



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

# North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

29 June - 6 July 2017  
on board

***MV Plancius***



MV *Plancius* was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and vicar Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named *Hr. Ms. Tydeman*. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Captain Alexey Nazarov and his international crew of 45 including:

Hotel Manager:	<b>Sebastian Duma</b>	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Sava Savov</b>	[Bulgaria]
Head Chef:	<b>Gabor Kiss</b>	[Hungary]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Edwin van Leeuwen</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Christian Engelke</b>	[Germany/Norway]
Asst Expedition Leader:	<b>Katja Riedel</b>	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Michel Ginzburg</b>	[Deutschland/Russland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sebastian Arrebola</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Michelle van Dijk</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Birgit Lutz</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Aleksandr Romanovski</b>	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Lydia Messingfeld</b>	[Deutschland]

welcome you on board!

# Day 1 – Thursday 29 June 2017

## Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen

GPS Position 08:00: 78°14.4' N / 015°37.3' E

Wind: W – 3

Sea state: port

Weather: overcast

Temperature: 6°C

We gathered from all points on the globe on an overcast day in Longyearbyen, capital of Svalbard. The rugged hills around were striped with snow, but the day was not too cold. Once off our flights, we were dropped in town where we explored the small settlement, had a coffee or went bird watching. For some of us it took a bit longer to go to town as our luggage got delayed at the airport in Oslo due to a malfunction of the luggage belt. Just after four o'clock, we began boarding the ship, we settled in to our cabins, and later found our way to the Observation Lounge. Once we had all gathered, the chief officer Arthur and third officer Warren presented the mandatory safety briefing to show us how to use the big orange lifejackets and how to muster in case of emergency. As soon as we finished the briefing *Plancius* set sail. Our departure was immediately followed by a safety drill, to ensure we knew how to muster in the lounge and proceed to the lifeboats if ordered to by the Captain.



After we returned our lifejackets to our cabins, we were again invited to the lounge. Our hotel manager Sebastian helped us settle in with more information about how the ship works, and Christian, our expedition leader, explained us the lost luggage situation and gave us the new plan for the next day with the hope of recovering the all the luggage. The expedition team introduced themselves and our doctor said a few word regarding seasickness and safety on board. Captain Alexey Nazarov spoke a few words of welcome and proposed a toast to our voyage. After the meeting, we went to our first dinner on board. There, we sat at tables of six and more, making new friends and wondering what would come in the days ahead.



Our first stop of the trip was in Yoldiabukta where we saw the beautiful Wahlenberg glacier coming down from the mountains all the way to the sea. The clouds slowly disappeared and the sun, coming in an angle, created a fascinating light for pictures. We kept cruising around with the ship until midnight, and some of us stayed out on deck enjoying the beautiful spectacle, taking in as much as possible on our first day of this great adventure.



## Day 2 – Friday 30 June 2017

### Isfjord: Billefjord & Skansbukta

GPS Position 08:00: 78°39.8' N / 016°49.1' E

Wind: W – 2      Sea state: calm      Weather: cloudy      Temperature: 5°C

*Plancius* was slowly sailing along Nordenskjold glacier, when Christian, the expedition leader, announced a wake up call. Windy, but sunny morning was greeting us with moderate arctic breeze. Nordenskjold glacier, picturesque and magnificent, is one of the biggest ones on Svalbard. It is situated in the Northern end of Billefjord, one of the branches of Isfjord.



When the breakfast was over, we all had a chance to see Pyramiden. Once a famous Soviet coal mining settlement, now Pyramiden is a mysterious ghost-town with only a few inhabitants. The coal mining era is over, the mine is abandoned, all the houses are empty, but the hotel is still active. Mimerbukta is very shallow, so *Plancius* had no chance to approach closed to the town, so we just sailed by.

The Arctic is beautiful, but obviously not very friendly to humans, so it requires additional knowledge of safety information for us to explore and admire it's nature during the landings and "Zodiac" cruises. Next couple of hours was dedicated to it – Christian was giving us mandatory safety briefings about Polar bears, rules of behavior and "Zodiac" cruises. Besides this knowledge, there was one more thing for us to receive this morning – rubber boots! It's an expedition cruise, we are in the wild nature, the pier is left in Longyearbyen and all of the upcoming landings are supposed to be taking place in much less comfortable conditions, but it promises to be much more adventurous. To keep our feet dry when jumping out of the "Zodiac" and when exploring swampy tundra we need rubber boots. The expedition team was distributing this footwear on deck 3. All of us had to come up and try on a pair to be sure that the boots suit fine and then take it.

Besides this knowledge, there was one more thing for us to receive this morning – rubber boots! It's an expedition cruise, we are in the wild nature, the pier is left in Longyearbyen and all of the upcoming landings are supposed to be taking place in much less comfortable

conditions, but it promises to be much more adventurous. To keep our feet dry when jumping out of the “Zodiac” and when exploring swampy tundra we need rubber boots. The expedition team was distributing this footwear on deck 3. All of us had to come up and try on a pair to be sure that the boots suit fine and then take it.

And here comes the first landing! Landing in Skansbukta – a picturesque tiny cove with a great scenery, wildlife and a historical site. A century ago one businessman decided to organize gypsum mining here and invested big money for the mine to be built and equipment to be bought and shipped here. After the first season of mining it appeared, that the mineral he was taking for gypsum was in fact anhydrite and costed nothing. Poor guy went bankrupt. The mine is still there, but, of course, the entrance is closed for safety reasons. Also it is possible to see the remains of a railroad from the mine to the shore, and even an old motorboat that was used for transporting “gypsum” from the storage on the shore to a big ship, anchored nearby. The boat is still in relatively good condition. Besides, there is a cabin, that belongs to the hunters and fishermen community of Longyearbyen.



Wildlife of Skansbukta is really amazing! We saw a pack of reindeers, eating the small Arctic grass on the slope of the mountain. Some of them were very friendly and let us approach very closed to them and take pictures. Upper on the slope is a colony of Arctic fulmars, birds who like to soar above the water. On the cliff at the entrance to the cove there is a small colony of puffins, funny birds with big and colorful beaks. Here and there we also could see barnacle geese and small snow buntings, the only songbirds on Svalbard.

When we returned back on the ship, lunch was already served.



Suddenly we heard a roar of a helicopter. Apparently, the Sysselmann rescue service was having regular exercises and asked our captain a permission to use *Plancius* for training an emergency evacuation of patients. Soon a yellow ninja-looking guy landed on the deck by the rope. Later they landed a special stretcher and lifted it back to the helicopter. It repeated for several times and afterwards ninja-guy left the deck the same way he arrived.

Around 4 PM *Plancius* had to drop the anchor in Adventfjord in front of Longyearbyen. The good news was, that all the missing luggage was finally delivered to the port and it was needed to pick it up, so it was just a short technical stop. Many of us used the chance to catch cell phone reception, while the expedition team was transporting the luggage on the ship. When everything was done, *Plancius* left Adventfjord and sailed west towards the ocean.

When we were about to leave Isfjord, Christian announced that a blue whale was spotted! Everybody dressed up and went outside to watch this biggest animal on Earth swimming around. Half an hour later we had to leave the whale alone and continue our way.



The first full day of our voyage and so many events! And it is only the beginning!

# Day 3 – Saturday 1 July 2017

## Sea Ice Edge

GPS Position 08:00: 79°56.7' N / 011°48.0' E

Wind: N – 2 Sea state: ice Weather: cloudy Temperature: 1°C



Bang, crussssshhhhhh.....

What's that noise? It is still early...

