

# Jewels of the Arctic

Aboard *MV Greg Mortimer* | 20 July – 2 August 2022





# Longyearbyen

DAY 1 | Wednesday 20 July

Position at 1600 on 20 July

Latitude: 79°15.593'N

Longitude: 015°29.839'E

Course: Anchored at Longyearbyen

Speed: 0.0 knots

Wind Speed: 6 knots from NW

Barometer: 1010

Air Temp: 8°C

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

Here we are inside the Arctic Circle, at 79° north, surrounded by the jagged mountains of Spitsbergen (Svalbard's largest island). In the picturesque small coal-mining town of Longyearbyen, we welcomed 75 new expeditioners to begin their Arctic adventure, as well as 35 of you back on board to continue yours. We got off our buses at the coal-wharf knowing that this will be our last glimpse of civilisation for a while.

It's exciting to think that from now on, we are more likely to encounter a walrus, reindeer, or polar bear than another human-being!

The warm and stable *Greg Mortimer* beckoned us on board, where we had a welcome buffet prepared by our Food and Beverage Team. The stewards helped us navigate the decks to our cabins and settle into our "home away from home".

After a welcome briefing from our Expedition Leader, Howard, some handy hints from Rosie, speeches from our Hotel Director, Patrice and Doctor Maria, we had the all-important safety drill.

Seven long blasts and one short blast of the ship's horn signalled us to grab our bulky orange lifejackets, our beanies and warm clothing, and muster in the lecture theatre. We followed our crew up to Deck 7 where the polar class life vessels sit (they can hold 136 people each, for five days). Our briefings finished for the night, we headed to the dining room for a delicious dinner prepared and served by our amazing hotel team.

Down at the expedition desk, the jacket exchange ensued, so now we are kitted out to face whatever weather the Arctic throws our way.

Those of us who had already completed the briefings (it feels like a long time ago), relaxed at the bar with friends new and old.

Under the midnight sun, we were given the all-clear to pull away from the wharf and begin our journey north.

Despite the challenges of travel, there was a definite buzz of excitement in the air!



# Smeerenburgfjorden & Ytre Norskoya

DAY 2 | Thursday 21 July

Position at 0700 on 21 July

Latitude: 79°13.473' N

Longitude: 010°18.973' E

Course: 002.7°

Speed: 15.5 knots

Wind Speed: 9.9 knots W

Barometer: 1029

Air Temp: 5° 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*

The mountains of Spitsbergen were shrouded in thick fog as we travelled up the east coast towards our ship cruise in spectacular Smeerenburgfjorden. Only the most optimistic amongst us thought that we would see anything through the fog. However, magically, the fog lifted just as we approached the head of the fjord and we were treated to a stunning scene of chaotic glaciers tumbling down to the sea between the towering spiky mountains that gave Spitsbergen its name. Most spectacular of all was the broad glacier of Smeerenburgreen, which looked like a series of giant fractured steps up to the mountains. This was also a great bird-watching opportunity as kittiwakes, auks and even an Arctic skua flew by. Then just as we departed, the fog descended and blanketed the scenery and we were on our way to Hamiltonbukta.

As the fog cleared as we left Smeerenburgfjorden and headed east to our next planned activity at Hamiltonbukta. However, that plan was changed as soon as the officers on the bridge told us that they had seen two polar bears on tiny Ytre Norskoya island. Howard changed plans immediately and as soon as we finished lunch, we boarded the Zodiacs to go and visit the bears. Little did we know what a great Zodiac cruise this would turn out to be. There was plenty of wonderful wildlife to be seen, including puffins, Brünnich's guillemots, ctenophores and a walrus, but the highlight was definitely the polar bears and especially the antics of the cub. While mum tried to rest, he climbed all over her back mouthing her head and trying to get her to play. He was just full of energy: bouncing around the hillside and the shoreline, going for a swim and playing with the seaweed. It was just a delight to watch him playing and exploring.

Back on the ship, everyone was raving about the experience. In the words of some of our fellow expeditioners:

"It was an awesome, unbelievable and unique experience" (Catharine).

"The cub was really entertaining" (Simon)

"I never expected to see anything like that" (Kevan)



"It was interesting to see that they had such human traits" (Candice)

"That was something you had to experience – the photos can never be the same" (Shannon)

"The interaction between mum and cub was just wonderful – you could see the love" (Diane)

So, the voyage is off to a great start and luck has been on our side. In the words of Joan: "How are they going to top this?"



# Hamiltonbukta, Smeerenburg & Virgohamna

DAY 3 | Friday 22 July

Position at 0700 on 22 July

Latitude: 79°47.924'N

Longitude: 011°54.185'E

Course: 367.1°

Speed: 1.2 knots

Wind Speed: 2.1 knots NW

Barometer: 1025

Air Temp: 5° C

When seen at a distance, the front part of the head of the young walrus, without tusks, is not unlike the human face. As this animal is in the habit of rearing its head above water, to look at ships, it is not at all improbable but that it may have afforded foundation for some of the stories of mermaids.

—*An Account of the Arctic Regions* by William Scoresby, 1826

In the morning of Friday the 22nd of July, we made our way into Raudfjord in north-west Spitsbergen. We anchored *Greg Mortimer* in the entrance to the fjord and were about to embark on a Zodiac cruise into Hamiltonbukta, one of the bays on the western side of the fjord. Visibility wasn't great but the seas were calm and we made our way to the bird cliffs then slowly cruised along the shore towards magnificent glaciers. We were able to see common and black guillemots, puffins, kittiwakes, gulls through the thick mist. After a while the bay started to fill up with growlers and bergy bits and we got to see the front of Hamiltonbreen which calved a few times while we were there.

We then made our way across the bay to the northern side where we saw more birds and on the way back to the ship we had another unexpected encounter with a polar bear mother and a cub. The bears didn't mind our presence and were resting on a tiny skerry in the middle of the bay while being harassed by Arctic terns. Slowly and quietly cruising around the skerry in the presence of many Arctic terns and jellyfish we were able to enjoy wonderful moments watching the mother polar bear and her playful cub. We returned to the ship afterwards to enjoy some delicious lunch and relax a bit before our next outing.

In the afternoon we immersed ourselves in the rich history of Svalbard while we visited Virgohamna and Smeerenburg. Smeerenburg – an early 17th century Dutch whaling station on the Amsterdam Island is one of the most famous cultural heritage sites in Spitsbergen. We heard about Svalbard's dark chapter in history of whaling and we could see the sites of old blubber ovens. After a short walk on the beach, we could see plenty of walrus resting and digesting. The second part of the afternoon outing was a Zodiac cruise along the shore of Virgohamna on Danskoya. Virgohamna is another historical place that bears witness to daring attempts of reaching the North Pole. In 1897 a trio of brave Swedish men embarked on an unprecedented flight in a hydrogen filled balloon to be first to reach the North Pole. About 65 hours after the take-off, they crash landed on pack ice. After a strenuous and hard three month walk south-east, they reached Kvitoya – The White Island where they met their end in unknown circumstances. Their remains were accidentally discovered in 1930 by a scientific expedition but the mystery of their unsuccessful expeditions hasn't been fully solved yet. Another day full of wonderful adventures was topped with delicious dinner and a small chat with Piotr about life on Svalbard.



# At Sea in the Fram Strait

DAY 4 | Saturday 23 July

Position at 1700 on 23 July

Latitude: 77°13.262'N

Longitude: 003°29.025'E

Course: 232.6°

Speed: 11.2 knots

Wind Speed: 5.8 knots NW

Barometer: 1026

Air Temp: 4° C

The ice was here, the ice was there, the ice was all around;  
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,  
Like noises in a swound!

