic environment. So, after a vacuum cleaner and tweezer party in the lecture room, we are ready to set foot in Svalbard's wildernesses and begin exploring!

After some fantastic lectures introducing us to the fauna and geology of the region in the past few days, we turned towards the human aspect of the region with talks from Kirsty and Piotr about the history and what it's like to live in a high Arctic island archipelago. Since the 1600s, the hub of activity in Svalbard has generally revolved around these long summer days we are enjoying, which bring an abundance of wildlife and flora to the islands as well as the melting of the snow and ice, allowing much greater accessibility.

Not everyone comes only for the summer months however, with a small population remaining in Longyearbyen year-round through the long winter nights, which last from October-March, under the dancing colours of the Aurora Borealis. While you can live on Svalbard for as many years as you like, an interesting fact is that it is not encouraged for you to die here, as it is not permitted for anyone to be buried on Svalbard now. Due to the permafrost, graves dug on the islands have an unhelpful tendency of returning their occupiers to the surface as the ice melts.

Historically, we as humans have left many marks and scars on the beautiful landscapes of these islands, so as we join this modern-day chapter in Svalbard's human history, let us leave only footprints in the sand that can be washed away as the tide rises or a walrus takes our place for a little afternoon snooze.



Longyearbyen

DAY 10 | Wednesday 15th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 78°04.778' N

Longitude: 013°10.225' E

Course: 064.8°

Speed: 13 knots

Wind Speed: 15 knots from NW

Barometer: 1030

Air Temp: 0°C

“And through the sail of the whale of the remote country of Spitsbergen does not produce vegetables suitable or sufficient for the nourishment of a single human being yet its coasts and adjacent seas have afforded riches and independence to thousands.”

—An Account of the Arctic Regions by William Scoresby 1826

We enjoyed one last relaxed morning at sea, knowing that our days are about to become action-packed. By mid-morning, the dark, jagged and ice-capped mountains of Spitsbergen surrounded us as we cruised into the small town of Longyearbyen. This colourful little town, which sits huddled on the banks of the fjord between foreboding mountains, was quite a hub of activity today. Seven other cruise ships were anchored there, with their Zodiac shuttles buzzing to and from the landing.

We had the chance for a look around Longyearbyen, and to pose for photos next to the polar bear warning sign just on the outskirts of town – officially marking the fact that we are in polar bear country. Some of us were lured into a café named ‘Coffee and Cuddles’, which promised not only great coffee, but a cuddle from a gorgeous local husky!

A quick Zodiac shuttle back to the ship and we were ready to leave civilisation, aware that from now on, we are more likely to meet a reindeer, a fox, or a polar bear than another human.

To our amazement, only two hours into our journey north, our first polar bear was seen! Keen eyed Andy spotted the single bear walking along the shoreline from over a mile away, and the good ship *Greg Mortimer* turned a little towards the shore so that we could all watch. The great bear walked with a powerful unhurried gait which was surprisingly fast. We watched for about 30 minutes and in that time, it was amazing how far the bear travelled.

The polar bear is a great traveller, hunting over great distances across the winter sea ice in its never-ending search for seals. As the sea ice melts in the summer, many bears come to land and spend many weeks waiting for the sea ice to re-form. In that time, they don't get much to eat and must get very hungry. Come the autumn when the sea freezes once again, the bears are keen to get back out hunting seals. We left the magnificent bear to his lonely wandering.



Buchananhalvøya & Hamiltonbukta

DAY 11 | Thursday 16th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 79°48.596' N

Longitude: 011°55.330' E

Course: 150.3°

Speed: 9.7 knots

“To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams.”

—John Muir

We made our way into the fjord early morning. Overcast skies outside and a bit of a chill. Today we were about to set our feet in Svalbard's wilderness for the first time. While some were enjoying breakfast and looking out of the window, admiring beautiful high Arctic landscapes, our scouting crew was getting ready to go ashore at Buchananhalvøya to prepare the landing and make sure that we are not going to run into the king of the Arctic just yet. Halv – half, øya – island, is a Norwegian term for a peninsula. Upon landing, the shore party found ourselves brooding through Svalbards deep spring snow and muddy tundra.

Right before the landing party departed from the ship, we sighted a polar bear heading south on the western side of the fjord. He came down from Portierbreen and headed towards Chauveaubreen. Our Expedition Leader Howard decided to change plans and we set out on a Zodiac cruise around the southern part of the fjord. We cruised alongside magnificent views of the sharp peaks of billion-year-old mountains, in between drifting sea ice, and shedding of nearby glaciers. We saw ringed seals lying next to their breathing holes, Arctic terns, black guillemots, and the polar bear making his way towards his hunting grounds. We had a nice view of the glaciers on our way back to the ship.

After finishing our first outing it was nice to be back on board, have a quick cup of tea and prepare for the next adventure awaiting us after lunch. It was time to drop the Zodiacs again into the calm and perfectly flat water in the afternoon. This time we were setting off on a Zodiac cruise around Hamiltonbukta (Hamilton Bay) in the northwest of Raudfjorden. With almost no wind and mostly overcast skies, we started cruising towards the southern part of the bay. First, we had a very pleasant encounter with a bearded seal resting on an ice floe. Cruising along the coast we saw Arctic terns, kittiwakes, little auks, guillemots as well as some pink-footed geese. We also witnessed Arctic skuas harassing a few kittiwakes.

The further we went into the bay, the more sea ice we encountered. In the end it felt like our Zodiacs were icebreakers and we managed to get through the dense ice. Some of us even got a chance to jump onto an ice floe. In the distance we could hear the sound of calving glaciers. On the way back to the ship we saw cabin remains from trapping days, as well as washed up driftwood that most likely made its way out here all the way from Siberia. This area was popular in the past amongst whalers, Pomor and Norwegian trappers.

Wind Speed: 8.5 knots from SE

Barometer: 1032

Air Temp: 3°C

By the end of this eventful day we could relax at the bar, and then learn a few things about polar bears and X-Bow® technology during the recap. Today we had a great opportunity to see what Svalbard has to offer.



