

Arctic wildlife trip

Svalbard with Oceanwide Expeditions

10th to 17th June 2024

Jonas Livet & Rūta Vaicekauskaite

Pre-tour Manual



FLIGHT Tromsø TOS > Longyearbyen Lyr : 10:30 > 12:10 (1:40) ; Norwegian DY396 ; Boeing 737-800

Svalbard in Norway: no visa, no vaccination, GMT+2
Population 2,530, Surface 62,045 km²
Schengen Area ; Midnight sun (Svalbard)
Currency 1 NOK = 0.08774 € & 1 € = 11.40 NOK (31.05.2024)

TRANSPORT Longyearbyen Airport > Longyearbyen Accommodation : 5 km (10 min)

- **Airport bus** runs at arrival and before departure, and stops at all hotels ; <https://www.svalbardbuss.no/gallery> ; bus leaves the airport approx. 30-40 minutes after arrival when the luggage belt is empty ; travel time: 15 min ; cost 100 NOK = 9 € one-way per person
- **Taxi** is available at the airport during opening hours ; travel time: 5 min
 - Longyearbyen Taxi ; <https://www.longyearbyentaxi.no/english> ; Tel. +47 79 02 13 75 ; 750 NOK = 65 € for 1 to 4 guests, 950 NOK = 83 € for 5 to 8 guests
 - Svalbard Buss and Taxi ; <https://www.svalbardbuss.no/> ; Tel. +47 79 02 13 05

SIGHTING / SETTLEMENT **Longyearbyen** ; population 1,753 (2020) ; oldest existing settlement in Svalbard ; world's northernmost settlement with a population greater than 1,000 ; stretches along the foot of the left bank of the Longyear Valley and on the shore of Adventfjorden, the short estuary leading into Isfjorden ; known as Longyear City until 1926

MUSEUM **Svalbard Museum** in Longyearbyen ; <https://svalbardmuseum.no/en/> ; 1981 / 2006 ; 45,000 visitors in 2022 ; displays artifacts from the history of Svalbard since its settlement, and exhibits of local plants and animals ; formed in 1964, first visitors welcomed in 1981, moved into newly-built Svalbard Science Centre in 2006 ; open 10:00 to 17:00 ; admission 150 NOK = 13 €

MUSEUM **North Pole Expedition Museum** in Longyearbyen ; <https://northpolemuseum.com/> ; two-story museum offering turn-of-the-20th-century North Pole expedition artifacts & history exhibits ; formerly named Spitsbergen Airship Museum ; open 9:00 to 17:00 ; admission 150 NOK = 13 €

- ❖ Longyearbyen: eBird 62 sp. and 469 checklists
- ❖ Vestpynten (Alkekongekoloni): eBird 32 sp. and 40 checklists
- ❖ Hotellsenet Laguner: eBird 32 sp. and 89 checklists
- ❖ Longyearbyen Havn: eBird 38 sp. and 61 checklists
- ❖ Sjoskrenten: eBird 48 sp. and 119 checklists ; Bird Hide at 78.223556, 15.667501 behind the snowmobile rental shop!
- ❖ Nybyen: eBird 18 sp. and 38 checklists
- ❖ Adventdalen: eBird 51 sp. and 56 checklists
- ❖ Arctic Fox: mostly active in the afternoon/evening! Relatively frequent at the Little Auk's colony (Vestpynten).
- ❖ Within Longyearbyen, Kloakken (78.226037 15.651441) is a good vantage point for various water birds!
- ❖ Ponds by the dog cages 1 km east of Longyearbyen (78.218629 15.694516) are good for King Eider and Long-tailed Duck.

✓ **Mammal TARGET = LONGYEARBYEN and surroundings =**

- **Arctic Fox** [especially around Vestpynten Alkekongekoloni]
- **Svalbard Reindeer**

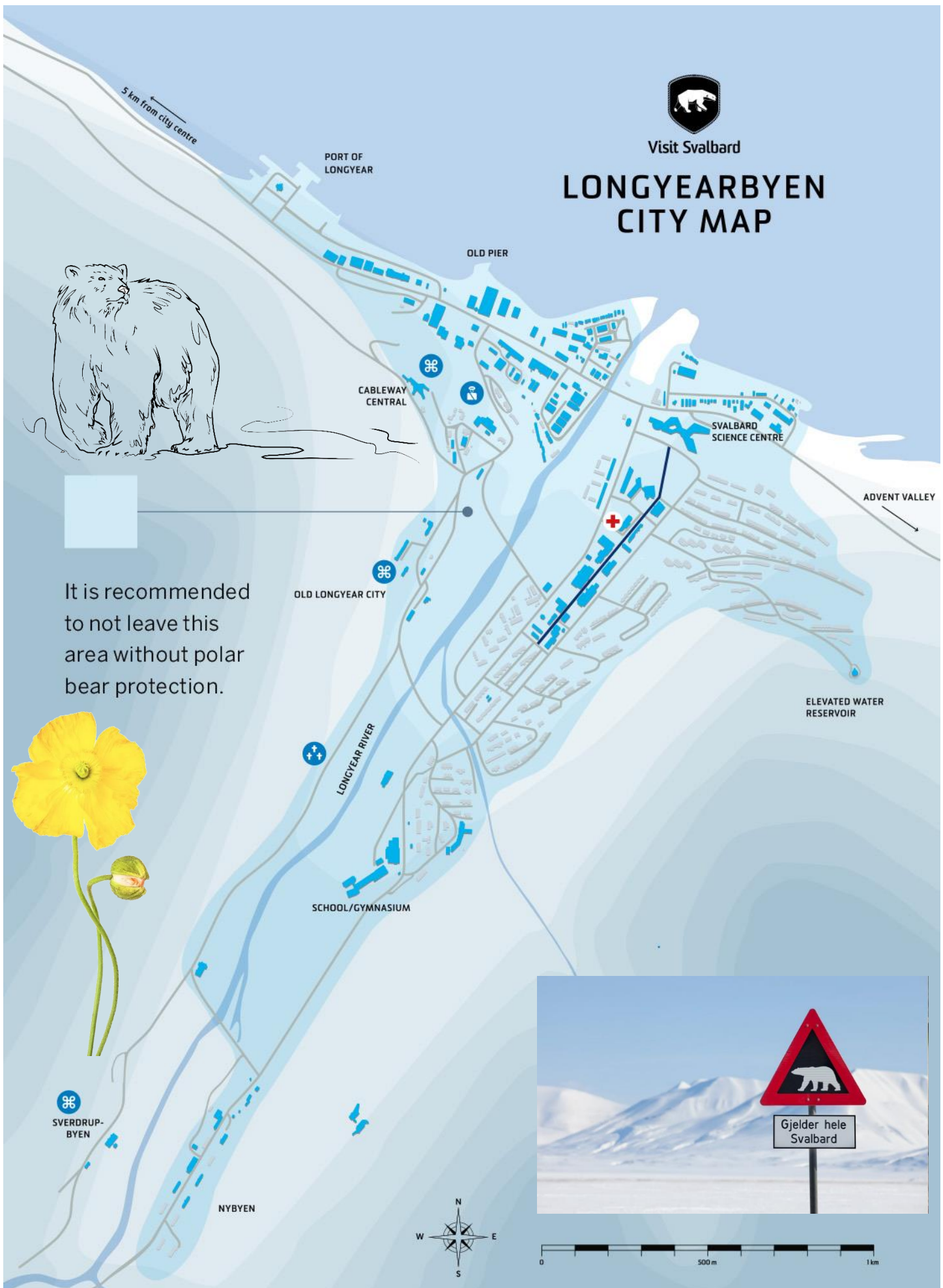
✓ **Bird TARGET = LONGYEARBYEN and surroundings =**

