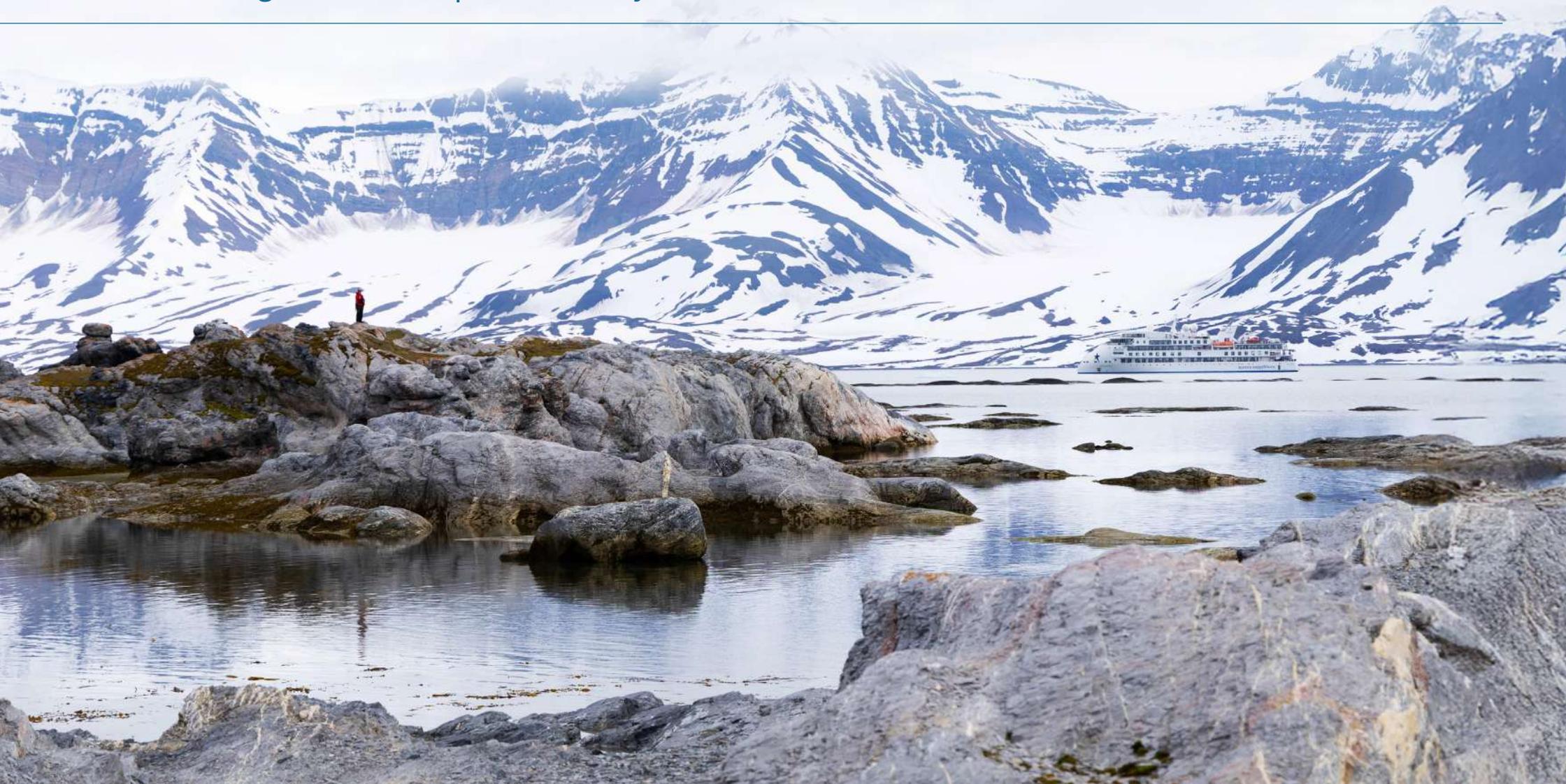


Svalbard Odyssey

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 3 – 13 July 2025





Svalbard Odyssey

3 – 13 July 2025

Longyearbyen

DAY 1 | Thursday 3 July 2025

Latitude:
78°13.7' N
Longitude:
15°37.5' E

Wind Speed:
3 knots SE
Barometer:
1022 hPa

Course:
In Port
Air Temp:
10°C

Speed:
N/A

Here we are inside the Arctic Circle, at 78° north. Surrounded by spectacular mountains in the picturesque coal-mining town of Longyearbyen, we got off our tour buses knowing that this will be our last glimpse of civilisation for a while. Upon arrival at the pier, we were greeted by Samantha, our onboard expedition manager, Gaby, glaciologist, and our photography guide, Natalie, who took our photos. The Expedition Team welcomed us on board to a waiting banquet of canapés.

After checking in and enjoying refreshments at the Elephant Island Bar, the stewards helped us navigate the decks to our cabins and settle in. We then proceeded directly into our lifeboat and safety briefing, after which we returned to the lecture theatre where our Expedition Leader, Rune, welcomed us aboard. To start, he shared a short welcome video by Greg Mortimer himself, who explained why the X-Bow design and the spirit of adventure is what truly enhances each day of an expedition with Aurora. Samantha

and Alex, hotel director, then walked us through life aboard and Dr Fabian ensured we knew how to stay healthy and safe during our voyage.

Before long, we made our way to the main dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by our talented galley team and served by the ship's friendly waitstaff. After dinner, it was time to exchange our expedition jackets and try on our Muck Boots, and the kayakers had a quick meet and greet with their guides Ivan, Edu, and Erin.

Together we total 91 Expeditioners from Australia (36), USA (24), UK (14), Canada (13), China (1), New Zealand (1), an international Expedition Team of 17, and 83 ship's crew from around the globe.

