

A photograph of a polar bear and two cubs on a large ice floe in the Arctic. The adult bear is standing on the left, looking towards the camera. Two cubs are sitting to its right. The ice floe is surrounded by a vast expanse of sea ice. The water in the foreground is dark blue and reflects the scene. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

EXOS

SV ALBARD

THE ARCTIC'S VAST

wilderness, weathered by the relentless action of ice against weary rock, painted from a palette of countless blues and greys, is encapsulated almost in its entirety in Svalbard. Within this compact archipelago, angular glacier-carved peaks give way to more solemn muted buttes and then to the barren expanse of sea ice within miles. Every shoreline bay presents possibilities to see seals, reindeer, arctic fox, nesting seabirds, or the phantom of the ice, the polar bear.

The northern edge of Svalbard's archipelago sits less than 600 miles from the North Pole. Only a few places in north Greenland and Russia edge closer but they are beset almost year round with tenacious ice, thwarting all but the most powerful icebreakers. Yet the islands of Svalbard are accessible each summer thanks to the warming influence of the last vestiges of the Gulf Stream.

Svalbard is the ideal place to experience this magnificent polar landscape and the wildlife that thrives here during the long days of the high Arctic summer.

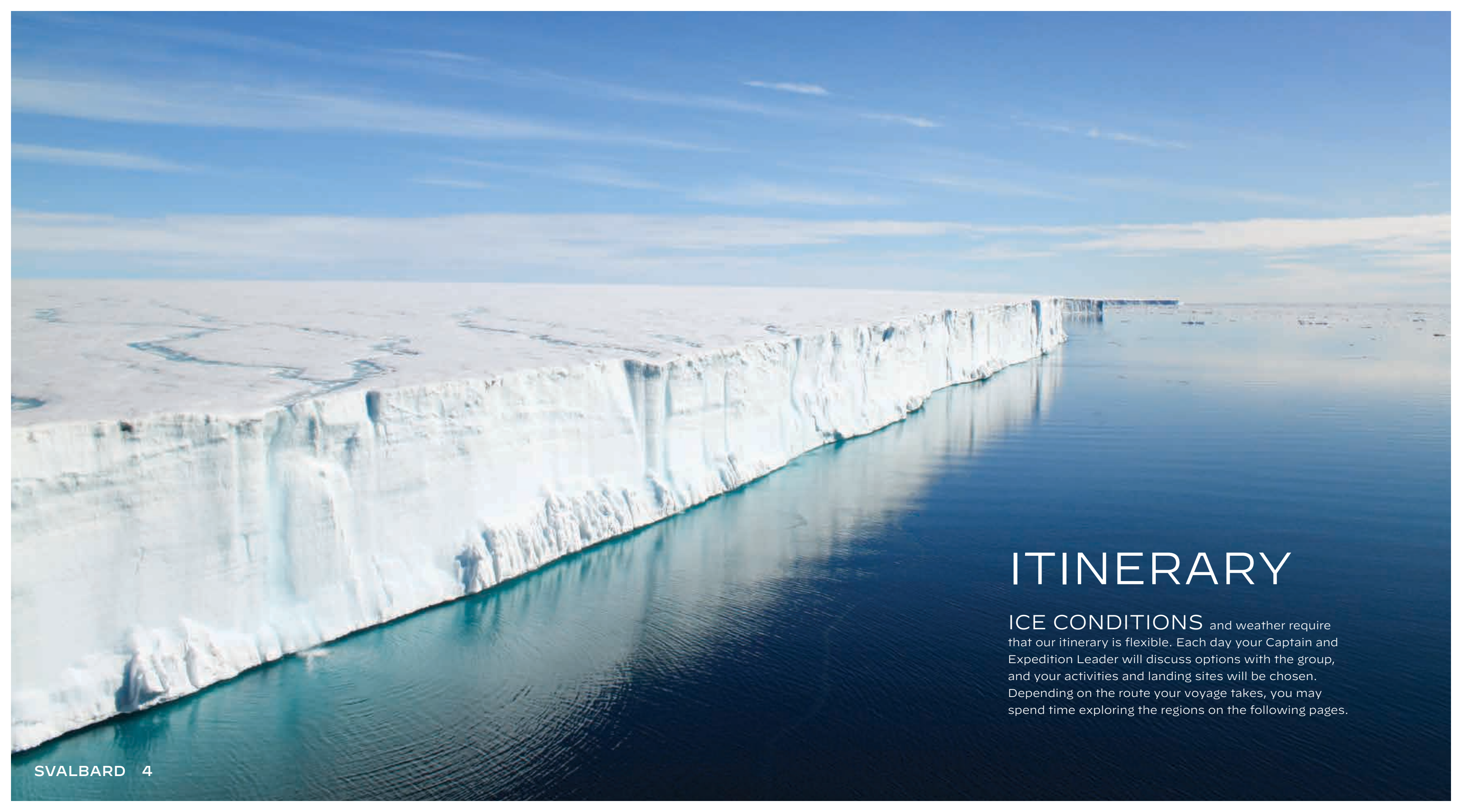
With the itinerary flexible due to weather and ice conditions, your Expedition Leader will discuss options for each day with the group to deliver a customized experience based on your preferences as you explore Svalbard.