- **Rock Ptarmigan** [especially Vestpynten Alkekongekoloni 30% and Nybyen 55%]
- **King Eider** [especially Hotellsenet Laguner 36%, Sjoskrenten 37% and Adventdalen 41%]
- **Purple Sandpiper** [especially Hotellsenet Laguner 61%, Sjoskrenten 77% and Adventdalen 62%]
- **Dovekie** [especially around Vestpynten Alkekongekoloni 82% and Nybyen 52%]
- Glaucous Gull [everywhere!]
- Arctic Tern [everywhere !]
- Pink-footed Goose [especially Nybyen 48% and Adventdalen 65%]
- Parasitic Jaeger [especially Vestpynten Alkekongekoloni 56%, Hotellsenet Laguner 66% and Sjoskrenten 67%]
- Black Guillemot [especially all coastal sites around 50-60%]
- Black-legged Kittiwake [everywhere!]



Visit Svalbard

LONGYEARBYEN CITY MAP



5 km from city centre

PORT OF
LONGYEAR

OLD PIER

CABLEWAY
CENTRAL

SVALBARD
SCIENCE CENTRE

ADVENT VALLEY

ELEVATED WATER
RESERVOIR

OLD LONGYEAR CITY

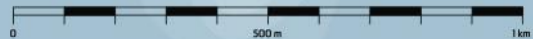
LONGYEAR RIVER

SCHOOL/GYMNASIUM

SVERDRUP-
BYEN

NYBYEN

It is recommended
to not leave this
area without polar
bear protection.





NATURE GUIDE **Paul Alistair Collins Photography** ; <https://www.paulalistaircollins.co.uk/europe-tours-arctic-adventure> ; wildlife photographer and camera-man based in London, with 18 years of experience in wildlife and documentary ; will be leading two Arctic Adventures on Svalbard from 3rd to 9th of June, and 9th to 16th of June

- Best birdwatching is on the open tundra of Adventdalen where a car is essential, and also in the nearby mountain tops and mines!

NATURE GUIDE **See & Explore** ; <https://seeandexplore.no/> ; experienced and adventurous tour guide and photo guide, to the wildlife of Svalbard and North-Norway ; Svalbard guide Oddgeir Sagerup (founder), Arctic Nature Guide Martin Praz and Arctic Nature Guide, Ingrid W. Indal

- **Main tour (up to 8 persons)**, half-day 3 to 4 hours, max 8 persons, different locations visited by car, and carry out stops and walk from a few hundred meters up to 2 or 3 km one way, 1,950 NOK = 170 € per person, one main tour already planned on the 9th of June starting at 16:00 and one on the 10th of June at 8:00 both with 6 spots left
- **Exclusive tour (1–3 persons)**, half-day 3 to 6 hours, max 3 persons, 2,950 NOK = 255 € per person
- Booked by John Wright in July 2019: “He was very nice and an informative naturalist and offers various wildlife tours but be aware if you book his services, he is very expensive - Norway prices!”

NATURE GUIDE **Svalbard Wildlife Expeditions** ; <https://www.wildlife.no/en> ; small sustainable company with activities on foot, in kayak, on skis and snowshoes, and further into the wilderness at camp in front of a glacier created in 1992? ; not specifically dedicated to birding or wildlife watching! ; private day-wildlife hike from 8,000 NOK = 685 €

NATURE INSTITUTION **Norwegian Polar Institute / Norsk Polarinstitutt** ; <https://www.npolar.no/en/> ; 1928/1948 ; Norway’s central governmental institution for scientific research, mapping and environmental monitoring in the Arctic and the Antarctic ; advises Norwegian authorities on matters concerning polar environmental management

- Collects and analyses data on the environment and cultural heritage sites on the islands of Svalbard and Jan Mayen through the project Environmental Monitoring of Svalbard and Jan Mayen (MOSJ)
- Runs the Sverdrup Station (Ny-Ålesund Research Station) and the Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard

NATURE RESSOURCE **Anna (Galina) Henriksson** ; photographer and Arctic biologist ; anna.g.henriksson@gmail.com ; MSc work in 2023: “Thermal properties of Arctic fox fur and the effect of fur lice infestation” ; see also <https://www.instagram.com/annagalina/?hl=en> and <https://foxtrail.fjallraven.com/articles/anna-henriksson-arctic-fox-research-on-the-svalbard>

NATURE RESSOURCE **Birding Svalbard** ; <http://www.svalbardbirds.com/> ; reference tool in order to learn more about the status and occurrence of all species of birds that are registered in Svalbard ; based on registrations of birds available in <https://www.artsobservasjoner.no/> database ; BirdLife Norge (The Norwegian Ornithological Society) is responsible for the website, whilst the Local report and rarities committee for birds in Svalbard, LRSK Svalbard/Jan Mayen, by Georg Bangjord, has the professional responsibility, Frode Falkenberg is technically responsible, and the website is being maintained by Venke Ivarrud

NATURE RESSOURCE **Artsobservasjoner** ; <https://www.artsobservasjoner.no/> ; database and registration service for species observations of plants, animals and fungi in Norway ; developed by the Artsdatabanken in collaboration with the ArtDatabanken at the Swedish University of Agriculture, commissioned by the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency



Monday 10th June 2024 through Monday 17th June 2024 :

Oceanwide Expedition: “North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears , Bowhead Whales & more” (6 days / 7 nights)

Tripcode: HDS03-24

Language: English speaking voyage, German language assistance

Ship: m/v Hondius

Embarkation: Longyearbyen, between 16:00 and 17:00 on 10th June 2024

Disembarkation: Longyearbyen, 09:00 on 17th June 2024

Nights / Days: 7 nights



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Transfers

Transfers in Longyearbyen are only provided in connection with the following flights:

10 JUN 2024 DY396 OSL- LYR 07:15 - 11:30 hrs

10 JUN 2024 SK4414 OSL - LYR 09:50 - 14:00 hrs

17 JUN 2024 DY397 LYR - OSL 12:15 - 16:35 hrs

17 JUN 2024 SK4491 LYR - OSL 14:45 - 17:40 hrs

Upon arrival you will be welcomed by our expedition staff who will show you to the transfer busses. All passengers arriving/departing on other dates and times are kindly requested to make their own way to and from the vessel, airport or hotel.

“North Spitsbergen Explorer – Polar Bears , Bowhead Whales & more”: This expedition focuses on the versatility of north Spitsbergen’s visually stunning landscapes, vast spans of sea ice, and the many opportunities to spot wildlife like whales, polar bears, seabirds, and walrus.