Oh yeah Christian told us yesterday that we would wake up from the sound of the ship sailing through ice.

Porthole! We have to see it. Wauw!!!!!! What a view!

The ice, the weather, the whites, the blue, the sun, and there is hardly any wind.

What more can one wish for?

Wildlife would be great!

But first getting dressed for a coffee outside, followed by a breakfast.

It is only straight after breakfast when a bearded seal is laying on a ice floe next to the ship, and ten minutes later a group of harp seals swims by.

We are all out on the decks to enjoy the magnificent view, while at 10 o'clock our expedition leader make the announcement, that we just past the 80° North.



Ahead of us is the sandbank called Moffen, from the upper deck you can see clearly that it is just a ring of sand with water in the middle. The shape of this island is also the reason why the old Dutch whalers called it Moffen, it translates as Muff.

Even with the best weather, you still get cold outside while sailing through the ice. The best way to warm up, is with a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate, while listening to an interesting lecture on sea ice. And while Katja talks in German, Michael gives the information in English.

Not long after the lecture a polar bear was seen by our captain. He drove the ship closer. We all could witness the hunting of this polar bear, she had smelled a bearded seal on an ice floe further out. Slowly she made her way towards it. Sometimes you could only see the head, sometimes she completely disappeared. When she was gone for a few minutes, the guides told us: 'Keep an eye on the seal!'



And then.... Out of the water she jumped. The seal was now replaced by the bear. She almost got it, but the seal escaped. Of course we were all sad for the bear, but happy for the seal.



And while we were all watching this spectacle, diamond dust came down. It snowed from the blue sky.

Right after the main course was served, someone saw a walrus on an ice floe at starboard side.

The next moment everyone ran to the starboard side of the dining room.



*Katja Riedel Snowmad Photography*

It was decided the dessert would be served in de lounge later, so everyone could get out to enjoy the walrus in its full glory.

We ended the day with a lecture of Birgit, who has skied to the North Pole twice.

What a dedication and what an endurance!



*Katja Riedel Snowmad Photography*

## Day 4 – Sunday 2 July 2017

### Smeerenburgfjord

**GPS Position 08:00: 79°43.5' N / 011°01.5' E**

**Wind: light air Sea state: smooth Weather: clear Temperature: 6°C**

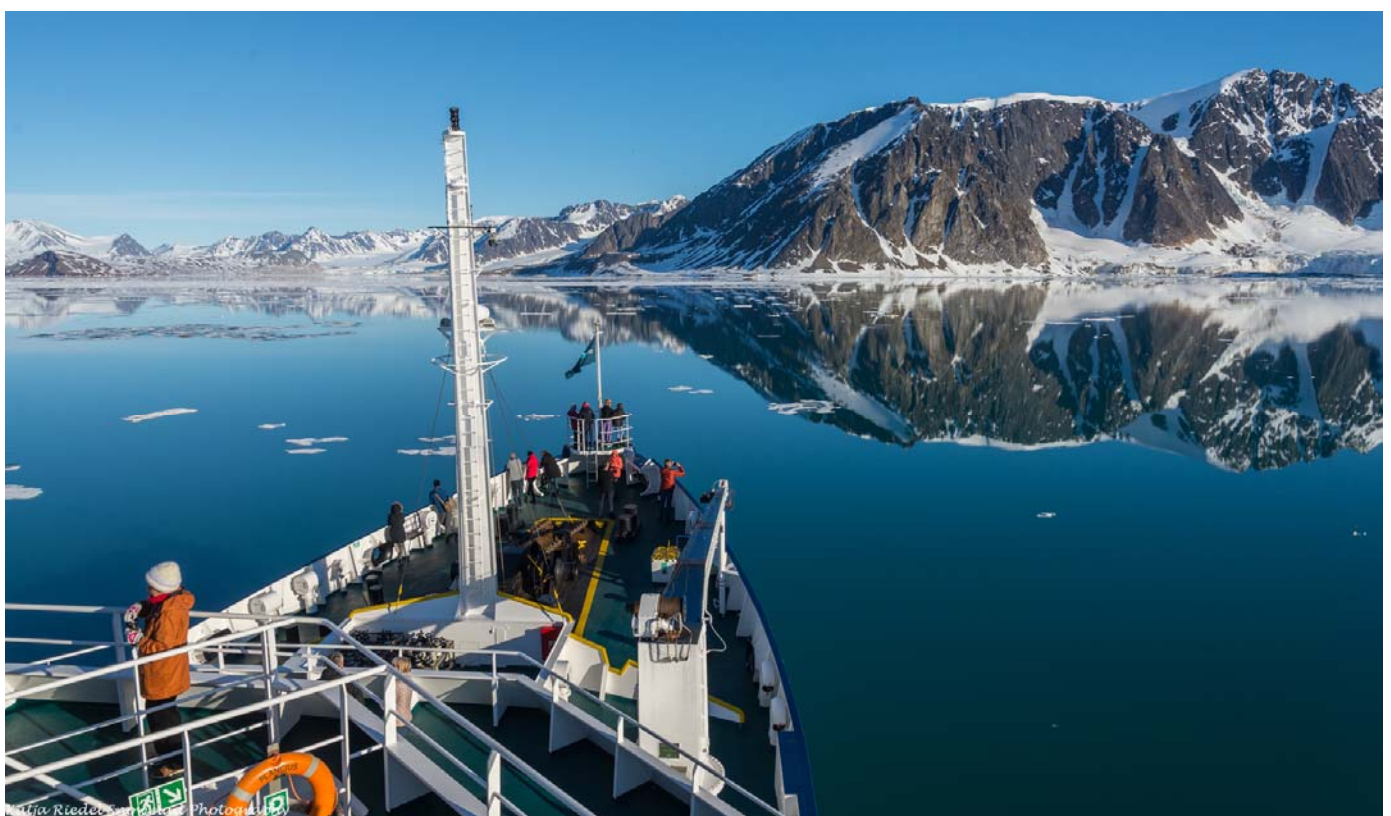
Today we woke up to a stunning weather, beautiful calm seas and a sunny morning. After yet another nice breakfast, we were all invited to come ashore on Amsterdamøya, to visit the remains of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch whaling station Smeerenburg (“Blubbertown”). The foundations of the blubber ovens were easy to see from a safe distance. We split up into three groups and we took turns to go and see a group of Walrus hauled out on the beach. The males were very relaxed and did not mind us coming in up to 30m, enabling marvellous pictures of these magnificent animals. We also checked out the remains of the blubber ovens and the history of whaling activity in Spitsbergen. During the walk on the beach we saw all the wood that drifted all the way from Siberian forests to the beaches of Svalbard, but unfortunately it wasn't the only material present on the beach, there was also some rubbish washed ashore that came drifting North with currents. On our way back we picked up around 1m<sup>3</sup> of the plastic garbage and brought it back to the ship to be discharged in Longyearbyen.





Katja Riedel Snowmad Photography

A little after twelve, everybody was back on the ship and a tasty lunch buffet was prepared for us. During lunch the Captain set off deeper into Smeerenburgfjord where we left the ship once again to go on a Zodiac cruise. The glacier itself has a really nice ice front with a lot of cracks as it is sliding down the mountain, but it was also quite clear that it is melting: there were quite a few bits breaking off of the front and in the bay there were “bergy bits” and icebergs. We could clearly see how far the glacier once reached thanks to the still visible moraines that were once in the middle of the glacier, where various glacial tongues met to form a bigger glacier to fill the fjord. After dinner we went through the pack towards Raudfjord, where we did an evening cruise and spent the night. The weather was still perfect, so we found ourselves having difficulties going to bed. we rather had one more drink and photo taken on deck.



