

ARCTIC VOYAGE
EXPEDITION LOG
Spitsbergen Explorer
23 June – 3 July 2007



Ship and Crew Information

Peregrine Voyager

This specially designed scientific research vessel was built in Finland in 1989 for the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oceanology. The ship was named after Akademik Sergey Vavilov, a nuclear physicist with the Russian Academy of Sciences, who went on to head a research institute in St Petersburg. The Akademik Sergey Vavilov, or as we know it, the Peregrine Voyager was specifically designed and built to receive long distance submarine acoustics, and is capable of “silent ship” operation to assist acoustic research.

The Peregrine Voyager often performs research in tandem with an identical sister ship, the Peregrine Mariner. The Peregrine Voyager is now owned and run by the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, which is the primary oceanographic research institution in Russia.

Port of: <i>Kaliningrad, Russia</i>	Draft:	<i>6.09 m</i>
Built: <i>1989 in Rauma, Finland</i>	Breadth:	<i>18.28 m</i>
Gross <i>6,450</i>	Length (LOA):	<i>117.04 m</i>
IceClass:	<i>KM*L1 (1) A2, Canadian Type B</i>	
Engines:	<i>5,000 kW diesel, twin engine, twin propeller, and 600 kW bow and stern thrusters</i>	

Peregrine Voyager Crew List

Name	Rank
Valeriy Beluga	<i>Captain</i>
Andrey Parshikov	<i>Chief Mate</i>
Alexander Batasov	<i>Second Mate</i>
Gennady Parfyonov	<i>Third Mate & Navigator</i>
Sergey Korolev	<i>Passenger Mate</i>

Peregrine Staff

David “Dutch” Willmott	<i>Expedition Leader</i>
Chloe Kurts	<i>Hotel Manager</i>
Stuart Tidswell	<i>Head Chef</i>
Annie Inglis	<i>Program Co-ordinator</i>
Aaron Lawton	<i>Kayak Guide</i>
Scott MacPhail	<i>That Guy</i>
David Sinclair	<i>Photographer in Residence</i>
David McGonigal	<i>Guide/Photographer</i>
Thomas Pickard	<i>Assistant Expedition Leader</i>
Bjørn Tårnes	<i>Guide</i>
David “Woody” Wood	<i>Guide</i>
John Ralls	<i>Sous Chef</i>
Dale Berg	<i>Sous Chef</i>
Maggie Scott	<i>Bartender</i>
Ian Stirling	<i>Naturalist</i>
Lynn Woodworth	<i>Naturalist</i>
Consulting Doctor	<i>Dr Roger Yao</i>



The Daily Log

23rd June, 2007 West Coast Spitsbergen

Time: 1600
Position: Lat: 78° 10' N Lon: 15° 20' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1020 mbar
Air Temperature: +5°C

“A large volume of adventures may be grasped within this little span of life, by him who interests his heart in everything.” Laurence Sterne

Around 4pm we were welcomed aboard the Peregrine Voyager at the beginning of our trip of our exploration around Svalbard.

Many of us had enjoyed the day in the stark, wild environs of Longyearbyen and an introduction to life above 78° north. Strolling the ‘metropolis’ during the day, we were able to take in the museum, tourist information and the sprinkling of shops. After arriving at the vessel, we had time to acclimatise, explore the ship and unpack.

A delicious afternoon buffet and drinks were served up in the bar and, after an introduction by the Expedition Leader, Dutch, and the Hotel Manager, Chloe, we were then briefed by Woody for the imminent lifeboat drill. Most were on deck to view the “throwing of the lines” as the Peregrine Voyager gracefully eased from the dock with the assistance of the stern and bow thrusters. Shortly after we were mustered to the lifeboat stations by the sounding of the alarms for our ‘surprise’ lifeboat drill (which we performed admirably).

We had a beautiful evening with no wind and calm seas as we sailed from Longyearbyen, heading west then turning north from Adventfjorden into Isfjorden. After dinner, many of us headed out on deck to enjoy the polar scenery until very late evening/early morning and several species of seabirds were found with keen eyes, binoculars and long lenses. The glaciers and peaks gleamed in silver and white in the endless daylight as the Vavilov passed the long island of Prins Karls Forland and turned east into Kongsfjorden, heading for tomorrow morning’s destination.

Russian Word of the Day *Spa-see-ba* - Thank-you

24th June, 2007 Northwest coast of Spitsbergen

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 78°59.3'N Lon: 010°43.23' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1016 mbar
Air Temperature: +6 °C



“My experience of ships is that on them one makes an interesting discovery about the world. One finds one can do without it completely.”

Malcolm Bradbury (1932)

Well, our first full day on the ship was certainly action-packed. We woke to a beautifully calm morning and it just got better during the day, clouded for a while in the afternoon and cleared to a wonderfully sunny evening.

During the morning, we had a very full program of mandatory briefings. Down in the Presentation room, Woody was outlining our procedures for safe Zodiac operations while Dutch was in the bar explaining the AECO guidelines and safe conduct in polar bear country. We had an early lunch and at the end of it, Dutch gave us some information about our landing at Ny Ålesund. He was followed by David who took us through some of the major explorers who had used Ny Ålesund as their base, from Byrd to Amundsen, then Woody told us of the modern history of the settlement from mining town, until the mine closed in 1962, to now, as a modern scientific base.

Then it was time to make our first excursion by Zodiac. It was only a short run to the dock and the conditions were as calm as could be so it certainly wasn't difficult. Once ashore we found ourselves in a small international village. The first stop for many was the General Store with an array of books about various aspects of Svalbard plus T-shirts and what are reputed to be the world's best polar socks. Then it was onto the bust commemorating perhaps Norway's finest polar explorer: Roald Amundsen who was the first to sail through the Northwest Passage, the second through the Northeast Passage, the first to lead a trip to the South Pole and part of the first party of men to view the North Pole. From the large bust, and Roald's very prominent nose, the path forked with one way leading down to some sled dogs that were caged for the summer and the other leading to the Airship airfield from where Nobile's dirigible Norge was launched – as well as his ill-fated Italia two years later.

After we had been ashore for a couple of hours, we were informed that a resident had seen a polar bear approaching the Amundsen tower so the more far-flung groups retreated to the sanctuary of town. We never saw the bear but it was a good test that our systems worked. And they did. There was a chance for most of us to have a quick look at the small museum before returning to the dock, taking last photographs of the tiny train and the various water birds on the lake along the way.

Back on the ship we soon set sail for our next stop before dinner. This was the Lilliehook Glacier, a beautiful icescape that completely filled the end of a broad fjord. On the way there we managed to squeeze in a couple of talks. In the presentation room, Ian Stirling, one of the world's leading polar bear experts told us of the natural history of the polar bear. Meanwhile on the deck behind the bar, our two resident photographic experts, David Sinclair and David McGonigal, were providing some useful photographic tips. It turned out to be a fruitful photographic session as everyone was well primed when the Hanseatic cruised past to add a foreground element to a field of pleasantly triangular landforms while the sun drifted in and out of the clouds to provide dappled lighting.

Up at the glacier, the Captain held the ship in position so we could stand on the bow, drinking hot chocolate in the sunshine and taking in the spectacular landscape. Eventually, we sailed away as we were called to 8pm dinner, with snow-capped mountains floating past the dining room windows while we ate.

After dinner, at about 10pm, Lynn gave the last presentation of the day. Considering the day had been so calm and delightful, her choice of topics was a view of a different world – the maritime world of seasickness. This was both funny and informative and we retired to our beds to be rocked asleep as we sailed yet further north.



Russian word of the day: *Dob-raye oo-tra* - Good morning!

25th June, 2007 North coast of Spitsbergen

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 79°53.29'N Lon: 011°05.36' E

Sunrise: — Sunset: —

Barometric Pressure: 1020 mbar

Air Temperature: +4 °C

“A sense of the future is that the present generation is morally responsible to future generations.”