Alkefjellet & Torellneset

DAY 12 | Friday 17th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 79°44.814' N

Longitude: 018°02.263' E

Course: 154.2

Speed: 0.0 knots

Wind Speed: 10.5 knots from SE

Barometer: 1030

Air Temp: 3°C

“The great hurrah about wild animals is that they exist at all, and the greater hurrah is the actual moment of seeing them. Because they have a nice dignity, and prefer to have nothing to do with me, not even as the simple objects of my vision. They show me by their wariness what a prize it is simply to open my eyes and behold.”

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

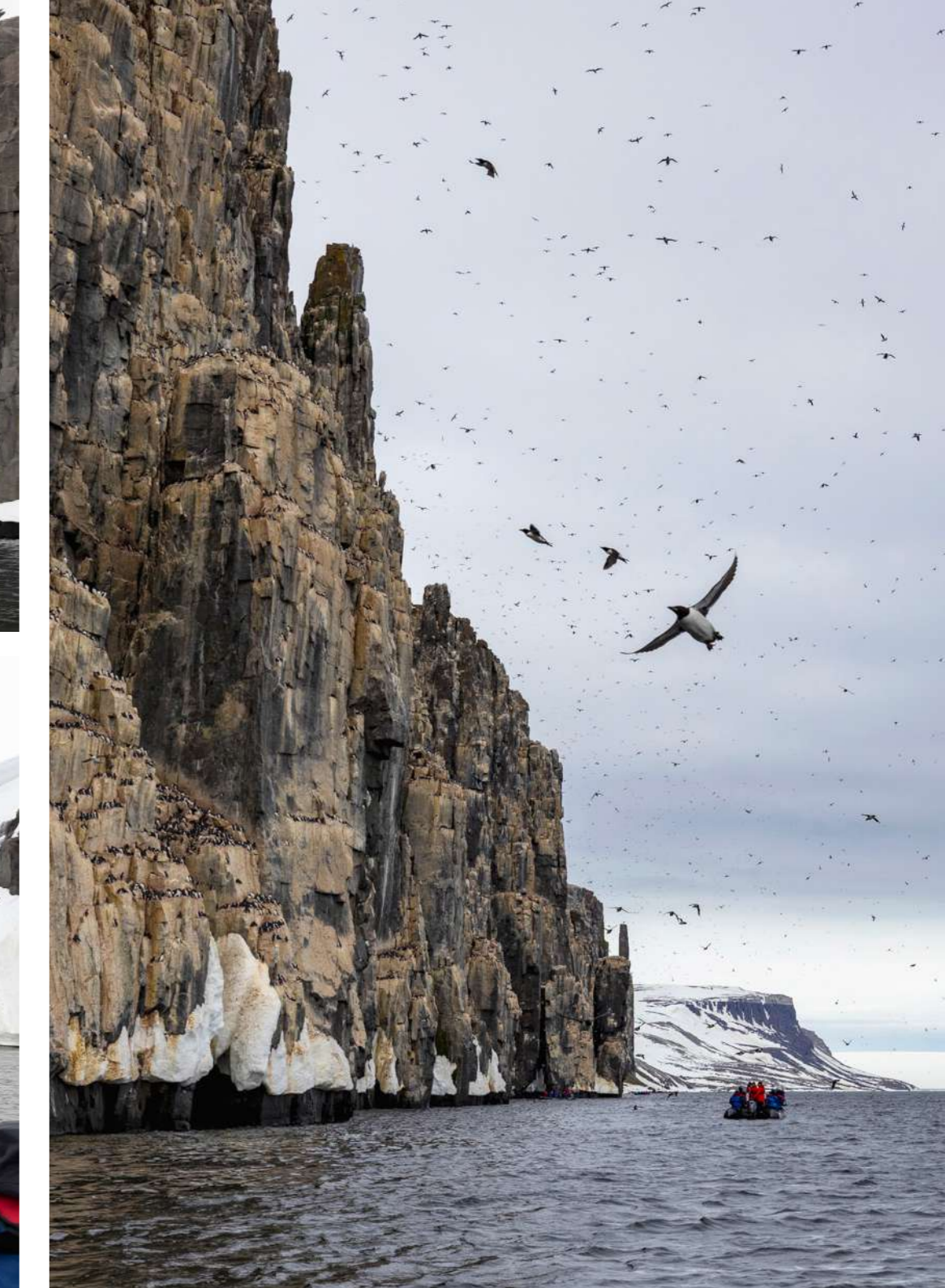
We had an early start today, when Howard made an announcement at 6:15am to say that we had stopped our progress due to a sighting of a big whale. A very big whale, quite close to the ship. It was a spectacular, sunny blue-sky morning and most people were on the upper decks well before breakfast to see a blue whale surfacing and diving slowly around us. Hard to beat that for a start to our day.

Our first activity after breakfast was a Zodiac cruise of the bird cliffs at Alkefjellet, or in English ‘the auk cliffs’. It was cloudier, with a cooler breeze than earlier, but it was well worth getting out close to the cliffs with so many Brunnich’s guillemots nesting on the ledges, flying back and forth and swimming in large groups around us in the water. As we headed north along the base of the cliffs and basalt columns, the birds just kept increasing in numbers and the sky was filled with a constant stream of traffic in all directions. The kayakers were lucky enough to have calmer conditions close to the cliffs, so could get right in amongst all the activity.

As we neared the northern end of Alkefjellet, the cliffs gave way to some rocky slopes leading down to the water and we were lucky enough to see three Arctic foxes patrolling around looking for something to eat. All were a mottled mix of the white winter fur and the darker brown and tan summer coat which they’re changing into at this time of the year, making them a bit more difficult to see. One managed to find what appeared to be a bird for a meal and carried it off in its mouth high up the steep snowy slopes between the rocky outcrops. Overall, a great morning Zodiac cruise.

Over lunch we headed south, further down the Hinlopen Strait towards our afternoon destination of Torellneset. After making our way through some loose seaice, we landed on the pebbly beach at Torellneset and in small groups had a chance to view a group of approximately 20 walruses hauled out amongst the ice on the shoreline. Although very nervous when out on land and prone to being panicked into the water, by approaching slowly and quietly, we were all able to get great views of these animals.

After this, we broke into groups to walk and explore the landscape further, some going for a longer walk up to the high point which afforded great views over the area, others taking a more leisurely stroll around the lower areas, where there was a variety of plants and an old whale skull, amongst other things.