Katja Riedel Snowmad Photography

# Day 5 – Monday 3 July 2017

## Sea Ice Edge

GPS Position 08:00: 80°02.1' N / 012°27.2' E

Wind: light air    Sea state: ice    Weather: clear    Temperature: 4°C

Back in the ice! When Christian announced the beginning of a new expedition day, *Plancius* was slowly making its way through drifting ice flows. It was, probably, the most beautiful morning of the cruise – not even a slightest blow of the wind, bright sky, morning sun and white ice flows everywhere as far as the eye can see. Somewhere in the South-East there was Northern coast of Spitsbergen.

The mirror of the water was disturbed from time to time by packs of Harp seals, swimming around and jumping out in order to inhale some air.



Katja Riedel Snowmad Photography

At 10:30 AM we all were invited to listen to a lecture about Polar bears. Michelle was lecturing in English and Katja in German. From the lectures we knew how to differ male bear from female, what do the bears eat, when do they mate and give birth to cubs, in which parts of the World they are protected, and where they are hunted. Very interesting.



After the lunch we kept on scanning the surface of the sea. Again we saw Harp seals playing in the water, and Bearded seals laying on ice flows. Brunnich's guillemots, common guillemots and Black guillemots were swimming, flying and diving here and there. Also we saw small and funny birds called Little Auks. Of course, Kittywakes were flying around *Plancius* waiting for us to move this or that ice flow to catch some krill, hiding under it. Evil Glaucous gulls were flying by and sitting on peaks of ice ridges watching us.

Around 4 PM Sebastian, our Argentinian guide was lecturing in the observation lounge telling us a story of Roald Amundsen, the famous Norwegian polar explorer, who first reached South pole and took numerous efforts to fly to the North pole and eventually did it! A hero of Norway and probably one of the greatest and bravest explorers ever.

During daily recap at 6 PM Michael told us about ice alga and Katja explained why the ice is blue.

And after that there was a surprise, organized by the crew – a special Arctic barbecue dinner on the aft-deck.



# Day 6 – Tuesday 4 July 2017

## Ny London & 14<sup>th</sup> of July Glacier

GPS Position 08:00: 79°01.5' N / 011°26.3' E

Wind: light air    Sea state: calm    Weather: clear    Temperature: 3°C



After all these days of sun, we finally had some clouds. But still there was hardly any wind, so we could get out on deck and enjoy the Kongsfjord that we had sailed in to over night.

We did our morning landing at Ny London on Blomstrandhalvøya. Halvøya means 'half island' therefore peninsula, and it was one, until the Blomstrandglacier retreated. These days it is an island, so Blomstrand-øya would be a better name.

We were not the only ones on the island, two field inspectors of the Sysselmannen (governor of Svalbard) were staying in one of the houses of Camp Mansfield. The inspectors check on the impact of tourism on nature and cultural heritage.



Ny London was build by Ernest Mansfield, who wanted to mine for marble, but in the end the marble was worthless and the houses were moved to Ny Ålesund. Now, the so-called London-houses are the home base of the Dutch Arctic station.

The group split up into 3 groups, a long and fast hike up the mountain, a medium walk around the area and a short walk with a lot of time to look around. We saw reindeer, a longtailed skua, long tailed ducks, red troated divers, Arctic terns, barnacle geese and many different plants. And last but not least the Arctic silence.

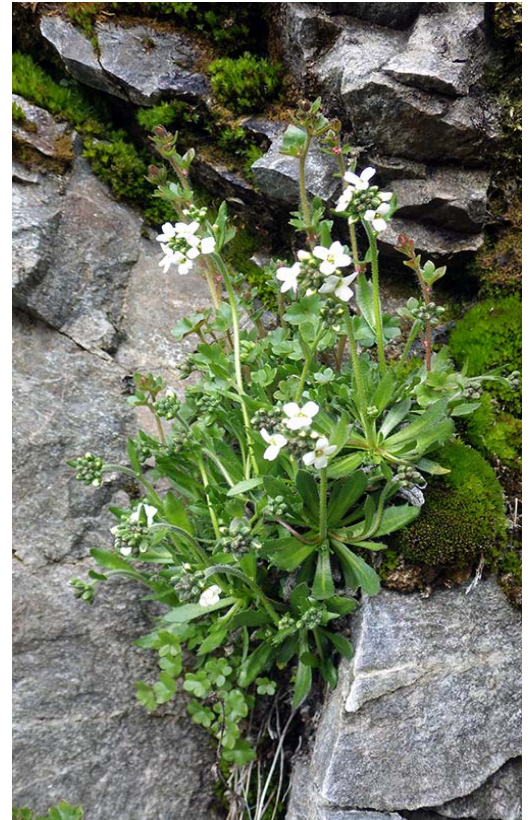
In the afternoon, we could do another landing in the 14.Julibukta. This glacier and its bay is named after the national day of France. It was named in 1906 by Duke Albert I of Monaco.

At the north side of this bay, there is a 'hanging garden'. The conditions on that spot are perfect, and therefore the plants grow much larger than anywhere else on Spitsbergen. Right above it you'll find a nesting kittiwake colony, but when you are close to the hanging garden you don't hear the screaming birds any longer. On the tundra around it, there were several reindeer and barnacle geese with goslings on a pond.

While half of the passengers were on shore, the other half went on a zodiac cruise to the bird cliffs.

Among the nesting birds were also puffins, and who doesn't like to see them?

We ended the day with recap. Lydia explained something about the Arctic terns, Sebastien about reindeer and Christian about the plans of the next day.





# Day 7 –Wednesday 5 July 2017

## Ingeborgfjellet & Recherchefjord

GPS position 08.00 am: 77°43.8'N 014°20.8'E

wind: NW – 2      Seastate: calm      Weather: overcast      Temperature: 5°C

The day promised to be very busy and to bring us many unforgettable moments of the Arctic experience. Everybody was quite optimistic and excited despite the 15 knots of wind blowing from the Northwest. Two landings! Two different spots on the coastline of Bellsund!

The waters of Bellsund near Ingeborgfjellet – our first landing spot – keep many surprises, such as shallows and stones, so *Plancius* could not approach too close to shore due to the wind and currents and stayed adrift. This distance we covered on Zodiacs.



Once on land we walked up to the steep slope of the mountain in order to get closer to a colony of Little auks – small black and white birds that nest in burrows between rocks. It was hard at some moments and even a bit slippery, but those who chose this adrenaline-raising adventure trip were rewarded with a scenic view, and a chance to take plenty of good pictures of Little auks. After a while some of us went for a walk on the tundra to warm up a bit from the drizzling conditions. It was a pleasure to step on the soft carpet of mosses of the tundra and enjoy watching wildlife without being in a hurry. During the walk we saw Barnacle geese with a leusistic one among them, Kittiwakes, and some friendly reindeer, one of them even put a show for us, getting closer to our group, scratching its antlers and posing for pictures.

When it was time to go back to the ship, we gathered together at the landing spot and started being driven back by Zodiacs.

Our lunch turned out to be just a break between landings. While we were taking a breath and enjoying our meals, the captain was heading *Plancius* towards Recherchefjord.



Our last landing of the trip was right in front of the Recherche glacier. We walked on the terminal moraine and enjoyed the view of the lagoon that was formed between this and the glacier. Many birds were resting on the bergy bits in the water and the view was breathtaking. It was the perfect end of a wonderful trip.

