



ARCTIC VOYAGE
EXPEDITION LOG
Spitsbergen Explorer
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 Peregrine Voyager, as it is known, 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:	Kaliningrad, Russia
Draft:	6.09 m
Built:	1989 in Rauma, Finland
Breadth:	18.28 m
Gross	6,450
Length (LOA):	117.04 m
IceClass:	KM*L1 (1) A2, Canadian Type B
Engines:	5,000 kW diesel, twin engine, twin propeller, and 600 kW bow and stern thrusters

Crew List

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

Peregrine Staff

David "Dutch" Willmott	Expedition Leader
Dale Berg	Sous Chef
Narelle Darker	Bartender
Martin Gray	Naturalist
Annie Inglis	Program Co-ordinator
Aaron Lawton	Kayak Guide
Scott MacPhail	That Guy
David McGonigal	Guide / Photographer
Thomas Pickard	Assistant Expedition Leader
John Ralls	Sous Chef
Maggie Scott	Hotel Manager
David Sinclair	Photographer in Residence
Ian Stirling	Naturalist
Stuart Tidswell	Head Chef
David "Woody" Wood	Guide/Historian
Lynn Woodworth	Naturalist
Consulting Doctor	Dr Roger Yao



The Daily Log

3rd July, 2007 Longyearbyen

Time: 0700

Position: Lat. 78° 14.6' N Lon: 15° 36.5' E

Barometric Pressure: 1017 mbar

Air Temperature: +7°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

We were welcomed aboard the Peregrine Voyager for the beginning of a trip of a lifetime. Many of us had enjoyed some time in the stark, wild environs of Longyearbyen and an introduction to life above 78° north. Strolling the 'metropolis' during the balmy (by Arctic standards) Tuesday afternoon, we were easily able to take in the sights of Longyearbyen and the smattering 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, Maggie, we were briefed by Dutch for the lifeboat drill. Shortly after, we were mustered to the lifeboat stations by the sounding of the alarms for our 'surprise' lifeboat drill (which we performed admirably). Around 9.30pm, many were on deck to view the "throwing of the lines" as the Peregrine Voyager gracefully eased from the dock with the assistance of her stern and bow thrusters.

We experienced a beautiful evening with a gentle wind and calm seas as we sailed from Longyearbyen, heading from Adventfjorden and westwards into Isfjorden. After leaving this fjord, the Vavilov's course was set to south. The polar scenery was enjoyed by a few intrepid passengers 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 Voyager passed along the coastline towards Wedel Jarlsberg Land, heading for the next morning's destination. Let the adventure begin!

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



4th July, 2007 Isbjørnhamna

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 77°06.7'N Lon: 013°54.7' E

Barometric Pressure: 1019 mbar

Air Temperature: +7 °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 where we really did appear to be the “painted ship upon a painted ocean”. Indeed, the sea was so glassy that the ship didn’t appear to be moving when it was doing 10 knots.

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, Ian and Martin were in the bar explaining the AECO guidelines and safe conduct in polar bear country. We had a 12.30 lunch and at the end of it, Dutch gave us some information about our landing at the Polish research station of Isbjørnhamna. This was first set up for the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year Polar Research Program. It’s also in a beautiful setting with a lot to see and do in the area.

As we approached the base, a polar bear was seen several miles away - apparently with the same goal as ourselves. While we were at anchor, he walked through the station, past some grazing (and largely unconcerned) reindeer and into the water. One has to remember that polar bears are listed as marine mammals – like whales and seals – and the water is their natural environment.

So it was that we set off for our first Zodiac excursion. Conditions couldn’t have been better – though it was to cool down as a breeze sprung up while we were ashore. It was lucky that we could call in at all – the base was going through the changeover from summer to winter personnel. Just about every base closes for a few days at this time as it’s so chaotic. However, the Poles had told us that we were welcome but they wouldn’t have much time to spend with us. So we landed in many separate groups. The keen walkers left first, aiming to walk up and set foot on the glacier deeper in the bay. One of the base staff told us that this glacier has retreated over a kilometer since he first came here in 1978. The walk up was over a wide variety of scree and large gravel that the glacier had ground up. It made for a fascinating geology lesson but a challenging walk, in parts. The wonder was that just about every tiny hollow housed a diminutive flower or lichen. Over at the station some did a quick tour inside before exploring outside. Others went over to spend most of the afternoon with the little auks or dovekies, while yet another group visited the historic trappers’ hut. Most of us moved from one site to the other, so by the end of the afternoon we’d seen it all. Moving posed its own challenges as a lot of very territorial Arctic terns swooped whenever they felt we’d entered their space. Meanwhile, reindeer roamed the scene and posed majestically on the skyline like extras from Monarch of the Glen.

