

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Svalbard 2016



SVALBARD

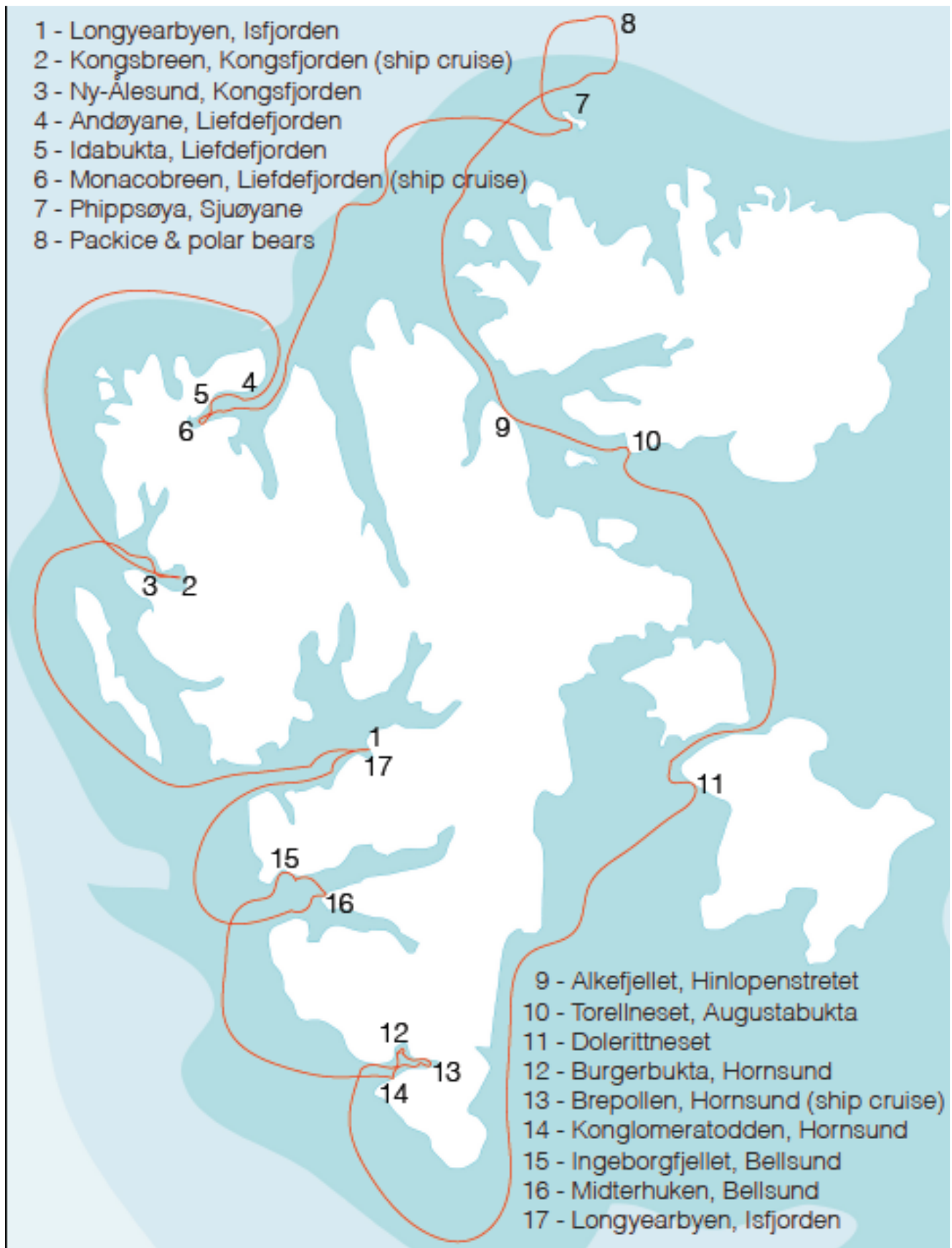
16th to 27th July 2016

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	16 th	UK to Oslo
2	17 th	Oslo to Longyearbyen, boarded the Ortelius
3	18 th	Depart Longyearbyen 02.30am. Cruise along Isfjorden, then up the west side of Prins Karls Forland, to Kongsfjorden. Afternoon visit to Ny Ålesund
4	19 th	Day spent in Leifdefjorden. am: zodiac cruise around Andøyane ("Duck Islands") pm: walk at Idabukta. Evening cruise close to Monacobreen Glacier, before departing north.
5	20 th	am: landing at Phippsøya. pm: cruise north up to the sea ice, at 81°43' North
6	21 st	All day spent amongst the sea ice around 81°
7	22 nd	am: zodiac cruise in front of Alkefjellet (bird cliffs, east coast of Spitsbergen) pm: zodiac cruise at Torellneset (west coast of Nordaustlandet)
8	23 rd	am: cruise west along Freemansundet, between Barentsøya and Edgeøya pm: landing at Dolerittneset, near Kapp Lee
9	24 th	am: zodiac cruise around the iceburgs and glaciers in Burgerbukta pm: cruise along to the end of Hornsund, to Storbreen glacier and Hornbreen glacier. Landing at Conglomorateneset
10	25 th	am: Ingerborgfjellet (Little Auk colony) pm: Midterhuken
11	26 th	Disembarkation at Longyearbyen. Afternoon flight to Oslo
12	27 th	Return to UK

