



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

22<sup>nd</sup> June – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### *M/V 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

## Including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Artur Iakoviev</b>	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	<b>Luis Oroceo</b>	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Teunis van't Verlaat</b>	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Dejan Nikolic</b>	[Serbia]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Gabor Ferencz</b>	[Hungary]
Head Chef:	<b>Khabir Moraes</b>	[India]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Ninette van Es</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Michael Ginzburg</b>	[Russia/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Ali Liddle</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Lynn Woodworth</b>	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Tom van Hoof</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laurence Dyke</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Adam Turner</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Johnny Yeh</b>	[China]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sasha Romanovskiy</b>	[Russia]

# Day 1 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

## Embarkation – Longyearbyen

GPS 08.00 Position: 078°14'N / 015°35'E

Wind: NNW 4. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Fog. Air Temp: +4°C. Sea Temp: +4°C.



Longyearbyen is situated at 78° north and, as such is one of the world's most northerly settlements. It grew up as a coal mining town but now is home to around 2,000 residents who live and work here all year round. This number temporarily swells during the summer months with the arrival of thousands of visitors on cruise ships.

Some of us had arrived a day early and had time to explore the town and maybe take a day trip, but many of us arrived just this afternoon, and

after being met by Sasha at the airport we had some time to visit the town before making our way to the port to join our ship *Plancius*.

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon as we made our way to the floating pontoon and we were met by Lynn, who made sure we had all our luggage and lifejackets ready to go on board by Zodiac, as *Plancius* was anchored out in the fjord. It was an easy ride to the ship, allowing us to become familiar with the Zodiacs which will be taking us to and from the shore in the coming days.

From the gangway we were shown to Reception where DJ, our Hotel Manager and his assistant Gabor checked us in and we were shown to our cabins by the very welcoming hotel staff. We found our luggage already there. We had some time to familiarise ourselves with our cabin before we were called to the Lounge for the mandatory safety briefing which was given by our 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer Luis Oroceo. This gave us all the information we needed about safety on board the ship and prepared us for the lifeboat drill that was to follow. We heard the abandon ship alarm and gathered at the muster station, the Lounge, wearing our big orange life jackets, the only time we hope to be wearing them. After the roll call we were taken out to the lifeboats to see where they were located and how we would embark if required.

Out on deck we found ourselves on our way out of Isfjord heading north for the start of our Arctic adventure. The fog that had been around Isfjord all day continued to shroud our view a little but it was beautifully atmospheric as we made our way north.

We met in the Lounge once again and had a briefing from our Hotel Manager, DJ who explained some of the procedures on board *Plancius*, our home for the week. The hotel staff served us champagne and canapes before we met with our Captain Evgeny Levakov who explained a little bit about our forthcoming trip.

It was then a chance to meet our Expedition team who will be guiding us safely during our voyage here on Svalbard. We have an international team on board with a wealth of experience both here in the Arctic and Antarctica. Our Expedition leader, Michael Ginzburg, gave us a little more information



about our plans for the trip. He showed us an ice chart and it was clear to see that the pack ice is a long way north this year.

It was then time for dinner, which was a chance to meet with our fellow passengers. With 24 hours of daylight many of us enjoyed some time out on deck with a mixture of mist and sunshine, spotting Fulmars,

Guillemots, Kittiwakes and the tiny Little auks. It was a very pleasant evening on board. Our final job of the evening was to collect our rubber boots from the staff in the boot room. We will certainly need these in the coming days going from ship to shore and back again.

## Day 2 – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

### Fuglesangen

**GPS 08.00 Position:** 079°46'N / 010°22'E

**Wind:** NE 2. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Fog. **Air Temp:** +4°C. **Sea Temp:** +5°C.



When it no longer gets dark outside, your body clock nonetheless tells you when it's time to sleep, but rather than rely on our body clock to also wake us again, it was Misha's voice we heard at 7am: welcome to a beautiful day on Arctic waters; the breakfast buffet would begin soon.

It is always like this, especially in the Arctic: we make a plan of our intended activities, then mother nature corrects it to the way she wants it to be. During the night *Plancius* covered quite a long distance and finally anchored at the Northwest tip of the archipelago close to the island of Fuglesangen. We were planning to land there to visit the Little auk colony - and it would have gone splendidly but for a blanket of the thickest fog, covering the whole area. In conditions of low visibility, it is forbidden to do any kind of landing activity as it is potentially very dangerous. Staff would not be able to see any Polar bears that might be resting on shore or approaching.

Nevertheless, fog was not an obstacle for activity onboard, including two mandatory briefings. The first one was about Polar bears and the second was about Zodiac operations. Michael, our expedition leader, explained us in detail what to do and how to behave in case of a Polar bear encounter, what to do to spot the Polar bear in time, and how attentive we need to be when walking on land. Misha also gave us information about all the Zodiac operations we are going to take part in, and outlined the guidelines of AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators). After all, we would like take part in responsible and sustainable tourism in Svalbard and elsewhere.

Meanwhile we were staring out the windows and portholes trying to distinguish at least something resembling land, but not succeeding as the fog was still very thick. Yes, visibility was very low, but it let us spot a school of Atlantic cod, swimming by the starboard side of *Plancius*. Big fish! There were also birds flying by, appearing from and disappearing in the mist, including Little auks, Brunnich's guillemots, Northern fulmars and Kittiwakes. Occasionally the snow topped mountains appeared out of the mist and then after a fleeting tempting glimpse they disappeared once again. With 0 knots of wind registering on the scale on the Bridge it didn't look like the fog was going to clear any time soon.