All in all, we were ashore for over four hours before the last Zodiac ended up back on deck just after 6.30. There was just time for a quick shower and a drink in the bar before dinner. As we went to dinner, the sun was still shining brightly on the snowcapped peaks of the island. After dinner, Ian talked about the polar bear we had seen. Then it was time to head up to the bar for Dutch to give us an outline of where we’d be going and what we hoped to see over the next 10 days. We were slightly distracted by the gleaming peaks piercing an eggshell blue sky but it sounded like the action had just begun.

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



5th July, 2007 Edgøya

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 76°47.5'N Lon: 017°12.6' E

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

This morning found us in Isbukta, or "Ice Bay", and it proved true to the name. On the ice, we found polar bears! Three little dots had been spotted from the ship, and they turned into full-sized bears after we had wiggled our Zodiacs through the pack ice to the edge of the fast ice. The morning was spent watching a mother and cub on one side of the ice and a big single bear on the other side as they hunted and mooched their way across the bay. We learned a lot about polar bear behaviour sitting and watching from the boats, then hopping out onto the ice to have a quick look through the 'Scope. Then, after we thought we'd seen it all, another bear, this time a young one, came down and sauntered along beside us, posing in the sunshine next to the glaciers and mountains while we got our postcard perfect shots.

The afternoon seemed likely to be more of the same - this time in Hamburgbukta. We headed in for the glacier, but ended up watching one bear dig out and occupy a daybed, and another bear meander along the shoreline. While we were watching the bears, a very rare sighting of a pod of Beluga whales had us expanding our range of marine mammals, and to complete the Arctic Marine Mammal Trifecta, a single Harp seal also conveniently (and unusually) rested on a small piece of sea ice near the shore for our viewing pleasure. After a fabulous day, we were treated by Martin in the Bar to an outrageously entertaining story.

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



6th July, 2007 Diskobukta

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 77°55.0'N Lon: 021°24.5' E

Sunrise: -- Sunset: --

Barometric Pressure: 1021 mbar

Air Temperature: +5 °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

An overnight run from the east coast of Spitsbergen found us waking yesterday morning to oily calm seas and dense fog in Diskobukta (Norwegian version of original English derivation, "Ducks Cove") on the west side of Edgeøya. This large squarish island is the third largest in the Svalbard archipelago at 1930 square miles. Given that dense fog and polar bears just don't mix, the first of two scouting staff groups set off before breakfast to ascertain whether conditions were any better ashore. They weren't. With blue sky above and a bright sun sneaking through we held out hope that it would burn off. It didn't. However another scouting party reached the landing place mid-morning to see if there was a chance to reach the canyon Kittiwake colony without fog ashore. There wasn't. So, with safety clearly ruling our actions we moved on to our second position for the day's excursions, Doleritnesset, in the northwest corner of Edgeøya (derivation: Dolerite, the predominant volcanic rock of the area; "nesset": Norwegian for spit or promontory). On the way, Lynn presented an informative talk, "Seals and Whales", which answered many of our questions and curiosities about these mammals we've seen over the last few days.

Over lunch our problem weather was indeed burnt off by the noon sun and suddenly land was visible. With high hopes for walrus ashore we scouted to clear the site for landing and found that indeed there were ten of these huge pinnipeds on the shore. The Zodiacs quietly passed in a respectful arc around them before landing and splitting into three excursion groups aiming for an old walrus slaughter site, an intact Bear skull and finally the walrus themselves. Some in the water entertained us whilst others on shore remained sleeping (they do a lot of that!) and many images were recorded. The circuit around the other places proved troublesome as the tundra was a wee bit soft in places (as demonstrated by Woody's group) but the whole experience was enjoyed in glorious sunshine.

The Bear skull impressed everyone and the slaughter site reminded us of the cruelty of the hunt and the ease by which these placid mammals were harvested. Back on board our plans for the evening kicked off with Dutch in the bar interpreting the most recent ice chart and how its details impact on our proposed route. A brief recap session provoked many happy recollections of our trip so far. Time to relax for the evening and another excellent dinner was greatly enjoyed. To finish, David regaled us with a classic narrative from the Polar region, Peter Freuchen's tale "My Eskimo Date". The mind boggles.....

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



7th July, 2007 Doleritneset, Kapp Lee

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 78°04.6' N Lon: 020°45.1' E

Barometric Pressure: 1023 mbar

Air Temperature: +4 °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

Today was "fog central" along the eastern coast of Edgeøya. From the first tentative glimpse out the porthole in the morning, to the last wave-sloshed moments of finding the Peregrine Voyager in the proverbial and seemingly-eternal Arctic mists, with the aid of GPS in the Zodiac, fog was the overwhelming issue of the day. After an initial period of peering into the gloom before breakfast, a decision was made to try an initial kayaking venture and a simultaneous visit to the walrus of Doloritneset (south of Kap Lee), this time by sea. An advance party of canaries was dispatched to the beach to the north of the walrus beach and no bears were discovered so the flotilla was dispatched. The sea was relatively benign on the trip into shore and there was a peaceful sense of detachment from the rest of the planet as we peacefully swept up and down over the waves, in a world devoid of sound or definition, and with a visual circumference of about 3-400 metres. At intervals, the sense of a cotton-batting world devoid of life was interrupted by the quiet but dramatic fly-past of a flock of eiders, reminiscent of a squadron of low-level bombers, or the gentle silent passage of a dozen or two kittiwakes, and even a long-tailed duck.

