

# SPITSBERGEN LANDSCAPE DISCOVERY



On the S/V Antigua

August 29 – September 8, 2022

With landscape photographers David Ward and Daniel Bergmann

## ABOUT

The High Arctic is a place to inspire the imagination. Nowhere is it more accessible than the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, located deep within the Arctic Circle.

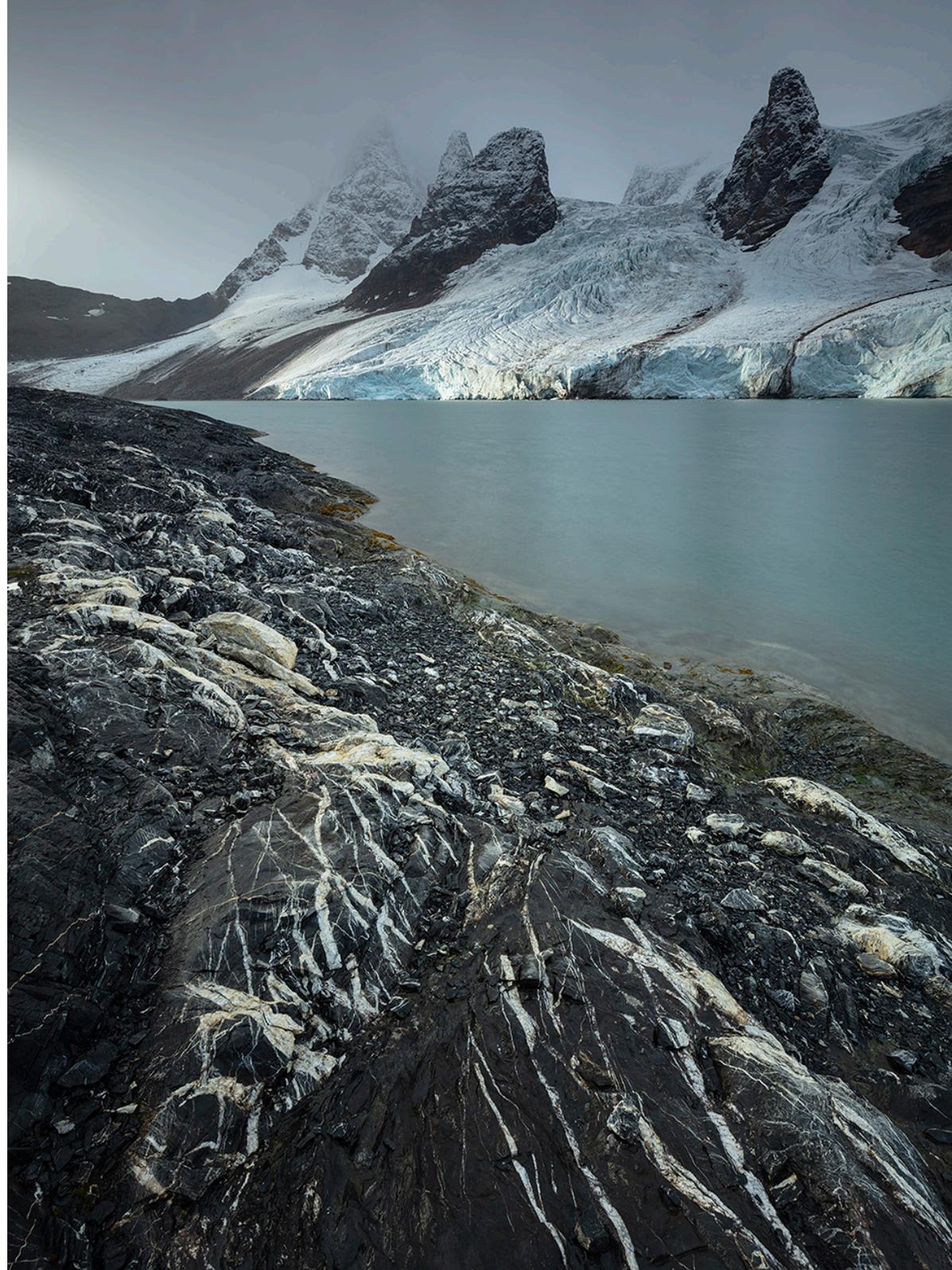
Follow in the footsteps of the great explorers and join photography tour leaders David Ward and Daniel Bergmann plus Morten Jørgensen, one of Svalbard's most experienced expedition leaders, on a unique voyage of discovery to one of the most fascinating photography locations on our planet.

