



SVVALBARD

Expedition Journal

78°22'N, 15°65'E



Contents

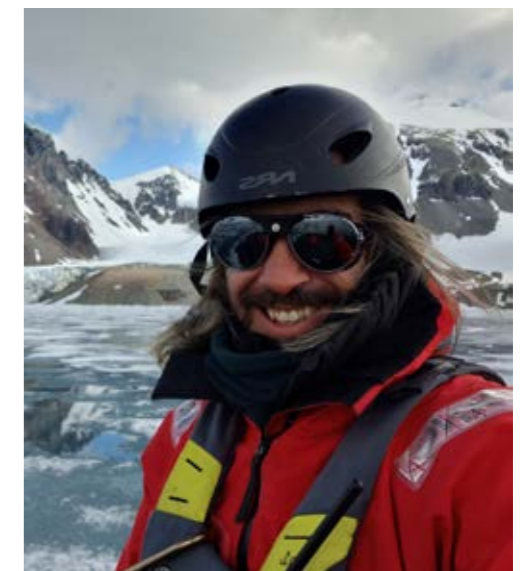
A message from the expedition team	3
Your itinerary	4-5
Wildlife report	7
DAY 01 - Longyearbyen	10
DAY 02 - Virgohamna & Fuglefjorden	13
DAY 03 - Exploring Alkefjellet & Wilhelmøya	14
DAY 04 - Exploring Kinnvika & Murchisonfjorden	16
DAY 05 - Exploring Bockfjorden SW & Mushamna	21
DAY 06 - Lilliehöökbreen, Reppingen & 14. Julibuka	22
DAY 07 - Ny-Ålesund & Ossian Sarsfjellet	25
DAY 08 - Van Keulenfjorden	28
DAY 09 - Alkhornet, Trygghamna, Nordenskiöldbreen & Adolfbukta	33

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXPEDITION TEAM

Dear friends,

We hope you had a safe and pleasant return home. As an expedition team, we want to express our joy in sharing such beautiful moments with you during the treks and Zodiac tours. It was a great pleasure to have you with us and to see how this wonderful group embraced our passion for Svalbard and its nature. Now, you are also Arctic "strawbirds", and we are sure you will pass on the magic of this place to your loved ones.

