

With **Dan Brabander**,
Professor of Geosciences

SVALBARD DISCOVERY

A Voyage to Norway's Islands of Polar Bears

SPECIAL
TRIPLE OCCUPANCY RATES
for Classmates and
Families

Aboard the Expedition Cruise Ship *DIANA*

June 25 - July 5, 2026



There are more polar bears in the Svalbard archipelago than permanent inhabitants



Dear Wellesley Alumna,

We are delighted to extend a special invitation to you to join us on a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to the High Arctic. On this unforgettable voyage through Norway's Svalbard archipelago—nestled halfway between mainland Norway and the North Pole—we will immerse ourselves in the awe-inspiring beauty of this icy realm. Along the way, we'll encounter the remarkable wildlife that calls it home, especially the iconic polar bear for which Svalbard is renowned.

Aboard the eco-luxurious small ship *Diana*, we'll have the opportunity to experience the Arctic by cruise ship, Zodiacs, and land excursions as we explore these magnificent islands. We will venture deep into the fjords, navigating past towering cliffs alive with colonies of nesting birds, in search of seals and walrus. Using Zodiacs, we'll seize every opportunity to get up close to the rugged terrain and the extraordinary wildlife it shelters. While Svalbard boasts a rich array of animal and plant life, the undisputed king of this Arctic wilderness is the polar bear. In fact, polar bears outnumber humans here, making Svalbard one of the best places on Earth to witness these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.

Complementing our trip with lectures and discussions will be Wellesley College **Professor Dan Brabander** along with a team of naturalists and experts who will share their expertise on the flora and fauna, geology and history of Svalbard.

Please join us on an Arctic adventure of a lifetime.

Warm regards,

Erin Corcoran '13
Assistant Vice President for Alumnae Relations
and Global Engagement

FACULTY

PROFESSOR DAN BRABANDER



Dan Brabander is Professor of Geosciences at Wellesley College where his current research focuses on environmental geochemistry, sustainable agriculture, and the intersection of environmental health and medical geosciences in an emergent new discipline called geohealth. His research team comprises undergraduates learning science by doing science, community members, and not-for-profit organizations. Informed by research experiences at both Parsons Lab at MIT (postdoc) and Harvard School of Public Health (visiting scientist), his projects have been featured in numerous media outlets including NPR, EOS, and the Boston Globe.



Svalbard is notable for its magnificent fjords



Purple Saxifrage Longyearbyen, Svalbard

THE **NEW** 192-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP **DIANA**



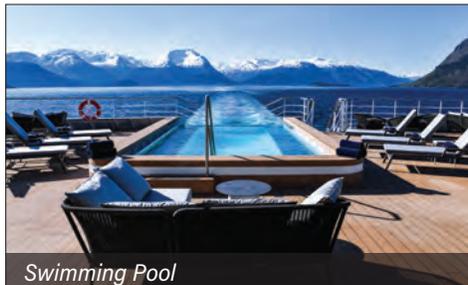
Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Swan Restaurant



Swimming Pool



Observation Lounge

Built in Finland, and launched in April 2023, Swan Hellenic's *Diana* is a new generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,100 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 350 passengers, *Diana* will accommodate a maximum of 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Diana* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Diana* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 135 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Diana* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

Diana's interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections and other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 76 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

ITINERARY



Thursday, June 25, 2026
DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Friday, June 26
COPENHAGEN, Denmark

Arrive in Copenhagen and transfer to the *Skt. Petri Hotel* (or similar)

for overnight. Gather with fellow travelers this evening for a welcome dinner. (D)

Saturday, June 27
COPENHAGEN/LONGYEARBYEN/EMBARK

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for a charter flight to Longyearbyen, the world's most northerly town, where we embark on *Diana* and set sail on our Svalbard adventure. (B,D)

Sunday, June 28 to Friday, July 3
CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SVALBARD

Spend six days exploring Svalbard, Norway's incredible group of islands that are located 600 miles south of the North Pole. The ship's schedule will be kept flexible to take advantage of the best opportunities that arise for landing ashore and for wildlife sightings that include polar bears. The number of polar bears exceeds the islands' human population, and Svalbard is considered one of the best places in the world to observe polar bears in their natural habitat. *Diana's* ice-strengthened hull allows it to navigate and enter safely into the icy waterways, bays and fjords of the islands, and its fleet of Zodiac motorized boats will bring us closer to the places we want to explore. (B,L,D)

Saturday, July 4
LONGYEARBYEN/DISEMBARK/COPENHAGEN, Denmark

Arrive this morning in Longyearbyen and transfer to the airport for a flight to Copenhagen, where we overnight at the *Scandic Copenhagen Strandpark Hotel* (or similar). (B,L)

Sunday, July 5
COPENHAGEN/HOMeward

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Copenhagen international airport for flights homeward. (B)