After many hours of travel to reach the frozen top of the world, it's time to kick back, breathe in the sea air, and enjoy the unique, incredible scenery of Svalbard.

Lilliehöökbreen & Signehamna

DAY 2 | Friday 4 July 2025

Latitude:
78°59.14' N
Longitude:
10°19.48' E

Course:
60°
Speed:
14.2 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots SE
Barometer:
1021 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

The first full day of our expedition to Svalbard found the good people of the *Greg Mortimer* happily sailing northward into the scenic and icy waters of Krossfjord in the northwestern corner of Spitsbergen.

After a scrumptious breakfast, we all gathered in the lecture room for a set of mandatory briefings. We learned all about polar bear and Zodiac safety, and we also learned how to be responsible visitors to the Arctic.

During this time, our ship made its way to Lilliehöökbreen, a stunning glacier front situated in the northern reaches of Krossfjord. Here, we took the opportunity to get out and enjoy the gorgeous weather as we embarked on a short Zodiac cruise of the fjord. We got to marvel at the scenery

and the towering glacier face, all while enjoying the local birdlife and even a bearded seal!

Once back aboard, our ship repositioned southward for Signehamna. Despite a spot of mist and rain, we were able to enjoy a fantastic afternoon at Signehamna as we learned about the historical significance of the region as well as about the local flora and fauna. The kayakers enjoyed a wonderful paddle through the beautiful waters of the area.

After our very pleasant jaunt, we ventured back to the ship for the Captain's Welcome cocktail event. Following dinner, we enjoyed a drink or two among friends, until it was time to head to bed to get some rest before tomorrow's activities.







Ytre Norskøya & Smeerenburg

DAY 3 | Saturday 5 July 2025

Latitude:
79°55.3' N
Longitude:
11°14.1' E

Course:
89°
Speed:
7.6 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots S
Barometer:
1018 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

We began the day by anchoring off Ytre Norskøya, a small, rugged island on the northwest coast of Svalbard. After breakfast, we made our way ashore for one of three options of guided hikes – active, moderate, or relaxed. The terrain on shore was rocky, dotted with moss and lichens, and the cool Arctic air made for perfect walking conditions.

Along the way, we spotted puffins, little auks, kittiwakes, and Arctic terns nesting along the cliffs and soaring overhead. The highlight of the morning was an unexpected encounter – an incredibly rare sighting of the blue morph Arctic fox, a colour variation of this species characterised by its dark, bluish-grey coat. It darted through the rocks, snatched a bird egg, and vanished among the rocks.

After lunch, we set course for our afternoon landing at Smeerenburg, on Amsterdamøya. The site was once one of the busiest whaling stations in the Arctic, established by the Dutch in the 1600s. As we prepared to land, the team spotted three adult polar bears roaming near the shoreline. For everyone's safety, the landing was cancelled. We returned to the lounge for a lecture on polar bears, led by John, our marine biologist. He shared insights into their behaviour, territory, and hunting habits, and spoke about the increasing challenges they face due to melting sea ice.

In the evening, we gathered in the lounge to review the day's highlights and discuss tomorrow's plans: moving into the sea ice, and the hopeful possibility of spotting a polar bear.





Into the Sea Ice

DAY 4 | Sunday 6 July 2025

Latitude:
81°45.3' N
Longitude:
19°43.7' E

Course:
90°
Speed:
1.7 knots

Wind Speed:
10 knots S
Barometer:
1023 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

As we rose from our beds, we were greeted with dense fog and flat, calm seas. The floe edge was just visible as a ghostly line in the mist. As breakfast was served, the fog began to lift and immediately a bear was spotted by an eagle-eyed Expeditioner, hopping from floe to floe. The bear was healthy and fat, and a nearby pan of ice had a smear of blood on it, suggesting that this animal had recently made a successful kill. Just as everyone convened on the outer decks, the bear slipped into the water and disappeared into the jumble of ice.

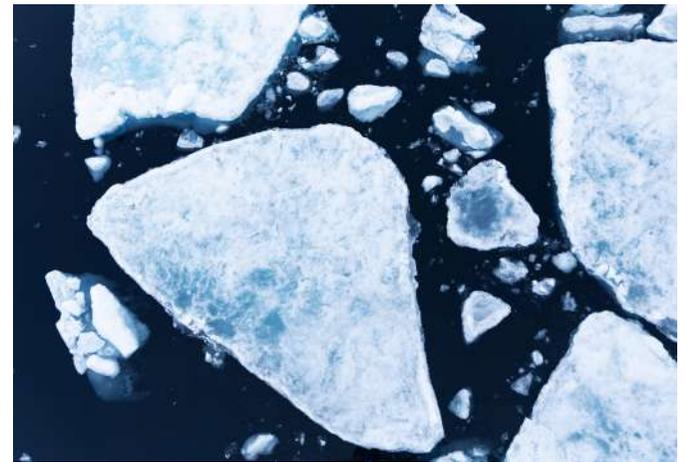
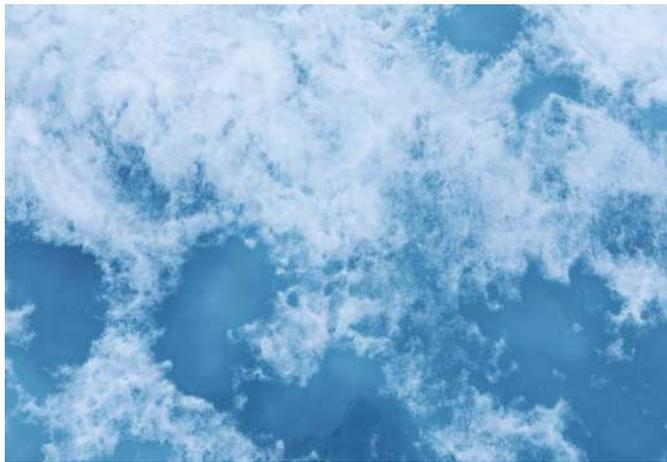
But no sooner had we returned to our breakfast when another bear was spotted, this one just finishing his meal of a small seal. It wasn't long before another bear

approached. He hopped from pan to pan, swam a bit, then hauled himself out onto the ice again, shaking the seawater from his coat.

We sailed further along the floe edge, then slowly made our way into the pack again, passing 81°52' N, our furthest north. The viewing platforms were lowered, allowing us to experience the pack from only a few metres above the ice.

We had a cloud and bird survey with Gaby, and then it was time to meet in the lounge. Gaby, Elle and Erin shared some knowledge about phytoplankton, seal reproduction, and maps. Kevin sang a new song about a polar bear called 'Bamsebu'. To end the day, we were treated to a sumptuous BBQ dinner with mulled wine.







Into the Pack Ice

DAY 5 | Monday 7 July 2025

Latitude:
81°57.8' N
Longitude:
19°16.0' E

Course:
135°
Speed:
1.8 knots

Wind Speed:
5 knots NE
Barometer:
1025 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

The Arctic realm is defined by numerous overriding themes: extremes of cold, a paucity of wildlife species, endless summer days, bitter winter nights, and unspoiled vistas. Ice sets the tone. It carves the land, guides, and governs boundaries. Glaciers, ice caps, and broad snowfields dominate landscapes, but it is the polar pack to which every other facet of the Arctic is ancillary.

The *Greg Mortimer* spent the night drifting near the polar ice edge. We had spent the previous day within the pack's clutches and reaped rewards. The realm merited another look. This morning, bands of cerulean light hugged the horizon below a uniform blanket of low, dark clouds. The air was cool, and the slight but chilly winds nipped at exposed skin. Before breakfast, it was clear on approach

that unfavourable currents had tightened the pack like icy particleboard. A breaching of its edge appeared unlikely.

Two polar bears were easily spied inside the ice edge. One disappeared quickly behind ice, while the other purposefully crossed the frozen expanse towards large gatherings of harp seals. It too then slipped our vision by entering the water to hunt one of the many seals. We then boarded Zodiacs for a more intimate exploration of the ice edge and for closer looks at the impressive and infrequently encountered jamboree of seals.

In the afternoon, our marine biologist, John, presented Part II of his polar bear lecture. The focus was on reproduction, evolution and conservation.





Kinnvika & Alkefjellet

DAY 6 | Tuesday 8 July 2025

Latitude:
80°01.1' N

Longitude:
17°36.9' E

Course:
136°

Speed:
9.7 knots

Wind Speed:
21 knots SSE

Barometer:
1018 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

A windless, sunny day in Svalbard can be deceptively 'warm' despite air temperatures being around 5°C. The hikers made their way over pale carbonate shingle slopes and snow patches to a cairn on the summit overlooking Murchisonfjord. On the ascent we observed a polar bear den on a north-facing aspect – the old tracks indicating evidence that only a couple of months ago, young cubs would have been taking their first steps from here. Kinnvika hosted the research base of a Swedish–Finnish science collaboration in the International Geophysical Year of 1957–1958. Although now abandoned, the buildings are in a good state of repair and we were able to have a peek inside them.

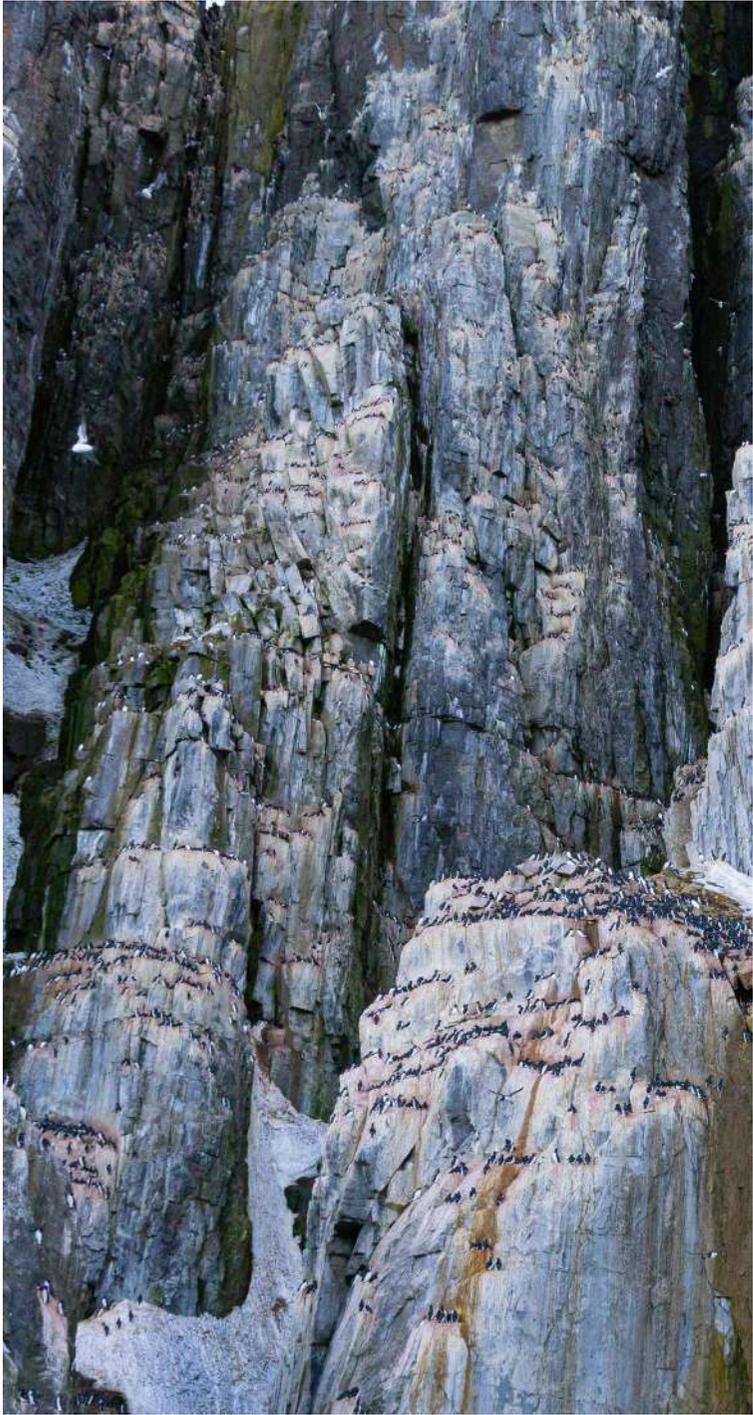
Leaving Murchisonfjord, we passed the last two remaining Russian Orthodox crosses on Svalbard, erected by the Russian 'Pomors' around their heyday of the 18th century.

After lunch, Elle prepared us for an afternoon with auks, with a lecture on Arctic birds. There are estimated to be 615,000 pairs of Brünnich's guillemots nesting in Svalbard. Compact and relatively heavy-bodied, with short wings that act as oars underwater, these auks have evolved as creatures of the sea, as much as of the air.

Today we Zodiac cruised in perfect conditions under the steep cliffs and ledges of Alkefjellet. Juveniles at the tender age of three weeks are impelled to leap from the safety of their ledge and make their way quickly to the safety of the sea, where they are dependent on a parent for only another 6–8 weeks. At recap, Gaby reminded us of the geology of Alkefjellet, and Elle explained why guillemots are so 'penguin-like' yet not penguins.







Torellneset & Bråsvellbreen

DAY 7 | Wednesday 9 July 2025

Latitude:
79°25.3' N
Longitude:
20°05.9' E

Course:
94°
Speed:
4.9 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots NW
Barometer:
1013 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

We began our day at Torellneset, on the remote island of Nordaustlandet, a windswept, wild corner of the Svalbard archipelago. As we stepped ashore, we were greeted by a massive group of walrus, lounging like sunbathers on holiday. With their wrinkly skin, giant tusks, and permanent grumpy expressions, they were oddly charming. Some of us went for a walk across the barren, windswept landscape. According to our Expedition Leader, Rune, this place felt like walking on the moon, with its desolate terrain, strange rock formations, frost-shattered ground and eerie silence.

From Torellneset, we sailed along the coast while Kevin gave us a lively and informative talk on the history of Svalbard, from its discovery and early days as a hunting ground, to the heroic age of polar exploration, coal mining, and the international treaties that still shape it today.

Our next stop was the mighty Bråsvellbreen, one of the most jaw-dropping glacier fronts in the Arctic. It's part of Austfonna, the third-largest mass of glacial ice in Europe and one of the largest in the world outside the polar continents. Covering over 8,000 square kilometres, Austfonna is a frozen giant. As we cruised along its towering, icy face, we were treated to the sight of spectacular waterfalls pouring down the glacier, formed as meltwater carves through the dense, ancient ice. We also witnessed several huge calvings, as massive chunks broke off and thundered into the sea. But the real highlight came at the end of the day: the polar plunge. With the water temperature a brisk 1.8°C, it was not for the faint-hearted. Twenty-seven fearless adventurers took the leap. All in all, a day packed with wildlife, glaciers, icy drama, history and pure adrenaline.





Sundneset

DAY 8 | Thursday 10 July 2025

Latitude:

78°14.4' N

Longitude:

22°07.4' E

Course:

252°

Speed:

8.3 knots

Wind Speed:

4 knots WSW

Barometer:

1021 hPa

Air Temp:

5°C

Today we woke up in Freemansundet, the sound formed by Edge Island and Barentsøya, east of Spitsbergen (the largest island in the entire Svalbard archipelago).

The *Greg Mortimer* slowly approached our landing site, Sundneset. We arrived to perfect weather conditions and a pleasant temperature. Some of us decided to go on a long hike, while others chose a more leisurely hike, where we appreciated the beautiful flowers and a lone Arctic fox. Others preferred to take an even more relaxed look at the landscape and discover the history of the place within the perimeter that the rifle handlers had set up. The kayakers once again enjoyed the solitude, the wind, and the currents as we explored the shores of Barentsøya to the east.