LONGYEARBYEN

The expedition commences in the wild high Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, about 400 miles north of Norway. By far the largest wilderness area of Europe, Svalbard has a land area of 24,721 square miles—about the size of the Republic of Ireland—with 60% of the land covered in ice. Norway has had sovereignty over Svalbard since 1925, according to the international Spitsbergen Treaty. The islands have a population of just over 2,600, living in 4 small settlements. We embark our expedition yacht and start our voyage in Svalbard's main settlement of Longyearbyen, located on the west coast of Spitsbergen Island. With seven full days to explore, a flexible schedule to optimize current conditions, and 24 hours of daylight, this exploration of the Arctic islands and ocean promises to be full of excitement.

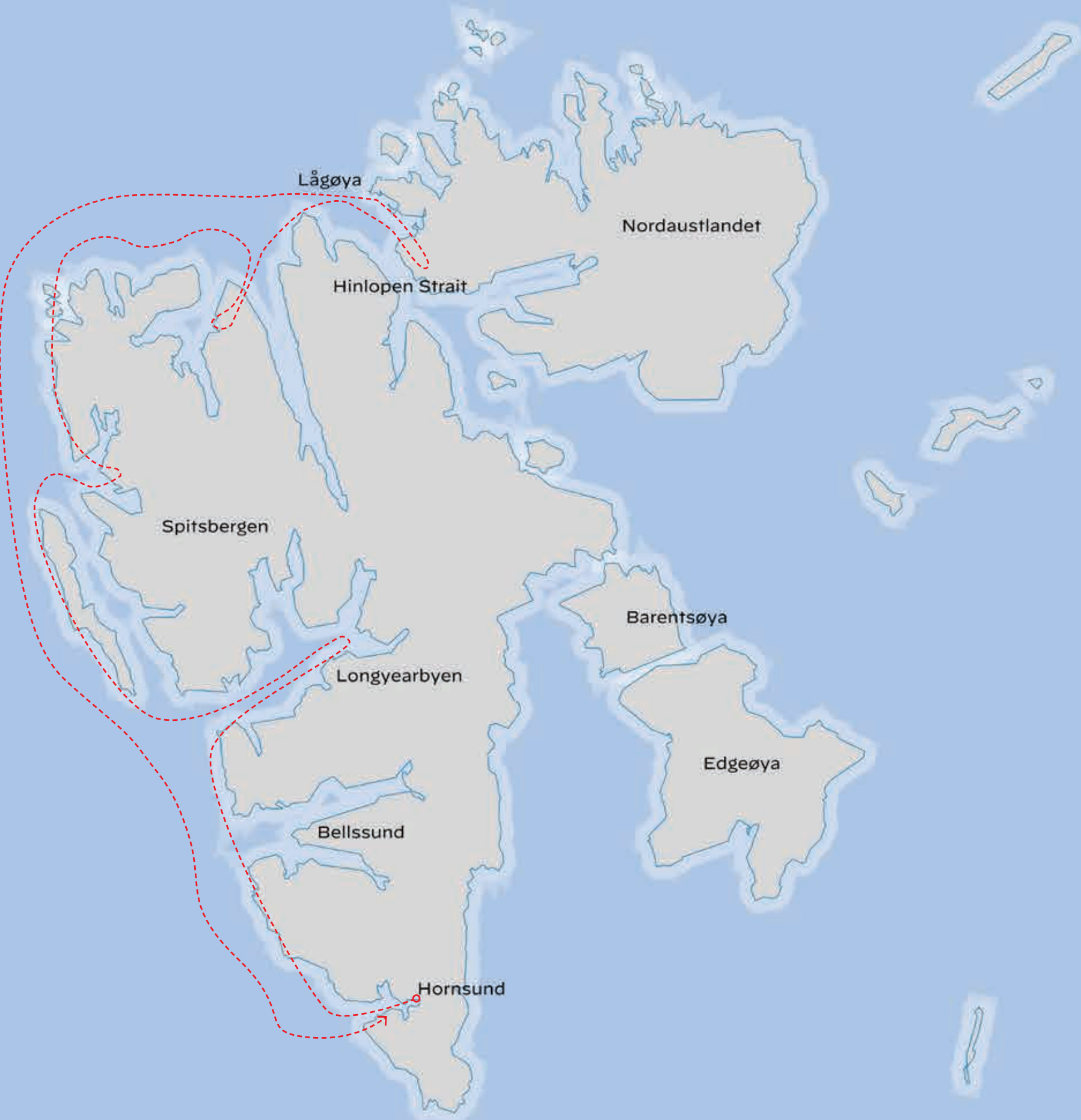




ITINERARY

ICE CONDITIONS and weather require that our itinerary is flexible. Each day your Captain and Expedition Leader will discuss options with the group, and your activities and landing sites will be chosen. Depending on the route your voyage takes, you may spend time exploring the regions on the following pages.