Pack Ice & Seven Islands

DAY 13 | Saturday 18th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 80°35.208' N

Longitude: 021°01.760' E

Course: 027.2

Speed: 0.1 knots

Wind Speed: 1.2 knots from SE

Barometer: 1028

Air Temp: 3°C

“At special moments when I have time to watch an undisturbed polar bear, I am often struck by an overwhelming sense that it is simply where it belongs. A wild polar bear is the Arctic incarnate. The Arctic is not a forsaken wasteland to a polar bear; it is home, and a comfortable home at that. For thousands of years, the climate, the ice, and the seals upon which it feeds have shaped and finely tuned the evolution of this predator so exquisitely that it has become not just a symbol but the very embodiment of life in the Arctic.”

—Ian Stirling, Polar Bears

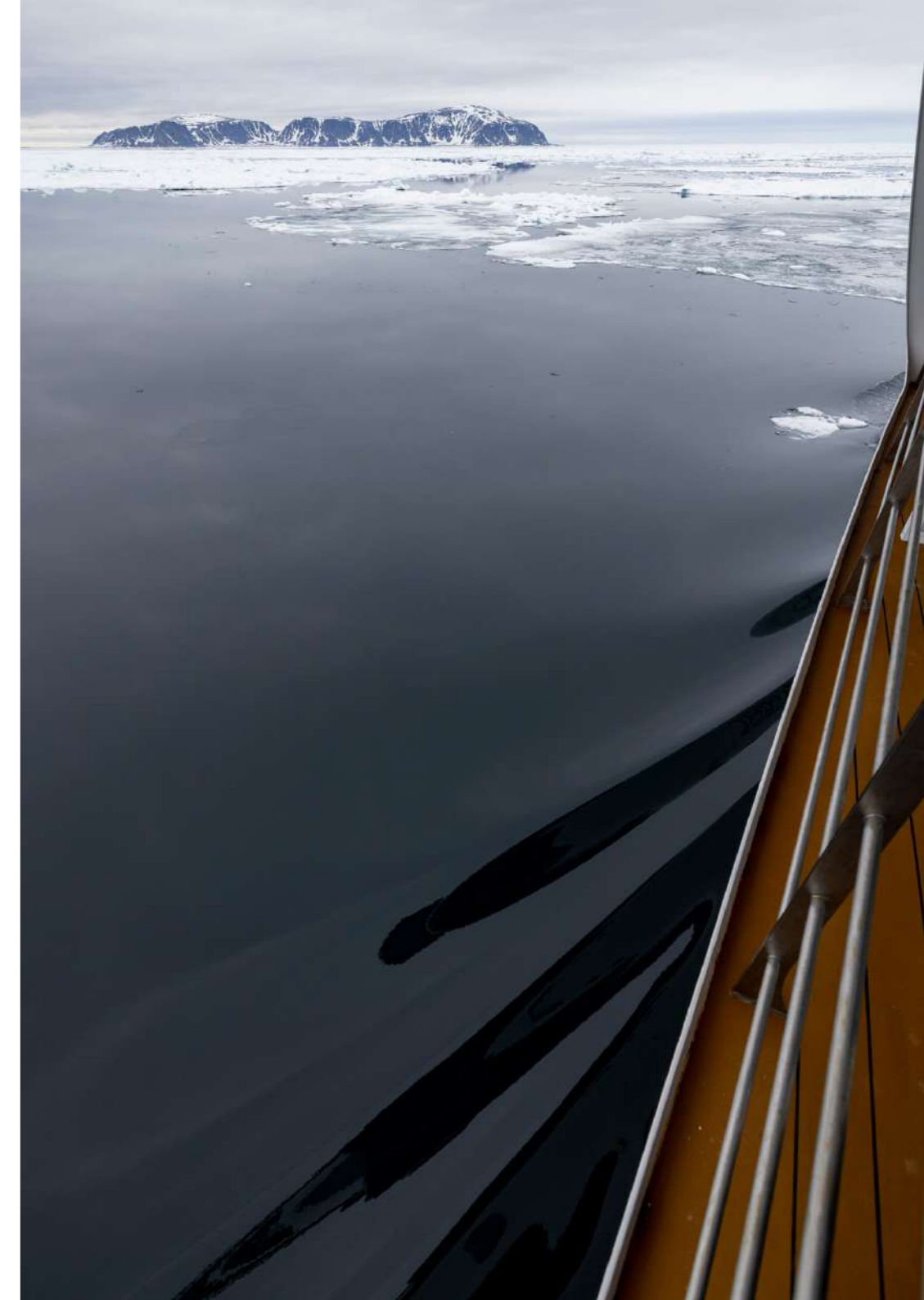
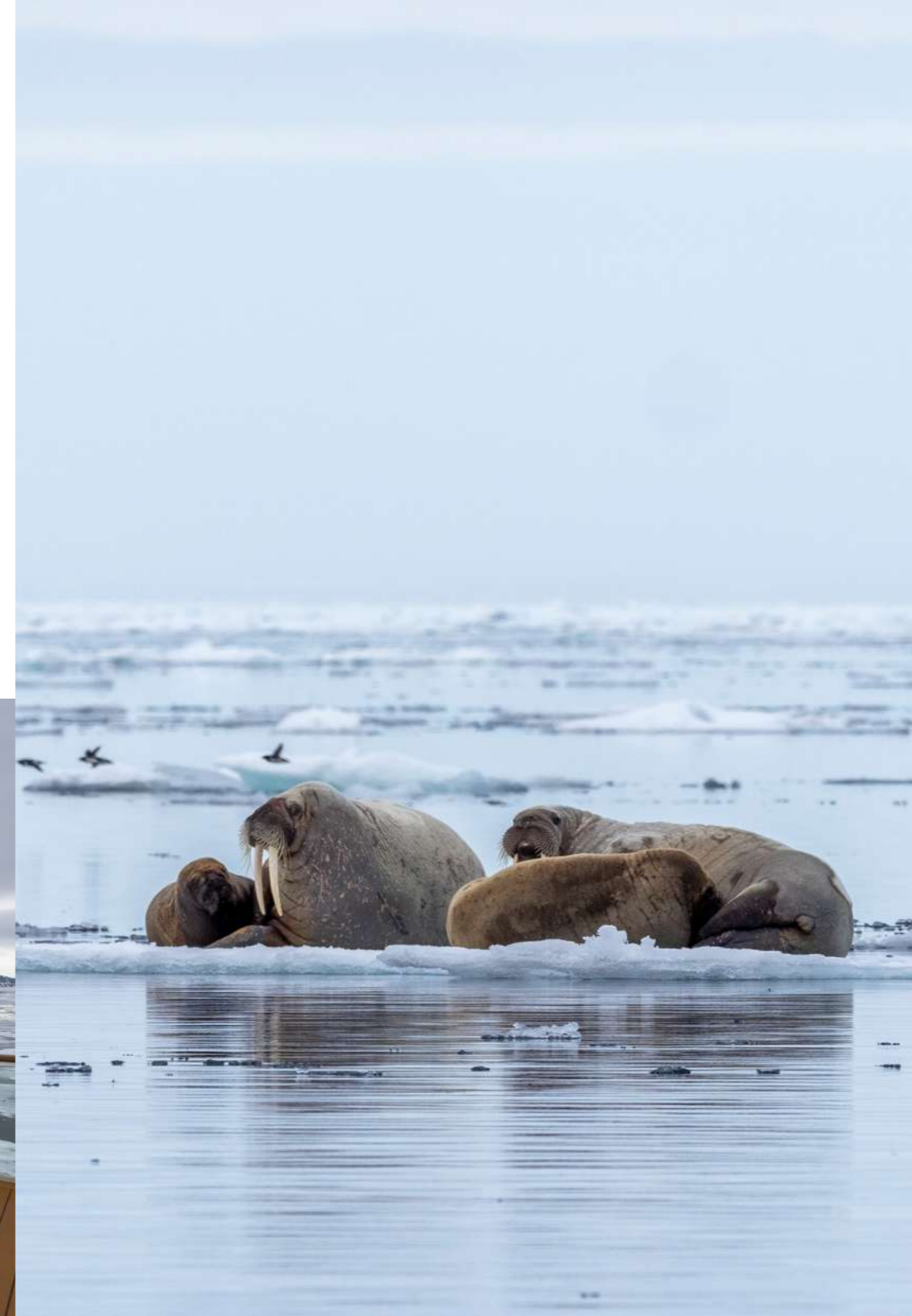
Boom! The Ice hit the bow as we watched the frozen landscape pass us by. Howard’s voice resonated around the ship as the morning wakeup call hit the snooze button on another expedition day in the Arctic. Breakfast was called and our daily routine was set in motion, but the Arctic had different plans. A polar bear is sighted, and the bridge crew bring the *Greg Mortimer* to a grinding halt. The bear was close and a little more than casually curious, it was determined to investigate. It sniffed the air as myriad aromas came from the ship. Each paw closer, the bear’s demeanour changed from predator to performer as we were captivated by the gentle behaviour and unfamiliar characteristics of one of the Arctic’s dominant species. We quickly learned the bear was a female and was certainly not shy about posing for photos. I doubt words can even come close to describing how special this moment was to all of us.

