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IN CELEBRATION OF ALL THAT IS WILD



Svalbard

Artist at the Top of the World:

Wildlife and Landscapes
of the Arctic

The Voyage to Svalbard

ARTIST AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD: Wildlife & Landscapes of the Arctic

The Voyage to Svalbard

An Apology for an Unwritten Blog

It has been an amazing month. I traveled above 80 degrees, well past the Arctic Circle at 66 degrees and came within about 500 miles of the North Pole.

I had planned to keep in touch with all of you by means of a daily blog sent from the ship. I wanted to share my travels and allow you to sail with me to one of the remote regions of our magnificent planet. However it was not meant to be. We had internet problems so I was unable to send dispatches as I had planned.

My apologies to those of you that kept checking the blog site, anxiously waiting for the words and pictures to begin. I am presently beginning to put a multimedia slide show together and will begin presenting it this fall to share my experience.



*Bearded Seal
Pyramiden
Svalbard*



*Walrus
Poolepyten
Svalbard*



*Northern Gannets
Isle of Noss
Shetland Islands*



Great Blue Whale, North Atlantic

Close Encounters with a Great Blue

It was exciting as a biologist and an artist to see two of the Arctic's best known icons in the wild: the polar bear and walrus. But the highlight of the trip was seeing a Great Blue Whale. There are only 5,000-10,000 of them left in the world and our paths crossed with one of these great creatures somewhere in the middle of the North Sea.

The Great Blue Whale is thought to be the largest animal that has ever lived. It averages 110 feet long and weighs in at an astounding 396,000 pounds. To put that in perspective, an adult blue whale is the length of 8 mini vans parked end-to-end and weighs about the same as 95 vans combined!

The whale stayed with us for over an hour and a half and I will never forget the moment when the whale rolled half way onto its side, its immense head pointed toward the bridge where I was standing. It was that very instant that I realized that I was looking directly into the eye of the greatest animal that has ever lived and it was looking back toward me, a tiny human standing on the deck of a fragile metal vessel chugging its way through the North Sea. It was magical.



Atlantic Puffin, Isle of Noss, Shetland Islands