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

It's been quite the journey across the Fram Straight on our way towards Eastern Greenland.

Glassy seas and no wind has everyone out and about this morning — the gym is full, early risers are getting their coffee, and the lecture theatre is set up for our first series of Rapid Antigen Testing (RATs) and biosecurity. After getting our noses picked and our vacuuming on, polar bears were next in the line-up.

We had a full house and full participation, as lots of information and stories were shared by Dani and our panel of naturalists. Who'd have thought polar bears would be such a popular subject in the Arctic?

After a hearty lunch, we had a bit of a rest before Scott and Liz gave a chat about how to get the most out of our smartphone photography. From 'live mode' effects to panoramas and slow-mos, we have so much power in the palm of our hands!

Feeling inspired, and with a new understanding of time-lapse videos, we made our way up to Deck 8 to join Daniel for a Citizen Science Cloud Survey. Looking up towards the sky and documenting the clouds, we can honestly say we all work for NASA now.

Recap seemed to sneak up during our afternoon naps. Dani taught us all about our blubbery friends, the walrus (including their oosiks), and we had our burning questions answered.

As we sat for dinner, we were visited by a pod of fin whales who swam by to say hello. It seems they got our memo that we'd be in the area, so it's a good thing someone on the ship speaks whale (maybe it's our 'crazy whale lady', Dani). With our bellies full and smiles on our faces, we made our way into the lecture theatre to listen to Bettina's tales of adventure, nature, and culture from her time living and working in Greenland... imaq!

Stopping at the bar to toast our day at sea, we get a final announcement from Howard. We're making great time across this lake of a strait, and we've hit the pack ice early! The observation platforms are down for our viewing pleasure and our Polar Class 6 is breaking her way through the ice.

Good night, *Greg Mortimer!*



# Greenland Sea

DAY 5 | Sunday 24 July

Position at 0800 on 24 July

Latitude: 75°56.091' N

Longitude: 009°43.185' E

Course: 226.7°

Speed: 12.1 knots

Wind Speed: 9 knots NE

Barometer: 1027

Air Temp: 2° C

The impression which the floe-ice of the Arctic seas makes upon the traveler for the first time he sees it is very remarkable. Most people will find that what they actually see is not a little different from what they have expected. A world of wonders and enchantments, a complete horizon of wild fantastic forms, ever changing, ever new, a wealth of brilliant rainbow hues playing and glowing amid the cold purity of the crystal ice, such are the features of the picture which the ingenuity of the imagination so often fondly creates.

—*Fridtjof Nansen, The First Crossing of Greenland*

Breakfast was cut short. At least for those that left their plates at the announcement of a large whale directly in front of the ship.

This was our second day at sea, on our way to the east coast of Greenland. The whale may have been heading there also, but it was in no rush. We stopped the ship to observe it. "It's a Blue whale" someone exclaimed. We looked to some of the experts, and they concurred. Blue indeed. The whale barely broke the surface but enough to see its size and tiny dorsal fin at the end of the body. We would never have spotted it if the sea was not so calm. It was amazing everyone how flat, glassy, and serene the sea was this far from any land. It was mesmerising.

Although it was a day with no outings, there was still plenty of activity on board; massages were booked, the gym and sauna got a workout, the library was well read.

An informative and interesting lecture on all things ice "Glaciology 101" with Dan was very cool. Sharing his passion for the creation of the dramatic landscapes we had seen in Svalbard and will see in Greenland.

Creativity and passion continued with a demonstration by Supto. He is our pastry chef and the man behind the elaborate sugar-based sculptures on display in the restaurant. His skill and technique were impressive.

The E-team although not on expedition today, still had plenty to do behind the scenes, including gathering for training sessions, where they could tie each other up in stretchers amongst other training.

Bettina prepared and informed us about the wonderful culture, society, wildlife and what we might expect to encounter in Greenland.

This afternoon a small group braved the cold to conduct a cloud survey for NASA. The information they recorded will help fine tune the data received from satellites and improve the understanding of clouds and weather patterns.

The learning did not stop, Cat, our assistant expedition leader, gave us an insight into how ice-charts work and how to interpret them.

After a briefing and some dinner, we relaxed with some popcorn and watched a documentary called "Chasing Ice". About halfway into the film, a whale was spotted from the Elephant Island bar. It was another Blue! However, the ship was travelling too fast and by the time we turned to look for it the elusive giant had disappeared from our sight, much like the glaciers on the screen.

We are steaming onward west tonight; it means we can turn the clocks back an hour and be on east Greenland time. It's exciting to think we are getting closer, and the gathering ice floes outside the ship confirm it. Greenland, here we come!



# Clavering Island: Dødemansbugten & Eskimonæs

DAY 6 | Monday 25 July

Position at 0800 on 25 July

Latitude: 74°06.031' N

Longitude: 020°38.884' E

Course: 257.1°

Speed: 11.1 knots

Wind Speed: 6 knots SE

Barometer: 1028

Air Temp: 4° C

Breakfast was fast devoured today. Everybody was excited this was the day of the first landing in north-east Greenland. Sure enough, our trusted Zodiacs brought us to the shore of "Dødemansbugten" (Dead Man's Bay) to enjoy our first morning in Greenland. Walking up the beach we encountered lots of wildlife swarming around our heads, the mosquitoes had found us and seemed thrilled by the encounter and the possibility to get access to new bloodlines. Unlike other species of mosquito, the female Arctic mosquito can live on nectar from flowers and still lay eggs but dining on blood greatly increases the number of eggs that she produces.

Today's menu for us humans was a choice between a long, medium or short hike. All hikes began with a visit to the big wooden building just up from the shoreline. Here Bettina told us about the history of the hut, which was the northern headquarters of the first civil Northeast Dog Sled Patrol from 1943 to 1944. It was built because the former headquarters just up the coast had been burned down by German soldiers in 1943. The hut was very well designed with bunk beds, a coal stove and provisions. The Sirius Dog Sled Patrol visited the hut 16 January this year and had thoroughly enjoyed the spacious room and the hot stove.

After the visit to the hut, the walks took us into the wild Arctic nature complete with white mountain avens, pink moss campions, yellow cinquefoil and deep magenta broadleaved willow herb, Greenland's national flower.