Once at the shoreline, the kayaks were launched and Aaron led the introductory paddle back and forth along the coast in the shelter of the natural breakwater of Doloritneset while a rather curious reindeer on a knoll stared down in puzzlement. It was probably not apparent to the poor bemused beast just what the strange group of colourful floating things were up to, enthusiastically paddling back and forth along the same short area of coast. However, it did give the kayakers an opportunity to test out the gear and ensure they would be ready for a more visible adventure in the near future. Meanwhile, the Zodiacs went into the sheltered water to the north of the breakwater, cut the engines, and drifted along the coast with walrus bobbing nearby, being decidedly more animated than the beach slugs of the previous day. After an hour or two, everyone returned to the ship, got warmed up with hot chocolate or tea, and prepared for the afternoon.

As we steamed south along the coast toward the renowned kittiwake colony at Diskobukta, David (AKA "Sinkers") gave an informative talk about polar photography and composition. It was not reported if he had a separate but vital sub-section on "Photography in Fog". By mid-afternoon, we were allegedly holding in place offshore of Diskobukta and, you guessed it, were all peering through the fog wondering yet again what was going to happen next. The usual group of canaries was sent off to scout the coast and see if a landing looked like a good idea.

When they first got there, the coast itself was sunny, the kittiwake colony was gleaming, and there was 2 miles visibility north and south. However, by the time the cleft into the cliff and surrounding areas were being checked for bears, the fog had settled in again and visibility was reduced to about a third of a mile, and stayed that way for the rest of the day. About this time, it seemed that Dutch's renaming of his usual "Canaries" as the "Gorillas in the mists" seemed especially appropriate! Aaron and Woody peered into the ominously curving interior of the Diskobukta kittiwake colony, each repeatedly offering to let the other go first in the most gentlemanly of manners. No bears were found and everyone eventually landed, broke into two groups and headed for the colony. By this time however, the waves had picked up considerably. Annie drew the short straw and had to spend a less than inspirational several hours bobbing up and down just offshore in an anchored Zodiac to safeguard them from drifting away.



The raised beaches, a product of isostatic rebound following the melting of the icecap about 9000 years ago, rose in several tiers from the present shoreline to those of several stages of the historic past. Bones from naturally dead bowhead whales, some several thousand years old, littered the beaches and as their nutrients slowly leached out into the surrounding soils, were sponsoring minigardens of tiny Arctic flowers.

After fording the enthusiastic stream that poured out of the canyon in the cliff, we picked our way along a primitive trail in the bank and finally stood in awe at the beauty of the roughly 6,000-pair kittiwake colony. These graceful small gulls swooped and floated on and off their cliffside ledges under the watchful eye of the predaceous glaucous gulls. The rocks below the cliffs were littered with broken eggshells from past accidents and predatory raids. Of special interest in the colony though were sightings of an all-white kittiwake and an Arctic fox, albeit with a tail that was only a couple of centimetres long.

By the time everyone returned to the beach, the wave height had increased significantly and the fog was as thick as ever offshore. Those fortunate devils sitting in the front of the Zodiacs were treated to a few totally drenching waves as we left the beach along with several additional sprayings en route to the ship. After a slow GPS-directed journey through the fog, the ghost-like outline of the Peregrine Voyager reappeared and everyone was once again aboard to enjoy a hot shower and the usual terrific dinner. Later, in the bar, Martin entertained everyone in his inimitable way with tales of superstitions at sea, and particulars of why you shouldn't whistle on a ship. A significant proportion of the gang turned in early after a long, interesting, and tiring day.

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



8th July, 2007 East Coast Spitsbergen

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 76°26.0'N Lon: 015°58.0' E

Barometric Pressure: 1019 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 allowed us all the benefit of a sleep in. The wake up call was left until the late hour of 7:30 am and the extra half hour was certainly appreciated. As we rounded the southwestern tip of Spitsbergen it was still wrapped in a mysterious cloak of fog. After the regular sumptuous feast that is breakfast on the Peregrine Voyager, we had the opportunity of hearing from two of our presenters. Lynn had us all excited about ice of the glacial variety in the presentation room and armed us with knowledge for future excursions amongst it. Martin was in the bar (for a change) and told us all about the dreadful scourge of marine pollution.

