

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

6 – 17 October 2025

Europe's Atlantic Highlights –
From Hamburg to Lisbon





Science & Education Programme

Our Science and Education Team accompanied you during your voyage along the European Atlantic coast.

We had the opportunity to explore our destinations' rich history, culture, natural beauty, and exceptional wildlife. We organized lectures and interactive activities on board and explored our destinations during land-based excursions and from the water.

History

On our voyage from Hamburg to Lisbon, we traced the footprints of history across Europe. Starting in Hamburg, once a key Hanseatic port, we sailed through Harlingen, Vigo, and Ferrol, discussing Napoleon's influence and Jacques Cartier's explorations.

In Saint-Malo and Mont-Saint-Michel, echoes of medieval France and seafaring legacies surrounded us. Porto charmed with its maritime past and wine trade. Finally, Lisbon stood as a beacon of the Golden Age of Exploration, where explorers once launched into the unknown.

Along the way, each stop revealed layers of European history, shaped by conquest, commerce, and curiosity across the centuries.



Culture

During our voyage from Hamburg to Lisbon, we immersed ourselves in the rich cultures of each stop. We tasted local specialities like Dutch waffles in Harlingen, the delicious *pulpo á feira* in Galicia, and sipped port wine in Porto. Each region welcomed us with its unique flavours and traditions.

A highlight was enjoying local music during special live performances, where traditional sounds brought each culture to life. From the lively rhythms of Iberia to the melodic tones of Northern Europe, regional food and music gave us a deeper connection to the places we visited, making the journey unforgettable.





NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer

With help from our Environmental Scientist, Lara, you observed the clouds and submitted your findings to NASA GLOBE Observer on 4 occasions.

These cloud observations help NASA better understand Earth's atmosphere and climate by providing important data for research and climate models.

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

iNaturalist

Throughout our expedition, we documented the flora and fauna of the European Atlantic coast and shared our findings with the biodiversity platform iNaturalist.

By taking part in this effort, we help scientists better understand the region's biodiversity. These observations provide valuable information that supports research and conservation efforts to protect local species.

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



Wildlife List — Birds



Great Horned Owl



Great Cormorant



Northern Gannet



Ruddy Turnstone



Eurasian Spoonbill

Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	cory's shearwater	Corysturmtaucher	puffin cendré
<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	sooty shearwater	Dunkler sturmtaucher	puffin fuligineux
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	northern gannet	Basstölpel	fou de bassan
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	little gull	Zwergmöwe	mouette pygmée
<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	Mediterranean gull	Schwarzkopfmöwe	mouette mélanocéphale
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	black-headed gull	Lachmöwe	mouette rieuse
<i>Larus canus</i>	common gull	Sturmmöwe	goéland cendré
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	herring gull	Silbermöwe	goéland argenté
<i>Larus marinus</i>	great black-backed gull	Mantelmöwe	goéland marin
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	lesser black-backed gull	Heringsmöwe	goéland brun
<i>Larus michahellis</i>	yellow-legged gull	Mittelmeermöwe	goéland leucophée
<i>Uria aalge</i>	common guillemot/murre	Trottellumme	guillemot marmette
<i>Alca torda</i>	razorbill	Tordalk	petit Pingouin
<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>	European shag	Krähenscharbe	cormoran huppé
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	great cormorant	Kormoran	grand cormoran

Wildlife List — Water birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	mute swan	Höckerschwan	cygne tuberculé
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	brant goose	Ringelgans	bernache cravant
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose	Kanadagans	bernache du Canada
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard	Stockente	canard colvert
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	common eider	Eiderente	eider à duvet
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	common shelduck	Brandgans	tadorne de belon
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian oystercatcher	Austernfischer	huître pie
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	Regenbrachvogel	courlis corlieu
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	Flußuferläufer	chevalier guignette
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	Steinwälzer	tournepierre à collier
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	common moorhen	Teichhuhn	gallinule poule-d'eau
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian coot	Blässhuhn	foulque macroule
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	great crested grebe	Haubentaucher	grèbe huppé
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian spoonbill	Löffler	spatule blanche
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	little egret	Seidenreiher	aigrette garzette
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	grey heron	Graureiher	héron cendré
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	common kingfisher	Eisvogel	martin-pêcheur d'Europe

Wildlife List — Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	peregrine falcon	Wanderfalke	faucon pèlerin
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	wood pigeon	Ringeltaube	pigeon ramier
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	collared dove	Türkentaube	tourterelle turque
<i>Columba livia</i>	feral pigeon	Felsentaube	pigeon biset
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	barn swallow	Rauchschwalbe	hirondelle rustique
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	meadow pipit	Wiesenpieper	pipit farlouse
<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Eurasian rock pipit	Strandpieper	pipit maritime
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	dunnock	Heckenbraunelle	accenteur mouchet
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	pied/white wagtail	Bachstelze	bergeronette grise
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	common redstart	Gartenrotschwanz	rougequeue à front blanc
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European robin	Rotkehlchen	rouge-gorge
<i>Turdus merula</i>	common blackbird	Amsel	merle noir
<i>Curruca undata</i>	Dartford warbler	Provencegrasmücke	fauvette pitchou
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	common chiffchaff	Zilpzalp	pouillot véloce
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Eurasian blue tit	Blaumeise	mésange bleue
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	common starling	Star	étourneau sansonnet
<i>Corvus corone</i>	carrion crow	Aaskrähe	corneille noire

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eBird

During our Wildlife Watches and town visits, our Ornithologist, Julia; Expedition Leader, Marcus; and guests conducted detailed bird surveys, recording observations for the Citizen Science platform eBird. We recorded 66 different species of birds in 37 checklists.

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

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

Wildlife List — Mammals





Fin Whale



Striped Dolphins



Common Bottlenose Dolphins

Wildlife List – Mammals

Marine Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale	finnwal	rorqual commun
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	common bottlenose dolphin	großer Tümmler	grand dauphin
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	common dolphin	gemeiner Delfin	dauphin commun
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	striped dolphin	blau-weißer Delfin	dauphin bleu-et-blanc
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbour porpoise	Schweinswal	Marsouin commun
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	grey seal	Kegelrobbe	phoque gris
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	harbour seal	Seehund	phoque veau-marin

Land Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	eastern grey squirrel	grauhörnchen	écureuil gris
chiroptera	unidentified bat	fledermaus	chauve-souris



ORCA

OceanWatchers

During our marine mammal distance sampling survey in collaboration with the UK conservation charity ORCA, we recorded detailed information on the species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises we encountered.

In total, we surveyed a distance of 152 km over 8 hours, and encountered 56 individuals representing 4 different cetacean species.

The data collected from this survey contributes to a deeper understanding of cetacean distribution and supports efforts to protect whales and dolphins in key habitats and biodiversity hotspots.

View how our data helps make a change on the [ORCA website](#)

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inner scientist**