

The background of the slide features a deep blue underwater scene with two whales. A large, semi-transparent watermark consisting of the Roman numerals 'IX' is positioned on the left side of the image. The text 'Science & Education Report' is centered horizontally across the middle of the image.

Science & Education Report

MS Spitsbergen

08.05. – 20.05.2025

Iceland, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen
Arctic Island Discovery from Glasgow





Science & Education Program

Our Science and Education Team accompanied you during your expedition to the remote nature of the North East Atlantic.

We had the opportunity to explore our destination's natural beauty, exceptional wildlife, and rich history. We organized lectures and interactive activities onboard and explored our destinations during landings, excursions and from the water.

History

In Iceland, we explored the history and mythology of the Norsemen, likely the island's first settlers, along with key developments in Icelandic society over time.

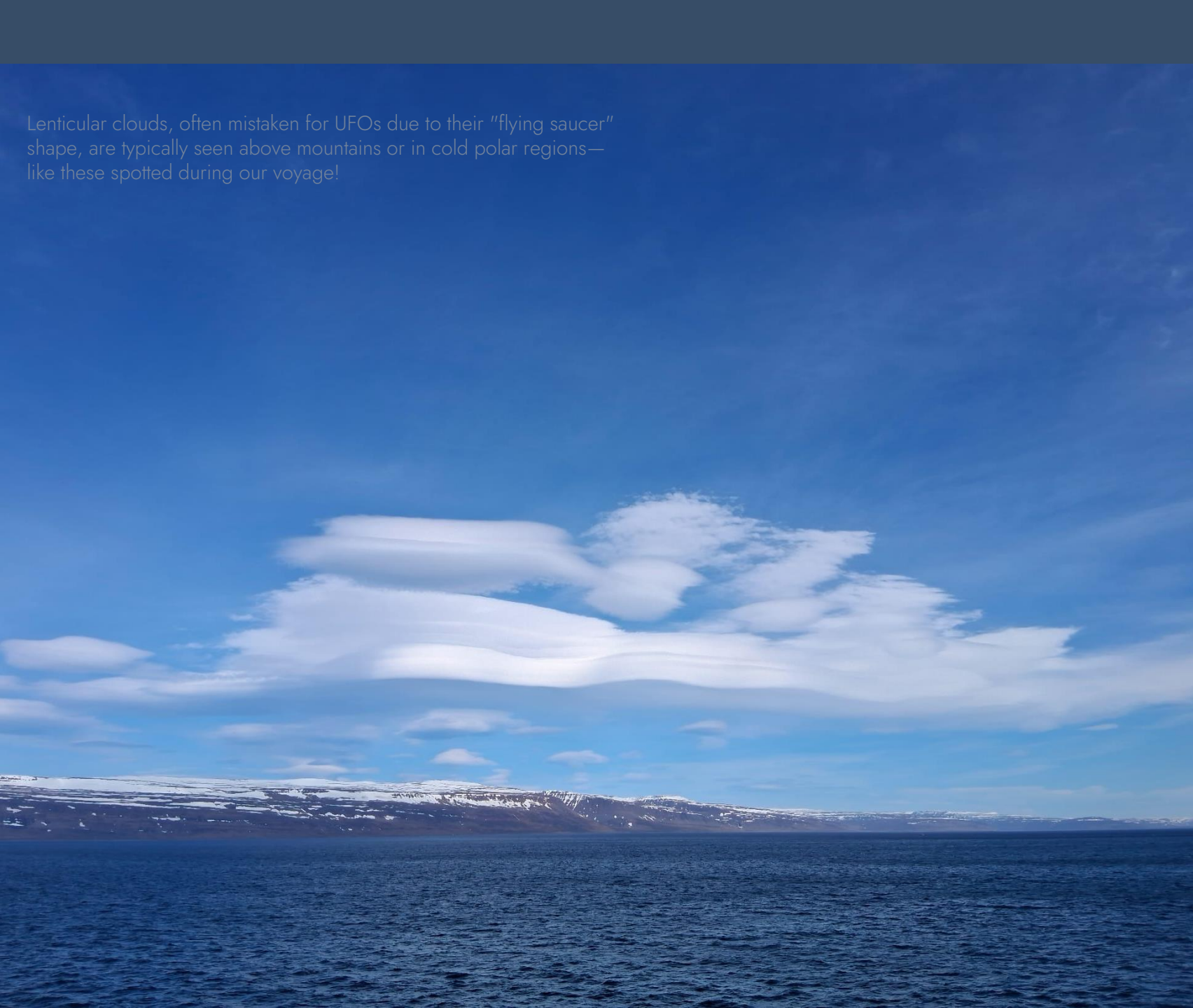
In Svalbard, we observed remains from early human activity — traces of whaling, trapping, and mining — offering insight into the archipelago's historical industries.