<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/the-arctic/cruises/hds03-24-north-spitsbergen-polar-bears-bowhead-whales-in-pack-ice>

Included in this voyage

- ✓ Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary.
- ✓ All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.
- ✓ All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.
- ✓ Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
- ✓ Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.
- ✓ Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.
- ✓ All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.
- ✓ AECO fees and governmental taxes.
- ✓ Comprehensive pre-departure material.

Excluded from this voyage

- ✓ Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights.
- ✓ Pre- and post- land arrangements.
- ✓ Passport and visa expenses.
- ✓ Government arrival and departure taxes.
- ✓ Meals ashore.
- ✓ Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).
- ✓ Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.
- ✓ Internet voucher on board 20 € for 250 MB, 30 € for 500 MB and 50 € for 1,000 MB.
- ✓ Onboard email account for 5 € set-up fee and 15 € for 7 up to 10 days charge.

Oceanwide Expedition

- Dutch company founded in 1993 specializing in expedition-style voyages to Antarctica and the Arctic. Deploying its own fleet of ice-strengthened vessels, Oceanwide emphasizes small-scale, flexible tours that provide passengers close contact with polar wildlife, landscapes, and historical sites. Tours usually take place in regions only accessible by sea, with little to no infrastructure. The locations visited are first reached by ship, after which expedition guides take small groups of passengers to landing sites by way of Zodiac Milpro RIBs (rigid inflatable boats), enabling safe cruising and maximum shore time.
- Oceanwide Expeditions currently operates five vessels of various nautical classes: sailing vessel *Rembrandt van Rijn*, former Royal Dutch Navy oceanographic research vessel *MV Plancius*, former Russian Academy of Science vessel *Ortelius*, and Polar Class 6 vessels *Hondius* and *Janssonius*. All vessels are equipped with Zodiac Milpro RIBs for ship-to-shore landings, while *Ortelius* is also outfitted with a helipad for helicopter flights in the Weddell and Ross seas.

2023 North Spitsbergen, In Search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice - Summer Solstice

14th June – 21st June 2023

M/V Hondius

26 bird species and 10 mammal species in 2023 including all pinnipeds (excluding Hooded Seal), Minke Whale, Northern Bottlenose Whale, and Beluga (usual harvest for such one week trip are usually around 28-30 bird species and 8-12 mammal species)

Oceanwide Expeditions' m/v Hondius

Hondius is the world's first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel and was built from the ground up for expedition cruising.

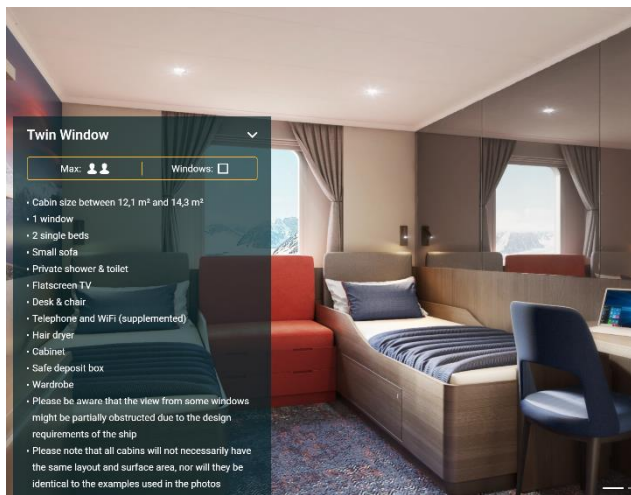
Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Hondius represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica.

Specifications

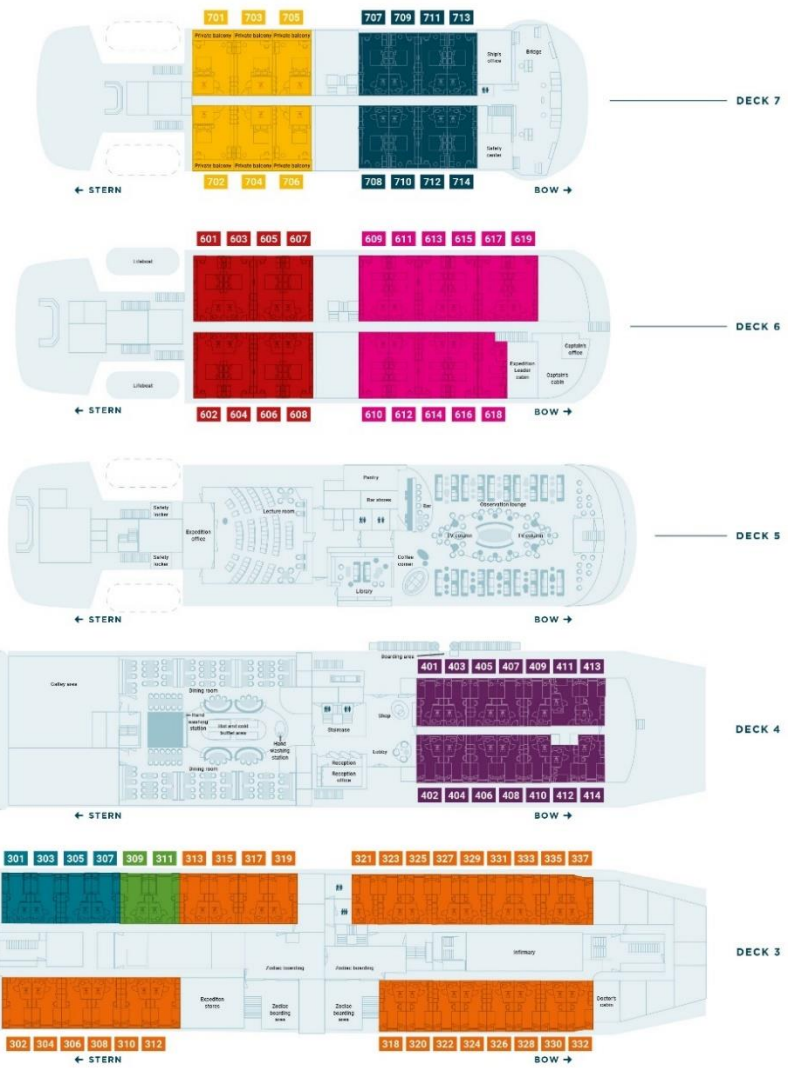
- Built 2019 in Brodosplit, Croatia for Oceanwide Exp.
- Passengers: 176 in 83 cabins
- Staff & crew: Crew 57 | Guides 13 | Doctor 1
- Length: 107.6 meters
- Breadth: 17.6 meters
- Draft: 5.30 meters
- Ice class: Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super)
- Displacement: 5,590 tonnes
- Propulsion: 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kW
- Speed: 15 knots



Hondius offers high-quality accommodation for 170 passengers in six grand suites with balconies (27 m²), eight junior suites (19 to 20 m²), eight superior cabins (20 to 21 m²), 11 twin deluxe cabins (19 to 21 m²), 14 twin window cabins (12 to 14 m²) as well as 27 twin porthole cabins, two triple porthole cabins, and four quadruple porthole cabins that vary in size from 12 to 18 m².



