

# Spitsbergen - Realm of the Polar Bear

Naturetrek Tour Report

25 June - 6 July 2019



Polar Bear by Paul Stanbury



Walrus by Charles Kinsey



Zodiac cruise by Charles Kinsey



Boreal Jacobs Ladder by Ian Tooley

Report by Richard Bashford and Rob Mileto  
Images courtesy of Charles Kinsey, Ian Tooley & Paul Stanbury



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Tour participants: Paul Stanbury, Richard Bashford and Rob Mileto (Naturetrek leaders)  
With 49 Naturetrek Clients

MS Quest Crew:

Oleksiy Trofimenko –	Captain	Russia
Vitaliy Tsylye	First Mate	Russia
Noe De Jesus Salazar Padilla	Hotel Manager	Honduras
(and others – thank you to all!)		

Expedition Leader:

Elke Lindner	Germany
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Expedition Staff:

Nikita Ovsyanikov	Russia
Annette Bombosch	Germany
Max Schweiger	Germany
Sara Orstadius	Sweden

## Day 1

**Tuesday 25th June**

UK to Oslo

Most of us met up in Heathrow... or Manchester, but we almost all ended up in a plush airport hotel in Oslo in which to overnight. Consequently, our first Norwegian bird was either Jackdaw or a ubiquitous Feral Pigeon, depending on the direction you happened to be looking. At 8.30pm Paul gave a quick introduction on what to do and what to expect. There was then a chance for all of us to get to know each other a little.

## Day 2

**Wednesday 26th June**

Oslo to Longyearbyen, then sailing to Hornsund

After a fine buffet breakfast, we made our way back through the airport and climbed aboard the 737 for the two-hour 40-minute flight to Longyearbyen, ‘capital’ of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. As we approached, through the broken cloud, we had our first views of the grey/green tundra scattered liberally with pure-white snow beds. On arrival, having already ‘immigrated’ the previous day, it was just a question of picking up luggage and walking the short distance to the transfer bus. However, there was also time to pick up our first proper trip birds. Again, it was a toss-up, this time between the Glaucous Gulls circling overhead, or the Barnacle Geese on the nearby beach.

After the short bus ride into town, we effectively split into three groups, the birding group, the flower group and the ‘I need some food before I do anything else’ group! The birders headed to the coast and then east and were rewarded with Snow Bunting, Arctic Skua, a colony of Common Eiders (strategically positioned next to a noisy dog-sledging compound, meaning no Arctic Fox predation!) and both Purple Sandpiper and Dunlin in full breeding regalia. The flower group hardly walked any distance (as flower groups typically don’t!) and saw all sorts of miniature goodies including Golden Whitlow-grass, Arctic Bell Heather, Mountain Sorrel, Alpine Bistort, Mountain Avens, Hairy Lousewort and a veritable forest of Polar Willow, albeit five centimetres tall! The food group got themselves fed and still had time to get some birding (singing Snow Bunting on the roof of the bank,

for instance) or botanising in. Some also went off and gathered rental wellies for the trip. We were all back on the transfer bus at 3.45pm and walking up the gangplank and onto the MS Quest at 4pm.

We set sail very soon afterwards, and as Elke went through various safety and procedure briefings, we would politely interrupt to take a look at the Fulmars, Brünnich's and Black Guillemots that dotted the waters of the fjord we were cruising down. Later in the evening we had a lovely fly past by a dozen or so male King Eider and our first and, sadly, only, Minke Whale was spotted not far from the ship. We did a U-turn to get a second look and luckily, the whale obliged. After the first of many fine dinners, some chose to tick off the checklist and then it was bed time... not that the sun was going to set!

## Day 3

Thursday 27th June

Gnålodden (77°01'N 015°56'E) AM, Isbjornhamna PM

It was a 7am wake-up call and by 7.30 most were ready for a buffet breakfast. This was soon followed by what was to become a near daily routine of 'layering' ourselves with many clothes and boarding the inflatable boats (zodiacs). There is an art to boarding, riding and disembarking these and by around 9.30 we were all proficient, if not adept. Disembarking on the beach, we soon spotted both Pink-footed and Barnacle Geese. Above us, thousands of Kittiwakes cried out their onomatopoeic call from the towering Gnålodden ("nagging point/promontory") cliff. We gathered at a nearby hut now used by researchers, but previously home to Wanny Woldstad, who is famous for being the first female trapper in Svalbard, and who lived there for many years.

