

# Spitsbergen - Realm of the Polar Bear!

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 June - 5 July 2008



Polar Bear



Puffins



Boreal Jacob's-ladder



The 2008 Naturetrek Group

Report and images compiled by Malcolm Stott



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Malcolm Stott

Participants:

- Bob Johnson
- Judith Johnson
- John Cooper
- Doreen Cooper
- Val Perrin
- Lindsay Burns
- Celia Baxter
- Eleanor O'Hanlon
- Charles Polkey
- Maureen Polkey
- Alex Adam

## Day 1

Tuesday 24th June

### Heathrow to Oslo

We arrived in Oslo in the late afternoon and checked into the Radisson Hotel. Before dinner there was just enough time for a brief stroll near the hotel, during which we found some Fieldfare feeding young in the nest. Before dinner, Malcolm gave a brief introduction to Spitsbergen and outlined what we might expect to see on the trip. Full of anticipation about the days ahead we retired early to prepare for a long day of travelling and our first experience of the Arctic.

## Day 2

Wednesday 25th June

### Oslo, Longyearbyen & Nordenskioldbreen

After a hearty breakfast we made our way to Oslo's airport and joined the long queues at check-in for our flight to Longyearbyen. After a brief stop at Tromso we had our first glimpse of the Svalbard Archipelago before landing at Longyearbyen in the mid-afternoon. Troels Jacobsen and Christian Frimodt were there to greet us when we arrived. While our baggage was taken to the ship we boarded a coach for the short drive into town. We made the most of our brief stay in this northern capital before it was time to join the ship. After unpacking our cases, we headed down to the dining room for a welcome toast and a briefing from Troels, followed by a safety drill on the correct use of lifeboats.

The Maryshev quietly slipped her moorings at about 6pm and we began our Arctic adventure. Sailing north through Isfjorden, the grandeur of this unique landscape began to unfold and we soon had our first glimpse of some truly high Arctic species as small parties of Brünnich's Guillemots and Little Auks flew past. After dinner we approached the Nordenskioldbreen glacier; the scenery was spectacular and we saw our first Ringed and Bearded Seals. Glaucous Gulls were everywhere and a solitary Great Skua was seen resting on the sea-ice. As we neared the glacier face we had our first views of another high Arctic species, the rare and beautiful Ivory Gull; in all we saw five individuals during the day. John spotted a distant Long-tailed Skua in the evening as we sailed back towards Billefjord for our overnight mooring.

## Day 3

Thursday 26th June

### Skansbukta & Alkhornet, Isfjorden

Bright sunshine filled our cabins this morning and the quality of light was extraordinary. The early risers managed to add Pink-footed and Barnacle Geese to our list well before breakfast, and the Long-tailed Skua (presumably the same one that John had seen yesterday evening) reappeared briefly, along with an Arctic Skua. After breakfast we had our second mandatory briefing on the use of Zodiacs and the dangers of Polar Bears before making our first landing on the extremely picturesque beach, and adjacent colourful mountain scenery, at Skansbutka.

An impressive mauve carpet of Purple Saxifrage, dotted with clumps of Tufted Saxifrage, covered the beach. Much to our surprise, on the bare screes above, we found the rare and beautiful Boreal Jacob's Ladder in flower. Other plants seen included Mountain Avens, Hawkweed-leaved Saxifrage and Arctic Whitlow-grass. The sweet song of Snow Bunting was evident this morning and many birds were seen flitting along the lower slopes, while Purple Sandpipers fed busily on the tide-line. The members of our group who had opted to go on a long hike were rewarded with good views of Svalbard's only true resident bird, a Ptarmigan, and they also found Svalbard Poppy.

During lunch the ship cruised back to Longyearbyen to collect two passengers who had missed the sailing due to a connection delay in Oslo. A brief spell of post-lunch birding provided some of us with distant views of a Pomarine Skua before it was time to attend Daan's lecture on 'Svalbard's Birdlife', followed by a late afternoon landing at Tryghamna. The landing was wet and the climb up the snow-field slippery, but we managed, and then set off on our walk across the tundra in glorious sunshine.

