

SVALBARD

Spitsbergen Early Summer Delights

JUNE 2-10, 2018, ON BOARD S/V ANTIGUA

TOUR REPORT

PARTICIPANTS

Guests:

Alf-Åke Hall, Sweden
Anne Tournay, UK
Anya Chambers, UK
Audrey Chew, Malaysia
Bengt-Åke Ohgren, Sweden
Cecilia Thio, Singapore
Christine Bitterling, Germany
Emma Wade, USA
Eric Slessinger, USA
Helen Pettersson, Sweden
Ian Parker, USA
Lasse Pettersson, Sweden
Lyn Nicholson, Australia

Crew:

Mario, Captain
Britta, 1st Mate
Martin, 2nd Mate
Cornel, 3rd Mate
Maik, Deckhand
Piet, Chef
Nanou, Service
Caroline, Service
Melissa, Service

Maree Luxford, Australia
Moritz Bitterling, Germany
Ole Jørgensen, Denmark
Paul Morris, UK
Raimund Bitterling, Germany
Randee Pri-Tal, USA
Rob Shaddock, UK
Ruth Armitage, UK
Schlomo Pri-Tal, USA
Terry Gostlow, Australia
Theres Schlessinger, Switzerland
Tolitha Lewis, USA

Guides & Charterers:

Morten Jørgensen, Guide & Charterer
Nozomi Takeyabu, Guide & Charterer
Magnus Forsberg, Guide



SUMMARY

Despite the early date of this departure, the main pack-ice was already a long way away, and in many places, there was hardly any snow on the ground. We took advantage of the open waters to make a journey to the north and east, reaching as far as the southern end of the Hinlopen Strait. One goal of the voyage was to try to see if we could find a polar bear on ice, despite the conditions, and with that we succeeded very well indeed. Along the way, we had some awesome encounters not only with polar bears, but also with other mammals including walrus, Svalbard reindeer and beluga whales. There were some very good bird sightings as well, including several medium rare vagrants, and despite the prevailing cloud cover, we had a couple of days of the most beautiful weather conditions, offering superbly calm waters and perfect reflections on the sea of the surrounding landscapes. We registered a total of 27 bird species, which is a good count for an 8-day voyage, and we observed 9 species of mammal. On board, we had a delightful group of 25 guests from 9 countries. The success of the voyage was not least reflected in more than half opting to come back with NozoMojo soon.



DIARY WITH ITINERARY AND WEATHER

June 2:

Longyearbyen - Isfjorden - Forlandsundet

Overcast, f3 W, 4°C/39°F, light snow/rain drizzle at times, mostly clear.

The pretty S/V Antigua was tied up on the outside of another sailing vessel at the floating pier. Embarkation of all 25 guests took place between 3.00 and 4.00 pm, and during this time and the following hour, we all got registered and photographed and settled into our cabins and had our first coffee/tea. These procedures were followed by introductions to Captain Mario and his crew of another eight, plus the three guides. Morten also introduced the overall plan - we were heading north.

At 5.45 pm, we left the pier and headed out of Adventfjorden into Isfjorden - and into the first motion of the vessel. We had mild headwinds and swells, but it was a cold air, with some snow flurries. After a nice pasta and salad dinner, we did a presentation round, to get to know each other, and Mario completed the safety instructions too. Before midnight, we were rounding the corner of Isfjorden into Forlandsundet. The rolling was felt until about 01.00 am.





June 3:

W coast of Spitsbergen - Magdalenefjorden - Smeerenburgfjorden - Fuglefjorden - N coast of Spitsbergen
During morning clearing to sunny, afternoon again low cloud, f3 S - calm - f2 E, 2-5°C/36-41°F, some snow flurries mostly clear.

After a mostly quiet night, we came out this morning from the protection of the Forlandsundet passage, and the rolling resumed. Some of us stayed in our cabins, others had breakfast and then spent some time on deck, enjoying the views of the mountains of the west coast of Spitsbergen, as the weather gradually cleared and the sun came through on a blue sky.