Warm greetings,
Federico Beaudoin and Bob Gilmore





Your itinerary

Day by day

DAY 01 - LONGYEARBYEN

DAY 02 - VIRGOHAMNA & FUGLEFJORDEN

DAY 03 - ALKEFJELLET & WILHELMØYA

DAY 04 - KINNVIKA & MURCHISONFJORDEN

DAY 05 - BOCKFJORDEN SW & MUSHAMNA

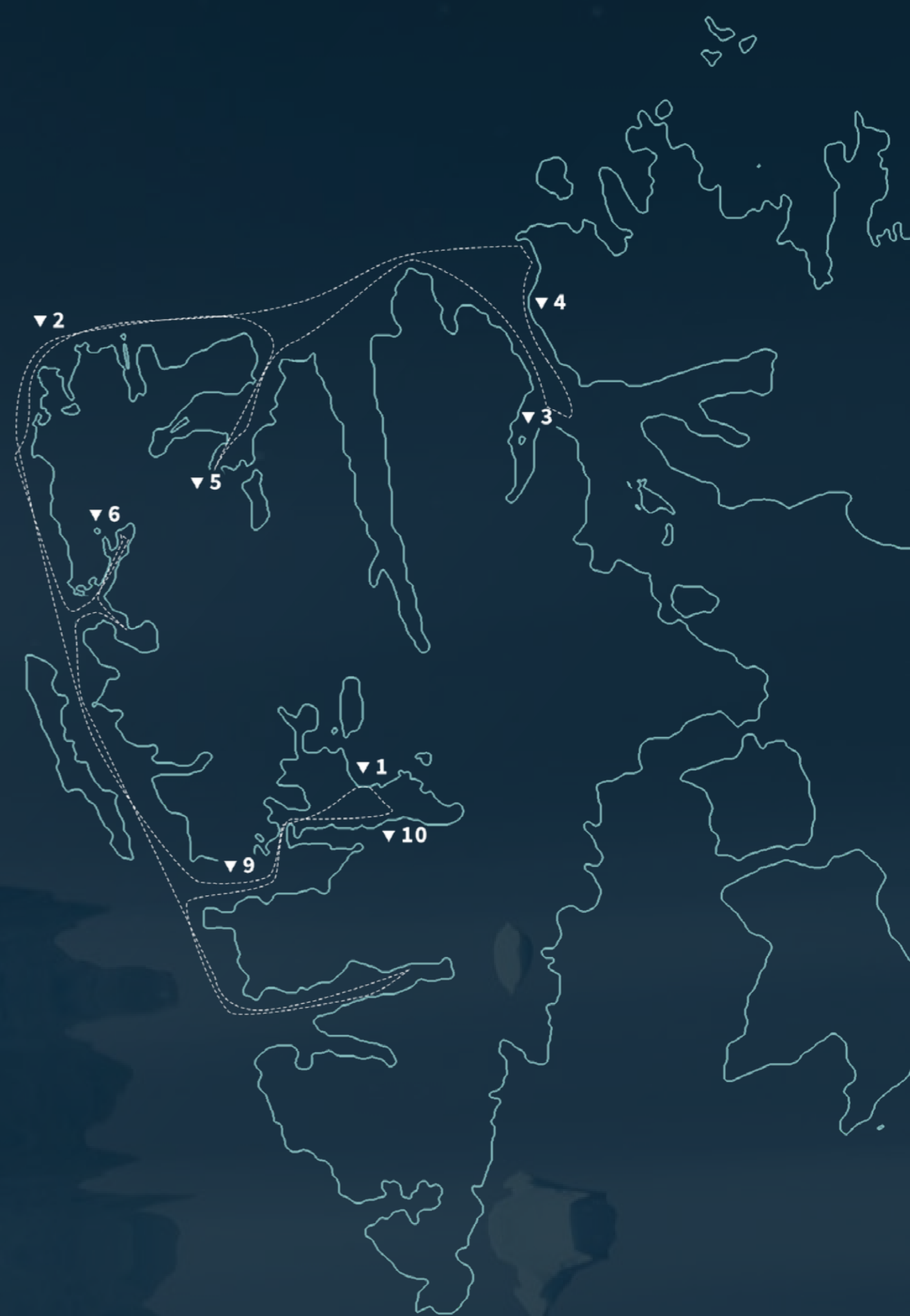
DAY 06 - LILLIEHÖÖKBREEN, REPPINGEN & 14. JULIBUKA

DAY 07 - NY ÅLESUND & OSSIAN SARSFJELLET

DAY 08 - VAN KEULENFJORDEN

DAY 09 - ALKHORNET, TRYGGHAMNA , NORDENSKJÖLDBREEN & ADOLFBUKTA

DAY 10 - LONGYEARBYEN





Wildlife report

Land mammals

- 7 POLAR BEARS
- ARTIC FOX
- SVALBARD REINDEER

Sea mammals

- WALRUS
- RINGED SEAL
- BEARDED SEAL
- HARBOR SEAL
- COMMON MINKE WHALE
- HUMPBACK WHALE
- WHITE / BELUGA WHALE

Birds

- PASSERIFORMES
- SNOW BUNTING

- ANSERIFORMES
- BARNACLE GOOSE
- PINK-FOOTED GOOSE
- COMMON EIDER

- CHARADRIIFORMES
- PURPLE SANDPIPER
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
- GLAUCOUS GULL
- ARCTIC TERN
- GREAT SKUA
- ARCTIC SKUA
- LONG-TAILED SKUA
- BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT
- ATLANTIC PUFFIN