We had hit 80° 47’ north and next on our “Expedition Day” was a Zodiac cruise around the Seven Islands. Despite not being able to land due to the ice barrier between us and the landscape, we manage to cover a great distance in the zodiacs, exploring the fast-moving ice flows, rugged cliffs and taking advantage of the calm seas to explore even further. In the distance, some dark bumps interrupted the icy seascape and the potential of walrus in the distance piqued our curiosity. Slowly we made an approach, keeping our distance as we soon discovered that a calf was present. The walrus, unperturbed by our presence continued their blissful slumber as the calf occasionally lifting its head to get the attention of the adults laying on the ice floe.

After lunch, the ship was in exploration mode as we pushed some of the broken sea ice apart searching for polar bears, walrus, whales or anything that crossed our path. It wasn’t long before we came across a couple of polar bears traversing the sea ice in the distance. As the ship once again came to a halt, we all congregated on the observation deck and enjoyed watching the journey of these wandering sea mammals as they search the vast frozen sea ice.

To top off this visually overwhelming day, we hit the water again, literally! It was time for the polar plunge and the

few brave souls that took the polar plunge into the extreme frigid Arctic waters were rewarded by joining a very select group of people to take the polar leap. Can you believe this all happened in one day!



Polar Plunge

DAY 13 | Saturday 18th June 2022



Julibreen & Signehamma

DAY 14 | Sunday 19th June 2022

Position at 0700

Latitude: 79°07.479'N

Longitude: 011°50.453'E

Course: 028.8°

Speed: 0.0 knots

Wind Speed: 6.8 knots from SW

Barometer: 1024

Air Temp: 4°C

“Life is not measured by the breaths we take. But by the moments that take our breath away.”

—(Author unknown)

An Imposing landscape was revealed beneath the mist as the ship made its way into Fjortende Julibreen. kittywakes, puffins, barnacle geese and so many Arctic birds use these steep cliffs as a haven from predators. Arctic fox stake out the territories below bird cliffs, and for many of these birds, finding the right nesting place for young chicks is the key to their survival. As we walked along the cliff edge, we visited the famed hanging gardens on the edge of the cliff face.

The day was mild, and our zodiac cruise was pleasant as we explored the coastline. On the water, kittywakes found refuge on floating pieces of glacial ice. As we kept our distance from the towering glacier, we heard the cracking of ice like thunder and watched one of greatest displays of nature. Our heads turned quickly to locate the thundering source and moments later, large pieces of the icy glacial front collapsed into the ocean sending a wave along the surface felt from many hundreds of metres away. We watched in awe and hoped to see this living giant exhale again.

Sadly we only had one stop left on our epic voyage that had seen us travel from Scotland to the Arctic, so expectations were high. Signehamma, surrounded by spectacular fjords, would be our last landing. The water was calm, and the conditions were perfect for a hike through this truly beautiful tundra. Icy lakes lay hidden between the peaks, lined with kittywakes. Reindeers grazing along the lake edge, nonchalant about our presence. We walked to a high point which rewarded us with 360 degree vistas of this vast landscape. Remnants of a historical communications site that was destroyed during the war laid desolate and slowly being consumed by the tundra.