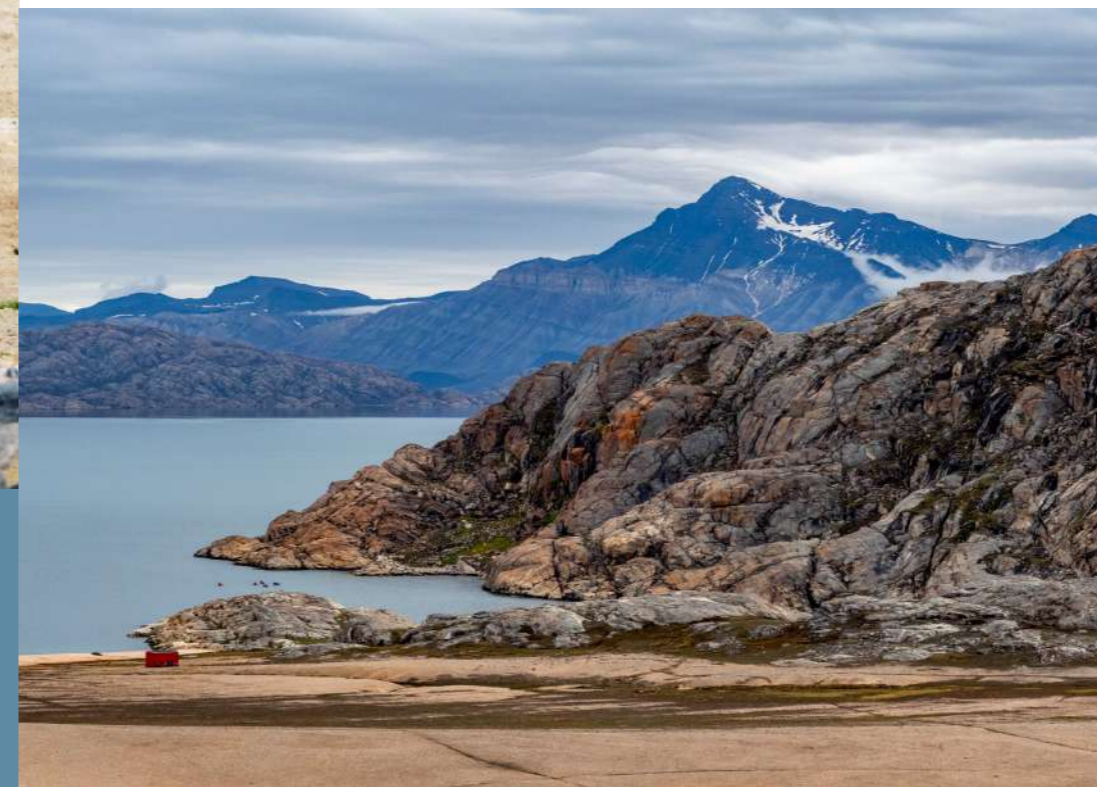
It wasn't long before we were back on land again, this time at place called "Eskimonæs" (Eskimo Cape). This was the site of the burned down hut, where lots of metal objects like teapots, generator parts and a stove were strewn around. We visited the one building that survived the fire and Bettina told us about the German attack and how "Eskimonæs" was in fact built as a research station in 1931 by the Danish geographer, Lauge Koch.

The area beckoned to be explored, so the groups of long, middle and short hikers were soon on their way festooned with cameras and binoculars. The landscape sported hills dotted with green ledges and a huge flat-bottomed valley that led to a lovely beach. Eider ducks were seen there and, surprisingly, a huge green fishing net stuck in the sand. Of course, there was no way we could leave it there so it is now safely onboard the *Greg Mortimer*. A group of musk ox was also spotted in the hills and it was wisely decided to leave them where they were. The kayakers had a splendid day out paddling both areas relishing the calm seas, the undulating coastline, and relatively warm weather.

After dinner it was time to absorb the mesmerising midnight sun glistening across the peaceful sea laced with ice floes in the horizon as we resumed our voyage south.



Muskox: Shaggy relics of the last ice age, the Musk Ox (*Ovibos moschatus*) is Greenland's largest grazing animal. Their natural range currently includes the northern tier of Canada as well as northern and north-east Greenland, but during the last ice age, they lived in the shadow of the great continental ice sheet well south into what is now the USA.





# Greenland Sea & Pack Ice

DAY 7 | Tuesday 26 July

Position at 0800 on 26 July

Latitude: 72°57.146' N

Longitude: 017°37.544' E

Course: 238°

Speed: 13.7 knots

Wind Speed: 4.7 knots SE

Barometer: 1026

Air Temp: -1° 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.

—Stirling, *Polar Bears*

Overnight we continued our journey south down the coast of East Greenland. With large volumes of ice still in sight, Howard and the bridge team steered our ship towards open ocean allowing for a better chance either today or tomorrow of making it into Kong Oscar Fjord.

After a hearty breakfast we joined Bettina in the lecture theatre to learn about the trapper period in Greenland and the Sirius dog sled patrol. The sledge patrol, Sirius is tasked with monitoring the uninhabited coast between Liverpool Land on the east coast and the Nares Strait on the north coast, a coastline of approx. 2,100 km. The patrol takes place with dog sledge in the winter months from approx. November 1 to June 1, and in the summer by sailing the ice-free fjords.

Before lunch Reza and Gabriel opened the ship shop to satisfy our retail needs and Dasha was busy massaging our aches and pains away in the wellness centre. During lunch we were treated to spectacular scenery of passing pack ice, mountain landscapes and calm open seas.

As we settled into an afternoon onboard, the team thought what better way to spend it to get us into the water. It was time for the infamous polar plunge! We followed Rosie's instructions and smiled at the camera as we took a leap into the icy cold water, a balmy 3° brrrrr. Congratulations to 49 brave plungers.

Uninterrupted beauty remained, allowing for a perfect backdrop to accompany a cup of home-made hot chocolate, prepared by our wonderful hotel team. The Observation Lounge was pumping inside and out! Dani, Snowy, John and Dan took this opportunity for some citizen science surveying. Dan took the cloud observers to the stern of Deck 7 and the rest of the team started counting birds out on Deck 8.

For an unforeseen day at sea, we were spoilt to an array of activity onboard. The X-BOW® slicing through turquoise blue pools of ice, a soak or two in the jacuzzi or simply admiring the vast landscape around us.

Before long we gathered in the lecture theatre for our daily recap. Snowy explained how we can use specific characteristics to help us identify different bird species and Dan began educating us on the vastly long geological

history of Greenland which spans over 3.8 billion years. As we listened, we were alerted to a swimming polar bear on the starboard side not too far from the ship. We watched it hunt and swim between ice floes before leaving it to search for seals in peace. Thank you to our Bar Manager Irene, great spotting!

After dinner, Joselyn was joined by several keen expeditioners who were interested in finding out about all the cool microscopic critters underneath the water. Jos showed us slides of several different kinds of plankton and we got to study up close some amphipods.

As some of us crawled into bed, Howard called everyone out on deck to revel in the stupendousness of the pack ice as the ship was trying to break through towards tomorrow's destination.

"If you were an alien and wanted to try to piece together the geological story of Planet Earth – but could only visit one area – East Greenland would be the place to go."



# Polar Plunge

DAY 7 | Tuesday 26 July



# Gateau Point, Kong Oscar Fjord

DAY 8 | Wednesday 27 July

Position at 1800 on 27 July

Latitude: 72°02.545' N

Longitude: 022°30.634' E

Course: 142°

Speed: 13.4 knots

Wind Speed: 11.6 knots SE

Barometer: 1024

Air Temp: 0° 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 were woken up even earlier today than usual when Howard made an unexpected announcement at around 2:00am advising us that we'd made it through the bands of sea ice into Kong Oscar Fjord and the view was spectacular. Those who got up for a look were treated to calm, glassy waters lit by low sunlight turning the mountains and occasional icebergs a pinky orange. It really was spectacular and well worth the interruption to our sleep.

At a more regular time, soon after breakfast, we headed ashore at a place known as Gateau Point, just at the entrance to Segelsallskapet Fjord. The origin of the name was pretty obvious to all, with the steep slopes opposite our landing beach streaked with thick and thin sedimentary layers of white, red and brown rock sloping down to the water, like a layer cake.

We split into groups for our walks up into the rocky valley above the beach, the long walkers heading up the steep gully while the medium groups took a slightly flatter path around the striped, rocky outcrops. Some of the long walkers managed to see an Arctic fox off in the distance but it didn't stay around for long. All of the groups ended up coming back down along a deep gully where a river of melt-water was streaming out to sea. Some decided to get a pick-up by Zodiac at this beach and head back to the ship while a hardy few continued on back to our landing site. Meanwhile, the short walking group spent some of their time participating in a Citizen Science project on the sandy beach, looking for micro-plastics with Dani. Actually, they just played with buckets and spades and made sandcastles at the beach and pretended it was science. After this they took the opportunity to head out towards the mouth of the fjord for a Zodiac cruise, where the kayakers had also paddled. The kayakers also managed to land on one of the small islands down that way and found some recent polar bear tracks.