During the walk we flushed several Purple Sandpipers off their nests and witnessed their distraction display of feigning a wing injury. I had never before experienced these Arctic breeders in such densities. While we were engaged in a spot of Reindeer watching, Christian alerted us to an Arctic Fox feeding on a carcass close by and we all managed to see it before it disappeared into the landscape. Further into our walk, under huge impressive cliffs hosting swirling flocks of Brünnich's Guillemots, we saw more Arctic Skuas, as well as Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese, before returning to the Zodiacs.

Dinner this evening was later than scheduled, but we still had enough time left for a spot of birdwatching before retiring for the night.

## Day 4

Friday 27th June

### Glacier, Ny-Alesund & Krongsbreen

This morning the early risers were rewarded with a Minke Whale sighting as the ship entered Crossfjorden. Again the scenery was spectacular and it was difficult to tear ones self away, even to go inside for breakfast! At 9.30am we assembled on the forward deck in readiness to board the Zodiacs for a leisurely ride to some nearby seabird cliffs. Among the numerous pairs of Brünnich's Guillemots we found small numbers of Puffin (these nest in crevices and on ledges, unlike the burrowing ones found in the UK) and a much rarer Razorbill. Black Guillemots were present on the sea and the opportunistic Glaucous Gulls continually patrolled the nesting cliffs in search of an easy meal.

The glacier face was impressive as we cruised close by, and we managed to find not one but three very photogenic Bearded Seals, as well as experiencing the glacier ‘calving’. Turning the Zodiacs to face the mini-tsunami we were lifted high on the wave – quite an experience! Before returning to the ship we landed on a beach close to the small seabird cliffs for a short walk. The flowers here were superb, like an alpine rockery on steroids! Among the mauve and pink carpet of Purple Saxifrage/Moss Campion were Bluff Cinquefoil, both Hawkweed-leaved and Alpine Saxifrage, Black Fleabane and Arctic Dandelion. The warmth of the sun and the wildlife made a perfect introduction to what we might expect in the days ahead.

On board Maryshev, lunch was interrupted by the announcement from the bridge of another Minke Whale, which caused some of us to dash outside clutching binoculars and boiled eggs!

We arrived at Ny-Alesund at 2pm, much earlier than anticipated, and were soon boarding the Zodiacs for our first, and perhaps only, ‘dry’ landing. (The cold wind straight off the glacier caused a large swell on the sea, so the landing wasn’t as dry as some might have expected!) We had a little time to explore the settlement, buy souvenirs, and post that all-important card from the most northerly settlement in the World. A family of Arctic Foxes had a den under one of the ‘London Houses’, and some of us managed to glimpse one or two of the eight cubs, before assembling by the gift shop to visit the Amundsen Memorial and the tower that anchored his balloon. There weren’t many birds in evidence, but we did manage to add Long-tailed Duck and Red-throated Diver to our list.

In the warmth of the dining-room on Maryshev, Maarten, a researcher working on Barnacle Geese at Ny-Alesund, joined us and gave a very interesting lecture on his subject, stressing the ecological fragility of this amazing land. After a late dinner we all enjoyed the splendour of Kongsbreen glacier before heading back out to sea to continue our journey into the pack-ice. Most had retired for the evening when suddenly the ship’s intercom system burst into life to announce the sighting of whales close by. Most of us wrapped up warmly and reappeared out on deck just in time to glimpse another Minke Whale, but on this occasion we did not get such a good view. Meanwhile, Lindsay was having more luck and saw a Fin Whale. During the evening the wind had eased and it was feeling comparatively warm as we returned to the comfort of our cabins.

## Day 5

Saturday 28th June

### Smeerenburg & Pack-ice

At 9am the sun was bright and we encountered our first pack-ice flows off Danskoya and Amsterdamsøya. We launched the Zodiacs at about 10.30am and headed for Smeerenburg, a 17th century Danish whaling town, and the ‘Blubber Ovens’ – one of the remnants of the whaling industry here. Troels explained the cultural history of the place, then we had a brief walk over the snow-encrusted island where we found our first signs of Polar Bear – fresh footprints of perhaps a female and two cubs. There was little evidence of plant life this far north, except a few mosses and lichens, unlike the profusion of flowering plants we had seen earlier on the tour. Kittiwakes and Glaucous Gulls were bathing in a freshwater pool and a couple of Purple Sandpipers were also present.