After a tasty (and apt) sandwich buffet we were fortified for the afternoon excursion at Burgerbukta. We entered Hornsund and the fog still shrouded us from the stunning surrounds. Hornsund is the southernmost fiord on Spitsbergen and is about 25 kilometers in length. The naming is attributed to Jonas Poole, an English whaler who in 1610 named it Horn sound as a landing party brought deer horn aboard after a visit. As we started to get near our destination, the veil of fog started to lift, as if on cue and the stunning surrounds of the northernmost bay in Hornsund were visible in all their raw grandeur beneath a sunny sky. Despite our sandwich buffet, Burgerbukta was named after Wilhelm Burger an Austrian Court photographer who was a member of Count Wilczek's expedition in 1872, which mapped the coastal area. There were a range of options to choose from including a long walk to a high point for fabulous views over the glacial bay, a short walk along the moraine to stand beside a shining blue jewel of a glacier, Zodiac cruising and kayaking. After the walk, all elected to explore the snap, crackle and pop of the brash ice and cruise the glacier. The ice cliffs shone, brash ice twinkled and blue bergs were iridescent as the Zodiacs explored. Some boats saw performing bearded seals frolic in the water. We all saw glaucous gulls, fulmars and kittiwakes aplenty. Time flew by and soon we were heading home to the ship as the bank of fog encroached on our arena of paradise.

After dinner the bear-man himself, Ian Stirling, regaled us with some wonderful tales about polar bears.

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



9th July, 2007 Bourbonhamna

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 77°33.76'N Lon: 015°04.9' E

Barometric Pressure: 1016 mbar

Air Temperature: +5 °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

Dutch came on the airwaves earlier than usual this morning, in order to take in all the planned events for the day. Our first landing site was Bourbonhamma, (named after Henry, Prince of Bourbon, who led an expedition to Spitsbergen in 1891-92) well known as a site for hunting Beluga whale. The early morning scouts on the open bridge saw a bear in the distance and from then, a constant watch was placed observing his every move. In order to get the excursion underway, we had to be sure the bear was not near our landing area and, in due time, the bear wandered off in search of food elsewhere.

When the coast was clear we made our way to the Zodiacs and took off into the wind and waves for a cruise along the shoreline in hopes of spotting him. As we made our way back to the original landing spot we saw huge numbers of Eider duck chicks swimming frantically along with mother in the lead. As we passed a nearby bay, we made our way into the shore to observe a sperm whale carcass that had drifted up on shore and was a great food source for not only the bears in the area, but the birds as well. We observed a couple of ivory gulls and the Northern fulmars, attacking the remains of the whale that had been there for over a year now. Once on shore we headed off to view the huge piles of whale bones left behind by the whalers of days gone by. Using nets attached to land, the wooden boats took the nets out and trapped the whales for the killing. After a tour of the site we made our way back to the boats and walked around the nearby hut named Bamsabu (meaning house of the bear) to see how the men had fortified their cabin in order to deter any bear from smashing his way in.

The ship took off to the north after our landing and headed to our second landing site. We had many miles to go, so after lunch we took it easy and either went to the presentation room for some educational talks, lazed around our cabin catching a nap or we sat in the cosy lounge staring out at the beautiful surroundings. Ian gave us some insight on the crisis within the bear population due to the problems of global warming, while David gave us a rundown on the history of the area and the explorers who arrived in Svalbard searching for the North pole and Northeast passage.

Next up was the carvery buffet, where we had a super dinner before taking off on our evening landing. Following the guidelines of the area, we came ashore in groups of 30 and carefully walked up to the herd of walrus that lay on the point. This is Poolepynten, (named after Jonas Poole, a British whaler from the early 17th century), a valuable walrus home where the mammals come to shore to rest in huge numbers. The last thing we wanted to do was cause a disturbance and Martin took us along slowly and carefully allowing the walrus to get comfortable with our presence. It was a great outing, and we were able to witness these huge animals both on land and in the water. The magnificent tusks seem to light up in the evening sun when they raised their heads to look at us. Many of us were lucky to spot the massive blow of the humpback whale who was feeding in the area, and as a final goodbye, the whale breached a number of times before continuing on with his hunt. We were all back on the ship full of stories of what we witnessed and looking forward to more of the same on the morrow.

Russian Word of the Day: *Pree-yet-nava apet-tee-ta* - Enjoy your meal



10th July, 2007 Monaco Glacier

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 79°40.2'N Lon: 010°04.8' E

Barometric Pressure: 1004 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)

During the night, we sailed north to the island of Amsterdamøya. Following a short but welcome sleep-in, Woody lectured us on the 'trifecta' of history to be found nearby Virgohamna, the site of Solomon Andree's ill-fated attempt to fly to the north pole by balloon, the anchorage for the Fram after it emerged from the ice sans Nansen, and the Dutch whaling station, 'Smeeremburg.' Shortly after breakfast we went ashore at Smeeremburg, (translation 'Blubbertown'), on the south-eastern tip of Amsterdamøya.

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 the ship or on shore, and the strips of blubber were cut into smaller pieces and finally put into try-pots and boiled down to 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. The remains of the bases of the blubber ovens can be seen to this day.

Smeeremburg was founded prior to 1620 and grew to be a large shore-based whaling station. The town was abandoned by 1660 by which time the whale population had been decimated. "Blubbertown" fired the imagination of Europeans, and generated many fanciful stories about the size, sophistication and amenities of the town. Excavations in the late 1970s revealed the population most likely reached a maximum of 200 men at any one time.