Monaco Glacier



Polar bear with cubs



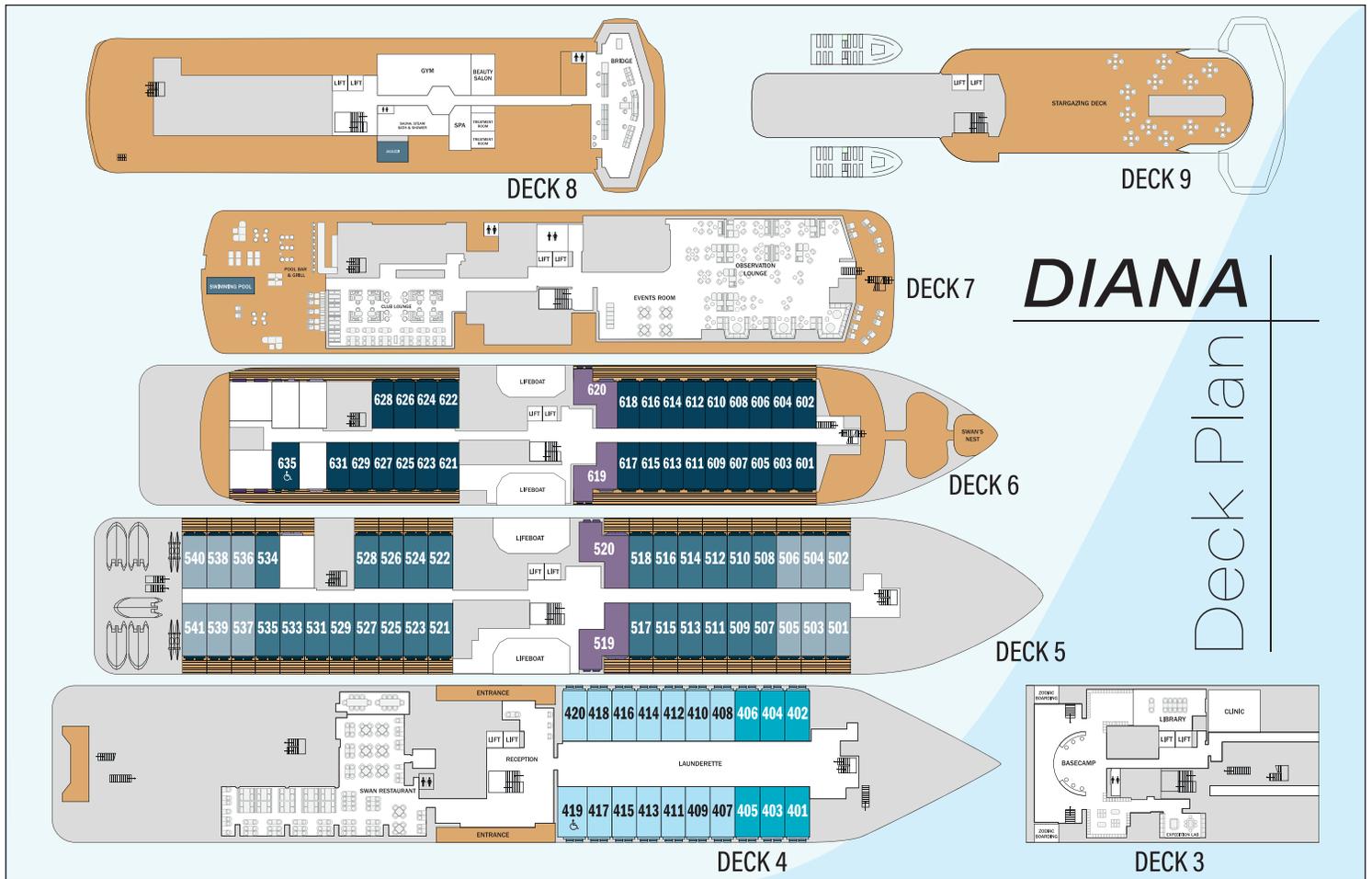
Walrus on the icy landscape of Svalbard



Black-legged kittiwake



Longyearbyen, Svalbard's main settlement



All accommodations aboard *Diana* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	RATES PER PERSON / TRIPLE OCCUPANCY
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401–406.	\$ 9,590	N/A
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 407–420.	\$ 9,990	N/A
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501–506, 536–541.	\$ 10,990	\$ 7,390
B	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 507–518, 521–529, 531–535.	\$ 11,490	\$ 7,690
A	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601–618, 621–635.	\$ 11,990	\$ 7,990
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 474 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 519, 520, 619 & 620.	\$ 15,890	\$ 10,590

FOR SOLO TRAVELERS | A limited number of cabins are available for single occupancy in Categories C, B, and A at 150% of the per-person, double occupancy rate.

Triple occupancy cabins feature a comfortable sofa bed and are applicable to travelers age 8 and above.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- One night at the *Skt. Petri Hotel* (or similar) and one night at the *Scandic Copenhagen Strandpark Hotel* (or similar) in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Welcome dinner on the day of arrival, and lunch on embarkation day.
- Cruise aboard the Swan Hellenic *Diana*, as described in the itinerary.
- Lectures and discussions with Professor Dan Brabander.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and luggage handling on the program arrival and departure dates.
- Complete program of tours and excursions with expert local guides as described in the itinerary.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night aboard the ship.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **WELLESLEY COLLEGE and THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship. Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of **SVALBARD DISCOVERY**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

REGISTRATION

WELL 26D-0625

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **SVALBARD DISCOVERY**, June 25 - July 5, 2026 with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit cards.

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611 or email: reservations@thalassajourneys.com

or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

Visa Mastercard Discover

No. _____

Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

Double Occupancy Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION

Double _____ Twin _____

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____

(CELL) _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

EMAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

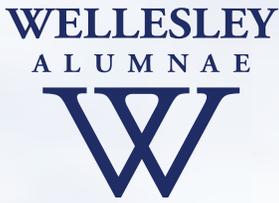
INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

**CST 2138603-50
ST 42048**



Join **Professor Dan Brabander** on

SVALBARD DISCOVERY

June 25 - July 5, 2026



Explore Svalbard's landscape by Zodiac

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL

THALASSA JOURNEYS AT

866-633-3611

or email

reservations@thalassajourneys.com