Near 11.00 am, we turned the ship out of the swells and into the calm waters of Magdalenefjorden. The clouds closed in again, but we enjoyed the dramatic scenery with the low cloud adding mystery to the vistas. While Morten briefed on environmental, polar bear and walrus safety, our scouts Nozomi and Magnus could report only three sleepy walruses on the beach. We cruised over instead to the Waggonway glacier and quietly enjoyed it and the bearded seal lounging about in the brash ice.

After lunch, we were in Smeerenburgfjorden, and near its northern end we turned into Fuglefjorden. Inside here, we were rewarded with mirror calm conditions and wonderful reflections of the mountains in the silky waters. A female walrus had her new-born pup with her, and she preferred to slink into the water, even when we were still far off. We turned the ship around and weaved our way among narrow and shallow passages among islets and rocks, and by dinnertime we had exited to off the northern shore of Spitsbergen. Good numbers of puffins were flying about, and we saw several flocks of king eiders over the course of the day as well. As we continued east, we had dinner, and Magnus recapped on the history of the area, after which we did our first species check list session after dinner. It was a calm evening, as we prepared for sleep.

June 4:

N Hinlopen Strait - Eolusneset - Alkefjellet - Bjørnsundet
High cloud, f2-3 - 4-5 SE - calm, 3°C/37°F, clear.

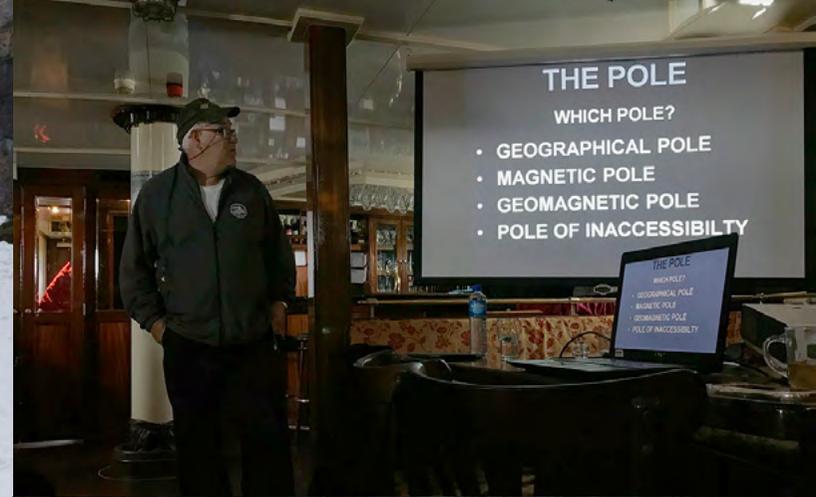
Even before breakfast, Morten spotted a polar bear family far in the distance, on the shore just north of Eolusneset in Sorgfjorden. We brought the ship as close as the shallow rocky water would allow, and everyone got their first bear glimpse. We had a quick breakfast, then got into the three boats, and by now the bear family (which turned out to be a healthy looking adult female with a collar and her two cubs-of-the-year) were on the move, walking along the shore towards the south. We cruised around the point and passed a few sleepy walrus, until we had the bears in sight again. She however hesitated, when she realized there were three engines upwind, so she headed inland for a while, to rest with her young, before she continued her sojourn along the shore to the south.

Her distance from the walrus, after she had turned her back on us, increased and was always increasing over the morning, so we left her alone and went ashore instead to take a closer look at the walrus. Nozomi held guard up the hill, Magnus by the boats, and Morten led us over to the tusked pinnipeds. Soon, the polar bear family showed up at the far end of the beach, and we were in the wondrous situation of being on the same beach as both walrus and polar bears at the same time - two of the most iconic Arctic species. As the bears kept walking away, and the walrus kept sleeping, most of us opted to join Magnus and Nozomi for a short hike up the hill to the graves and the cross. Before we knew it, we had been out almost three hours, and it was welcome to be able to warm-up back in the comfort of Antigua.