Nearby, Drooping and Tufted Saxifrage flowers added splashes of white a few centimetres up into the landscape, whilst the tiny yellow flowers of Pygmy Buttercup and dainty white Polar Saxifrage, scarcely left the ground!

We split into three groups in relation to ability and interest and between us we saw Glaucous Gull preying on Kittiwakes and both Kittiwake and Brünnich's Guillemot remains in what seemed to be regurgitation pellets. Nearby, a pair Arctic Skuas lurked in waiting, these were looking to hijack food from Kittiwakes and how they do so was to become evident later this day. Less intimidating were several confiding Snow Buntings who were content with picking seed and other plant-based sustenance from the tundra.

After a fine lunch back on board the MS Quest. We set off through the swell and just on landing encountered two Arctic Skuas pursuing and harassing an unfortunate incoming Kittiwake laden with food. This poor beast they chased and mobbed until it regurgitated its last meal which was then caught mid-air by the skua – a process with the impressive technical name of kleptoparasitism.

Some took the more adventurous walk to the centre of a Little Auk nesting colony on a bouldery slope, some took a less adventurous walk to the base of it. All saw the almost comical tiny auks going about their nesting business at close quarters and also the local Reindeer subspecies, with its short legs and shaggy coat. Some also saw the likes of Pale Witlow-grass, the sundial-like flowering tendency of Moss Campion and the near ubiquitous Purple Saxifrage in the grassy sward.

A real treat for some was an Arctic Fox that tracked down a Little Auk amongst the boulders, only for it to escape its clutches down a burrow. Undeterred, the fox busily dug down to find the hapless bird, despatched it and ran off to cache it. Ambling back towards the inflatables, some spotted a Purple Sandpiper acting very

curiously – squatting and dragging its body. Richard soon realised it was a ‘broken wing’ display, designed to lead us away from the nest that must have been very close by – what a treat! Others on the beach had a fly past by Long-tailed Duck – it was all action!

Back on board and with some layers removed, we met up in the viewing lounge for hot drinks. Here the Captain and some of his crew were introduced to us and we toasted a (then hopefully) successful voyage with sparkling wine. We rounded off the day with dinner followed by the (optional) checklist.

## Day 4

Friday 28th June

Edgeøya (77°24'N 020° 39'E): Habenichtbukta AM, Andreetangen PM

Breakfast was at 7.30am. Due to the weather, we headed for a sheltered area and made a landing on the south side of the eastern island of Edgeøya to walk over the tundra. Just before reaching shore, we saw a pair of King Eiders and some Long-tailed Ducks. Higher winds were forecast so we had a limited time on land, but we managed some good time to explore. The botanists staying closer to the coast (and enjoying the likes of Yellow Marsh Saxifrage and a veritable plethora of small white Witlow-grasses – four species within some 30 centimetres of each other) and two other groups heading off for different walks. The longer walk group following Nikita, traversed a river and made it eventually onto a large area of tundra. The group split again as the lead party headed towards a more distant lake. There were large numbers of Pink-footed Geese by the lake with a few flying closer when spooked by an Arctic Fox. On the tundra, a surprise Pectoral Sandpiper flew in and fed by a small pool for a few minutes. The various groups wandered back to the zodiacs late morning. As we were boarding, a beautiful female Grey Phalarope flew in and gave good views for those not climbing on board the zodiacs. Then, an Arctic Fox ran along the ridge and behind us offering great views to those remaining.

After the standard large and excellent lunch, Rob gave a talk on the flora of Svalbard. As we neared the next landing spot of Andreetangen we could see the Polish Research Station and a long grey beach to the right. There was also a rarity – another ship! Expedition leaders talk to each other regularly and landing times have to be booked so we do not coincide. Some flexibility is often requested, and we waited patiently for 30 minutes before the other group left. Our mission was to land to see Walrus! From the ship, keen eyes had seen a group of large pale brown things on the right of the beach. We were all very excited as we boarded zodiacs and headed towards them. Once there, we spent about an hour watching these incredible animals grunting and lolling about on the beach, occasionally raising their heads and resting their tusks on the ground. A smaller group of four remained in the shallow sea and were very active. We took significant numbers of photos before leaving them in peace.