Andrei Sakharov and C. P. Snow

We woke to a mellow morning off the coast of Fugelsangen, or ‘Birdsong’ Island. This was to be our first landing in the Arctic wilderness and we were all up and early to breakfast, keen to get going. Fugelsangen, like much of the north west of Spitsbergen, is a steep island marked by lacy traces of snow in gullies and crevasses and a little green on sunny slopes. It was a bit windy by the time we left the gangway, but that didn’t slow us down. We arrived at the landing beach and set off for the bird colony. Fugelsangen is home to a large colony of Little auks, or dovekies, the smallest of the European auks. These little 150 gram black and white flying balls are the most numerous bird in Svalbard, and Fugelsangen is only one of 207 known colonies that total about 1 million breeding pairs. They nest deep in crevasses to avoid predation by Arctic foxes and polar bears, laying a single blue egg around this time, hatching the egg in 29 days and fledging the chick four weeks later, when they return to the sea for winter around the middle or end of August.

We clambered up the rocks and wove our way through the boulders to the rocky outcrops that the Little auks called home, and settled in, waiting and watching. Sitting on the rocks, we could hear the birds call to each other with a sort of cackling trill that sounds a bit like a laugh. The dovekies gathered slowly on the rocks around their home crevasses, looking around and shuffling about a little, then they would suddenly all fling themselves into the air at the same time, taking off and wheeling over the colony. We would hear the whirring of stubby wings and look up as another group passed overhead, then the sound would fade as they headed out to sea to feed. There is some concern for the diet of these little birds, as their main food item, a type of high Arctic copepod, is reliant on very cold water. But at present their numbers are very high and they are very successful in the Svalbard region. In fact, the Little auk is so successful in Svalbard that it qualifies as a major nutrient transport system, depositing marine-derived nutrient-rich guano inland when coming and going from their nests.

We finally departed the Little auk colony and made our way back to the beach, where we were ushered into Zodiacs and back to the ship, where a cup of something hot was followed by a hot lunch and a bit of shopping down in the gift shop. During lunch the Captain repositioned the ship, sailing southeast to Amsterdamoya where we went ashore on the southern end at Smeerenburg. Our afternoon excursion was in sunny conditions with almost no wind. The day continued to improve, and we ended up with sunshine mixed with some high cloud in very still conditions. Smeerenburg, or “Blubbertown”, was founded some time before 1620, grew to be a large shore-based whaling station and was abandoned by 1660. The location was perfect in that the area was largely ice-free for most of the time and also provided good anchorage near a good beach and fjords full of whales. While there were a few other early European whaling sites, Smeerenburg is a very important cultural site due to the physical remains still in situ.

The Dutch would arrive each spring, empty their ships onto shore and set up camp. Several different Dutch ‘trading chambers’ operated there, cooperating because they had no real choice as



they were also competing against other countries for the bounty of Svalbard. When the station was first occupied, it began as copper pots brought off ships and put onto rough temporary housings, while the men lived in tents for the summer and worked exposed to the elements. Later, the stone and brick furnaces that still remain now were installed, as were cutting platforms, accommodation, storehouses and workshops, to a maximum of 16 or 17 buildings. Surprisingly, the Dutch also installed a cannon to protect against interlopers and competition.

During the summer, the whalers went out in small vessels called shallops with a harpooner at the front, ready to spear the whale. It was very dangerous work, and required both skill and luck. When caught, a whale was stripped of its blubber either at a ship or on shore, and the strips of blubber were cut into smaller pieces and finally put into try-pots and boiled down to train oil, then drained into cooling pots where impurities were removed. Oil was stored in barrels and casks and taken out to the ships waiting at anchor in the harbour for the homeward journey. The residue of blubber left in the bottom of the try-pots, called fritters, was reused as fuel to fire the try-pots and boil more whale oil. Arctic "Blubbertown" fired the imagination of Europeans, and generated many fanciful stories about the size and sophistication of the town. Even Nansen, a polar explorer who should have known better, claimed it to have stalls and streets and some stories exaggerated the place to have a population of 20,000 people and the infrastructure of a normal city. In reality, excavations started in the late 1970s show that probably a maximum of 200 men were there at any one time and during the forty years of its life, there was neither church nor brothel.

While we charged, meandered, peregrinated and photographed our way around Smeerenburg, we also collected a significant pile of mostly plastic rubbish, ranging from containers to rope, which we returned to the landing beach for transport to Longyearbyen.

Back on board, many of us headed out onto the outer decks (the one close to Maggie and her happy hour offerings was most popular) to enjoy the incredible views and fabulous light before coming in for dinner followed by Dutch's briefing on our plans for the rest of the voyage.

Russian Word of the Day *Ya nee pa-nee-may-oo* - I don't understand

26th June, 2007 North coast of Spitsbergen

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 79°49.1'N Lon: 018°03.7' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1022 mbar
Air Temperature: +3 °C

"To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams." John Muir

Ice greeted us as we entered the Hinlopen Strait. Rafts of ice gave promise of increased chances of seeing the ice bear of which we had all dreamed. We saw Bearded seals and Ringed seals hauled out on the ice and spotted the occasional red-stained floe suggesting that the savagery of the ice bear was not far away. We searched the ice patiently and with purpose and eventually the cry went up: "bear at 12 o'clock!" We cautiously approached the polar bear and were rewarded with great views as it climbed onto the ice floe, gave itself a shake and then plunged back into the chilled waters and swam away. We continued to our destination of Alkefjellet and, after lunch, we launched our Zodiacs to cruise the amazing bird cliffs. Alkefjellet's name is no surprise – it takes its name from



the Auks which nest at every vantage point along its stunning rock wall. The gothic columns reached up to the sky and the rich avian masses filled our viewfinders and our minds.

Every ledge, nook and cranny was filled with Guillemots, Glaucous gulls and kittiwakes. A few snow buntings also scooted around near the base of the cliffs. We scanned constantly for views of the furtive and cunning Arctic fox but we were not to be rewarded. Possibly a feast earlier in the day on eggs and chicks had allowed the fox to retire to his or her lair for a rest.

Back on board, we repositioned quickly for another foray into the unknown. Dutch had selected a fjord with some good ice for an exploratory excursion. Off we went into the ice. The fast-ice pans and stark landscape provided a beautiful conclusion to the outings of the day.

Back on board, we warmed up and enjoyed a delightful meal and good company before Bjørn provided some insights into life in Longyearbyen, especially during the long dark winter. The Captain was hard at work on the bridge as he skilfully extricated us from the ice which now was choking the Hinlopen and established the route to our next destination. While we had toured inside the Hinlopen the ice had been pouring in, making our departure much more difficult than our arrival.

Russian Word of the Day *Pa-zhal-sta* - Please

27th June, 2007 Phippsøya & Parrysøya

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 80°31.27' N Lon: 017°59.00' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1022 mbar
Air Temperature: +2 °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

Farthest North! 80°41.108' N, 019°51.705' E

The best-laid plan from the night before, made by our fearless leader Dutch, was to go to Phippsøya, one of the Seven Islands and the most northerly land in Svalbard. Had there been open water around the islands, as the ice chart suggested there might be, we would have had a good chance of finding walruses and polar bears. We might have even gone further north until we reached the southern edge of the polar pack, only about 550 nautical miles from the pole itself. However, as hopeful eyes peered out portholes, and arrived for an early cup of tea in the bar, they were greeted by loose pack and dense fog that brought us back to the reality of unpredictability in the Arctic. Was the ice going to close up right away, or maybe let us go on for some undefined further distance? Who could tell? As we peered into the mist from the deck, we were charmed by the hypnotic beauty of the collage of fog, periodic floes of different sizes, and bits of brash ice that glistened in the diffuse light that reached them through the fog as they bobbed in the wake of the ship. Occasional Thick-billed murrets, dovekies, or Black guillemots briefly appeared, some just in outline like ghosts sweeping silently by, disappearing as quickly as they arrived. The reflections of the Northern fulmars gliding just above the water as they passed by the bow of the ship were truly beautiful and equally ghostlike. For a time, as we swept softly across the glassy sea, it was as if time was in suspension.

We continued toward Phippsøya on a heading through the fog until our progress was abruptly interrupted at the edge of the landfast ice and we could go no further. For a while the ship just sat



still in the fog and then in late morning, the dark rocky tops of Phippsøya and Parysøya emerged as the meagre heat of the sun burnt the fog away.

Appropriately, while our projected travel was stalled by those most Arctic of obstacles - ice and reduced visibility - we waited to see how the day would develop. Nothing could have been more fitting under those circumstances than the overview of Arctic exploratory history given with wit and perception by David McGonigal. We even learned that we were within a few kilometres of where a polar bear almost precluded a 14 yr old Horatio Nelson from fulfilling his destiny before it was shot.