Increasing head-winds up to a force 4-5 on the Beaufort scale slowed us on our onward journey towards Alkefjellet. We had some thin slivers of broken up sea-ice to negotiate as well. Magnus did a talk about the quest for the North pole: "Who came first?". From mid-afternoon, the winds began dropping again, and by the time we were at Alkefjellet around 6.30 pm, the conditions were quite benign - we cruised with the ship very close to the magnificent bird cliff for 1,5 hours, marvelling at the guillemots/murres and the rocks, the foxes and the entire spectacle. We were very satisfied with the day come dinner time.

The decision was made to continue south, aiming for what we hoped would turn out to be nice fast-ice at Bjørnsundet. The evening and night turned spectacularly beautiful, completely mirror calm much of the time, with numerous fine pieces of sculpted ice all around, birds flying in formations and tight groups equal, and the light forever changing, with tones of grey and silver unlimited. Those who stayed up longest did not retire until 1.00 am. As Lasse stated: THIS is Svalbard!



June 5:

Bjørnsundet - N through Hinlopen Strait
High cloud, calm - f3 N, 0°C/32°F, clear.

Our sleep was broken for the second night running with the call: Polar bears. We all hurriedly stumbled onto deck and were rewarded with another female with 2 cubs-of-the-year (COYs). This proud mother carried no collar. It was a magnificent scene of fast-ice, with the low sun softly causing sparkles all around, and the female bear very actively searching everywhere for food, her two frisky cubs playing, sometimes up to several hundred meters from her.

When the two little ones saw our vessel approaching the ice edge, they bounced and hopped their way towards us, with mom hesitantly following. She allowed the approach to continue to a mere ship's length in front of us, when she decided enough was enough and called her cubs back on her heel, as she slowly prodded off in her continued search for a meal. Over the next 1,5 hours we continued to watch the family group as it slowly increased the distance to us. One time we cruised along the edge of the ice to be fairly near one more time, after that they walked beyond reach, deeper into the fast ice field.

A fourth bear was also present on the ice, farther in, as were numerous smaller and bigger seals, respectively ringed and bearded seals.

As the winds increased slightly, it was time to begin our long sojourn back north through the Hinlopen, which took the entire day. Bands of broken up pack-ice were scattered much wider than yesterday, and the crew were navigating with focused attention all day. Through the morning, we just relaxed (it had been a very early wake-up call), in the afternoon after lunch as well. By now we had passed the level of Alkefjellet, and now thicker bands of ice slowed us further. The winds were still mild and had now swung to the forecasted north-east corner.

After we had each secured for ourselves a delicious piece of apple pie with sour cream, Morten gave a talk about polar bears, focusing mainly on some biological aspects and special adaptations. Captain Mario and his mates struggled on, to find us a way out of the ice, which here in the north end of the Hinlopen stretched all the way across the strait in big quantities. It was well into dinnertime before we could announce, that we could now see the end of the main pack. We would sail overnight into the Liefdefjord area.



June 6:

Bockfjorden - Liefdefjorden (Monacobreen, Texas Bar and Andøyane)
Medium cloud height, f2-3 NE, 0°C/32°F, light snow squalls, clear.

After a fairly calm night with not much rolling at all, come early morning we were cruising into Bockfjorden. We scanned the shores, but found neither fast ice nor major wildlife - and decided, given the weather conditions, that we would be better off going straight for the Monaco glacier in Liefdefjorden. We spent the next couple of hours watching the scenery change as we approached closer and closer to the majestic glacier front, deep inside Liefdefjorden. Despite the low-ish cloud cover, we could see the many mountains slopes and the glaciers in the valleys between them, and on the rocky islets that we passed, we saw pairs or groups of barnacle geese, common eiders and Arctic terns.