Back on board, amid the flurry of departing rituals (disembarkation briefings, packing, returning borrowed gear), we are concerned about the immediate plans, tests, flights and goodbyes. We think - must get down to the mudroom for one last check. But what a trip, what days - and so much packed into those landings and cruises. We've met graceful seabirds, cunning foxes, majestic polar bears and lazing walrus, just to name a few.

We were reminded of just how much we'd seen in the evening slide show put together by Scott Portelli, our photographer. Happy in the knowledge that despite the challenges of weather and covid travel, we'd made it all the way from Scotland to the Faroe Islands, to Jan Mayen, and then Svalbard.



Kayaking Log

Kayak Masters: Dan Stavert & Wes McNeil

Number of Paddlers: 9

Total Paddle Outings: 9

Total Distance Paddled: 50.6 km

Paddlers:	Stephen Scully	Karen Proudman	Danny Fryer
Mark Danby	Robert Godfrey	Keith Liyanagama	
Belinda Hosking	Irene Wyld	Ken McMahan	

June 7th: Kirkwall - 12 km

Although all the paddlers had received their kayak orientation and were ready to go on our first opportunity to paddle, we were also scheduled to do a bus tour to the World Heritage Site of Skara Brae. Rightfully so, most of the paddlers chose to see Skara Brae as they had not previously toured the site. Mark was the only paddler who had been to Skara Brae and was more eager to paddle.

Wes and Mark took to exploring Kirkwood Harbour, Kirkwood Bay and across to the Island of Shapinsay. It was a casual paddle in small waves drummed up from a North-easterly wind of 5 -10 knots. After searching the marina for Seals hauled out on the rocky shore or on docks (they were probably out somewhere else fishing or getting handouts from the fishermen), we paddled down the east shore of the bay toward the small islet of Thieves Holm and on across to the Island of Shapinsay. Mark and Wes shared some backgrounds, stories and thoughts about paddling between silences and the sounds of paddles dipping and powering through the water.

We used the Balfour Castle across the way on Shapinsay as our reference point and crossed what locally they call ‘The String’, a tidal stream with often small rapids. Any current was barely discernible, as we crossed close to slack tide. Once across we paused to look at Balfour Castle, a prominent historical landmark built in the early 18th century. At that point, we knew we would need to start our way back soon to meet the ship for the before departure time to the Faroe Islands. With a little wind and swell at our backs, the return crossing was quick and so we were able to make a small landing, stretch our legs, take a little tea, coffee and cookie break near the Iceland Skerries. One more short paddle later and we were back at the ship. Mark had recorded our little venture at 12k – a nice way to get the cobwebs out.

8th June 2022: Hósvík, Faroe Islands - 7.1 km

Morning came and the Greg Mortimer had come alongside in Tórshavn, the capital city of the Faroe Islands. With moderately strong winds the paddlers thought it wouldn't be possible, but Dan had received word from Sigurd, our Faroese local kayak guide, that he had found a sheltered fjord. So with a packed lunch and an optimistic mindset the team packed their gear into the kayak travel bags and set out on the bus over land across the island. Arriving in Hósvík, the kayakers were greeted by calm waters and beautiful glacially carved valleys. Sigurd

introduced the team to their kayaks, a lovely fruit salad of brightly coloured boats. With some organisation they were all soon floating, the earlier trepidation about single kayaks well erased by the stability and manoeuvrability of the vessels. Leaving the shelter of the sea wall, the colourful flotilla headed up wind, exploring the beautiful coastline. The headwind a good training course, ensuring that all paddlers kept their kayak nose pointed straight up into it, and their technique refined by keeping the boat moving. Soon it was time for lunch, and a little shelter in a sunlit cove. Hot chocolate and a few cookies helped ease sore muscles, and the prospect of a downwind sail home easing some trepidation about the afternoon's paddle. With the sea and wind behind, it was a quick run back to the bus and into its welcome warmth. There Peter, our Faroese busdriver, took the team up to a lookout point before driving back to Tórshavn itself where the group had just enough time to explore the town.

June 9th: Ljósa: Sundini Fjord - 3.5 km

We joined Sigurd again for a paddle in the Sundini Fjord at Ljósa. Our driving route back over to Sundini Fjord was a little longer from Vestmanna, and covered a new high pass. It turned out to be a great opportunity to see more wide U-shaped glacial valleys, a few hanging valleys and small tarns.

The original intention of the paddle was to paddle south along the eastern shore of the fjord till adjacent to a large waterfall, then make a crossing to the waterfall on the western side of the fjord. The winds however increased to between 20 to 25 knots. The group was committed to paddling and we decided to head into the wind, and dipping behind any jetties, points of land or wind break to make the going a bit easier. It did not let up and everyone enthusiastically just went for it. It turned out to add to our wonderful progression the day before of starting out easier and upping the challenge with some good winds.

As we got to the point adjacent to the waterfall, we decided not to cross. When we looked across at the waterfall, we could see that a fair amount of the falling water near the top lip, in a heavy mist, just get lifted back into the air and land right back where it had started. We continued to paddle to see how far we could get and found a nice spot for lunch with a little wind break. Although we only managed to paddle 2 kilometres into the heavy winds, it was probably equivalent in the number of strokes and energy consumed as an 8 kilometre paddle.

Our return was fun and fast. Sigurd, Dan and myself all were impressed by how well everyone did and how well everyone handled the following seas on the return. Paddling following seas for the first time for most people can be unsettling and a bit scary, until you get used to it. Yet what we saw were smiles of elation as we felt that extra surge of energy from the wind and waves. Our paddlers were searching for that surfing sensation. Cowabunga Folks! We were back in a flash compared to beating into the wind. A great training run for the rest of the paddling in the north.

13th June 2022: Jan Mayen, 5km

A brisk twenty kn breeze made kayaking seem unlikely this day, the cold Atlantic wind running over the island of Jan Mayen and whipping up the water even on the sheltered coast. This remote and wild island out in the middle of the North Atlantic is a rarely visited location by ship, let alone by kayak. So it seemed unlikely, however when the ship moved south the mountain gave a little more protection and suddenly it was time for action. The ship dropped zodiacs and kayaks quickly and soon the kayakers were in their vessels and floating in glass calm conditions next to one of the wildest islands in the world.