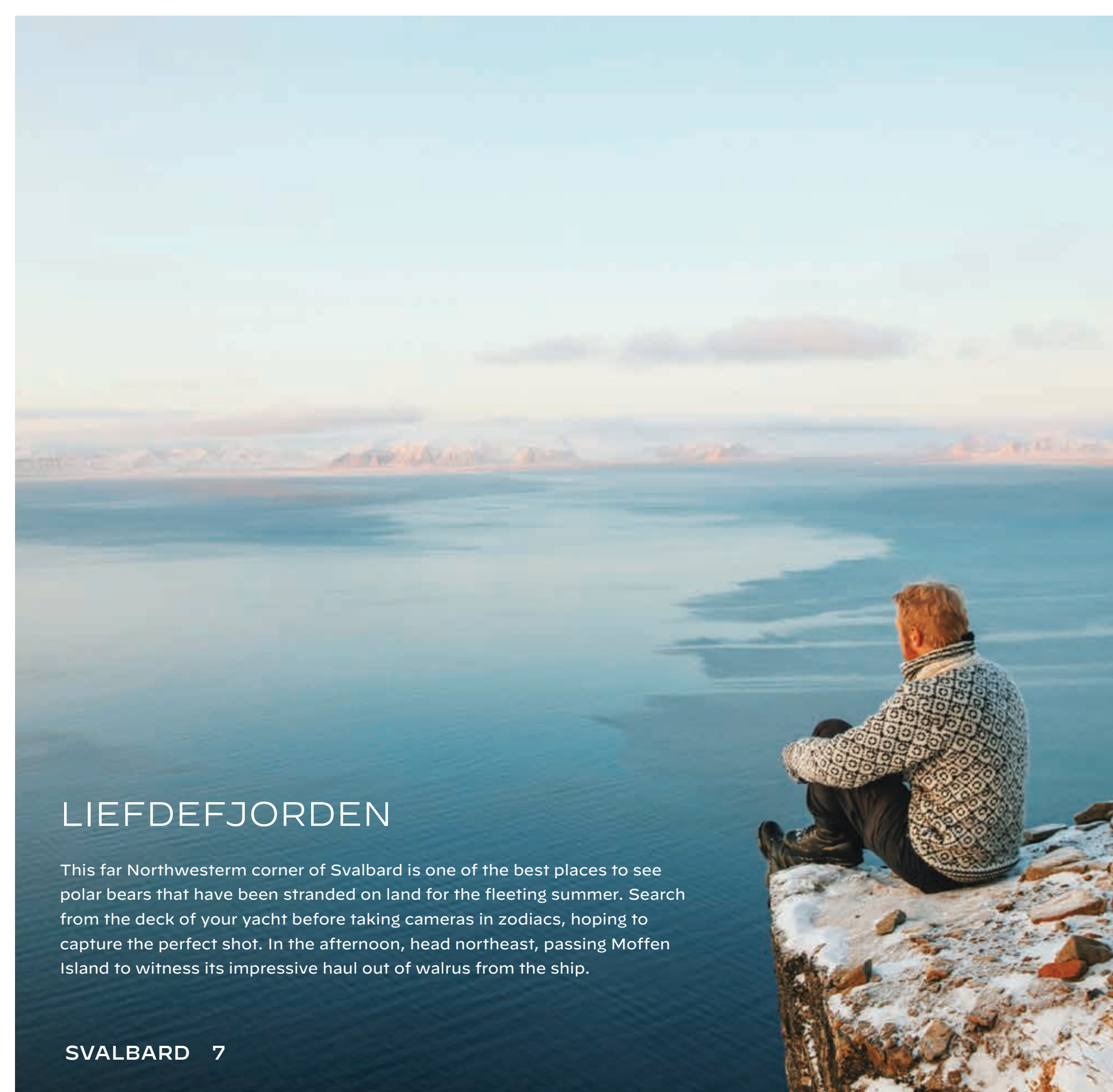
SVVALBARD



KROSSFJORDEN

Head ashore this morning in Signehamna, and hike to a secret German WWII weather station. Learn from your guides the history of the station and its decisive role in the outcome of the war. Later, cruise further up the fjord and eventually reach its terminus at Lilliehöobreen, a massive tidewater glacier. Bundle up in Zodiacs and cruise the towering glacial face, all the while looking for wildlife that feeds along this fresh and salt water margin. Look for beluga whales from the deck of the ship as the sun moves to the north and serves as your guiding light for tomorrow's activities.





LIEFDEFJORDEN

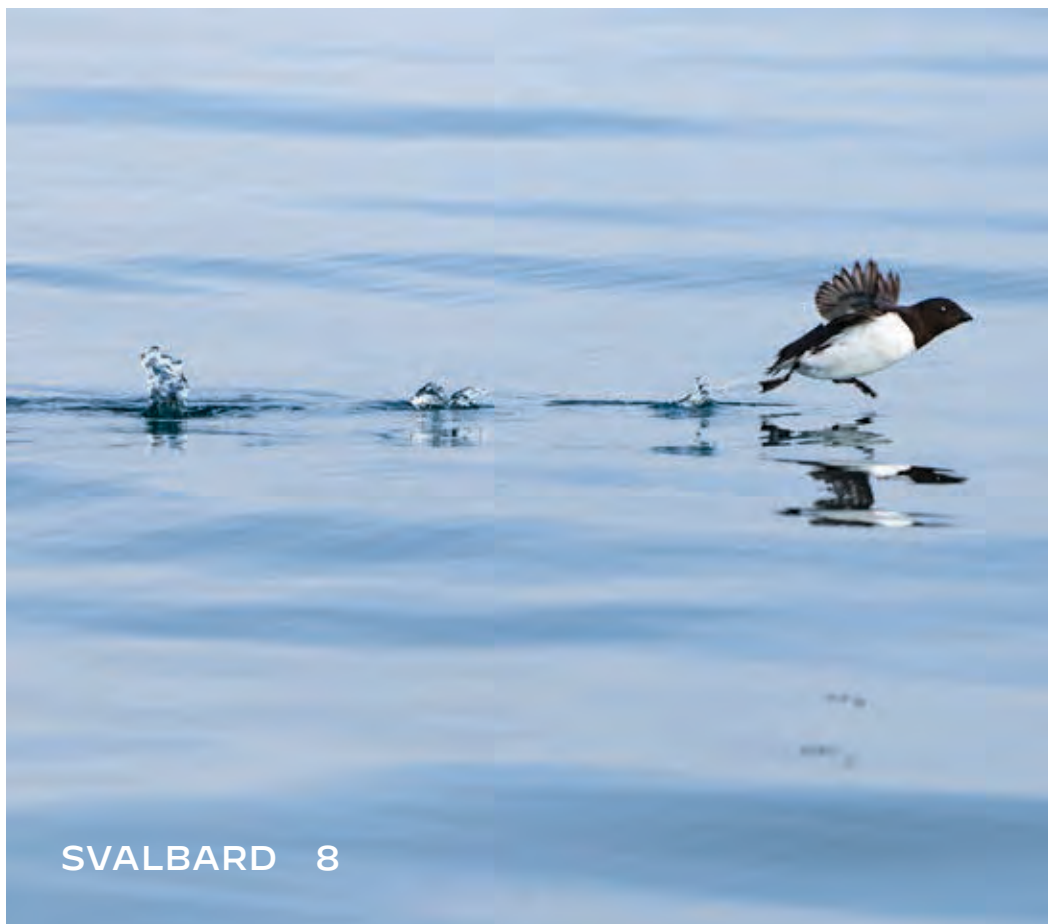
This far Northwestern corner of Svalbard is one of the best places to see polar bears that have been stranded on land for the fleeting summer. Search from the deck of your yacht before taking cameras in zodiacs, hoping to capture the perfect shot. In the afternoon, head northeast, passing Moffen Island to witness its impressive haul out of walrus from the ship.