Unlike most Svalbard ship expeditions we plan to spend extended time ashore photographing some of the extraordinary landscapes of the islands: rock formations, glaciers and mountains. And when possible we'll do hikes on the tundra to explore photo locations and cultural remains. The soft light in late August and early September is ideal for this kind of photography and the weather conditions, with the possibility of fresh snow, make it even more special. It is also the time of autumn storms, with their accompanying dramatic light and clouds.

We will travel on board the Antigua, a wonderfully romantic barkentine – a three masted sailing ship. We will take only 18 passengers (although the ship holds 32), and Antigua's low decks are ideal for photography. You'll love the experience of being on an authentic triple masted barque with an experienced deck crew and all the necessary modern navigational equipment to ensure a safe and rewarding trip. We will be using Zodiac boats for our daily excursions and landings and we will spend extended time at each landing and return to a location if we feel that it requires a more in depth exploration. Due to this slow approach to photography we shall also limit our sailing range to the western and northern part of Spitsbergen, which is Svalbard's largest island.

Svalbard is famous for its access to High Arctic wildlife, such as Polar bears, Walrus and Arctic birds. But it remains a fairly undiscovered location for serious landscape photography. And although the landscape will be our primary subject we will not bypass wildlife opportunities if we encounter them.

At Prins Karls Forland





A view to the east from Amsterdamøya



## WHAT TO EXPECT

September is the month of the magic light. The first sunset after 4½ months occurred late in August, and now the nights are slowly getting longer. While there will be some dark hours every night, there will also be many hours every morning and evening of low golden sun, adding a hue to Svalbard that is missed during the entire summer. Winter is not here yet, but it is not far off – there is a good chance we will have snowfall on some days.

Although there can be magic golden light there is generally also a lot of overcast conditions in September, which creates ideal light for intimate landscape studies. We will be watching the weather forecast closely and will make location decisions based on our experience as we know where to find shelter in different wind directions. There will be some ship movement – pitching and/or rolling – while we travel from one major fjord destination to another, but generally the seas are fairly calm in Svalbard, at least when compared to open ocean passages.

Polar bears are present year round in Svalbard. In September, the cubs of the year are about 9 months old, still with their mothers. Sometimes we meet young, newly independent bears almost three years old – they are often extra inquisitive. Some years, there is still a lot of sea ice around the archipelago in September, meaning that we find bears there. But in recent years the trend has been for the pack ice edge to have retreated far north of the islands. In such conditions there are some bears stranded on the islands, waiting for the ice to return, and there are also bears that don't leave with the ice but choose to spend their time on and near land, hunting seals in front of glaciers. We therefore always have to be on alert for possible Polar bear encounters. But that is what we, the expedition team, are there for. We scan potential landing sites and set up safety perimeters, which you can work within. These areas of safety are large enough to allow everyone to be working within their boundaries. But we must at all times show discipline while on shore as we are guests in the realm of the Polar bear.

If we come across a Polar bear that can be safely approached with the ship or Zodiacs, without disturbing the animal, then we shall of course welcome that as a photographic opportunity. The same holds true for Walrus and seals, on ice or in the water.