Paddling in closer, the team were investigated by hundreds of fulmars. These incredible birds swooping low, their dark eyes perhaps attracted by the colourful kayaks. Soon the small group of paddlers were in close to the island and able to explore the incredible geology of the place. The layers of lava flows, clues to the islands dramatic and volcanic history, the many bird species nesting in the ledges and edges that this geology creates.

With the end of the bay approaching, it was soon time to call in Wes and the Zodiac, embark on board and catch a ride back towards the welcome warmth of the ship. Another great paddle complete, this time in one of the world's most remote locations.

June 16th AM: Buchananhalvøya, 5 km

This morning was our first paddle in the true Arctic at 79 deg 45 min North. We were all tripping over each other this morning as we tried to get out of the mudroom and get our kayaks into the water, everyone was just so eager. And rightfully so, this is what we had all been waiting for.

Conditions were just perfect. We had actually been expecting to get about 15 knots of wind from the south, but instead we had about 3 knots that later tapered off to where we began to experience water like glass. Wes set a little bit more of a serious tone for the morning, as now we are in polar bear country and also getting our first introduction to paddling ice - not to take the joy from the paddling experience, but to also paddle with a heightened sense of awareness and care.

As we started our paddle, a polar bear was spotted further down the shore and moving away from us. We never really caught up to it but we had a pleasant paddle in the calm water with the big glacier faces off in the distance. As we progressed down Raudfjorden, we could really see the compressed and uplifted mountainous peaks on both sides of the fjord, a great example of horst and graben topography, with the fjord we were in being a huge graben, and the prominent red peninsula—a layer of hematite infused sandstone that runs through Scotland to Norway and Iceland.

We also Paddled through some light broken pack ice. A nice introduction to threading our kayaks through leads in the ice and glancing off the ice rather than trying to bulldozer it. We finally reached some firm and thick pack ice that we could not penetrate. It filled the remainder of the fjord to the edge of the glacier headwall. We then followed the edge of the ice pack with guillemots swimming and diving all around us. We also looked out for seals, finally spotting three ring seals resting and laying around on the ice in the far distance. Soon after, we were also followed secretly by a bearded seal. We finally saw it rise and swim away from us.

We finished our paddle by going close to the end of the red peninsula, stopping quietly to listen to the sound of the melting water trickling from the gullies. It was then time to get some lunch and we paddled back to the ship. A nice morning paddle of about 8.5 km.

16th June PM: Hamiltonbukta - 5 km

After an exciting morning looking for bears, the kayak team was ready to get deeper into the bays and fjords of northern Svalbard. A quick launch off the ship at they were paddling towards the towering bird cliffs of Hamiltonbukta. These huge cliffs are a nesting ground for thousands and thousands of guillemots and kittiwakes, their raucous cries a wall of sound as the kayakers moved quietly into the bay.

The sounds of the many wheeling and soaring birds faded as the team continued on, replaced by the percussive crashes and crackles as the kayak hulls pushed through the thick brash ice. Swirls of ice of all shapes and sizes swept past the team, the navigating double kayaks swerving left and right to find clear paths, or to push through and make their own. The constant boom of the glacier at the end of the bay, and the ever-present bird calls, a kaleidoscope of sound.

Turning out of the bay the team enjoyed dozens of barnacle goose running across the ocean before pausing to sit quietly and listen again to the many varied sounds that make up the wonder of the Arctic.

June 17th AM: Alkefjellet - 3.5km

At first glance, this paddle looked uncertain with cold 20 knot plus gusty winds, but up along the cliffs there was just enough protection and the water was more glassy. We towed the kayaks north of the anchorage and paddled downwind to the south. The paddle turned out to be much smoother and warmer than at first thought.

The paddle started out adjacent to some small waterfalls cascading down the dark grey dolerite cliffs. As we continued, we came across waterfall ice formed up in a number of gullies and the base of the cliffs were adorned with hanging skirts of snow. Then we started noticing how the dolerite cliffs encompassed these perfectly formed shelves for nesting seabirds. As the cliffs got higher, the numbers of little nesting shelves grew exponentially, filled with mostly black guillemots and a spattering of kittiwakes.

Once we rounded the corner, the cliffs just exploded skyward with towers and small pinnacles. There were so many guillemots on the wing that you thought you were in a cloud of mosquitoes.

The paddle ended with another highlight, the chance to see some Arctic fox. Isabelle picked up the paddlers Zodiac/uber style to give them a view of the Arctic fox, while Dan and Wes took the kayaks back to the ship.

19th June 2022: 14 Juli Bukta - 5km

The last day had come, and the last paddle for an incredible trip. The kayakers left the ship and set into 14 Juli Bukta. The huge glacial face beckoned them and it soon delivered. Multiple calvings afters after multiple calvings kept the paddlers in awe, the volume of each succeeding boom reverberating around the bay. The rolling swell in the brash ice was another source of entertainment and consternation, as the weight of falling ice sent ripples across the calm fjord.

Soon it was time to turn towards the shore. The kayak team set in towards the landing, a curious ringed seal following them all the way in. Once on the shore the group was able to enjoy the beautiful beach beneath soaring mountains, the blue of the glacier reflecting in melt pool lakes, and the incredible diversity of Arctic wild flowers. With the day's end closing in, it was time to head back for the warmth of the Greg Mortimer, back through the kayak room for the last time, and to a well-earned lunch.