Once we were all onboard *Plancius* set sail towards Longyearbyen. We settled our account and returned our trustful rubber boots. Before dinner it was time to head back up into the lounge for our final recap and briefing. After a toast from the Captain, there were thanks to all of the people who made the trip so enjoyable, and all the information we need for our disembarkation. Our last dinner was full of talk and laughter and we moved from the dining room to the lounge, enjoying our last night on board, but still remembering to pack our bags for their early departure from the ship.

## Day 8 – Thursday 6 July 2017

### Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen

GPS Position 0800: 78°14.2' N / 015°35.6' E

wind: NW – 3      Seastate: port      Weather: partly clouded      Temperature: 6°C

We woke far too early, at anchor in Longyearbyen, sad to know we will be leaving the ship. Our last breakfast seemed too early in the morning, but was very much appreciated, as we don't know where our next meals will be coming from!! We were back at the port of Bykoya in Longyearbyen, and it was time to leave the ship for the last time. On the dock, we found our luggage and sorted ourselves into the busses. We farewelled our new friends and set off on our travels and flights home, sad to be leaving, but also looking forward to our next adventures.



***Total distance travelled:***

***922 nautical miles***

***1708 kilometres***

***Furthest North***

***80°08.917' N / 014°28.017' E***

***On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions,  
the Captain, Crew and Staff  
on board MV Plancius:***



***It has been a pleasure travelling with you, and we hope  
to see you again!***

**[www.oceanwide-expeditions.com](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com)**

# Birds & Mammals of Svalbard

â

Day (29.6. - 5.7.2017)

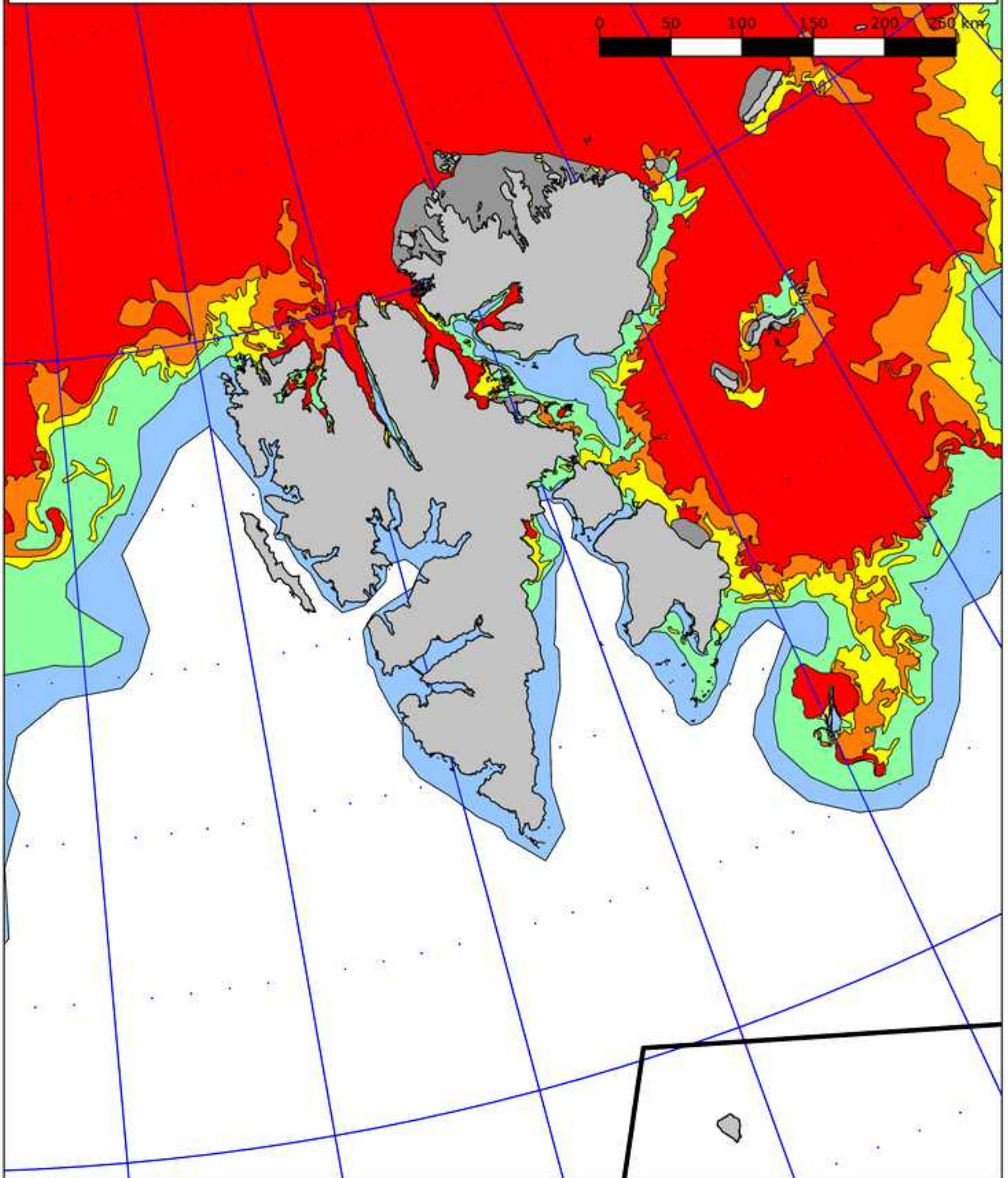
English Name	German	French	Dutch	Latin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Great Northern Diver	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker	<i>Gavia immer</i>							
Red-throated diver	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	<i>Gavia stellata</i>						X	
Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	Petrel fulmar	Noordse stormvogel	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Leach's Storm Petrel	Wellenläufer	Océanite culblanc	Vaal Stormvogeltje	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>							
Northern Gannet	Basstöpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	<i>Morus bassanus</i>							
Whopper Swan	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>							
Bean Goose	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	Taigarietgans	<i>Anser fabalis</i>							
Pink-footed Goose	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		X				X	
Barnacle Goose	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>				X		X	X
White-fronted Goose	Blässgans	Oie Rieuse	Kolgans	<i>Anser albifrons</i>							
Greylag Goose	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	<i>Anser anser</i>							
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	Hellbäuchige Ringelgans	Bernache à ventre pâle	Witbuikrotgans	<i>Branta hrota</i>							
Brent Goose	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	<i>Branta bernicla</i>							
Snow Goose	Schneegans	L'Oie des neiges	Sneeuwans	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>							
Eurasian Wigeon	Pfeifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	<i>Anas penelope</i>							
Eurasian Teal	Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	Wintertaling	<i>Anas crecca</i>							
Mallard	Stockente	Canard colvert	Wilde eend	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>							
Northern Pintail	Spießente	Canard pilet	Pijlstaart	<i>Anas acuta</i>							
Tufted Duck	Reiherente	Fuligule morillon	Kuifeend	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>							
Common Eider	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		X				X	
King Eider	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>							
Steller's Eider	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>							
Long-tailed Duck	Eisente	Harelde boréal	Ijseend	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>						X	
Black Scoter	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>							
Common Goldeneye	Schellente	Garrot à oeil d'or	Brilduiker	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>							
Rock Ptarmigan	Alpensneehuhn	Lagopède des Alpes	Spitsbergen Sneeuwhoen	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>							
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Austernfischer	Huitrier Pie	Scholekster	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>							
Ringed Plover	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				X			
European Golden Plover	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>							
Sanderling	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	<i>Calidris alba</i>							
Pectoral Sandpiper	Graubruststrandläufer	Bécasseau tacheté	Gestreepte strandloper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>							
Purple Sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>						X	
Red Knot	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoet	<i>Calidris canutus</i>							
Dunlin	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							












**Ice Categories**

 10/10ths	<b>Fast Ice</b>	 7-9/10ths	<b>Close Drift Ice</b>	 1-4/10ths	<b>Very Open Drift Ice</b>
 9-10/10ths	<b>Very Close Drift Ice</b>	 4-7/10ths	<b>Open Drift Ice</b>	 0-1/10ths	<b>Open Water</b>

Projection: Polar Stereographic, True Scale at 90°N, WGS84    Scale: 3.792.530  
 Map Corners:  
 UL = 82°59'26.367"N, 4°23'24.258"E    UR = 80°15'44.998"N, 44°11'58.041"E  
 LR = 72°32'49.391"N, 22°45'57.155"E    LL = 73°52'48.561"N, 1°53'51.282"E  
 Coastline Data: GSHHS version 2.2.0 (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/wessel/gshhs/>)




**Sentinel-1  
Radarsat-2**



# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2017

Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE WORTH A € 1000 GIFT VOUCHER?

## Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



## PRIZES



**€ 1000**

**GIFT VOUCHER**

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 500 gift voucher**

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 250 gift voucher**

for Oceanwide Expeditions

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

**WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY**

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2018.

Read the terms and conditions of the contest on [www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)



*Kayaking the Waters of Antarctica The weather changes so dramatically down here that you simply cannot say, "this looks like a great day" if it is one – rather you must live in the moment and perhaps a more appropriate phrase might be, "this looks like a great moment"! After enduring Force 8 winds on the Beaufort Wind Scale the Ortelius (our home during this Antarctica cruise) pulled into calm waters at Georges Point affording us our first close look at the breathtaking scenery (icebergs, glaciers and mountainous*

# TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2017

**Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.**

FANCY YOURSELF AS A TRAVEL WRITER? ENTER OUR ANNUAL TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION AND YOU JUST MIGHT WIN YOURSELF A **€ 1000 GIFT VOUCHER** FOR YOUR NEXT POLAR ADVENTURE.

### Write about your experience!

What was it like to camp out under the Antarctic sky? Was it scary when you encountered a polar bear? Was this your first cruise and were you nervous about crossing open waters?

After all, how your expedition made you feel is what you're going to carry with you for the rest of your life. If you share your experience you just might win yourself a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

### Here's what you need to do:

1. Write a post (600 – 1200 words) in Dutch, English, or German about what excited you the most on your Oceanwide Expeditions cruise. The topic is entirely up to you.
2. Make sure you add tiles and subtitles to the story.
3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post that links back to the particular trip you took as found on our website. The link could connect to the ship's page, the trip itinerary, the particular destination's page, or perhaps a page related to one of the activities you enjoyed.
4. Add 3 to 5 pictures (they should be 2 MB minimum in size, in landscape format and attached separately when you decide to send your entry to us).
5. Post it online and send us the URL where your story is published. **OR** send your post to us at [marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com](mailto:marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com). Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
6. **Spread the word!**



## PRIZES



**€ 1000**  
**GIFT VOUCHER**

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 500 gift voucher**  
for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 250 gift voucher**  
for Oceanwide Expeditions



**ENTRIES CLOSE  
DECEMBER 31**

Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2018

Read the full terms and conditions on [oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms](http://oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)

---

## Christian Engelke – Expedition Leader

---



Since his first vacation to Norway Christian has suffered severely under the quite widespread “scandinavia-fever”. He has been exploring both the mountains and coasts of Norway, Sweden and Greenland by feet, on skis and in his kayak.

Seit seinem ersten Norwegenurlaub hat Christian unter dem vielverbreiteten „Skandinavienfieber“ gelitten. Er hat dabei die Berge und Küstenregionen Norwegens, Schwedens und Grönlands vielfach zu Fuß, mit dem Seekajak und auf Skiern erkundet.

2008, studying engineering, Christian moved to Svalbard. After nearly three unforgettable years with many personal adventures and experiences as a guide at 78 degrees North, he moved «down South» to Tromsø in Northern Norway.

Since 2009 Christian is working as a freelance guide, both on daytrips and longer tours all year around. He also works as a guide and expedition leader on expedition cruise vessels in Greenland, Spitsbergen and Antarctica. In addition, Christian is a certified and self-employed sea kayak guide and instructor. He is offering kayak trips in Greenland and around Tromsø.

Im Rahmen seines, inzwischen abgeschlossenen, Ingenieurstudiums wanderte Christian 2008 nach Spitzbergen aus. Nach mehr als drei unvergesslichen Jahren mit vielen persönlichen Erkenntnissen und Erfahrungen als Touristenguide auf 78 Grad Nord, zog es Christian wieder „gen Süden“ nach Tromsø in Nordnorwegen.

Seit 2009 arbeitet Christian bereits als freiberuflicher Guide - sowohl auf Tagestouren als auch längeren Expeditionen. Christian ist zudem als Expeditionsleiter und Guide auf Expeditionsschiffen in Grönland, Spitzbergen und in der Antarktis tätig. Zudem ist er ausgebildeter Seekajakinstrukteur. Seine Spezialität sind mehrwöchige Kajaktouren, die er seit 2010 selbständig in Ostgrönland, Tasiilaq, und in der Gegend um Tromsø anbietet.

---

## Dr. Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader

---



**English:** Katja grew up in Germany, where she studied and completed a PhD in atmospheric chemistry. For her research, she overwintered at the German Antarctic Neumayer Station in 1997, where she was responsible for the Atmospheric Observatory. Since then, she has been on several scientific expeditions to Antarctica, e.g. measuring ozone at Scott Base and drilling ice cores at Law Dome. In Svalbard, she participated in a 220-km skiing expedition in the North-west of the island of Spitsbergen. In Greenland, she worked as a volunteer in the vicinity of Kanger-

lussuaq, where she helped to quantify carbon dioxide emissions from plants and soils.

In 2001, the great outdoors drew her to New Zealand, which she now calls home. Here, she has worked as a scientist for the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research in Wellington. Her main research interests were greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and in ice cores. In 2013, she quit her science job to work as freelance guide, science journalist, and photographer. She has worked as a guide and lecturer on passenger ships in both the Arctic and Antarctic since 2011. Life is an adventure for Katja, and whenever she can, she travels, hikes, cycles, sea-kayaks, and skis to the remote and beautiful places on earth. She is also a keen photographer, juggler, and chef. She speaks German and English.

**Deutsch:** Katja wuchs im Bergischen Land auf und promovierte am Alfred Wegener Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung in Bremerhaven. Für ihre Doktorarbeit in Atmosphären-chemie überwinterete sie 15 Monate lang in der Neumayer Station in der Antarktis. Seit 2001 lebt Katja im wunderschönen Neuseeland, wo sie erst am Nationalen Institut für Wasser- und Atmosphärenforschung in Wellington arbeitete. Dort beschäftigte sie sich hauptsächlich mit Treibhausgasen in der Luft und in Eiskernen. Seit 2013 arbeitet Katja als Reiseführerin und Fotografin.

In Spitzbergen unternahm sie 2001 eine 220 km lange Ski-Expedition im Nordwesten der Insel. In Grönland arbeitete sie in der Nähe von Kangerlussuaq und untersuchte dort den Kohlendioxidumsatz von Pflanzen in der Tundra. Sie hat auch eine starke Affinität zur Antarktis und hat an fünf wissenschaftlichen Expeditionen teilgenommen und den Kontinent an Bord einer Segeljacht bereist. Neben dem Reisen sind Fotografie, Lesen, Wandern Seekayak und Radwandern ihre großen Leidenschaften.