While we charged, meandered, peregrinated and photographed our way around Smeeremburg, we also collected a significant pile of rubbish, ranging from containers to rope, which we returned to the landing beach for transport via the good ship Peregrine Voyager to Longyearbyen. We also spied the carcass of a small baleen whale that had been dragged inland by a polar bear, quite possibly the same sleepy bear that encouraged us back to the Zodiacs for a well-earned lunch.

After lunch we crossed the 80th parallel and cruised alongside the pack. Our Captain tested, shunted and skirted the pack while we celebrated with hot chocolate, general good cheer, photo opportunities galore and our very own lovely ladies, Narelle and Maggie decked out in their finery.

Prior to dinner, Dutch led us in a toast to our Svalbard expedition. Ian and Aaron spoke to us about Peregrine's "Protect our Poles" program and David auctioned eleven items, including lot number ten, a series of original sketches by passenger, Dr Jeremy Paul along with print number one of his first polar bear painting - all to raise money for polar bear research. All up US\$3160 was raised for a great cause. Martin wound up proceedings after dinner entertaining us with his unique rendition of the "Tundra Symphony."

Russian Word of the Day: *Kag dee-la* - How are you?



11th July, 2007 Worsleyneset

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 79°38.9'N Lon: 013°42.3' E

Barometric Pressure: 1015 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)

“It doesn’t get much better than being woken by the call that there’s a polar bear on the shore and a whale off the starboard side,” is the way one of us put it while viewing both as he had his first cup of tea for the day. And that’s the wonderful way our day began. During breakfast, the bear began to move – but much of that was early calisthenics as she stretched and then rolled onto her back and started doing leg exercises – “very black boots” was the captain’s comment. We launched the Zodiacs early and headed in as a line towards the bear and she came down to the shore to view (or hunt!) us. With the reddish soil behind and the bear on an embankment right by the water’s edge, the viewing could not have been better. But finally she walked to the shore, dipped a tentative toe in and swam away. We continued to our landing at Worsleyneset where the highlights included the hut, a loon nesting on the lake, the Worsley Beacon and the birds on the lagoon. However it was a brisk, if not downright cold, day.

While we had a warming lunch, the ship sailed towards Monaco Glacier. After lunch there was time for the last gift shop visit, to download photos with David and David downstairs or to take a nap. We took to the gangway at 3.30pm and headed off to explore the glacier and its surrounds. Each group made its own discoveries and they included ivory gulls, swarms of glaucous gulls and kittiwakes, and even two flocks of king eider ducks. The glacier was spectacular with one end very dirty and marbled and the other pristine blue. However, the glacier-fed water was cold and after about two hours Zodiacs started heading back to the ship. The kayakers had a big day with excursions both in the morning and the afternoon. There was a big run on hot teas and coffee up in the bar. Suitably warmed, it was time to rug up again and venture outside onto the stern deck for our Arctic barbecue. That was a joyous time as we sailed past icebergs and glaciers while eating a whole range of meats and salads. Then we adjourned to the bar for birthday cake and a talk by Woody on Frank Worsley, Shackleton’s skipper who also explored this end of the world. As a Grand Finale, Woody was joined by Martin for a reading of some of the most profound questions asked on expedition cruises.

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



12th July, 2007 Lilliehook Glacier

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 79°13.1'N Lon: 010°42.2' E

Barometric Pressure: 1016 mbar

Air Temperature: +6 °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

Our last full day on the ship started with fabulous views of the spectacular fjords, glaciers and mountains that give Spitsbergen its name. We had a clear, sunny morning - a perfect day to cruise the fjords. The Captain took us into Krossfjorden, and then northwest into Lilliehookfjorden and Lilliehookbreen, the huge glacier at the end of the fjord. Lilliehookbreen glowed in the sunshine, and gleamed like the frozen waterfall that it is, tumbling to the sea. The Captain pirouetted the ship while those of us who were outdoors spotted a walrus, rare and unexpected in these waters. While we navigated through the narrow fjords, we paid our bills and toured the ship, finally getting a good look down in the engine room to see the engines that have been driving us all this time.

In the afternoon, we Zodiaced into Ny Alesund for our last landing before Longyearbyen. The weather continued sunny, and we were surrounded by gorgeous views of hills, mountains and glaciers flowing down to Kongsfjorden. Ny Alesund was a coal mining community, but is now a small collection of international scientists living in 'the most northerly community in the world'. There is a little train ('the most northerly train') from the coal mining days on what may be the shortest track in the world, and a collection of wooden buildings, some rustic and detailed originals, some of more modern Scandinavian design. We swarmed the shop and made our purchases, then set off to see the sights. Doing the rounds of the pond, the bust, the mast and the dogs, we found abundant history and wildlife in this scenic little community. We heard from David and Woody about some of the historic Arctic explorations and adventures with links to the area, while Ian and Lynn were posted near some of the animal life in the area, where we observed some interesting species, including a common teal.