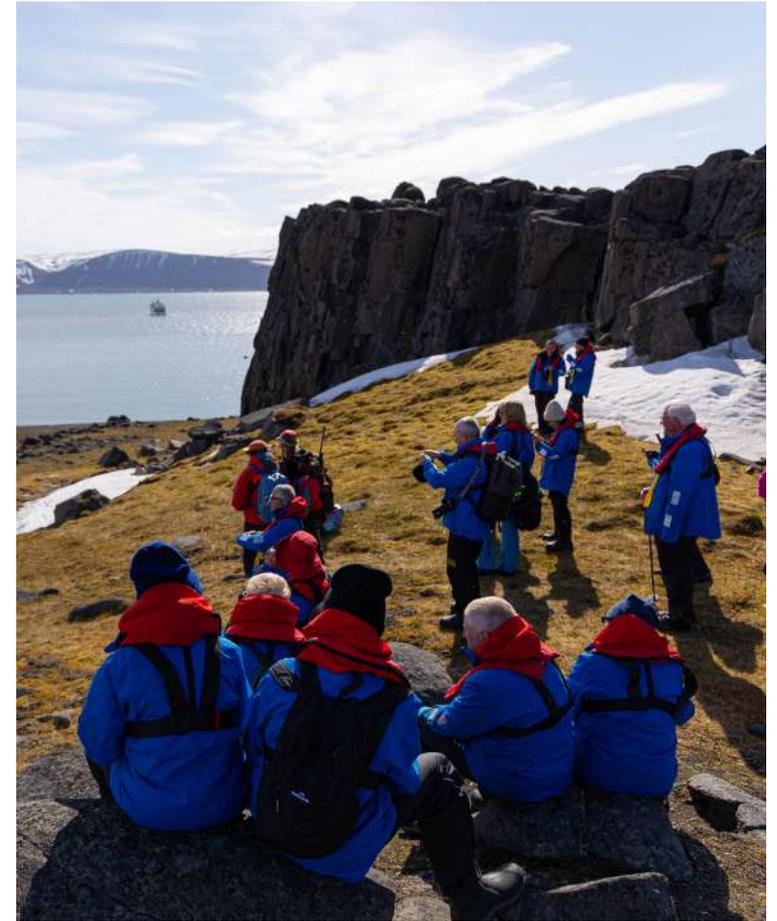
During lunch, the ship repositioned towards Diskobukta on the west coast of Edgeøya, where the Expedition Team attempted a landing, but unfortunately, the sea and tide conditions were not in our favour. For this reason, we felt the safest decision would be to remain on board.

Luckily for us, we had the fabulous Gaby to share her passion for geology and glaciology, and she delighted us with a very interesting talk about the glaciology of Svalbard.

After another delightful dinner in the restaurant, we all settled in for a relaxing sleep, anticipating the adventures the following day would hold.







Gnalodden & Samarinbreen

DAY 9 | Friday 11 July 2025

Latitude:
78°56.0' N
Longitude:
15°29.8' E

Course:
59°
Speed:
11 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots SSW
Barometer:
1024 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

There was an air of uncertainty around the ship this morning, as a seemingly gloomy cloud was hanging over Hornsund, but as soon as we disembarked, the cloud base lifted. There was not a breath of wind, the colours of the tundra were vibrant, and the cacophony of birds at Gnålodden was overwhelming! We saw a remarkable number of birds, some little downy chicks, legendary trapper Wanny Woldstad's cabin, and archaeological remains from the Pomors. There was some Arctic fox action, too!

Offshore, growlers floated by, and we explored by Zodiac the stunning fjord of Burgerbukta. Waterfalls cascaded down the slopes, and the erosion from these drainage paths nearly glowed orange with oxidisation. Squawking kittiwakes flew overhead.

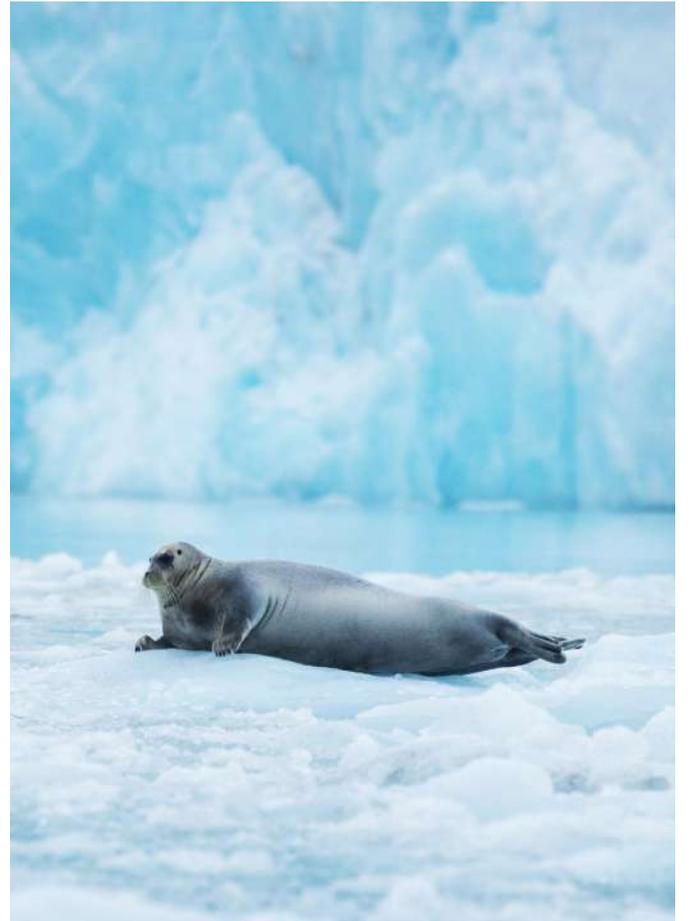
An enigmatic low cloud descended over Samarinbreen in the afternoon, shrouding it in mystery. The booming glacier sounds echoed from all directions, and brash ice filled the bay. We navigated through the ice, witnessing a few spectacular calvings, encountering harbour seals and a minke whale! We enjoyed some time on land, and the kayakers had steaming mugs of hot chocolate on the water.

During recap, Elle graced us with more knowledge on duck reproductive anatomy. Following this illuminating talk was John, who discussed tardigrades. Lastly, Fran discussed lichens. We finished the day with a delicious dinner, and lots of excitement for our last day of adventure tomorrow!