LÅGØYA ISLAND

Go ashore on Lågøya Island known for its large walrus haul-out where we can observe these enormous creatures resting on the shoreline. Ever curious, the walrus will often approach our Zodiacs as we cruise by, offering excellent views. In the afternoon, we cruise by Zodiac along the pack ice edge in the hope of encountering polar bears as they hunt for seals and reindeers.



POLAR BEARS Usually solitary and always formidable, this apex predator of the Arctic roams the archipelago in a constant search for prey. Protected for a half century, and not habituated to humans, interactions with polar bears are usually characterized by mutual curiosity.





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MARINE WILDLIFE Walrus, beluga whale, and bearded seal are among twenty types of marine mammals that may be encountered. Svalbard remains one of the best places on Earth to get a soul satisfying experience with the mightiest leviathan of the sea: the blue whale.

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HINLOPEN STRAIT

As we come around the northeastern tip of Spitsbergen, ice conditions permitting, we cruise through the Hinlopen Strait, which separates Spitsbergen from Nordaustlandet. Dotted with icebergs, this scenic strait is a perfect spot for a Zodiac cruise, and we hope to spot ringed, harp and bearded seals, polar bears and seabirds that are often seen here. We go ashore to walk amongst the Arctic flowers and take in the incredible beauty of this remarkable part of the world.

An aerial photograph of a snowy, mountainous landscape. The terrain is covered in white snow, with some rocky outcrops and small bodies of water visible. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is serene and cold.

ALKEFJELLET & NORDAUSTLANDET

Svalbard is a different place once one reaches the eastern side of the archipelago. There is no warmth from the Gulf Stream left, and no upwelling of nutrients. Slopes are bare, and reveal the ancient geology of the denuded rock. This morning, take a Zodiac under the spectacle of vertical dolerite spires that host the breeding efforts of a quarter-million seabirds.

HORNSUND

The southernmost fjord on Spitsbergen Island is named Hornsund. The coastline features several bays backed by glacial valleys leading to high mountain peaks. A Polish Polar Station has been operating here since 1957, doing research in a number of fields, including meteorology, seismology and glaciology. Arctic fox, abundant seabirds and reindeers are common sights.



HIGH ARCTIC WILDLIFE

Traveling for hundreds of miles over a frozen sea, reindeer made it to Svalbard centuries ago, and called it home.



An aerial photograph of the Arctic Ocean. The foreground is filled with a dense field of sea ice, appearing as a mosaic of white and light blue patches. The ice leads to a dark, deep blue expanse of open water. In the distance, a thin, bright orange and yellow line of the setting sun stretches across the horizon, with soft, grey clouds above it.

ACTIVITIES

ICE CRUISING: As summer progresses, the sea ice begins its yearly retreat and relaxes its embrace of these islands. Seals need ice as a place to rest and nurse their young. Polar bears, in turn need seals, so they follow the ice northward in search of prey. Sail to the extreme north, scanning the pack for the rare chance to observe polar bears in this environment. Follow the ice edge, or push into the pack.



TENDER CRUISES: Cruising in tenders is the polar version of a game drive on safari. These nimble craft allow close encounters and are excellent platforms for photography. Set off with your guide to explore Svalbard's coasts in search of wildlife.

LANDINGS: Going ashore by small boat, experience walking in true wilderness. An unbroken treeless expanse seems barren from afar, but comes alive while on foot. All senses are piqued; keeping alert for any sign of a wandering bear while enjoying finding hardy Arctic flowers and looking for groundnesting birds.

POLAR PLUNGE: We pick a sunny day and stand by with a stiff, warming drink. Gather your nerves and jump!



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SVALBARD

KAYAKING: Dipping your paddles into the frigid water, feel a profound appreciation for the scale and stillness of the Arctic wilderness. Sounds of a glacier calving in the distance reach your kayak as you pause to photograph the view.

HIKING: Under the guidance of your EYOS team, explore further, higher, and deeper into the Arctic landscape with an energetic hike. No trails, no signs...only pure exploration.