After lunch, the fog had burned off and a blue sky and calm sea invited a Zodiac tour to look for whatever might be out there. The visibility was excellent and although we saw several distant Ringed seals hauled out by their breathing holes in the landfast ice, both walruses and polar bears continued to elude us. A ringed seal surfaced a couple of times near one of the Zodiacs and a Parasitic jaeger passed by to check things out. Our range with the Zodiacs was limited by the sea ice so we surveyed what we could and enjoyed the beauty of a peerless blue-sky Arctic day at the northern edge of Svalbard. As we re-boarded, Aaron entertained us with a series of three Eskimo rolls in his kayak.

Back on the ship, the watch for wildlife continued as the ship headed west again through the loose pack. A very large bearded seal on an ice floe allowed the ship to approach very closely before eventually sliding into the sea and, a little later, an adult female polar bear and her yearling cub were spotted swimming several hundred metres away from the ship. We slowed and watched them for 15-20 minutes before leaving them to their journey. Regardless of the direction they headed, they were going to have a good swim before reaching either consolidated pack ice or land.

Later in the evening, up in the bar, that old salt Woody held forth on the superstitions that some sailors maintain at sea. No whistling, of course, was the best known so we don't whistle up a storm but, judging by the number of times he mentioned women on board as bad luck, we're in trouble!

Russian Word of the Day *Eez-vee-nee-tye* - Excuse Me

28th June, 2007 Moffen Island

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 80°00.03'N Lon: 014°28.36' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1010 mbar
Air Temperature: +5 °C

“There are two kinds of men in the world, those that stay at home and those that do not. Of the two, the latter are by far the most interesting.”
Rudyard Kipling

Dutch woke us early at 6:15am to let us know we were at Moffen Island. The name Moffen is a Dutch word, used as a derogatory term against the Germans. When and why this low island gained this name is lost in the mists of time. We all bundled up and headed out to observe this walrus reserve on the very low island before us, barely rising more than a metre above the waves. The ship provided the perfect platform for viewing the huge blubbery slugs laid out before us like hastily rolled cigars. The day was gorgeous and, as we repositioned down Woodfjord, we spotted a number of polar bears and reindeer on the shore. Monaco Glacier glowed in the sunlight like a beacon



drawing us to its icy heart. Monaco glacier was named for Prince Albert the First of Monaco who led an expedition to Spitsbergen in 1899.

As Lynn completed her talk, which had been interrupted on multiple occasions for wildlife sightings, it was announced that we had Beluga whales on the ship's starboard side. We launched the Zodiacs and headed over to them. They eventually travelled out of the bay, passing close by us, undisturbed by our presence but providing excellent sights of this elusive creature of the Arctic deep. We proceeded to the glacier face and basked in the sun and this glorious natural creation. Kittiwakes, Glaucous gulls and Arctic terns fed at the mouth of the glacier and provided another absorbing viewing opportunity.

After lunch we cruised back toward Worsleyneset for a look around the Aduyne Islands. The Aduyne islands are named for the many water fowl which nest here and translates to Duck Islands. The wind had come up and this made for an interesting Zodiac trip. We landed and joined the various activity groups ashore. All were engrossed in a good old tundra walk, relishing the rich plant and bird life so abundant in this harsh climatic zone, when a polar bear was sighted! The bear was between several groups and the landing site. With Dutch marshalling the forces, Ian providing excellent bear advice and Aaron providing a radio link for visual contact with our marine mammal friend, all went well. A controlled exit ensued and some additional viewing was done from Zodiacs. A wet and bouncy ride back to the ship ended our excursion. We all enjoyed our evening meal and some well-earned drinks. Ian regaled us further with polar bear stories and then tired expeditioners headed to bed.

Russian Word of the Day *At-leech-na* - Excellent

29th June, 2007 Fjortende Julibreen & Prins Karls Forland

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 79°02.9'N Lon: 011°12.1' E

Sunrise: — Sunset: —

Barometric Pressure: 999 mbar

Air Temperature: +6 °C

“The fair breeze blew, white foam flew, the furrow followed free, we were the first that ever burst, into that silent sea.” Samuel Taylor Coleridge

We awoke to howling winds and tumultuous seas as the Peregrine Voyager turned into Krossfjorden (Kross Fjord). As we finished breakfast, the Captain dropped the anchor at the mouth of a beautiful bay with a glacial backdrop. We started our excursion with a Zodiac cruise to the bird cliffs and were lucky enough to find a few resident Atlantic puffins, guarding their eggs. As we continued our cruise, we also enjoyed views of Thick-billed murre and Glaucous gulls. Scanning the ridge above the beach, we observed a herd of about ten to fifteen reindeer, picking their way along the ridge, looking for a way up. The position of lush Arctic vegetation on the north shore of the bay emphasized the importance of a southern aspect and sunshine to the life and development of this vegetation. This spot was reputedly one of the lushest patches of vegetation in Svalbard and certainly appeared to be a veritable oasis. While we were ashore, the weather improved markedly and best of all, the wind dropped.

We sailed away from Fjortende Julibreen (Fourteenth July Glacier) as lunch started, with the goal of getting to Prins Karls Forland and more specifically Richard Lagoon. Our hope was to visit a known walrus haulout, with our landing following specific guidelines given to us by the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO). Woody and Aaron took a Zodiac ashore to scout out the area for walrus and came back empty-handed. They reported smelling the familiar stench of walrus



haulouts, but that the haulout was empty. The landing was called off but, as always, Dutch had a plan that entailed getting us to another known haulout in time for an early pre-breakfast landing tomorrow. The northerly wind remained strong for the remainder of the day as we continued our trip south along the west coast of Spitsbergen.

Russian Word of the Day

Pree-yet-nava apet-tee-ta - Enjoy your meal

30th June, 2007 Poolepynten

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 78°27.0'N Lon: 011°53.8' E

Sunrise: — Sunset: —

Barometric Pressure: 1002 mbar

Air Temperature: +6 °C

“Give me this glorious ocean life, this salt-sea life, this briny, foamy life, when the sea neighs and snorts, and you breathe the very breath that the great whales respire! Let me roll around the globe, let me rock upon the sea; let me race and pant out my life, with an eternal breeze astern, and an endless sea before.” Herman Melville (1819-1891)

What a start to the day! Walrus with a side dish of Arctic Tern, Great skua and assorted gulls and a bit of a fluke with a rare sighting in Svalbard waters of a breaching baby Humpback Whale!

Aaron and Woody bounced out of bed at the crack of dawn (or what would have been the crack of dawn 30 degrees further south) to scout the beach for Walrus at Poolepynten on the East coast of Prins Karls Forland, the westernmost island of the Svalbard Archipelago. They spied three cooperative walrus having a snooze on the southern end of the beach and two other walruses blowing and frolicking offshore that made for great viewing on the way to the beach. Another friendly walrus spied us on the beach and lolled about playfully in the shallows, posing for the paparazzi. On a sad note, it was an unlucky morning for a pilchard that ended up as sushi for a Glaucous gull.

Following presentations by our resident biologist Lynn Woodworth (Land, Sea and Poles) and writer/photographer/historian and Zodiac driver David McGonigal (Photography 101), we launched the Zodiacs for Bourbonhamna beach but only after Woody and Aaron, our intrepid test canaries again braved the windswept waters and gave the “all clear” for a landing.

After the morning’s spectacular theatrics, we were reminded of the bleak history of the whale population by the trappers’ hut and the heaped Beluga bones. The harsh environment of the Arctic was in evidence all around the site: the claw marks of polar bears on the trappers’ hut, the Glaucous gulls and a pair of rare Ivory gulls feeding ravenously on a Sperm whale carcass, even the little flowers struggling to establish themselves, plus driving wind and freezing rain. Woody wrapped up the day with a splendid recitation of the ‘Ode to the Oosik’ to celebrate the sighting of our tusked friends. Another spectacular day in the high Arctic.

Russian Word of the Day

Kag dee-la - How are you?