- PROCELLARIIFORMES
- NORTHERN FULMAR



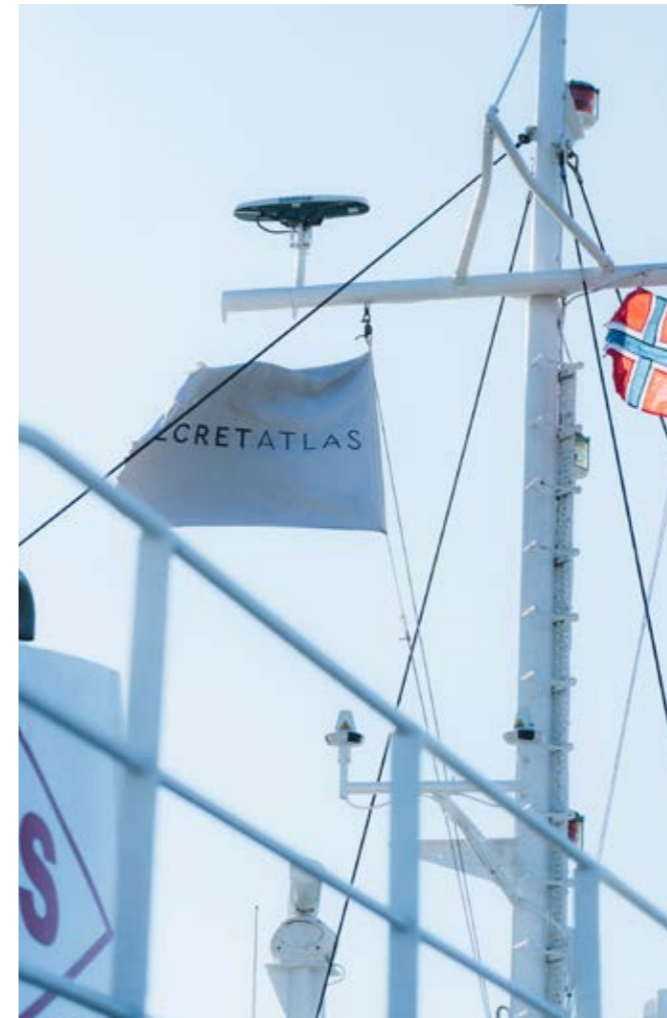


Longyearbyen

WELCOME ON BOARD!

Our adventure began in stunning weather at the gateway to the wilderness, Longyearbyen. Excitement was in the air as happy faces gathered, ready for the Freya expedition to explore Svalbard.

After completing our mandatory briefings on board, we left the gangway and headed northward, filled with anticipation.





Virgohamna & Fuglefjorden



FIRST ZODIAC CRUISE

Our first Zodiac cruise took us along the northern reaches of Svalbard. With calm waters and perfect weather, we stepped onto land together for the first time, exploring the ruins of an old Dutch whaling station at Smeerenburg. The contrast of nature reclaiming its space was striking, and just offshore, we were treated to the sight of two walruses – an adult male and a juvenile – interacting in the water.

The afternoon brought us closer to the mighty Svitjodbreen glacier, where we enjoyed the dramatic icefalls and the thunderous sound of the glacier's movement. We ended the day cruising through the peaceful fjord, marvelling at harbour seals resting on rocks in their typical 'banana' pose.



Exploring Alkefjellet & Wilhelmøya

OUR FIRST POLAR BEAR SIGHTING!

The highlight of the day was our first polar bear sighting! We watched in awe as the majestic bear roamed among the rocks during low tide, showcasing its incredible adaptability to the summer conditions. The sight of the bear against the snow and ice was unforgettable.

Our Zodiac cruise took us beneath the towering cliffs of Alkefjellet, where guillemots flew, dove, and danced in what seemed like chaotic harmony, creating a perfect symphony of life. Later, we spotted a mother polar bear with her two cubs, peacefully grazing on summer vegetation – a rare and heartwarming moment.



Exploring Kinnvika & Murchisonfjorden

EXPLORING THE FASCINATING MICRO-LANDSCAPES

We spent the morning exploring the fascinating micro-landscapes of Kinnvika, led by Bob, who shared his passion for the area's history. We discovered lichen-covered bones, unique rock formations, and remnants of human activity, including an amphibious vehicle from the 1950s.

The team enjoyed fishing together, celebrating each catch, followed by a delicious barbecue prepared by our onboard Australian scientist.

The day ended with an epic polar plunge, where brave volunteers dove into the icy waters, sharing the moment with seals swimming nearby.





Exploring Bockfjorden SW & Mushamna



ENCOUNTERING A LOCAL ADVENTURER

The day began with fog gently rolling in, creating a mystical atmosphere as we crossed rivers toward the towering Friedrichbreen Glacier. Walking on this colossal ice formation felt like stepping into another world. We then hiked to the remote Varfluesjoen Lake, where we encountered a local adventurer who had trekked alone for seven days from Pyramiden.

We exchanged snacks, Arctic char, and beers, and forged an unexpected bond with the stranger in this isolated wilderness. We ended the day collecting freshly caught Arctic trout.

