

# Spitsbergen

## Triplog



# SV Antigua

July 20. - August 5. 2012

*The SV Antigua was built in 1957 in Thorne (UK) and served for many years as a fishing vessel, until it was completely re-built in the early 1990s in the Netherlands as a barkentine and equipped as a passenger ship. A barkentine has three masts with square sails on the foremast.*

*with*

*Captain – Joachim Schiel*

*First Mate – Maarten Duijn Schouten*

*Second Mate – Dan Fisher*

*Chef – Sascha Huhn*

*Chief Service – Katrin Völker*

*Service – Nicole Petresic*

*Service – Yvonne Burghardt-Wilhelms*

*Expedition Leader – Michelle van Dijk*

*Guide – Elke Morgner*

July 20.

## Longyearbyen

Position at 14 o'clock: 78°14' N 15°36' E

Temperature: 9,5 °C

Longyearbyen is the administrative centre of Svalbard. The town hosts a broad range of public services, shops and cafés. Longyearbyen has changed from being a one-sided industrial settlement into becoming a multi-sided community where tourism and science have gained central roles. Longyearbyen is a good starting point for activities in the Isfjorden area.

Shortly before 2 pm. most of the passengers arrive at SV Antigua, a blue sailing vessel that was going to be our home for the upcoming sixteen days. We all had to visit our captain Joachim at the wheel house. After that we were welcomed inside with coffee or tea and cake. Captain Joachim gave us a board-safety briefing, telling us that we are not allowed to fall overboard or make bonfires on the ship. After that our expedition leader Michelle took over about the do's and don'ts on land. When she was finished captain & mates could get the ship off the quay. Passing Longyearbyen Camping we witnessed Campsite attendant Sarah taking her daily bath in the fjord.



On our way out of the Isfjord there was enough wind to set sail so we took the opportunity to do so.

At around 9 our chef Sascha came up to the bridge because he saw a blow. From the bridge we could see many more, it must have been around 80 Beluga whales. Captain Joachim turned the ship and without the sound of the engine or generator we waited for them. But Beluga's like very shallow water and we don't so the best sightings were through Binoculars and tele-objectives.

July 21.

## Ny Ålesund – 14e Julibukta

Position at 8 o'clock: 78°58,8' N 011°33' E

Temperature: 11 °C Sunny, blue sky -no wind



We woke up to another fabulous and sunny day in the Arctic, with incredibly calm sea and beautiful scenery. A big cruise ship was heading for Ny-Ålesund too, so (after a short introduction to how to behave well in the village) we hurried ashore to be able to enjoy the small research village without 1800 other people. On our way to the meeting point at the Amundsen bust we could observe Arctic terns feeding their chicks and after a short visit to the shop we headed for the anchor mast that was used by Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile for their attempt to cross the North Pole by airship. Michelle told this part of polar exploration history to a captivated audience, whilst Elke was looking for a tiny annual plant, *Koenigia islandica*. We then walked along the coast, passing an ancient drop toilet and visited the Norwegian and Italian memorial stones for Amundsen and Nobile, respectively. On our way back to town we could see some remains of the coal mining history of Ny-Ålesund. Back in the town we had some time to stroll around for ourselves before we met for lunch on Antigua.

During lunch we started to sail towards Krossfjorden. Michelle had a short talk about the AECO guidelines and the captain explained safe ways to enter and leave a Zodiac. After coffee and cake it was time to put his words into practice and our first Zodiac landing took place at 14<sup>th</sup> July Glacier. With the sun still shining bright and no wind at all this was an almost tropical experience. We walked along the shore towards the glacier front, passing groups of reindeer and bathing kittiwakes on the way. The glacier welcomed us with some impressive calving noises (and some smaller visible calvings) and after the first contact with some glacier ice, we returned the same way, passing a breeding Arctic skua in safe distance. We arrived at the flowering hanging gardens in t-shirt weather and to the sound of kittiwakes and little auks in the bird cliffs above our heads. Even some pink-footed geese with chicks could be seen at the foot of the cliffs. The mountain goats gained some elevation together with Elke, while the rest of the group enjoyed the sunshine around the gardens. On our way back to Antigua we found a bearded seal resting on an ice floe close by. After a short zodiac cruise around his floe it was time for dinner, which some even enjoyed on deck.

The second day with sunshine ended like it started, sunny and calm -and with a group hoping for more of this fantastic weather.



July 22.

### **Smeerenburg & Vogelzang archipel**

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°44' N 011°01' E

Temperature: 13 °C Sunny, blue sky windforce 3

After a quiet night we woke up near Amsterdamøya, our first goal was Smeerenburg (Blubber town), the most famous whaling station. But even before everyone was ashore Rob spotted a polar bear. Maarten & Michelle took the Zodiacs back to the ship while Elke kept an eye on the bear. Unfortunately the bear decided to come closer. Elke did not agree with that and shot two flares. This made the bear change his mind. He turned away from the group and walked westwards. From the ship we watched him with binoculars and saw him swimming towards South. We lost him but all of a sudden he was visible again at the island Likholmen.