Katja spricht Deutsch und Englisch.

---

## Michael Ginzburg – Expedition Guide

---



**English:** Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (Germany) at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and even turned into an addiction when he stepped on Svalbard aged 20. Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice, and ever since, he has worked on the evolution and ecology of diatoms of the Arctic and Antarctic. Michael has studied both marine and

polar biology as well as participated in over a dozen scientific expeditions with durations of up to four months.

Having travelled all seven continents, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion for nature in photography and publications. Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist throughout the world. In 2016, Michael accepted a teaching position for photojournalism as well as the position of the editor in chief for The Explorer's Magazine.

**Deutsch:** Mit gerade mal 17 Jahren bekam Michael die Chance an einem Forschungsprojekt des Alfred Wegener Instituts für Polar- und Meeresforschung (Bremerhaven) mitzuwirken und seitdem hat er seine Arbeit auf Eisalgen und das Meereis konzentriert. Feldarbeit bekam seine grosse Leidenschaft, nachdem er mit 20 jungen Jahren zum ersten Mal Fuß auf Spitzbergen (Svalbard) setzte. Michaels grosse Liebe für das Meereis trieb ihn dazu, Evolution und Ökologie der arktischen und antarktischen Meereisdiatomeen zu studieren und dies tut er nun schon mehr als 12 Jahre. Zwischenzeitlich nahm er an dutzenden wissenschaftlichen Expeditionen teil mit z.T. vier Monaten Länge.

Alle sieben Kontinente bereist, war es nur eine Frage der Zeit, bis Michael seine Leidenschaft für die Natur in Fotografie und Dokumentation teilte. Heute leitet Michael verschiedene Expeditionen und arbeitet als Fotojournalist rund um die Welt. In 2016 akzeptierte er eine Dozentenstelle für Fotojournalismus sowie eine Position als Chefredakteur für das Explorer's Magazine.

---

## Sebastian Arrebola – Expedition Guide

---



**English:** Sebastian is from Buenos Aires, Argentina. He holds a tourism degree and has completed a one-year mountain guide training course, climbing in regions like Mendoza, Bariloche, and Tierra del Fuego. In 2000, he moved to Ushuaia and became a tour guide. From 2002, he lived in England for almost two years to follow various courses of the Royal Yachting Association.

Sebastian took his specialism in polar tourism and natural history on a first trip to Antarctica on board a 36-ft sail boat, where he developed ice-navigation skills and came to appreciate the polar environment. He has since led several expedition cruises down the very

south. Since 2008, he also ventures north into the Canadian Arctic, through the Northwest Passage, and to Svalbard.

Sebastian has been an invited speaker on Antarctic topics at international meetings and public events. He has published in magazines like *The Great Southern Route*, *Superyacht Times*, and *Boat International* and co-authored “ANTARCTICA, DISCOVERING THE LAST CONTINENT”. He speaks Spanish and English.

**Deutsch:** Sebastian kommt aus Buenos Aires, Argentinien, und hat Tourismus studiert. Während eines einjährigen Bergführerkursus kletterte er in den Regionen Mendoza, Bariloche und im Feuerland. 2000 zog er nach Ushuaia und arbeitete als Tourguide. Ab 2002 wohnte er zwei Jahre lang in England, um dort an verschiedenen Kursen der Royal Yachting Association teilzunehmen.

Sebastians Spezialismus in Polartourismus und -naturgeschichte begleitete ihn auf seiner ersten Antarktisreise. An Bord eines 12-m Segelschiffs schulte er seine Eisnavigation und lernte die polare Umwelt schätzen. Seitdem hat er etliche Expeditionskreuzfahrten in den tiefsten Süden geführt. Seit 2008 treibt es ihn auch in den Hohen Norden, d.h. in die kanadische Arktis, durch die Northwest-Passage und nach Spitzbergen (Svalbard).

Sebastian hat vor internationalen Gesellschaften und in Öffentlichkeitsarbeit über antarktische Themen gesprochen. Er hat in verschiedenen Zeitschriften veröffentlicht und ist Co-Autor von “Antarktis, Entdeckung des letzten Kontinenten”. Er spricht Spanisch und Englisch.

---

## Michelle van Dijk – Guide and Lecturer

---



Is nearly a local, since she is the owner of Longyearbyen Camping, world's northernmost camping site. Working as a guide, this campsite has been her homebase since 2004.

Living in a tent, she spends three months a year on Spitsbergen guiding day trips, trekking & expedition cruises. These days she mainly works on ships, as guide or expedition leader.

She believes that there is no better way to get closer to a place than to work there – she has also lived in Sweden & Iceland. Her first visit to Spitsbergen was back in 2001 and instantly she fell in love with this remote archipelago.

Although she picked plants as her specialism, Michelle is a generalist. She took the course Arctic & Antarctic studies at Groningen University and recently she published a book about Sjev van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928.

Michelle has been working as a guide in Antarctica, the Falklands, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Jan Mayen, South Georgia, Spitsbergen and Sweden.

### Deutsch

Michelle besitzt Longyearbyen Camping, den nördlichsten Campingplatz der Welt. Als sie 2001 zum ersten Mal die Arktis besuchte, verliebte sie sich in diese karge, minimalistische Landschaft. Sie arbeitete anschließend als Naturführerin auf Tages- und Trekkingtouren sowie Expeditionskreuzfahrten.

Sie lebte in Schweden und Island und arbeitete dort, denn sie glaubt, dass man einem Land am besten nahe kommt, wenn man dort auch zur Arbeit geht.

Michelle hat an der Universität Groningen einen Kurs in Arktischen und Antarktischen Studien belegt. Sie hat in der Antarktis, auf den Falklands, Faröer-Inseln, Grönland, Island, Jan Mayen, in Schweden, auf Spitzbergen und Südgeorgien gearbeitet.

Sie können Michelle in verschiedenen Sprachen ansprechen, aber sie wird nur in Holländisch, Englisch, Deutsch oder Schwedisch antworten.



## BIRGIT LUTZ – EXPEDITION STAFF



Birgit loves being out and away – that is why her life changed from award-winning journalist to Arctic addicted adventurer. She worked for 15 years for the German Süddeutsche Zeitung, but started working on expedition cruises in 2007, after a first tour to the North Pole aboard the Russian icebreaker Yamal. She took up „Circumpolar Studies“ at the Canadian University of the Arctic and since then combines arctic voyages with writing. In 2010 and 2011 she skied from drift ice station Barneo to the North Pole. In 2013 Birgit crossed Greenland on skis and

became Fellow of the Explorers Club New York. In 2015 and 2016 she spent several months in East Greenland and went hunting and fishing with natives, and her forth book, to be published in October 2017 will tell about this experience. In 2016 Birgit has initiated a plastic project for the German Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research, for which she collects data about marine plastic pollution – together with guests. Birgit is a requested speaker for companies and speaks English, Italian, Dutch and French. She enjoys nature and silence loves sharing her enthusiasm for the Arctic and lives with her husband besides an idyllic mountain lake in Bavaria.