In front of the Monaco glacier, we could see that it had already been very actively calving, with a lot of brash ice and many icebergs floating there, kept "in place" up against the glacier front by the winds. We spent the morning Zodiac and ship's cruising the ice, enjoying the multiple colours and forms of all the icy bits. A few kittiwakes, glaucous gulls, Arctic skuas/parasitic jaegers and black guillemots kept us company, as well as one bearded seal. We did not see any calvings off the glacier front, but one massive iceberg did break apart and proceeded to roll over several times.

After lunch, we arrived at the nearby landing site on the beach below the trapper's hut called "Texas Bar". The winds had increased a bit, but we found ourselves in the lee of the mountain. We spent a few minutes looking at the hut, after which we split into the short and the long hiking groups. Both of which more or less stayed ashore for 3,5 hours, thoroughly enjoying an afternoon off the ship and stretching our legs. The rocks and lichens and the every-where present purple saxifrage delighted, as did numerous bird species, including our first red-throated divers / loons, a single male rock ptarmigan, several pairs of nervous pink-footed geese, and a good number of black-legged kittiwakes bathing and also picking up nesting material in a pond. An Arctic fox showed briefly for the long hikers, while some of the short hikers got brief and distant views of two Minke whales. It was a grey and chilly afternoon, but it was a very enjoyable walk, with nice views and nice company.

During dinner, we repositioned north towards Andøyane, and after dinner did a long, slow circumnavigation of the island group, hoping perhaps to spot the polar bear family group that had been reported from earlier in the day. Many birds were about, including a very large flock of terns, numerous pairs of barnacle geese, great skuas, and also a few shorebirds and some common eiders. It was a cold, northerly wind that was blowing, and most of us by now had really had enough exposure for one day. We went inside and prepared for the open ocean overnight transit to the west.



June 7:

Amsterdamøya (Smeerenburg) & Danskøya - Bjørnfjorden and Smeerenburgreen

Overcast, f4-5 periodically f3 NNW, -2-0°C/28-32°F, several snow squalls, visibility variable.

Overnight, we were rolling for a while, later the seas were more calm - the crew had some sails up, and come early morning, we were anchoring off Amsterdamøya.

It was a cold morning, and we took our time with a relaxed breakfast followed by a check-list session, before we braved the cold north-pole air to go ashore at Smeerenburg on Amsterdamøya. We spent no less than 2,5 hours ashore, slowly walking the beach, and there was enough to look at. The piles of driftwood were partially buried in the snow. The foundations of the 1600's whale-cookery blubber ovens were visible and studied, as were the old remains of a walrus. Magnus told stories about the human history on the location and made it all come alive for us. Meanwhile, others were focused on the nice array of shore bird species present on the sandy beach, foraging in the seaweed. There was a for Svalbard fairly rare flock of eight red knot, a species that is considered a vagrant or perhaps very rare breeder on the islands. They were together with approximately 11 sanderlings, one ringed plover and one ruddy turnstone, all three of them species that breed only in low numbers on Svalbard. A king eider flew by with some common eiders, a pair of divers/loons called out, and a glaucous gull caught a couple of quite large-sized fish right in front of us. There were quite fresh fox prints in the snow and sand, but we didn't see the animal. We did however see one big male walrus swim by, no doubt checking in to see if his mates were on the beach.





We warmed up with a delightful Thai lunch, and meanwhile Mario brought the Antigua over to the Danskøya/Virgohamna side of the sound. From here, we had but a very short ride in the boats to the cove, where we spent some time in the afternoon, letting the harbour seals come and play with us on their conditions. The Svalbard harbour seals are interesting, they are by far the northernmost harbour seals anywhere, and quite far from their nearest cousins in Norway, living in more temperate waters. They are also a seal which is doing very well and increasing in numbers in Svalbard, perhaps due to global warming and the milder climates that prevail on the west side of Spitsbergen in later years. We enjoyed an hour plus with some 30-40 individuals, many youngsters among them, and some seemingly courting. In the cove, there were more shorebirds, including purple sandpiper, ruddy turnstone and red knot. In among a large feeding flock of black-legged kittiwakes between the ship and the cove, we found a dozen glaucous gulls and one first summer Iceland gull - an infrequent vagrant to Svalbard.