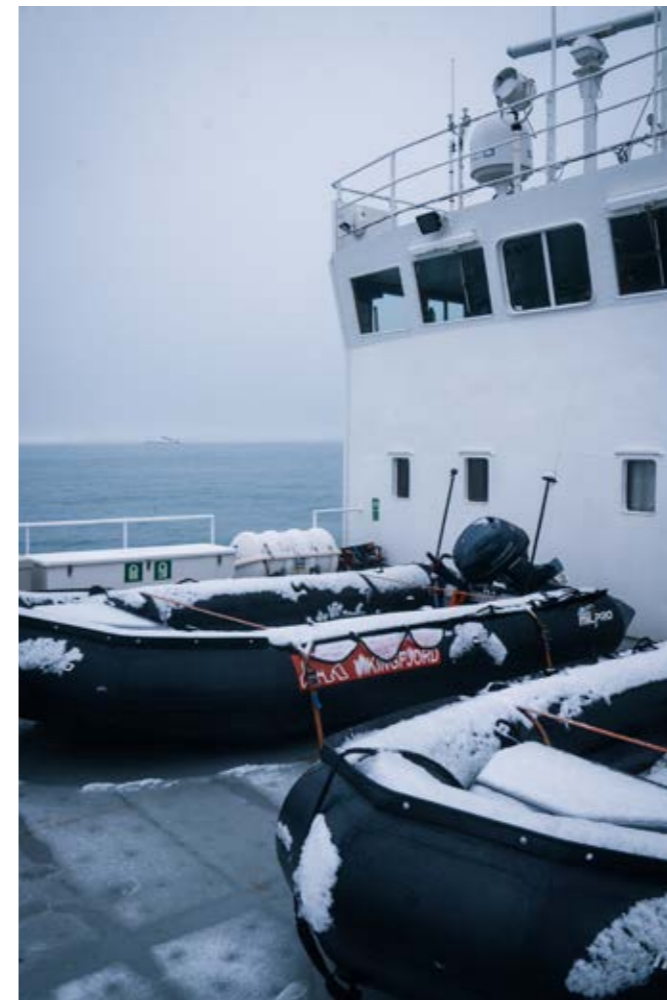


Lilliehöökreen, Reppingen & 14. Julibuka

SERENADED BY SEABIRDS AND THE SOUNDS OF THE GLACIER CREAKING

The morning fog wrapped us in silence as we set off on a Zodiac cruise to the majestic Lilliehookreen Glacier. Passing icebergs and Arctic terns nesting on islets, we were serenaded by seabirds and the sounds of the glacier creaking under pressure. The captain expertly positioned our boat near a puffin colony, allowing us to capture some incredible action shots of these charming birds.

Later, we hiked along the lateral moraine of the 14. Julibuka Glacier, which offered panoramic views of the Arctic wilderness. The sight of Arctic fox tracks and the ever-changing light on the snow-capped peaks made the day feel like a true Arctic adventure.