Then he moved on to Æøya. While he was there, we could give it another try at Smeerenburg. Around 400 years ago about 200 men lived here, not only the whalers but also merchants and traders. In its heyday, the whaling station consisted of around 19 buildings. Most of the houses had floors as well as fireplaces, so the living conditions must have been quite good. The area between the houses was paved, and there were ditches to get rid of rain- and melt-water. Fresh water supply came from the lagoon and Smeerenburg was accessible from three sides, East, South & West. Whales were harpooned and dragged to the shore, then processed. Whale oil was used as lamp-oil, to produce soap, for tanning leather and to refine sulphur. Also the baleens were commonly used. When you heat it, you can bend and shape it in any form. The winter of 1633/34, seven Dutch men overwintered and survived, but the next winter the second attempt was less successful, all died with the horrible pains of scurvy. In the second half of the 17th century, Smeerenburg's days as a whaling station drew to an end. The whales deserted

the fjords and the station fell into disuse. The ovens were dismantled and whatever useful material this produced was taken away. In 1906 the Dutch navy ship HMS Friesland excavated the old whalers graves and constructed a mass grave as a memorial here, for this new grave and the deceased, which says: "HMS Friesland repaired these graves in 1906 on order of the queen of the Netherlands" ("Hr. Ms. Friesland herstellde deze graven in 1906 op last van de Koningin der Nederlanden").

After coffee & cake-time we landed at Fuglesången, an island that is well known because of its Little auk colony. It almost seemed that we had to cancel the landing because of the weather conditions, but it calmed down a bit and the most of us got on shore. It was not very easy to get to the bird cliffs, but once we got there we found ourselves a nice spot to sit down. The Little auks were everywhere, tweeting from their rocks. It was wonderful to look at these cute birds.

Right before dinner time Michelle gave a lecture on Early whaling history. So now we know at least why we haven't seen any whales yet.



July 23.

### **Liefdefjorden: Texas bar & Monacobreen**

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°36'7 N 012°42' E

Temperature: 11 °C – overskyed – Windforce 1

At 2 o'clock in the morning, the day started a little bit early but exciting with a group of belugas around Antigua. After breakfast we landed at Texas Bar. This trapper hut was built in 1927 by the legendary Hilmar Nøis, who still holds the record of most overwinterings with 38 years as a trapper. On shore we split up into two groups. Michelle took her group to the waterfall and up to a 35 meter peak. On their way they met several botanical highlights, among them an impressive individual of Woolly lousewort. The mountain goats joined Elke for a hike up to the about 200 m high Rusthammeren. On the way up, the group found one of the few endemic plant species on Svalbard, the Svalbard poppy. When the group reached the top, the low hanging clouds were lifting and gave way for spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.



In the afternoon, we went further into the fiord to gain a closer look at the impressive Monaco Glacier with its constantly calving front. Luckily, the clouds got thinner and thinner and we could enjoy the glacier in some sunshine, at least for a while. Whilst two groups were cruising in between the smaller icebergs, an astonishing large part of the front was collapsing and a high iceberg tower fall into the water, causing some impressive waves. The fresh ice pieces that filled the fiord made it impossible for the following groups to get closer to the glacier, so they were cruising among the magical blue ice sculptures. We took time to cut the engine and listen to the cracking sounds of the water and ice around us. Icebergs of different shape and size made this cruise a truly magical journey through the Arctic landscape.



During our way out of Liefdefjorden we once again met a group of belugas, which swam calmly close by. Earlier during the day, we get the news from another boat, that there was a blue whale in the area. Despite the mist getting thicker and thicker, some people kept hope and watched out for some blows - with unbelievable results: First we saw a minke whale and then, with peeled eyes, there was a large blow visible at the horizon- the blue whale we had been searching for. We managed to get closer and closer without disturbing the whale that was feeding close by, showing his beautiful fluke several times. Then also the minke whale appeared again swimming underneath the ship. Not enough with both a minke and a blue whale playing around, additionally a group of hunting harp seals showed up. This put the photographers in some difficulties-which direction



should they aim at? The problem was solved when both the minke whale and the harp seals disappeared, leaving the blue whale on his own, which now really showed what he was good for-a nice end for yet another exciting day.

July 24.

### **Wijdefjord: Austfjordneset**

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°08,2' N 016°02,8' E

Temperature: 9 °C – overskyed, light rain – Windforce 3 South

We woke up after a night of sailing and while we had breakfast the ship anchored at Austfjordneset. Until two years ago this place was in use by trappers. The last few years the hut was given out by the Sysselmann to people who want to live life as a trapper. Tommy Sandal was the last one to use this place. Now it is not in use anymore because according to the Sysselmann there are not enough applicants for it.

Back in the eighties a 19-year-old girl named Heleen van de Laan worked at the old M/S Plancius and stayed over winter at this station with the local trapper.