SCINTILLA MARIS



46m *Scintilla Maris* is a brand new expedition yacht built on the recycled hull of a classic DAMEN trawler design. With new hybrid engines offering four sailing modes, she is extremely efficient and nearly vibration-free—a nimble vessel ideal for exploration.

SPECIFICATIONS

BUILDER DAMEN MAASKANT	GUESTS 8-10
YEAR BUILT 1988	CREW 8-10
COMPLETE REBUILD 2023	MAX SPEED 13.5 KNOTS
LENGTH 45.68M	ENGINE MARELLI ELECTRO MOTOR/ 4 VOLVO GENERATORS
BEAM 9M	
DRAFT 4.9M	

LOUNGE



Emulating a boutique hotel, *Scintilla Maris*'s interiors have a contemporary, loft-like feel with skylights and a bold color scheme. She accommodates ten guests in a large owner's suite midship and four double cabins in the lower deck, but she offers a flexible crew to guest ratio depending on size of charter party. A natural light-filled lounge, spacious dining room, and open-air kitchen provide a variety of welcoming and relaxing common spaces.

DINING ROOM AND
OPEN KITCHEN





ACCOMMODATIONS

Scintilla Maris comfortably accommodates 10 guests in a spacious master cabin, 2 double-bed cabins and 2 bunk-style twin cabins, all with ensuite showers and amenities.