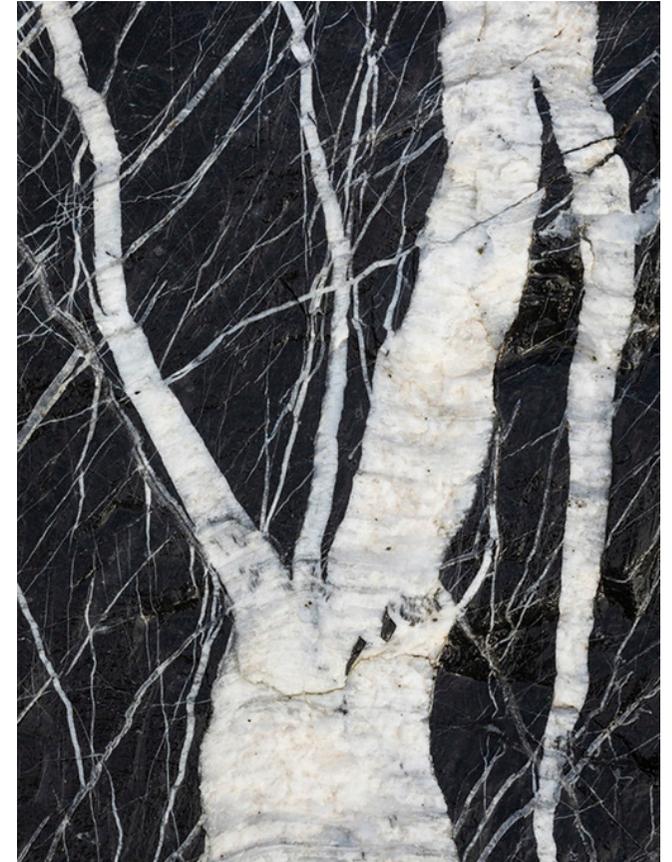
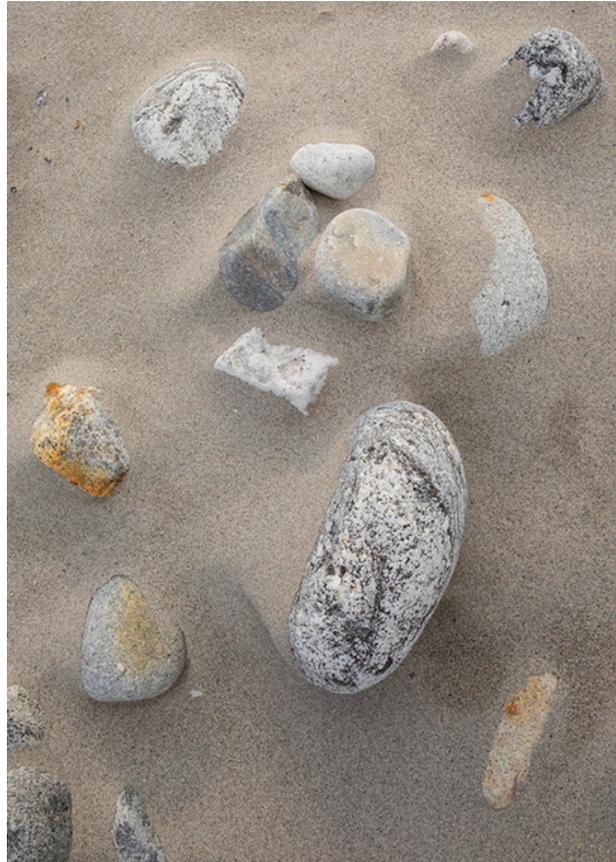
In Liefdefjorden, NW Spitsbergen

The intention is to spend as much time as possible on land. We will use the ship's Zodiacs to make landings on beaches or small islands where we can roam and explore. Occasionally we may do fairly long Zodiac drives until we find a location we want to explore further on foot but usually the rides from ship to shore are short. We, the expedition team, have a lot of experience in Svalbard and did a dedicated landscape photography trip on the Antigua in September 2018. All the images in this brochure were made by Daniel Bergmann on that expedition.

We often use the dark hours of the night to move the ship between locations so that we can be somewhere interesting to do a pre-breakfast landing. And if we have golden light in the evening we will venture out after dinner. During overcast conditions we have the whole day to work with. In general terms, as on any photography workshop, the weather dictates our working hours in the field.

We also plan to do indoor activity in the form of lectures and image reviews. Talks will be given on wildlife, conservation and photography topics – usually while we move the ship over longer distances. And you will have the attention of two photography leaders, one of whom is David Ward, which is considered among Britain's most accomplished and influential landscape photographers. Not only is David gifted with extraordinary talent and vision but is a photo workshop leader with over two decades of experience.

This expedition is a unique opportunity to explore one of the last wild regions on the planet on a ship that moves us in style and comfort through these High-Arctic waters. And it is an opportunity for us to learn from each other and grow together as photographers.