Michelle took the long hike up on a mountain while Elke showed everything around the lagoon.

When we were all back on the ship enjoying our lunch, our captain found a white rock with ears sleeping at the island called Bjørnnesholmen (Bear nose island).

But it did not like us very much because at first it walked over to the other side of the island and after that it swam over and walked away from us.

After coffee & cake Elke gave a lecture about the geology of Spitsbergen. She explained us how the landscape was created by the travel of Spitsbergen from the South pole towards its recent position.

In the evening we watched the movie 'When the light comes'. So we learned how trappers live their life in the Arctic night. And that it's not going to be easier when a 19-year-old Dutch girl is staying with you for the winter.



July 25.

### **Sorgfjord: Eolusneset & Krossøya**

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°56,2' N 016°43,0' E

Temperature: 11°C – No Wind

A grey and calm morning was the matching setting for our morning-landing in Sorgfjorden-the fjord of grief. This place has witnessed many historical events: starting with the whalers, that buried their death companions here, followed by a sea battle between French ships and 40 Dutch whaling boats in 1693, continuing with Parry's attempt to reach the North Pole in 1827 and later Torells and Nordenskiölds expedition with the ships Aeolus and Magdalena, with which the scientific exploration of Svalbard really started. An important contribution to Earth Sciences was made by the Russian-Swedish Arc de Meridian expedition in 1899, when the Swedish team

overwintered in this fjord and helped to prove that our planet is flattened towards the poles. The long walk with Maarten and Elke was joined by many happy walkers that enjoyed the nice tundra and the rest of the group took a shorter tour with Michelle towards Eolusneset.



After lunch, we spotted a sleeping polar bear at the other side of the fiord and continued our travel to Krossøya, a small barren island in Murchisonfjorden. Here we made a small trip over the sparse polar desert vegetation to one of the few remaining Russian orthodox crosses that are still to be seen on Svalbard. Those crosses were put up both as markings for the sailors and because of religious reasons by Pomors, Russian trappers from the White Sea, which were the first to hunt in big scale on Svalbard. With eider duck and Arctic tern nests all over the place it was a challenge to set the feet on “safe” ground. Around dinner time we started our journey further north into the mist.

Luckily, whale watching conditions were still okay and during the evening a blow far out at sea was spotted. This observation turned into a close relationship between Antigua and a foraging fin whale, with some spectacular moments, when we almost felt like Jonas inside the whale.



July 26.

### **Sjuøyane: Phippsøya & Rossøya**

Position at 8 o'clock: 80°41,6' N 022°22,3,0' E

Temperature: 9°C – No Wind

Right before breakfast the anchor was dropped South West of Phippsøya, one of the nine islands in the 'Seven Islands'-archipelago.

It is not an easy accessible island but we hoped to find some walruses. The fast group took off with Michelle first and Elke followed with the rest. Coming over the hill we found a group of approx. 40 walruses on the beach. When the first group reached the ridge and took a look of the hut and walruses Henka spotted a Polar bear laying next to the hut. Both groups retreated back to the ship, and we tried to get with the ship to Isflakbukta, the bay where the animals were seen. It was not easy because above 80°N the computer only shows a white screen, no map. And the paper map is

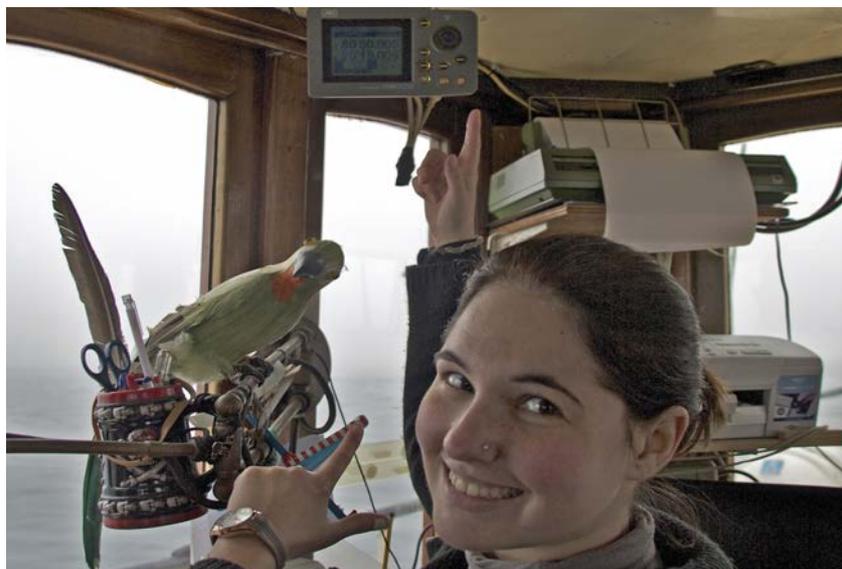
on a scale that we couldn't use it to navigate on. But going very slow we made our own soundings, and after that Dan drew the shorelines into the great white open, using coordinates from Michelle's land map. Outside it looked quite similar, nothing more to see than white fog and the temperature had dropped down to 5°C.