A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157668936427454>

Three Diamond-back Moths *Plutella xylostella* were found at Dolerittneset, on 23rd. Just two species of moth are known to breed in Svalbard, with another 7 species of Lepidoptera recorded as migrants: this is the most frequent of those migrants, a species which has also arrived in the UK in massive numbers in summer 2016.





(Map courtesy Oceanwide Expeditions: <http://oceanwide-expeditions.com>)

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
BIRDS												
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)												
	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			X						X	X
	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	X	X							X	X
	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		X								
	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Family Gaviidae (Divers)												
	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X	X	X			X			
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)												
	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X						X		X	X
	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A pair at Andoyane, 19th, spotted later on the photos									
Family Stercorariidae (Skuas)												
	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	X	X	X							
	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	A sub-adult on the pack ice, 21 st , identified later from the photos									
Family Laridae (Gulls)												
	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		X								
	(Black-legged) Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	X		X	X	X					
Family Sternidae (Terns)												
	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Family Alcidae (Auks)												
	Brünnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		X	X	X		X		X		X
	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)												
	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X



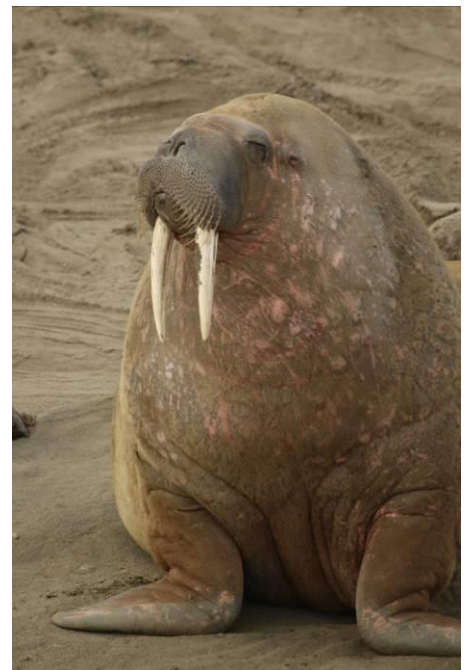
Left to Right: Brünnich's Guillemot, Ivory Gull, Snow Bunting

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
MAMMALS			
	Blue Whale	<i>Balenoptera musculus</i>	At least 3 seen at the mouth of Isfjorden, early am on 18 th
	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	<p>2 seen at the mouth of Isfjorden, early am on 18th: two distant blows were either Fin or Blue Whale.</p> <p>1 confiding animal watched feeding in front of the boat for around an hour on the evening of 23rd.</p>
	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	One feeding in Hindlopen Strait, evening of 22 nd , fluked twice as the boat passed.
	Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Two pods seen, briefly, by others on board during 23 rd : not seen by us.
	Arctic Fox	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>	Two animals at the base of the auk cliffs at Alkefjellet, 22 nd : a large adult with a long-broken back leg, and a smaller, more timid animal.
	Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	<p>An amazing morning at Andøyane, 19th, with two mother-cub duos and a lone male seen on the islands, feeding on tern eggs.</p> <p>On the sea ice, a male arrived during dinner (20th), walking close by the boat. Next day, three adults put in an extended appearance mid-morning: a female being followed by a large male, and a second lone male in the distance.</p> <p>A male, our tenth bear of the trip, appeared on the ridge at Torellneset (22nd), wandered down to the beach, setting the nearby film crew running, before swimming out to sea and later appearing on a nearby basalt island.</p> <p>At least four seen (distantly) along the shoreline during the morning of 23rd, preventing us from making our planned landings.</p>
	Walrus	<i>Odobenus romarus</i>	<p>A large (55+ individuals) mixed-sex haul out at Phippsøya on 20th.</p> <p>On 21st, two briefly appeared in front of the ship amongst the sea ice.</p> <p>At Tortellneset (22nd), a haul out of at least 50 animals spread across the beach, with several swimming out as far as the boat. After dinner, the highlight of our zodiac ride to the beach was a close swim-past by a</p>

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
			group of 10 Walrus, who spy-hopped and called next to us. 7 males hauled out at Dolerittneset, 23 rd .
	Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	One female offshore from Idabukta (19 th), one animal very briefly offshore from the glacier at Alkefjellet (22 nd) and one briefly amongst the ice at Burgerbukta (24 th)
	Harp Seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	On 21 st , a group of about 10 and, later, a lone individual seen amongst the sea ice: very energetic seals, leaping out of the water and 'porpoising' away.
	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Three around the harbour at Ny Ålesund (18 th)
	Ringed Seal	<i>Pusa hispida</i>	Several seen amongst the sea ice (20 th & 21 st).
	Svalbard Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Seen in good numbers during 23 rd , both (distantly) from the ship, and at amazingly close range at Dolerittneset. Around 20 at Ingeborgfjellet, 25 th and one behind Longyearbyen, 26 th .



