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27. - 29. 4. 2026

→ PROGRAM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



prof. Audun Rikardsen



prof. Phil Hammond



dr. Jonathan Gordon



dr. Eve Jordain

PROGRAM ANDENES WHALE SUMMIT 27. - 29.4.2026

MONDAY 27TH APRIL

- 15.30 Whale watching
- 18.00 Dining & socialising
- 19.00 «Kvaleventyr på yttersida - min våte drøm som forsker og fotograf» *prof. Audun Rikardsen, UiT*
- 20.30 Whale watching

TUESDAY 28TH APRIL

- 09.00 Registration
- 09.30 Welcome, *Sadie Hale, PhD student, UiB.*
- 09.40 «More than just whale watching»
Marten Bril, CEO Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 09.50 «History of whale watching and whale research in Andenes»
dr. Tiu Similä, Research coordinator Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 10.00 **Coffee break**
- 10.15 «Community and business development in the Arctic»
Terje Gustavsen - head of business development Nordland County
- 10.35 «Tourism that powers science: Regenerative impact from sea to society»
Vebjørn Andresen CEO Visit Vesterålen
- 10.50 «A decade of revealing the secrets of our Norwegian Arctic whales - surprises and challenges»
prof. Audun Rikardsen, UiT
- 11.45 **Lunch**
- 13.15 «Sperm whale migration patterns revealed by five years of telemetry data»
dr. Marie-Anne Blanchet, Senior researcher, NPI
- 13.30 «Seasonal and individual variability in habitat use of male sperm whales in high-latitude Northeast Atlantic»,
dr. Zoë Morange, Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes and UiT
- 13.45 «Pilot whale habitat use and diving behaviour»
dr. Carla Freitas, research scientist, IMR
- 14.00 «A whale in a petri dish: How lab-based studies unravel the cumulative impacts of human activities on marine mammals»
dr. Pierre Blevin, senior scientist, Akvaplan-niva
- 14.15 **Coffee break**
- 14.45 «The importance of long-term studies of cetacean populations»
prof. Phil Hammond, Sea Mammal Research Unit. UK
- 15.45 «Norwegian Orca Survey - a decade of orcas, science and action»
dr. Eve Jourdain, Norwegian Orca Survey, UiO & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 18.00 **Dining & socialising**
- 20.00 Whale watching



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[Klick here for more information & registration](https://whalesafari.no/andenes-whale-summit)
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WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL

- 08.30 Coffee
- 09.00 «Whale watching and science: cooperation, collaboration and conflict»
dr. Jonathan Gordon, Marine Ecological Research Ltd, UK
- 09.45 «Sizing up sperm whales: length and body condition estimates from Andenes, Norway»
Séan O'Callaghan, PhD student, Atlantic Technological University, Ireland & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 10.00 «Distributional changes of odontocetes in Norwegian waters with particular focus on Risso's dolphins»
Alexander Eckerle, MSc student, UiB & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 10.15 «Killer whale behaviour in relation to whale watching activities»
Elena Sasso, MSc student, University of Rome, Italy & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 «Tourist snorkelling with whales in Skjervøy: challenges, regulatory blind spots and insights from the field»
Sadie Hale, PhD student, UiB.
- 11.30 «Does the navy sonar disturb the whales and fish»
dr. Petter Helgevoll-Kvadsheim, Chief Scientist, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)
- 11.45 Lunch
- 13.15 «Sperm whales depredating on Greenland Halibut on long-line vessels off Vesterålen»
Hannaleena Väisänen, MSc student, University of Helsinki, Finland & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
Movie on depredation(15 min)
- 13.45 «Fishermen and whales sharing the same fishing grounds»
Rune Solvang, Leader of Andøy fishermen's union
- 14.00 «Whales and northern norwegian fishery interactions and fishers' attitudes towards whales and other marine mammals»
dr. Emma Vogel, Post-doctoral researcher, UiT
- 14.30 Coffee break
- 15.00 «Whale2Sea Whalesafari Academy: educate, inspire, and empower the next generation of whale watching guides, enthusiasts, and conscientious tourists»
Luís Dias, Msc, Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 15.15 «Nature conservation work - challenges and perspectives for whale watching companies»
Ronny Gebser, MSc, Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
- 15.30 Wrap up by Sadie Hale



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