Once we were back on board, the ship left Smeerenfjorden and headed further north into pack-ice. Although the temperature dropped and it felt much colder, the weather was still unbelievably sunny and the scenery simply amazing. We arrived at the pack-ice at about 2pm and immediately found several individual Bearded Seals lazing on ice flows. Later, we saw parties of Harp Seal as well before leaving this spectacular scenery and heading south.

We were enjoying a very welcome cup of hot chocolate in the bar when Lindsay surprised everyone with her photo of what was, we realised with hindsight, though not at the time, a young Beluga. This sighting had occurred while we were watching Harps Seals. (Lindsay had instinctively pointed the camera and taken a photo of what she had thought were seals.) In fact we later discovered that a pod of five Belugas had passed close to the ship. Well done Lindsay!

We had all just sat down for dinner when an announcement echoed over the intercom-system informing us of three Fin Whales close to the ship. The dining room emptied as quickly as if somebody had called 'Abandon ship?' and everyone rushed out to try and see the whale. Meanwhile, on the bridge, we had some spectacular views as all three individuals surfaced and blew.

## Day 6

Sunday 29th June

### Steinpyntvika & Poolepynta

After sailing all night we anchored just south of Farmhamna, on the Spitsbergen side of Forlandssundet. After breakfast the Zodiacs were launched and, once ashore, the group split into three parties to enjoy a walk across the tundra. The coastal group had fantastic views of an Arctic Fox attempting, and failing, to steal eggs from a pair of Barnacle Geese, while the group that opted for the short walk accidentally found themselves walking through a dense breeding colony of Pink-footed Geese. This was a nervous time for both geese and us, as Arctic Skuas and Glaucous Gulls were present and obviously attracted by the unguarded nests. We made a quick exit by the most direct route possible, covering up any nests with down (as a goose would do on leaving the nest to protect her eggs from the eyes of predators) along the way.

The third, long-hike, group had good views of a Red-throated Diver incubating on a distant pool. The vegetation here was lush, comparatively speaking, hence the many geese and the large herd of 17 Reindeer; they all proved very photogenic and approachable.

While waiting for the Zodiacs back at the beach landing, we managed to find a pair of the elusive Grey Phalarope and an even rarer Red Knot (these do not breed in Svalbard and are only found here infrequently).

The group split into two parties for our visit to the Walruses and, after lunch, the first group landed at Poolepyten. This was necessary because the rules state no group bigger than 30 should visit the haul-out sight. Those left behind on board ship could see many Walruses on the sand-spit. The tundra behind the lagoon looked as if it was on fire with the intense colour of flowering Purple Saxifrage, hugging the ground. The scenery was again quite spectacular and the flat, steel-grey sea mirrored the snow-covered mountain peaks and glaciers in a breathtakingly beautiful landscape.

The first landing party's trip to view the resting Walruses was delayed initially by a party of Swedes, but at last it was our turn to see these iconic mammals of the pack-ice, so instantly recognisable by their tusks. Because these animals have highly social and complex behavioural patterns, many still being elucidated, when it was our turn to view the Walruses, we made a cautious approach so as not to disturb them. We were able to get very close without intruding on their world.

After a couple of hours it was the second group's turn to visit, approaching in the same manner as before and lining up along the beach, halting 30 metres from the Walruses. After a short while a very large, inquisitive, one-tusked male emerged from the water to join the group and we had some exceptionally close views. This was a real 'champagne' moment, never to be forgotten – what a great wildlife experience!

All too soon it was time to raise the anchor and leave this magical place, between Prins Karls Forland and the main island of West Spitsbergen, and start the long sail south round Sorkapp then on towards Storfjorden ('the large fjord').

## Day 7

Monday 30th June

### Pack-ice, Sorkapp

Having sailed all night we woke up to more characteristic Arctic weather, and not the constant sunshine we had become accustomed to seeing pouring into our cabins. By 6am we had reached pack-ice as we rounded the southern tip of Spitsbergen. It soon became apparent that the pack-ice was indeed heavy and would necessitate several course changes in order to navigate a passage through. We were on Polar Bear alert all day, scanning the drifting pack-ice for any signs of activity. Sailing along the ice fringe we saw numerous Harp Seals, as well as flocks of Brünnich's Guillemots. Other birds of note were a distant Ivory Gull, more immature Glaucous Gulls than we had seen before, plus five Great Skuas and two Arctic Skuas.