Back on board the ship in the afternoon, as we headed back out Kong Oscar Fjord and off to the south, John spoke about Arctic oceanography, glaciology and climate science. For something completely different, a little later, Dasha conducted a yoga class up on the back of Deck 7. A group of enthusiastic stretchers and benders contorted in all directions as we sailed through the spectacular snow-capped peaks and pack ice.



Soon after, we encountered a low, dense fog bank that stayed with us for most of the rest of the day, although later in the evening it did clear enough for us to be able to see some sea ice and hundreds of little auks in small groups, swimming and flying low across the glassy waters.



# Ittoqqortoormiit, Scoresby Sund

DAY 9 | Thursday 28 July

Position at 0800 on 28 July

Latitude: 70°23.883' N

Longitude: 021°59.775' E

Course: 323°

Speed: 8.5Kts

Wind Speed: 22 knots N

Barometer: 1024

Air Temp: 0°C

Sirius Patrol: Sirius Patrol originated as a result of meteorological stations which operated in North-East Greenland prior to and during World War II. In 1941 the defence of NE Greenland became the responsibility of a sledge patrol that consisted of 9 Danes, 1 Norwegian and 2 Greenlanders, who patrolled by dog sledge with support of American ships and planes

With a weather front coming in from the Greenland Sea, we retreated into the relatively calm waters of Scoresby Sund for some protection from the elements. This morning we got our first introduction to the Greenland community.

The coastal village of Ittoqqortoormiit is a hillside studded with small, colourful Danish-style houses, home to ~370 East Greenlanders and 50–100 sledging dogs. In 1924, thanks to the driving force of Ejnar Mikkelsen Miki, a ship left Copenhagen for Scoresby Sund, laden with building materials and provisions. A wintering party of seven was left to begin work on the construction. The following year 85 Greenlanders arrived from Ammassalik, a village 800 kms south. These pioneers formed the basis of today's large settlement. Ittoqqortoormiit's structure is based on the Danish social model, with free health care and schooling. The government owns the main supermarket and other facilities. The tax rate in Ittoqqortoormiit is 42% and the cost of living, evidenced by the supermarket prices, is high. But many choose to live here because of their strong affinity with the natural environment and an aversion to city life.

The rain wasn't going to stop us from experiencing this remote community and getting a glimpse into life in East Greenland. The welcoming smiles of the locals and the hospitality they showed us was second to none. They opened the museum and some of the local children greeted us, as we took a step back in time. Photos from 1926 showing the faces of people and the ability for small communities to survive and live off the land and sea. The visitor centre did a roaring trade as souvenirs, postcards and local crafts walked off the shelves, and everyone was eager to support the local community. A visit to the church saw a local lady sat spinning yarn from the fur of muskox.

On the street, some of our expeditioners watched as the sled dogs, excited by our presence and eager for feeding time, howled to the captive audience as their voices echoed through the town. Up on the hill at the weather station, we waited eagerly to watch the release of the weather balloon, which is launched every day at 1100 and 2300. This quiet little town with its colourful houses and the backdrop of icebergs, was surreal.

Despite being soaking wet, which was definitely part of the adventure, we had the privilege of visiting this beautiful place. As the weather front showed its face, we were hit by more rain and wind, which made the planned afternoon outing at Hurry Inlet impossible. But it did allow some of our expert team to share some amazing stories, history and culture about Greenland. Bettina talked about black magic, while Piotr regaled us with stories of sled dogs and life in the region.

That evening, we came closer into the fjords, and the looming clouds and rain eased for just a moment, we started see the dramatic peaks, impressive icebergs and the hanging glaciers weaving their way through the mountains. The scene was set and despite the inclement weather, we knew we were in for an ice-themed adventure, no matter what the next few days might bring.



# Nordvestfjord & Eskimobugten

DAY 10 | Friday 29 July

Position at 0800 on 29 July

Latitude: 71°50.759'N

Longitude: 027°45.606'E

Course: 332°

Speed: 14.5 knots

Wind Speed: 14.5 knots NW

Barometer: 1018

Air Temp: 7°C

The lure of the North! It is a strange and a powerful thing. More than once I have come back from the great frozen space, battered and worn and baffled, sometimes maimed, telling myself that I had bade my last journey thither, eager for the society of my kind, the comforts of civilization and the peace and serenity of home. But somehow it was never many months before the old restless feeling came over me. I began to long for the great white desolation, the battles with the ice and the gales, the long, long Arctic night, the long long Arctic day, the handful of odd but faithful Eskimos who had been my friends for years, the silence, the vastness of the great, white lonely North.

And back I went...

—Robert Peary

After the past few days of fog and mist and rain, it was pretty incredible to start the day with a full sun morning on the water exploring a labyrinth of massive icebergs in the deepest and longest fjord system in the world. It seemed everyone was profoundly impressed by the size, mass, and diversity of the baby glaciers surrounding us. Snaking our way through the city of ice towards the upper reaches of Nordvestfjord, a bonus feature came into focus along the northern side—it seemed like a small river of ice at a distance but upon approach it resolved to be a craggy ice fall of a glacier with a 50m high front. The scale of this place is just hard to appreciate. It was wonderful to be out in the sun and experience the peace of this wild place, with new sights around every corner.

When it was time to head for home, it wasn't immediately clear where the ship actually was: maybe the Captain was playing hide and seek with us in the glacier playground. Regardless it was difficult to come inside for nourishment when Greenland kept tantalizing us with endless surprises: a waterfall from the top of the icecap, multiple glaciers snaking up and away to the hinterlands, and of course ice ice ice in all shapes and sizes.

The incredible weather continued for our afternoon landing at Eskimobugten. The walking groups were confronted by a high steep slope but after a slow approach it became clear why the paleoeskimoes settled here: it is one of the few places with flat surfaces and vegetation close to the life-giving sea. Bettina gave us a chat about the reality of life for this paleo culture; standing next to the dwelling foundations and looking into the grave sites brought a feeling of deep time, in addition to profound appreciation of what life would be like here without our modern-day conveniences let alone our cosy home, the *Greg Mortimer*. Heading up the hill we were surprised by the gift of seeing a few musk ox here and there, even a calf or two, plus a couple of Arctic hare standing sentinel on the ridgeline. What luck to get to see such impressive animals so close up. As usual before we were ready it was time to head back to the beach to catch our UberX ride back to the ship.



The weather stayed gorgeous and as Howard promised the evening transit to tomorrow's landing location was a sight to behold, but only for the dedicated who stayed up to see what Greenland had up its sleeve for us.



# Rypefjord, Harefjord & Røde Island

DAY 11 | Saturday 30 July

Position at 0800 on 30 July

Latitude: 70°56.7'N

Longitude: 27°13.01'E

Course: 253°

Speed: 4.2 knots

Wind Speed: 4.5 knots SW

Barometer: 1020

Air Temp: 7°C

The impression which the floe-ice of the Arctic seas makes upon the traveler for the first time he sees it is very remarkable. Most people will find that what they actually see is not a little different from what they have expected. A world of wonders and enchantments, a complete horizon of wild fantastic forms, ever changing, ever new, a wealth of brilliant rainbow hues playing and glowing amid the cold purity of the crystal ice, such are the features of the picture which the ingenuity of the imagination so often fondly creates.