M/V HONDIOUS DECK PLAN



Polar Class (PC) refers to the ice class assigned to a ship by a classification society based on the Unified Requirements for Polar Class Ships developed by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). Seven Polar Classes are defined in the rules, ranging from PC 1 for year-round operation in all polar waters to PC 7 for summer and autumn operation in thin first-year ice.

M/V HONDIOUS DECK PLAN OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS			
ROOM TYPES	BEDS	SANITARY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Suite with private balcony Junior Suite Superior Twin Deluxe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twin Window Twin Porthole Triple Porthole Quadruple Porthole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper/lower berths Lower berths 2 Separate lower berths Double bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilet Bathroom



Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots (approximately 20 km/hour).

Monday 10th June / Day 1: Largest town, biggest island

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative centre of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.

Tuesday 12th to Sunday 16th June / Day 2 - 7: North Spitsbergen’s natural beauty, wildlife, and pack-ice

This voyage will take you into the pack ice and along the remote shorelines of rugged north Spitsbergen. Our landings are subject to change due to sea ice, weather conditions, and wildlife sightings. The expedition leader determines the final plan. Places you might visit include:

Raudfjorden

On the north coast of Spitsbergen, you can enjoy this expansive fjord spilling with glaciers – and maybe even visited by ringed and bearded seals. The cliffs and shoreline also support thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the possibility of polar bears.

Hamiltonbukta

Here we can see an impressive colony of Brünnich’s Guillemots / Thick-billed Murres.

Ytre Norskøya

This small island was used for many years as a lookout point for Dutch whalers, and in fact we can still follow their tracks to the summit of the island. The remains of 17th-century blubber ovens can also be seen near about 200 graves. The north side of the island offers the rare opportunity to see puffins near their breeding places, and there is even a small colony of kittiwakes.

Liefdefjorden / Monaco Glacier / Monacobreen

Depending on the weather and sea ice, you could sail into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this precipitous glacier are a favourite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. If ice conditions prevent us from sailing here early in the season, we can implement an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen.

Northwest of Raudfjorden / Pack ice

We aim to sail into the pack ice outside the territorial waters of Svalbard, watching for polar bears and elusive Greenland (bowhead) whales. As we sail from 80° N to 76° N along and in the outer fringes of the ice edge, we will also look for harp seals, hooded seals, polar bears, and migrating seabirds like little auks (Dovekies), Brünnich’s guillemots, and kittiwakes. On previous voyages in this area, we have sometimes seen up to hundred bowhead whales. We also have the chance to see northern bottlenose whales and the first fin whales of the season. The pack ice sailing will be a highlight of this voyage and may take up to three days.

Forlandsundet, St. Johns Fjord / St. Jonsfjorden, or Alkhornet

Walrus sometimes haul out in Forlandsundet. Alternatively, we might sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden, landing at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on these cliffs, Arctic foxes search below for fallen eggs and chicks, and reindeer graze the sparse vegetation.

Monday 17th June / Day 8: There and back again

The vessel will arrive back in Longyearbyen in the early morning. Bus transportation to the airport will be provided.



NATURE AREA **Isfjorden** ; second longest fjord in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard ; mountain of Alkhornet stands on the northern side of the entrance to the fjord, as does the coastal plain of Daudmannsøyra ; partly included within Nordre Isfjorden National Park (2003, 2,954 km²)

NATURE AREA **Amsterdamøya and Smeerenburg** ; 16.8 km² ; highest point is Hiertabreen at 472 m above sea level ; Smeerenburg: literally “blubber town” in Dutch ; whaling settlement on Amsterdam Island in northwest Svalbard ; founded by the Danish and Dutch in 1619 as one of Europe’s northernmost outposts ; with the local bowhead whale population soon decimated and whaling developed into a pelagic industry, Smeerenburg was abandoned around 1660 ; eBird 37 sp. and 79 checklists (Smeerenburg)

Oceanwide Expedition: “A visit here gives more insight into the life of a whaler of that time than most history books could do!”

- **Fairhaven** is the area between Amsterdam Island and Danes Island and the mainland, while specifically it refers to the sound between Danes Island and the mainland, in particular the strait between Moseøya and Danes Island. The modern name for this area is Smeerenburgfjorden.

NATURE AREA **Fuglesongen** ; literally The Bird Song in English ; 4.1 km² ; island in Albert I Land, located in the archipelago of Nordvestøyane ; highest peak at 387 m above sea level ; named after its large number of birds, among which the Little Auk is particularly common! ; eBird 18 sp. and 25 checklists

NATURE AREA **Ytre Norskøya** ; small island on the northwest coast of Svalbard ; remains of a whaling station exist on the southern side of the island, possibly rivaling Smeerenburg in size ; it was Europe’s northernmost outpost ever established until the early 19th century, and the most northerly permanent settlement established of any size until the 1950s ; on shore the remains of 17th century blubber ovens can be found near the graves of 200 Dutch whalers (largest grave sites in Spitsbergen) ; a high look-out point on the island called Zeeusche Uytkyk (Zeeland Look-out) was used by the Dutch to search for the spouts of bowhead whales ; station was abandoned in 1670

Oceanwide Expedition: “This small island was used for many years as a lookout point for Dutch whalers, and in fact we can still follow their tracks to the summit of the island. The remains of 17th-century blubber ovens can also be seen near about 200 graves. The north side of the island offers the rare opportunity to see puffins near their breeding places, and there is even a small colony of kittiwakes.”

NATURE AREA **Raudfjorden** ; literally Red Fjord in English ; 20-km long and 5-km wide fjord on the northwestern coast of Spitsbergen ; two southern branches, Klinckowströmfjorden and Ayerfjorden, split by the peninsula Buchananhalvøya ; situated on the divide between Albert I Land and Haakon VII Land

Oceanwide Expedition: “On the north coast of Spitsbergen, you can enjoy this expansive fjord spilling with glaciers – and maybe even visited by ringed and bearded seals. The cliffs and shoreline also support thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the possibility of polar bears.”

- Hamiltonbukta: small bay with Raudfjorden ; eBird 22 sp. and 28 checklists ; Oceanwide Expedition: “Here we can see an impressive colony of Brünnich’s Guillemots / Thick-billed Murres.”
- ❖ Raudfjorden is a hotspot for Polar Bears!