Ny-Ålesund & Ossian Sarsfjellet

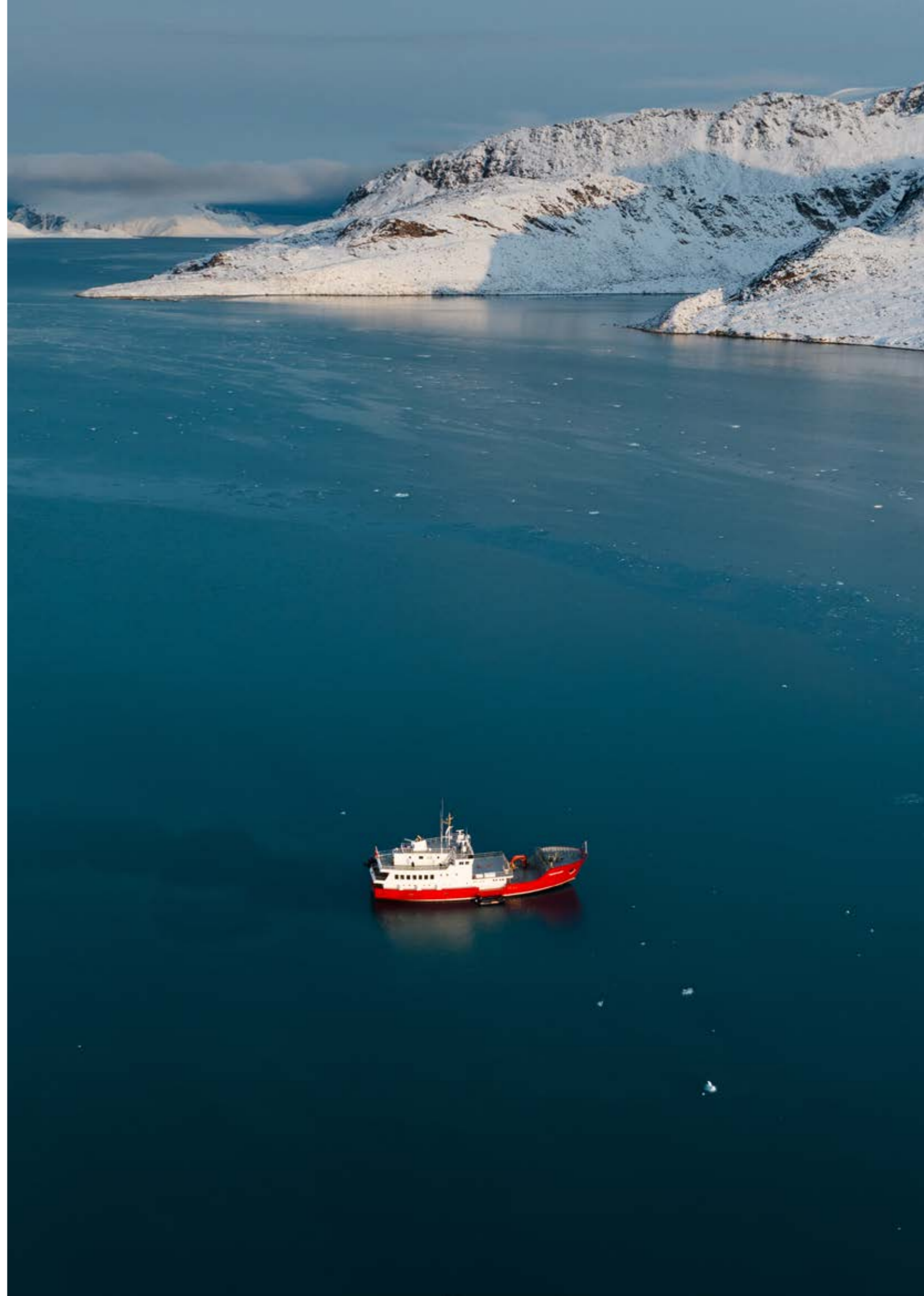


SHARING A QUIET MOMENT WITH THE GROUP

Our journey continued with a visit to Ny-Ålesund, the northernmost research station in the world, where we marvelled at the historic airship mast that launched early North Pole expeditions. As we toured the museum and strolled through the misty streets, we gained insight into the scientific work being done here. The local souvenir shop opened just for us, and we grabbed a few mementos to bring home.

In the afternoon, we hiked Ossian Sarsfjellet, where we encountered a lone reindeer grazing peacefully on the slopes. As we climbed higher, we were rewarded with spectacular views from the cliffs, overlooking the fjords and valleys below. The sense of peace and connection with nature was overwhelming as we shared this quiet moment with the group.





Van Keulenfjorden

WILDLIFE SEARCH PAYS OFF

We set sail early, eager to explore Van Keulenfjorden's vast, untouched landscape. The search for wildlife challenged us at first, but soon, we spotted a mother polar bear with her two cubs nestled on a hillside – a heartwarming sight. The mother wore a research collar, part of an ongoing effort to monitor polar bear populations in Svalbard.

While observing the family, a sudden commotion broke out as a flock of geese dashed toward the shoreline, pursued by an Arctic fox. Though the fox missed its prey, it posed elegantly for photos, with its fur blending perfectly with the stony backdrop.







Alkhornet, Tryggghamna, Nordenskiöldbreen & Adolfbukta



PERFECT WEATHER ON THE FINAL DAY

Our final day greeted us with perfect weather – sunny, windless, and fog-free. We ventured to Alkhornet, a majestic natural landmark that has guided sailors for centuries. The cliffs echoed with the songs of seabirds, and peaceful reindeer grazed below. Our last walk was filled with laughter, conversations, and a shared sense of accomplishment as we soaked in the shadows of clouds dancing across the landscape. It was the perfect end to our extraordinary adventure. As we boarded the Zodiacs for the final time, we felt a bittersweet mix of joy and nostalgia for the memories we had created together.

Tomorrow, we bid farewell to Freya and the breathtaking beauty of Svalbard. As we head home, we carry with us the unforgettable memories of this Arctic wonder, ready to share our stories of adventure, awe, and connection to the wild with our friends and family.

Svalbard will forever hold a special place in our hearts.



Thank you for exploring with us!



'To reignite the spirit of exploration and embrace the innate curiosity and sense of discovery that defines the human experience, all through the lens of Expedition Micro Cruising.'



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