Back on board, Dutch gave us a great review of the trip, with photos, stories and maps to illustrate, then David S showed the 'Best Of' photo collection, with fabulous and entertaining images of our voyage. Later, the Captain's Dinner was a noisy affair. We all chatted with the new friends we had made, reminiscing about what we had seen and sharing what was to come next. Finally, we retired - some of us to the bar to keep the party going and some of us to our cabins to pack. While it was going to be hard to say goodbye, we were all starting to look forward to new adventures as we scattered across the globe.

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



Voyage Presentations Summary

4th July

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.

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.

5th July

Tutorial: How to Download your Photos - David Sinclair

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!

Bar Talk – The Funniest Thing to Happen in the Arctic - Martin Gray

Told as only Martin could tell this story! This really happened, yes it's true, in the Arctic not so long ago!

6th July

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.

Bar Talk: Peter Freuchen - 'My Eskimo Date' - David McGonigal

7th July

Presentation: Photography Composition - David Sinclair

Bar Talk - Maritime Superstitions - Martin Gray

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.

8th July

Ice – It's not all the same (Glacial Ice) - Lynn Woodworth

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.

Presentation - Marine Pollution - Martin Gray

This is my soapbox subject and one where I normally give my transatlantic cousin in Canada a bruising for the disregard that their Maritime communities have for the Oceans of the World. Canada is not alone and all coastal nations of the World, (even Scotland) are guilty of treating the seas as an infinite garbage dump. This garbage quickly ceases to be the dumper's problem and floats away to kill wildlife and (at the very least) become an aesthetically unacceptable addition to a shoreline somewhere. Taking an almost evangelical stance, I use props and proof to demonstrate the truly global nature of this objectionable habit.

Let's Go to Svalbard - Update with Icechart - David "Dutch" Willmott

Bar Talk – Polar Bear Tales - Ian Stirling



9th July

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.

Let's Go to Svalbard - Update with Icechart - David "Dutch" Willmott

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.

10th July

Toast to The Arctic - David "Dutch" Willmott

As we bid farewell to this remarkable continent, a toast to friends, new friends and you, the adventurers aboard the Vavilov.

'Protect our Poles' Auction

With Peregrine Shipping's commitment to conservation and the environment, we encourage you all to make a donation by bidding for very special items! This auction raised a fantastic amount to support ongoing polar bear projects.

Light Entertainment: Tundra Symphony - Martin Gray

Sounds of nature cannot only be attributed to the wildlife. Hear Martin's rendition of the 'wild' noises made by our passengers including the swish of gortex, the rip of velcro and the endangered whirl of film rewinding.

11th July

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.

Bar Talk: Passengers' Most Profound Questions - David "Woody" Wood and Martin Gray





There is no such thing as a stupid questions!!! Here are some of the more entertaining questions asked by passengers to our guides over many seasons.

12th 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 on board.

Voyage Recap and Passenger Photographs - Dutch Willmott

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



Wildlife List

July	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BIRDS										
Red throated Loon									x	x
Arctic Loon										
Northern Fulmar	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Barnacle Goose		x					x	x	x	x
Pink footed Goose							x			
King Eider								x	x	
Common Eider	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Duck					x				x	x
Turnstone								x	x	
Purple Sandpiper	x	x			x		x	x	x	x
Dunlin										
Ringed Plover										
Grey Plover										
Red Phalarope					x				x	
Grey Phalarope							x		x	
Pomarine Skua		x								
Arctic Skua/Parasitic Jaeger		x		x			x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Skua			x		x		x	x	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	x
Arctic Tern	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x
Brunnichs Guillemot	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Razorbill										
Black Guillemot	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Atlantic Puffin		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Snow Bunting		x		x			x	x	x	x
Ross' Gull								x		
MARINE MAMMALS										
Polar Bear		x	x	x			x	x	x	
Walrus				x	x		x			x
Ringed Seal						x				
Bearded Seal		x				x				x
Common Seal			x			x				
Harp Seal		x	x							
Beluga Whale			x				D			
Humpback Whale							x			
Minke Whale							x		x	
Fin/Sei Whale										
Sperm Whale							D			
Svalbard Reindeer	x	x		x	x				x	
Arctic Fox					x					



Kayak Log

GUIDE: Aaron Lawton
ADVENTURERS: Mary Staton
Roger Staton
Claire Dombroskie
Pamela Stevenson
Judy Wills
Tad Bowen
Sarah Schwartz
Shannon Sims

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.

KAYAK EXCURSION 1: – KAPP LEE, EDGEOYA

Latitude: 78°00'N

Longitude: 20°30'E

Date: 07.July.2007 – 0900 hrs

Weather: Foggy with 3 /10's of a nautical mile visibility, at times clearing locally. Wind building to 15 – 20 knots with very slight lee on shore. Occasional surf in shallows along shore.