When we got in the bay closer to the beach, we first could distinguish the hut and after that also the walrus and the bear. The bear had moved a bit but was sleeping again. And not only were there walrus on the beach, but also swimming around. We went to take a closer look of the walrus by Zodiac, and also the swimming walrus came to take a closer look at us. It is incredible to see how these massive animals move quite smooth in the water.



At around 5.30PM dark lines of the northernmost island became visible. It didn't take long before everyone was out on the deck. There was no possibility to do a landing on the island so we drove around it and reached our northernmost point at  $80^{\circ}50,00' N$ . Even the ship's crew took pictures of the GPS position of the ship because they had never been any further North.

Of course we had to celebrate that! So we all got a shot of herb liquor and surrounded by guillemots and puffins we toasted to our captain and our great voyage.



July 27.

## Fåksevågen & Alkefjellet

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°32,2' N 017°39.8' E

Temperature: 7 °C – some clouds – Wind force 2, North-East

After a “sabotaged” walk the day before it was definitely time for some hiking and our first landing turned out to be the perfect place for this. Faksevågen, situated in Lomfjorden and thus part of the North-East Svalbard Nature Reserve, has surprisingly rich tundra vegetation, which turned walking into a pleasant experience. After a rather steep and exhausting first climb, the group split and the slower group joined Michelle for strolling over the tundra. The longer walkers made a round together with Elke and gained a stunning view over two glaciers and a beautiful moraine landscape in between these two. On the way back they came over a breeding pair of Arctic skuas, with one bird being the rather uncommon dark morph.



After lunch we went further south into Hinlopenstretet and passed the amazing basalt cliffs of Alkefjellet, where about 60.000 breeding pairs of Brünnich's guillemots live. The air, ocean and land were filled with sea birds and low hanging clouds on top of steep pillars gave the whole scenery a mystical touch. Throughout the afternoon wind speed increased and allowed us to set sails once more. Antigua without motor noise was not only attracting to humans, but also to larger marine mammals. In the middle of Michelle's lecture about polar bears, Dan entered the room to tell that a minke whale was playing around the ship. Everyone on deck could enjoy a whale that obviously had fallen in love with Antigua. It followed us, showing its white belly, turning around under the water, swimming along the ship on one side- and because of the clear water all of this was well visible for us. Several times, laughs of whale-watching-enjoyment were heard in the wide straight of Hinlopen. The day ended with a calm evening at anchor at Torellneset, accompanied by some sleeping walruses.

July 28.

## Nordautlandet: Torrellneset & wildlife

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°21,6' N 020°45,6' E

Temperature: 7 °C – greyish – Wind force 2-3, North



After a silent night we woke up with a view on the walrus that lay at Torellneset.

The plan was that one group would take a closer look at these monstrous animals and make a short walk afterwards. The second group would go for a long hike first and pay the large seals a visit on their way back. After the first group left the walrus behind, a few guests went back to the ship and Elke took the rest for a walk. But all of a sudden something suspicious was seen, and when it was not visible anymore a little later, Elke decide to retreat back to the ship. Michelle's group just turned around because they couldn't get any further due to snow conditions in the valley next to the Vegafonna. When the Polar bear-call came the group walked the 2,5 Km distance back with a good past and no stops. Elke's group was already back on board and she came with the telescope to have a better look. In the end the Polar bear was not found again anymore, but that is good, because we don't want to see them on land.



We lifted the anchor and moved southwards direction Bråsvellbreen. Then our captain spotted a Polar bear on the island Franzøya and she was not alone but followed by two cubs. Of course we hit the brakes and watched these 'cute' animals from a safe distance. They walked along the coast of Pücklerhamna. Unfortunately there we also saw a big piece of rope laying on the beach. This can harm animals so after the bears had left the area Dan & Michelle went to pick it up.

Just before Joachim saw the bears, he also saw a large fishing net at Karl Alexanderøya that should not be laying at the beach. Dan & Michelle were sent out again and also Elke joined them to pick it up. It was huge and had already killed four birds. When captain Joachim looked if everything went well with the clean-up-crew he saw a huge tail in the background, so he changed course and went back North again and sailed around Franzøya one more time. It turned out to be two Humpback whales, a very rare sighting in Spitsbergen waters. They got very close to the ship, showing their flukes almost every time they dived. It is really incredible what we have seen this trip, Elke & Michelle had never seen a Humpback whale in these waters before. After one hour of whale watching even the sun came out and Dan who had climbed the mast took a group picture of us around the wheelhouse.





After dinner while sailing in the fog Manon spotted again two Humpback whales. It was not easy to shoot a nice picture of the fluke, but Sietske managed so the Norwegian Polar Institute can be happy. The next thing that passed by in the fog was a very young ringed seal that had climbed a piece of driftwood. It still had bits of its baby fur at one side.