After lunch we were still anchored, hoping that the wind would pick up and blow the fog away. The wind seemed to have different plans, so the strongest gust we had was only 2 knots, according to the information from the captain's bridge. Soon after lunch, the Captain made a decision not to stay on the anchorage any longer and to start sailing Eastwards. *Plancius* picked up the anchor and started making its way through the fog.

At 3pm we had a lecture. Michael invited everyone to the lounge and organized a lecture and discussion about sea ice and how important it is. Very interesting and thought provoking. During the lecture the weather

conditions improved and visibility started to increase allowing views to the mainland and out to sea.

By 6pm the visibility was much better and we had crossed the 80th parallel and passed by a small sand bank called Moffen Island. There would not be anything special in Moffen if not for the Walruses hauling out on its sandy coastline. Moffen is a nature reserve and it is not allowed to approach it closer than 300 meters, so we had to watch the Walruses from the distance. Big, fat and lazy animals with long tusks were laying and sleeping. Close to the ship it was possible to watch Eider duck on the water and Northern fulmars flying by.

Our walrus watching was followed by daily recap where Michael announced plans for tomorrow and Ali gave us some interesting information about Walrus.

The visibility kept on improving and after dinner there was no fog left at all. We could see beautiful Northern coastline of Spitsbergen with its sharp peaked mountains.

In the evening after 9 pm there was one more surprise mother nature prepared for us. Whales! A group of 3 Fin whales was actively feeding in the shallow waters of the Spitsbergen shelf. We all went out to the front deck and took a lot of good pictures, as the whales came much closer to the ship than we would have expected. It was a great ending to the day.



## Day 3 – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Vibebukta and Torellneset

GPS 08.00 Position: 79°10'N / 022°37'E

Wind: W 4. Sea State: Calm/Ice. Weather: Light Air. Air Temp: +2°C. Sea Temp: 0°C.



The day started with the now-expected wakeup call from Misha and then before most people had finished breakfast came another announcement. Two bears had been sighted from the bridge as we were making our way through the ice toward our intended landing site! The ice meant that we were unable to carry out the original plan of a landing at Vibebukta, but keen eyes on the bridge spotted the mayonnaise coloured shapes at some distance and after confirming that it was not just dirty ice, the Captain took our ship quietly through the maze of glacial and sea ice towards our furry objectives. We arrived at the two bears and remained a good distance away as not to disturb them, further announcements were made inside for those who were still in the restaurant. One of the bears had a dead seal on the ice floe that it was eating, the second bear gradually getting closer and awaiting their turn for some food.

Looking at size, we decided that the bear eating was a male and the smaller one waiting was female. After a while, the male had enough to eat and gave up the food and moved to a different piece of sea ice. At this point, the female approached and began her meal, eating what the male had not managed to consume. Shortly after she began to eat, we were treated to another bear.



After we had arrived at the two bears with the kill, we saw a third bear a long distance away at the 7 o'clock position behind the ship, heading towards the two bears and us. The third bear was another male who had swum and walked several kilometres since we saw him to take part in the feast. A very large animal, as he swam we saw only his sodden head moving towards the ice flow where the food and the female bear was. He effortlessly climbed out of the water and the female bear without any hesitation stopped her feasting and moved away. It was



a fantastic opportunity to watch the interaction between the three bears and how they apparently willingly stopped eating for the next bear.

Constant companions of the meal were Glaucous gulls who were on occasion moved away by the bears, it was also a pleasure to see several Ivory gulls there as the bears ate. While Glaucous gulls are almost ubiquitous in Svalbard, the Ivory gulls are much rarer, and generally only spotted with bears on kills.

We then left the bears in peace and went inside for a well earned warm up, and our hotel manager DJ had very kindly ensured food was still available for those whom had missed breakfast.



We made our way out of the ice and as we did so saw a large number of Walrus. A majority were in the water but we also saw some hauled out on ice. As the *Plancius* pushed her way through the ice some of the Walrus followed the ship and appeared to be frolicking in the water turbulence caused by our passage. It was fun to watch them swimming in a very tight group, weaving around and leaning on each other while swimming.

Lunch was served and we headed towards our afternoon activity. The Captain anchored the ship and Zodiacs were lowered in preparation for a Zodiac cruise to see the Walrus haul out at Torellneset. The steam rose from the gathered pinnipeds in a small cloud before it was lost to the cool Arctic air. We were able to see a good mixture of calved glacier ice as well as remnants of sea ice around the site and also around the ship.

As we cruised in the small boats, several groups of Walrus approached the Zodiacs, providing more photo opportunities and the chance to appreciate their effortless swimming and diving skills which are in stark contrast to their cumbersome and inelegant movement ashore. These giant animals can reach 1.5 tonnes in size, most of which seems to be blubber. The cruise ended with all in good spirits and a celebratory glass of 'bubbly' was served at recap in toast to a good day of Arctic wildlife sightings.

Misha gave information on our plans for tomorrow as well as information regarding the polar bears that we had seen including how to identify male and female bears, all this was followed by dinner in the restaurant.



## Day 4 – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Alkefjellet and Faksevagen

GPS 08.00 Position: 079°34'N / 018°34'E

Wind: SE 3. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Overcast. Air Temp: +4°C. Sea Temp: +1°C.



Today we started with a zodiac cruise along the impressive bird-cliffs at Alkefjellet. Massive amounts of Brunnich's guillemots were busy preparing for the breeding season. When we approached the cliffs with the zodiacs, an Arctic fox was spotted on the cliffs, probably looking for an easy meal. Slowly we sailed along the cliffs and were able to approach the birds very closely. Along the cliffs we witnessed a gull eating a dead guillemot, a second Arctic fox trying to get closer to the guillemots and due to the crystal-clear



water, we were able to observe how guillemots “fly” underwater. The reason the cliffs are so steep is that they are made out of a very specific type of rock called dolerite. Dolerite is a sub-volcanic variation of basaltic rocks, which cooled underground 170 million years ago. During the uplift and the following erosion of the softer sediments surrounding it, these Dolerites were harder to break down and hence formed these massive steep cliffs with many small edges. This makes it an excellent breeding ground for Guillemots, as it is hard for the Arctic foxes to reach the nests.