Culture

On May 17th, upon arriving in Svalbard, we celebrated Norwegian Constitution Day with traditional festivities — including the ceremonial hoisting of the Norwegian flag at 8 AM and delicious waffles and ice cream — giving everyone an authentic taste of Norwegian culture.





Lenticular clouds, often mistaken for UFOs due to their “flying saucer” shape, are typically seen above mountains or in cold polar regions—like these spotted during our voyage!

NASA Globe Cloud Observer

Together with our Environmental Scientist Liam you observed the clouds and submitted your observations to NASA GLOBE Observer on 5 occasions.

These cloud observations can help NASA improve our understanding of Earth’s atmosphere and climate by providing valuable data for scientific research and climate modelling.

You conducted five NASA Globe Cloud Observer citizen science projects. That means five submissions went to NASA for climate study in areas you visited, at sea, along our voyage. Below is a link to our data.

[View our data](#) on the global map

Congratulations! You've got a Match!

Your citizen science cloud observations matched perfectly with NASA satellites, significantly contributing to global climate research.

Observation	GLOBE	NOAA-20 Satellite
Universal Date/Time	2025-05-14 15:13:00	2025-05-14 15:10
Latitude	68.95	68.56 to 69.36
Longitude	-15.62	-16 to -15.2
Total Cloud Cover	Sky Obscured 	Overcast 97.19% 
High Clouds	Sky Obscured by Fog/Stratus Clouds/Contrails > 25% Obscured 	
Mid Clouds		
Low Clouds		Cover: Overcast 97.19%  Altitude: 0.21 (km) Phase: Water 272.54 (K) Opacity: Translucent
GLOBE Cloud Photos and Corresponding NASA Satellite Images. Click image to view ---> <i>Note: Photos submitted though GLOBE need approval before being displayed, this may take a few days.</i>	GLOBE Photos North  East  South  West  Up  Down 	VIIRS NOAA-20 Worldview  Worldview Tutorial

iNaturalist

Throughout our expedition, we documented the flora and fauna of Svalbard and uploaded all our findings to the iNaturalist platform.

During our voyage, we submitted 86 observations of 49 different species. This effort contributes to the creation of a comprehensive understanding of the current distribution of species in the archipelago and can aid researchers in their ongoing studies and conservation efforts to protect these species.

View our data submitted on our [iNaturalist project](#)



ORCA

On your voyage, ORCA Ocean Conservationist Becky completed 19.5 hours of cetacean surveys (whales, dolphins and porpoise) with your help out on deck.

Becky recorded, 6 humpback whales, 1 orca, 17 white-beaked dolphins, 8 unidentified whales, 1 unidentified dolphin, with a grand total of 36 cetaceans sighted during her surveys. Additional species seen outside of surveys included orca, ringed seal, bearded seal, and walrus.

Understanding cetacean distribution is vital for their protection, Surveys such as these support ORCA's work, to help conserve and protect them in oceans across the globe.

[Visit ORCA's website](#) to find out more about their work.