Although tired and hungry after a day of concentrated searching for Polar Bear, we were reluctant to leave this amazing seascape of crazy-paved pack-ice for the warmth of the dining room, but hunger got the better of us. We had just finished our main courses and were waiting for dessert, when Troels appeared to let us know that a Polar Bear had been seen by our sister ship the Molchanov, which was standing on station until we could get there. A surprisingly orderly exit from the dining room followed, and we collected our coats, hats, binoculars and, most importantly our cameras, to capture the moment. We duly assembled on deck delirious with excitement and anticipation to see our first Polar Bear (a four- or five-year-old male). Minutes later, and after capturing hundreds of images, it was time to leave this wonderful animal and resume our dinner. That evening we all retired to our bunks content.

## Day 8

Tuesday 1st July

### Kapp Lee & Freemansundet

We decided to have a late breakfast as slow-sailing was predicted due to a gale, and we didn't anticipate arriving at Kapp Lee, in north-east Edgeoya, until mid-morning. However, as it turned out, the gale didn't persist long and we reached our destination by breakfast time after all.

We had a short Zodiac ride, and were escorted ashore by a flotilla of Walruses! Once on the beach our group split into two parties – the long-distance hikers and the coastal amblers. A short walk from the landing site we found a small coastal inlet with a solitary Long-tailed Duck, several Purple Sandpipers and eight Grey Phalaropes. We got extremely close to both waders, much to the delight of the photographers.

Although we found far less diversity of plant species than on the west coast of Spitsbergen, the amblers did manage to add Hairy Lousewort and Svalbard Poppy to our list, while the more adventurous hiking party had good views of a Black Guillemot colony and found the beautiful Spider Plant in flower.

After lunch the wind had shifted round to the south-east, moving the pack-ice and making a landing on Barentsoya impossible. Instead we experienced a Zodiac safari through the dramatic ice-pack which helped us to get a Polar Bear's perspective of life in the 'freezer'.

Back on board we had a hot drink and some time to catch up with personal logs during a rare lull in wildlife – but not for long. Lindsay's vigilance on the fore-deck produced two more Walruses on an ice-flow, so once again it was on with the warm clothing and everyone went outside to photograph these amazing creatures. Although an Ivory Gull flew past, it didn't settle to feed, much to Malcolm's disappointment.

Back in the bar before dinner, the ship's intercom announced three more Walruses which had hauled themselves out onto another flow close by. As if that wasn't enough, 10 minutes later another three were seen. They just kept appearing like pearls on a string.

The wind had dropped and the sea was calm and by dinner fog had settled; it remained foggy as we sailed south overnight.

## Day 9

Wednesday 2nd July

### Andreetangen Pack-ice

Visibility had greatly improved by breakfast, the sea was like a sheet of steel, and there was no wind. Our Zodiac ride this morning was an amazing experience – the quality of light was just incredible, the scenery was awesome and the reflections mesmerising. The wildlife was really good too! On our way to Andreetangen we saw Grey Phalaropes, Bearded Seal and about 200 Long-tailed Ducks. We landed on the north side of the island and crossed over towards the Walrus haul-out to find between 100 and 150 individuals resting. The backcloth of snowfields and drifting pack-ice added a truly Arctic atmosphere to the scene, as well as a great photographic opportunity. Returning towards the ship, we had stopped to view an assemblage of Black Guillemots on a small cliff when an Arctic Fox suddenly appeared, albeit very briefly. Skeins of Pink-footed Geese flew overhead as did the occasional Red-throated Diver. We saw a lot of Ringed Seals resting on the ice this morning, but did not go too close as this species is rather shy.

After lunch, Frances opened the ship's shop for those in need of some retail therapy and Christian followed with a thought-provoking presentation on global warming. Outside, the scenery was breathtakingly beautiful, the weather amazing and there was no wind.

'Amazing', 'spectacular', 'awesome' and 'inspirational' might normally be considered over-used adjectives, but they really don't begin to do justice to our incredible experiences today! Black Guillemot, Fulmar and Kittiwake were ever-present during the day's cruising, and they were joined by small parties of Little Auks wheeling their way in and out of the ice-flows. I couldn't resist calling for a group photo at this point, so we assembled above the bridge to capture a truly Arctic backdrop to our photograph, before disappearing to the bar in anticipation of being fed!