Vårsolbukta & Van Keulenfjorden

DAY 10 | Saturday 12 July 2025

Latitude:
77°33.7' N
Longitude:
15°46.8' E

Wind Speed:
2 knots SE
Barometer:
1023 hPa

Course:
34°
Speed:
8.6 knots

Air Temp:
12°C

Ten days we carved a path through frostbitten seas,
Where mountains rise from glacial dreams with ease.
Aboard the *Greg Mortimer*, bold and small,
We journeyed north, where silent giants call.

Svalbard held us in her frozen breath,
A wilderness untouched, austere and deft.
Ice floes whispered secrets of the pole,
While polar bears hunted with quiet control.

We saw walrus thrones on shattered ice,
And Arctic terns in looping sacrifice.
Snow petrels stitched the sky with grace,
While glaciers cracked time's frozen face.

There were days of stillness, sky mirrored below,
And nights aglow with midnight sun's slow show.
But today, our final chapter's penned
In mist and brine—this journey's end.

Axeløya rose like a ghost from the sea,
Half-lost in fog, shy in her secrecy.
Zodiacs bobbed on iron-grey swells,
While wind sang cold, in ancient spells.

We slid through chop, soaked to the bone,
The horizon blurred, the world unknown.
Gulls wheeled above in scattered flight,
Their cries like echoes of fading light.

No warmth to borrow, no shore to tread,
Only waves and wonder far ahead.
Austere and raw, the Arctic spoke,
Not in words, but sea and smoke.

And though we shivered, numb and worn,
Our hearts were full, not torn nor forlorn.
For in the fog we found a truth:
Adventure needs no gilded proof.

Ten days behind us, wild and wide,
Seals and silence, ice and tide.
Now Axeløya slips from view,
A final bow in silver hue.

The Captain raised a glass with grace,
A farewell toast to this wondrous place.
Our thoughts turn south, our course is set,
But none aboard will soon forget,
The place where land and legend meet,
Where cold and courage dared to greet.





Longyearbyen

DAY 11 | Sunday 13 July 2025

Latitude:
78°16.2' N
Longitude:
15°16.0' E

Wind Speed:
1 knot WSW
Barometer:
1023 hPa

Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard *Greg Mortimer* as we explored Svalbard's incredible scenery, history and wildlife. We hope to see you on the high seas again some day!

Course:
94°
Speed:
5.4 knots

Air Temp:
7°C

BBQ



Polar Plunge







Citizen Science





Kayaking Log

Guides: Ivan Klochkov, Erin Scott, Eduardo Larranaga Garcia

4 July 2025, PM: Signehamna
– 4km

Our first kayak excursion in Svalbard! We had a beautiful afternoon at Signehamna, with not much wind, and a mysterious fog. We departed the ship on Zodiac and travelled towards a bird cliff which was bustling with kittiwakes, black and Brünnich's guillemots, and auks. And before we could even launch, we encountered an Arctic fox! After watching her bustle about the scree slopes, we embarked into our kayaks. We cruised past the dramatic cliffsides, watching the birds and looking at the vegetation. After rounding the corner of Nilspytten, we tucked into the little cove of Nilspollen and watched Arctic terns fluttering gracefully overhead. We then headed around the peninsula, rounding the peninsula of Gunnarpynten, and hopped back in the Zodiac to take us to the ship.

5 July 2025, AM: Ytre Norskøya
– 8.8km

The conditions were just beautiful this morning! Even though this island is very exposed to the open Arctic Ocean, the water was flat and calm! We decided to make the best out of it and did a full circumnavigation. We explored the coastline and gazed at dozens of various seabirds, including some puffins. It was wonderful to paddle through shallow rocks and check out beautiful driftwood that was brought here by the current all the way from Russia. Once we have finished the circumnavigation we decided to continue and paddled along the southern coast of Ytre Norskøya! What a beautiful morning!

Number of Kayakers: 20

Total Kayak Outings: 10

Total Distance Paddled:
52.8 km

Kayakers:

Cath Witherow

Greg Witherow

Elizabeth Heggaton

John Pierce

Cristina Cifuentes

Tony Mower

Jo Mower

Angus Hunter

Marie Hunter

Mandy Brown

Mick Frost

Emily Roose

Stephanie Roles

Cindy Sullivan

Veronica Santa Maria

Tony Marchese

Jona Paganon

Jenna Mancini

Lindsay Stalley

Gordon Stalley

8 July 2025, AM: Kinnvika – 8.5km

The west coast of Nordauslandet greeted us this morning with spectacular weather. Honestly, it didn't feel like we were in the Arctic at 78 degrees north latitude; it felt more like we were in the Mediterranean Sea. We began paddling away from the landing site (where the former Kinnvika scientific station is located). The conditions couldn't have been better: mirror-like waters and blue skies. We explored the desolate shores of this part of Svalbard, experiencing the true polar desert. After paddling for about an hour and a half, we landed directly on the beach in front of Kinnvika, where we explored the remains of the station for about 30 minutes. After that, we continued paddling, as the sea and weather conditions were truly amazing, allowing us to continue enjoying the place in our kayaks.

8 July 2025, PM: Alkefjellet – 3.4km

We arrived at Alkefjellet with calm water and beautiful sunny skies. We launched at the southern end of the cliffed coastline and marvelled at the countless guillemots that squawked from their ledges above. There were many waterfalls cascading from the clifftops, as enough melting had occurred at this point in the summer. We stopped at a waterfall and enjoyed the cold and powerful spray as we paddled by for a photo opportunity. We journeyed north and paddled to the main colony. Once we arrived at the main colony, we were swarmed by guillemots, so thick that the sky darkened around us, and the cacophony was spectacular. The cliffs towered above us, and we watched the little dramas of these beautiful birds unfolding in front of us. We finished our paddle at a glacier, and one of us even went for a swim!