White beaked dolphins - Charlotte Kirchner

Wildlife List - Birds





Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Manx Shearwater	Atlantiksturmtaucher	Puffin des Anglais
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Northern Gannet	Basstölpel	Fou de Bassan
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	Labbe parasite
<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Great Skua	Große Raubmöwe	Grand Labbe
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté
<i>Larus hypervoreus</i>	Glacous Gull	Eismöwe	Goéland Bourgmestre
<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Iceland Gull	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique
<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Ivory Gull	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne Arctique
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle
<i>Alle alle</i>	Little Auk	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain
<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic Puffin	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Guillemot (Common Murre)	Trottellumme	Guillemot marmette
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Brünnich's Guillemot (Thick-billed Murre)	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich
<i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill	Tordalk	Petit Pingouin



Wildlife List — Shore birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	Graugans	Oie cendrée
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Pink-footed Goose	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brent Goose	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Barnacle Goose	Weißwangengans	Bernache nonnette
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Stockente	Canard colvert
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	Eiderente	Eider à duvet
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck	Eisente	Harelde kakawi
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	Mittelsäger	Harle huppé
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)	Eistaucher	Plongeon huard
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon)	Sternaucher	Plongeon catmarin
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	Kormoran	Grand Cormoran
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	European Shag	Krähenscharbe	Cormoran huppé
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Austernfischer	Huïtrier pie
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	Sandregenpfeifer	Pluvier grand-gravelot

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	European Golden Plover	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling
<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Purple Sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	Steinwälzer	Tournepierre à collier
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	Uferschnepfe	Barge à queue noire
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	Bekassine	Bécassine des marais



Wildlife List — Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	Feral Pigeon	Stadttaube	Pigeon domestique
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	Feldlerche	Alouette des champs
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	Mehlschwalbe	Hirondelle de fenêtre
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	Wiesenpieper	Pipit farlouse
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail	Trauerbachstelze	Bergeronnette de Yarrell
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear	Steinschmätzer	Traquet motteux
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	Rotdrossel	Grive mauvis
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Eurasian (Common) Blackbird	Amsel	Merle noir
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff	Zilpzalp	Pouillot véloce
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Northern (Common) Raven	Kolkrabe	Grand Corbeau
<i>Coleus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	Dohle	Choucas des tours
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling	Gemeiner Star	Étourneau sansonnet
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Snow Bunting	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges
<i>Lagopus muta</i>	Rock Ptarmigan	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin



e-Bird

During our Wildlife Watches, our Team conducted detailed seabird surveys, recording observations for the citizen science platform eBird. We recorded 46 different species of birds in 33 checklists.

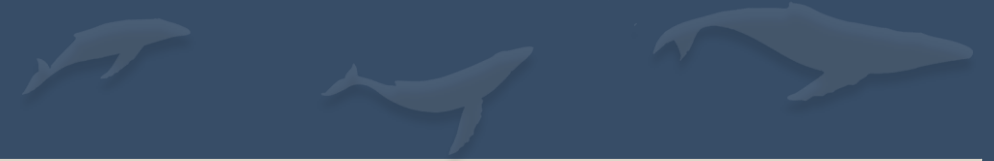
This initiative helps contribute valuable data to global bird conservation efforts, enhancing our understanding of seabird populations and their habitats.

View our data on our [e-Bird trip report](#)

Wildlife List - Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	White-beaked dolphin	Weißschnauzendelfin	Lagénorhynque à bec blanc
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orca/ Killer whale	Killerwal	Épaulard
<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walrus	Walross	Walrus
<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bearded seal	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu
<i>Pusa hispida</i>	Ringed seal	Ringelrobbe	Phoque annelé

Happywhale

We submitted pictures of the identifying features of the marine mammals that we encountered to the citizen science platform, Happywhale. In total, 1 observations was submitted and matched to individual specimen.

“Chloe” ID: HRC-MN1132

Happywhale allows us to follow individual whales and other marine mammals and learn about their life history and migratory routes. This helps us better understand these fascinating creatures and contributes to their conservation.

[View our submissions](#) to Happywhale



Humpback whale “Chloe” - Charlotte Kirchner

Wildlife List - Land Mammals



Wildlife List – Land mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Reindeer	Rentier	Renne du Spitzberg
<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>	Arctic Fox	Polarfuchs	Renard Arctique

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