Bird and Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	Scotland, Faroe Islands, Jan Mayen and Svalbard													
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Red-throated Diver	•	•							•					•
Great Northern Diver	•													
Northern Fulmar	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Northern Gannet	•	•	•	•	•	•								
Pink Footed Goose							•		•	•	•			•
Barnacle Goose							•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Greylag Goose	•	•	•											
Brent Goose													•	
Common Eider	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•
King Eider													•	
Ringed Plover									•					
Dunlin				•				•						
Purple Sandpiper			•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Common Sandpiper	•													
Ruddy Turnstone	•							•						
Northern Lapwing	•	•												
Common Redshank	•		•											
Common Snipe	•													
Eurasian Oystercatcher	•	•	•	•										
Whimbrel		•												
Eurasian Curlew	•	•												
Arctic Skua	•			•			•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Long-Tailed Skua								•						
Great Skua	•	•	•				•	•		•				•
Scaup		•												
Tufted Duck				•										
Red-breasted Merganser			•											
Iceland Gull	•	•												



Bird Species	Scotland, Faroe Islands, Jan Mayen and Svalbard													
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Herring Gull	•	•	•	•										
Sabine's Gull								•						
Glaucous Gull							•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Great Black-backed Gull	•	•	•	•										
Lesser Black-backed Gull	•	•	•	•				•		•				
Black-headed Gull	•											•		
Common Gull	•	•	•	•										
Black-legged Kittiwake	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Arctic Tern	•	•	•	•			•		•	•		•	•	•
Common Tern	•													
Common Guillemot	•	•	•	•										
Brunich's Guillemot							•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black Guillemot	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Razorbill	•	•	•	•										
Little Auk							•	•	•	•		•	•	
Atlantic Puffin	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•		•	
Manx Shearwater	•													
European Shag	•	•				•								
Great Cormorant	•													
Mute Swan	•													
Mallard	•	•	•	•										
Eurasian Coot	•													
Eurasian Moorhen	•													
Short-eared Owl	•													
Pigeon (Rock Dove)	•	•	•	•										
Barn Swallow	•													
Eurasian Wren	•	•				•								
Northern Wheatear	•													
Marsh Harrier	•													



Bird Species

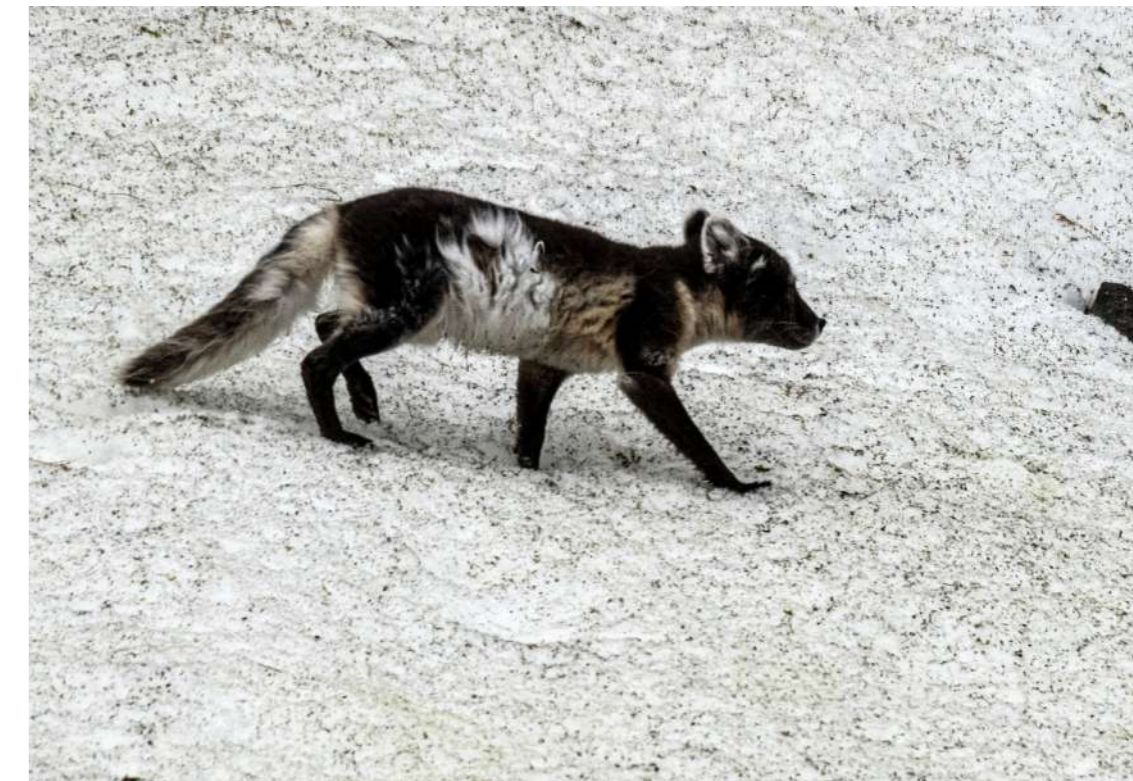
Scotland, Faroe Islands, Jan Mayen and Svalbard