Scott delivered our kayaks to the beach in heavy fog and then returned to collect us. As we came ashore, Ian stood guard for us, protecting us from whatever might appear from the mist.

We adjusted foot pegs and then jumped into the boats. Pushing off the beach, we felt that we would almost be swallowed up in the fog. With the wind veering around, the Lee shore that we had expected to paddle became a bit of tumultuous zone of shallow rocks and breaking waves. All good fun, and perhaps a little intimidating. With challenging waves at one end of the beach and potentially mischievous walrus at the other, our excursion was an abbreviated one. Just long enough to get the boats set up and to gain our comfort in them.

KAYAK EXCURSION 2: – BURGERBUKTA & MUHLBACHERBREEN

Latitude: 77°04'N

Longitude: 16°00'E

Date: 08.July.2007 – 1500 hrs

Weather: Clear skies and sun. Winds light and building to localized south westerlies close to glaciers. Large rolling fog bank across mouth of Burgerbukta closing us off from the rest of Hornsund.

Sailing into Hornsund early in the day, we were not prepared to believe that the fog would dissipate to unveil our afternoon's landing site. The ship turned north into Burgerbukta and went from heavy fog to clear blue skies and sun in about 100 metres. It was almost like sailing through a wall of fog.

We launched the Zodiacs and kayaks and made our way in to the shoreline on the west side of Burgerbukta. Thomas was our driver and had a bit of difficulty launching us in one place as the Zodiac drifted with the wind and current into the brash ice. We started our paddling excursion and the brash ice was probably the most memorable part of it. Basking in the warmth of the afternoon sun, drifting with the wind and waves and listening to the snap, crackle, pop of the air bubbles being released from the ice as it melted. What was the earth like when the snow fell on this glacier that is now melting as brash ice? How clean was the air?



We crossed the bay and landed at a small beach close to one of the many glaciers. Aaron checked out the area for polar bears before leading us on a short walk to have a look at a glacier, up close and personal. We returned to the ship by Zodiac instead of sloging upwind for three miles and managed to arrive at the bar in time to celebrate Happy Hour.

KAYAK EXCURSION 3: - DANSKOYA & AMSTERDAMØYA

Latitude: 79°40'N Longitude: 11°00'E Date: 10.July.2007 – 1000 hrs

Weather: Moderate wind blowing from southwest. Waves building in middle of fjord but seas calm on leeward shore of Danskoya. Sunny and warm.

Our kayaks were taken to shore by Scott and Thomas and dropped on the beach. Aaron went ashore at this point as well to scout out the area, on the watch for polar bears. Our starting point was chosen to be about four nautical miles south of the main landing group with the idea that we would explore the southern part of Danskoya before proceeding north to Amsterdamoya.

As we came ashore to start our excursion we noticed a pile of beach refuse collected by Aaron. This included a fish crate, multiple bits of fishing nets, rope, plastic garbage and packing crate strapping. As part of the Clean Up Svalbard project, Peregrine has committed to collecting garbage off the beaches at landing sites in the hopes that the plastics of the last 70 years can be removed from the beaches. Thomas started the morning driving the kayak rescue Zodiac and ended the morning driving a garbage scow as more was collected along the way and handed to him.

After exploring Danskoya, Judy elected to jump into the Zodiac with Thomas while the rest of us crossed the channel to Amsterdamoya. It is with certainty that we can suggest that at some point all of us were wishing that we had elected to ride in the Zodiac. The tidal current opposing the wind waves resulted in confused seas, heightened by a shoal mid-channel that we crossed right over. The kayaks bounced around like corks with Thomas hovering around the edges, waiting to assist anyone requiring help. Upon our safe crossing of the channel, Aaron announced that a polar bear had been spotted onshore and that our proposed walk to the 16th century Basque / Dutch blubber ovens was off and that we had to return to the ship.

Our last discussion of the landing was around the topic of how much to exaggerate the state of the seas in the channel. Round numbers of 10 foot waves and 50 knots of wind were suggested and unanimously accepted. Another great excursion!

KAYAK EXCURSION 4: - WORSLEYNESET

Latitude: 79°40'N Longitude: 13°40'E Date: 11.July.2007 – 0900 hrs

Weather: 20 knots of wind blowing from north. Overcast and grey. Seas building in middle of fjord but shelter on leeward shore.

A tough decision for all of us. Up until this point, all eight of us had chosen to paddle but a new alternative was available. Polar bear watching from the Zodiac was the alternative, followed by a great landing at Worsleyneset. How to choose? The choice was made by three to go in the Zodiacs while the remaining 5 stayed in the kayaks. The wind was strong but we were determined to find the polar bear that was entertaining the remaining passengers.

We launched our kayaks from a beach on the island adjacent to the one upon which the bear was resting. As we paddled downwind to see the bear, Aaron listened to reports of the bear resting, pacing, resting and then to all of our dismay, deciding that it had spent enough time pillaging the tern's nests of that island and jumping into the water for a swim to the next island. We caught a glimpse of its head as it swam away but decided not to follow as a polar bear swims at a similar pace to a group of kayaks and may be curious about the kayaks.