Back on board, Elke explained that strong winds from the east meant we would need to keep to sheltered areas and so we headed north, hugging the coast of Edgeøya and Barentsøya Ginevrabotnen – the northernmost part of Storfjord, where we hoped to be among the ice.

The evening proceeded with the usual pre-dinner gathering in the observation deck before the call to dinner. At the start of the meal, we toasted Joan and Peter who were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, and what a place to do so!

## Day 5

Saturday 29th June

Negribreen & Wickerbukta (78°29,7'N 018°59,4'E) AM, Sonklabreen PM, Freemansundet late PM

We woke to a different landscape with considerable amounts of sea ice around us. Scanning before breakfast provided us with our first Ivory Gulls of the trip. We saw several before and after breakfast. We took our time and explored the edge of the sound and were even lucky enough to witness the Negribreen glacier calving, causing a very large splash and a minute later, a ripple rocking out ship. Spectacular! Since we were amongst glaciers, Elke gave a talk on these rivers of ice and the features they create. We saw our first Bearded Seals on the ice near another glacier (Sonklabreen) just after lunch.

Richard gave a talk on the birds of Svalbard early afternoon before we continued our scanning on deck or from the lounge. Our weather-dependent plans meant we were heading south to explore Freemansundet between BarentsOya and EdgeOya. The ice chart had shown fast ice in its eastern end but we decided we should explore this area the following day as it was likely to be relatively sheltered. The weather was actually better than we thought as we neared the sound; so much so, that there were few takers for the film Elke suggested the group might like to watch. Instead, most were on deck scanning. The hillside held several groups of Svalbard Reindeer feeding on the vegetation. The cloud was breaking up further and the sun poking through from time to time. At 9.45pm, Elke announced a bear had been found. Everyone rushed back on deck and sure enough, on the green hillside, there was a Polar Bear, lying down in the grass. All cameras, binoculars and telescopes were pointed in that direction, doing our best to see and capture the moment. It was great to see although it didn't move that much, but at least that gave time for those who had already gone to bed to get up and join us on deck! By now, it was 11.30pm and a small select group decided to stay up for another 30 minutes to see the midnight sun.

## Day 6

Sunday 30th June

Kapp Lee / Dolerittneset (78°04'N 020°45'E) then Freemandsundet and west coast of BarentsOya

'Our' bear decided to wake and go walk about at about the same time as we did! From the deck or lounge we watched it stroll along the rocky shore, occasionally it decided it would be easier and more comfortable to swim around some of the sharper and larger outcrops. We watched it for a good hour or so before we had to tear ourselves away to sail on... and get some breakfast!

We cruised along the ice, spotting the occasional distant Ivory Gull and perched Brünnich's Guillemots (looking just like tiny penguins!) but it was really the dramatic icy land and seascapes that were enthralling. By mid-morning we could stand it no longer and it was to the zodiacs in order to get up-close and personal to the blue sculptured pack ice enhanced by the occasional Black Guillemot bobbing around on the milky azure waters.

After Lunch, and to our surprise, we managed to sail through Freemansundet and out the other side! Here we turned north until we met more and denser pack ice. Several Walruses were hanging out here, including a group of three framed against a blue iceberg – it made for a cracking photo. There was also the occasional Ivory Gull for the observant.

Nikita gave a fascinating talk on Polar Bears that included a documentary about his own life and research on Wrangel Island where he had several very close encounters with bears. Elke then briefed us on the plan – which was essentially that we should all be flexible expeditioners because the forecast looked challenging! We sneaked in the checklist just before the expected dinner time – but that time had to change since just as it was already another Polar Bear was spotted! This one was on BarentsOya, at a location known as Olgastretet. We had decent views, but it wasn't a particularly active bear! We were also hungry, so we fairly soon left it in favour of a hot meal and a safe anchorage.