9 July 2025, AM: Torellneset – 6km

The outing started with the first rendezvous with walruses! We landed on the beach at Torellneset and walked quietly towards the big haulout. It was amazing to be so close to these beautiful animals and spend some time with them. We then walked back to the landing site and hopped into our kayaks to start the paddle. We saw a solitary walrus in the distance as we were getting in, but he did not seem to be interested in us. We then enjoyed a great downwind cruise along the low-lying coastline, hopping from ice floe to ice floe and admiring numbers of birds. At some point we found a perfectly flat piece of sea ice and practised landing our kayaks on it. Then it was time for us to return to the ship, so we hopped in the Zodiac and drove back. It was such a great morning!

9 July 2025, PM: Bråsvellbreen – 4.5km

Our afternoon at Bråsvellbreen was magical! We had beautiful, warm sunshine and glassy, calm waters in which to paddle. As we disembarked from the ship, we formed a very tidy raft while we waited for everyone to get on the water. Once we were all together, we paddled towards the expansive glacier face of Bråsvellbreen, and saw a handful of absolutely enormous calvings! What an incredible sight and sound. We continued along the cliffs, observing the tremendous waterfalls erupting out of the ice. We encountered some brash ice, which jangled against the hulls of our boats, and we approached a large iceberg. After an incredible afternoon, we grouped up, continued along, and ended our paddle with a few quiet moments observing the glacier.



10 July 2025, AM: Sundneset – 6.2km

We began our paddle excursion with a slightly bumpy Zodiac ride in the direction of the landing site. There was a reasonable breeze, and a current was creating some turbulence in the water near the headland we planned to start by. But as we approached, we benefited from some lee given by the landscape, and were on our way! Well... almost. Ivan's Zodiac died, and after performing some Russian voodoo with the engine, it was magically working again. Once on the water, we paddled along the coastline, enjoying the birds flying overhead, the beautiful vegetation on land, and a beautiful Arctic fox scampering up a snowy hill! The current was strong enough that we didn't have to work very hard to cover a respectable distance, and once we reached our goal, we were in for an adventurous Zodiac ride back!

11 July 2025, AM: Gnålodden – 6km

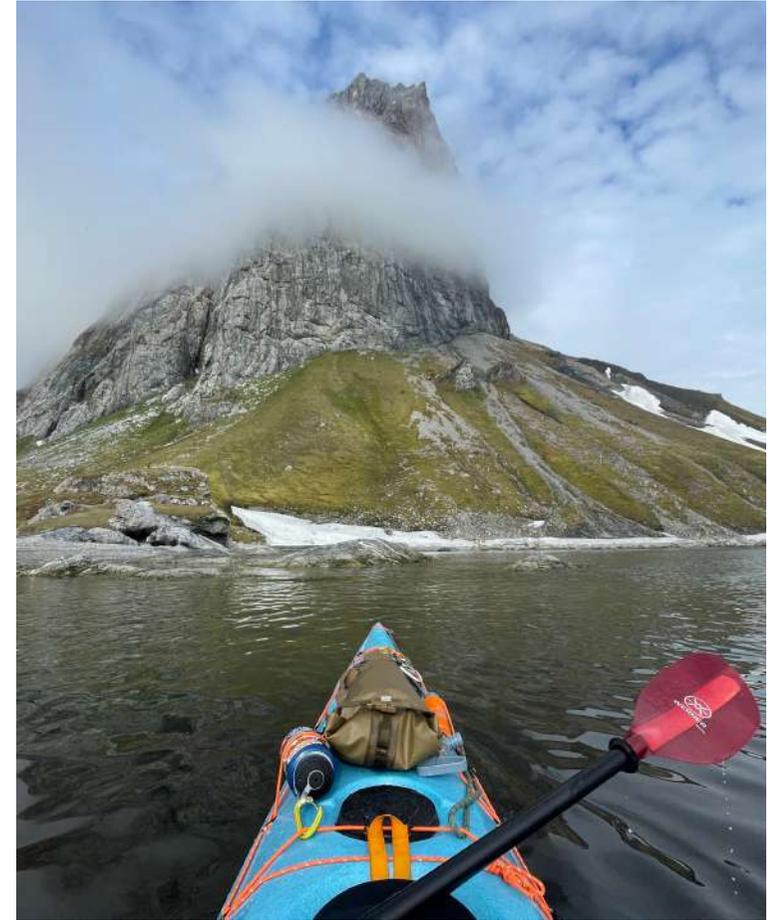
Svalbard gave us another beautiful morning, this time in Hornsund, one of the most beautiful places in the entire archipelago. Gnålodden in particular is a very special place, with impressive mountains, and a huge colony of kittiwakes. We began paddling along the rocky coast, exposed to waves, and dodging the breakers. After paddling through a fascinating rock garden, we reached a protected area with very calm waters. We continued paddling along the northern edge of a gigantic fjord, accompanied by an imposing mountain range. We came across some icebergs where many kittiwakes were relaxing and resting. We enjoyed the solitude and the unique nature. Without a doubt, this was the best paddle we had during this magical trip around the Arctic archipelago.

11 July 2025, PM: Samarinbreen – 6.7km

The afternoon turned out to be beautiful in a different way! We were surrounded by fog and low-laying clouds as we were getting into our kayaks next to the stunning glacial face. We had a great time paddling through the brash ice; each kayak felt like a little icebreaker and it was a lot of fun. At some point we saw a massive and impressive calving in the distance: a good reminder to keep a respectful distance from these walls of ice. As we reached the end of the glacier we turned north and paddled towards the landing site, enjoying the vast landscape with dozens of shades of grey. A little rain was coming and going, and everyone was happy to be in their dry suits! At the end we had a little surprise – we rafted up next to a beautiful glacier and Edu brought a big flask of delicious hot chocolate!