After Mario had managed to climb down the anchor chain to dislodge a rock that was caught on the anchor, we were able to sail away into Smeerenburgfjorden and down into Bjørnfjorden, where in the wind, snow and low cloud we cruised for a short while in front of the glacier, before we all enjoyed the warmth of the inside of the vessel once again, and the warmth of one of Piet's delightful meals once again. Morten advised that we would stay in the sheltered waters until everyone had had a chance to secure their cabins after dinner, then we would be sailing out into the open ocean for a five hour down-hill flight to Kongsfjorden overnight.

June 8:

Kongsfjorden (Ny London on Blomstrandøya & N side near Blomstrand-breen)

Overcast with brief sunny spells, f5-6 NNW - f2, 6-1°C/43-34°F, clear.

Overnight, we sailed. Quite some of us did not sleep too much this night, some because of the rolling, others because they stayed up to witness the sailing. A fair few came out on deck and helped hoist the sails. The sails clearly smoothed the movement of the ship, but could not stop the rolling. In the early morning, we again motored up inside Kongsfjorden.

Before breakfast, we were near Ossian Sars Fjellet, the planned landing for the morning. The conditions were however adverse, strong onshore winds and sloppy swells, and we decided to reposition instead to Ny London, where Captain Mario beautifully placed the Antigua inside the tiny cove, so that we were not only out of the substantial swells of Kongsfjorden, but also very near the landing site.

Once ashore, we took about half an hour to look at the historical remains here, after which Magnus briefly told us the story of the Mansfield Camp. Then we proceeded to walk through the landscape of glaciated hills and boggy tundra. Nozomi first led us very close to a young Svalbard reindeer, we then took a peek at the little waterfall, but with a pair of pink-footed goose breeding there, we soon left again and let the geese return to their nest. We had a close view of one of the local long-tailed skuas/jaegers, and then continued on a slightly longer stroll, ending up with good views of another reindeer, this one a bit older with more of an antler, and also good views of the large glacier (Kongsveien) in the distance.



We returned to yet another delightful lunch, after which Morten announced nap-time. The winds were still whipping the waters of the fjord, and we would wait it out a bit, before later in the afternoon doing a ship's cruise near the glacier immediately behind Blomstrandhalvøya. Once we headed out, the first thing Morten spotted were three puffins sitting on the water. We watched them, and we even turned the ship to watch them some more. They seemed to be two males, so pre-occupied with one female, that they allowed us to approach very closely before they flew off.

We brought the ship around Blomstrandøya. Scanning for wildlife along the way, we saw barnacle geese and great skuas and a pair of great black-backed gulls on the islets. Then we anchored very near to a sandy beach with much brash ice thrown ashore by the winds. We took a walk along the beach and all the way up to the side of the glacier (Blomstrand-breen), then it was time to return to the ship. The winds were calming, and the evening was less breezy, but still cold.

On board, we enjoyed a delightful extravaganza of a buffet prepared by Piet, after which we watched some images from Baja California, NozoMojo's next destination. Some stayed up to watch some of the sails being hoisted, as we cruised out of Kongsfjorden and into Forlandsundet.





June 9:

Poolepynten on Kong Karl's Forland in Forlandsundet - Alkhornet in Isfjorden - Longyearbyen.

Overcast, f2 N - calm, overcast, 6°C/43°F, clear.