1st July, 2007 Isbukta



Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 76°22.1'N Lon: 016°53.5' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1010 mbar
Air Temperature: +5 °C

"You never enjoy the world aright, till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens and crowned with the stars"
Thomas Traherne (1636-1674)

Today we were on the "other side" of Spitsbergen – we came around the southernmost point in the early hours of the morning and we woke to find ourselves in a band of ice. Even better, we woke at 7.30am as Dutch, the enforcer, had moved breakfast back to 8am in a rare moment of temporal generosity. There was even time for Woody to give his much-postponed talk on Frijhof Nansen. So it was about 10am before our Zodiac excursion at Isbukta. The ship was anchored a long way off so it was quite a long drive to the edge of the ice but conditions improved markedly once we reached the edge and turned towards the south. Much of the joy of the cruise was provided by the Ringed and Harbour seals which popped up alongside each Zodiac – one inquisitive Bearded seal performed for just about everyone. Then the cry came out from David's Zodiac that a polar bear had been sighted in the distance. Nick was the one who deserved the credit and as the rest of us turned binoculars towards the distant dot, we marvelled at how he'd spotted it. The other Zodiacs rushed over and we even put Aaron on the ice in a bid to see if it was safe to land. Despite him surviving it was decided that it wasn't so we turned the Zodiacs back to the ship and left the bear to his seal carcass.

After lunch, Ian and Aaron gave a short talk on the necessities and goals of polar bear conservation. Then it was time for an excursion at Hamburgbukta. Soon it was reported that there was a polar bear swimming in the water. Soon, another two bears were seen, apparently mother and cub. Then Dutch found yet another bear coming to confront the others. However, when the other bear came down towards her, she left the area and climbed onto the glacier and disappeared over the rise. Great bear viewing. After a drive back to the ship that bordered on endless, we just had time to change before a late dinner. Endless sunshine certainly allows flexibility in your day. Towards the end of dinner Dutch proposed a series of toasts to the voyage. Then David was the auctioneer for the inaugural Polar Bear Conservation Auction. Several decided to keep the good times moving with a drink in the bar while others retired to their cabins in preparation for the last day of excursions.

Russian Word of the Day *Eta kra-see-viy* - It's beautiful

2nd July, 2007 Treskelbukta

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 78°59.3'N Lon: 010°43.23' E
Sunrise: — Sunset: —
Barometric Pressure: 1005 mbar
Air Temperature: +9 °C



“I find the greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as is which direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it, but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.” Oliver Wendell Holmes

Today started quietly. Many of us had been to the bar late in the evening, and were enjoying comfortable beds in the morning. The weather was quiet, a bit of blue and a bit of light cloud, with very little wind. We entered Hornsund, the large bay at the very south of the western coast of Spitsbergen, and began cruising Bergerbukta, the interior part of the bay, around breakfast. Hornsund is a large fjord system, and is surrounded by towering, sharp-toothed, slate-coloured mountains cut by flashes of white snow and bulky blue glaciers. We got out on deck when we could, but Chloe had every one of us indoors at some point, and many of us joined David, Woody or Lynn for a ship tour during the morning.

Following lunch, we all set out in the boats for our last excursion in wilderness Spitsbergen. We split up, with the kayakers going one way and Zodiacs spreading out to explore the different glaciers and rockfaces around us. There was blue ice to explore, with fabulously shaped glowing icebergs floating in the calm waters, and there was wildlife to observe quietly from our boats. An Ivory gull was the prized sighting, but we all appreciated watching the Black guillemots and Black-legged kittiwakes, as well as the various seals that popped their heads up from icy beds or frozen waters. The weather got a little more ‘arctic’, with a bit of heavy fog and light rain, and the occasional gust of wind to chill us right down, but it was our last outing, so we all took it in our stride. Some of us landed, following our guides on short walks through rich tundra, and some of us stayed on the water, but we all took in the fabulous Arctic landscape around us.

Back at the ship, some were lucky enough to observe an iceberg roll and, effectively, explode. We all came back on board, warmed up and headed up to the bar, where Dutch provided a complete recap of our voyage. The “best of” photos shown afterwards were an appreciated reminder of the fabulous trip that was sadly coming to an end. The Captain’s dinner was a noisy and happy meal, with everybody chatting with new friends, planning our next voyages and starting to think of home. Some of us even managed to make it to the bar for a final nightcap, while others retired to pack our bags, starting to think seriously of Longyearbyen, further south - and home. Tomorrow, we part ways with many new friends, sad to be leaving the good ship Peregrine Voyager, but looking forward to new adventures and new discoveries as we go our separate ways.

Russian Word of the Day: Da-svee-dan-eeya - Farewell



Program Schedule

DATE	TIME	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	VENUE
23 rd June	1700	Introduction to Ship	Dutch & Chloe	Bar
	1830	Lifeboat / Muster Briefing	Woody	Bar
	1900	Lifeboat Drill	All	Stern Deck
24 th June	0930/1100	Presentation: AECO Guidelines & Polar Bear Safety Briefing (mandatory)	Dutch/Ian	Bar
	0930/1100	Presentation: Zodiac Safety (mandatory)	Woody	Presentation Room
	1300	Excursion: Ny Ålesund	All	Zodiacs
	1330	Site Talk: Svalbard's Role in Aviation History	Woody	Ny Ålesund Mast
	1600/1730	Presentation: Natural History of the Polar Bear	Ian	Presentation Room
	1600/1730	Presentation/Tutorial: Photography Practical	David/David	Bar Deck
	1830	Ship Cruise: Lilliehook Glacier	All	Decks
	1900	Hot Chocolate on bow	All	Bow Deck
	2115	Bar Talk: Salty Sea Sickness Stories	Lynn	Bar
25 th June	0900	Excursion: Fugelsangen	All	Zodiacs
	1415	Excursion: Smeeremberg (Amsterdamøya)	All	Zodiacs
	2100	Presentation: Let's Go to Svalbard	Dutch	Bar



26 th June	1045	Presentation: Sea Ice	Lynn	Presentation Room
	1330	Zodiac Cruise: Alkefjellet	All	Zodiacs
	1630	Zodiac Cruise: Lomfjorden	All	Zodiacs
	2100	Bar Talk: Life in Longyearbyen	Bjørn	Bar
27 th June	1015	Presentation: A Concise Overview of Arctic History of Exploration	David McG	Bar
	1200	Barbeque – Arctic Style	All	Stern Deck
	1400	Zodiac Cruise: Phippsøya	All	Zodiacs
	2130	Bar Talk: Marine Superstitions	Woody	Bar
28 th June	0630	Ship Cruise: Mofsen Island	All	Decks
	0915	Presentation: Seals & Whales	Lynn	Presentation Room
	1015	Zodiac Cruise: Monaco Glacier	All	Zodiacs
	1400	Tutorial: How to Download your Photos	David S	Presentation Room
	1500	Excursion: Andøyne Islands	All	Zodiacs
	2130	Bar Talk: Polar Bear Tales	Ian	Bar
29 th June	0900	Excursion: 14 th July Glacier	All	Zodiacs
	1400	Cancelled Excursion: Richardlaguna	All	Zodiacs
	1430	Presentation: Climate Warming & the Impact on Polar Bears	Ian	Presentation Room
	1700	Presentation: Glacial Ice	Lynn	Presentation Room
	2130	Bar: Toast to Worsley	Woody	Bar



30 th June	0630+	Excursion: Poolepynten	All	Zodiacs
	1115	Presentation: Land, Sea and Poles	Lynn	Presentation Room
	1445	Presentation: Polar Photography 101	David	Presentation Room
	2130	Bar Talk: Ode to the Oosik	Woody	Bar
1 st July	0930	Presentation: Nansen – The Explorer and Humanitarian	Woody	Presentation Room
	1100	Zodiac Cruise: Isbukta	All	Zodiacs
	1400	Presentation: Conservation in the Arctic – Polar Bears	Ian & Aaron	Presentation Room
	1600	Zodiac Cruise: Hamburgbukta	All	Zodiacs
	2100	Auction: “Protect our Poles”	David McG	Dining Room
2 nd July	0900	Ship Cruise: Burgerbukta	All	Decks
	0930 +	Account Settlement (By Deck)	All	Dining Room
	0930 +	Ship Tours	Lynn, Woody & David	Meet in Bar
	1345	Excursion: Treskelbukta	All	Zodiacs
	1830	Voyage Recap & Passenger Photographs	Dutch	Bar
	1930	Captain’s Dinner	All	Dining Room
	2130	Farewell Celebrations	All	Bar
3 rd July		FAREWELL		



Voyage Presentations Summary

24th June

AECO Guidelines & Polar Bear Safety Briefing (mandatory) - David "Dutch" Willmott & Ian Sterling

Peregrine Shipping, being part of the Arctic Association of Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) ascribes to the guidelines for its operations in Svalbard. As part of the requirements, all passengers must be informed of these guidelines.

Additionally, operating in polar bear country, passengers must be made aware of the precautions and behaviours necessary to protect polar bears and ourselves.

Zodiac Safety Briefing (mandatory) - David "Woody" Wood

For safety of operations on our Zodiacs, all passengers are required to attend this briefing session. Learn how to wear the life jackets, enter and leave the Zodiacs and considerations whilst traveling in the Zodiac.

Natural History of Polar Bears - Ian Stirling

Polar bears have evolved in a unique fashion to be able to exploit the sea ice environment of the circumpolar Arctic. They have learned to find and prey upon a wide number of marine mammal species, though their most important prey species are ringed and bearded seals. Obtaining the maximum amount of energy in the shortest period of time, and then conserving it as efficiently as possible, is the most important underlying theme of a polar bear's life. Some of their adaptations are quite incredible!

Photography: A Practical Session - David Sinclair & David McGonigal

With cameras in hand, this is a practical session to share tips and advice for composing and shooting the best possible photographs.

Bar Talk – Salty Sea Sickness Stories - Lynn Wordworth

25th June

Let's Go to Svalbard - David "Dutch" Willmott

With this Arctic adventure just beginning many will want to know what lies ahead over the next 10 days. Dutch will outline some of the sites that may be visited over the next few days but will emphasize the uncertain nature of Arctic travel.

26th June

Ice – It's not all the same (Part 1 – Sea Ice) - Lynn Wordworth

The Inuit are supposed to have hundreds of words to describe different kinds of snow, but how many kinds of ice are there? Would you like to know your brash from your bergy bits? What kinds of



ice make the Captain nervous, and why? This image-based presentation will provide you with all you need to know about the different kinds of ice, ranging from glaciers to multi-year sea ice – how the different types are formed, how and why they move, what they mean to us.

Bar Talk – Salty Sea Sickness Stories - Lynn Wordworth

27th June

A Concise Overview of Arctic History of Exploration - David McGonigal

While native people have lived in the Arctic region for thousands of years, the rest of the world only explored it extensively in quite recent times. Their adventures were many and tragedies abounded. Here David looks at the quests for the Northwest and Northeast passages and the often farcical race to the Pole. It's a brief overview, attempting to put it all in context with some degree of humour.

Bar Talk - Maritime Superstitions - "Woody" Wood

Those who travel the sea, tend to be very superstitious and believe that some everyday actions can actually have perilous outcomes. Learn why ships are referred to as females and why you should never whistle anywhere on a Russian ship.

28th June

Marine Mammals - Lynn Woodworth

Arctic Seals - These amazing animals are land mammals that have returned to the sea. What does it mean to live in frigid Arctic waters? This talk looks at the pagophilic seals that thrive in the Arctic, covering everything from how to identify them through to why they are so special. Other aspects of Arctic seals we'll look at include how body design is shaped by lifestyle and some physical adaptations to extreme cold conditions. Behavioural adaptations in feeding techniques and tricks for managing the ice and the winter will also be examined, as well as breeding in the extreme conditions of the north.

Arctic Whales - Whales are mammals just like us . . . but not like us at all, really. Whales probably evolved from an ancient cow-like mammal, and yet are the only mammals that never come onto land during their lives. This is an illustrated talk looking at just how different whales are from 'normal' mammals, and these amazing creatures are more different than most of us realise. While looking at the different types of whales we might encounter during our voyage, this talk will examine what makes whales special, including why whales are the biggest animals ever to live on the planet, and yet they eat some of the smallest. We'll look at what holds them 'up', and how they have adapted to living in water, covering both physical and behavioural adaptations. Breathing, eating, sleeping, making and having babies – all require special adaptations when living in the water.

Tutorial: How to Download your Photos

David Sinclair

Bar Talk – Polar Bear Tales

Ian Stirling



29th June

Polar Bears, Seals, and Climate Warming in the Arctic - Ian Stirling

Long-term climate warming in western Hudson Bay is causing the sea ice to break up about 3 weeks earlier than it did only 30 years ago. This is having negative effects on polar bears. The condition of adult male polar bears and females accompanied by dependent young declined significantly. That trend is correlated with steadily warming air temperatures in spring (0.3-0.4°C from April through June per decade) for the last 50 years. There is a significant relationship between the time of breakup and the condition of adult males and females (i.e., the earlier the breakup, the poorer the condition of the bears). In the High Arctic, areas of multiyear ice and low productivity may, in the short term, become a more productive habitat for polar bears and seals. However, if long-term projections of the disappearance of ice in the polar basin are correct, this improvement will be temporary. Potential problems for polar bears and seals in the future will be discussed.

Ice – It's not all the same (Part 2 – Glacial Ice) - Lynn Wordworth

The Inuit are supposed to have hundreds of words to describe different kinds of snow, but how many kinds of ice are there? Would you like to know your brash from your bergy bits? What kinds of ice make the Captain nervous, and why? This image-based presentation will provide you with all you need to know about the different kinds of ice, ranging from glaciers to multi-year sea ice – how the different types are formed, how and why they move, what they mean to us.

Bar Talk: Toast to Worsley - David "Woody" Wood

Woody leads a toast to the mariner and adventurer Frank Worsley who's polar exploits were significant. We cover his expedition with Shackleton, World War 1 experiences on the mystery ships or Q ships, experiences in Russia training soldiers in "white warfare" and his expedition to Spitsbergen in 1925.

30th June

Photography 101 - David McGonigal

All you ever wanted to know about photography but were afraid to ask. This hands on presentation covers subjects such as, understanding depth of field, shutter speed, aperture, how a camera works, film choice, shooting techniques, capturing the moment, practical composition, backlight, tracking wildlife with a camera, shooting birds on the wing and camera care. This is in preparation for the thousands of photos that will be taken by passengers during this voyage.

Land Sea and Poles - Lynn Woodworth

Why is the Arctic so cold, and what makes it special? How does the wildlife cope? This talk will be a broad-ranging discussion examining the unique features of both poles as well as comparing the Arctic and the Antarctic. Come along and discover just how different our two poles are, why, and why it matters. This slide-based talk looks at the special characteristics of the Arctic region, focussing on what it means to the wildlife that survives here and how the Arctic interacts with the rest of the planet.

Bar Talk: Ode to the Oosik - David "Woody" Wood



1st July

Nansen – Arctic Explorer and Humanitarian - David “Woody” Wood

Woody gives an overview of the amazing life of Nansen. Examines his early life, the triumph in leading the first team to cross Greenland, his astonishing expedition in the Fram, his record furthest north bid for the pole and a brief look at his service to humanitarian causes resulting in the receipt of a Nobel prize in 1922.

Presentation: Conservation in the Arctic – Polar Bears - Ian Stirling and Aaron Lawton

An overview of the conservation support that Peregrine Shipping is providing in both the Arctic and Antarctica. The “Protect our Poles” project supports research for Polar Bears and the Albatross. Ian will provide details of the current projects that are being undertaken. The money raised by the onboard auction directly assists this conservation work.

2nd July

Ship Tour - Lynn, Woody & David

The guided tour of the ship incorporates the bridge, the engine room and science onboard the Peregrine Voyager. Discover more about the history of the ship and, in more recent times, the science conducted onboard.

Voyage Recap and Passenger Photographs - Dutch Willmott

In so many ways this voyage has been the trip of a lifetime. Andrew helps us recollect the incredible places we’ve visited through maps and photographs. Dutch will then present the photographs, that have been taken by the group, in a slide show that is bound to take our breath away.