12 July 2025, AM: Akseløya – 4.9km

Another adventurous Zodiac ride to our launch point. The wind was pretty stiff as we bounced our way to the northern end of Akseløya, but sure enough, it died down nicely when we reached the shoreline and found some shelter. We launched our boats and cruised downwind, making sure to hug the coastline to stay out of the stronger wind offshore. We encountered some curious harbour seals, who popped their heads up to investigate us, and we also saw some great skuas for the first time this trip! Some purple sandpipers flew by, and we saw many screeching Arctic terns. We must have been having a good time, because time flew by quickly and before we knew it, we had to start thinking about hustling back to the ship! Sergei and Kelsey came to ferry us back quickly, which was an exciting ride back in the big waves and swell.









Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	July											
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Arctic Tern	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Glaucous Gull	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Kittiwake		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Ivory Gull					•	•						
Great Skua				•			•	•		•		
Arctic Skua		•	•			•	•	•	•			
Long-Tailed Skua						•						
Northern Fulmar	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Brünnich's Guillemot	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Atlantic Puffin	•	•	•							•		
Black Guillemot	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Little Auk (Dovekie)				•							•	
Pink-Footed Goose	•		•									
Barnacle Goose				•	•					•	•	
Common Eider	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
King Eider										•		
Long-Tailed Duck										•		
Red-Throated Diver				•								
Purple Sandpiper			•				•		•	•		
Snow Bunting							•	•	•			

Mammal Species	July											
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Bearded Seal		•		•						•		
Common (Harbour) Seal		•	•							•	•	
Harp Seal					•							
Walrus		•	•				•					
Minke Whale			•							•		
Humpback Whale		•										
Polar Bear		•	•	•								
Arctic Fox		•			•				•	•		
Reindeer	•								•			

Map



Svalbard Odyssey

3 – 13 July 2025



Our Expeditioners

Sam Bennett	Carol Dolling	Adelle Howse	Jo Mower	Emily Roose	Carol Vogel
Norma Bennett	Keith Dolling	Marie-Therese Hunter	Tony Mower	Don Roose II	Greg Witherow
Chelsea Bettancourt	John Faulkner	Angus Hunter	Carla Nelson	Daniel Rudnicki	Cath Witherow
Frank Boys	Kay Ferris	Dianne John	Leonie Nelson	Devin Rudnicki	Marilynn Wong
Beth Brown	Richard Ferris	Trevor John	John Nelson	Veronica Santa Maria	Michelle Wong
Mandy Brown	Mick Frost	Ena Langford	Bonnie Newman	Marcelle Scrivener	Rachael Yin Foo
Cristina Cifuentes	John Gieschen	Krista Lewis	Marky Olsen	Chris Sherman	
Margaret Clay	Cindy Gieschen	Dave Lewis	Lynn Olsen	Janice Sommerfeld	
Christopher Daly	Colin Gluch	Carol Lucken	Nanci Ott	Nikki Souza	
Suzanne Daly	Debbie Gluch	Glen Lucken	Trevor Peverall	Dennis Stalker	
Sharon Davis	Olimpia Govorusa	Leslie Macleod	John Pierce	Betsy Stalker	
Bruce Davis	Lauren Harris	Meg Macleod	Kim Porter	Lynne Stalley	
Mathew Demetri	Jess Heggaton	Jenna Marie Mancini	James Prins	Gordon Stalley	
Alemnesh Demetri	Liz Heggaton	Tony Marchese	Qian Qian	Cynthia Sullivan	
Jona Dhe Paganon	Cathy Holler	Melissa McKinley	Joëlle Rabu	Graham Taylor	
Sarah Dixon	Helen Holmes	Aston Moss	Stephanie Roles	Susan Tuckey	
Cliff Dixon	Joe Horacek	Felicity Mildon	Ellen Roose	David Tuffley	

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Rune Kongsro

Assistant Expedition Leader: Xavier Moroy

Onboard Expedition Manager: Samantha Deer

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Reza Rusooly

Expedition Trainer: Howard Wheelan

Geologist/Glaciologist & Citizen Science Coordinator:
Gaby Pilson

Marine Biologist: John Kernan

Historian: Kevin Closs

Expedition Guide: Fran Potheary

Naturalist: Elle Boone

Expedition First Responder/Medic: Solvi Jensen

Photography Guide: Natalie Long

Zodiac Master: Sergei Andronov

Lead Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov

Senior Kayak Guide: Eduardo Larranga Garcia

Kayak Guide: Erin Scott

Firearms Manager: Kelsey Camacho

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapko

Chief Officer: Vladimir Kolesnikov

Safety Officer: Andrey Balandin

Doctor: Fabian Escudero

Bosun: Bobby Payumo

Deck Cadet: Vladislav Klaptenko

First Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

Hotel Director: Alex Barkar

F&B Manager: Rajesh Murao

Chief Purser: Pia Blanca

Executive Chef: Edgar Mangalino

Sous Chef: Dharmarajan Selladurao

Head Waitress: Wendy Ramos

Hotel Controller: Orlando Costa

IT Officer: Justin Hicarte

Receptionist: Jaica Puyod

Receptionist: Steph Tamayo

Head Stateroom: Roniel Garcia

Spa Manager: Daniel Vega

Able Seaman: Angelo San Antonio

Able Seaman: Jay Belaguin

Able Seaman: Hardik Dipakbhai Rao

Able Seaman: Joel Noble

Able Seaman: Noel Refugia

Able Seaman: Francis Marvin Linga

Photography thanks to:

Natalie Long





 facebook.com/auroraex

 @aurora_expeditions

 youtube.com/auroraexpeditions

 Aurora Expeditions
(@Polar_Experts)