At 06.00 am, most of us were already in the Zodiacs, heading ashore at Poolepynten on Prins Karl's Forland. Already from the distance we could see two piles of walrus hauled out, and we landed near the northernmost, closest to the tip of the spit. We enjoyed watching walrus snoring, farting, rolling, scratching and play-fighting for almost three hours. As we stood there, the number on the beach grew from 12 to just over 20. A few came nearer to us in the water on several occasions, checking us out, but then swimming off again. Arctic terns were around all the time, sometimes taking flight calling, only to quickly land again. Behind us, on the pond, there was a pair of red-throated divers/loons and some purple sandpipers. Across the sound, the mountains were beautifully lit. And as if all that was not enough, we were additionally rewarded by the passing of a large pod of belugas. Magnus called them out, while they were still some way to the north of us, and all we had to do was stand there and wait for this wonderful group of whales to swim by. Some were farther out in the sound, but many were quite near the shoreline, passing only a few meters behind the walrus and away from us. We could see large adult males, many other adult animals, and quite a few younger as well, darker in colour and smaller in size. It was a truly stunning moment, where everything just came together into a magnificent Svalbard wildlife encounter.

Once we were again underway towards the south, and after a much deserved late breakfast, Nozomi and Morten opened shop. Many souvenirs were purchased - thanks! - and also many signed up for the coming NozoMojo Baja California trip - thanks again!!



Before noon, we had a peak along the eastern shores of Forlandsundet at a place where we had heard reports of a stranded whale, but we found nothing there (except many reindeer on the tundra), so we motored on towards our next destination. After having rounded the corner and entered Isfjorden, on a practically still ocean, we disembarked for one last landing of the voyage. We went ashore at Alkhornet, underneath the majestic mountain that has named the place. We could hear the thousands of kittiwakes and guillemots/murres all the time during our landing, while the calls of passing geese or the songs of the snow buntings were more sporadic. We wove our way across the lush tundra plain for about 2,5 hours, at a most pleasant pace, just enjoying the surroundings, the weather and the wildlife. One after another, Svalbard reindeer entertained by letting us close by, or even by approaching us. Nozomi discovered an elusive Arctic fox. Magnus led a small group towards the breeding skuas/jaegers. Morten led most of the group up the hill for superb views of the fjord and distant mountains and closer polygon patterned ground.

All too soon, it was time to return to the ship. We managed to gather all of us for a group photo on deck, and shortly after that, Lyn showed the way when she was the first to plunge. The waters here are not warm! She was soon out again, then was followed in and out by Christine, Piet and finally Nozomi. Thus invigorated, either by entering the water or by thinking about it, we all prepared for another fine Asian inspired dinner. During the evening, speeches were held by Mario and the guides, and thanks were passed all around. We did our final checklist session, certificates were handed out to the plungers, and we discussed disembarkation. We then enjoyed a nice slideshow that had come out of everyone's contributions - thank you Anya for putting it together. Come just after 10.00 pm, we were alongside the floating pier in Longyearbyen. For some, it was time to pack, for others, to let their hair down ...



June 10:

Longyearbyen

Overcast, f1-2 SW, 3°C/37°F, overcast.

Already before 6.00 am, some left the Antigua, and by 10.00 am, we had all gone our separate ways. Our voyage together was over. On behalf of NozoMojo, we would like to thank every one of you for making this such a special voyage. It will be our pleasure to see any one - and all - of you again on one of our tours.



SPECIES

Birds

Red-throated Diver / Loon: A total of 6 pairs registered on 4 days.

Northern Fulmar: Numerous or in moderate numbers daily.

Pink-footed Goose: 5 observations of about 40 birds.

Barnacle Goose: Ca 100 seen, half of which at Alkhornet June 9.

Common Eider: Small flocks of both sexes seen at many locations.

King Eider: At 6 locations, a total of 57 noted. Largest flock 18 in Fuglefjorden June 3.

Long-tailed Duck: On June 8, 2 observations of a total of 3 pairs, around Blomstrandøya.

Rock Ptarmigan: Brief views of 2 males were had on June 6 and June 8.

Ringed Plover: One individual seen at two locations.