**Deutsch:** Birgit ist gerne weit weg und draußen unterwegs. 15 Jahre lang schrieb die Journalistin für die Süddeutsche Zeitung, begann nach einer ersten Reise zum Nordpol im Jahr 2007 an Bord des russischen Eisbrechers Yamal aber, immer mehr für Expeditionsreisen zu arbeiten. Sie begann den Studiengang „Circumpolar Studies“ an der kanadischen University of the Arctic und kombiniert seitdem Reisen und Expeditionen mit Schreiben. 2010 und 2011 marschierte sie auf Skiern von der Drifteisstation Barneo zum Nordpol. 2013 durchquerte sie Grönland auf Skiern und wurde zum Fellow des Explorers Club New York ernannt. 2015 und 2016 verbrachte sie drei Monate in Ostgrönland, wo sie mit Einheimischen jagen und fischen ging. Ihr viertes Buch, das im Oktober 2017 erscheint, handelt von diesen Erlebnissen. 2016 initiierte Birgit ein Projekt für das Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, für das sie Daten über die marine Plastikverschmutzung sammelt – zusammen mit Gästen. Birgit ist eine gefragte Rednerin vor Unternehmen. Sie spricht englisch, italienisch, niederländisch und französisch, teilt sehr gern ihre Begeisterung für die Arktis mit anderen, liebt Natur und Stille und lebt mit ihrem Mann an einem idyllischen bayerischen Bergsee.

---

## Dr. Alexander Romanovski – Expedition Guide

---



**English:** Alexander (Sascha) originates from Saint-Petersburg, the northern capital of Russia. Born in 1981, he graduated from boarding school before entering Saint-Petersburg State University, where he studied physical and regional geography, ecology, and international tourism. His PhD research at Herzen State Pedagogical University focused on geocology.

In 2011, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and do something completely different. He homed in on tourism and kicked in the door to the world: as trekking guide in the Fann mountains (Tajikistan); as guesthouse staff at the Novolazarevskaya scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica). Since 2012, he lives for most of the year in Svalbard, guiding in the ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016, Alexander turned over a yet another page in his colourful career, now as a naturalist guide on cruise ships around Svalbard and Antarctica.

Each year, Alexander dedicates three to four months to his main passion – globetrotting. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying with locals or

sleeping in a tent. This way, he has already set foot in almost all Soviet republics, the Middle East, Asia, and South America. Luckily, Earth is not flat, and there is no end! Our world is big, friendly, and certainly interesting to explore!

**Deutsch:** Alexander (Sascha) kommt aus Sankt Petersburg, der nördlichen Hauptstadt Russlands. Jahrgang 1981 besuchte er das Internat vor seinem Grundstudium in physischer und regionaler Geografie, Ökologie und internationalem Tourismus an der staatlichen Universität von Sankt Petersburg. Seine Doktorarbeit an der Staatlichen Pädagogischen Universität Herzen handelte von Geoökologie.

2011 entschied Alexander sich zu einer akademischen Pause und einem gewagten Umschwung. Er setzte auf den Tourismus und trat damit die Tür zur Welt ein: als Trekking-Guide im Fanngebirge (Tajikistan); als Mitarbeiter im Gasthaus der Novolazarevskaya Station (Königin Maud Land, Antarktika). Seit 2012 lebt er hauptsächlich in Spitzbergen (Svalbard) und führt Besucher durch die Geisterstadt Pyramiden. 2016 schlug Alexander wieder eine neue Seite in seinem bunten Lebenslauf auf, diesmal als naturkundlicher Führer an Bord von Expeditionskreuzfahrten rund um Svalbard und Antarktika.

Jedes Jahr widmet Alexander drei bis vier Monate seiner eigentlichen Leidenschaft: dem Globetrotting. Kein öffentlicher Verkehr, kein Hotel, nur mit Daumen und Zelt bewaffnet und ab und zu örtliche Gastfreundschaft genießend. So befinden sich seine Fußspuren bereits in fast allen sowjetischen Republiken, dem Mittleren Osten, Asien und Südamerika. Glücklicherweise ist die Erde nicht flach und es kommt kein Ende! Unsere Welt ist groß, freundlich und sicherlich entdeckungswürdig!

---

## Lydia Messingfeld – Expedition Guide

---



**English:** Lydia is from Germany. She studied in Bonn to become a translator for Korean and Japanese. Nevertheless, after working as an international exchange co-ordinator for a while, she decided to pursue her real passion, Biology. In 2016 she graduated with a Master's degree in Organismic, Evolutionary and Palaeobiology. For her Master's thesis she was employed by the Alfred-Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven and spent three months at the Marine Laboratory in Ny-Ålesund at around 79°N to conduct laboratory and field experiments on the ecology of Arctic kelps. After experiencing the beauty of the North, Lydia could not stay away and returned to study Arctic Biology as a visiting student at UNIS in Longyearbyen for four months where she learned all about water and zooplankton sampling, and sea ice ecology.

In addition, Lydia has a passion for birds and is experienced with catching little auks, Arctic terns, and Barnacle geese. Other interests include sea-kayaking, diving, water skiing, and dancing. She joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide in August 2016.

**Deutsch:** Lydia kommt aus Deutschland. Sie ist ursprünglich Diplom-Übersetzerin für Koreanisch und Japanisch. Nachdem sie eine Zeit lang an der Universität Wuppertal als Internationalisierungskoordinatorin gearbeitet hatte, fasste sie den Entschluss ihrer wahren Leidenschaft zu folgen und studierte Biologie an der Universität Bonn. Seit 2016 hat sie ihren M.Sc. Abschluss in Organismischer, Evolutions- und Paläobiologie in der Tasche. Lydia arbeitete im Rahmen ihrer Masterarbeit für das Alfred-Wegener Institut in Bremerhaven und verbrachte drei Monate in Ny-Ålesund auf fast 79°N, um Labor- und Freilandexperimente zu der Ökologie Arktischer Braunalgen durchzuführen. Die Schönheit des Nordens faszinierte Lydia so sehr, dass sie nicht lange fernbleiben konnte. Sie kehrte nach Longyearbyen zurück und studierte vier Monate lang Arktische Biologie als Gaststudentin am University Centre of Svalbard. In dieser Zeit lernte sie vor allem viel über Zooplankton- und Wasserproben, sowie Meereisökologie. Lydia liebt die arktische Vogelwelt und konnte im Rahmen von verschiedenen Projekten bereits beim Fangen von Krabbentauchern, Küstenseeschwalben, und Weißwangengänsen assistieren. Zu ihren Interessen gehört außerdem Kayak- und Wasserskifahren, Tauchen, und Tanzen. Lydia arbeitet seit August 2016 nebenberuflich als Guide für Oceanwide Expeditions.



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

# Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew

of 45

Including:

Hotel Manager:	<b>Sebastian Duma</b>	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Sava Savov</b>	[Bulgaria]
Head Chef:	<b>Gabor Kiss</b>	[Hungary]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Edwin van Leeuwen</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Christian Engelke</b>	[Germany/ Norway]
Asst Expedition Leader:	<b>Katja Riedel</b>	[Germany/ New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Birgit Lutz</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Alexander Romanovski</b>	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sebastian Arrebola</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Michelle van Dijk</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Michael Ginzburg</b>	[Germany/Russia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Lydia Messingfeld</b>	[Germany]

Welcome you on board!



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Spitsbergen

# Polar Bear Special

## Embarkation in Longyearbyen

Thursday, 29 June 2017

**from 16.00 Welcome on board!** Feel free to explore the lovely *Plancius* once you settled in your cabin.

~17.00 **TBA First meeting and Welcome** in the Bar/Lounge on Deck 5.  
**Mandatory Safety Briefing** for all passengers in the Lounge.

~18.00 Our *Plancius* is leaving Longyearbyen! The foredeck and aft deck are closed while the crew is handling the mooring lines.

~18.30 **TBA** We are meeting in the Bar/Lounge on Deck 5 for further **information** from the **Expedition** and **Hotel Team**.