This day ended cold by sailing out of the fog, with a great view at the magnificent edge of the Austfonna Icecap, some Brent geese swimming along the beach and a Bearded seal climbing an iceberg close to the ship.

July 29.

### **Nordautlandet: Vibebukta & Bråsvellbreen**

Position at 8 o'clock: 79°22,5' N 022°49,8' E

Temperature: 10 °C – Overskyed – Windforce 4, South



We awoke to a clear morning in Vibebukta. The decision to stay in the area turned out to be a good one. The morning landing was undertaken at a site loaded with fossils. Vibebukta made every geologists heart jump. We strolled along the beach and the noise of our rubber boots in the gravel seemed to sound so interesting that a ringed seal came to check this out. We walked towards the side of Bråsvellbreen, which was covered by a thin coat of moraine material. After lunch we cruised along the impressive front of Bråsvellbreen, a part of Austfonna, which has the northern hemispheres longest glacier front with a total length of 190 kilometers. All shades of blue seemed to be stored in the several thousand year old glacier ice. From the top of the big ice mass several beautiful waterfalls ended in the ocean. A bearded seal watched us from his ice floe when we were floating by and our whale luck was with us also today. We had another two humpbacks close to the ship. Right before dinner, Elke hold a lecture about glaciology. During the evening we continued southwards on our route

towards Freemansundet, the sound between Barentsøya and Edgeøya. Again, we got accompanied by humpbacks. We named them number 7 and 8. Inspired by the incredible number of whales we have seen so far, Michelle and Elke danced a whale waltz to the song I am whaling.



July 30.

**Edgeøya: Walter Thymenbukta & Barentsøya: Kapp Waldburg**

Position at 8 o'clock: 78°12,3' N 022°02,7' E

Temperature: 9 °C – Partly clouded – Windforce 6, West

Five bears at breakfast on shore at Walter Thymenbukta. It could have been a scene in a reality soap. One dirty bear laid at the beach close to a kill. Not far away a very skinny bear waited for a chance to get some food. East of those two bears, at the slope a mother bear with her two cubs were sleeping. Also some Glaucous gulls joined the party. Waiting for some action we watched the scene bearing the cold wind - two reasons why we could not go ashore for a landing. Because of the strong winds it was also not a good idea to lift our two(!) anchors. Via satellite telephone Joachim got a new weather forecast and it predicted the wind calming down and turning to North. This gave hope for an afternoon landing at Barentsøya. In the meanwhile Michelle gave a lecture about the discovery of Spitsbergen and explained that she refuses to say Svalbard because this word is not mentioned in the Spitsbergen treaty.



During lunch the weather calmed down as forecasted so after lunch the anchors were lifted and we crossed the Freemansundet and dropped anchor again near Kapp Waldburg. Already from the ship we could see a canyon full with Kittiwakes. After Elke & Michelle checked the area and declared it Polar bear free, Elke took a group up to Būdelfjellet to watch from above. Michelle walked with the other group into the canyon and watched, heard & smelled the birds from another position. We all enjoyed it very much to be out again but the icing on the cake was an Arctic fox that walked into the canyon and came out with a bird in its mouth.



July 31.

## Hambergbukta & sailing around the South cape

Position at 8 o'clock: 77°12,0' N 017°48,9' E

Temperature: 12°C – blue sky – Windforce 2, West North-West



Our day started as usual in an unusual way. The first whale (“vinvis”) was already spotted at 1 o'clock in the morning. After a slightly rocking passage the day before, we were surprised to meet calm sea and sunshine. This incredible weather continued throughout the day and people gathered on deck to enjoy the warming beams and the nice view. We headed south along the east-coast of Spitsbergen and made a short cruise into Hambergbukta with the scenic Hambergbreen. Then Michelles lecture about the Arctic flora was (of course) interrupted by two fin whales and a minke whale. We got some close views of the fin whales, including the magnificent scenery of the southern part of Spitsbergen in the background. Several group members could not resist the temptation to climb up the mast of Antigua, whilst the rest was sunbathing on deck.



Sørkapp (“South Cape”) is well-known for its bad weather. In contrast to its rumor it showed us its most gentle and kind side and even allowed a landing in Grunnvågen (“ruining” just another scheduled lecture and also the day that was meant to be a pure sea-day). Captain Joachim found a safe way through the tricky shallow areas along the coast and then it was time to board the zodiacs. The tundra that welcomed us was covered with several hundred year old whale bones, signs of the isostatic rebound of the area.

Already on the ship we had spotted a tent camp and our explorer instinct led us straight towards it. Michelle and Joachim, who wisely had brought some cake, went to the camp and then the whole group was invited to take a look on the temporary home of four Russian geologists. After a short chat with them it was time to head back to our ship and continue the rounding of Sørkapp. Finally, when we rounded Sørkapp we met some swell and everybody went to bed quite fast.