## Day 7

Monday 1st July

### Edgeøya (78°20'N 022°255'E): Its East Coast

This morning we tried heading east out of Freemansundet again. Instead of heading north to sea ice, we continued east and then south east. We passed good areas of sea ice with the occasional very distant Ringed Seal. Nikita gave a second Polar Bear talk which was again thought-provoking – was global warming really the main cause for concern on bear numbers or was the much less publicised trophy hunting a far greater issue?

After some time scanning the sea ice, a gold star went to Joan who we found exactly what we were looking for: a Polar Bear walking across a massive ice sheet. Now we just had to get to it. The “ice-strengthened” MV Quest could push its way through some ice and we made some progress towards the bear which had now lain down against a ridge. We couldn't get further so we tried another route and pushed ice aside. For many, this was an amazing experience in itself. Once through, we worked our way along the edge and finally found the bear. At first, only his head was visible but it then raised its neck and sniffed the air before standing up. It yawned, and plodded up a few steps before nose diving into the snow, turning upside down and sliding down a short slope. It then stood up and shook itself before walking slowly away. Utterly amazing! Who says only people do things for fun?!

Sara gave a talk on her solo 200+ kilometre walk from the north of Spitsbergen to Longyearbyen mid-afternoon before we continued scanning. It was quite wind free for a change and the foredeck was a popular place to stand. As the ship proceeded around the south east corner of Edgeøya, we noted the whole horizon in front of us was sea ice. Hmm, we had a slight problem – the north easterly winds had pushed the ice in front of us and prevented our passage around the south of Edgeøya. It had been a very worthwhile exploration out east, but we now needed new plans. We would be travelling overnight back north.

## Day 8

Tuesday 2nd July

### Kapp Lee / Dolerittneset (78°04'N 020°46,3'E) am: Sailing to South Spitsbergen pm

Our overnight voyage had successfully brought us back through Freemansundet. The light sleepers may have heard us grind and groan our way through some significant ice – apparently, we made it just in time before it closed in around its eastern entrance. We opted for an early quick breakfast in order to squeeze in a landing on Kapp Lee. It was a little choppy and the shore rocky, but we eventually got ashore to enjoy good views of Grey Phalarope, Purple Sandpiper and a Red-throated Diver on the sea. We were also rewarded with a small herd of Reindeer grazing amongst flowers like Tufted and Arctic Cinquefoil. Other plants included Sulphur-coloured Buttercup, Tufted, Purple and Arctic Saxifrage and a scattering of Svalbard Poppy. A single Whiplash Saxifrage

made Rob's day. Another ship had booked a landing here so we were fortunate to make it – especially as this ship had to abandon their landing due to stronger winds. We were all back on board by 10am for a more substantial second breakfast before heading south back across Storfjorden.

During our journey, Annette gave us a talk on the marine Arctic ecosystem. Then, after a late lunch and, for some, a short siesta, Nikita gave a talk on the Arctic Fox, informing us that some dens have been dated as over 5,000 years old! There are also photos of some super cute fox cubs. Back out on deck, scanning finally yielded two Fin Whales. While it was hard to see the animals themselves, Idse managed a photograph and most watching saw a few spouts. The late afternoon was far calmer and great for spending some time of the foredeck. Our recap and checklist was followed by a Reindeer talk by Elke. Dinner was followed by a quick light-hearted quiz Annette had pulled together. Good fun with the winning a bottle of wine! ... embarrassingly not by the Naturetrek leader team!

## Day 9

Wednesday 3rd July

Ahlstrandodden (77°34,9'N 015°00,7'E); Ingeborgfjellet, Akseloya & Gasbergkilen (all in Belsund)

Today the wake-up call was at 7.05am and we had breakfast on the calm waters of Belsund. As we stepped into the zodiacs, some may have felt a little overdressed given the temperature outside was a balmy 6°C. We headed for the beach at Ahlstrandodden where an abandoned upturned wooden ship provided hints of long previous use as a hunting station. We soon spotted a cracking Grey Phalarope in next bay, along with Purple Sandpiper, Barnacle Geese and Common Eider. We spilt into the usual three groups; walking, birding and pottering/botanising – although we happily switched interest depending on what we stumbled across. For example, the walking group stumbled across a dead Polar Bear cub and the very lovely Whiplash Saxifrage. The birders were rewarded with an adult Pomarine Skua (complete with spoons) and, unusually for Svalbard, Great Northern Diver. Amongst the plants several of us were now familiar with, there were still minute new species to be added such as Mountain Sandwort and the rather handsome Hawkweed-leaved Saxifrage. All too soon, it was time to return to the MV Quest for lunch as it sailed towards our next destination.