—Fridtjof Nansen, The First Crossing of Greenland

We awoke to another warm (Arctic) beautiful day in Greenland. Howard's now familiar voice heralding in another day of adventures. The long walkers had an early start and commenced the day before the rest. They set off after a light breakfast for a one-way transit of 12km. After delivering the long walkers at Rypefjord the rest of us had breakfast while the ship repositioned and then it was time for the medium and short walkers to disembark at Harefjord.

On land the vegetation was different to what we had encountered before as the whole hillside was cloaked in thick, high - above 20cm - greenery. Water was widely abundant. Feeding on this greenery was quite a number of musk ox herds and all walking groups spotted these and attempted to get closer with varying degrees of success. Musk ox move quickly and easily over steep and uneven terrain. The long walkers passed an inland lake before ascending the main ridge, the medium walkers crossed numerous gullies and the short walkers made it up onto a rise. All were afforded views over the bay with its beautiful bergs and distant snow-capped mountain peaks. The *Greg Mortimer* was dwarfed by some of the larger bergs.

After a hearty and delicious lunch, the ship repositioned to Røde Øya. What followed for many was the highlight of the trip – a Zodiac cruise amongst the ice graveyard which surround the aptly named red island. A ring seal was seen resting in the shallows abutting the island. Both the kayaks and Zodiac drivers tested their skills squeezing through a tight red stone arch, while glaucous gulls watched the spectacle from above, perched on elevated nests. Around the edge of the island we headed out into the labyrinth of icebergs. Channels were tight and paths uncertain. Some Zodiacs made a landing on a flat low iceberg, others chose a short landing on the red island itself and a stroll up to a vantage point that gave stunning views of the bay packed with colossal bergs. All enjoyed zipping amongst the magnificent bergs awestruck by their size and beauty. A delicate yet huge ice arch was seen at close quarters across the bay. All too soon it was time to return to the ship.

Taking full advantage of the warm sunny evening and spectacular scenery dinner was a BBQ held outside on Deck 8. Fun and frivolities were enjoyed, great food consumed, and singing and dancing led by the always





# Syd Kap & Bear Islands

DAY 12 | Sunday 31 July

Position at 1600 on 31 July

Latitude: 71°03.574' N

Longitude: 025°11.0461' E

Course: 182.2°

Speed: 2.8 knots

Our exploration of Scoresbysund continued today as we cruised northwards through Øfjord towards our morning landing at Syd Kap (South Cape). This cape marks the junction of two mighty fjord systems within Scoresbysund: Northwestfjord and Øfjord. It was also a summer camping site for Thule people visiting from more permanent settlements further up the fjords.

The shore party landed Zodiacs on a small rocky beach and divided into our usual long, medium and short walking groups for the morning's adventures. First, we visited gravesites of the Thule people, where Bettina told us about the lives of the Thule people and explained their beliefs about death, burial and the afterlife. Each grave overlooked the fjords, so the deceased maintained their connection to the sea. We also found graves of infants and children; a poignant reminder of the tough lives of those early hunters.

Meanwhile, the kayakers paddled amongst some spectacular icebergs and listened in awe as the ice cracked like a rifle-shot. Fortunately, these cracks did not lead to one of the icebergs splitting apart so the kayakers continued to find more and more spectacular ice. Some blue streaks in a giant iceberg close to the coast made an impressive backdrop for the kayakers group photo.

After visiting the gravesites, the morning walks proceeded in the usual manner, with the long walkers striding out, the medium walkers taking a more leisurely pace and the short walkers exploring the local area in more detail. The long and medium walkers explored the near-coastal environment of Greenland. We heard and then saw a couple of great northern divers, and then looked out over some magnificent icebergs at the end of the walk. Meanwhile, the short walkers found the summer camping site of the Thule people, complete with tent sites and stone artefacts such as arrow heads and scrapers.

Over lunch, we re-positioned the ship to the nearby Bear Islands for our final excursion of the voyage. Before exploring this maze of islands, we circled some spectacular blue and black icebergs. The blue ice was formed when glacial ice melted, then re-froze as a freshwater lake within the glacier, while the black ice was coloured by finely-ground glacial moraine within the ice. This black band then attracted more heat from the sun, melting the ice into a complex and curious sculpture.

We then entered the labyrinth of islands and explored its bays and inlets. As usual, each group had its own unique adventure; with some seeing mother eider ducks leading their ducklings out on the water, some seeing ringed seals and others watching musk oxen on the hillsides. Those musk oxen would have walked to the islands when the sea was frozen and will need to wait until next winter to walk back across the frozen seas to find food.

Wind Speed: 7.7 knots SE

Barometer: 1023

Air Temp: 3°C

Before dinner, we gathered on Deck 7 for a group photo. The highlight of the evening was the hilarious trivia quiz in Mawson's Bar. Thanks to Liz for organising this event and for controlling the rowdy hoards with grace, style and a loud voice.



## Icebergs

Icebergs originate from calving glaciers that terminate in the ocean. 1/10th of the iceberg is visible, while the remaining 9/10ths are under water. Dirty icebergs or icebergs without any air bubbles originate from the very base of the glacier, where the ice is dragged across the bedrock, and is under so much pressure that air bubbles can escape from between the ice crystals.





# At Sea, Denmark Strait

DAY 13 | Monday 1st August

Position at 0800 on 1 August

Latitude: 67°8'18.2204" N

Longitude: 026.1321717" E

Course: 177°

Speed: 13.1 knots

Wind Speed: 20 knots NW

Barometer: 1023

Air Temp: 4°C

We have striven, we have sought and we have found. Of course our little expedition is not in the same realm as those of the great polar explorers of the past but it is a little taste and sets us apart from 99% of the people we meet every day. Perhaps we can retain some of the beauty, serenity and timelessness of the far northern world we have travelled in. Better still that we can take it back to our everyday lives.

—Ian Collier, Aurora passenger, Arctic season 2005

It was not until 7.30am this morning Howards voice woke us, giving us a well-deserved lie-in. We headed to the buffet at a leisurely 8am for our penultimate breakfast.

It was soon time for a session with our "Crazy Whale Lady" Dani in the lecture theatre. With Dani's contagious enthusiasm, and the minke, humpback and fin whale encounters we have enjoyed on this voyage, we will all be leaving Greenland feeling crazy about whales too!

Following Dani, we had the less exciting, but equally important disembarkation briefing with Rosie.

Some of us headed out to the decks to watch for whale blows, and gaze at the graceful soaring fulmars and kittiwakes riding the ocean wind.

After lunch, Daniel played a short movie which was filmed in 1925 in East Greenland entitled "Palo's Wedding", which gave us another insight into the culture and traditions of the Inuit people as we enjoyed our popcorn. Then as if we needed more feeding, a wonderful spread of afternoon tea was laid on in the Elephant Island Bar.

Our final lecture of the day was with Dani and John, who gave us a recap about all the great work we have done together for in our citizen science projects over the course of this voyage – these include Happy Whale, microplastic survey, the Globe Cloud surveys (we can now add to our resume that we worked for NASA) and E-Bird.

Amid the flurry of departing rituals (briefings, packing, returning borrowed gear), we are concerned about the immediate plans, 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, majestic polar bears and lazing walrus, shaggy musk ox, just to name a few.



# Reykjavik

DAY 14 | Reykjavik 2nd August

Position at 0800 on 2 August

Latitude: 64.1466° N

Longitude: 21.9426° W

Course: Anchored at Reykjavik

Speed: 0.0 knots

Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard MV *Greg Mortimer*. We hope to see you on the high seas again someday!