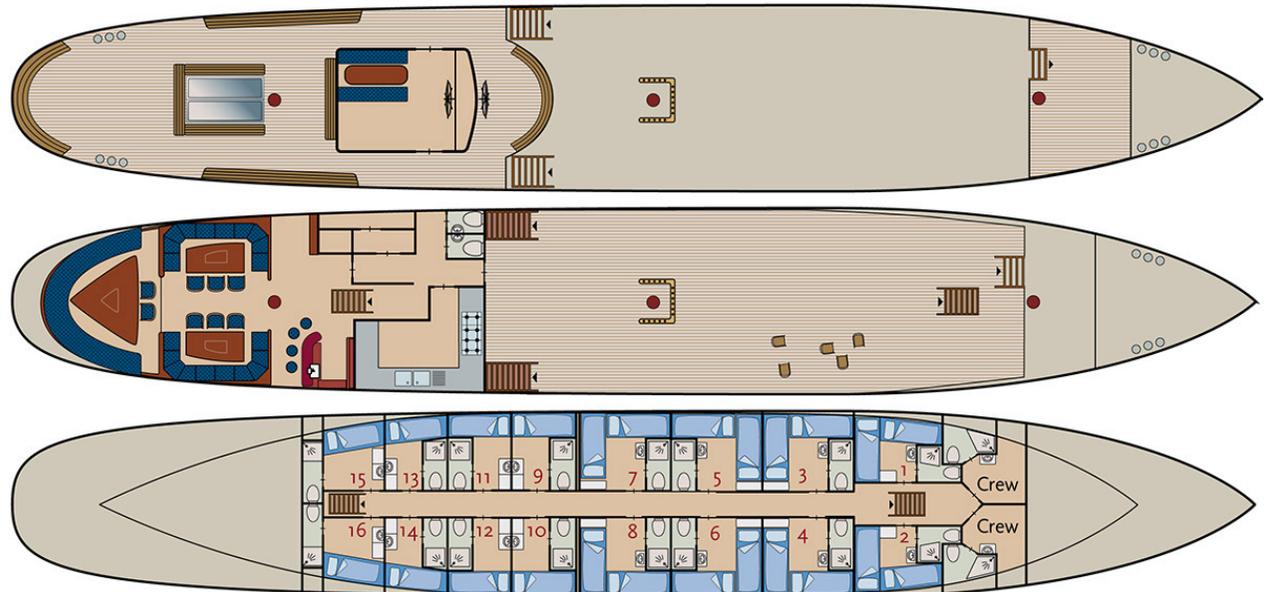
Passing mountains in Isfjorden

## The ship

Our ship, the *Antigua*, is an experience to be aboard in itself, and is also a wonderful platform for a photography expedition with low decks and great visibility. With a capacity of 32 berths, we will only be filling a maximum of 18 guests plus leaders, giving plenty of room for your comfort. You'll love the experience of being on an authentic triple masted barque with an experienced deck crew and all the necessary modern navigational equipment to ensure a safe and rewarding trip.

There are two types of cabins aboard the *Antigua*. The smaller ones, cabins 9–16, have an upper and lower bunk and will be sold as singles. The larger ones, cabins 4–8, have two lower beds and are larger and better suited for two people and will be sold as twins. All of them have private bathrooms. You can request a specific cabin upon booking but if you book into a twin as a solo traveler we reserve the right to find you a suitable roommate and may have to assign cabins accordingly. Cabins 1 and 2 are reserved for the expedition staff.

The main lounge (in the image below) is where we spend our communal time and are served buffet style meals three time per day.



## FACTS ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

Dates: August 29 – September 8, 2022

Group Size: 18 guests plus leaders

TRANSPORTATION: Antigua & Zodiacs

RATES (per person in USD):

Twin cabin \$9,450

Private cabin \$11,950

INCLUDED IN THE EXPEDITION RATE:

- 10 nights of accommodation aboard the ship
- all meals while on board
- coffee and tea
- guides and crew services
- daily excursions by Zodiac
- instructions from highly experienced photo leaders
- one of Svalbard's most experienced expedition leader
- lectures, briefings and shore side interpretations
- magnificent scenery and wonderful wildlife encounters
- great company and safe and friendly travel

EXCLUSIONS:

- any pre- or post-cruise expenses including flights and transfers
- other drinks than mentioned above
- customary tips for crew and staff
- mandatory insurance
- anything else not specified as included

PAYMENT TERMS

\$2,500 deposit at registration

\$4,000 due February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

Balance before June 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

**For registration and further info contact Daniel Bergmann at:  
[natura@natura.is](mailto:natura@natura.is)**

**Or by phone: +354 697 9515**

**See more about Iceland and Arctic photography tours at:  
[www.danielbergmann.com](http://www.danielbergmann.com)**



## PHOTOGRAPHY INSTRUCTORS AND GUIDES



### Photography leader **David Ward**

As a professional David has photographed everything from huskies to Ferraris but landscape has always been his passion. As well as making images he writes about the philosophical side of photography and leads photographic workshops. Although he specialised in large format photography for over twenty years, his emphasis in teaching is on the photographer's vision, rather than on what format is being used, and he tries to pass on his knowledge in an accessible and humorous manner.