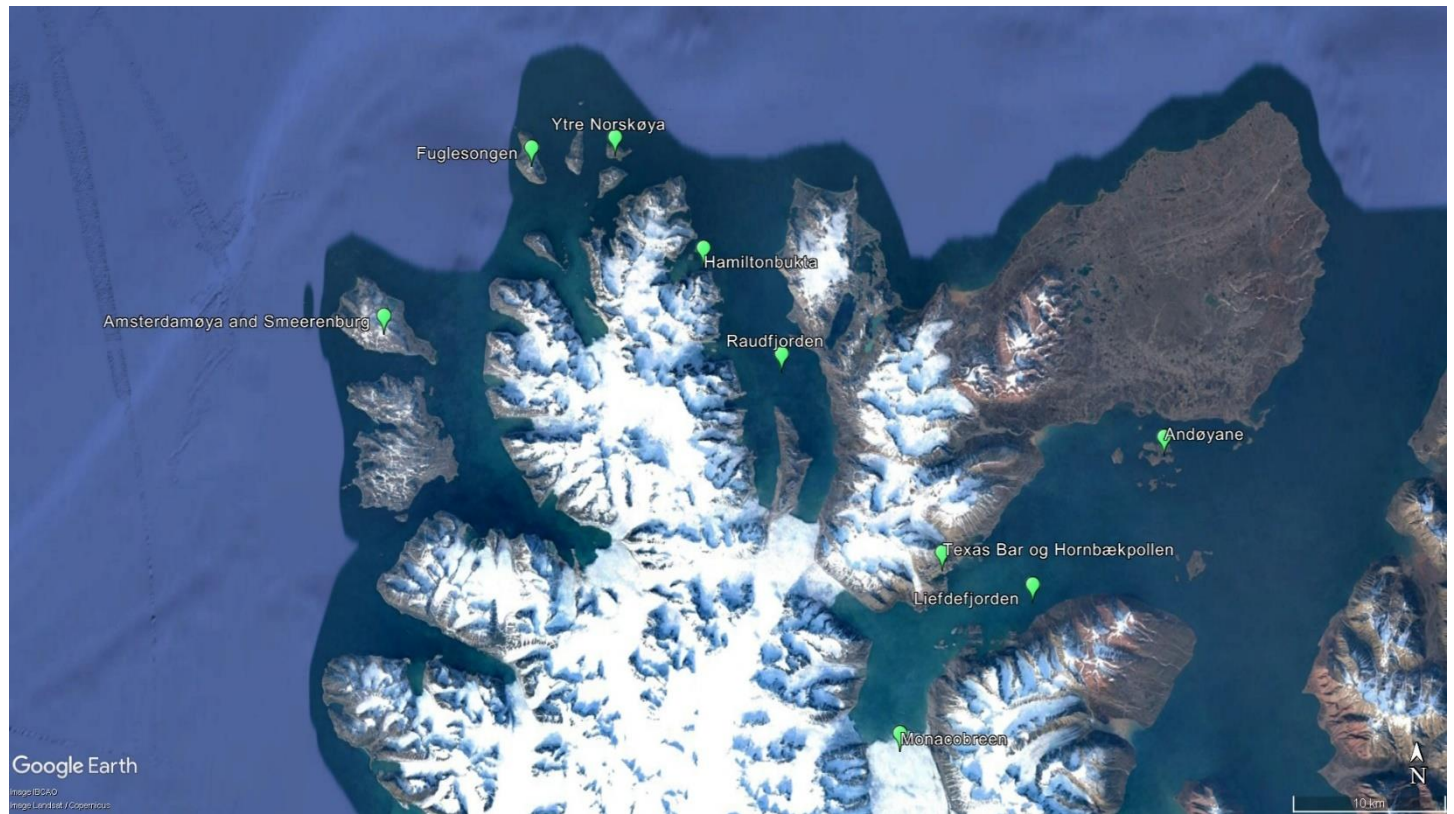
NATURE AREA **Liefdefjorden and Monacobreen** ; Liefdefjorden, English: The Love Fjord ; length of about 30 km ; former names of the fjord include Baye d’Amour, Kjærlighedsbugten, Porto detto l’Amato, Liefde Bay and Love Bay ; Monacobreen debouches into Liefdefjorden ; at the northern side of the outer part of the fjord is the peninsula Reinsdyrflya

Oceanwide Expedition: “Depending on the weather and sea ice, you could sail into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long face of Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this precipitous glacier are a favourite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. If ice conditions prevent us from sailing here early in the season, we can implement an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen.”

- **Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park / Nordvest-Spitsbergen Nasjonalpark:** 1973 ; 9,914 km² ; includes parts of north-west Spitsbergen, and nearby islands such as Danes Island and Moffen
- **Reinsdyrflya** (literary Reindeer peninsula): peninsula at the northern side of the outer part of Liefdefjorden ; estimated 1,000 Reindeer, which makes it the largest single population after Nordenskiöld Land
- **Monacobreen:** glacier which debouches into Liefdefjorden ; eBird 25 sp. and 44 checklists
- **Texas Bar og Hornbækpollen:** eBird 22 sp. and 39 checklists
- **Andøyane:** eBird 26 sp. and 35 checklists



NATURE AREA **Moffen** ; small low island north of the mouth of Wijdefjorden, on the northern coast of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago ; lies just north of 80° ; most important resting place for walrus ; protected as a walrus sanctuary, requiring that one keep a minimum distance of 300 ; breeding colony of Sabine’s Gulls! ; eBird 20 sp. and 45 checklists



NATURE AREA **Pack Ice** ; formed when broken shards of sea ice freeze together, pack ice is also known as “ice pack” or simply “pack,” and is characterized by collective areas of free-floating ice

Oceanwide Expedition: “We aim to sail into the pack ice outside the territorial waters of Svalbard, watching for polar bears and elusive Greenland (bowhead) whales. As we sail from 80° N to 76° N along and in the outer fringes of the ice edge, we will also look for harp seals, hooded seals, polar bears, and migrating seabirds like little auks (Dovekies), Brünnich’s guillemots, and kittiwakes. On previous voyages in this area, we have sometimes seen up to hundred bowhead whales. We also have the chance to see northern bottlenose whales and the first fin whales of the season. The pack ice sailing will be a highlight of this voyage and may take up to three days.”