Early in the afternoon we arrived in Ingeborgfjellet and it was time to board the inflatables once again. Hopping out of these onto the beach, we had a short walk to the base of a large series of rock faces and the associated boulder fields that had accumulated at their bases. Here, thousands of Little Auks were breeding and wheeling around overhead and were happy for us to sit quietly amongst them to enjoy their antics. Unsurprisingly, there was also an Arctic Fox quartering the slopes looking for an easy meal. In the turf at our feet, the diminutive Northern Golden-saxifrage was new for the trip.

Back on board, we had planned a short cruise to see seabird cliffs but were waylaid by a Polar Bear! This had been spotted from the Quest's sister ship and its passengers were busy enjoying close views of the bear on the beach whilst safely ensconced in zodiacs. We formed an orderly queue and within 30 minutes, we too were watching this lovely bear laze around on the beach crest just a few tens of metres from where we bobbed around on the ocean. For the most part, it made a great job of pretending to be a rug! However, occasionally it would look up at us and eventually it did get up and rearrange itself before settling down to sleep again. At this point we left it to snooze and enjoyed a three mile 'adventure ride' zodiac trip across a millpond sea to the seabird cliffs of Gasbergkilen. Here the Brünnich's Guillemots and Kittiwakes seemed to be using every conceivable nook and

cranny to nest on and the spectacle of all the activity was enthralling... and guess what?... yes, there was an Arctic Fox on the prowl for an easy meal! On a nearby beach a Barnacle Goose with young fluffy chicks made for a real 'awwwwh' moment.

We were safely back on board at 7.30 and by 8pm we were enjoying a yummy barbeque on rear deck! After this there was music and dancing... or the checklist!

## Day 10

Thursday 4th July

Trygghamna (78°11'N 013°42'E) & Alkhornet, Skansbukta, Longyearbyen (all in Isfjorden)

We were heading towards and into Isfjorden today. Many of the group were up on deck earlier than usual because the area outside the fjord has been good for whales. While we didn't see any this morning, we were fortunate enough to experience perfect weather for the stunning scenery. An increase in Puffin sightings was notable. Our plan was to have breakfast and then take a zodiac cruise into the nearby bay (Trygghamna – "Haven"). It was just amazing, no wind, millpond calm and high peaks and glaciers to set it all off. Of course, there was great wildlife too. A Great Skua found a Kittiwake with food and gave chase. It was then joined by two Arctic Skuas. Puffins floated nearby giving us our best chance for photographs of this species. A Bearded Seal put in a brief appearance, but a Harbour Seal was kinder, hauling out on the nearby rocks. We searched the Common Eiders but no Kings could be found. An Arctic Fox harassed the breeding terns. At times, all you could see were its ears poking out from the top of a rise. A pair of Great Black-backed Gulls joined in, calling. We heard the adjacent glacial calve but we're looking the other way. Shortly after this, the river flowing into the fjord was alive with terns and Kittiwakes feeding actively with the icy waters stirring up their food. Then we hit the jackpot with an adult and a young male King Eider and three Red-throated Divers. Not bad at all! Our next stop was the seabird cliff used in the BBC's Frozen Planet documentary – Alkhornet. We spent about an hour here with the highlights being Svalbard Reindeer sleeping on the ice and another herd including a fawn, a distant but welcome white Arctic Fox. But best was a sleeping Arctic Fox providing us with very close views.