The evening continued in much the same way as the afternoon, as the captain skilfully negotiated the heavy pack-ice and by bedtime I had simply run out of superlatives to describe the whole experience. Cruising south along the ice edge we kept a constant vigil for Polar Bears and, just before midnight, a bear was spotted swimming between nearby ice-flows. Unfortunately, it was difficult for the ship to make a more cautious approach. The bear appeared anxious as it swam away and could be seen nervously looking back and occasionally heard grunting. We decided to continue along our course, leaving the bear alone in his frozen world. It was a great end to a remarkable day.

## Day 10

Thursday 3rd July

### Hornsund

Having cruised through free water all night and made good progress, we entered more pack-ice just after breakfast. The early morning patch of distant blue sky steadily improved and we enjoyed yet another fabulous day of clear skies and sunshine, which was incredibly lucky. By late morning the pack-ice had disappeared. It then reappeared again at lunch, this time heavier and much more spectacular than before. The captain had shown great skill in getting us this far, but we wondered if the pack-ice would simply be too thick to allow us to reach Hornsund. Patiently, the Maryshev was edged deeper and deeper into pack-ice, and the seascape, the weather and the distant scenery made it a breathtaking experience. It all seemed rather surreal, like touching our very souls with a chilled hand. We could have been forgiven for thinking it was a dream, for this was an experience that fantasies and fairy stories are made of. Surely it could not get any better than this?

Most people were enjoying the sublime scenery and sunshine on the upper deck when our third Polar Bear of the trip suddenly appeared in the pack-ice. Somehow the captain managed to thrust the ship's engines into reverse and manoeuvre the vessel round so that we had excellent views of this magnificent creature as he nonchalantly went about his business. We followed him at a safe distance and managed to get some great views before continuing on our way through heavy pack-ice, escorted by 18 Glaucous Gulls, into Hornsund.

In the late afternoon we eventually arrived in the very picturesque fjord and dropped anchor off Gnalodden, beneath the huge metamorphic rock there, which was teeming with seabirds. We quickly launched the Zodiacs and landed beneath this impressive rock. The lush vegetation was spectacular – the purple haze of saxifrage was a very fitting ‘regal’ welcome after our turgid passage through pack-ice. In Spitsbergen I have come to expect the unexpected, so I was not at all surprised when John managed to find a Pectoral Sandpiper (an America species that is extending its range into northern Europe).

After a short walk we took a Zodiac ride into Burger Butka. The scenery here was magical, surrounded by majestic snow-covered mountain peaks and glistening glaciers, with reflections shimmering in the water and intense blue icebergs. We saw a Bearded Seal here on an ice-flow. Troels managed to manoeuvre the Zodiacs into a position to enable us to capture splendid picture-postcard quality shots of the Hornsundtind Mountain, which was towering majestically in the background.

After an exhilarating high-speed ride negotiating ice-flows, we returned to the ship and a barbecue party prepared by the crew on the aft-deck.

We then enjoyed perhaps the most northerly barbecue in the world, danced to Russian music, and still had time to absorb the atmosphere of this very unique and special place before the anchor was lifted and the ship edged her way through pack-ice to continue our journey. This had been an unbelievable and unforgettable day.

## Day 11

Friday 4th July

### Bellsund, Renardbreen & Ingeborgfjellet

Overnight we sailed northwards to Bellsund and after an early breakfast we made the first of two landings this morning. Recherchefjord was the first; we landed by the old house then had an unforgettable walk up steep moraines to the glacier.

During lunch the ship continued cruising in Bellsund and we launched the Zodiacs, heading for Ingeborgfjellet and its large Little Auk colony. Landing on a pebble beach we walked up to the boulder scree beneath the massive seabird cliffs. Tens of thousands of Little Auks were wheeling overhead, their fast musical wing-beats and sweet calls very atmospheric and typically Arctic. This was a particularly fitting finale to our polar adventures. Once we were back on board, the Maryshev lifted anchor for the last time, sailed overnight into Longyearbyen and our trip was almost complete – except for our packing, a champagne bon-voyage, dinner and a short night to dream in!

