



WildWings

North Atlantic Odyssey

Scotland to Spitsbergen

Second departure, now with Dick Filby aboard!

Client quote” It was a very enjoyable trip and we achieved the objectives of Polar Bear and Walrus” M.R. June 0211

The wild, spectacular and seabird-filled islands of the North Atlantic are ideal for visiting by expedition cruise ship and also offer an affordable introduction to this wonderful type of travel for those yet to experience it. The inaugural voyage in 2011 enjoyed two Polar Bears, Walrus, Bearded, Ringed & Hooded Seals plus 12 species of cetacean including Fin, Humpback and a fantastic Blue Whale encounter! The expected birds were seen including Ivory Gull and King Eider. This is an upgraded itinerary which now deserves the title ‘Odyssey’, timed when the seabird colonies are at their busiest. Fair Isle has breeding populations of Gannets, the always popular and comical Puffins, Guillemots, Black Guillemots and Razorbills, Kittiwakes and Fulmars. Add Great and Arctic Skuas, a variety of terns including Arctic which will later in the year migrate all the way down to Antarctica, waders, duck and gulls. Atlantic Grey Seals can also be found in these waters. This spring voyage could also find a surprise or two, overshot spring migrants or even vagrants at almost any point. Cetacean possibilities include Orca, Northern Minke Whale, Bottlenose, White-beaked and Atlantic White-sided Dolphins plus Harbour Porpoise. See isolated but friendly island communities, enjoy and photograph the rugged yet beautiful scenery and skies as the ship takes you on your northern islands adventure.

We continue on from Scotland crossing the Arctic Circle via Jan Mayen and finishing in northwest Spitsbergen with two full days before disembarkation in Longyearbyen. Little Auk and Brunnich’s Guillemot can be added to the list of breeding seabirds above, plus true northern delights such as Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas, Ivory Gull, Grey Phalarope and King Eider. Additional potential seal species include Harp, Ringed and Bearded plus Svalbard Reindeer and possibly Arctic Fox ashore. Cetacean prospects on this voyage continue to be very good too with Blue, Fin, Sperm and Humpback Whales, Orca, Beluga, Long-finned Pilot and Northern Bottlenose Whales all being recorded previously.

The opportunity to do all this is thanks to the annual repositioning of the very comfortable, ice-strengthened *Planicius* (112 passengers). In the spring she travels back north from her expedition cruising grounds in the Antarctic to her summer cruising areas in the Arctic. The *Planicius* is a recently converted expedition ship and all her cabins have private facilities with a porthole or window. She has lots of open deck space at all levels, perfect for wildlife and scenery viewing plus photography. Dick Filby will be joining the ship's expedition team for this voyage to give you WildWings world-class leadership to maximize your experience.

Voyage Information

2012

Itinerary

Day 1: Embark Aberdeen late afternoon and sail.

Day 2: Fair Isle.

Days 3-4: At sea.

Day 5: Jan Mayen.

Days 6 & 7: At sea – edge of the pack ice

Days 8 & 9: Exploring northwest Spitsbergen.

Day 10: Disembark Longyearbyen after breakfast. Morning bird walk.

NB Exact itinerary subject to weather and local conditions on the day.

Dates: 9th – 18th June 2012

Leader: Dick Filby & the ship's expedition staff.

All cabins with private facilities

Quad berths (upper and lower) - porthole £1365

Triple berths(upper and lower)-porthole £1499

Twin share (lower berths) – porthole £1635

Twin share (lower berths) – window £1725

Twin share (lower berths) – de luxe - windows £1819

Double share superior (double bed) – windows £2045

Single cabins x 1.7 of twin share price

All prices per person.

Deposit 10%

Price includes: Voyage with accommodation as booked, including all meals, infinite tea and coffee, Zodiac cruises and landings, port taxes and landing fees, services of WildWings leader, lectures and services of the ship's expedition team, daily sea watching sessions and evening recap, pre-voyage information pack and day by day bird and mammal checklist.

Price excludes: Flights (Longyearbyen – London Heathrow £299, arriving 2135, 18th June), fuel surcharges if levied, gratuities (suggested Euros10-15 a day on board ship), travel insurance, other drinks and items of a personal nature.

2011 voyage highlights:

Birds

Pinked-footed & Barnacle Geese

Common & King Eider

Red-throated Diver

Fulmar include blue phase

Manx Shearwater

British Storm-Petrel

Gannet

Purple Sandpiper

Grey Phalarope

Pomarine, Arctic, Long-tailed & Great Skuas

Glaucous, Ivory and Sabine's Gulls

Kittiwake

Sandwich and Arctic Terns

Common, Brunnich's & Black Guillemots, Razorbill, Puffin, Little Auk.

Hooded Crow

Snow Bunting

Mammals

Polar Bear

Common, Grey, Harp, Hooded & Bearded Seals

Walrus

Bottlenose, White-beaked & Atlantic White-sided Dolphins

Northern Minke, Humpback, Long-finned Pilot, Northern Bottlenose, Fin, Blue &

Sperm Whales

Beluga

Harbour Porpoise