We were back just before lunch and cruised further up the fjord until 3.45pm when we reached another landing site beneath the colossal cliffs of Skansbukta with distant nesting Fulmars. This was to be our last landing and it was certainly a memorable one. The expedition team formed a safe perimeter (checking for bears), therefore allowing us to roam at will in the afternoon sunshine. It reached 10°C and almost t-shirt weather! Many of the group usually taking the longer bird walks, took the opportunity to pester Rob with botany questions. A range of species were seen but star of the show went to the gorgeous purple Boreal Jacob's Ladder. The other notable sighting was a ringed Barnacle Goose. A fantastic afternoon and a brilliant day.

Our final checklist was followed by a lovely send off for the whole crew with an opportunity to thank them for their efforts. Of course, we did the same for the expedition team as well, who in turn, thanked the Naturetrek group for their company and enthusiasm. Dinner was also quite lively with loud music interrupting our eating as the amazing kitchen staff danced their way out of the kitchen and around the tables. Lots of smiles and laughs tonight with some staying up for the midnight sun.

## Day 11

Friday 5th July

### Longyearbyen to Oslo (then Manchester for some)

A prompt start was needed to get our big bags ready to disembark before breakfast. Another large ship was using the main quay so our transit to shore was to be via zodiac. Once we were all ashore, we said our final goodbyes to our lovely expedition staff. Then we boarded the coach back into Longyearbyen where we had some time before flying home. Some of the group relaxed in the Radisson hotel, while those braving the strong winds found a hotel bar further up the main street which, with its underfloor heating and quirky interior was a great place to unwind and chat about our shared arctic experience. By 11.30am, the airport bus had arrived. We said goodbye to Richard who was catching a later flight. Back in all too soon in a warm and sunny Oslo, some had a connecting flight to Manchester, others an overnight in the same airport hotel as we started in.

## Day 12

Saturday 6th July

### Oslo to London Heathrow

A leisurely breakfast was followed by a check in at around 11.30am. It was then a smooth flight to Heathrow. Here we said our final farewells and went our separate ways, but with very fond memories of what had been a great trip – an excellent Arctic adventure in the ‘Realm of the Polar Bear’, and a total distance sailed of 1,171 nautical miles

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## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	June - July										
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			2	✓	✓	✓			✓		
2	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓	
3	King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>		12		2						2	
4	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		15	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		✓	2	4				✓			
6	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		1									
7	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						✓					
8	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		4		1							
9	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		5	2	✓			✓		✓	✓	
10	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>				1							
11	Grey (Red) Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>				2					✓	✓	✓
12	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		1	2	1	✓				✓	✓	✓
13	Pomarine Skua (Jaeger)	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>										1	
14	Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		4	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Little Auk (Dovekie)	<i>Alle alle</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Common Guillemot (Murre)	<i>Uria aalge</i>										2	
17	Brunnich's Guillemot (Thick-billed Murre)	<i>Uria lomvia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		15	2	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
20	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>						5	4	✓	✓		
22	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>								1			
23	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>										1	2
25	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Red-throated Diver (Loon)	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					1				✓	3	✓
27	Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)	<i>Gavia immer</i>										1	
28	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓

## Oslo additions

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June - July											
			25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
30	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓										✓
31	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓										✓

## Mammals

1	Arctic Fox	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>			2	2						✓	✓	
2	Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>					1	1	1			1		
3	Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>				30	1	✓	✓	✓			✓	
4	Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>					4						1	
5	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>										✓	✓	
6	Ringed Seal	<i>Pusa hispida</i>							5					
7	Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		1										
9	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>									2			
10	Beluga Whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>										✓?		
11	White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>												✓