August 1.

## Hornsund: Gnålodden & Gåshamna

Position at 8 o'clock: 77°00' N 015°51' E

Temperature: 8 °C – Partly blue sky – Windforce 1 North-East



After a partly rough night we woke up with calm weather in the fjord called Hornsund. The place we visit is called Gnålodden. Because this area has a steep mountain at the North side and water at the South side it is easily overseen and leaves only East and West as a risk. This is where Elke and Michelle kept guard. For a change we could walk round free and explore ourselves. Rocks, birds or flowers.... We did not have to adjust to our fellow passengers or guides, but take as much time as we needed. Also some private time was appreciated. Henka & Aard used it to take swim in the fjord. Anyway we all understood why the female trapper Wanny Woldstad picked this place to live with her family while trapping between 1932 and 1937. Such a scenic place with lovely flowers, a small pond, and lots of birds.

Our afternoon landing was in Gåshamna. We first took a look at the remains of the Konstantinovka-station. That was used by the Swedish-Russian Arc-the-Meridian-expedition from 1898 until 1904. This was one of the first major co-operations between two countries. They tried to prove that our planet is not perfect round, but a bit flat at the poles. The stations were in Sorgfjord, Kapp Lee and here. Here in Gåshamna the Russians did the measurements while the Swedes were in the North. From 1906 on Norwegian trappers used the hut, but today I wouldn't spend the winter there. We all walked over to the West-side of the bay where we found many skulls as a left over from the English whaling history.



After dinner Elke gave her lecture about life up North in Longyearbyen. From the first summer days, during the colourful autumn until the cosy winter and the exiting spring, people like Elke and her friends like to go out for camping, skiing, snow scootering and have a good time together.

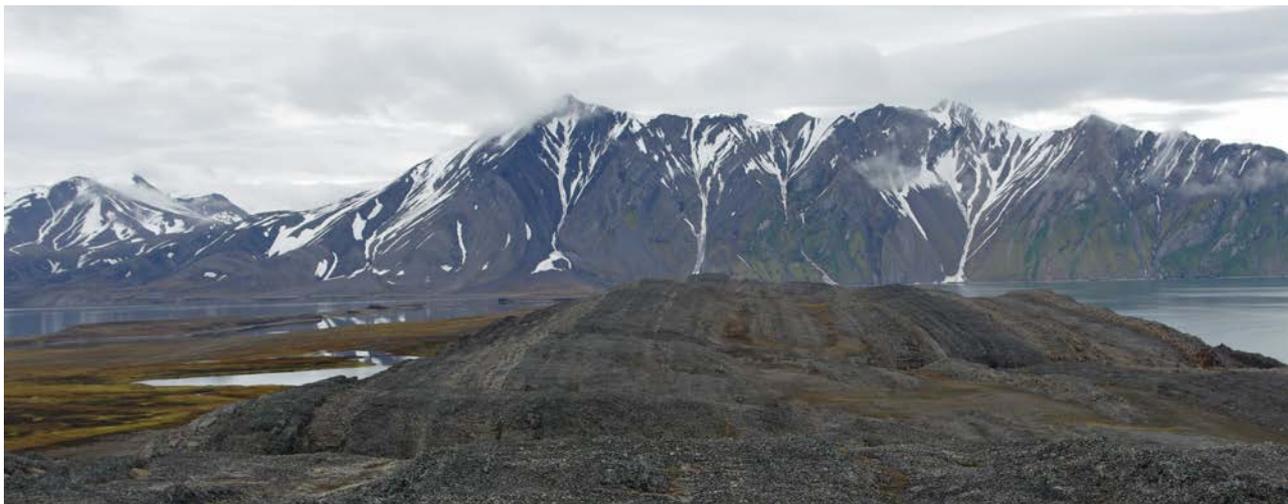


August 2.

## Van Mijenfjord: Akseløya & Berzeliusdalen

Position at 8 o'clock: 77°46,5' N 014°44,2' E

Temperature: 8 °C – Overskyed – Windforce 2 South-East



In the early morning we anchored at the eastern side of Akseløya, an island in the entrance of Van Mijenfjorden. This island, made up of beautifully tilted layers, is home to a various number of birds, like Arctic terns, Long-tailed skuas, Great skuas, Eider ducks, Barnacle geese and more. The shorter walkers went with Michelle on the flatter parts of the tundra, where they saw a completely white goose in between a group of barnacle geese. Maybe there was even a Nils Holgersson around? The longer walkers joined Elke to get up to the highest “peak” of the island. From there they had a nice view towards the scenic Midterhukken, a mountain taken out of a geological textbook. Later, the two groups joined and had some minutes of silence when everyone could hear the pure sound of the Arctic. From our meeting point we could even see red-throated divers in a little lake. The way back to the landing site challenged once more our abilities to avoid numerous arctic tern chicks. At the coast we made some marine-biological discoveries like Sea angles, Comb jelly and even a larger jelly fish that is an indicator for warmer Atlantic water masses in the fjord.