We started a hard slog toward shore, heading directly into the wind for about 45 minutes. As we reached the beach, we turned to the east and enjoyed the shelter of a leeward shore. We paddled along the beach, we enjoyed contrasting folds of greenish rock with layers of a red, almost sandstone rock. Wishing that we knew more



about geology, we pondered the geological processes that might create such a beautiful shoreline. Aaron espoused some theories but quickly admitted to not being a geologist.

We finished our paddle with a quick downwind run to the ship. Thomas tethered his Zodiac to the gangway and assisted us each out of our kayaks in turn. Aaron once again got away with not having to demonstrate an Eskimo Roll.

KAYAK EXCURSION 5: - LIEFDEFJORDEN & MONACOBREEN

Latitude: 79°20'N

Longitude: 12°30'E

Date: 11.July.2007 – 1530 hrs

Weather: Wind from the northeast, 15 to 20 knots. Overcast with light mist over the mountains.

The ship stopped about 6 miles from the face of the Monaco Glacier. The Zodiacs and kayaks were dropped and the excursion began. Aaron and the kayakers were deposited on a small island along the eastern shore of the fjord and while Aaron scouted out the island, Scott returned to the ship to pick up the kayakers. Upon arrival at the beach, the kayakers were bombarded and attached without remorse by Arctic terns. It is a wonder that these birds have the energy to migrate all the way to the Antarctic each boreal winter to feed after the amount of territorial defending that they go through.

Stinging from attacks by the terns, we left the beach and started to explore the islands. Known to be common nesting sites for both terns and eiders, they become important feeding grounds for stranded bears during the summer months. We searched in vain and left the islands behind as we started our downwind run from the islands to the glacier. Spreading out for miles, it felt like we were almost at the glacier for almost an hour of paddling, without the glacier feeling any closer at all. We did finally approach the glacier and stopped to watch some small pieces calve off into the water, creating a large splash and a great sound.

We approached a small island just off of the face of the glacier, hearing that it has only been exposed from the glacier for three years (local evidence from Martin). As we were examining the bit of glacial ice crowning the island, we all noticed at around the same time that the water was being sucked away from the shore of the island. Uh oh! Tsunami! Well, not quite! A massive calving generated a large set of waves and as they reached the shallows proximal to the island, the built into quite an impressive surf. Luckily, our reflexes were quick and we managed to paddle outside of this zone and were able to sit back and watch the waves crash on the beach.

We jumped into Scott's Zodiac to finish the excursion, but before heading back to the ship, Scott took us in for a close run along the glacier face, allowing us a few moments to peer in awe into the deep crevasses and to stare up at the towering seracs. We returned to the ship in perfect time for a real Arctic barbecue on the stern deck.

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's 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.

Maggie Scott - Hotel Manager

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.

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.

Narelle Darker – Bartender

From Melbourne, Australia, Narelle Darker has had 7 years travel industry experience.

A trip to Antarctica at Christmas time sparked a passion for the polar regions. With her experience and flair in customer service, Narelle will be whipping up cocktails as your onboard bartender. With a friendly and approachable disposition, Narelle will be aiming to cater for your thirst.

She has a passion for travel and has travelled quite extensively, in particular enjoying the "out of the way" destinations. She has just spent some time in Morocco before joining the Peregrine Voyager in the High Arctic. When at home she can be found playing golf and surfing, among other things. While on the Voyager she recommends a "Baileys on Arctic ice" at the end of the day!

Martin Gray – Naturalist

From the Orkney Islands off the North Coast of Scotland, Martin Gray arrives to spend his 13th season in the polar regions. At home, Martin wears many hats as; a firefighter with the Highland & Islands Brigade, Airfield Rescue firefighter, auxiliary Coastguard and last (but most expensive) a crofter.



Martin is a birder and general all round naturalist with a special interest in marine mammals. His desire for wild places, birds, plants and animals is instinctive and he has a passion for sharing his rapture with these things. Human company is good too and Martin's social appetite is catered for in the bar and other public areas onboard. You will find him 'yarning' at every opportunity! Martin also claims to have witnessed the funniest thing to have ever occurred in the Arctic.

Home is wife Evelyn and bairns; Duncan (10), Cameron (8), Ronan (4) and Lillian (3 in August). An award winner of Wanderlust Magazine's 'Adventure Guide of the Year', Gray's passion for all things polar is infectious and makes Arctic aficionados out of all our passengers. Martin can often be found ashore gazing at dead things, waxing lyrical and at every opportunity picking apart pieces of poop...something to think about the next time you ask him to pass you a dinner roll.

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 for Peregrine Shipping. When not sailing with Peregrine Shipping, 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 on board 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 empassioned 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 travelled 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!



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.

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 Shipping's 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 a medical setting.