# Kayaking Log

**Kayak Masters:** Daniel Stavert, Liz MacNiell, Sigurd Davidsen, Eamon Larkin

Number of Paddlers: 20      Total Paddle Outings: 10      Total Distance Paddled: 73.7 km, (39.85 nm)

Paddlers:	Tim & Ann Gillespie	Nanco Van Der Maas
Clare & Peter Hamilton	Jennifer Jones	Kevin Clarke
Craig Cooper	Liz Burrows	Colin & Stephanie Mugglestone
Rudi Mahne	Justin Ewin	Matthew & Liz Kempton
Carolyn Wiseman	Catherine Eva	
Catherine De Vrye	Noel & Glenda McKay	

## Friday 22nd July

**AM: Hamiltonbukta - Distance 6.2km (3.35 nm)**

This was our first paddle. Some of our group had been with us for the last trip and were now labelled the “veteran paddlers”. The new team marvelled at how efficiently the veterans could slip into dry-suits, pour themselves into their kayaks and glide away from the ship. Our new team of paddlers will get there soon enough. After we all were sized up into kayaks the moment had come to set out into the foggy bay beyond. A couple of instructional and safety briefings and we were away. Rafts of black guillemots eyed us nervously as we drifted by. We approached a very tall cliff face that disappeared into the fog above. The noise grew louder. It was birds, lots of them. Hundreds maybe thousands of kittywakes and guillemots nested high on the cliff. We could see them darting in and out of the fog. As we ventured further into the bay the sound was replaced by the calving of a glacier in the distance. Occasionally we could see small pieces of ice tumble into the bay. It was then that we heard over the radio chatter of a polar bear in the area. Luckily not near us, but also close enough that we could watch it from a safe distance. It turned out to be a mother and cub resting on a rocky skerry. With the Zodiacs circling around us we rafted up and watched in awe these beautiful wild animals. The cub very playfully climbing all over mum, the mother raising her head occasionally to test the air and relaxing again. At some stage we had to depart. We passed some Arctic terns with their fluffy chicks and returned onto the ship with broad smiles. Perfect conditions for an introductory paddle. Fantastic wildlife encounters.

**PM:**

Smeerenberg it was too windy to paddle so Zodiac cruise to see seals and the historic site at virgohamner, and cross over to see walrus at the old abandoned whaling settlement of Smeerenberg

## Monday 25th July

**AM: Dodermansbukta - Distance 5 km (2.7 nm)**

The morning dawned calm and clear and the *Greg Mortimer* cruised into the still waters of East Greenland for the first time. Launching from the platform, the kayakers were greeted by mirror seas; the inky dark waters with barely a ripple save the gentle swell of ice glowing in the morning sun.

The kayakers set out from the ship, one group heading west and another east. Both groups cruising around sleepy icebergs, taking moments to bask in the high peaks and rolling hillsides. The first group, turned in towards shore and spying a small waterfall, took the chance to explore. The landing gave a chance to put feet on Greenland and to discover the little joys of this place. That inhospitable harshness of its landscape hides life in abundance, on a small scale, and hidden from easy view. Flowers and willow meadows revealed themselves as the kayakers stepped above the shoreline. The lush life a true welcome to Greenland moment.

Both groups explored the rocky shoreline, paddling around icebergs and exploring the ever varying geology of the land, before finally landing at the historical Sirius Patrol hut. There they could poke their noses inside and see what living in small quarters far above the Arctic circle can be like. The second group took the chance to hike up to a high lookout spot before both groups turned their noses for home. Our first paddle in Greenland complete and a wonderful introduction to this paddler’s paradise.

**PM: Eskimonæs. Distance 6.8 km (3.7 nm)**

The water was still glassy calm when we anchored just off the cove of Eskimonæs. A wall of metamorphic rock rose steeply out of this enormous fjord. That would be our first destination to paddle to. Once the area had been scouted and cleared by our safety Zodiac we cruised along the rocky shoreline admiring the beautiful shapes and colours of the walls beside us.

Patches of green between the rock were sprinkled with a variety of Arctic wildflowers in yellows, pinks, purples, whites, and reds. Many rocks below the mosses and grasses were stained black with an algae that had spread from the water running over them. It looked like they had been painted. A few small caverns had been eroded into the coast, enough to get half a kayak into. Getting up close the rock we could see quartzite, pyrite and garnet imbedded in the walls. Wanting to see what was around every “next corner” we had to decide on a spot to turn back. Looking back with distance, the scale and impressive enormity of the landscape was a lot to absorb. Giant mountains across the fjord reached up into the clouds.

The two groups came together at one point and we had a moment of reflection. We are paddling in Greenland, and it is spectacular.

## Wednesday 27th July

**AM: Gateau Point - Distance 9.2km (5 nm)**

I thought Gateau Point was the actual name of this spectacular place we visited this morning. It was a very fitting name after all. I learned later that it was a place name that Aurora had coined for the area because of how much the rock layering on the huge walls, looks like the famous cake. From the moment we left the ship it was impressive, you could sit and stare at this geological mecca for hours, so why not do it from a kayak. We hugged the rocky coastline until we rounded a point and spied what looked like an island. We landed cautiously on the best part of a beach and scouted our area. The water here was so clear and inviting it was tempting to strip off for a swim, then we felt the temperature and thought better of it. It was indeed a medium sized island with great

boulders and rocky lookouts that offered excellent views. Colourful wildflowers were scattered between the rocks, while mosses and lichens grew on them. Admiring the flowers, Ann G, spotted a animal print in the dried mud. On inspection it was indeed a Polar bear paw print. That added another level of excitement to our island exploration. We decided it wise to be happy with what we had seen and return to the kayaks the way we had come.

Paddling back to the ship we soaked up the beauty of the mountains in front of us. The bands of colour in the rock were just ....wow! Gateau Point, delicious.

## Friday 29th July

**AM: Scoresby Sund - Distance – 9.4 km ( 5.1 nm)**

Nordvestfjord: The ship weaved its way further and further up the sound all night and all morning until we reached a point of no return. The ice was starting to fill in all the gaps between the two huge walls. With Ice bergs ahead of us, either side of us and plenty behind us we ventured out in two groups. One team headed up a little further into the fjord, the other heading towards a particularly attractive and large berg nearby. Anywhere and everywhere you looked there was amazing bergs glistening on this perfect day. With the sun shining strong the ice was glowing in all its glory. Both groups found sculptural icebergs over the next couple of hours.

**PM: Eskimobukta**

**Team Beluga - Distance 3.5km (1.9 nm)**

After an incredible morning in the ice of Nordvest Fjord the ship headed for Eskimobukta. The cruiser team headed straight in for shore, hugging close to get away from the brisk westerly breeze. The shore itself was a geological wonderland. Layers of gneiss, with mica intrusions, twisted into streaks and swirls, as infinite in their variation as they were beautiful.

Coming around the corner, the team found the quiet bay, and took a moment to prepare to land. Eskimobukta was a site of inuit useage perhaps into the 1800s and arriving at an inuit community in inuit designed vessels was a special experience. From the shore the team as able to walk past the winter home remains, and up to an incredible waterfall before turning for home.

**Team Orca – Distance 9.4 km ( 5.1 nm)**

The impressive icebergs on the Port side of the ship drew us in. Some so enormous they looked like mini glacier faces with no glacier behind them. The problem with paddling towards big bergs on the other side of the bay is, they look deceptively closer than they are. We had a slight headwind to get over to the sheltered area of the icebergs. Once there the shapes, colours and markings of these icy giants was truly beautiful.