## Day 12

Saturday 5th July

### Longyearbyen

By midnight the Maryshev had berthed at Longyearbyen pier. We had a 2am breakfast and mingled on the dock-side, saying our goodbyes while waiting for our coach to arrive. We bade farewell to the ship's crew then gave our thanks to Troels, Christian and Daan, before travelling the short distance to Longyearbyen Airport.

Our flight was punctual and our last memories of Spitsbergen will undoubtedly be of a spectacular mountainous landscape with snow-covered peaks and vast glaciers; also the sunshine that made the quality of light so marvellous for our trip. The onward flight to London was uneventful. We made our farewells at the baggage reclaim then melted into the crowd for our onward journeys home, taking with us a whole lifetime of memories of those remarkable distant lands of the northern polar region.

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## Species Lists

### Birds

Species	Scientific Name	Comments
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Scarce, only seen on Days 4 & 6
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Common, a range of colour morphs present
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Mainly in the south, although seen in small numbers throughout
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	More frequent records than above species
Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Small numbers recorded
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	First seen at Ny-Alesund. Large numbers present at Andreetangen
Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus</i>	A single record from Day 3
Ringed Plover	<i>Chardadrius hiaticula</i>	One present in Longyearbyen on Day 2
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Very rare in Spitsbergen, one present Day 5
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Common, highest density found at Skansbukta Day 3
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Two birds seen on Day 2 with a max of 8 at Kapp Lee Day 8
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	A fairly recent arrival, seen on 4 dates
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Only 3 sightings, mainly distant views
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Recorded in small numbers daily after leaving Longyearbyen
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Only distant views recorded on Days 3 & 4
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Abundant, recorded daily
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Perhaps as many as 7 individuals recorded but not very obliging
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Two seen on Day 6
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Seen daily with max on Day 9
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Common most days and found nesting at Ny-Alesund
Brünnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Common, recorded daily
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grille</i>	Common, recorded daily
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Not so numerous, but recorded frequently
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Recorded daily; 10s of 1000s at Ingeborgfjellet on Day 10
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Single record of a bird on Day 4
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Most numerous passerine

### Mammals

Mammals	Scientific Name	Comments
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	78 on Day 6; 150 on Day 8 and encountered in small groups in pack-ice.
Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Seen Days 2; 3; 5 & 9
Ringed Seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Seen on Days 2; 6; 7 & 8
Harp Seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Group of 30+ on Day 5 and smaller numbers on Day 7
Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Pod of 5 near ship Day 5
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Single on Day 2 & 3; also on Day 3
Fin Whale	<i>balaenopteraphysalus</i>	First seen on Day 3 & 4; also on Day 5
Polar Bear	<i>Alopex maritimus</i>	Singles seen on Days 7; 8 & 9
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Recorded on Days 3; 6 & 9
Svalbard Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Common – largest herd (of 17) seen on Day 6

## Plants

<b>Plant Species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Alpine Meadow Grass	<i>Poa alpine</i>	Common
Alpine Saxifrage	<i>Saxifrage nivalis</i>	Only seen at Skansbukta
Arctic Chickweed	<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>	First seen at Skansbukta
Arctic Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum arcticum</i>	Only seen on Day 4
Arctic Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	Recorded from several sites
Black Fleabane	<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	Only seen on Day 4
Bluff Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla chamissonis</i>	Plentiful at Skansbukta
Boreal Jacob's-ladder	<i>Polemonium boreale</i>	Beautiful display at Skansbukta
Hairy Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	Recorded from several sites
Hawkweed-leaved Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hieracifolia</i>	Common
Lapland Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba lactea</i>	Only seen on Day 4
Moss Campion	<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Common
Mountain Avens	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Common
Polar Scurvy-grass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Seen at Skansbukta & on Day 4
Polar Stoniferous Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga flagellaris</i>	Only seen on Day 11
Polar Willow	<i>Salix polaris</i>	Common
Purple Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Common; tundra looked on fire
Spider Plant	<i>Saxifraga flagellaris</i>	Only seen on Day 7
Svalbard Poppy	<i>Papaver dahlianum</i>	Only seen on Day 2 and 8
Tufted Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	Common
White Arctic Bell-heather	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	Only seen on Day 11
Whitlow-grasses	<i>Draba spp.</i>	Common
Woolly Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis dasyantha</i>	First seen at Skansbukta