See David's photography at:  
[www.into-the-light.com](http://www.into-the-light.com)



### Photography leader and guide **Daniel Bergmann**

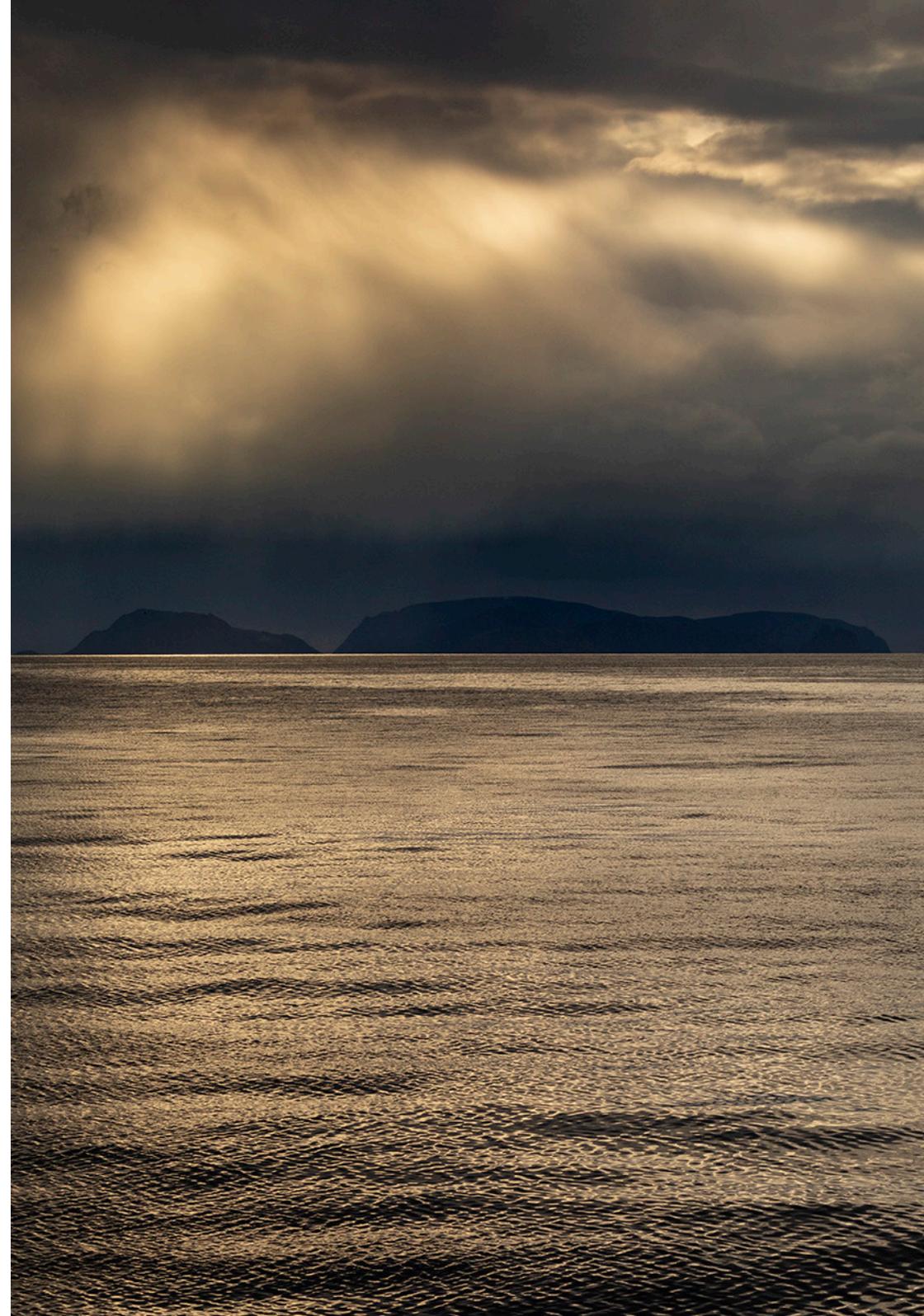
Daniel is an Icelandic nature photographer. He leads photography workshops in Iceland, Greenland and Svalbard. Daniel brings to the expedition an intimate knowledge of the Arctic and an experience of photographing in Svalbard on over a dozen expeditions, the first one in 2011.

Svalbard images in this PDF © Daniel Bergmann



### Expedition leader **Morten Jørgensen**

Morten was born in Copenhagen and has always loved the natural environment and especially its wildlife. He has been working in the Arctic since 1997, on small cruise ships as guide, lecturer, Zodiac driver and expedition leader. Since the mid-eighties, Morten has been an active ornithologist, a passion that has been supplemented with a love for marine mammals, whales and dolphins, seals and polar bears alike. But there are no areas of nature that do not fascinate him. He is also a keen photographer.



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[www.danielbergmann.com](http://www.danielbergmann.com)