OWNERS
CABIN

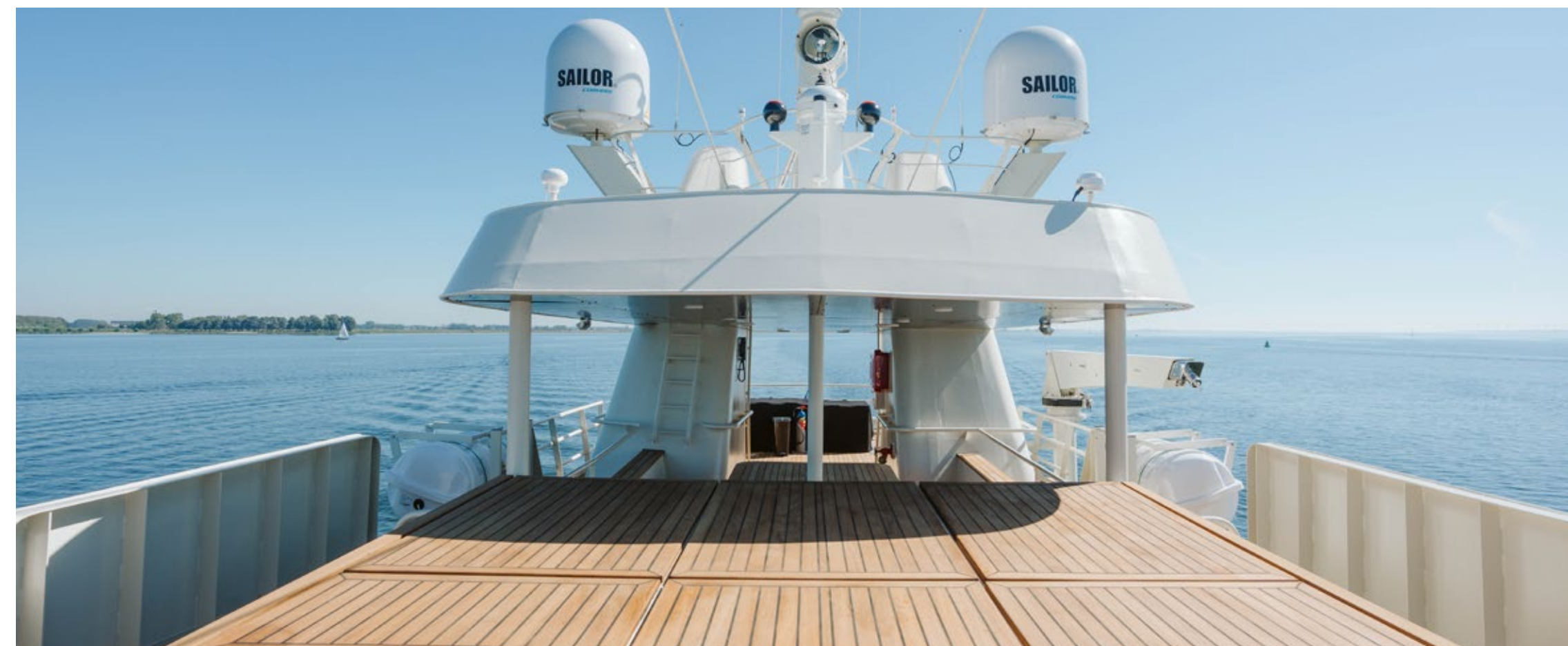