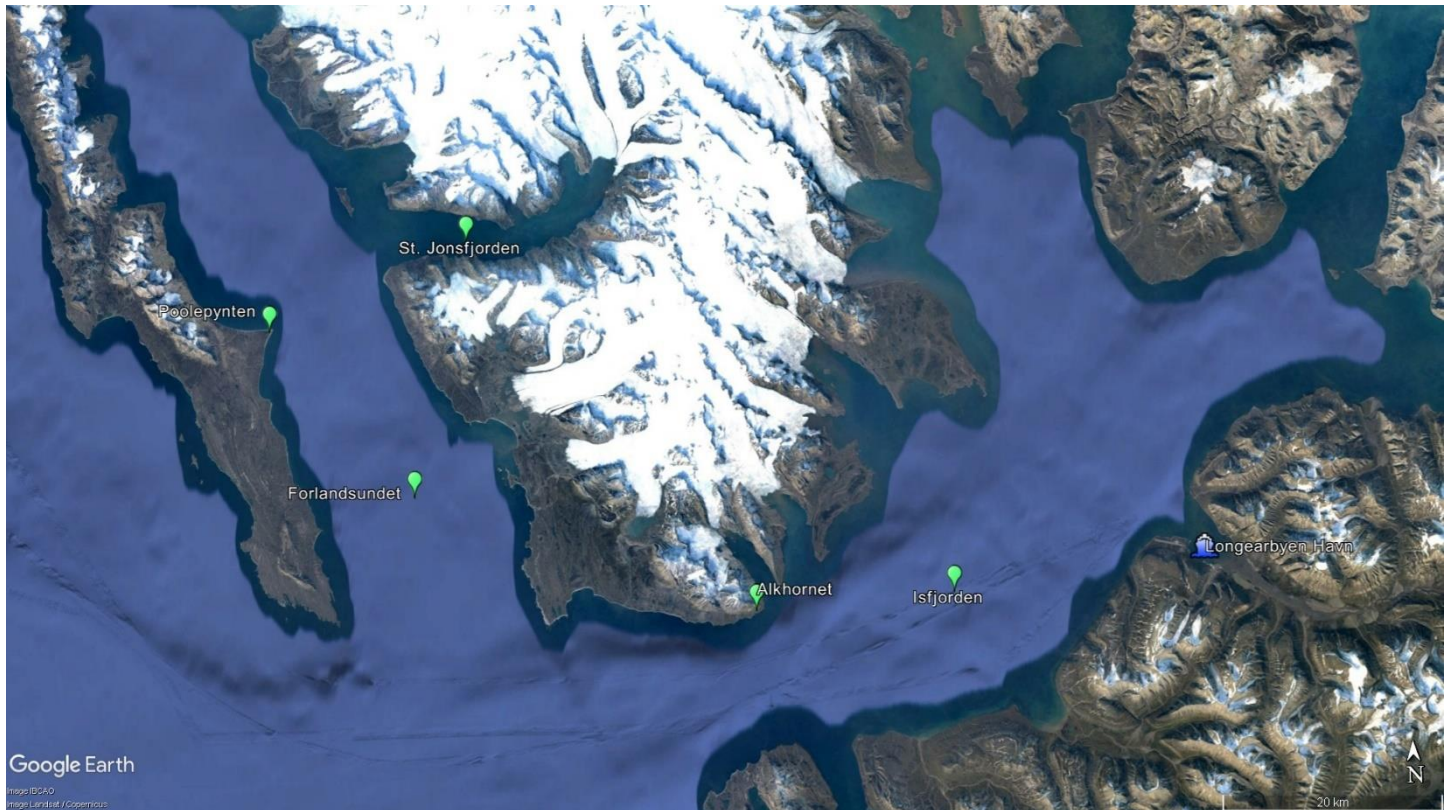
- **Drift ice**, also called **brash ice**, is sea ice that is not attached to the shoreline or any other fixed object (shoals, grounded icebergs, etc.). Unlike fast ice, which is “fastened” to a fixed object, drift ice is carried along by winds and sea currents, hence its name. When drift ice is driven together into a large single mass (>70% coverage), it is called **pack ice**.
- Drift ice consists of ice floes, individual pieces of floating sea ice 20 metres or more across. Floes are classified according to size: *small* – 20 metres to 100 metres; *medium* – 100 metres to 500 metres; *big* – 500 metres to 2,000 metres; *vast* – 2 kilometres to 10 kilometres; and *giant* – more than 10 kilometres.
- **80th parallel north** is a circle of latitude that is 80 degrees north of the Earth’s equatorial plane, and 10 degrees (1,100 km) south of the North Pole, in the Arctic. This latitude is the boundary between the Arctic and High Arctic zones of Canada’s National Topographic System, at which the longitude span of each map sheet doubles as one crosses this latitude going north.

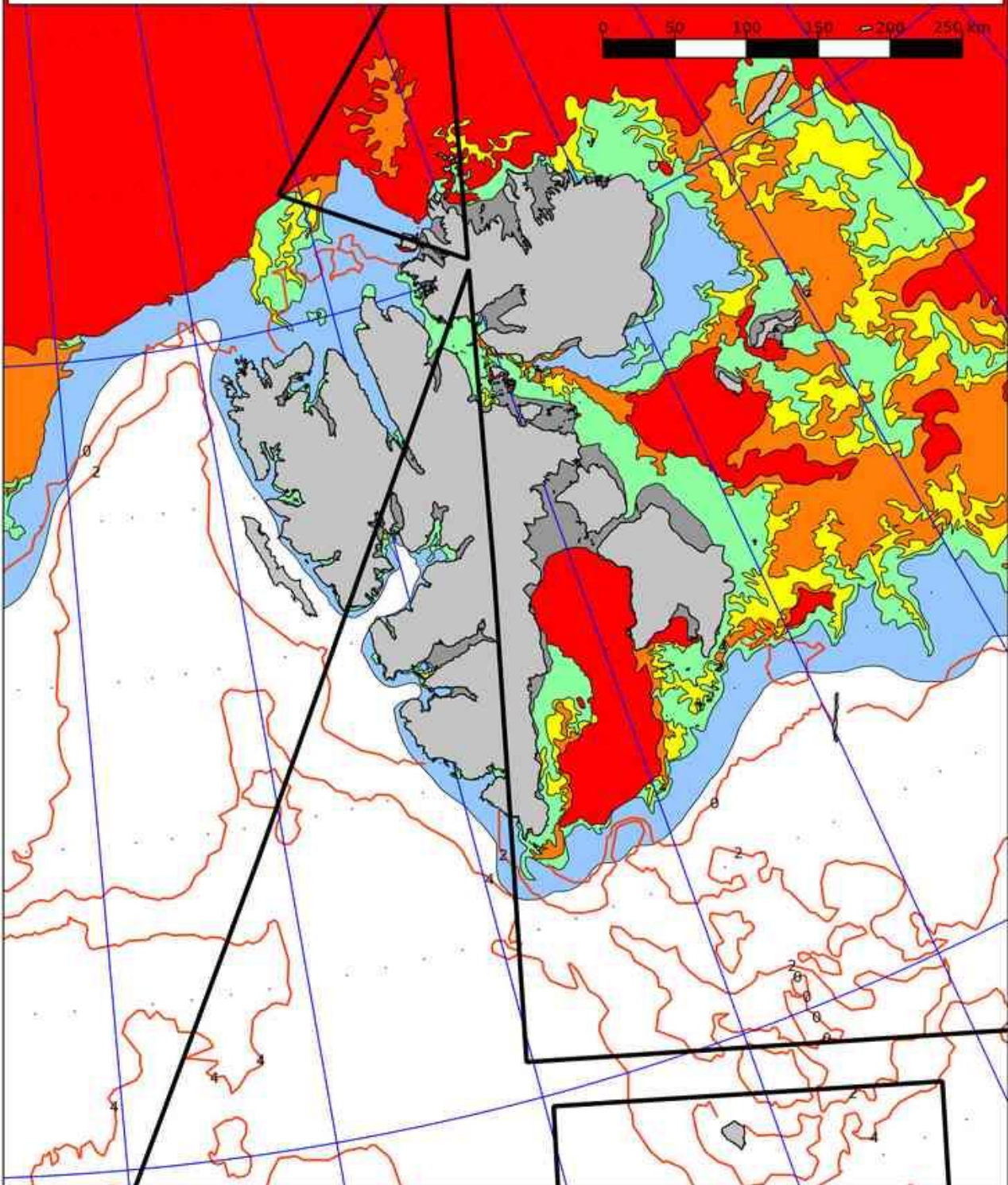


NATURE AREA **Forlandsundet** ; 88-km long sound separating Svalbard’s largest island of Spitsbergen from the western island of Prins Karls Foreland

Oceanwide Expedition: “Walrus sometimes haul out in Forlandsundet. Alternatively, we might sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden, landing at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on these cliffs, Arctic foxes search below for fallen eggs and chicks, and reindeer graze the sparse vegetation.”