19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant  
(Deck 3, behind Reception)

**TBA** = „to be announced“

*“One of the gladdest moments in life, me thinks, is the departure upon a distant journey to unknown lands. Shaking off with one mighty effort the fetters of habit, the leaden weight of routine, the cloak of many cares, man feels once more happy ... a fresh the morn of life.”*

*Sir Richard Burton, 1856*



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Spitsbergen

# Polar Bear Special

## Isfjorden

### Friday, 30 June 2017

During the night we will check at Longyearbyen airport if the missing luggage has arrived and we will plan our further activities accordingly. Our morning briefings will be held independently from the luggage situation.

- 07.30**      **Wake up call.** Christian also informs you about our progress.
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00**      **Mandatory** briefing in the **English** language in the Lounge **on Zodiac operations** and **how to behave in Polar Bear country.** All non-German speakers have to attend this *briefing.*
- ca. 09.45      The **rubber boots** will be handed out for our English-speaking passengers. Please listen for **announcements**, we will call you deck by deck.  
*The German speakers will meanwhile get their briefing in the Lounge.*
- 13.00**      **Lunch Buffet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- TBA**      Afternoon activity. We plan to offer you either a Zodiac Cruise or landing during the afternoon. We will inform you about times and places once we have confirmed our plans.
- 18.30**      **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 19.30**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

*"Where does the white go when the snow melts?"*

*Author Unknown*



# Spitsbergen

## Polar Bear Special

### Pack Ice of the North

### Saturday, 01 July 2017

#### All activities today are ice- and wildlife-depend

**07.30**      **Wake-up call!** Christian's voice will stop our sleep.

**08.00**      The **Breakfast** buffet is for **one hour** available in the Dining Room.

**Expedition Morning!** North of Spitzbergen we will encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck – it is a brilliant experience itself to manoeuvre close to the edge of the pack ice.

If we encounter marine mammals, please **keep noise levels down** (speak quietly; close doors gently) for the best opportunities to remain with the wildlife.

**12.30**      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

**Expedition Afternoon!** We remain in and around the pack ice as we continue our search for Arctic wildlife. But we will also spot seabirds, maybe even the ivory gull and with luck some seals.

**18.15**      **Recap** of today and **Briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.

**19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room.

*One does not discover new parts of the world,  
without the courage  
of leaving all coastlines behind.*

*André Gide*



**Spitsbergen - Polar Bear Special  
Smeerenburg & Hamiltonbukta  
Sunday 2 July 2017**

- 0730 Wake-up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the dining room
- ~0930 This morning we would like to take you ashore at **Smeerenburg**, a Dutch whaling settlement from the 17th century where we will be able to see the remains of old blubber ovens. Sometimes walrus are hauled out on the beach. Please remember to be quite when we approach the walrus. *We start to embark our German speaking passengers at 9.00, and continue with the English speakers at 9.30.*
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1430 In the afternoon we plan to cruise into **Raudfjord**, which is a particularly scenic fjord. In **Hamiltonbukta** we would like to take you on a Zodiac cruise, enjoying ice, scenery and possibly wildlife. Please dress warmly. *We start to embark our English speaking passengers first.*
- 1815 Come and join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap** and hear about our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Please join us for **Dinner** in the Dining Room.

**But can't you hear the Wild?—it's calling you.  
Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck betide us;  
Let us journey to a lonely land I know.  
There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star a gleam to guide us,  
And the Wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.**

Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild





# Spitsbergen

## Polar Bear Special

### Pack Ice of the North

### Monday, 03 July 2017

#### All activities today are ice- and wildlife-depend

**07.30**      **Wake-up call!** Christian's voice will stop our sleep.

**08.00**      The **Breakfast** buffet is for **one hour** available in the Dining Room.

**Expedition Morning!** North of Spitzbergen we will encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck.

**TBA**      Please come to the Dining Room where Michelle will talk about **Polar Bears** (in English). Please listen for announcements.

If we encounter marine mammals, please **keep noise levels down** (speak quietly; close doors gently) for the best opportunities to remain with the wildlife.

**12.30**      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

**Expedition Afternoon!** We remain in and around the pack ice as we continue our search for Arctic wildlife. But we will also spot seabirds, maybe even the ivory gull and with luck some seals.

**18.15**      **Recap** of today and **Briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.

**19.00**      A special **Arctic Dinner** will be served tonight on the back deck (behind the Dining room). Please dress warmly and bring your dancing shoes!

*Exploring means seeing what everybody has seen before,  
and thinking what nobody has thought before.*

*A. Szent-Györgyi, 1962*



**Spitsbergen - Polar Bear Special  
Expedition day  
Tuesday 4 July 2017**

Our program today is dependent on our progress and ice conditions during the night.

0730 Wake-up call.

0800 **Breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

0900 Please come to the lounge for a **briefing** about our activities today.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1815 Come and join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap** and hear about our plans for tomorrow.

1900 Please join us for **Dinner** in the Dining Room.

*A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike.  
And all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless.  
We find after years  
of struggle that we do not take a trip;  
a trip takes us.*

*John Steinbeck*



**Spitsbergen - Polar Bear Special**  
**Bellsund: Ingeborgfjellet & Recherchefjord**  
**Wednesday 5 July 2017**

- 0730 Wake-up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the dining room
- 0900 Landing at **Ingeborgfjellet**: This area has a spectacular Little auk colony. These birds nest among boulders in the cliffs, and a walk up-slope on rocky tundra is necessary to get closer to them. Should you rather stay on the flat parts, it still remains a unique experience to see these birds and hear their incredible laughing calls. Keep a lookout for reindeer and foxes.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

In the afternoon it is time for the **settlement of your shipboard accounts**: Sebastian and Sava will call you by deck number. Please listen for announcements.

- ~1400 **Recherchefjord**: Depending on the wind direction there are several landing options. Once we are there we will decide where we will go ashore.
- 1830 **Captains Cocktails**. Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge as we toast a successful voyage with Captain Alexey.
- 1900 A **farewell dinner** will be served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

I CANNOT REST FROM TRAVEL, I WILL DRINK LIFE FROM THE LEES.  
ALL TIMES I HAVE ENJOYED GREATLY. - ULYSSES



## Spitsbergen - Polar Bear Special Disembarkation in Longyearbyen Thursday 6 July 2017

**If you are on the 02:30am flight out of Longyearbyen:** Please put your check-in luggage by 23:00 latest tonight (5 July) outside your cabin. (If you are on a later flight keep your luggage inside your cabin until breakfast!!)

0000 A short **wake up call**

0030 The busses to the airport are on the pier for those who are on the 02.30 am flight. Identify your luggage on the pier and take it to the bus. Please drop your cabin keys at reception before leaving the ship!

0715 Last **Wake up call**. The bridge will be closed this morning.

**Before you go to breakfast please put your check-in luggage outside your cabin door and return your keys to reception.**

0730 The **breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

~0830 We will start to shuttle you with the Zodiacs to the pier. This is a dry landing onto a jetty. **Please wear your waterproofs and your lifejacket!**

0900 ● Busses will be on the pier ready to ferry you to the center of town. **Please identify your luggage on the pier!** We can help you load it onto the luggage truck. (You will meet the luggage truck again at the airport where you need to take your luggage from the truck to the check-in counter.)

● If you are staying in town overnight please take your luggage with you on the bus, **don't** put it on the truck!

1300 Busses will transport you from the town center to the Airport to meet your plane. They will pick you up from where you were dropped off.

*And the end of all our exploring  
will be to arrive where we started  
and know the place for the first time."*

*Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888-1965), American-born British poet*