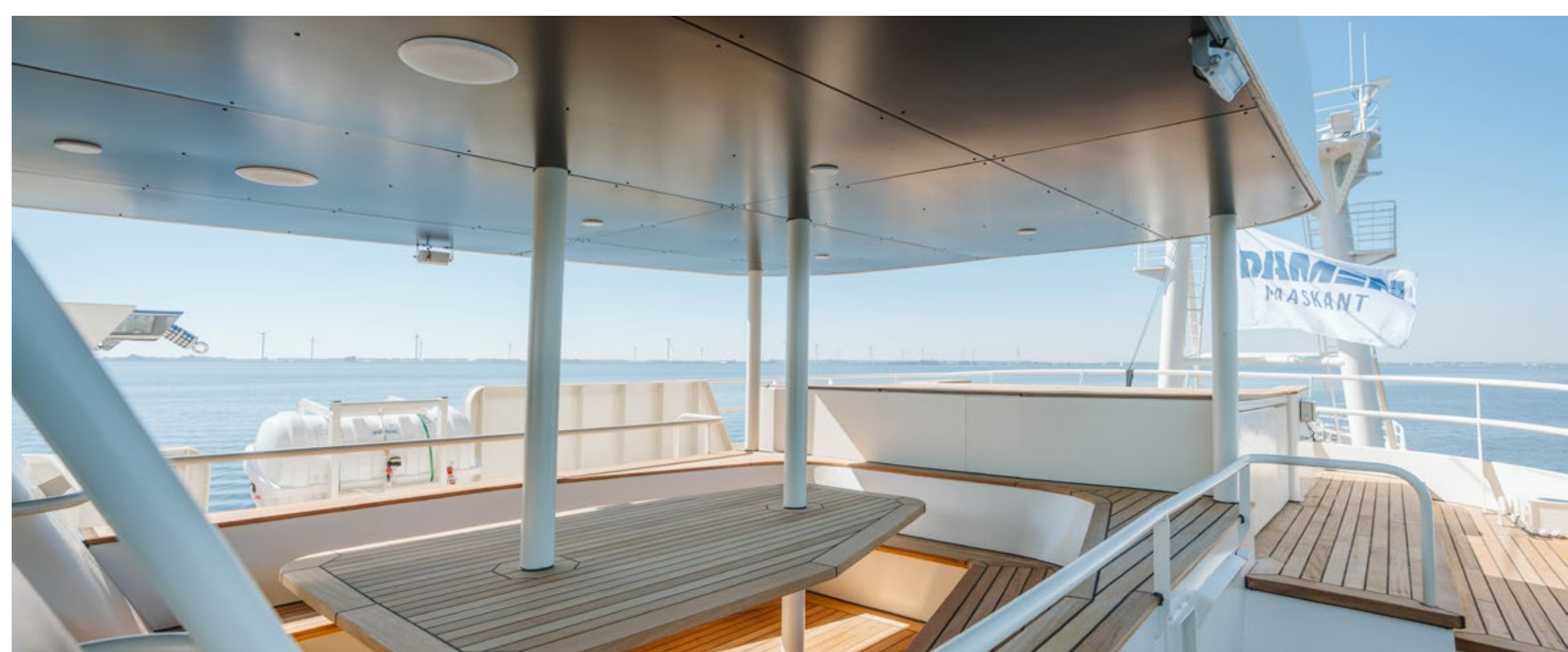
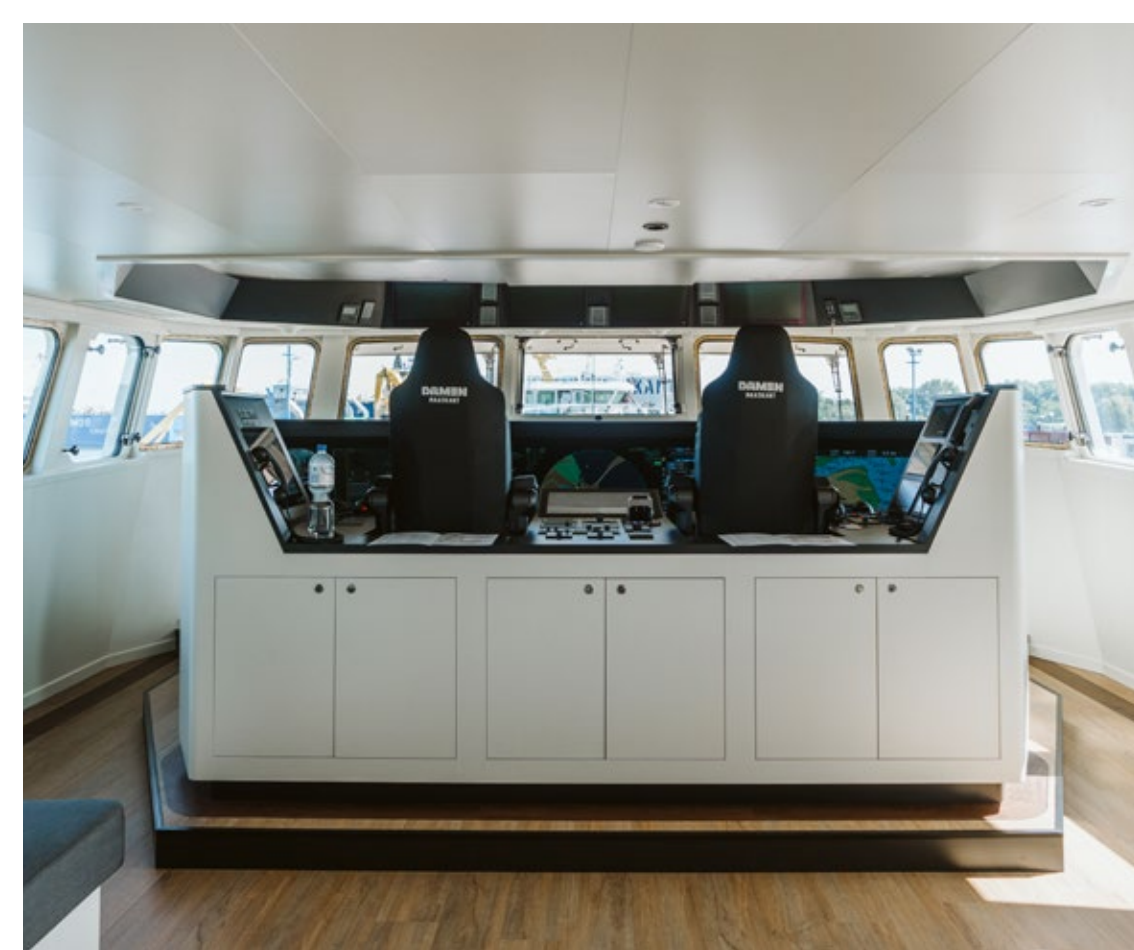