Wildlife List

June - July	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<u>BIRDS</u>										
Red throated loon		X				X		X		
Northern fulmar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barnacle goose	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Pink footed goose				X		X	X	X		
Eurasian teal		X								
King eider						X				
Common eider	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed duck	X	X				X		X		
Rock ptarmigan	X									
Purple sandpiper	X	X				X		X		
Dunlin		X								



Common redshank				X						
Ringed plover	X	X								
Grey phalarope							X			
Pomarine skua	X	X		X						
Arctic skua	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed skua		X					X			
Great skua	X	X		X			X	X		X
Iceland gull										
Glaucous gull	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kittiwake	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory gull							X		X	X
Great black-backed gull		X								
Arctic tern	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Little auk	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brunnichs guillemot	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Razorbill	X									
Black guillemot	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Atlantic puffin	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Snow bunting	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
MAMMALS										
Polar bear				X	X	X			X	
Walrus			X			X		X		
Ringed seal			X	X	X			X	X	
Bearded seal		X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Common seal							X		X	X
Beluga whale						X				
Humpback whale								X		
Minke whale		D								
Fin/Sei whale		X								
Sperm whale									D	
Svalbard reindeer	X	X	X			X		X		X

KAYAK LOG

GUIDE:

ADVENTURERS:

Aaron Lawton

Yve and Mac Macartney

Peter Wilkins

Daniel Ford

Les Mercer

Suzanne Dray

John Stanley

Tracey Etchells



Boarding the vessel in Longyearbyen started our voyage of discovery in the Svalbard. We sailed onboard the Peregrine Voyager, a ship of 120 metres in length with 9 Zodiacs and most importantly 9 kayaks stored on a rack on the stern deck.

During our second day on board, the staff was introduced to us and it was at this time that we met our guide, Aaron. New to the Svalbard, but with years of experience in the Canadian Arctic, Greenland and the Antarctic, we were certain that we were in good hands. Our second day aboard the ship was spent learning about our adventure platform and the operating procedures to keep it safe and enjoyable for all of us. The briefing included an introduction to the kayaking program and the handing out of dry suits and associated equipment. The kayak briefing was tough competition to the Lilliehöökreen (Lilliehook Glacier), however the glacier won out and we all abandoned Aaron on the stern deck.

Kayak Excursion 1: – Smeerenburg, Amsterdamøya (Amsterdam Island)

Latitude: 79°40'N Longitude: 11°00'E Date: 25.June.2007 – 1500 hrs

Weather: Winds light and from north (off of island). Sunny skies with some high cirrus cloud were experienced.

The Zodiacs took our kayaks to shore and dropped them off at the beach, very close to the blubber ovens of Smeerenburg, a Dutch whaler's camp founded in 1617 and occupied seasonally and then year round until around 1642. We were taken ashore by Thomas and Aaron in a Zodiac and dropped at the beach by the kayaks. We had a few minutes for a quick group photo before being briefed on the beach. Basic rules such as group paddling distances, attention getting signals and some basic safety points about exiting kayaks had us all prepared for any circumstances that could arise.

We launched our kayaks and started paddling west along the shoreline of Amsterdamøya. We stayed close in to the shore scanning the shoreline for wildlife and learning about our new kayaks. We were mixed in doubles and singles, all Current Designs boats (Crosswind doubles and Whistler singles) and the group moved along at a good pace, with Suzanne bringing up the rear, stopping frequently to take pictures of the kayakers and the surrounding scenery.

The paddling backgrounds of group members were varied, including surf ski kayaking experience, white-water and sea kayak experience and white-water rafter. Yve and Mac had even sea kayaked in the Antarctic with Peregrine Shipping.

Our excursion was briefly broken up in the middle when Aaron called us all together to mention that walrus had been spotted swimming in the channel east of the kayaks location and that they are considered to be quite aggressive with kayaks. We stayed very close together along the shore in the hopes that a bigger, more concentrated mass of boats and shallow water would dissuade the walrus from harassing us and it must have worked as we never saw the walrus.

The constant vigilance for wildlife was rewarded by sightings of reindeer on the slopes, various sea birds and ducks and a single Harbour seal. The Harbour seal belonged to the northernmost population of this species in the world, found along the west and south coasts of Svalbard.

Our excursion ended with a paddle back to the landing beach and a Zodiac ride to the ship. Seven of the eight of us elected to kayak during this excursion. Many of us celebrated our first kayak excursion in the High Arctic with a drink in the bar afterwards.



Kayak Excursion 2: – Alkefjellet, Hinlopenstretet (Hinlopen Strait)

Latitude: 79°30'N Longitude: 18°00'E Date: 26.June.2007 – 1330 hrs

Weather: Winds light and coming from the northern end of Hinlopen Strait. The sky was overcast with sun breaking through in the distance.

We left the ship by Zodiac, towing the kayaks on a long rope behind the Zodiac like goslings behind a mother goose. All eight of us joined the excursion and pretty soon we were all on the water, having successfully negotiated our first Zodiac to kayak embarkation.

We started paddling at the northern end of the bird cliffs and watched as the ship sailed away to the south. We very quickly realized that there was something impressive about a massive seabird colony that even a non-birder could enjoy. The cacophony of sound was almost overwhelming as we drifted with the wind down the cliff face. Towing spires of dolerite and basalt, each ledge covered in birds, forced us to look almost straight up from the kayaks. It is inconceivable to think that a single parent can identify the sounds of its chick on a ledge as it flies back to the cliff.

Species observed included Thick-billed murres (a.k.a. Brunnichs guillemot), Black-legged kittiwakes, Glaucous gulls and Black guillemots.

Kayak Excursion 3: - Lomfjord (Loon Fjord), Hinlopenstretet

Latitude: 79°34'N Longitude: 17°30'E Date: 26.June.2007 – 1700 hrs

Weather: Glassy calm with light overcast, sun illuminating coast to the west.

We loaded into the Zodiac at the gangway and Bjorn towed our kayaks and us a few hundred metres away from the ship to start the loading process. As we boarded the kayaks, we were all keeping a good eye on the ice, wondering what kind of wildlife we were going to see. Also wondering what kind of wildlife the Zodiacs were going to spot and whether or not we would have the same experience. A quick on-water briefing outlining some considerations when paddling in ice had us thinking about Shackleton and becoming beset for months.

Paddling northwest away from the ship, we followed along the edge of pressure ridged and hummocky ice floes, quickly losing site of the ship. During this excursion, Bjorn in our rescue Zodiac stayed much closer to us, offering a set of 'elevated eyes' through which to aid us in navigating the changing channels of ice as well as maintaining an eye for polar bears.

Kayak Excursion 4: - Phippsoya and Parryoya (Phipps I. and Parry I.)

Latitude: 80°41'N Longitude: 20°47'E Date: 27.June.2007 – 1430 hrs

Weather: Glassy calm and sunny with no clouds.

We couldn't wait to get into the kayaks on such a fine day. Following a barbecue on the stern deck of the Peregrine Voyager, we launched from alongside our Zodiac with Bjorn as our big brother, keeping an eye out for polar bears and moving ice. As the ice was packed around both Phippsoya and Parryoya, we were not able to get to shore but we did amuse ourselves by crashing through the ice floes and over the top of them in our kayaks. It was with glee that we revert to childhood and accomplished the equivalent of splashing through a mud puddle in our kayaks.

Zippering down narrow channels between ice floes, we were on the lookout for sleeping bears, wondering if one might wake up and pluck us out of our kayaks. We executed a lazy circle around the ship, weaving through the ice never more than a nautical mile from the ship. The sun got to a few of us, resulting in a few red faces and some crazy antics. John Stanley decided to demonstrate an Eskimo roll and was so quick in executing a snap roll that none of us caught it on camera. To gentle coaxing, we convinced him to demonstrate the roll again and for the second time around



(pardon the pun), he chose a layback roll. Both executed flawlessly and with little apparent notice of the cold water.

Upon completing our excursion, we returned to the Zodiac and Aaron unloaded his life vest. The inventory included: one GPS, one radio, one flare pistol, 4 rounds for the flare pistol, 10 rounds for the shotgun and from the deck of the kayak; 1 shotgun in scabbard, 1 airhorn, and 1 water bottle. Upon lightening the load, Aaron demonstrated three rolls (in order to one up John perhaps, or due to sun stroke). The rolls were done in quick succession and were Greenland style layback rolls. These were done alongside the ship and were his most northern Eskimo rolls, to complement rolls done in the Antarctic, Canadian High Arctic and West Greenland.

A note: The northernmost Eskimo rolls completed by a Peregrine Shipping kayaker were done at 80°41'N, 20°47'E by John Stanley, about one tenth of a nautical mile further north than Aaron's rolls. This was also the northernmost Peregrine kayak excursion.