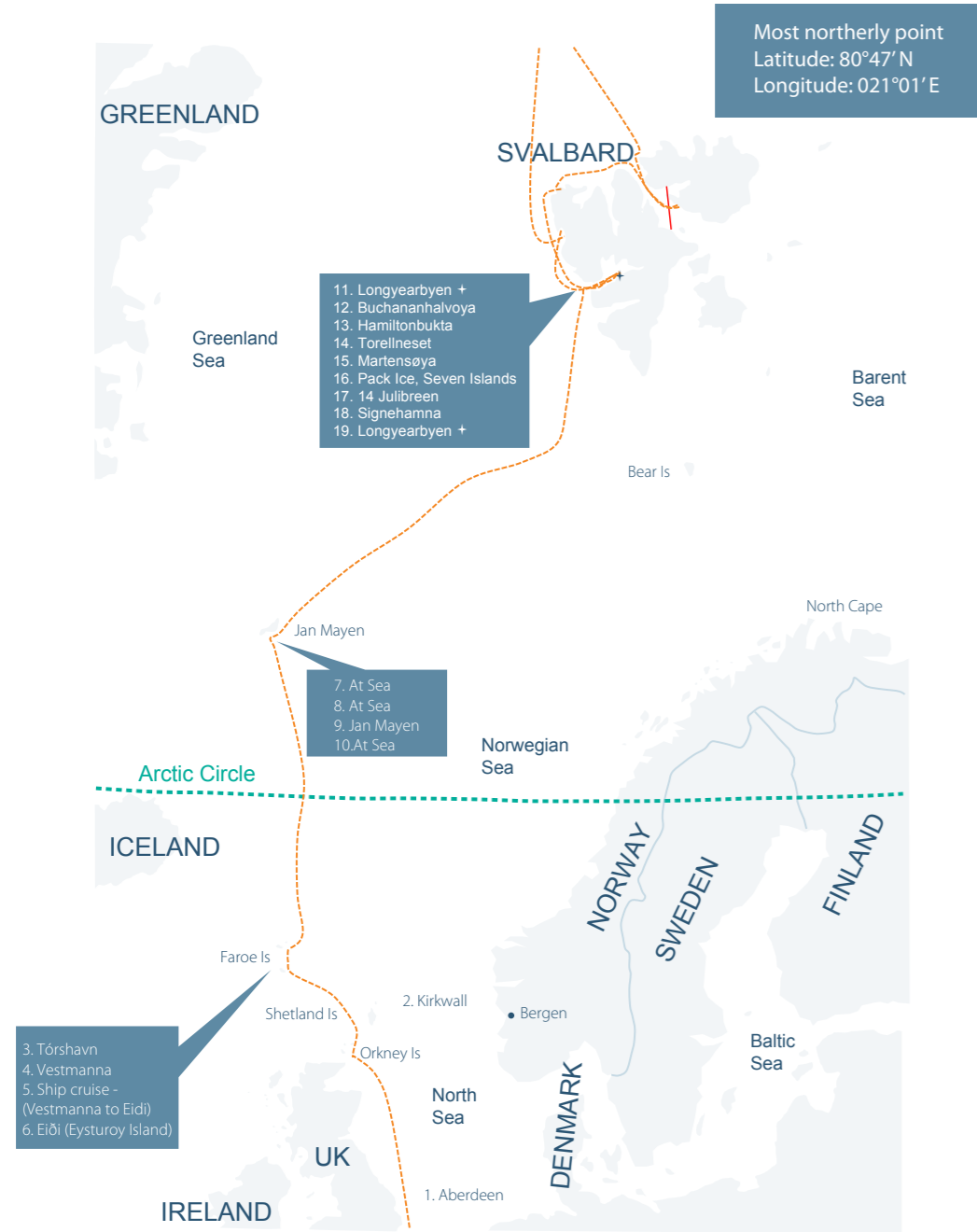
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Whooper Swan		●		●										
Meadow Pipit	●													
Dunnock	●													
Eurasian Linnet	●													
European Starling	●	●	●	●										
House Sparrow	●	●	●	●										
Eurasian Skylark	●													
Common Chaffinch	●													
Eurasian Blackbird	●	●		●										
Hooded Crow	●	●	●	●										
Rook	●	●												
Common Raven	●	●	●	●										
Eurasian Jackdaw	●													
Snow Bunting									●	●	●	●	●	

Mammal Species

Scotland, Faroe Islands, Jan Mayen and Svalbard

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Common/Harbour Seal	●													●
Grey Seal	●	●	●											
Bearded Seal										●	●	●		
Ringed Seal										●		●		
Walrus													●	
Polar Bear									●	●		●		
Fin Whale							●	●						
Blue Whale												●		
Common Dolphin	●													
Northern Bottlenose Whale							●	●						
Rabbit	●													
Arctic Fox											●		●	
Svalbard Reindeer									●	●			●	









Expeditioners:

Annalee Anderson-Rowe	Susanna Mason	Pina Tarlecki
Julie Ballard	Julie Maxwell	George Tripler
Margaret Barr	Steven Maxwell	Rod Tucker
Darrell Beninger	Austin McLaughlin	Mark Wheeler
Lee-Ann Beninger	Lynda McLaughlin	Judy Wheeler
Mae Chu	Fernando Montans Maisonnaive	Andy Whittaker
Barry Coidan	Robert Nichols	Malcolm Wright
Val Cox	Peter O'Brien	Irene Wyld
Mark Danby	Bill O'Brien	
Christiane Delongueville	Edie O'Brien	
Meiling Denney	Ruth Payne	
Daniel Fryer	Blake Powell	
Jeffrey Gegner	Karen Proudman	
Bruce Godfrey	Max Pudim	
Barbara Gordon	Jaque Rizzi Fortuna	
David Hewitt	Dave Rowe	
Liz Hewitt	Marilyn Rowe	
Barbara Hickl	Aurianna Rowe	
Ed Hickl Jr	Brian Russell	
Lindy Hosking	Stephen Scully	
Lawrence Katz	Nuki Sharir	
Judy Katz	Paul Spillmann	
Keith Liyanagama	Philip Stern	
Ken Macmahon	Marlene Stern	

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Howard Whelan

Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells

Onboard Expedition Manager: Rosie Leaney

Marine Biologist: Dani Abras

Naturalist: Ian McCarthy

Historian: Kirsty Dick

Expedition Guide/Naturalist: Graeme Snow

Kayaking Guide: Daniel Stavert

Kayaking Guide: Wes McNeil

Photography Guide: Scott Portelli

Medic: Piotr Damski

Zodiac Master: Sergei Hincu

Firearms Manager: Jeff Nagel

Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Reza Rusooly

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Oleg Klaptenko

Chief Officer: Oleg Kapko

Safety Officer: Andrey Zakalashnyuk

Safety Officer: Sergio Saldana Hernandez

Second Officer: Sergii Voina

Bosun: Oscar Antonio Castejon Torres

Deck Cadet: Vlad Nicolescu

Ship Doctor: Maria Suarez

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

First Engineer: Ion Toma

Hotel Director: Patrice Degron

F&B Manager: Miguel Cabanillas Alvarez

Chief Purser: Liza Merillo

Executive Chef: Christiand Carlos

Head Waiter: Diogenes Encinares

Hotel Controller: Richard Cayeta

IT Officer: Nataniel Vibares

Receptionist: Kateryna Tauzhnianska

Receptionist: Marie Annecy Reynoird

Head Stateroom: Elieser Nunez

Almendarez

Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier

Able Seaman: Bobby Penuliar Payumo

Able Seaman: Hardik Rao

Able Seaman: Ajay Fnu

Able Seaman: Joel Valdevieso Noble

Able Seaman: Giovanni Dela Torre

Photography thanks to:

Brian Russell

David Hewitt

Liz Hewitt

Ken Macmahon

Lynda McLaughlin

Austin McLaughlin

Paul Spillmann

Peter O'Brien

Piotr Damski

E Team

Scott Portelli

Dan Stavert

Dani Abras

Kirsty Dick