In the afternoon we headed for Faksevagen where we were going to stretch our legs for the first time this journey by making a landing by zodiac on shore. The group was divided in three, a short, medium and long walk. While on the beach we could see the rock-layers at the other side of the fjord were vertical alterations of red, grey, yellow and black layers. These rocks are of Proterozoic age, which means they were deposited 600 million to 1 billion years ago. They have been deeply buried before being uplifted, which resulted in re-crystallization of the rocks due to the massive depth and heat these rocks were exposed to. Evidence of that you could find on our walk up the

hill where we found rocks of all kinds of colours with a crystal-like appearance. During our hike up we spotted several Reindeer in the distance and lots of male and female ptarmigans preparing for the breeding season. We had an excellent view on a retreating side glacier of the Asgardfonna, the icecap covering large parts of Ny Friesland. After a few hours walking on the Tundra and experiencing the Arctic wilderness on first hand we head back to the warm and cosy lounge of the Plancius for a debriefing by our expedition leader Misha. After Misha went through the day and discussed the plans for tomorrow, Ali gave a lecture about Guillemots and Arctic foxes. We learned why Guillemots, the “Penguins of the North” did not lose their ability to fly in contrast to their southern hemispheric cousins. We also learned how Guillemots raise their young, and that father Guillemot swims large distances south with the chick to reach safe ice-free waters before the chick learns how to fly. After Ali’s recap on the zoology, Laurence explained us some more about glaciers and showed some examples of their impressive dynamics. After a long an exhausting day, DJ’s announcement that dinner was being served resulted in a quick relocation to the diner hall, were everybody enjoyed their well-deserved dinner.





# Day 5 – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Fuglesangen and Smeerenburgreen

**GPS 08.00 Position:** 079°49'N / 011°20'E

**Wind:** N 3. **Sea State:** Smooth. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +7°C. **Sea Temp:** +4°C.



Overnight we transited to the northwest corner of Svalbard and we woke to the familiar gentle motion of the ship. As we tucked in to a hearty breakfast we could see that the weather was excellent for another day of expedition cruising in the Arctic; light winds, no fog, and relatively mild temperatures (for 79°N!). We all jumped into the Zodiacs and set off to visit the island of Fuglesangen, which means 'birdsong' in Norwegian. After a slightly adventurous landing on a beautiful cobble beach we made our way to the base of the cliffs to see if the Little auks were home. We

were in luck; as we moved quietly and carefully to the edge of the colony it became clear that the colony

was full of activity, the Little auks were preening, nesting, and busy socialising with each other. We sat and watched the birds and they charmed us with their cheerful character and they treated us several raucous fly-bys. Ali explained that these swooping flights en-masse were a response to the threat from the Glaucous gulls occasionally patrolling the cliffs.

After heading back to the *Plancius* for lunch we weighed anchor and sailed deeper into the fjords of this mountainous corner of Svalbard. The Dutch named the island Spitsbergen, or 'pointy mountains' after the impressive peaks in this area. We headed down Smeerenburgfjorden and into Bjornfjorden all-the-while keeping our eyes on the landscape for signs of wildlife.

As we rounded the final corner we were treated to a sweeping vista of our destination for the afternoon, the mighty Smeerenburgreen, a vast valley glacier which drains ice from a mountain icefield that covers all but the highest peaks in the area. Zodiacs were launched and we boarded for an unforgettable cruise amongst the glacial ice. We were treated to walrus, a bearded seal, and even a small ringed seal, all hauled-out on floating chunks of glacial ice in front of the glacier. As we drew closer to the front several large calving events broke the silence. Each collapse sent thousands of tonnes of ice crashing



into the fjord and the thunderous noise echoed from the mountains around. Clouds shrouded the mountain tops throughout the afternoon and the leaden skies accentuated the startling white and vivid blue of the glacier. Eventually it was time to return to the *Plancius* where we were treated to a recap of the day's events and upcoming plans. Ali gave a talk about Little auks including some great photos from the morning at Fuglesangen



and plenty of interesting facts, amongst them that Little auks are the second most numerous seabird on Earth, the population is an estimated 10 million on Svalbard alone! Adam followed with an overview of whales (or was it Wales?!) and talked especially about the Fin whales we had seen on Day 2. Finally, Sasha headlined with a highly-amusing story about a series of encounters with a Polar bear from his time living in Pyramiden. DJ then called us all to the back deck and we were treated to an Arctic barbecue; a veritable feast from the grill complete with a mountain of ice cold refreshments and a spectacular glacial backdrop.



## Day 6 – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### 14 Julibukta and Blomstrandhalvoya

**GPS 08.00 Position:** 078°57'N / 012°06'E

**Wind:** NE 4. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +4°C. **Sea Temp:** +4°C.



The day started grey and a little bit drizzly, but conditions were good for us to go on our excursion, so rain was not going to slow us down. We had sailed South overnight, into 14 Julibukta, where we were planning a split Zodiac cruise and landing. Half of us went ashore onto a beach below bird cliffs, where kittiwakes and Brunnich's guillemots nest. The slightly gentler, grassy slopes below the cliffs had a small herd of reindeer and some geese grazing, and there was a brief view of a Polar fox sniffing around looking for breakfast. The walk was along and just above the shoreline, leading to a small amphitheatre made of steep rocks. Four to six metres high, the sheltered area is both South facing and directly below the

nutrient-providing bird cliffs. The dark rock warms with the energy from the sunshine, creating a perfect micro-climate for comparatively lush plant growth. Moss campion, also known as 'compass plant', indicated the way South, as that is where the purple flowers bloom first on this round and compact plant. Drooping and Nodding saxifrage, yellow and white Drabas, Mountain avens, and several more species were in flower for us to enjoy, and mosses and lichens flourished in the comparatively warm, damp conditions down low, where water drains continuously through the rocks. Along the shore, waves crashed onto mini-icebergs that had been washed up onto the beach, and many of us got wetter than expected when we went down to pose for photos with the beautiful natural ice sculptures. Those of us in the Zodiacs got wetter than expected as well - the wind was sweeping the tops off the waves, spraying and splashing us at



unexpected moments. It was an exciting cruise, hunting puffins on the cliffs with the boat going up and down, watching the reindeer on the slopes, and visiting the glacier. The puffins were home for us, and most got a decent look at them on the water and a quick glimpse of their rocky nesting sites on the low waterfront cliffs. One of the more Northerly locations for puffins, these ones were sharing a cliff face with Brunnich's guillemots. After a warming lunch, we had repositioned to Blomstrandhalvoya on the Western side of Kongsfjorden and intended to go ashore at an old mining camp called

Ny London. Named Camp Mansfield after himself when built, Ny London was the name given by Norwegians at the time to indicate where the British were. Ernest Mansfield was a prospector and explorer who in 1909 discovered marble on the island and built a mine and developed the infrastructure to extract and export it to Europe. While the plan might have been viable, world events got in the way and WWI turned people's minds from marble to more serious matters. The disused machinery is rusting away, but the original hut is still in good repair, and the road to the mine is almost as good as the day it was built.

The wind was still strong, and the waves even more so, and our plan to land at Ny London had to be modified. We could not get to the beach below the huts so we landed a little further along the shoreline and started our walks on open ground. The long group set off, followed by medium, photography and leisurely groups. Just up the hill from our start point, thick bands of marble came to the surface, alternating with varied tundra patches. This ground was not



as rich as we had seen this morning, but in some sheltered spots a bit of organic material had built up and plants were thriving. Even on the very rocky patches, if you looked carefully, tiny yellow flowers of Draba could be found, somehow eking a living out of what appeared to be solid rock. Most of us walked to where there was a good view of the old camp, some of us continued on through and up the other side of the valley it was in. Those interested in wildlife and photography did less distance, going up to some small ponds and searching out the species to be found in the area, and their patience was rewarded with sightings of harder to find species like Longtailed skua, Longtailed duck and Red throated diver. Everybody enjoyed the opportunity to stretch their legs a bit and take advantage of the beautiful open hills, but the biting wind drove us back to the *Plancius* and Charlotte's hospitality.



At recap, Ali gave us some info on the local reindeer and how special they are, Tom explained some of the patterns we saw in the rocks on the afternoon landing, and then Ali lead into dinner with a short Who's Poo illustrated quiz. Relaxing into the dining room, we thought the day was winding down, but it turned out not to be. Misha's voice on the PA system let us know there was more to do - a mother Polar bear with two cubs had been spotted, and the Zodiacs were back in the water. We all piled back down the gangway and set off for the little island where the bears had last been spotted. After a long, wet, bumpy and cold ride, finally Ali located the bears, on top of a ridge. It was still wet, it was still windy, and we were all still bouncing around a lot, but it was great

entertainment to watch as the cubs followed their mother from one point to another, running into each other and rolling about. All the Zodiacs jostled for position, trying to keep the moving bears in view while not getting into each other's way and maximising the chance of someone getting a good photo. Finally, the mother disappeared behind a ridge, and we lost her from view, and the cubs soon followed. Then she turned around and came back ... stopped ... turned again, and finally she was gone for a while, and so we started scouting further afield, hoping she would reappear somewhere. We almost fully circled the little islet, and at just the point we were about to give up, we got the call from Ali: "She's over here!". Off we went again, and it was well worth it. The mother was quite close to the water, and the cubs appeared over the ridge, exploring their world. Glaucous gulls attracted their attention, and they jumped back, startled, when one unfurled its wings. They then tried to climb a straight sided boulder to reach the gull on top of that, with no success. Scattering the gulls again, they finally settled beside their mother, who was resting on a patch of lush green moss. At that point, we left the family in peace, and started to make our way back to the ship. Everybody was ready for some heat, cake, and a good warming drink.



## Day 7 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Snatcherpynten, Bellsund

**GPS 08.00 Position:** 077°49'N / 012°15'E

**Wind:** NW 4. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Clear. **Air Temp:** +4°C. **Sea Temp:** +5°C.

During the night we had sailed south towards our final destination for this trip, in Bellsund. For some of us the motion of the ocean was a little uncomfortable at times with some rolling but it soon eased as we began to make our way into the shelter of Bellsund. We were a little delayed due to our late departure from Kongsfjord so it was a slow start to the day after the late-night excitement of the Polar bear and her cubs and after a leisurely breakfast we all enjoyed some down time after a busy day. Many of us relaxed in the lounge, looking at photos, editing diaries, chatting and reading while other enjoyed the passing scenery out on deck.

Our first planned landing site had high swell and breaking waves on the beach so we sailed into Bellsund and cruised along one of the islands where staff were scouting and scanning for wildlife and then sailed past Midterhuken, an area where there are high seabird cliffs with grassy green slopes beneath, home to many reindeer during the summer months.

Our final destination was a sheltered side fjord. Just before lunch we found ourselves at the anchorage in Recherchefjord for the final afternoon landing at Snatcherpynten. This fjord was named by a French expedition that came to the area in 1838, bringing with them Leonie D'Aunet,

a 19-year-old girl who is recorded to be the first woman to set foot on Svalbard.

After lunch the staff were ready on shore to meet us for our final long, medium and leisurely hikes. Laurence and Adam set off at a good pace to reach the moraines that have been left by the glacier at the back of the bay. They gained a good level of height and at their end point on the hike they all enjoyed the fabulous views down onto the glacier. Some snow sliding took place along with some Arctic silence where only the sound of meltwater running on and through the glacier could be heard.



The medium hiking group with Sasha, Tom and Ali set off towards the leaning house that was along the shore. This was built to be a hunting and shooting lodge by a Norwegian consul, Johannes Gjaever in 1904 but his plans for reindeer hunting didn't work out. The house has been leaning for many years and it is still managing to stay up!

From here the group walked up towards the moraines enjoying the flowers and a friendly reindeer on the way. The walk back down was a little muddy and the group almost lost the Doctor, Sasha and Tom in the thick, sticky mud as they led the way down the hill. Needless to

say, the group didn't follow their route!

Michael had taken a birding group to explore the tundra for Arctic skuas and they were successful on their mission to find a dark morph skua as well as an Arctic fox.



At a lower level Lynn and Johnny enjoyed a leisurely walk amongst the flowering tundra and exploring the human history of this area of Bellsund, which was used for initially for whaling then iron prospecting and trappers. The modern fishing industry could be seen out in the bay with a fishing boat offloading its catch onto a freezer ship.

All the groups converged at the landing site once again to take part in the Polar Plunge, a swim in the Arctic Ocean. For some it was enough to just run into the water, dip down and then run back out again but some donned their swimming caps and goggles and did some laps along the beach. Well done to everyone who took part.

Back on board we had time to warm up before returning our rubber boots to the boot room and then getting ready for Captains Cocktails in the Lounge. This was a chance to toast the success of our voyage with the Captain, Evgeeny Levakov, and also thank the Expedition team for their hard work on this voyage. They took us on some great hikes on Svalbard and they searched the pack ice for our very special trio of hungry bears. The lasting memory for many, including staff will be that wet and bouncy zodiac ride to see the female polar bear and her cubs on the island in Kongsfjorden. We will all remember that evening for the rest of our lives.

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# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

**Total distance sailed on our voyage:**

Nautical miles: 880.8nm

Kilometres: 1710.6km



***On behalf of everyone on board  
we thank you for travelling with us  
and wish you a safe journey home.***



- 1- Fugelsangen-Fog
- 2- Vibebukta - Bears
- 3- Torellneset - Walrus
- 4- Alkefjellet - Birds
- 5- Faksevagen
- 6- Fugelsangen - Little Auks
- 7- Smeerenburgbreen
- 8- 14 Julibukta
- 9- Ny London- Polar Bear and Cubs
- 10- Recherchefjorden





<b>Atlantic Cod</b>									
<b>Sabine's Gull</b>			?						



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The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by November 30, 2018. The photography contest runs from April, 30 until October, 30 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 mountains)*

# TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2018

**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 titles and subtitles to the story.
3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post. 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 by completing the entry form "Share your story" (<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/customer-story/create>) **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 OCTOBER 30

Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by November 30, 2018

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## Michael Ginzburg—Guide and Lecturer

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Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and turned even into an addiction when he first stepped on Svalbard at the early age of 20. Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice and ever since (12 years by now) worked on the evolution and ecology of sea ice 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 traveled all 7 continents, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion and love for nature in photography and articles. Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist throughout the world. In 2016 Michael accepted a teaching position for photojournalism at the German POP Academy in Bremen.

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# Ali Liddle — Assistant Expedition Leader

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## English

Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley. Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having

completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

## Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin im sogenannten "Camp" wie auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zuständig für den Bereich Bildung des Umweltamtes und teilte ihre Zeit zwischen Klassenzimmer und Naturschutz. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt betrieb. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, um zu wandern, Ski zu laufen und die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert sind. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

Ali arbeitet bereits seit vielen Jahren auf allen Schiffen der Oceanwide-Flotte, sowohl in der Antarktis wie auch der Arktis. Sie ist vor kurzem von Northumberland in England auf die Isle of Skye in Schottland gezogen, wo sie zur Zeit eine alte Kate renoviert. In ihrer Freizeit genießt sie die unglaublichen Wandermöglichkeiten der Insel.

Ihr besonderes Interesse gilt der Natur und der Tierwelt: dieses Wissen und ihre Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen teilt sie gerne mit Euch.

# Lynn Woodworth — Expedition Guide



## English

Lynn comes from the mountains and lakes of western Canada, where she first developed her love for remote wilderness and cold water. She started travelling at 17 and settled in Australia, where she completed two biology degrees, including a PhD in conservation genetics, examining minimum viable population size in wildlife. In 1996, she first went to Antarctica by accident. Travelling again after her time in academia, Lynn left her motorcycle in Argentina to sail to the Antarctic Peninsula. She was hooked on Antarctica and has been working in the polar regions ever since. She has been to the Ross Sea region, and knows the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia better than some penguins. In the northern summer, she has taken ships to arctic Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Russia and the North Pole. Lynn stopped counting at somewhere over 135 voyages, 17 different vessels, and more than two years of her life spent in the Drake Passage. She has held most ship-based roles including lecturer (wildlife and natural history), guide, zodiac driver, Assistant Expedition Leader and Expedition Leader, and has also worked on shore as Operations Manager. She has co-authored two books on the Antarctic, *Antarctica The Complete Story* (published on three continents) and *The Blue Continent* (released in 17 languages at last count). Lynn still calls Australia home and has recently moved to Tasmania, as close to Antarctica as she can get and still be in Australia.

## Deutsch

Lynn ist Kanadierin. Die Bergen und Seen des westlichen Kanadas weckten ihre Vorliebe für entlegene Wildness und kaltes Wasser. Ihre persönliche Odyssee begann mit 17 Jahren: sie zog nach Australien und absolvierte ein Biologiestudium. Ihre Doktorarbeit in Genetik mit Anwendung im Artenschutz behandelte kleinstmögliche Bestandsgrößen. Ein glücklicher Zufall brachte Lynn 1996 das erste Mal in die Antarktis. Nach ihrer akademischen Auszeit war sie mit dem Motorrad in Argentinien unterwegs, dass sie kurzerhand stehenließ, um gen Süden zu segeln. Seitdem haben die Polarregionen sie voll im Griff. Sie kennt die Ross See, die antarktische Halbinsel, die Falklandinseln und Südgeorgien besser als einige Pinguine. Im Sommer der Nordhalbkugel begleitete sie Schiffe ins arktische Kanada, nach Island, Grönland, Svalbard, Russland und zum Nordpol. Lynn hörte mit dem Zählen bei mehr als 135 Reisen auf 17 verschiedenen Schiffen und mehr als insgesamt zwei Jahren in der Drake Passage auf. Sie arbeitete in etlichen auf einem Schiff vorkommenden Positionen: Lektorin für Natürliches und Tierisches, Guide, Zodiakfahrerin, (assistierende) Expeditionsleiterin, sowie Operationsmanagerin an Land. Sie ist Co-Autorin von zwei Büchern über die Antarktis: *Antarctica The Complete Story* (auf drei Kontinenten veröffentlicht) und *The Blue Continent* (bei der letzten Zählung in 17 Sprachen übersetzt). Lynn ist vor kurzem nach Tasmanien gezogen, näher zur Antarktis war nicht möglich.

## Tom van Hoof - Expedition Guide



Tom fell in love with the Arctic when he was attending a climatology masterclass as student at the University Centre of Svalbard in 2001. During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO<sub>2</sub> on climate change during the past millennium. After living a year in the desert of Tucson, Arizona (USA), where he was working as a Postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona, Tom returned to the Arctic when he started working for the Dutch Geological Survey in 2005. As a biostratigrapher (fossil-lover) he returned to Spitsbergen for a number of expeditions, collecting rocks and guiding fellow geologists. One of these expeditions was on board the Ortelius (SEES.NL) where he got into contact with Oceanwide Expeditions. Tom's academic background in geology/palaeoclimatology is a broad one, ranging from climate change during the past 1000 yrs to ecology of coal forming swamp ecosystems 300 million years ago. He loves to be outside especially in the Arctic wilderness. Since 2018 Tom left the Dutch Geological Survey and started his own geological consultancy business. To be able to spend some time in the Arctic, and share his passion for wilderness, he started to work as a guide.



## Laurence Dyke – Expedition Guide



Laurence is a scientist with a background in geography and glaciology. He first visited the Arctic in 2010 whilst undertaking research for his PhD in palaeoglaciology and was immediately entranced by the wild and beautiful landscapes of the high latitudes. His subsequent research has taken him on numerous expeditions to remote areas of Greenland in a quest to understand how and why huge glacier systems have changed in the past.

Laurence is also a passionate advocate for polar science and has produced a number of videos and articles about research from Greenland and the wider Arctic. Laurence lectures in glaciology and geography.

# Adam Turner, FRGS — Expedition Guide



## English

Adam was brought up in countryside of Essex, England. He began sailing at the age of 9 and began working on the local river aged 12 before leaving school. By 16 he had a small fishing boat and was working on boatyards and taking tourists to see the local seal colonies as well as helping out on the local Lifeboat. Adam then joined HM Forces and was posted to Northern Ireland and in the UK, he also served in Kenya as a boat operator. In 2002 Adam joined the Police and spent several years on a specialist unit working across the UK with his search dog Charley. Since being a young lad Adam had dreamt of working in the Antarctic like his Uncle had done in the late 1980's, in 2014 Adam left the Police and worked as

Boating Officer for British Antarctic Survey at King Edward Point, South Georgia where he spent just over a year. Adam studied at Middlesex University and gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, he now works as guide and Consultant.

Adam hold a commercial masters certificate and instructs in several marine disciplines, he enjoys diving, climbing, kayaking and outdoor activities.

## Deutsch

Adam ist in Essex, England aufgewachsen. Schon mit 9 Jahren begann er zu segeln und arbeitete mit 12 auf dem lokalen Fluss, bevor er die Schule verließ. Schon mit 16 war er Eigentümer eines kleinen Fischerbootes, arbeitete in kleinen Werften und nahm Touristen auf kleine Ausflüge zu den lokalen Seehundbanken mit. Er war außerdem auf dem örtlichen Rettungsboot beschäftigt. Seine Ausbildung erhielt er in der Armee und wurde in Nordirland, England sowie Kenia als Bootsführer stationiert. 2002 ging er zur Spezialeinheit der Polizei und arbeitete überall in England mit seinem Suchhund Charly und bildete Hunde aus. Seine Liebe zum Wasser hat Adam nie aufgegeben: Er unterrichtet verschiedene Techniken der Seefahrt und ist der Fahrer seines örtlichen Rettungsbootes. Seit seinen jungen Jahren hat er davon geträumt, eines Tages wie sein Onkel in der Antarktis zu arbeiten. Für diesen Traum verließ Adam im Jahr 2014 die Polizei, um als Bootsoffizier für ein Jahr für das British Antarctic Survey auf King Edward Point, Südgeorgien zu arbeiten. In England ist Adam als freiberuflicher Berater und Trainer beschäftigt. Mit seiner kleinen Familie genießt er es, in der Natur unterwegs zu sein. Adam ist sehr an Geschichte und Tieren interessiert.

## John Yeh Biography



I was born on 1958 in Taiwan and lives in Sydney, Australia since 1991. I joined “Chinese Boy Scouts” from Junior High to college. During in Boy Scouts those years I learned a lot from the team work, camping skill, tracking skill, wildlife, plants etc. I was in the Military Service for 2 year as a Lieutenant. I have taken up orienteering in Gobi desert, China twice on 2013. I really enjoy traveling and outdoor challenging activity.

I had EE bachelor degree and was R/D engineer for 7 years before work as a regional Sales manager in South Europe and GM for Australia/New Zealand. I changed my working carrier into tourism industry since 2013 and work as “Senior International Business Consultant” & “Expedition Guide” as well. I have been to Antarctica 15 times and 7 times in Arctic till Oct/2017 and really enjoy dealing & working with people. . I have been to more than 40 countries and covered 7 continentals during last 30 years.

## John Yeh 叶佳京 背景资料

出在台湾, 1991 年移居澳洲雪梨. 初中到大专院校时我参加“童子军”社团, 在这期间我学会了团队合作的重要性;露营;野外求生;足迹追踪技巧,野生动植物的辨识及应用. 服过两年兵役, 任职少尉分队长, 带领了 50 位士官兵. 2013 参与两项戈壁徒步项目;中国文化探索之旅及 2013 北京四中国际班高中新生拓展训练. 我热爱旅行, 但更喜爱户外挑战运动.

我已取得电机工程学士学位, 在高级职业学校担任专业教师 5 年. 有 7 年电视及计算机显示器线路研发及设计经历. 担任过南欧 7 国区域业务经理及国际知名 IT 公司澳洲/新西兰公司分公司总经理.

2013 转换职场跑道跨入旅行行业, 担任国内著名南北极旅行公司的资深国际业务顾问及项目操作副总. 2014 年 7 月回到澳洲后申请修习旅行观光及活动管理等专业课程, 目前已取得旅行观光从业人员 4 级及活动管理 3 级资格, 同时也持有[户外急救证](#); [冲锋艇驾照](#); [来复枪持枪资格](#); [IAATO 南极及南乔治亚岛导游证](#); [国际海员证](#).

2014 年 11 月开始任职于荷兰一家南北极探险旅行(邮轮公司)的探险队员.截至 2017 年 10 月, 已到过南极 15 次, 北极 7 次, 在这工作期间走访过 40 多个国家及 7 大洲.非常享受跟旅客互动及经验分享.

Date: 31-May-2018

## Alexander Romanovskiy, Russia



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spend 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geocological researches. In the year of 2011 however Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew. Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!



# Captain Evgeny Levakov

**and his international crew**

**Including:**

Chief Officer:	<b>Artur Iakoviev</b>	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	<b>Luis Oroceo</b>	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Teunis van't Verlaat</b>	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Dejan Nikolic</b>	[Serbia]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Gabor Ferencz</b>	[Hungary]
Head Chef:	<b>Khabir Moraes</b>	[India]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Ninette van Es</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Michael Ginzburg</b>	[Russia/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Ali Liddle</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Lynn Woodworth</b>	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Tom van Hoof</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laurence Dyke</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Adam Turner</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Johnny Yeh</b>	[China]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sasha Romanovskiy</b>	[Russia]



# Polar Bear Special

## Embarkation Longyearbyen

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

- 1600      **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. Refreshments are available in the Lounge Bar on Deck 5.
- 1700      Our Hotel Manager DJ will give an **introduction to the ship**. This will be followed by a **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill in the Lounge**. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to attend this very important safety briefing. Please listen for announcements over the PA system.
- 1900      **Captain's Cocktails!** Captain Evgeny Levakov and Hotel Manager invite you to join them for a Welcome Drink in the Lounge. You will meet your Captain and your Expedition Leader, Michael who will introduce the rest of the Expedition Team.
- 1930      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on Deck 3 behind Reception. Bon appétit.

**This evening we will sail into open waters and we expect the ship to roll. Please ensure you secure all of your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) in your cabin to prevent any accidents. Use the handrails when you move around the ship at all times, and especially in rough weather. Always keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship. Thank you.**



# Fuglesangen and NW Svalbard Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

0700 Your first wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

**0830 Mandatory Briefings.**

You must attend these essential briefings with your Expedition Team. This will cover aspects of Polar bear safety and Zodiac operations on board. These will take place in the Lounge.

~1000 **Fuglesangen.** This island is home to a large colony of Little Auks, the small seabird breeding on Svalbard. We hope to land near the colony and take a very short walk to sit with the birds as they fly to and from the colony. To do this we need to divide you into 2 groups as the area we can access is quite small. Both groups will get the same amount of time on shore.

**Group 1 Everyone living on Decks 5, 6, 3 and 2.**

**Group 2 Everyone living on Deck 4.**

Please listen for announcements regarding timings over the PA system.

1300 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

Our afternoon destination and activities will depend very much on wildlife and weather. We plan to explore this remote north western part of Svalbard and see what we can find. Please listen for announcements over the PA system.

1830 **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.

1900 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.