Red Knot: A delightful surprise, on June 7 we saw at least 8 adult summer-plumage individuals at Smeerenburg on Amsterdamøya, and there were another 2 at Danskøya near Virgohamna on the same day.

Sanderling: Another delightful shorebird surprise, a spread-out flock of about 11 birds were foraging with the Red Knot at Smeerenburg on June 7.

Purple Sandpiper: More than 30 birds seen total, most of these in pairs here and there - the largest numbers (10+) were at Poolepynten June 9.

Ruddy Turnstone: A total of 7 individuals noted at 4 locations.

Grey / Red Phalarope: One one observation of 4 birds at Andøyane on June 6.

Arctic Skua / Parasitic Jaeger: A few most days, 26 registered total.

Long-tailed Skua / Jaeger: One June 8, a pair was near Ny London and an adult flew over the north side of Blomstrandøya. A fairly rare Svalbard breeder.

Great Skua: A total of 20 noted at 6 different locations, most at Andøyane June 6.

Iceland Gull: A one-year old bird was seen foraging on the water with Black-legged Kittiwakes and Glaucous Gulls at Danskøya on June 7. An infrequent vagrant in Svalbard.

Glaucous Gull: In small numbers daily and everywhere.

Great Black-backed Gull: One pair seen near Blomstrandøya on June 8.

Black-legged Kittiwake: In moderate numbers daily.

Arctic Tern: Seemingly still arriving, scattered observations, but one large flock of 250+ at Andøyane June 6.

Brünnich's Guillemot / Thick-billed Murre: Seen daily, particularly numerous in the Hinlopen Strait and of course at Alkefjellet.

Black Guillemot: Seen daily in tight flocks at just about every location.

Little Auk / Dovekie: Seen in small to moderate numbers daily.

Atlantic Puffin: Relatively few birds seen, the best views were offered by three birds on June 8.

Snow Bunting: Their delightful song was heard almost every day.

Mammals

Minke Whale: One brief sighting by a few people of two individuals traveling past Texas Bar and deeper into Liefdefjorden on June 6.

Beluga Whale: A spectacular sighting of at least 100 individuals traveling slowly past us along the shores of Prins Karl's Forland at Poolepynten on June 9. The pod was very spread out, and our number estimate may very well be too conservative. Quite many juveniles and immatures in the pod.

Walrus: We saw a total of about 60 individuals on 6 different occasions. Most notably, a female with a new-born pup was on brash ice in Fuglefjorden on June 3. On June 9, we enjoyed the antics of about 45 males at Poolepynten.

Ringed Seal: Only distant views offered. The fast-ice in Bjørnsundet easily held some 40 individuals.

Harbour / Common Seal: Seen on four occasions, the prize sighting was our time spent with about 40 of them in their favoured cove at Danskøya on June 7. There was much behaviours to be seen, including obvious courting and mating.

Bearded Seal: We had close views of individuals a few times. The highest count was on the fast-ice in Bjørnsundet, at least 20 seen spread out there.

Polar Bear: A total of 7 Polar Bears were seen: A very healthy-looking female (collared) was nursing two COYs (cubs-of-the-year) in Sorgfjorden on June 4. Another somewhat thinner female had two frisky COYs with her on the fast-ice of Bjørnsundet on June 5. On the same ice we also spotted a distant, lone, adult bear.

Arctic Fox: At three locations, we spotted a total of four adult foxes. The two at Alkefjellet and the one at Texas Bar were rather scruffy-looking, heavily moulting, while the one at Alkhornet seemed to be much farther progressed towards it's summer pelt.

Svalbard Reindeer: Our first close encounter with this endemic sub-species was at Ny London on June 8, when we approached a couple of single individuals. On June 9, we enjoyed a prolonged time with up to 25 different animals at Alkhornet.

A scenic view of a glacier with a three-masted sailing ship in the foreground. The ship is dark and has three masts. The water is dark and filled with small ice floes. The glacier is a mix of white and blue, with some dark rock visible. The sky is overcast and grey.

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