Our afternoon landing took us to the northern side of Van Mijenfjorden into the entrance of Berzeliusdalen. Here an old stranded wooden boat proved to be a welcomed photo motif. The longer walkers went together with Michelle up to the moraine ridges that were built up during the latest surge of Fritjovbreen. From here they had a nice view towards the glacier and even saw a harp seal on an ice floe in front of the glacier. The shorter walkers strolled into the large valley, which hid many different patterns of vegetation and some “new” plants like arctic cottongrass, polar horsetail and polar cress. The group also discovered a hitherto unknown species- the Wimdeer. During dinner, Antigua sailed through Mariasundet, the narrow passage between Askeløya and Midterhukmountain. Many people interrupted their meal to gain a view of neatly folded mountainside covered in all shades of green. After this real dinner for the eyes, Antigua continued on her way northwards to Isfjorden.



August 3.

## Barentsburg & Colesbukta

Position at 8 o'clock: 78°04' N 014°12' E

Temperature: 6 °C – Overskyed with drizzle – Windforce 1, North



At our last day out, we went to visit Barentsburg. Michelle offered a city walk, showing us daily life of this mining settlement. At this moment 450 people live in this town of which 27 children. Of course we ended our tour in the hotel bar, drinking coffee & hot chocolate, buying souvenirs and sending postcards with a Barentsburg stamp. It turned out that the bar is also a good place to purchase souvenirs. A 2 litre bottle of Russian beer, cheap Russian 'Arctic Classic' cigarettes and quite some chocolate bars were bought.

When we came out of Green harbour into Isfjorden Michelle gave a lecture on Dutch coal mining in Spitsbergen.

Coffee and again delicious cake was served and we went to Bohemanflya to do our afternoon landing. This old Dutch mining settlement called Rijpsburg was closed down in 1921 but we could still visit the old cabin and the monument that was built for queen Wilhelmina to celebrate her birthday.



A surprise when we came back to the ship, all tables were set. Captain's dinner!

It started with a drink and speech of captain Joachim, then we got to know the best side of our chef Sascha and the service crew. No complains about the food and service we had before on this trip, but this was absolutely superb!

Unfortunately this also meant this is the end of the trip, but we all can look back to a great holiday.

August 4.

## Longyearbyen

Position at 8 o'clock: 78°14' N 15°36' E

Temperature: 7 °C – Sunny – No wind

After a final, good Antigua-style breakfast it was finally time to say goodbye during the morning. Hard to believe that the trip had come to an end and that so much beautiful Arctic experience could fit into a mere 16 days!

Most of us had another couple of hours to explore Longyearbyen and to go shopping before a bus would take us to the airport, others spent another night or two in town. Many of us knew already now that this was not our last visit to the Arctic.



Triplog is by Michelle and Elke.

Photographs by Michelle & Elke.

This triplog can be found on <http://www.spitsbergen-svalbard.nl>

The SV *Antigua* will continue to sail in Spitsbergen's waters in the years to come; the other sailing ships of the Tallship Company fleet, *Mare Frisium*, *Artemis*, *Elisabeth* and *Atlantis*, sail the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, the IJsselmeer and the Canary Islands.

More information:

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### Lectures & Sailing

21. July 2012	Amundsen (on land)	Michelle
22. July 2012	Early whaling history	Michelle
24. July 2012	Sailing	
24. July 2012	Geology of Spitsbergen	Elke
27. July 2012	Sailing	
27. July 2012	Polar bear	Michelle
29. July 2012	Glaciology	Elke
30. July 2012	Discovery of Spitsbergen	Michelle
31. July 2012	Arctic floral adaptation	Michelle
1. August 2012	Life in Longyearbyen	Elke
2. August 2012	Dutch coal mining in Spitsbergen	Michelle

<b>Nederlands</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Kleine Alk	Little auk	x	x	x	x	x										
Kleine Rietgans	Pinkfooted goose		x						x							
Steenloper	Ruddy turnstone		x													
Rotgans	Brent goose									x	x					
Brandgans	Barnacle goose	x	x	x						x						x
Drieteenstrandloper	Sanderling															
Bontestrandloper	Dunlin															
Paarse strandloper	Purple sandpiper		x			x			x		x			x	x	x
Zwarte zeekoet	Black guillemot	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x
Bontbekplevier	Ringed plover		x								x					
IJseend	Longtailed duck		x													
Papegaaiduiker	Puffin	x	x		x	x		x	x					x	x	
Noordse stormvogel	Northern fulmar	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Roodkeelduiker	Red-throated diver															x
Sneeuwhoen	Svalbard rock ptarmigan															
Grote Burgemeester	Glaucus gull	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x
Vorkstaartmeeuw	Sabine gull															
Ivoormeeuw	Ivory gull	x		x												
Rosse franjepoot	Grey phalarope															
Grauwe franjepoot	Red-necked phalarope															
Sneeuwgor	Snowbunting	x	x	x	x	x	x		x							
Ross'meeuw	Ross' gul															
Drieteenmeeuw	Kittiwake	x	x		x		x		x			x		x		x
Eider eend	Eider duck	x	x			x		x		x	x				x	x
Koningseider	King eider															
Kleinste jager	Longtailed skua					x										x
Kleine jager	Arctic skua	x	x		x	x	x	x	x					x	x	
Middelste jager	Pomarine skua															
Grote jager	Great skua			x												x
Noordse stern	Arctic tern	x	x			x	x			x				x	x	x
Zeekoet	Common guillemot							x	x	x	x					
Kortbekzeekoet	Brünnichs guillemot		x	x				x	x				x			