Kayak Excursion 5: - Liefdefjorden & Idabreen (Love Fjord & Ida Glacier)

Latitude: 79°30'N Longitude: 12°00'E Date: 28.June.2007 – 1000 hrs

Weather: Glassy calm and sunny with light overcast. Towards the end of the excursion, the wind picked up and we were able to surf back to the ship.

We started our kayak excursion with a feeling of despair at hearing that the Zodiacs were following beluga's and we were most likely not going to be able to catch up to them. However good management of the Zodiacs by Dutch resulted in him being able to contact us and notify us that the belugas were holding position around the next corner, waiting to share a bit of northern hospitality with us. We approached them slowly and were rewarded with exceptional views, some of them very close as the group of belugas, both mothers and calves, swam right through the middle of the group of kayakers, surfacing on one side of Yve and Mac's kayak and then swimming underneath before surfacing on the other side.

We slowly followed the white whales across the bay, almost forgetting about the stunning scenery of Ida, Emma and Monaco Glaciers surrounding us. The landscape that wasn't glaciated showed remarkable signs of post-glacial landforms, with braided streams, deltas and moraines.

We watched as one bergy bit, probably from Monaco Glacier broke up in front of us. We listened with amazement to the snap, crackle, pop of air bubbles escaping under pressure from the compressed glacial ice, not really realizing that these air bubbles may have been trapped in the glacier thousands of years ago.

We finished our excursion with a long downwind run to the ship, drifting just a mile off of the Monaco Glacier. The scenery was stunning as we surfed the building waves, enjoying a helping hand from a gravity driven wind (katabatic) off of one of the glaciers behind us.

Kayak Excursion 6: - Burgerbukta & Muhlbacherbreen (Burger Bay & Muhlbacher Glacier)

Latitude: 77°04'N Longitude: 16°00'E Date: 02.July.2007 – 1400 hrs

Weather: Overcast with wind building to 20 knots during excursion. Light drizzle during latter half of excursion.



Our final kayak excursion took place in Burgerbukta and started with a safety discussion regarding paddling around icebergs. Within five minutes of being advised to stay twice the height of the berg away from it, a small berg flipped over close to the group. Only a few of us saw it, however it served as a pointed reminder of the danger lurking beneath the beautifully sculpted exterior. We paddled deeper into Burgerbukta and approached the terminus of Muhlbacher Glacier. This face was a just over two miles across and showed signs of recent calving, prompting us to keep our distance. The snap, crackle, pop of the brash ice was almost deafening as we paddled through it, illustrating the benefits of paddling our craft through the ice instead of motoring through. We caught a brief glimpse of the Zodiacs, long enough to pose for a few pictures before we continued in our opposite directions. Cruising through the brash ice along the shore provided shelter from the building wind as we made our way back down the east coast of the bay, judging our best and least strenuous approach to the ship.

We left the shelter of the shoreline and started to push our way out into the waves, making our way to the ship and the gangway where Bjorn awaited us.

Many of us have taken time to ponder our time on the water in a kayak in the Arctic, a region of the world that gave birth to the kayak. Perhaps we wondered whether kayaking has ever provided the same pleasure to an Arctic hunter, or whether it was utilitarian. Or maybe we marvelled at the hardiness of a people who paddle these craft without the assistance of dry suits and lifejackets, fibreglass paddles and plastic, indestructible kayaks with rudders.

Whatever it was that each of us thought – it is worth remembering that each of us came to the Arctic with different expectations and hopes and that each of us has left with memories of new places paddled and new paddling companions.

*Fair winds and following seas!
Paddle safe!*

Staff Biographies

Dutch Willmott – Expedition leader

“This is my fifth year and third Arctic season with Peregrine Polar expeditions. Melbourne, Australia is my home and it is where I completed my degree in Environmental Science and honed my wilderness and boating skills. I have been boating for over 20 years and in 2002 gained my commercial skipper’s licence. I have sailed and raced yachts all over the world and have competed in many ocean races including two Sydney to Hobarts, considered to be one of the toughest races in the world. A milestone Cape Horn rounding was also achieved in March. Some claim my grin can disarm polar bears at 200 metres but I would not bet on it! I’m looking forward to sharing my polar





and boating experience with you.”

As well as being one of our Expedition Leaders, Dutch is also responsible for safety operations and our fleet of Zodiacs. When not seen around the ship you will find him on the back deck (or on his back on the deck) mixing glue and repairing things.

Chloe Kurts – Hotel Manager

Chloe comes to us from Melbourne, Australia although, since her teenage years, has found it hard to stay in one place. With a degree in Languages and Linguistics, Chloe’s passion for exploration and cultures has taken her far and wide.

This love for travel, languages and wildlife and her many years working in catering led her to one of the most exciting places on Earth – Africa. Chloe spent an incredible four years managing safari lodges in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Falling asleep to the sounds and snores of the African bush made it difficult for Chloe to return to the city. However, her return to Melbourne introduced her to Peregrine.

Now based in Vancouver, Canada, Chloe is the Hotel Operations Manager, overseeing all things ‘hotel’. This role sees her on and off the ships assisting the wonderful onboard hotel and kitchen team. With what little free time she has, Chloe is a qualified yoga teacher and can be found giving directions from a yoga mat! Yoga on Ice? You bet!!!

Dale Berg – Sous Chef

Born in Portland, Oregon, Dale is our Sous Chef on board and comes to us with over 20 years experience in the culinary field. Formally trained by some of the best chefs in the Northwest and abroad, he brings knowledge, skill and zest to every dish. Joining us for the first time this season, we are very excited to welcome Dale to our program.

Annie Inglis – Program Co-ordinator

Annie is delighted to be returning to Svalbard and continues to be amazed, and humbled, by the beauty of this remote Polar area. Originally from outback Australia, a far cry from these icy environs, Annie was lured to Melbourne for education in the health field. After living and working in the UK, she returned to Australia for further studies in Management (and for better weather). Annie interspersed her career in Human Resources and Project management with her passion for travel, enjoying numerous trips to Nepal and South-East Asia. Other adventures have been to some far-flung places including Madagascar, Tibet and a solo cycling trip covering much of Europe.

Back home in Bayside Melbourne, Annie enjoys bush walking, camping and cycling. As a fit and determined outdoors woman, Annie enjoys some of the more demanding hikes and trails throughout Victoria and New Zealand. Her penchant of all things nautical has also led her to gain her commercial skipper’s licence.

Over the past five years, Annie has had the opportunity of working in a variety of roles on board Peregrine Shipping’s ships in the Arctic and Antarctica. With this experience, and her shared



enthusiasm for the Polar regions, she is looking forward to helping make your voyage a trip of a lifetime.

Aaron Lawton – Kayak guide

Aaron hails from Nova Scotia, Canada and has guided or instructed sea kayaking, canoeing, hiking, climbing or rafting trips on five of the seven continents. He is a private pilot and a trained forest fire fighter, a tree planter and an instructor in wilderness first aid. Aaron has worked in the tourism industry since the age of 15, starting as a historical animator at a national historic site in Nova Scotia and moving on to guide and manage a sea kayak and canoe outfitting business in northern Ontario.

Aaron has worked with our polar program both on and off the ships since 1999 and has been Kayak Guide, Assistant Expedition Leader or Expedition Leader on numerous Polar expeditions.

Aside from being on the ships, Aaron has worked with our operations team to develop safety and environmental guidelines that have helped to establish Peregrine as an industry leader in the Antarctic and Arctic tourism industry.

Moving into his 8th year in polar travel and his 7th year with Peregrine, Aaron is a main stay of the program. When not sailing with Peregrine, Aaron is studying forestry at the University of British Columbia.

Scott MacPhail – “That guy”

Beginning his eighth year of polar travel Scott has worked in all areas of operation on the ship from Hotel Manager to Polar Historian on our educational team. Scott also works onboard preparing equipment and organizing logistics for the positioning and re-positioning cruises, so everything is “ship-shape” when the rest of the staff and passengers arrive. All in all he can spend up to 8 months of the year on the ship! In his off time, Scott will be found relaxing at his cottage and working on his golf game.