- **Poolepynten:** headland at the eastern coast of the Prins Karls Forland, located within the strait of Forlandsundet ; lies within the Forlandet National Park ; known Walrus colony! ; eBird 41 sp. and 74 checklists
- **St. Jonsfjorden:** fjord in Oscar II Land ; length of 21 kilometer, and opens westwards into the strait of Forlandsundet ; several glaciers debouche into the fjord, including Gaffelbreen and Konowbreen from the north, a merge of Osbornebreen, Devikbreen, Vintervegen, Paulbreen and Bukkebreen at the bottom, and Vegardbreen, Charlesbreen and Bullbreen from the south
- **Alkhornet:** mountain on the western coast of Spitsbergen ; 428 m in height and stands in southern Oscar II Land on the northern side of the entrance to the inlet of Isfjorden near the bay of Trygghamna ; identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because its cliffs support about 10,000 breeding pairs of seabirds ; eBird 23 sp. and 73 checklists





Ice Categories

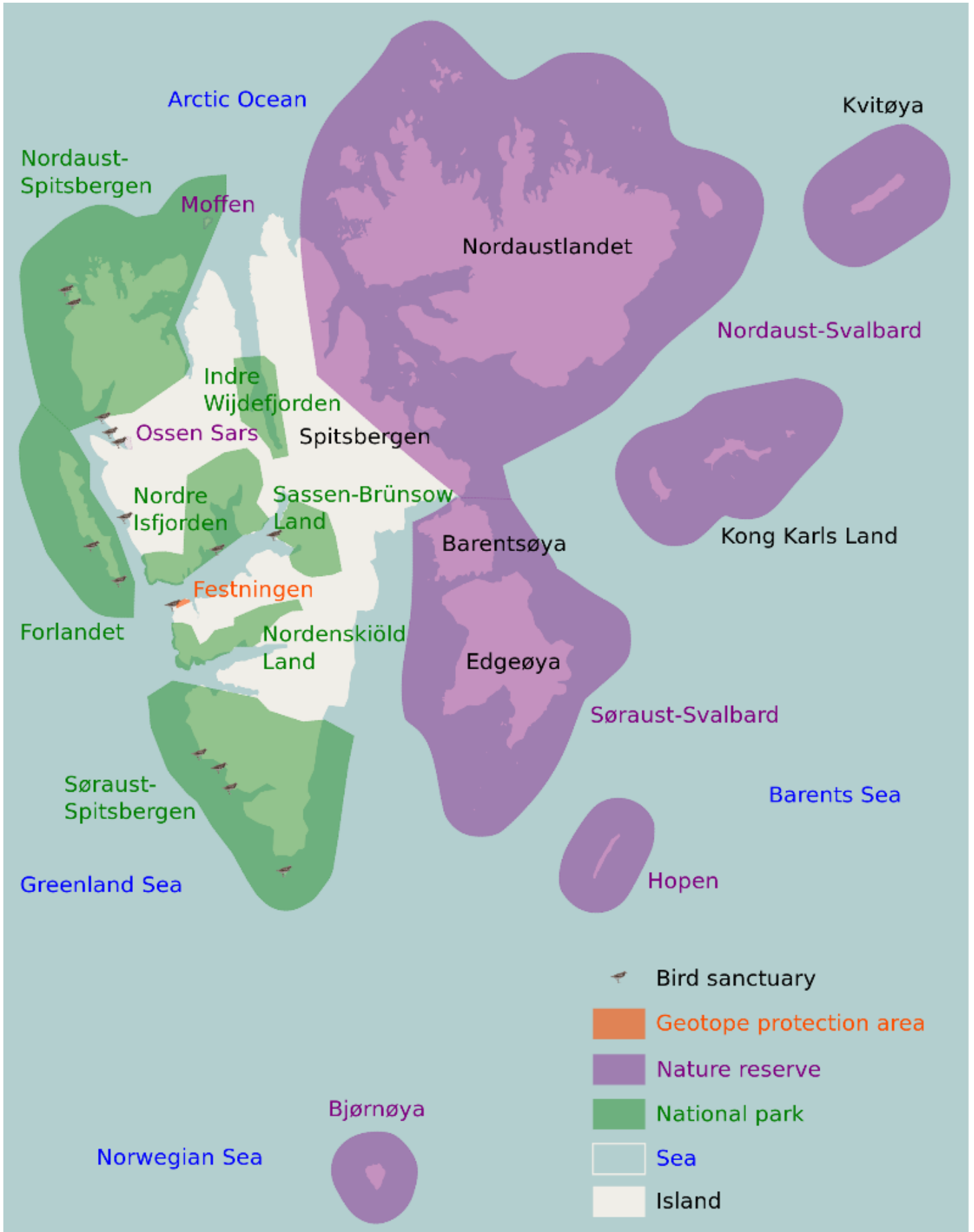
10/10m	Fast Ice	7-9/10ms	Close Drift Ice	1-4/10ths	Very Open Drift Ice
0-6/10ths	Very Close Drift Ice	4-7/10ths	Open Drift Ice	0-1/10ths	Open Water

Projection: Polar Stereographic, True Scale at 80°N, WGS84 Scale: 3,792,530
 Map Corners:
 UL = 82°59'26.367"N, 4°23'24.258"E UR = 80°15'44.998"N, 44°11'58.041"E
 LR = 72°32'34.502"N, 22°45'36.340"E LL = 73°32'32.370"N, 1°53'49.352"E
 Coastline Data: GSHHS version 2.2.0 (<http://www.sea-ice.hawaii.edu/weslee/gshhs/>)



Sentinel-1
 Radarsat-2

Sea Surface Temperature



Numbers behind each species indicate the number of recorded sightings for Svalbard on iNaturalist (05/2024).



Bowhead Whale 0
(*Balaena mysticetus*)



Humpback Whale 18
(*Megaptera novaeangliae novaean.*)



Fin Whale 8
(*Balaenoptera physalus physal.*) VU



Blue Whale 18
(*Balaenoptera musculus musc.*) EN



Common Minke Whale 27
(*Balaenoptera acutorostrata ac.*)



Sperm Whale 1
(*Physeter macrocephalus*) VU



Northern Bottlenose Whale 0
(*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) NT



Narwhal 0
(*Monodon monoceros*)



Beluga 54
(*Delphinapterus leucas*)



Killer Whale 2
(*Orcinus orca*) DD



Atlantic White-sided Dolphin 0
(*Lagenorhynchus acutus*)



White-beaked Dolphin 3
(*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)



Svalbard Reindeer 550
(*Rangifer tar. platyrhynchus*) VU



Arctic Fox 210
(*Vulpes lagopus fuliginosus*)



Polar Bear 230
(*Ursus maritimus*) VU



Walrus 302
(*Odobenus rosmarus rosm.*) VU



Bearded Seal 110
(*Erignathus barbatus barbatus*)



Hooded Seal 1
(*Cystophora cristata*) VU



Harp Seal 8
(*Pagophilus groenlandicus*)



Harbor Seal 70
(*Phoca vitulina vitulina*)



Ringed Seal 19
(*Pusa hispida hispida*)



Numbers behind each species indicate the probabilities of presence on Svalbard following eBird checklists (05/2024).