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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES
PLANTS An excellent online resource on the plants of Svalbard is at www.svalbardflora.no		
Asteraceae (Daisy)		
<i>Taraxacum arcticum</i>	Arctic Dandelion	Cream flowers: Doleritneset, 23 rd
Brassicaceae (Cabbage, Cress, Mustard)		
<i>Cochlearia groenlandica</i>	Polar Scurvygrass	Midterhuken, 25 th .
<i>Draba alpina</i>	Golden Whitlow-grass	Idabukta, 19 th ; Doleritneset, 23 rd
<i>Draba glabella</i> (= <i>D. daurica</i>)	Scree Whitlow-grass	Longyearbyen, 26 th
<i>Draba lactea</i>	Lapland Whitlow-grass	Idabukta, 19 th
Caryophyllaceae (Pinks, Campions, Sandworts)		
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	Alpine Mouse-ear	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	Arctic Mouse-ear	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Minuartia biflora</i>	Mountain Sandwort	Doleritneset, 23 rd
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Champion	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Silene uralensis</i>	Polar Champion	Idabukta, 19 th ; Doleritneset, 23 rd
<i>Stellaria longipes</i> (= <i>S. crassipes</i>)	Tundra Chickweed	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>	Arctic Chickweed	Longyearbyen, 26 th
Cyperaceae (Sedges)		
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>	Polar White Cottongrass	Longyearbyen, 17 th /26 th
Ericaceae (Heather)		
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	White Arctic Bell-heather	Idabukta, 19 th
Orobanchaceae (Broomrape)		
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Lousewort	Doleritneset, 23 rd
Papaveraceae (Poppy)		
<i>Papaver dahlianum</i>	Svalbard Poppy	Longyearbyen, 17 th /16 th ; Idabukta, 19 th
Poaceae (Grasses)		
<i>Alopecurus ovatus</i>	Polar Foxtail	Doleritneset, 23 rd
<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Spike Trisetum	Longyearbyen, 17 th /26 th
Polygonaceae (Knotweeds and Docks)		
<i>Koenigia islandica</i>	Iceland Purslane	Tiny annual: Ingerborgfjellet, 25 th
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	Idabukta, 19 th ; Doleritneset, 23 rd
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	Alpine Bistort	Idabukta, 19 th ; Doleritneset, 23 rd
Ranunculaceae (Buttercups, Anemones)		
<i>Ranunculus hyperboreus</i>	Tundra Buttercup	Tiny buttercup: 3 petals, 3 sepals. Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Snow Buttercup	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Buttercup	Tiny buttercup: 5 petals, 5 sepals. Doleritneset, 23 rd
Rosaceae (Rose)		
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain Avens	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Potentilla hyparctica</i>	Arctic Cinquefoil	Doleritneset, 23 rd
<i>Potentilla pulchella</i>	Tufted Cinquefoil	Doleritneset, 23 rd
Salicaceae (Willows)		
<i>Salix polaris</i>	Polar Willow	eg Idabukta, 19 th ; Midterhuken, 25 th .
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage)		
<i>Chrysosplenium tetrandrum</i>	Dwarf Golden-Saxifrage	Midterhuken, 25 th .
<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>	Drooping Saxifrage	Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	Tufted Saxifrage	Eg Idabukta, 19 th ; Midterhuken, 25 th
<i>Saxifraga hieracifolia</i>	Hawkweed-leaved Saxifrage	Idabukta, 19 th ; Midterhuken, 25 th .
<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	Yellow Marsh Saxifrage	Longyearbyen, 17 th ; Doleritneset, 23 rd ; Midterhuken, 25 th .
<i>Saxifraga hyperborea</i>	Polar Saxifrage	Tiny saxifrage: Phippsøya, 20 th
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Purple Saxifrage	Eg Ny Ålsund, 18 th ; Idabukta, 19 th
<i>Saxifraga svalbardensis</i>	Svalbard Saxifrage	Doleritneset, 23 rd

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Top: Captain Jim. Left: Polar Campion *Silene uralensis*. Right: Yellow Marsh Saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus*