



Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

20. August to 29. August 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.



Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew of 46
including:

1rd Officer	Artur Iakovlev	[Russia]
2nd Officer	Romanas Vikas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Head ingénieur	Teunis van't Verlaat	[The Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Sebastian Duma	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Sava Savov	[Bulgaria]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Thomas Matthews	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Christian Engelke	[Germany/Norway]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Sandra Petrowitz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Steffi Sutter	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Gérard Bodineau	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Miriam Marquardt	[Germany/Spitsbergen]
Expedition Guide:	Sebastián Arrebola	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Otero Faus	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Irene Kastner	[Germany/Spitsbergen]
Expedition Trainee	Johanne Skrefsrud	[Norway]

welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Sunday, 20. August 2017

Embarkation, Longyearbyen, Adventfjord

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

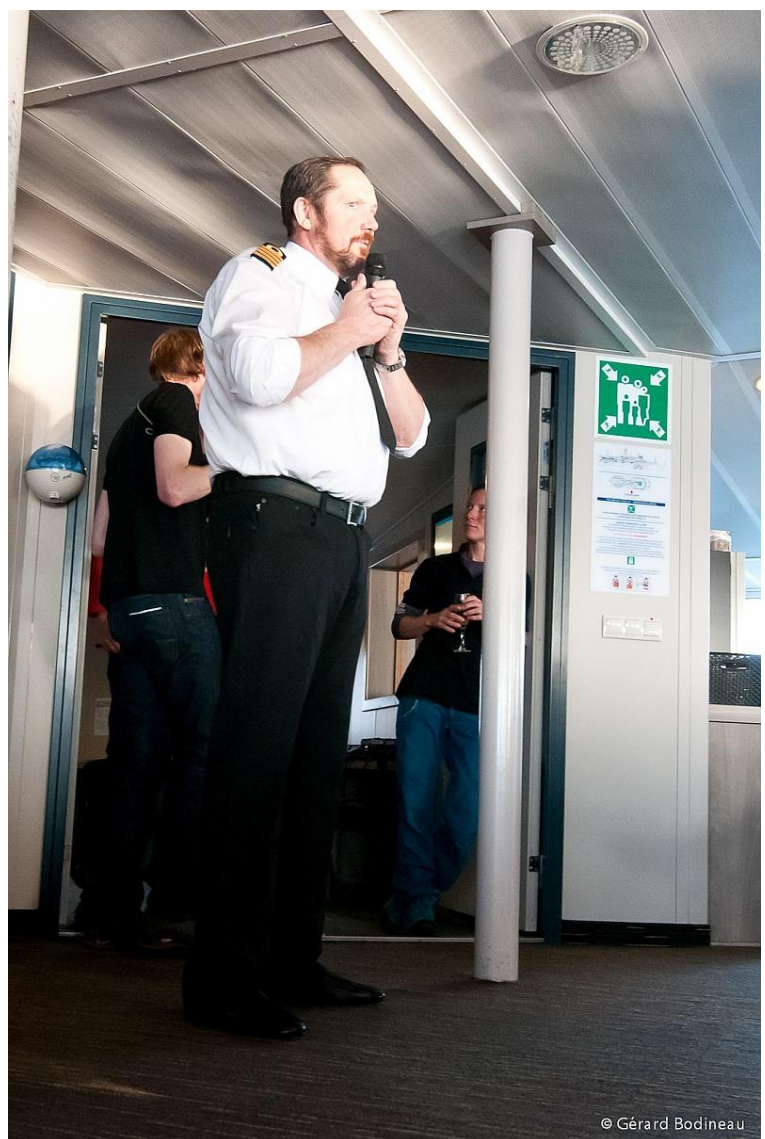
Wind: E-3 Sea state: slight Weather: partly clouded Temperature: 2°C

today's writer: Gérard

Some of us had just arrived at the Longyearbyen airport on this sleepy Sunday. Others had already had a few hours to explore Spitsbergen's small capital city, visiting the museum and the church. At 16.00 we were able to finally board M/V *Plancius*. Christian, our Expedition Leader, greeted us on the pier and we took the first steps up the gangway into the ship.

Once on board, we were welcomed by Hotel Manager Sebastian. And with the help of the hotel crew we settled into our cabins; our luggage was already there! We had a few minutes to wander around and get familiar with the inside of the ship, as this will be our home for the next nine days.

We were soon gathered in the observation lounge to be briefed about safety on board. The briefing was held by First Officer Artur who was talking about ship safety and how to prepare for the worst. A general alarm-drill (seven short blasts followed by one long blast) was made, and we all took the SOLAS orange life jackets and mustered in the lounge guided by crew and staff. After a roll call to assure everyone was present, we went out to the lifeboats hoping to never actually have to use them again. During this time, *Plancius* got off the pier and started sailing into Adventfjorden.



© Gérard Bodineau

After a short break to enjoy this scenic navigation, Christian invited us for another briefing about life on board. We as passengers are a very multicultural/international group. All orientation material is given bilingual in both German and English. Sebastian introduced us



© Gérard Bodineau



© Gérard Bodineau

to the interiors of the ship, hotel operations and dining room edict and Christian introduced the expedition team. Captain Evgeny joined us in the lounge for a welcoming toast of sparkling wine or juice before we headed down to the dining room for our first scrumptious dinner prepared by Head Chef Ralf and his staff.

After dinner, the staff called us to get our rubber boots which we will use when disembarking from the Zodiacs during this voyage.

Most of us were eager to get out on deck to enjoy the arctic light and views of Northern Fulmars, Kittiwakes and some Whale blows in the distance. An exciting first day came to an end, the start of many more adventures to come in the following week.

Day 2 – Monday, 21. August 2017

Ny Ålesund (Kongsfjord) and polar bears at Danskøya (Smeerenburgfjord)

GPS Position 08:00: 78°55.7' N / 011°56.2' E

Wind: SW-3 **Sea state:** smooth **Weather:** cloudy **Temperature:** 4°C

today's writer: Valeria

Early in the morning we heard Sandra's wake up call, and the expedition had officially started. Some of us were already up, enjoying the outer decks and breathing in the fresh arctic air.

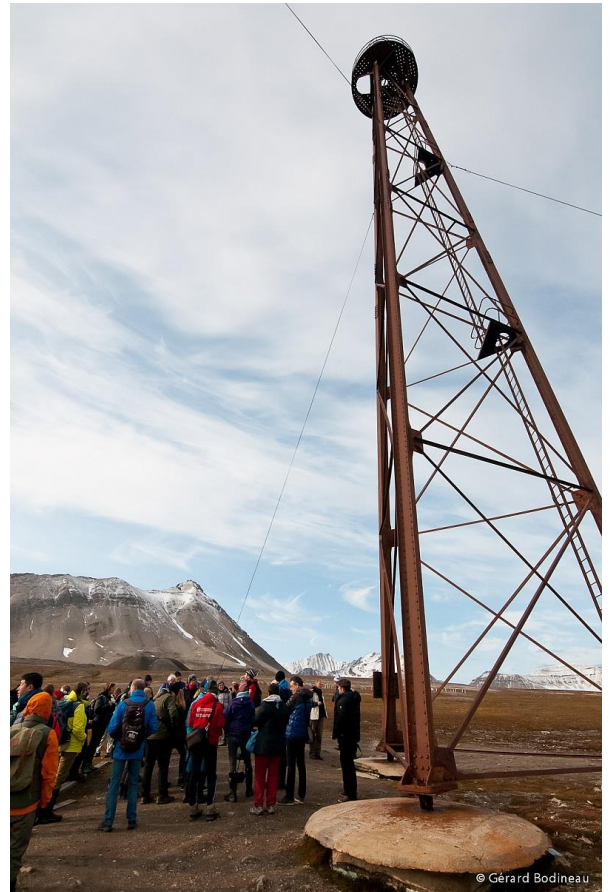
After having breakfast we got dressed for the first activity of the trip: visiting Ny Ålesund. The reason for the town's foundation was coal mining, which resulted in construction of the northernmost railway, which can still be seen. The company setting up the mining village was Norwegian and had its headquarters in the coastal town of Ålesund, thus the name Ny Ålesund (New Ålesund). Once a mining village, now Ny Ålesund is a research centre. Since 1964 this northernmost settlement is housing several scientific stations of different nationalities.



© Miriam Marquardt

As soon as we got off the ship we were welcomed by a juvenile arctic fox wearing its summer fur, it was a wonderful start. We walked around the settlement for some time, a permanent home for about 40 people the whole year around, and increasing to around 100 during the busy summer months. Some of us visited the museum, the post office and the gift shop before gathering by the Amundsen bust to start a historical tour with the tales of the expedition staff. We made a walk from the bust to the mast and learned about Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, and his expedition on the airship *Norge* which became the first to fly over the North Pole in 1926.

During the stroll we also got to see barnacle geese, common eiders and even a harbour seal resting not very far away.





Back at *Plancius* the lunch was waiting for us in the restaurant which could be enjoyed while the ship repositioned to go further north. After a good meal we attended the mandatory briefing about zodiac operations and polar bear safety.



In the afternoon we sailed through the scenic Sjørgattet channel, which separates West Spitsbergen from Danskøya (Danish Island). While watching the beautiful surroundings from the ship, we were surprised to suddenly hear the announcement “There is a polar bear on land!”. Our Expedition Leader Christian announced that we will be going on a zodiac cruise to try to get a better view of that bear. And so we did! Cruising the coastline with the zodiacs we spotted not only one, but two polar bears! The reason for such an encounter was a sperm whale carcass which had been lying by the coast of Danskøya for quite a while now. The light could not have been better, defining the silhouette of the bear while we kept on clicking.

We spent around two hours enjoying the bears before we had to return to our floating home. Gathering in the lounge we were ready for the recap of this amazing first day full of wildlife as well as talk about the plans for tomorrow.

After a delicious dinner, we went to bed excitedly looking forward to a new expedition day!



Day 3 – Tuesday, 22. August 2017

Phippsøya (Seven Islands) and Reliktbukta (Nordaustland)

GPS Position 08:00: 80°41.4' N / 020°35.9' E

Wind: N-3 Sea state: calm Weather: overcast Temperature: 3°C

today's writer: Sebastián

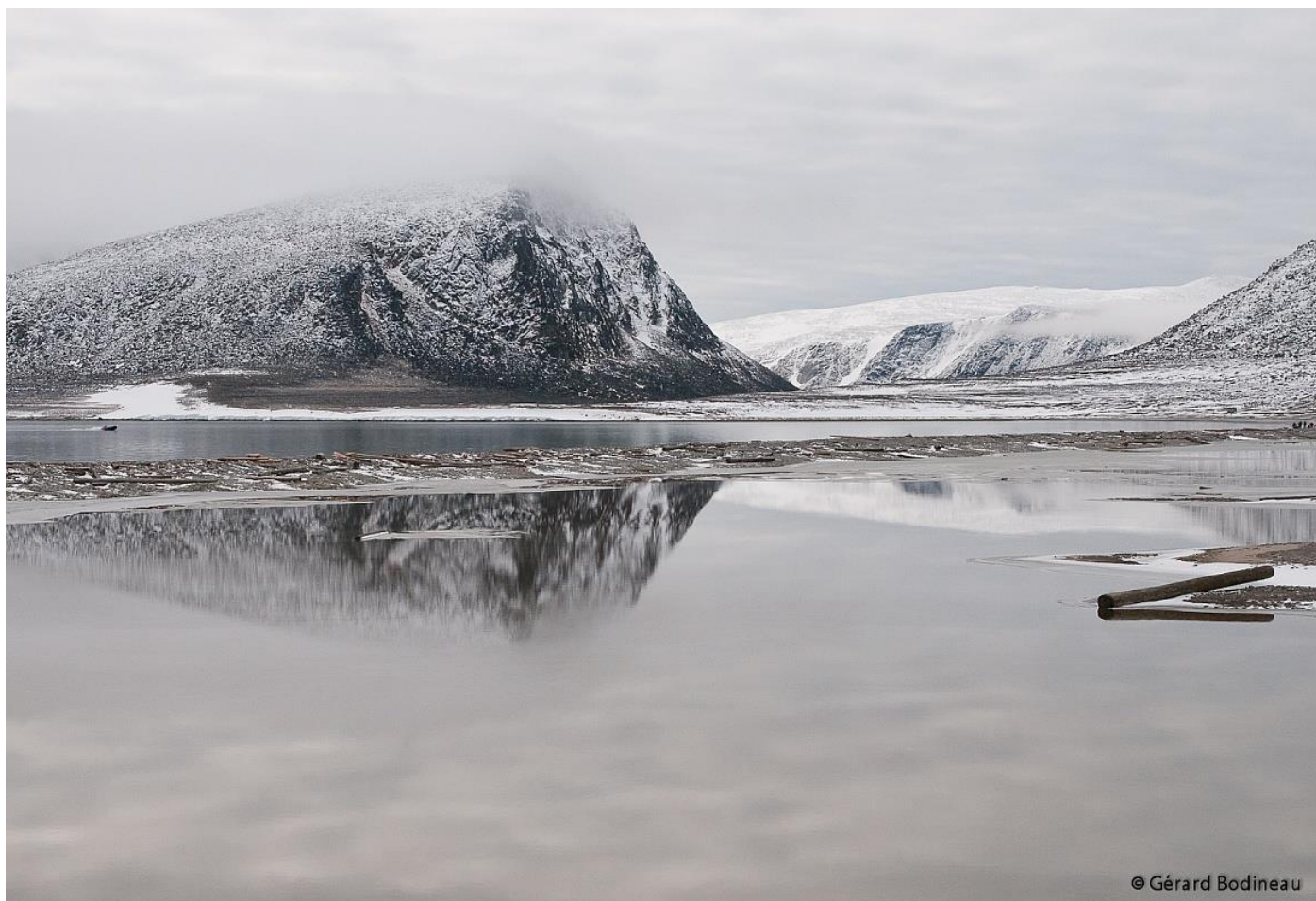
After a pleasant night of sleep we were woken up once more by Sandra, and got ready for a delicious breakfast. In the meantime, *Plancius* was making her approach to the Sjuøyane group, the Seven Islands. These remote islands are hard to reach and form the northern most part of Spitsbergen. They were discovered by the English captain Constantine Phipps in 1773. He was commander of an expedition onboard the oddly named ships *Carcass* and *Racehorse*. The later famous Horatio Nelson was onboard the *Carcass* as a young midshipman. The legend says that one day he escaped with a friend to hunt a polar bear, missed the shot, and as the polar bear was getting closer, he tried to defend himself with the back side of the gun, using it as a club, the odds were not on his side. But luckily, for both Nelson and the bear, the ice floe where they were standing, cracked open and split in two, leaving the bear on one side and Nelson on the other. The ship shot a gunfire, the bear escaped and Nelson was rescued safe and sound.





Plancius made her way between the islands and dropped anchor. Our Expedition Leader, Christian, and other staff members left in two zodiacs to scout for bears on the shores of Phippsøya Island. After a good search by the staff, we went on land in this Arctic desert, and divided into three groups doing, a long, a medium and a leisure walk. We had the

chance to see the small vegetation growing between the rocks and enjoy the fantastic views of the high Arctic. From a ridge on the island we could see the sea and the ice to the north, at this very end of the world, there was nothing between us and the North Pole.



We made it back to the ship for a nice warm lunch and repositioned towards Reliktbukta, on the north side of Nordaustland. This place rarely gets visitors and it is a perfect example of polar desert.





We divided into four groups, the more energetic ones went on a steep fast climb to the top of a hill, where they enjoyed fantastic views of the surrounding landscape. The others got divided in groups and had a very nice walk in the Arctic desert. There were a few Kittiwakes flying around and we saw a polar fox walking on the plain, it was so confident that it even approached us a bit to check us out.



© Miriam Marquardt

The light was magnificent, the sun shining in an angle making it perfect for photo opportunities. Excellent way to finish a truly Arctic day.



© Gérard Bodineau

Day 4 – Wednesday, 23. August 2017

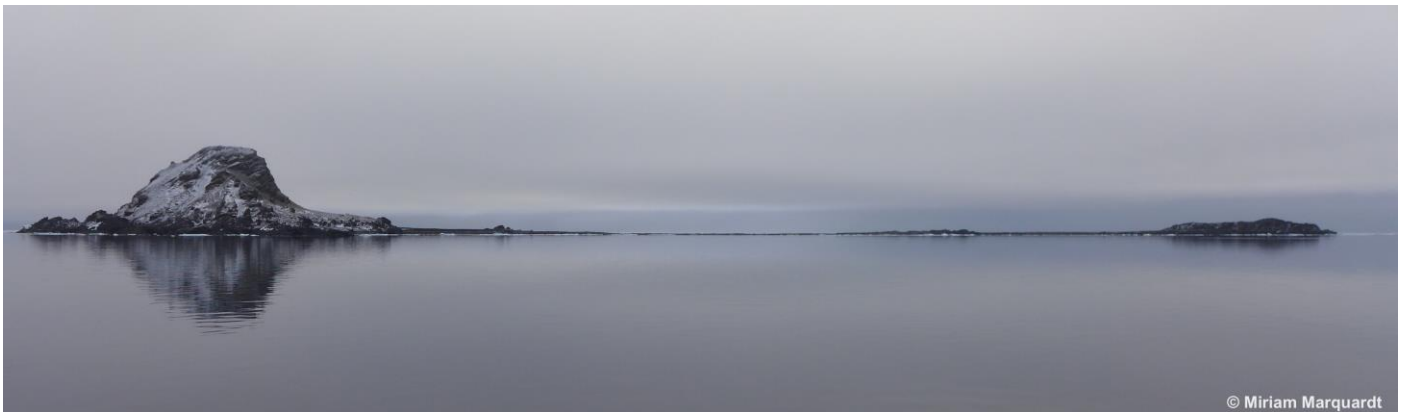
Karl XII Øya and Albertinibukta

GPS Position 08:00: 80°39.4' N / 024°56.1' E

Wind: S-3 **Sea state:** calm **Weather:** cloudy **Temperature:** 2°C

today's writer: Johanne

We woke up to a calm, foggy morning. After a lovely breakfast we were ready for a new adventurous day in the archipelagos of Svalbard. Despite the calm wind conditions, strong currents carrying drift ice along the ship made it more challenging to board the zodiacs this morning. With all guests and crew finally distributed in the zodiacs, we slowly approached Karl XII Øya making our way between the drifting ice sheets. This island is named after the King of Sweden who ruled from 1682-1718.



© Miriam Marquardt

In the 19th century Karl XII consisted of two separate islands, since then a gravel ridge or a “tombolo” has grown connecting the two, and this is where we landed today. The northern part of the island is a steep rock tower with some bird colonies nesting on the cliffside with little to no vegetation. We had to take special care to look out for polar bears and be prepared to board the zodiacs at every moment due to the small size of this island and therefore greater risk of a polar bear suddenly appearing. After exploring and collecting plastic along the beach, we boarded the zodiacs again and got back to *Plancius* where our Hotel Manager, Sebastian, was ready with our delicious lunch.



© Gérard Bodineau



Some rest is always needed to be ready for new impressions as well as time to sail to a new location. In the afternoon *Plancius* entered Albertinibukta named after a rescuer who was part of an Italian rescue expedition in search for survivors of a polar expedition lead by the explorer Nobile.

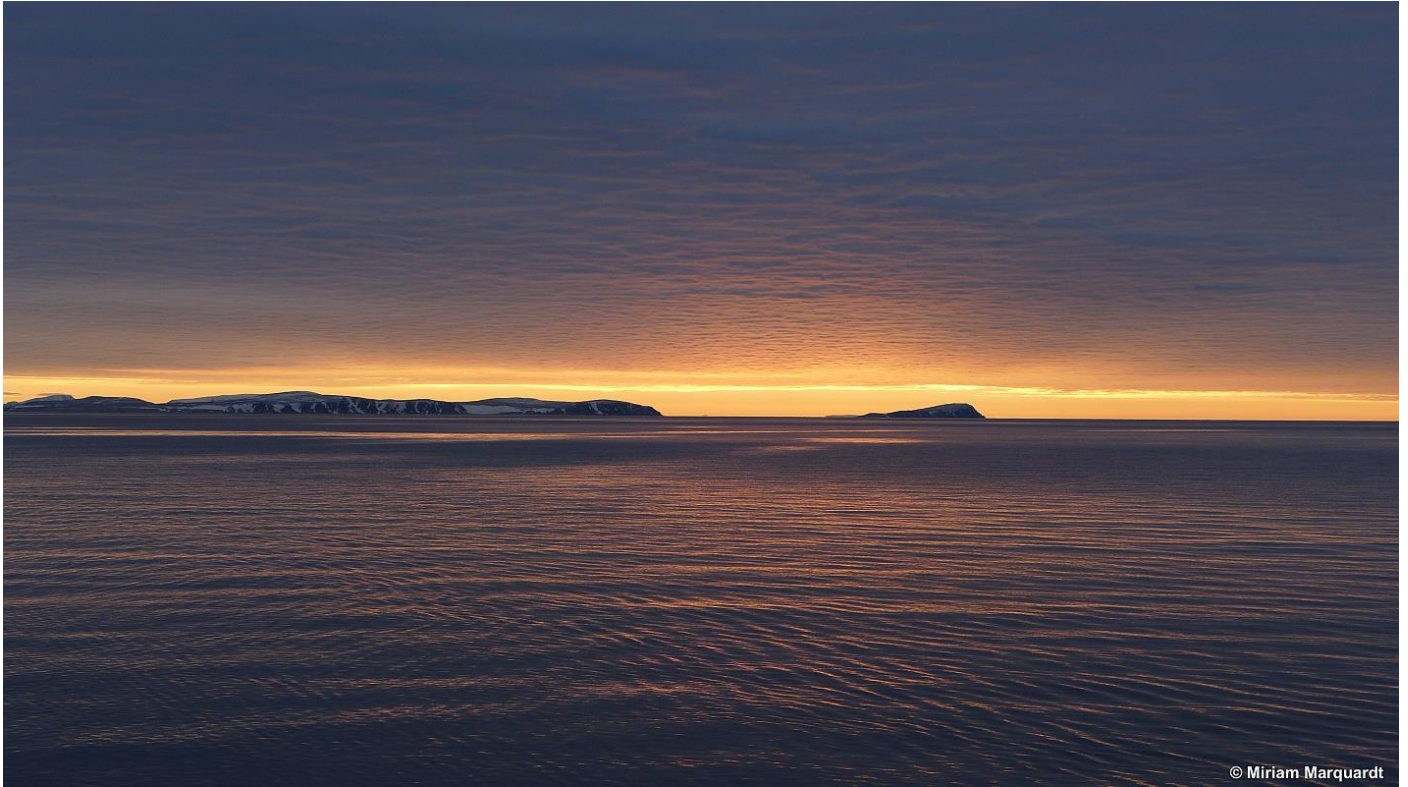


We were met by the astonishing glacier, Schweigaardbreen, and got ready for a zodiac cruise in the cold. Slowly drifting between ice bergs with shades of blue colour and having this wall of the glacier in the background, the atmosphere was magical. We had a moment of silence turning off the engines and just listening to the sound of ice bergs rocking in the water. A curious bearded seal caught our attention for a moment before suddenly we heard a loud bouldering noise of the glacier starting to calve. Just a pre warning this time, but still a spectacular moment!





Back on the ship we were served hot chocolate to everyone's excitement, quite a pleasure after staying out in the arctic cold for a while. During the recap session Sandra and Christian explained the difference between the types of ice found around Spitsbergen and what we can expect of ice around Kvitøya. Valeria taught us the reason why the ice we observed today is blue, and with that we had plenty of impressions to digest for today.



Day 5 – Thursday, 24. August 2017

In the pack ice

GPS Position 08:00: 80°11.2' N / 029°16.4' E

Wind: N-3 Sea state: open drift ice Weather: fog Temperature: -1°C

today's writer: Gérard

Christian woke us up at 7:30 am. We could all feel the ship bumping into the floes as *Plancius* entered some pack ice. The weather gods were not on our side today, a thin layer of fog was covering the sea, making the visibility very low. Despite the weather conditions, the expedition staff started scouting the pack ice with binoculars hoping to spot a bear close by. We were fascinated by how *Plancius* slowly found her way between the ice floes which were covered with a clean layer of perfectly white snow.



From time to time, the fog vanished for a short moment, giving us a view over a larger area of pack ice. Despite the efforts of the expedition staff continuously scanning the area of

pack ice, no polar bear was spotted during the whole morning. However, many seals and some polar bear footprints were observed.

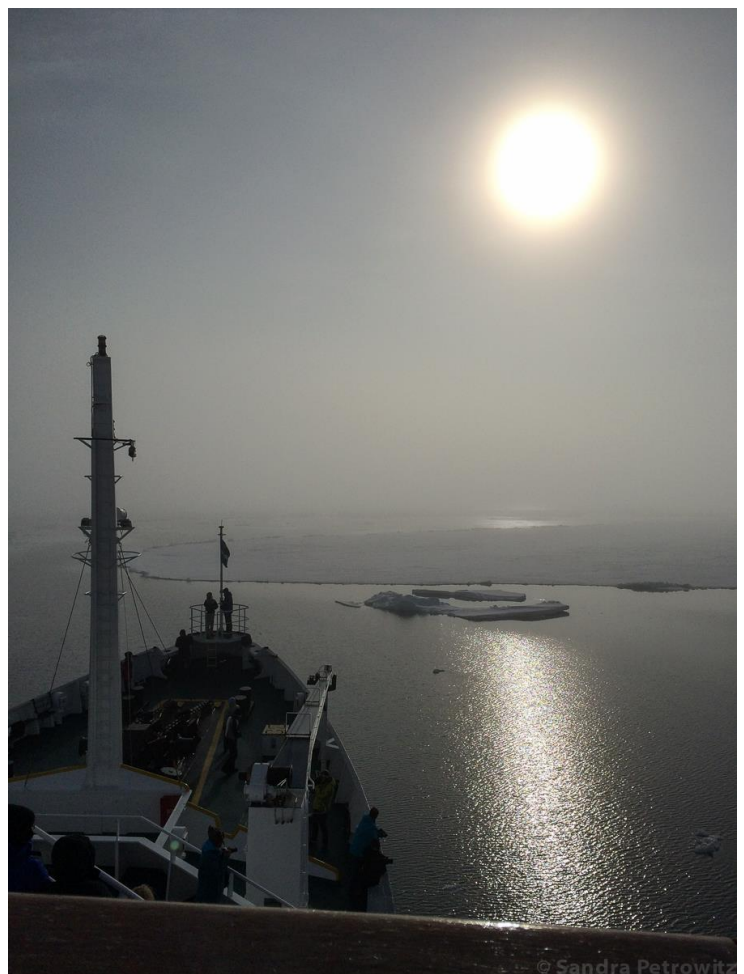


After lunch, the Hotel Manager organised the "ship shop". We had the opportunity to buy souvenirs of *Plancius* and the Arctic, like fluffy polar bears, post cards, sweaters, magnets, books and other articles.

Since still no polar bears were spotted by 2:30 pm, Christian called us to join Gérard in the restaurant to attend a lecture about the king of the Arctic. He talked about the habitat, behaviour and breeding cycle of polar bears before going on about their threats, including hunting and pollution.

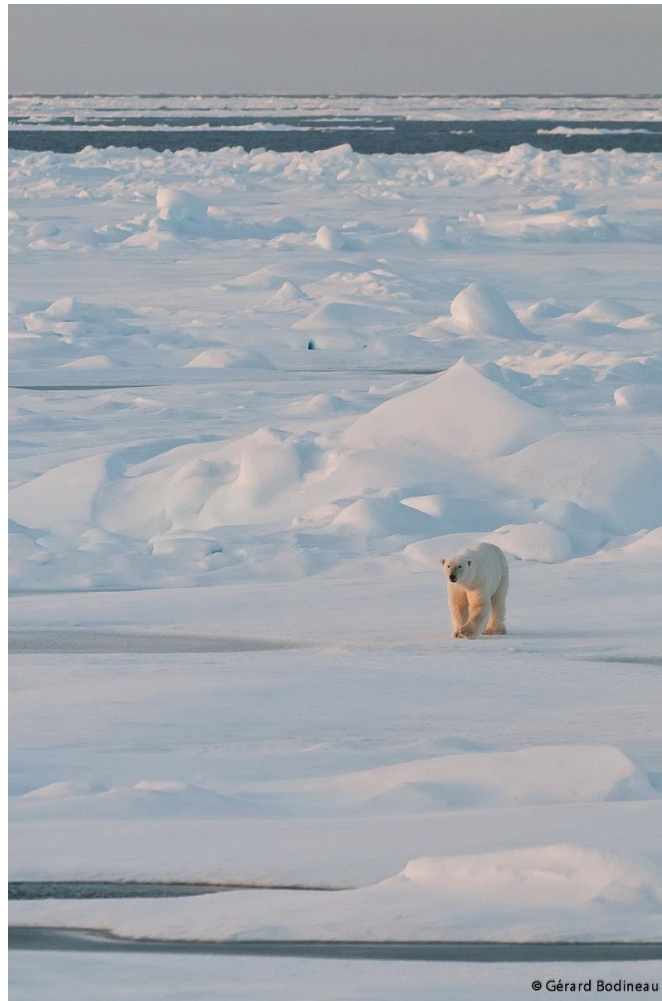
Later in the afternoon, the fog was still dense and Captain stopped the ship for a while, so that he could get a bit of rest. Hotel Manager Sebastian offered us a "Happy Hour", meaning all drinks were half price!

During dinner time, the fog vanished, and together with Christian Captain decided to continue our course into the pack ice. The whole staff team started again scouting carefully all floes in hope for a bear. After less than two hours, Miriam finally spotted one on a very large floe. We could observe this bear walking towards the ship. Captain slowly "parked" *Plancius* beside the floe. The bear reacted to this sound and stopped



© Sandra Petrowitz

approaching. Nevertheless, we were able to watch it and to take many photos of this healthy male in beautiful sunset colours. A very good ending of a long (no visibility) day in the fog.





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Day 6 – Friday, 25. August 2017

Kvitøya

GPS Position 08:00: 80°07.7' N / 031°12.2' E

Wind: S-4 Sea state: slight Weather: partly clouded Temperature: -1°C

today's writer: Sebastian



Last night our dreams were interrupted a few times. At 2:30 am Christian made an announcement that the polar bear that we saw last night was approaching the ship, and many of us jumped out of their bed for the opportunity to see the bear close by. At 6:40 am it was

Sandra's chance to wake us up, on our way to Kvitøya we had spotted two more bears on a big ice floe and parked the ship towards the ice to have a better look at them. It was definitely an excellent way to start our day.

After breakfast we arrived at Kvitøya, more specifically Andréeneset, the only landing site on this ice-covered remote island. Christian told us about the plans and what the chances were for a landing on the island. It was a bit windy and quite cold, the arctic weather was showing its real spirit now.





We started with a Zodiac cruise alongside the barren coast and very soon we spotted our first polar bear. Then we continued our way towards the monument that commemorates Andrée's ill-fated expedition, and spotted the second one. It was a bear sleeping about 500 metres from the landing site. We left two zodiacs on watch at all times on the bear to make sure that it

would remain sleeping, and managed to land everyone for about 5 to 10 minutes near the monument. It felt good to set foot on the rarely visited Kvitøya Island.

During the final part of our cruise we encountered a female with two cubs of about one and a half years. They were standing on a high outcrop, and we had fantastic views from the Zodiacs. After almost three hours of Zodiac cruising and landing, we returned to the ship, cold, but very happy. Back on the ship it was time to set sail towards Austfonna.



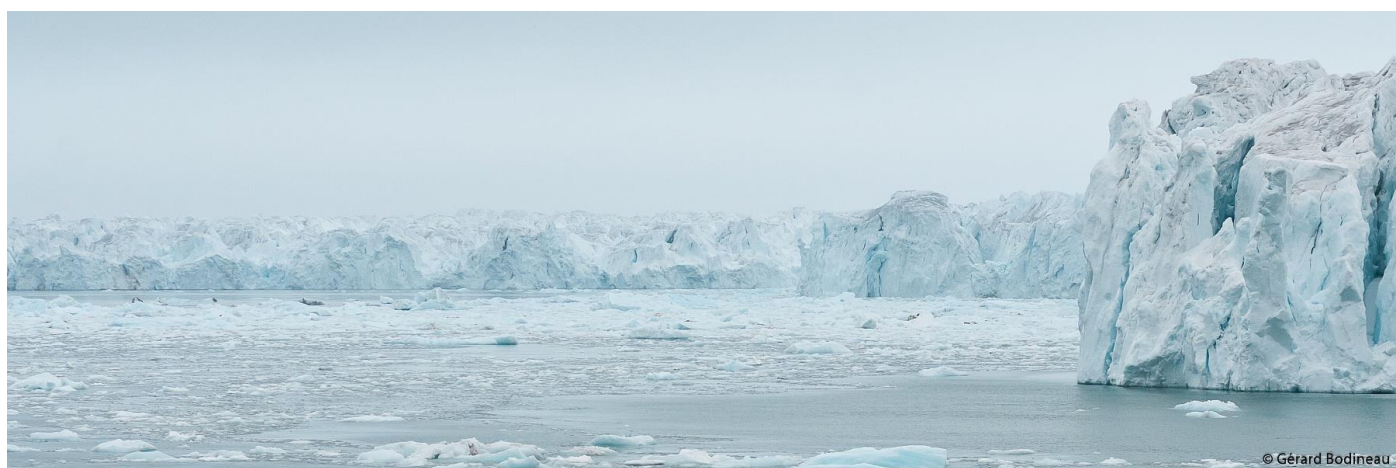
After lunch some of us went down for a little rest, and a little rest it was as very soon Christian announced that we had spotted another bear on the sea ice! *Plancius* approached very slowly to another extraordinary encounter. Short time after, another announcement, but this time of a walrus in the ice!



Plancius made her way slowly through the ice and immense was our surprise when we saw that instead of one single walrus, there were a mum and a calf, and this one was breastfeeding! Later we learnt that it was a very special sighting as females with calves tend to stay farther east.



An exiting day was coming to an end, a lot of sightings to digest and memory cards full of pictures, but still there was one more surprise for the day! After dinner, late in the evening around 10 pm, we arrived to the large ice front of Austfonna – the largest glacier front of Europe. Amazing! Even some calvings we could observe before we fell into our beds, looking forward to the next day to come.



Day 7 – Saturday, 26. August 2017

Freemansund: Kapp Waldburg and Sundneset (Barentsøya)

GPS Position 08:00: 78°15.4' N / 021°56.7' E

Wind: NW-2 Sea state: calm Weather: partly clouded Temperature: 3°C

today's writer: Valeria

Today's wake up call announced that we were sailing into Freemansund, the stretch of water that separates Barentsøya from Edgeøya. After breakfast, Christian informed us that we would give it a go for the morning landing in Kapp Waldburg, in the northern part of Barentsøya. Despite its bad fame regarding strong tidal currents, Freemansund was very calm and pleasant at our intended landing site.



© Gérard Bodineau



As soon as we were on shore a polar fox greeted us. Once we were all landed, we started a hike towards the Kittiwake colony on the cliff, we could already hear them from the coastline. We walked into the canyon where the nesting cliffs were, and we had a first hand encounter with them. There were

juveniles practicing their first flights, but the adults were still feeding them. Meanwhile, at the foot of the cliff, the foxes wandered waiting for a good meal to fall from the sky, and so it happened more than once. Life and death in the same place.

Some of us then started a short hike to the upper part of the cliff and on the other side of the canyon where more foxes and great views of the inside the canyon followed. These foxes were certainly the highlight of the morning!





Back on the ship we had lunch while the ship was repositioned for the afternoon landing, another go in Freemansund! This time we were setting foot on Sundneset, also on Barentsøya. The place, as many on eastern Svalbard, is a common area for polar bears where they get “trapped” being too late for reaching the sea ice to go up North. That’s why our guides made a perimeter for us to freely wander within. The weather was once more on our side, sunshine kept us warm while we walked on the tundra. As we approached Miriam to have a good look at some whalebones, we also encountered a reindeer grazing, another highlight of the day!



It was hard to leave Sundneset as we were enjoying it so much! Before boarding the zodiacs, many of us contributed with some garbage collection. Unfortunately, being in a remote place, currents still bring human waste of modern societies to the Arctic. We loaded a full zodiac with garbage,

which made us reconsider our daily actions at home...



Back on the ship we gathered for the daily recap and plans for the following day. We also learned that the area we would navigate towards is excellent for whale spotting. Dinner

was not even over when we heard Christian's announcement, there were whale blows everywhere! We rushed to the outer decks to enjoy the show of the Finwhales with perfect light enhancing the spouts. After an hour watching the whales that surrounded us, amongst which there were some Minkewhales as well, we went to the bar to have our pending desert that the hotel staff so kindly had brought up from the restaurant. We couldn't ask for a better ending for another wonderful day!



Day 8 – Sunday, 27. August 2017

Hornsund: Gåshamna, Zodiac Cruise in Burgerbukta

GPS Position 08:00: 76°57.5' N / 015°43.5' E

Wind: W-3 Sea state: smooth Weather: partly clouded Temperature: 4°C

today's writer: Johanne

Today we went ashore in Gåshamna ("Goose Bay") where we again divided into four groups, of which one was a faster group hiking up a mountain along a quite steep path. The others were walking around on the flat terrain near the beach and by the foot of the mountain.



Some Bowheadwhale skulls and bones were lying around with green moss growing around them using them as shelter for wind and source of nutrients. This sight used to be a place for handling whales during the peak of the whaling time in Spitsbergen. Remains of old ovens were also seen, used to boil the whale blubber for extracting precious oil.



All the groups walked around on this sight getting told some history by the guides about the whaling time and what was actually happening on this beach. We were careful not to step on any of the remains, whale bones or the moss, as it is all protected. It was strange observing the bones of these majestic creatures and hearing about how much pain they usually went through before dying.

After letting the stories sink in, the leisure group moved towards the beach again for a small



zodiac cruise while waiting for the others to come back from their hikes. We observed some young Kittiwakes relaxing on some rocks along the shore and we also spotted some Puffins flying around with their special flying technique. Suddenly a Humpback whale appeared quite close to

the zodiac and we observed it for a while as it dove down and came up again several times before leaving it and heading back to the ship.

After lunch we were ready again by the gangway to board the zodiacs for an afternoon cruise in one of the fjords in Burgerbukta. As we slowly moved in the fjord we were admiring the majestic landscape and steep mountains surrounding it. Iron containing water was running down the steep mountains making them look like they were bleeding. Some of the snow quite far up had a pink colour due to snow algae growing on top of the snow. In the end of the fjord there was a glacier, Praierlbreen, where we had to take care manoeuvring around the ice bergs and small pieces of ice floating around. We could clearly see how the front of the glacier had traces of recent calving, and now and then loud noise disrupted the silence reminding us



of the forces lying in this natural phenomenon. We were also lucky to spot a bearded seal trying to get onto an ice flake without success. Instead it was showing off diving down and appearing again.



Back at *Plancius* the kitchen had arranged a BBQ on the after deck for people to enjoy food and free drinks either outside or inside the restaurant. Of course it had to start raining as soon as we got on board again after the zodiac cruise, but despite the weather conditions we all had a great time. The deck was cleared and a real arctic disco was started up for people to join, dancing in their hiking boots. Quite some dance moves were to be seen amongst both crew and passengers. It could not have been a better place for a disco with view of the surrounding mountains and sea. It was a great way to end another long day of beautiful sightings.



Day 9 – Monday, 28. August 2017

Bellsund: Midterhuken and Recherchefjord

GPS Position 08:00: 77°39.9' N / 014°44.3' E

Wind: NE-3 - 4 **Sea state:** smooth **Weather:** overcast **Temperature:** 4°C

today's writer: Miriam

We had arrived to Bellsund at the western coast of Spitsbergen. This morning we aimed for a landing at Midterhuken. The autumn-coloured wet – in the true sense of the word, since it was raining – tundra here was stunning and the Bog Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hircules*) was smiling at us in many places.



Separated in our normal groups, we started our hikes. The “mountain goats” were aiming for the steep mountain cliffs, which actually were easier to reach from the backside of Midterhuken. At the top they enjoyed a couple of black-legged Kittiwakes and Puffins flying by, while the beautiful fjord view was veiled by the rain and fog. On the way back they were lucky to spot a pair of Rock Ptarmigans.

The enjoyers and the medium groups were, beside the fresh tundra, enjoying the bird life around and the interesting permafrost patterns. The Polar Cress (*Cardamine nymanii*) was spotted and a little cabin was captured on many cameras.



On the way back to *Plancius* we made a little zodiac cruise along the coastline and could observe a bird cliff with black-legged Kittiwakes before it was time for lunch back on board.

In the afternoon it was time for our last landing in the Recherchefjord close to the Recherche glacier. On this beautiful piece of arctic ground, strictly speaking a little peninsula, we were able to “move freely” again within a perimeter. The guides were scouting in the area in a large circle around us, and we could move our legs in the direction and the speed we wanted to, enjoying the landscape and picture taking.



Most of us walked over to the other side where we could get a great view of the Recherche glacier that, despite the rain, was still very impressive. Many bergy bits of different sizes were floating around in the water and some of them were stranded on the beach – a perfect picture subject. Arctic Terns, Skuas and Kittiwakes were flying by as well.



A little later a couple of brave people, especially the female passengers, were jumping into the arctic water for a so-called “polar-plunge”, before it was time to say goodbye and return to *Plancius* and start sailing towards Longyearbyen.



The last evening had arrived, however, it was still a very diverse evening with the Captain’s cocktail speech, a last delicious dinner in the restaurant and last but not least the return of the rubber boots. Now it was time to pack the suitcases!

Day 10 – Tuesday, 29. August 2017

Disembarkation in Longyearbyen, Adventfjord

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

After the breakfast, well for some of us already before the breakfast in the middle of the night, it was time to say *goodbye* – to the fantastic days on board *Plancius*, from the team, from new found friends...

After a last zodiac ride to the harbour, the busses were already waiting for us, and the little blue expedition ship that became a home for us in the last two weeks had to be left behind while we were driving to the airport to continue our voyage or travel home.

We will never forget this voyage and its unforgettable moments which were - also for the globetrotter among us - an amazing adventure with unique impressions of the Svalbard arctic archipelago. We definitively know now how it feels to get infected by the polar virus the expedition team was talking about. The one or the other is already planning in his mind the next travel to the far North, or maybe the far South.





Thank you very much for this wonderful voyage, for your flexibility and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to see you back on board at any time - in the North, the South or somewhere in between!

Travelled distance on our voyage:

Nautical Miles: 1100

Northernmost Position: 80°43 N / 020°00 E

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Evgeny, Expedition Leader
Christian Engelke, Hotel Manager Sebastian Duma and the rest of crew and staff on board
MV Plancius:**

We wish you all the best and a good voyage home!

www.oceanwide-expeditions.com



MAMMALS

English	German	French	Latin	20/8	21/8	22/8	23/8	24/8	25/8	26/8	27/8	28/8
Walrus	Walross	Morse	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>		X	X			X			
Bearded seal	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>				X				X	X
Ringed seal	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	<i>Phoca hispida</i>					X			X	
Harp seal	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>				X	X				
Common /Harbour seal	Seehund	Phoque commun	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		X							
Minke Whale	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>							X		
Blue Whale	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>			X						
Fin Whale	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	X		X	X			X		
Humpback Whale	Buckelwal	Baleine á bosse	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>								X	
White-beaked Dolphin	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à bec blanc	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>								X	
Polar Bear	Eisbär	Ours blanc	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>		X			X	X			
Arctic Fox	Polarfuchs	Renard arctique	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X	X				X		X
Spitsbergen Reindeer	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X					X		



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

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€ 250 gift voucher

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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



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. Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
6. **Spread the word!**



PRIZES

1st **€ 1000**
GIFT VOUCHER
for Oceanwide Expeditions

2nd **€ 500 gift voucher**
for Oceanwide Expeditions

3rd **€ 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

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

20. August 2017 (Tag 1)

Willkommen an Bord!

ab 16.00 **Angekommen!** Nachdem Sie Ihre Kabine bezogen haben, können Sie gerne unser Schiff erkunden.

TBA **Erstes Treffen und Begrüßung** in der Bar/Lounge – Deck 5. Verpflichtende **Seenot-Rettungsübung** für **alle Passagiere** in der Lounge. Hören Sie bitte auf unsere **Durchsagen!**

ca. 18.00 Die ***Plancius*** verlässt Longyearbyen. Es geht gen Norden!

TBA Wir treffen uns in der Bar/Lounge auf Deck 5 für weitere Informationen vom Expeditions- und Hotelteam.

19.30 Das **Abendessen** wird im Restaurant serviert (Deck 3, hinter der Rezeption).

TBA Nach dem Abendessen möchten wir die **Gummistiefel** verteilen. Wir rufen Sie **nach Decks** auf und erwarten Sie im Gummistiefelraum (vorne auf Deck 3). Zum Anprobieren empfiehlt es sich, Wandersocken anzuziehen bzw. bereits anzuhaben. Hören Sie bitte auf unsere **Durchsagen!**

TBA = „to be announced“, zu Deutsch: **nach Ankündigung**

Das Reisefieber hatte mich gepackt, ein Hochfrequenzton, der in den Waden einsetzte und im Hinterkopf endete. Ich würde weit in den Norden reisen. Mit einem Schiff.

Anne B. Ragde

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

20. August 2017 (Day 1)

Welcome on board!

from 16.00 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Check to make sure you are not missing anything. Feel free to explore around the ship.

TBA **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill** in the Lounge (Deck 5). **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to attend this very important safety briefing.

ca. 18.00 *Plancius* departs Longyearbyen northbound.

TBA **Introduction to the ship** by our Hotel Team and Expedition Team in the Lounge (Deck 5).

19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on Deck 3 behind reception. Bon appétit!

TBA After dinner we would like to hand out your **rubber boots**. We will call you by decks and ask you to come to the Boot Room on Deck 3 forward. Please bring your thick socks!

TBA = to be announced

*Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful.
Honour and recognition in case of success.*

- Sir Ernest Shackleton

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

21. August 2017 (Tag 2)

- 07.00** Der **Weckruf** ertönt zeitig.
- 07.30** Das **Frühstücksbuffet** erwartet Euch – eine Stunde lang – im Restaurant.
- 08.30** **Verpflichtendes Treffen** in der Lounge: Wir sprechen über das **Verhalten in Ny-Ålesund und im Eisbärenland (Deutsch und Englisch)**.
- 09.00** **Landgang: Ny Ålesund.** Wir besuchen eine der nördlichsten Dauersiedlungen der Welt. Der ehemalige Bergbauort ist heute ein Zentrum der internationalen Arktisforschung und berühmt für seine Polargeschichte. Amundsen, Nobile und Ellsworth fuhren mit dem Luftschiff *Norge* von hier aus 1926 als erste Menschen über den Nordpol. Der Ankermast des Luftschiffes zeugt noch heute von diesem historischen Ereignis.
- Bitte befolgt die Regeln.** Bleibt immer (!) auf den geschotterten Wegen, damit wir nicht versteckte wissenschaftliche Geräte übersehen oder beschädigen bzw. nicht die Vegetation zerstören. Verlasst die Siedlung nicht – es besteht Eisbären-Gefahr! In Ny Ålesund befinden sich das nördlichste Postamt (nicht besetzt) und der nördlichste Souvenirladen der Welt. Man kann hier mit US\$, € und NOK bezahlen oder die Kreditkarte zücken.
- 10.00** *Treffen bei der Büste von Roald Amundsen für einen gemeinsamen Spaziergang zum Mast (auf Englisch).*
- 10.30** Wir treffen uns bei der **Büste von Roald Amundsen** und gehen gemeinsam zum Ankermasten der *Norge*, um die Luftschiff-Geschichte zu hören (auf Deutsch).
- 11.30** **Seid bitte spätestens jetzt zurück auf dem Schiff.**
- 12.15** Das **Mittagsbuffet** steht bereit. Lasst es Euch schmecken!
- 14.15** **Verpflichtendes Treffen im Restaurant:** Wir sprechen über die **Zodiac-Routine und die AECO-Regeln (auf Deutsch)**.
- 15.15** *Verpflichtendes Treffen im Restaurant: Zodiac-Routine und AECO-Regeln (auf Englisch).*
- Am Nachmittag fahren wir entlang der Nordwestküste Spitzbergens, einer landschaftlich sehr eindrucksvollen Region. Genießt die Ausblicke! Je nach Wettersituation und Tierleben ist am späten Nachmittag eventuell eine Aktivität möglich. Wir halten Euch über Durchsagen auf dem Laufenden.
- 19.15** **Nachbesprechung** des Tages und **Programmorschau** für morgen in der Lounge.
- 20.00** **Bitte zu Tisch.** Das Abendessen wird serviert.

„Die Menschen zieht es aus verschiedenen Gründen zu den unentdeckten Plätzen der Welt. Einige werden einfach von Abenteuerlust getrieben, andere haben unstillbaren Durst nach wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnissen und wieder andere werden durch verlockende Versprechungen flüsternder Stimmen, der geheimnisvollen Faszination des Ungewissen, von den ausgetretenen Pfaden weggezogen.“

Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874 - 1922)

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

21st of August 2017 (Day 2)

- 07.00** Early **Wake-up call**.
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 08.30** **Mandatory Briefing** in the Lounge: We talk about visiting **Ny-Ålesund** and our behaviour in polar bear habitat (both English and German).
- 09.00** **Landing: Ny-Ålesund.** We visit one of the world's northernmost permanent settlements. The former mining town has been converted into a scientific center of international Arctic research but it's also famous for its polar history. Amundsen, Nobile and Ellsworth started their zeppelin journey here in 1926 to be the first ones to fly over the North Pole. The anchoring mast is still there and can be visited.
- Please follow the rules.** Always (!) stay on the gravel roads in order to not damage vegetation, disturb wildlife (especially birds) or interfere with scientific devices which may not be obvious or even visible. Please do not leave the settlement – danger of polar bears! Ny-Ålesund boasts the world's northernmost post office (self-service) and the northernmost souvenir shop (accepted currencies: US\$, €, NOK or credit card).
- 10.00** **We meet at the Amundsen bust** for a walk to the *Norge* anchoring mast and a talk (in English) about Amundsen's, Nobile's and Ellsworth's voyage to the North Pole.
- 10.30** *Meeting at the Amundsen bust for a walk to the Norge anchoring mast and a talk (in German) about Amundsen's, Nobile's and Ellsworth's voyage to the North Pole.*
- 11.30** **Please be back at the ship latest by now.**
- 12.15** The **Lunch** buffet is waiting for you!
- 14.15** *Mandatory Briefing in the Restaurant about zodiac routine & AECO guidelines (in German).*
- 15.15** **Mandatory Briefing** in the Restaurant **about zodiac routine & AECO guidelines** (in English).
- In the afternoon we will sail along the northwest coast of Spitsbergen with its very scenic landscape. Enjoy the views! Depending on the weather conditions and wildlife situation, we might be able to offer you an activity in the later afternoon. We will keep you updated – please listen for announcements.
- 19.15** **Recap** and **outlook** in the Lounge.
- 20.00** **Dinnertime** – bon appétit!

"I go exploring because I like it and it's my job. One goes once and then one gets the fever and can't stop going."

Sir Ernest Shackleton

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

22. August 2017 (Tag 3)

- 07.30** Guten Morgen – der **Weckruf** ertönt.
- 08.00** Das **Frühstücksbuffet** steht eine Stunde lang im Restaurant für Euch bereit.
- 09.15** **Landung** oder **Zodiac-Cruise** auf **Phippsøya**, einer der Siebeninseln (Sjuøyane).
Je nach (nicht) ansässigem Tierleben planen wir eine Aktivität in der nördlichsten Inselgruppe Svalbards. Wir teilen Euch rechtzeitig mit, ob Ihr Euch entsprechend einer Schlauchboot-Rundfahrt oder eines Landgangs mit Wanderungen anziehen solltet. In jedem Fall wird es ein Erlebnis, eine der „sieben Inseln“ zu erkunden; sie sind der letzte Außenposten auf dem direkten Weg zum Nordpol!
- 12.30** Zeit fürs **Mittagessen** – guten Appetit!
- 14.00** **(P)recap:** Trefft uns für einen Rückblick auf das Gesehene – und einen kleinen Ausblick auf das, was noch kommt
- TBA** **Landgang** in der **Reliktbukta**. Willkommen im arktischen Nichts! Die Reliktbukta liegt im selten besuchten Norden von Nordaustlandet und ist ein Prachtbeispiel für eine Kältewüste. In der eindrucklichen, kargen und nur scheinbar leeren Landschaft gibt es viel zu entdecken. Lasst Euch auf das Abenteuer ein!
- 20.00** **Bitte zu Tisch:** Das Abendessen wird serviert.

*Was ist es denn, das uns an der Arktis betört?
Jawohl, die Landschaft und die Natur, grandios und überwältigend, aber
anderswo gibt es auch unermessliche Schönheiten.
Nein, es sind andere Dinge, die da mitspielen. Da wäre als erstes das arktische
Licht, diese himmlische Gabe, das Alpha und Omega der Polargegenden. Da
wäre die Polarstille, grenzenlos, unerbittlich. Da wäre die Weite, die
Unendlichkeit, die Ewigkeit. Da wären Dinge wie Ruhe und Frieden, Zeit und
Muße, alles Mangelware in unserer so hochgepriesenen westlichen
Zivilisation. Besagt doch ein arktisches Sprichwort: „Gott gab uns die Zeit,
von der Eile hat er nichts gesagt.“*

Bolette Petri-Sutormeister

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

22nd of August 2017 (Day 3)

- 07.30** Wake-up call. Good morning!
- 08.00** **Breakfast** is waiting for you in the Dining Room.
- 09.15** **Phippsøya landing or zodiac cruise.** Phippsøya is one of the Sevenislands, Svalbard's northernmost archipelago. Depending on the wildlife present (or not), we plan an activity there. We will let you know whether you should prepare and dress for a landing or a zodiac cruise. In any case, it will be thrilling to explore one of the "Seven Islands", the last outpost before the North Pole!
- 12.30** Lunch is served – bon appétit!
- 14.00** **(P)recap:** Please join us in the Lounge for a summary of what we have seen and an outlook on what's to come.
- TBA** **Landing in Reliktbukta.** Welcome to the Arctic Empty Quarter! Reliktbukta is part of the north of Nordaustlandet which rarely gets visitors but is a perfect example for polar desert. There's lots to see in this impressive, barren but strangely rich landscape – embrace the emptiness!
- 20.00** **Dinnertime**, and the living is easy ...

"Tomorrow's winds will blow tomorrow."

Captain Evgeny Levakov

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

23. August 2017 (Tag 4)

EXPEDITIONSTAG

Heute ist ein echter Expeditionstag – wir lassen uns von den Gegebenheiten leiten und nutzen Möglichkeiten, die sich erst durch Flexibilität ergeben. Unsere Route wird uns entlang der Nordküste von Nordaustlandet führen, einer selten besuchten Region. Nichts als Wasser und Eis liegt noch zwischen uns und dem Nordpol. Lasst Euch überraschen, was die Arktis heute für Euch bereithält! Wir informieren Euch per Ansage rechtzeitig über eventuelle Aktivitäten. Genießt das Unterwegssein fernab üblicher Routen in der hohen Arktis!

- 07.30** Guten Morgen – der **Weckruf** ertönt.
- 08.00** Das **Frühstücksbuffet** steht eine Stunde lang im Restaurant für Euch bereit.
- TBA** Sofern wir eine Landung oder einen Zodiac-Cruise möglich machen können, lassen wir es Euch per Ansage rechtzeitig wissen. Ansonsten gilt: Genießt den Ausblick, die Landschaft, das Licht, mögliche Begegnungen mit der Tierwelt ...
- 12.30** ... genießt weiter, diesmal das **Mittagessen** – guten Appetit! ...
- TBA** ... und hört auch am Nachmittag nicht mit dem Genießen auf ;o)
- 19.30** Bitte zu Tisch: Das **Abendessen** wird serviert.

*Wer nichts probiert und nichts riskiert,
der bleibt verschont von manchen Sorgen.
Nun frage ich ganz ungeniert:
Wozu erhebt er sich am Morgen?*

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

23rd of August 2017 (Day 4)

EXPEDITION DAY

Today is a true Expedition day. Flexibility creates opportunities – our aim is to make the most of possibilities occurring when there is no fixed program set. Our route will take us along the northern shores of Nordaustlandet, a place rarely visited. From here, it's nothing but ice and water all the way to the North Pole. Let's see what the Arctic provides us with today! We will let you know well in time if there is any activities planned. Enjoy sailing off the beaten tracks in the High Arctic!

07.30 Good morning – wake-up call.

08.00 **Breakfast** is ready!

TBA **If we plan a landing or a zodiac cruise** we will let you know via PA announcement. In any case: enjoy the views, the landscape, the light, possible wildlife encounters ...

12.30 Lunch – bon appétit!

TBA ... and continue enjoying during the afternoon ;o)

19.30 Dinner is served!

"There is more to life than increasing its speed."

Gandhi

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

24. August 2017 (Tag 5)

Expeditionstag im Packeis! Nordöstlich von Nordaustlandet werden wir auf Packeis stoßen. Das Eis bestimmt heute unseren Tag, und wir halten Ausschau nach Tierleben. Kommt an Deck – schon alleine die Fahrt mit dem Schiff durch das Treibeis und entlang der Eiskante ist ein fantastisches Erlebnis.

Wichtig: Falls wir das Glück haben sollten, auf Tierleben zu stoßen, bitten wir Euch um Ruhe an Deck (Flüsterton; Türen leise schließen). Nur dann haben wir eine Chance, die Tiere länger beobachten zu können.

- 07.30** Guten Morgen! Der **Weckruf** ertönt.
- 08.00** Der Tag geht gut los: am **Frühstücksbuffet**.
- 12.30** Stärkt Euch am **Mittags-Buffer**.
- 18.15** **Nachbesprechung** und **Programmorschau** in der Lounge.
- 19.00** Eis macht hungrig: Lasst Euch das **Abendessen** schmecken!

Gebt mir Hunde, gebt mir Winter; den Rest könnt Ihr behalten.

Knud Rasmussen

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

24th of August 2017 (Day 5)

Expedition Day! Northeast of Nordaustlandet 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. We are keeping a lookout for wildlife throughout the day.

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

- 07.30** **Wake-up call!** Christian's voice will stop our sleep.
- 08.00 The **breakfast** buffet is available for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 12.30 The **lunch buffet** is waiting for you in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!
- 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

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

25. August 2017 (Tag 6)

AKTUALISIERT

- 12.30 Zeit fürs **Mittagessen** – guten Appetit!
- TBA **Expeditionsnachmittag.** Unsere Route führt uns in Richtung Nordaustlandet. Wetter und Eis bestimmen, wie schnell wir vorankommen.
- 15.00 *Recap in der Lounge (auf Englisch).*
- 15.00 **Vortrag:** Christian erzählt Euch, warum **Kvitøya** ein besonderer Ort ist und was es mit der **Geschichte um Andrée** auf sich hat – das Ganze **auf Deutsch im Restaurant.**
- 17.00 **Recap** in der Lounge (**auf Deutsch**).
- 17.00 *Vortrag: Christian erzählt Euch von Kvitøya und Andrée – auf Englisch im Restaurant.*
- 19.00 Das **Abendessen** wird serviert.
- TBA Mit etwas Glück können wir uns nach dem Abendessen der gewaltigen Gletscherkappe Austfonna und ihrer Abbruchkante nähern – ein Eis-Erlebnis der besonderen Art. Wir halten Euch per Durchsage auf dem Laufenden!

Wenn die zu Hause wüssten, wie herrlich es hier ist! Schade, dass man sich in Europa nur die Furchtbarkeit der Polarnacht vorstellen kann. Man kann wohl die Wunder der Polarwelt im Lexikon nachschlagen, aber man ahnt nicht, dass unter solchem strahlendem Himmel auch die Menschenseele ruhig, klar und strahlend ist.

Christiane Ritter, Eine Frau erlebt die Polarnacht

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

25th of August 2017 (Day 6)

UPDATED

- 12.30 **Lunchtime.**
- TBA **Expedition afternoon.** Our intended sailing route will aim for the island of Nordaustlandet and the glacier front of the huge ice cap Austfonna. Weather and ice will determine our speed and progress.
- 15.00 **Recap** and outlook in the Lounge (in English).
- 15.00 *Lecture: Christian tells the story of Kvitøya and Andrée – in German in the Dining Room.*
- 17.00 *Recap and outlook in the Lounge (in German).*
- 17.00 **Lecture:** Christian tells the story of the special island **Kvitøya**, and **Andrée**. This lecture will be in English in the Dining Room.
- 19.00 Enjoy your **Dinner!**
- TBA With a bit of luck we will be able to approach the huge ice cap Austfonna and its glacier front after dinner, a special ice experience indeed. We will keep you updated – please listen for announcements!

One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime.

- Sir Francis Drake 1587

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

25. August 2017 (Tag 6)

- 07.30** Wir wecken Euch – guten Morgen!
- 08.00** Das **Frühstücksbuffet** steht eine Stunde lang im Restaurant bereit.
- TBA** **Landung** oder **Zodiac-Cruise** auf **Kvitøya**.
Wir hoffen, heute eine Zodiac-Tour und möglicherweise auch eine Landung bei Andréeneset auf Kvitøya unternehmen zu können. Dies ist jedoch sehr stark von Wetter und Eis abhängig – Daumen drücken! Wir halten Euch über Durchsagen auf dem Laufenden.
- 12.30** Zeit fürs **Mittagessen** – guten Appetit!
- TBA** **Expeditionsnachmittag**. Unsere Route führt uns in Richtung Nordaustlandet zur Abbruchkante der riesigen Gletscherkappe Austfonna. Auch für diesen Teil der Fahrt gilt: Wetter und Eis bestimmen, wie schnell wir vorankommen. Eventuell haben wir die Chance, am Nachmittag unser Vortragsprogramm für Euch fortzusetzen. Achtet bitte auf unsere Durchsagen.
- 19.00** Das **Abendessen** wird serviert.

Wenn die zu Hause wüssten, wie herrlich es hier ist! Schade, dass man sich in Europa nur die Furchtbarkeit der Polarnacht vorstellen kann. Man kann wohl die Wunder der Polarwelt im Lexikon nachschlagen, aber man ahnt nicht, dass unter solchem strahlendem Himmel auch die Menschenseele ruhig, klar und strahlend ist.

Christiane Ritter, Eine Frau erlebt die Polarnacht

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

25th of August 2017 (Day 6)

07.30 Wake-up call – good morning!

08.00 **Breakfast** is waiting for you in the Dining Room.

TBA **Kvitøya landing or zodiac cruise.**

We hope to be able to invite you to a zodiac cruise or even a landing at Andréeneset (Kvitøya). Please keep in mind that any activity here is very much dependent on weather and ice conditions – cross fingers! We will keep you updated via announcements.

12.30 **Lunchtime.**

TBA **Expedition afternoon.** Our intended sailing route will aim for the island of Nordaustlandet and the glacier front of the huge ice cap Austfonna. Weather and ice will determine our speed and progress. In the course of the afternoon we will possibly continue with our lecture program for you – please listen for announcements.

19.00 Enjoy your **Dinner!**

One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime.

- Sir Francis Drake 1587

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

26. August 2017 (Tag 7)

- 07.30** Guten Morgen – der **Weckruf** ertönt.
- 08.00** **Frühstücksbuffet.**
- TBA** **Barentsøya.** Heute vormittag wollen wir auf der Insel Barentsøya an Land gehen. Die Region ist allerdings immer sehr „eisbärig“, und dementsprechend müssen wir unsere Aktivitäten an die Bären- und Wettersituation anpassen. Die Vegetation ist wieder üppiger als in den letzten Tagen; wir haben die Kältewüste hinter uns gelassen. An einer möglichen Landestelle, Kapp Waldburg, finden wir einen kleinen Canyon, in dem sich eine Dreizehenmöwenkolonie befindet. Wenn uns hier eine Landung gelingt, wollen wir in die Schlucht wandern, um die Vögel aus nächster Nähe anzusehen.
- 12.30** Hunger? Abhilfe schafft: das **Mittagessen!**
- 14.00** **Edgeøya.** Nachmittags ist die drittgrößte Insel des Archipels unser Ziel. An unserer Landestelle bei Kapp Lee finden wir Hütten, die für verschiedene Zwecke genutzt wurden (Wissenschaft, Jagd). Ein Walrossfriedhof aus der Zeit der Bejagung erstreckt sich über große Teile der Bucht, und etwas abseits finden wir Fundamentreste von Jagdhütten der Pomoren (russische Jäger, vermutlich 18. Jahrhundert). Die üppige Tundravegetation lädt zum Wandern ein. In verschiedenen Gruppen wollen wir uns aufmachen, die Landschaft zu erkunden.
- 18.00** **Recap** – Rückblick auf den Tag und Ausblick auf morgen.
- 19.00** Das **Abendessen** wird serviert.

*Entdecken heißt sehen, was jeder zuvor gesehen hat,
Aber zu denken, was keiner zuvor gedacht hat.*

A. Szent-Györgyi, 1962

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

26th of August 2017 (Day 7)

- 07.30** Wake-up call. Good morning!
- 08.00** **Breakfast.**
- TBA** **Barentsøya.** Today we would like to land on Barentsøya. This island, as well as the whole region actually, has always been a polar bear favourite. For this reason we will have to adjust our activities to the bear situation. Vegetation-wise you will find Barentsøya with its tundra very different from the polar desert. At one possible landing site, Kapp Waldburg, there is a small canyon where kittiwakes are nesting. If we manage to land here, we might be able to walk into the canyon to observe those birds from up close.
- 12.30** Hungry? Enjoy your **lunch!**
- 14.00** **Edgeøya.** In the afternoon we aim for Edgeøya. At our landing site at Kapp Lee we will find huts which have been used for various purposes, among them science and hunting. There is a walrus graveyard from way back when those animals were hunted mercilessly, and there is also the remains of Pomor (Russian hunters) huts. The lush tundra is perfect for walking. In our groups we would like to go explore.
- 18.00** **Recap** – looking back at the day, looking ahead to tomorrow's plans.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is being served!

"The wonder is always new that any sane man can be a sailor."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

27. August 2017 (Tag 8)

Heute ist der **Hornsund** an der Westküste Spitzbergens unser Ziel. Die Region ist für ihre wunderschöne Landschaft und spitze Berggipfel bekannt und trägt nicht umsonst den Beinamen „Spitzbergen en miniature“.

- 07.30** Der **Weckruf** ertönt – es ist Zeit aufzustehen!
- 08.00** **Frühstück!** Am reichhaltigen Buffet könnt Ihr Euch für den Tag stärken.
- 09.15** **Landgang: Gåshamna.** Heute Morgen möchten wir bei Gåshamna (zu Deutsch: Gänsebuch) an Land gehen, wo es verschiedene Wandermöglichkeiten gibt, teils mit herrlicher Aussicht. Neben Flora und Fauna befindet sich hier auch historisch Interessantes: Englische Walfänger betrieben an dieser Stelle im 17. Jahrhundert eine Landstation, und man findet Fundamente von Häusern der Pomoren (russische Jäger). Sollte das Wetter mitspielen, gibt es für die Bergziegen die Möglichkeit, über sehr steiles (!!!), anspruchsvolles Gelände auf einen Aussichtsberg zu steigen.
- 13.00** Das **Mittagessen** wartet auf Euch.
- 15.00** **Zodiac-Cruise: Burgerbukta.** Nachmittags möchten wir eine Zodiac-Rundfahrt in der Burgerbukta unternehmen, einem kleinen Seitenarm des Hornsundes. Die Bucht ist landschaftlich wunderschön, und viele Gletscher fließen in den Fjord. Bitte zieht Euch warm an!
- 18.45** **Fragen und Antworten:** Nachbesprechung und Programmvorschau.
- 19.30** Ein echtes **arktisches Abendessen** wird serviert – guten Appetit!

*Flammender Winterhimmel -
sommernächtliches Sonnenmirakel.*

Geh' gegen den Wind.

Erklimme den Berg.

Schau gen Norden. Öfter.

Rolf Jacobsen

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

27th of August 2017 (Day 8)

Today we will explore the **Hornsund** area. This region, located at the west coast of Spitsbergen, is a very scenic place, well known for its beautiful landscape and spiky mountains. It is often called „Svalbard en miniature“.

07.30 Wake-up call – time to start the day!

08.00 **Breakfast.**

09.15 **Landing: Gåshamna.** We would like to land at Gåshamna (literally: „Goose Bay“). Gåshamna boasts different hiking options, some of which provide great panoramic views. In addition to flora and fauna this place is also of quite some historical significance: English whalers had a land station here in the 17th century, and there are remains of Pomor huts. Weather permitting, the fast hikers might be able to climb up to a viewpoint – but be aware this will include a VERY STEEP and demanding scramble on scree slopes.

13.00 Lunch time.

15.00 **Zodiac Cruise, Burgerbukta.** Join us on our scenic zodiac tour in Burgerbukta. The landscape of this small branch of Hornsund is stunning, and several glaciers are flowing into Burgerbukta. Please dress warmly!

18.45 **Q and A** in our daily recap and outlook.

19.30 A special **Arctic Dinner** is served – bon appétit!

"We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars."

- Oscar Wilde

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

28. August 2017 (Tag 9)

- 07.00** Guten Morgen – mit dem **Weckruf** beginnt der Tag.
- 07.30 Das **Frühstücksbuffet** wartet auf Hungrige.
- 08.45** **Landgang: Midterhuken.** Am majestätischen Midterhuken im Bellsund gibt es neben üppiger Tundra – mit der Chance auf Rentiere und vielleicht auch Polarfüchse – labyrinthische Steinformationen an der Küste und einen kleinen Vogelfelsen. Wir möchten diese Stelle mit Euch in den üblichen Gruppen wandernd und spazierend erkunden. Die schnellen Wanderer seien gewarnt: Der Aufstieg ist ähnlich steil wie gestern!
- danach **Stunde der Abrechnung** – Begleichen der **Schiffsrechnung** an der Rezeption. Wir rufen Euch nach Decks auf. Bitte achtet auf unsere Durchsagen.
- 12.30 **Mittagessen.**
- 14.00** **Landgang: Recherche fjord.** Unsere letzte Anlandung planen wir im Recherche fjord. Hier möchten wir Euch Gelegenheit geben, Euch auf ganz besondere Art von Spitzbergen zu verabschieden – es ist ein Ort zum Genießen.
- Ein Bad im Eismeer.** Am Ende unseres Landgangs laden wir all jene ein, die sich schon immer mal in die Fluten des Polarmeers stürzen wollten, genau das zu tun. Handtücher stellen wir zur Verfügung. Viel Spaß und fröhliches Planschen!
- danach Die **Stunde der Abrechnung** (das Begleichen der **Schiffsrechnung** an der Rezeption) wird bei Bedarf fortgesetzt. Parallel dazu: **Stiefelrückgabe. Bitte hört auf die Ansagen**, wir werden Euch nach Decks aufrufen.
- 18.15** **Abschieds-Cocktail mit dem Kapitän und letztes offizielles Treffen.** Bitte kommt in die Lounge, um auf unsere ganz besondere Reise anzustoßen.
- 19.00** **Das letzte Abendmahl** wird serviert. Guten Appetit!

*„Und am Ende all unseres Erkundens
Werden wir ankommen, wo wir losgefahren sind
und den Ort kennen – zum ersten Mal.“*

T.S. Eliot (1888 – 1965)

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

28th of August 2017 (Day 9)

- 07.00** Good morning!
- 07.30** Hungry? **Breakfast** is waiting for you.
- 08.45** **Landing: Midterhuken.** Majestic Midterhuken in Bellsund boasts lush tundra and a chance for an encounter with reindeer or polar fox. In addition, there are labyrinthic rock formations close to shore and a small bird cliff just around the corner. We would like to go explore with you in the usual groups. Fast hikers be warned: The ascent (and the descent as well, of course) is about as steep and demanding as yesterday's!
- afterwards **Settling of ship's accounts** – we will call you by deck for the settling of your ship's accounts at reception.
- 12.30** **Lunch.**
- 14.00** **Landing: Recherchefjord.** Our last landing of this voyage is going to be a special one. At Recherchefjord we would like to offer you an opportunity to say goodbye to Spitsbergen in your very own way. Enjoy this special place surrounded by stunning scenery!
- Polar Plunge.** At the end of our landing there will be an opportunity to dip in polar waters. Towels will be provided by us. Happy plunging!
- afterwards **Settling of ship's accounts** continues if needed – we will call you by deck for the settling of your ship's accounts. In addition, we would like to ask you to **return your rubber boots**. Please listen for announcements!
- 18.15** **Captain's Farewell and last official meeting.** Please join us in the Lounge for a toast to our special voyage!
- 19.00** **Dinnertime** – once more: bon appétit!

"Difficulties are just things to be overcome"

Sir Ernest Shackleton

Rund um Spitzbergen & Kvitøya

an Bord der

Plancius

29. August 2017 (Tag 10)

Für alle, die auf den Flug um 02.30 Uhr gebucht sind: Bitte stellt Euer großes Gepäck (Check-in) in die Gänge, BEVOR Ihr schlafen geht, spätestens aber 23.30!

- 23.45** (Dezenter) Weckruf für alle mit dem Flug um 02.30 Uhr.
- 00.15** **Landgang I in Longyearbyen:** Bitte kommt mit Eurer Zodiac-Rettungsweste zur Gangway – Ihr werdet stilecht per Zodiac an Land gebracht.
- 00.30** Der **Bus vom Hafen zum Flughafen** fährt ab. Euer Gepäck findet Ihr am Pier. Bitte bringt es selbst zum Bus, damit Ihr sicher seid, dass es auch wirklich von Bord ist.
- 07.15** **Weckruf** für alle anderen Gäste.

Alle, die spätere Flüge haben oder in Longyearbyen bleiben: Bitte stellt Euer großes Gepäck erst vor die Tür, wenn Ihr zum Frühstück geht (bis 07.30 Uhr).

- 07.30** **Frühstück** im Restaurant bis 08.30.
Bitte stellt Euer großes **Gepäck auf die Gänge, BEVOR Ihr zum Frühstück geht**, und vergesst bitte nicht, Eure Kabinenschlüssel an der Rezeption abzugeben.
- 08.45** **Landgang II in Longyearbyen:** Bitte kommt mit Eurer Zodiac-Rettungsweste zur Gangway – Ihr werdet per Zodiac an Land gebracht.
- 09.00** Der Bus vom Hafen in den Ort fährt ab.
Bitte bringt Euer Gepäck selbst vom Hafen zum Lkw, damit Ihr sicher seid, dass es auch wirklich von Bord ist. Wer in Longyearbyen bleibt, nimmt sein Gepäck bitte mit in den Bus (nicht in den Lkw)!
- 13.00** Für alle, die auf den Flug um 14.45 Uhr gebucht sind: Der **Bus** bringt Euch vom Ort (dort, wo Ihr zuvor ausgestiegen seid) **zum Flughafen**, wo Ihr Euer Gepäck zum Einchecken aus dem Euch bereits bekannten Lkw nehmt.

Eigentlich sollte ein Jahr in der Arktis für jedermann obligatorisch sein! Dort würde jeder erfahren, was in der Welt wichtig ist und was nicht. Was zählt, und worauf es im Leben ankommt.

Christiane Ritter, Eine Frau erlebt die Polarnacht

Wir wünschen Euch eine gute Heimreise!

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

Plancius

29th of August 2017 (Day 10)

If you are on the **02.30 flight out of Longyearbyen**: Please put your check-in luggage outside your cabin door by 23.30 latest tonight!

- 23.45** (Short) Wake-up call for everybody on the 02.30 flight.
- 00.15** **Landing I, Longyearbyen**: Please come to the gangway – you will be transferred to the pier by zodiac. Please put on your zodiac lifejacket, and please don't forget to return your cabin keys to reception!
- 00.30** The **bus from the pier to the airport** is leaving. You will find your luggage at the pier. Please take it to the bus yourselves to make sure it's with you.
- 07.15** **Wake-up call** for everybody else.

Before you go for breakfast, please put your check-in luggage outside your cabin door (latest by 07.30).

- 07.30** **Breakfast** in the Dining Room until 08.30.
Please put your check-in luggage outside your cabin door **BEFORE going for breakfast**, and please don't forget to return your cabin keys to Reception.
- 08.45** **Landing II, Longyearbyen**: Please come to the gangway – you will be transferred to the pier by zodiac. Please put on your zodiac lifejacket.
- 09.00** The bus from the pier to the center of Longyearbyen is departing.
Your luggage will be waiting for you at the pier. Please identify it and take it to the luggage truck yourself in order to make sure it's off the vessel. For those of you staying in Longyearbyen, please take your luggage with you on the bus!
- 13.00** If you are on the 14.45 flight: The **bus** will take you from the center of Longyearbyen (the same place where you were dropped off in the morning) **to the airport**. There you will find your check-in luggage waiting for you in the luggage truck.

All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting.

- Rudyard Kipling

Happy traveling home!