Pink-footed Goose 22%
(*Anser brachyrhynchus*)**



Brant 6%
(*Branta bernicla hrota*)



Barnacle Goose 38%
(*Branta leucopsis*)*



Green-winged Teal 1%
(*Anas crecca crecca*)



King Eider 12%
(*Somateria spectabilis*)**



Common Eider 55%
(*Somateria mollissima borealis*)* NT



Long-tailed Duck 12%
(*Clangula hyemalis*) VU



Rock Ptarmigan 7%
(*Lagopus muta hyperbor.*)*** e ssp.



Common Ringed Plover 12%
(*Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula*)



Red Phalarope 8%
(*Phalaropus fulicarius*)*



Red-necked Phalarope 1%
(*Phalaropus lobatus*)



Ruddy Turnstone 3%
(*Arenaria interpres interpres*)



Sanderling 2%
(*Calidris alba*)



Dunlin 6%
(*Calidris alpina arctica*)



Purple Sandpiper 37% Lif.
(*Calidris maritima*)***



Long-tailed Jaeger 5% Lif.
(*Stercorarius longicaudus long.*)***



Parasitic Jaeger 44%
(*Stercorarius parasiticus*)**



Pomarine Jaeger 4% Lif.
(*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**



Great Skua 17% Lif.
(*Stercorarius skua*)***



Atlantic Puffin 26%
(*Fratercula arctica naumanni*)** VU



Black Guillemot 63%
(*Cephus grylle mandtii*)**



Dovekie 36% Lif.
(*Alle alle alle*)***



Thick-billed Murre 49% Lif.
(*Uria lomvia lomvia*)***



Common Murre 2%
(*Uria aalge hyperborea*)**



Black-legged Kittiwake 76%
(*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*)** VU



Ivory Gull 11% Lif.
(*Pagophila eburnea*)** NT



Sabine's Gull 2% Lif.
(*Xema sabini palaeartica*)**



Great Black-backed Gull 3%
(*Larus marinus*)*



Glaucous Gull 68% Lif.
(*Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus*)**



Lesser Black-backed Gull 1%
(*Larus fuscus graellsii*)



Iceland Gull 1% Lif.
(*Larus glaucoides glaucoides*)**



Arctic Tern 53% Lif.
(*Sterna paradisaea*)**



Red-throated Loon 18%
(*Gavia stellata*)

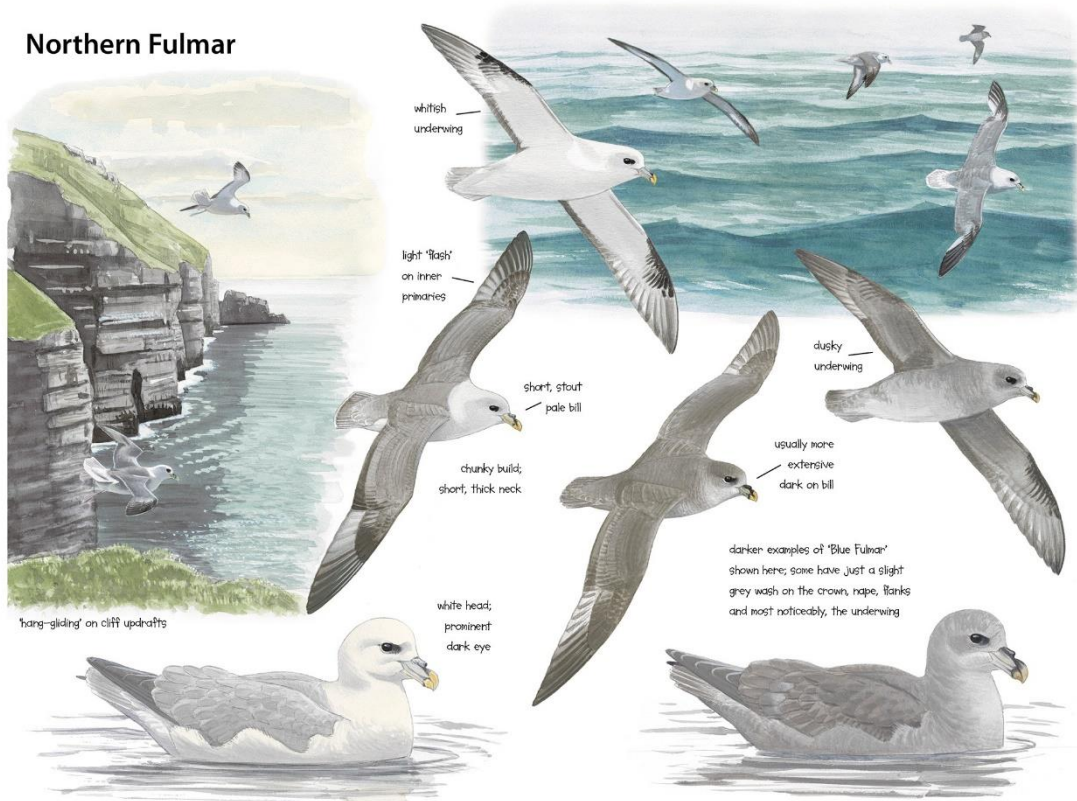


Northern Fulmar 70%
(*Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*)**

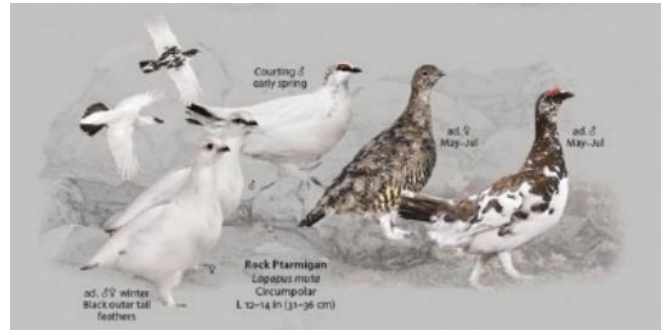


Snow Bunting 42%
(*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*)*

Northern Fulmar



SELECTED BIRDS ON SVALBARD



Source : The Arctic Guide by Sharon Chester (2016)

NB Blue Whale scaled at approximately 25 m long – at the lower end of its 25–33 m range

BLUE WHALE
25–33 m



Fin Whale
(showing white right side of jaw)



FIN WHALE
19–27 m



COMMON MINKE WHALE
7–10 m



HUMPBACK WHALE
13–16 m

NB Common Minke Whale scaled at approximately 10 m long – at the upper end of its range



NORTH ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE WHALE
7.0–9.0m

SPERM WHALE
11–20 m

NB The dolphin-sized Dwarf Sperm Whale and Pygmy Sperm Whale are shown on page 62



KILLER WHALE (female)
5.0–9.5m



ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN
2.0–2.5m

WHITE-BELLIED DOLPHIN
2.3m

BOWHEAD WHALE (vagrant)
14–19 m



BELUGA 3.0–4.6m



NARWHAL 4–5m



Source : Europe's Sea Mammals Field Guide (2019)