We admired and rested, happy in the knowledge that we could cross the bay again but with the wind behind us. Of course, the wind decided to calm down on our return. The ship looked small in the distance, time was running out, so we decided to call a taxi Zodiac.



## Saturday 30th July

AM: Harefjord - Distance – 8.1 km ( 4.4 nm)

The beautiful red soils of Harefjord greeted the paddlers as they set out today. With many of the group shore-bound hiking across the landscape. It was a small group that left the ship ready to explore. Huge Icebergs drifted in the fjord, and the rich red earth provided fertile ground for an abundance of foliage. The vibrant green a true contrast to the world of rock and ice of the last few days.

Cruising along this shoreline, the paddlers soon spied three musk ox ashore. With a quick landing, the team were soon hiking up the hill. As quietly as they could, each team member carefully moving over dwarf birch and the distinctive purple flower of fireweed. Soon the musk ox were in view, a female and male with a little calf. The trio calmly grazed across the meadow, an incredible encounter in a remarkable setting. The return to the ship was a smooth operation, another amazing paddle in the Arctic completed.

PM: Røde Island - Distance 8.7 km (4.7 nm)

After an incredible morning in Rode O the bar was set high for paddling in Harefjord. However as the paddlers left the ship the first hints of red and white gave a hint of what was to come.

The Beluga group initially explored the archways, cracks, and steep red rock walls of this fantastic island. They paddled through some rock gaps caused by huge pieces of the cliff breaking off and leaning against the walls at sea-level. A small harbour seal was spotted resting on some rocks at the base of the cliffs.

Glassy conditions mirrored their paddle strokes as they entered the narrow channel that separates the island from the mainland. Here, strong currents push huge quantities of ice into the shallow waterway. There, giant icebergs drift amongst swirling currents and tower over the bright crimson of the island. The paddlers cruised through this dreamscape, each paddle stroke taking them deeper into the labyrinth of ice. The avenues and alley ways of bergs constantly shifting in the tide. Finding a path through this landscape, the Orca group made a quick detour to land, and to hike up to a view point. There they could look down on each Zodiac as it weaved through the maze and marvel as huge bergs collapsed and sent swell rolling into the cove. The team took a moment to soak up the atmosphere before returning to their boats. From there it was a constant weave and wind through ever varying icebergs. The crack and creak of giants sleeping in the slowly rising tide, and the blazing sunshine all created for an incredible memory and a true highlight of kayaking in the Arctic.

## Sunday 31st July

AM: Syd Kap - Distance - 6.2km ( 3.3 nm)

We set off from the ship in two smaller groups this morning. It was not long before we had reached the bay of the landing site. A solitary ice berg was just off the beach, just as we were cruising past it, the Berg decided to make a loud sharp cracking noise from deep within, somewhere underwater maybe. We could not see any movement or damage but did not linger to wait for any either. It was like a rifle had been fired next to us. Around the next bay there was a mother duck with her three ducklings on her back. As we landed at the main landing site I was struck by the significance of us arriving by kayak onto a beach probably used frequently by hunters of the past, thousands of years ago. There is always a good and a bad spot to land in a kayak and for sure the paddlers of the past would have chosen the same areas, if the sea had been at the same level. This was a Paleo Eskimo site. It appeared to be a summer camp, as there was no evidence of long-term dwellings. There was however a number of graves. Piles of rocks carefully placed with a hollow inside. In one a skull and a few bones was being grown over



by mosses and plants, returning it to the earth. Fascinating. The landing party walked around to a nearby inlet, and we took to our kayaks and paddled there, much faster. The inlet was sheltered and was now home to several large, beautiful icebergs that had blown in here at one time, some now grounded, some adrift.

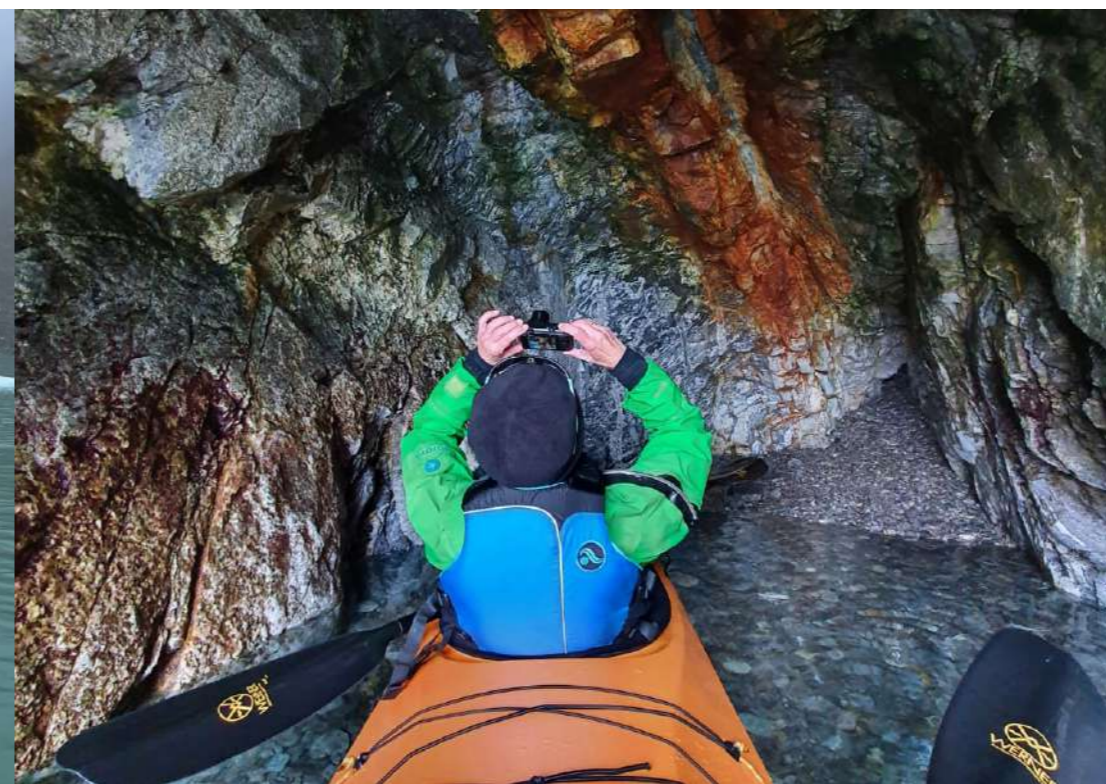
The second group first circumnavigated a large berg before exploring the beautiful rocky shore and small islets. Turning into the calm cove, the group paddled past the amazing drifting bergs, which even after paddling at red island in the morning, was still an incredible site. A quick landing enabled a hike up to a high lookout point, where the paddlers could see over the whole cove and out into the far mountain ranges of eastern Greenland. Rejoining the boats, the team explored deeper into the cove because heading back into the sea, and a rising wind, indicated it was time to get home.

The ship appeared to have moved on our return but had simply swung around with the strong tidal currents. The sea had changed in the 2-3 hours since we had left the ship. Another reminder that nature is in charge up here.

PM: Bjørn Oya (Bear Islands), Distance 4.6 km ( 2.5 nm)

This was a bonus. In that, we were planning to sail to Iceland this afternoon but because we would have the wind and swell behind us we could sneak in another short outing. Bear islands was a perfect choice. We used Zodiacs to get the team and kayaks into the sheltered heart of the island group. Soon we were gliding through the narrow channels and bays, dramatic scenery in the background, a maze of islands to explore. We passed walls of rock alive with delicate hanging gardens of moss, lichens, algae and flowers. Around a bend and large icebergs gathered like giant sculptures in a gallery, and we were admiring and appraising each one as we cruised around. The feeling of wonder was strong this afternoon, we knew it was our last paddle in Greenland. This land that had amazed and impressed us without fail, at every turn. Thank you and Ta Kusl! - (see you again) in Greenlandic.