# Vibebukta and Torellneset

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- 0730      Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900      **Vibebukta.** This part of Nordaustland is described as a polar desert but it is very impressive high Arctic landscape. We hope to take you ashore and offer you different hiking options. A long hike, which will go further and higher at a good pace, a medium hike which will take a similar route but with more stops for photographs and a leisurely walk which will be at a lower level and allow you plenty of time for photography.  
**Long hikers please come to the gangway first.**
- 1230      **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1400      **Torellneset.** This afternoon we hope to take you ashore to see some Walrus at what is a regular haul out place for these blubbery marine mammals. We will split you into two groups in order to comply with AECO walrus viewing regulations.  
We will take one group ashore first while the other group go out on a Zodiac cruise and then we will swap over on the beach.
- Group 1      Everyone living on Decks 5, 6, 3 and 2.**  
**Group 2      Everyone living on Deck 4.**  
Please listen for announcements regarding our afternoon activities.
- 1830      **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900      Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.
- After dinner we will sail towards Brasvelbreen, the largest ice cap in Svalbard where we hope view the high ice cliffs and icebergs.**



# Alkefjellet and Faksevågen

## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- 0730      Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900      **Alkefjellet.** These spectacular bird cliffs are home to over 60,000 Brünnichs Guillemots. We hope to be able to offer you a Zodiac cruise along the base of the cliffs to view the birds. We sometimes see Arctic foxes on the nearby slopes. Please dress warmly for the cruise. For this cruise we will divide you into 2 groups so that you are more comfortable in the boats.  
**Group 2      Everyone living on Deck 4.** Please come to the gangway at approximately 0900.  
**Group 1      Everyone living on Deck 5, 6, 3 and 2.** Please come to the gangway at approximately 1030  
**We will make additional announcements over the PA system.**
- 1230      **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1400      **Faksevågen.** This is named after a horse in Norse mythology. We hope to take you ashore and offer you different hiking options on the rich tundra. A long hike, which will go further and higher at a good pace, a medium hike which will take a similar route but with more stops for photographs and a leisurely walk which will be at a lower level and allow you plenty of time for photography.  
**Long hikers please come to the gangway first.**
- 1830      **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900      Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



## Fuglesangen and Smeerenburgreen Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

0700 An early wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!

0715 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0830 **Fuglesangen.** We hope there will be no fog and we will try again to land at the large colony of Little Auks. We will land near the colony and take a very short walk to sit with the birds as they fly to and from the colony. To do this we need to divide you into 2 groups as the area we can access is quite small. Both groups will get the same amount of time on shore.

**Group 1** **Everyone living on Decks 5, 6, 3 and 2. Please come to the gangway at 8:30**

**Group 2** **Everyone living on Deck 4. Please come to the gangway at 10:00**  
Please listen for announcements over the PA system.

After the morning landing we will ship cruise some of the other nearby islands looking for more 'special' wildlife before making our way to Smeerenburgfjord

1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

During the afternoon we will take you out for a Zodiac cruise near the Smeerenburgreen. Our timings will depend on wildlife and weather so please listen again for announcements.

**Group 2** **Everyone living on Deck 4 will go first.**

**Group 1** **Everyone living on Decks 5, 6, 3 and 2 will go second.**

1830 **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.

1900 Special Arctic Dinner! Wear warm clothes and your dancing shoes!



# 14 Julibukta and Ny London

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **14 Julibukta.** This is a beautiful fjord in Krossfjord where we hope to take you ashore and also do a Zodiac cruise. On shore we hope to get closer to some Reindeer and also enjoy the lush vegetation, 'The Hanging Gardens of Svalbard' at the base of the high bird cliffs. Look out for Arctic foxes too!
- In the Zodiacs we will cruise along the small bird cliffs where we hope to see some Puffins as well as Guillemots.
- The first 6 boats will go ashore and then everyone else will go on the cruise and after some time we will swap over on the beach.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1430 **Ny London on Blomstrandhalvoya.** We hope to go ashore here at Ny London where there are the remains of a British marble mine. On shore we will offer a number of hiking options – a longer hike, which will go higher and further, a medium hike, which will be at a lower level and a leisurely hike, which will have more time for photographs.
- Long hikers please come to the gangway first.**
- 1830 **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!



## Bellsund Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

### Expedition Day in Bellsund!

Our arrival time in Bellsund will depend on the progress we made overnight after our late night cruise with the lovely female polar bear and her cubs.

Our location and activities will also be weather dependent. Please listen for announcements.

- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1430 **Snatcherpynten.** For our final landing we hope to take you ashore at scenic location of Snatcherpynten where we will offer the usual hiking options on the tundra. We will also offer the opportunity for a Polar Plunge, a swim in Arctic waters! We will bring the towels!!  
**Long hikers please come to the gangway first.**
- 1900 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join us in the Lounge bar for a toast to our voyage with your Captain and the expedition team. We will also give you information about disembarkation tomorrow.
- 1930 A final dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.



**Longyearbyen**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

0645 Your final Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!

0715 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

**When you go to breakfast, please place your large check-in luggage outside your cabin for collection by staff and crew and return your keycard to reception. Keep your outer waterproof clothes with you as we will be at anchor and will have to transfer you by Zodiac to the pier. It may be wet!**

0830 We will take you by Zodiac to the pier.

0900 Bus transfer from the pier to town.

Please identify **your own** luggage on the pier. Staff will be there to help you.

**11.45** Your bus will take you to the airport for your flight.  
**SK4491 Longyearbyen – Oslo at 13:25**

*On behalf of Captain Evgeny Levakov, his officers and crew, Michael and the Expedition Team, as well as DJ and Gabor and the Hotel Department, we would like to thank you for travelling with us onboard Plancius, and we wish you a pleasant and safe onward journey.*