<b>Plants we have seen:</b>		
<b>LATIN</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>DUTCH</b>
<i>Alopecurus borealis</i>	<b>Polar foxtail</b>	Poolvossenstaart
<i>Arenaria pseudofrigida</i>	<b>Fringed Sandwort</b>	Gewimperde Zandmuur
<i>Braya purpurascens</i>	<b>Purplish Braya</b>	
<i>Cardamine nymanii</i>	<b>Polar Cress</b>	
<i>Carex sp.</i>		Zegge
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	<b>White Arctic Bell-heather</b>	Vierkante lavendelheide/ Kanttheide
<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	<b>Arctic Mouse-ear</b>	Arctische Hoornbloem
<i>Cerastium regelii</i>	<b>Polar Mouse-ear</b>	Poolhoornbloem
<i>Chysosplenium tatrardrum</i>	<b>Dwarf Golden Saxifraga</b>	
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	<b>Polar Schurvygrass</b>	Lepelblad
<i>Draba lactea</i>	<b>Lapland Whitlow-grass</b>	Lapland Hongerbloempje
<i>Draba spec.</i>	<b>Whitlow-grasses</b>	
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	<b>Mountain Avens</b>	Zilverwortel
<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	<b>Black Fleabane</b>	Fijnstraal
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>	<b>Arctic Cottongrass/ -segde</b>	Scheuchzers Wollegras
<i>Koenigia islandica</i>	<b>Iceland-purslane</b>	
<i>Luzula nivalis</i>	<b>Arctic Wood-rush</b>	Sneeuw Veldbies
<i>Luzula confusa</i>	<b>Northern Wood-rush</b>	Pool Veldbies
<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	<b>Oystersplant</b>	-
<i>Micranthes (Saxifraga) hieracifolia</i>	<b>Hawkweed Saxifrage</b>	Havikskruid Steenbreek
<i>Minuartia rubella</i>	<b>Mountain Sandwort</b>	Bergveldmuur
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	<b>Mountain Sorrel</b>	Bergzuring
<i>Papaver dahlianum</i>	<b>Svalbard Poppy</b>	Poolpapaver
<i>Pedicularis dasyantha</i>	<b>Woolly Lousewort</b>	Kartelblad
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	<b>Hairy Lousewort</b>	Harig Kartelblad
<i>Poa alpina</i>	<b>Alpine Meadow-grass</b>	Alpenbeemdgras
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	<b>Alpine Bistort/Viviparous Knotweed</b>	Levendbarende Duizendknoop
<i>Potentilla pulchella</i>	<b>Tufted Cinquefoil</b>	Vijfvingerkruit
<i>Puccinellia phryganodes</i>	<b>Creeping Saltmarsh Grass</b>	Kweldergras
<i>Ranunculus hyperboreus</i>	<b>Tundra Buttercup</b>	Arctische boterbloem
<i>Ranunculus glacialis</i>	<b>Glacia Buttercup</b>	Ijsboterbloem
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	<b>Snow Buttercup</b>	Sneeuw boterbloem
<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	<b>Pygmy Buttercup</b>	Dwerg boterbloem
<i>Salix polaris</i>	<b>Polar Willow</b>	Poolwilg
<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>	<b>Drooping Saxifrage</b>	Hangende steenbreek
<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	<b>Tufted Saxifrage</b>	Steenbrekk
<i>Saxifraga flagellaris</i>	<b>Polar Stoloniferous Saxifrage</b>	Spinneplantje
<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	<b>Yellow Marsh Saxifrage</b>	Bokjes steenbreek
<i>Saxifraga nivalis</i>	<b>Alpine Saxifrage</b>	Sneeuwsteenbreek
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	<b>Purple Saxifrage</b>	Zuiltjes Steenbreek
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	<b>Mos campion</b>	Stengelloze Silene
<i>Silene furcata</i>	<b>Arctic White Campion</b>	Arctische silene
<i>Silene wahlbergella</i>	<b>Northern Campion</b>	Knikkende silene
<i>Stellaria crassipes</i>	<b>Tundra Chickweed</b>	
<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>	<b>Arctic Chickweed</b>	Arctische Muur
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	<b>Dandelion</b>	Paardebloem