David McGonigal – Photographer/Guide

After completing Arts and Law degrees (largely majoring in motorcycle racing) David dropped out of the legal profession to ride around the world and returned to Australia years later as a travel writer/photographer. That career progressed to contributions to magazines and newspapers worldwide, several awards and some fifteen books from “Wilderness Australia” (his first) to a Thai cookbook and island and adventure guides. On three successive years, assignments took him to all seven continents.

After his first visit to Antarctica in 1995 he became polar impassioned and worked on projects with Sir Edmund Hillary and others. He even led a Peregrine Antarctic trip the year before we got our own ship and has visited the polar regions more than 50 times. In 1997 he briefly rode in Antarctica and so became the first person ever to motorcycle on seven continents.

He’s SCUBA dived, white-water rafted and sailed throughout the world and now owns part of a motor sailplane. He has visited Russia and Lapland in winter, travelled the NW and NE Passages, and recently motorcycled to the top of Alaska and Norway (via Siberia). David was co-author of the 608-page “Antarctica - the Complete Story” and the smaller, more accessible “Antarctica - The Blue



Continent” (now translated into German, Dutch, French, Italian and Russian - with Japanese on the way). His most recent photographic exhibition was in Sydney in May/June.

Thomas Pickard – Assistant Expedition Leader

With a degree in Environmental Science, Thomas Pickard has worked extensively in remote areas of Antarctica, assisting with Australian Antarctic Division scientific research programmes. Originally from Sydney Australia, he currently splits his time between Arctic cruises and working as a freelance photographer. He is happiest when he is in the outdoors and far off the beaten track.

Jon Ralls – Sous Chef

Our sous-chef Jon grew up in a small town in the South Island of New Zealand. Jon used to spend the holidays with his family caravanning and fishing in the Kaikoura coast, and white baiting at Karamae on the West coast. Jon trained to become a qualified chef in Christchurch, New Zealand, but after that work has brought him all over the world. For the last 10 years Jon has been based in England and has traveled and worked throughout Great Britain, Europe, South East Africa and South America. He spent one year living in Spain, and we all hope that he will show us some of that tapas competence! Peregrine is very lucky to have Jon onboard, as being a perfectionist, he has even prepared food for the Queen of England!

Maggie Scott - Bartender

Maggie Scott was forged on the East Coast of Canada from apple blossoms and driftwood. Her love of the Atlantic Ocean fostered Maggie's desire to swim in the Pacific so she moved west and settled at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Although she enjoys learning lessons the hard way, don't be fooled, Maggie's easygoing nature masks precision and a keen eye for detail. Her interests include wandering, talking, learning, and savouring as much as possible. Someday Maggie hopes to own her own business, raise children and end world hunger.

David Sinclair – Photographer in Residence

David hails from Melbourne, Australia and has travelled to over 40 countries across six continents, ski touring, diving, climbing, trekking and photographing. He is a practising lawyer and Science graduate.

In 2005, David completed a ski traverse of the Greenland icecap and recently returned from a climbing and ski touring expedition in the Watkins Range in East Greenland, successfully summiting the two highest peaks north of the Arctic Circle and four previously unclimbed summits. David currently splits his time between icy expeditions, photography and corporate law.



Ian Stirling - Naturalist

Ian Stirling (Naturalist Guide and Lecturer) is an internationally known scientist who has studied polar bears and polar seals (Arctic and Antarctic) for 41 years. His particular interests include ecology, behaviour, relationships between predators and prey species, and conservation of polar marine mammals and ecosystems. He studied Weddell seals in McMurdo Sound in the late 1960s for his PhD and has participated in 8 different trips to study ice-breeding seals in both the Ross Sea and Antarctic Peninsula regions. He participates in a number of national and international committees on polar bears and marine mammals and has authored or co-authored many scientific articles and 3 books, including *Polar Bears*, still the definitive work on the natural history and biology of the iconic arctic mammal.

Bjørn Tårnes - Guide

Bjørn visited Svalbard for the first time in 1996 on a holiday and was hooked - line and sinker. The expedition goal was to explore every nook and cranny in Isfjorden by inflatable boat. Although an impressive attempt was made, it was decided that more exploration and adventure was clearly in order. As a young Norwegian lad growing up on the west coast of Norway, Bjørn had always dreamed of living on the island of Spitsbergen. His dream came true in 2003 when he moved from Oslo to Longyearbyen. He spends a large part of the Arctic summer on the ocean, travelling by Zodiac, exploring the coastlines and marvelling in the excitement of the wild and majestic Arctic. Bjørn has recently discovered the joy of travelling by kayak and looks forward to future adventures in the archipelago and perhaps even a circumnavigation!

An adventurer by nature, Bjørn's inspiration comes from the great Arctic explorer, Fritjof Nansen. Bjørn and two comrades headed out from Ittoqqortoormit, Greenland on skis, pulling sledges and crossed Greenland from East to West covering 120 miles in 70 days, an amazing feat considering each sledge weighed 135 kilos! When not out adventuring, Bjørn ensures that visitors to Longyearbyen have access to "retail therapy" at the Svalbard Butikken.

Stuart Tidswell - Head Chef

Originally from Papua New Guinea, Stuart has gone from Palm Trees to Glaciers. With 8 years experience on Polar Expedition Vessels, we are very lucky to have Stuart take the helm in our galley. Stuart's career as a chef started at a very young age and has taken him to places far and wide, experimenting with a variety of cuisines. Very much at peace on the water, during the little time Stuart has free, you may find him on a yacht or riding the waves in North Queensland, Australia.

David "Woody" Wood – Guide/Historian

Woody is English by birth and Australian by residence, a curse he carries manfully. His background includes service in the health sector in management accounting and medical staff recruitment, a



degree in political science and law, and a stint in the finance area at Peregrine head office. Admission to practice law in the Supreme Court of Victoria was an indication to him that he had better head to the ice and he has never looked back!

His love of travel and the Polar Regions has seen him regularly spending many months of the year on Peregrine ships. He simply cannot get enough of the ocean and its extremes!

When not travelling with Peregrine he enjoys bushwalking, running, cycling and almost anything active. He remains connected to the legal profession in a fairly disconnected way. He is an avid sports fan despite being isolated from “live” news for a large part of the year and will talk your ear off on rugby, cricket or almost any sport if given the chance.

Woody is one of Peregrine’s Expedition Leaders with expertise in Antarctica and Svalbard. His passion for all things pelagic and polar is infectious so exercise caution. He is always ready to have a chat and share his polar passions!

Lynn Woodworth - Naturalist

“I grew up on a lake in the interior of Canada’s British Columbia, then moved to Sydney, Australia in my late teens. Rather than get a real job, I attended university, starting with an honours degree in genetics and concluding with a PhD in genetic diversity in endangered species. Somewhere along the way I convinced the university to pay me to be there, and have studied everything from an equine herpes virus to kangaroos, plus a lot of things in between.

From my first Antarctic voyage in 1995, I was completely hooked on the ice, and I’ve been south every year since in various roles including Assistant Expedition Leader, naturalist guide and wildlife lecturer. I love extreme conditions, and seeking wild and woolly places has taken me trekking and rafting around the world – and diving and snorkelling to explore the rest of it. While it was wildlife that first drew me to the Antarctic, the ever-fascinating ice-scapes provide much of the allure that keeps drawing me back. I’ve now completed more than 50 trips to the polar regions, and it isn’t enough!

Between polar seasons, David McGonigal and I wrote the bulky “Antarctica – the Complete Story” and the smaller, more accessible “Antarctica – The Blue Continent”. More recently, I have been focussing on animals, studying zookeeping, and working in biomedical research and the care of orphaned marsupials.”

Dr Roger Yao

Although Roger is a relative newcomer to this specific area, he has extensive experience in remote regions. Roger (MD, CCFP-EM) is in his 11th year as a full time Emergency Physician/Clinical Lecturer at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He is also a transport physician with the STARS (rotor wing/helicopter) Air Ambulance service with over 150 patient transports. In between, he has worked in Thika, Kenya with the Catholic Medical Mission Board; in Oamaru, New Zealand with Otago Health; and in Inuvik, of the Canadian Northwest Territories. His hobbies away from work include travel, sea kayaking and back country hiking.

Roger actively embraces all aspects of the ‘expedition life’ and is as comfortable out and about on the Zodiacs as he is in the medical setting.



SPITSBERGEN EXPLORER - 23 JUNE 07 - 3 JULY 07
ABOARD THE PEREGRINE VOYAGER