Trygghamna by Paul Stanbury

## Plants

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Pteridophytes</b>	<b>Ferns and allies</b>	
<b>Equisetaceae</b>	<b>Horsetail Family</b>	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Arctic Horsetail	Longyearbyen
<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	Variagated Horsetail	Longyearbyen
<b>Angiosperms</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>	
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>	
<i>Cochlearia groenlandica</i>	Greenland Scurvygrass	Gnalodden
<i>Draba alpina</i>	Golden Whitlow-grass	Longyearbyen
<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	White Arctic Whitlow-grass	Longyearbyen
<i>Draba lactea</i>	Lapland Whitlow-grass	Habenichtbukta
<i>Draba nivalis</i>	Snow Whitlow-grass	Habenichtbukta
<i>Draba oxycarpa</i>	Pale Whitlow-grass	Isbjornhamna
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>	
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	Alpine Mouse-ear	Gnalodden
<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	Arctic Mouse-ear	Habenichtbukta
<i>Cerastium regellii</i>	Polar Mouse-ear	Habenichtbukta
<i>Minuartia biflora</i>	Tufted Sandwort	Gnalodden
<i>Minuartia rubella</i>	Mountain Sandwort	Ahlstrandodden
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Champion	Longyearbyen
<i>Silene involucreta</i> ssp. <i>furcata</i>	Arctic White Champion	Longyearbyen
<i>Silene uralensis</i> ssp. <i>arctica</i>	Polar Champion	Skansbukta
<i>Stellaria longipes</i>	Tundra Chickweed	Longyearbyen
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heather Family</b>	
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> (ssp. <i>Tetragon</i> )	Arctic Bell Heather	Longyearbyen
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>	
<i>Papaver radicum</i> ( <i>dahlianum</i> )	Svalbard Poppy	Longyearbyen
<b>Polemoniaceae</b>	<b>Jacob's Ladder Family</b>	
<i>Polemonium boreale</i>	Boreal Jacob's Ladder	Skansbukta
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Dock Family</b>	
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	Longyearbyen
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	Alpine Bistort	Longyearbyen
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>	
<i>Ranunculus hyperboreus</i> ssp. <i>arnellii</i>	Tundra Buttercup	Habenichtbukta
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Snow Buttercup	Longyearbyen
<i>Ranunculus pedatifidus</i>	Surefoot Buttercup	Trygghamna
<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Buttercup	Longyearbyen
<i>Ranunculus sulphureus</i>	Sulphur-coloured Buttercup	Longyearbyen
<b>Roseaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>	
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain Avens	Longyearbyen
<i>Potentilla hyparctica</i> ssp. <i>hyparctica</i>	Arctic Cinquefoil	Kap Lee
<i>Potentilla pulchella</i> ssp. <i>pulchella</i>	Tufted Cinquefoil	Longyearbyen

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
<b>Salicaceae</b> <i>Salix polaris</i>	<b>Willow Family</b> Polar Willow	Longyearbyen
<b>Saxifragaceae</b> <i>Chrysosplenium tetrandrum</i> <i>Micranthes hieraciifolia</i> <i>Micranthes nivalis</i> <i>Saxifraga cernua</i> <i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i> ssp. <i>cespitosa</i> <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> <i>Saxifraga hyperborea</i> <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> ssp. <i>oppositifolia</i> <i>Saxifraga platysepala</i>	<b>Saxifrage Family</b> Northern Golden-saxifrage Hawkweed-leaved Saxifrage Alpine Saxifrage Drooping Saxifrage Tufted Saxifrage Yellow Marsh Saxifrage Polar Saxifrage Purple Saxifrage Polar Stoloniferous (Whiplash) Saxifrage	Ingeborgfielden Ahlstrandodden Isbjornhamna Gnalodden Longyearbyen Habenichtbukta Gnalodden Longyearbyen Kap Lee
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b> <i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	<b>Figwort Family</b> Hairy Lousewort	Longyearbyen
<b>Liliidae</b>	<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
<b>Cyperaceae</b> <i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i> ssp. <i>arcticum</i>	<b>Sedge Family</b> Polar Cotton-grass	Longyearbyen
<b>Juncaceae</b> <i>Luzula confusa</i>	<b>Rush Family</b> Northern Wood-rush	Longyearbyen
<b>Poaceae</b> <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> <i>Deschampsia alpina</i> <i>Hierochloa alpina</i> <i>Poa alpina</i> var. <i>alpina</i>	<b>Grass Family</b> Polar Foxtail Tundra Hair-grass Alpine Holy-grass Alpine Meadow-grass	Longyearbyen Longyearbyen Longyearbyen Habenichtbukta



Little Auk by Paul Stanbury



Arctic Fox by Paul Stanbury



Ice cruising Freemansundet by Paul Stanbury