



OUR EXPEDITION TEAM

Our Expedition Team is carefully picked for their local knowledge, specific expertise in fields of relevance and most important of all; their enthusiasm, curiosity and love for the areas we choose to spend time in on any one of our expeditions.

The role of the Expedition Team is to interpret observations of wildlife and landscapes, point out things of interest, give educational lectures on topics such as biology, geology and history – in addition to being hosts together with the rest of the crew aboard our ships.

The team members here are examples of staff you might meet whilst onboard. The composition of Expedition Team will vary between seasons and sailings, always with the best mix of competence on the destination we are exploring.

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They share the
love for the areas
we travel to



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KARIN STRAND
Expedition Leader

Karin was born in Norway. She joined the Hurtigruten fleet on the Norwegian coast in 1998, and has worked on various ships as Expedition Leader. Since 2001 Karin worked as Chief Purser and she joined the voyages of MS Nordnorge in Chile & Antarctica in its first season, in 2002-03.



STEFFEN BIRSACK
Lecturer

Steffen is a geologist from Berlin, where he obtained both a master's degree in Administration Management and Geology. In his opinion, geology and the complex 'System Earth' is a most intriguing and important subject. So his particular aim is to convey this fascination of geology to a wider public.



LINE OVERGAARD
Expedition Leader

Line is Norwegian and loves being outdoors, doing activities like kayaking, snowboarding and hiking - all over the world. She has worked for Hurtigruten since 2001, and has been a part of our Expedition Team on MS Fram since 2008. In 2010 she became a certified Arctic Nature Guide. She will show you the polar wilderness with lots of knowledge and enthusiasm.



FRIEDERIKE BRONNY
Lecturer / Geography and Biology

Friederike is a German geographer and biologist, who studied at Bochum University. She specialised in the ecology of the polar regions. She has been working exclusively for Hurtigruten since 2004. She fell in love with the Arctic tundra and the south Chilean forests of Tierra del Fuego.



MEET EXPEDITION LEADER KARIN

Our Expedition Team members are not only expert lecturers, they are also your hosts on board and ashore. They will give professional lectures on topics like biology, history, geology and the eras of human exploration. They also take you on landings and hikes and inform you about how to make the most out of your stay without disturbing the fragile wildlife and nature.

KARIN STRAND, EXPEDITION LEADER ON BOTH MS MIDNATSOL AND MS FRAM

What makes your field of expertise so fascinating?

'My office' is some of the most remote wilderness areas in the world, it is filled with vast nature and wildlife, ice and glaciers. Not bad for an office, right?

What do guests on board like to hear about/see/experience?

They like to step into a world where the normal human made infrastructure we surround ourselves with fades into the background, where nature and wildlife in their natural habitat takes over all their senses. The feeling of being small in this mighty natural world fascinates and brings shivers down most people's spines. We silently glide by an iced landscape that is so amazing that I will never find words to do it justice. You just have to be there!

Most guests are very keen and hungry for more knowledge about the geology, wildlife and history of

the places we visit. I am proud to say that our excellent team of highly skilled lecturers do it very well.

Please describe a day at work.

First of all, I have one of the best jobs in the world, without a doubt in my mind. There is never a dull moment. A day at work is very different, depending on which destination we are at. One task is the same regardless of destination; it is planning and leading of landings and activities.

We start a landing day in the Antarctic with our Expedition Team hopping into the first Polar-cirkel boat, with a second boat right behind filled with safety gear. This gear serves the purpose of support in case we get stuck on the landing site for some hours longer than planned, due to weather conditions. This has happened, but very rarely. The Expedition Team spreads out and assesses the landing site for vulnerability. Then we position

ourselves where we need to be - and we are ready to guide, inform and educate our guests so they can watch the wildlife without disturbance.

We know that sustainability is super important for Hurtigruten and all of you in the Expedition Team. Why is sustainability so important for you, personally?

I don't believe that humankind can tame nature. Nature finds a way to tame us if we don't read the signs. This is why I think we are best off playing on nature's terms, which does not upset the balance of species or natural conditions by abuse of natural resources.

What do you love most about your work?

I get to work in a team that loves their work, and we get to share these amazing nature experiences in some of the most pristine areas of the world, and on top, call it work. The days are

KARIN STRAND



EXPEDITION LEADER

Karin Strand is one of our Expedition Leaders in Antarctica, and works on both MS Fram and MS Midnatsol.



long and we work hard, but the energy comes easy when you love what you do. And I do!

Do you have any insider tips to get the most out of a Hurtigruten voyage?

Come on board with an open mind, take part in activities you never thought you would ever do and be flexible. Remember no trip is the same with us. Every single journey is custom-made. The landing sites and activities are chosen according to the weather and ice conditions we have right there and then. Follow these simple guidelines and you will get caught by the same bug as I have had for the last 12 years, the 'Polar Bug'.

Do you have any cool stories to share? Please do!

There are so many and it is hard to single out only one incident, but nature's creatures move in mysterious ways. I will never forget this particular experience. When I



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am old and sitting in a dark corner in a home somewhere and nobody listens anymore, I will probably still tell the story about that one time during a landing at Peterman Island, Antarctica, fairly late in the season:

The gentoo penguin chicks were grown to a stage where they were standing at the water's edge looking into the water, not sure if they should jump in or not. A leopard seal appeared lurking around these penguin chicks. He swam past me. I was knee-deep in water, shuttling our guest into the Polar-cirkel boats at high tide. The leopard seal picked up one of the chicks with his big mouth and swung his head around with the chick in the mouth. Then he put it nicely back down, the chick looked rather paralysed and surprised. The leopard seal did the same weird procedure with the next chick. It had not moved much away by the sight of the neighbour chick being taken. By chick number three

the leopard seal figured it was action time, and performed as expected for this species of seal. He grabbed the chick, brought it underwater and flung it back and forth. It surfaced with the chick still in its mouth, flung it up in the air several times and ultimately had a meal of it. During the four hours my colleague and I were on the site, the leopard seal caught seven penguins. The sixth penguin he dedicated to the two of us. He did not eat it, but threw it close to where we were standing and went for number seven. What a morning!

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