## Bird Sightings

Bird Species	20 July – 2 August 2022													
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Red-throated Diver							•					•		
Great Northern Diver												•		
Northern Fulmar		•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	
Pink-footed Goose												•		
Barnacle Goose	•		•			•					•	•		
Brent Goose														
Common Eider		•	•			•			•	•	•	•		
King Eider														
Long-tailed Duck														
Svalbard Ptarmigan														
Common Ringed Plover						•		•						
Golden Plover														
Sanderling														
Dunlin						•						•	•	
Purple Sandpiper		•	•			•								
Ruddy Turnstone														
Grey Phalarope							•							
Pomarine Skua							•							
Arctic Skua			•			•		•						
Long-tailed Skua						•						•		
Great Skua						•							•	
Sabine's Gull														
Glaucous Gull		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Iceland Gull						•				•	•	•		
Great Black-backed Gull														
Black-legged Kittiwake	•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•



Bird Species	20 July – 2 August 2022													
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Ivory Gull							•	•						
Arctic Tern		•	•					•			•	•		
Common Guillemot														•
Brunich's Guillemot		•	•	•										
Black Guillemot		•	•	•			•							•
Razorbill														
Little Auk		•	•	•		•	•	•	•					
Atlantic Puffin		•	•	•										
Snow Bunting		•	•			•		•	•		•	•		
Common Redpoll														
Northern Wheatear											•	•		
Meadow Pipit														
Common Raven						•	•			•	•	•		
Gyrfalcon									•					



# Mammal Sightings

Mammal Species	20 July – 2 August 2022													
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Arctic Fox						•		•						
Svalbard Reindeer	•													
Musk Ox						•				•	•	•		
Arctic Hare						•								
Polar Bear		•	•				•							
Ringed Seal											•	•		
Bearded Seal														
Harp Seal														
Hooded Seal														
Harbour/Common Seal			•				•							
Walrus		•	•											
Common Minke Whale	•		•											
Humpback Whale													•	
Beluga														
Killer Whale/Orca														
Blue Whale						•								
Fin Whale				•										
Northern Bottlenosed Whale														
Long-finned Pilot Whale														
White-beaked Dolphin														
Atlantic White-sided Dolphin														



# Flora Sightings



Alpine knotweed



Yellow mountain saxifrage



Common harebell



Broadleaved willowherb



Arctic bell heather



Crowberry fruits



Scottish asphodel



Bog bilberry



Black fleabane



Trailing azalea



Tufted cinquefoil







## Expeditioners:

Kim Abkin	Paul Collins	Ann Gillespie	Johnston Mcindoe	Su Trathen
Peter Allen	Craig Cooper	Tim Gillespie	Noel Mckay	Nico Van Der Maas
Lorraine Allen	Dirk Cordeel	John Good	David Melzer	Michelle Vargo
Jacob Ashe	Alan Corkhill	Annette Haifer	Sandra Molloy	Richard Vargo
Julie Bakalor	Annette Corkhill	Clare Hamilton	Les Molloy	Carol Vargo
Elsbeth Berry	Brian Crathorne	Peter Hamilton	Colin Mugglestone	Christine Vize
Tony Bigg-Wither	Liz Crathorne	Kathy Handel	Stephanie Mugglestone	Steve Wentworth
Bev Bigg-Wither	Stephen Dabbs	Mike Harrington	Nancy Nachman-Hunt	Joan White
Catharine Bonython	Berthe Cordeel De Belie	Valerie Hodgson	Kate Nightingale	Carolyn Wiseman
Cynthia Breheny	Catherine De Vrye	Andrew Hodgson	Carmel O'connor	Chin Wong
Kevan Brown	Karen De Willimoff	Michael Honegger	Linda Oliver	Jaye Zola
Belinda Brown	Diane Desilets	Carl Hunt Jr	Barry Philippson	John Zola
Sasha Buch	Candice Desilets	Jennifer Jones	Adele Philippson	
Liz Burrows	David Desilets	Annette Keesing	Sylvia Poliwoda	
Sebastian Carroll	Shannon Desilets	Mathew Kempton	Glenda Ramsay-Mckay	
Olivia Carroll	Catherine Eva	Liz Kempton	Jan Rotmans	
Niall Carroll	Justin Ewin	Inge Lamé	Shirley Schultz	
Susan Carroll	Christopher Eyles	Alison Lo	Roger Schultz	
Hugh Chisholm	Winifred Eyles	Jiaxi Luo	Matt Seymour	
Lesley Chisholm	Dom Faludi	Rudolf Mahne	Anne-Marie Seymour	
Kevin Clarke	Alexandra Fayan	Chris Makris	Alexander Shaykis	
Linda Clarke	Keith France	Maria Makris	Tim Smith	
Sharron Cole	Simon Garside	Diana Martin	Val Swaine	
Shane Cole	Andrew Gidley-Baird	Peter May	Roger Thompson	
Kerryn Collins	Janet Gidley-Baird	Tyson Mayr	John Trathen	



## Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Howard Whelan  
 Assistant Expedition Leader: Cat Ardagh  
 Onboard Expedition Manager: Rosie Leaney  
 Marine Biologist & Citizen Science: Dani Abras  
 Biologist: Joselyn Fenstermacher  
 Historian: Piotr Damski  
 Greenland Expert: Bettina Ovgaard  
 Expedition Guide/Naturalist: John Kirkwood  
 Expedition Guide/Naturalist: Graeme Snow  
 Expedition Guide: Justine Bornholdt  
 Lead Kayaking Guide: Daniel Stavert  
 Kayaking Guide: Eamon Larkin  
 Kayaking Guide: Liz MacNeil  
 Kayaking Guide: Sigurd Davidsen  
 Photography Guide: Scott Portelli  
 Medic/Expedition Guide: John Barry (JB)  
 Zodiac Master: Sergei Hincu  
 Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Reza Rusooly  
 Mudroom/Shopkeeper trainee: Gabriel Hernandez  
 Mudroom Support/Wellness Therapist: Dasha Vasiljeva

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Maxim Makarovskiy  
 Chief Officer: Oleg Kapko  
 Safety Officer: Goran Goles  
 Second Officer: Sergii Voina  
 Bosun: Oscar Antonio Castejon Torres  
 Deck Cadet: Vlad Nicolescu  
 Ship Doctor: Maria Suarez  
 Chief Engineer: Sergiy Melnyk  
 First Engineer: Ion Toma  
 Hotel Director: Patrice Degron  
 F&B Manager: Uysal Berrak  
 Chief Purser: Liza Merillo  
 Executive Chef: Christiand Carlos Mini Pineda

Head Waiter: Diogenes Encinares  
 Hotel Controller: Richard Cayeta  
 IT Officer: Nataniel Vibares  
 Receptionist: Jelyn Merilo  
 Receptionist: Jeremiah Castillo  
 Receptionist: Marie Anney Reynoird  
 Head Stateroom: Florante Jr. Jimenez Lusong  
 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:

Anne-Marie Seymour      E Team  
 Alex Fayan                      Scott Portelli  
 Justin Ewan                      Liz MacNeil  
 Carolyn Wiseman              Joselyn Fenstermacher  
 Tyson Mayr