TWIN









EXPLORING HISTORY

Before becoming the refuge for wildlife that it is today, Svalbard played a role in exploration and exploitation of the Arctic. As explorers pressed to achieve the North Pole, they reported bountiful blubber in the form of walrus, seals, and bowhead whales. The aptly named settlement of Smeerenburg or “blubber town” on Amsterdamøya was a Danish and Dutch whaling station in the early 15th century. The island of Danskøya was the launch site for a failed attempt by Salomon Andrée and two companions to reach the North Pole by hydrogen balloon in 1897. Battered by the elements, remains of Svalbard’s early history lay as they were left centuries ago. Join your EYOS guide ashore at these historic sites, as they bring the history of Svalbard alive.

THE EYOS TEAM

ABOUT US

Your expedition will be supported by both an on-board EYOS Expedition Leader and a strong shore-based team on hand to provide 24/7 support for the duration of the voyage. Together we are underpinned by several decades of Arctic experience. We are passionate about the Arctic and genuinely look forward to sharing it with you. Although our field staff members have completed hundreds of expeditions in polar latitudes, we have never lost our enthusiasm for ice and the experiences that it provides.

AECO

EYOS Expeditions is an active member of the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators. AECO was founded in 2003 and is an international organization for expedition cruise operators dedicated to managing respectful, environmentally-friendly and safe expeditions in the Arctic. Please visit the link below for important information and guidelines for all Arctic visitors: <http://www.aeco.no/guidelines/visitor-guidelines/>





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