

SPITSBERGEN: 31 JULY – 10 AUGUST 2003

Richard Webb

- 31st Arrive Longyearbyen early pm, brief walk around town & then embark Professor Molchanov at 1600, sail W out of Isfjorden & then south until decision to turn north due to strong winds & heavy seas.
- 1st Am. Sailing north
Pm. Ny Alesund & King Glacier, then sail north
- 2nd Am. Hamilton Bay.
Pm. Sail N to Mushmana Hut, then sail north into pack ice crossing 80N just after midnight
- 3rd Am. At sea aborting trip into Murchison Sound due to pack ice.
Pm. Faksevagon
- 4th Am. Wilhelmsoya
Pm. Augustabukta on Nordaustlandet followed by cruise along south coast of Nordaustlandet
- 5th Am. In pack ice to E of Storoya, ice walk above 80N
Pm. At sea sailing SW across Olga Strait
- 6th Am. Freeman Sound
Pm. Kapp Lea then sailed SW through Storfjordan
- 7th Am. Sorkappoya to Hornsund all day
Pm. Hornsund
- 8th Hornsund all day, evening sailing to Isfjorden
- 9th Isfjorden all day, night Longyearbyen
- 10th Early morning departure for airport

Mammals

- Polar Bear Young male Hamilton Sound, first spotted swimming among ice, subsequently seen on shore
Two around Mushmana Sound, jumpy & unapproachable
One Freeman Sound watched & photographed at close range from the zodiacs
- Arctic Fox One Kapp Lea
- Walrus Groups of 6 & 4 plus a solitary male on the pack ice N of Mushmana Sound, all seen at close range.
100+ hauled out at Augustabukta, seen at close range both on land & (down to 2 feet) in the sea.
Seven in total on pack ice between Augustbukta & Brasvellbren
- Seal sp Large numbers seen daily
- Bearded Seal Definites as follows, one Hamilton Bay, 5+ HB-Mushmana Hut, 2+ MH-Faksevagon, two Faksevagon, 5+ Augustabukta-Storoya, 2+ Storoya-Freeman Sound, 8+ Hornsund. Several seen & photographed at close range on pack ice.
- Ringed Seal Under-recorded, definites one Faksevagon, 5+ on pack ice Storoya, & one Isfjorden.
- Harp Seap Only seen poorly, 2+ Sorkappoya-Hornsund, 10+ probables on route from Hamilton Bay – Mushmana Hut
- Reindeer Small numbers Longyearbyen, Ny Alesund, Faksevagon, Hornsund & Ymerbukta
- Minke Whale Two at sea on route from Hamilton Bay to Mushmana Hut