



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

15th June – 22nd 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:	Artur Iakoviev	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	Teunis van't Verlaat	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Dejan Nikolic	[Serbia]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Gabor Ferencz	[Hungary]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Nicolette Bester	[South Africa]
Expedition Leader:	Michael Ginzburg	[Russia/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Frigga Kruse	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Laurence Dyke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Turner	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Johnny Yeh	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Marie Brekklus	[Norway]
Expedition Guide:	Sasha Romanovskiy	[Russia]

Day 1 – Friday 15th June 2018

Embarkation – Longyearbyen

GPS 12.00 Position: 078°14'N / 015°35'E

Wind: NW 6. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Overcast. 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 earlier than our departure day on board *Plancius* and had time to explore the town and maybe take a day trip but many of us arrived at the airport during the afternoon and after being met by Ali at the airport we had some time to visit the town before making our way to the port to join our ship for the coming trip.

By the time we arrived at the floating pontoon the weather had changed considerably with strong wind and snow. It was going to be an interesting Zodiac ride to our ship *Plancius* that was anchored in the fjord. Sasha and Laurence got us into our lifejackets and we boarded the Zodiacs. It was very bumpy and wet as we made our way to the ship and conditions at the gangway were challenging but our drivers ensured we all got on board safely, if a little wet.

From the gangway we were shown to our cabins by the very welcoming hotel staff and 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 3rd 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.

We lifted the anchor and were making our way out of Isfjord heading 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. 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 so in order to find the bears we hope to see on this trip then that is where we must go.

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 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 during the evening spotting Fulmars, Guillemots, Kittiwakes and the tiny Little auks. It was a very pleasant evening on board.

Day 2 – Saturday 16th June 2018

Raudfjorden

GPS 12.00 Position: 079°44'N / 012°08'E

Wind: Calm. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Partly Cloudy. **Air Temp:** +8°C. **Sea Temp:** +4°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. The morning's programme was full of mandatory briefings: how to behave in polar bear country; how to get in and out of the Zodiacs safely; and



what is expected of the members of AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators). After all, we would like take part in responsible and sustainable tourism in Svalbard and elsewhere. Once we had collected our rubber boots from the boot room, we were ready to go, so how about a first landing?

By this time, the *Plancius* had arrived in Raudfjorden, named 'the red bay' after its surrounding red rocks,

in the northwest corner of the island of Spitsbergen. We had anchored in a small harbour called Alicehamna after the two yachts (Princesse Alice I and II) of Prince Albert I of Monaco, who in 1898, 1899, 1906, and 1907 conducted oceanographical research in the archipelago. Once the Zodiacs had shuttled us to shore, we divided into three groups, going on long, medium, or leisurely walks, and set off in our respective directions. The beach offered many geological curiosities until we reached Raudfjordhytta, a hut built by the trapper Sven Olsen in 1927. Some walkers reached the hilltop Brucevarden named after a Scottish polar explorer, where the guides pointed out some cultural heritage in the form of a stone cairn, a fox trap, and the grave of the trapper Eirik Zacharriassen Mathilas, who died of scurvy in 1908. When the guides



were not pointing at things under our feet, they were pointing at the landscape around us or into the air. The few species of Arctic birds are present in large numbers of individuals, so it's worthwhile learning to recognise a few of them. In the morning's calm waters, the Zodiac ride back to ship was so much more pleasant than the embarkation the day before; we could get used to this.

During lunch the *Plancius* travelled only a short distance across Raudfjord to Hamiltonbukta named after a Swedish naval officer. Again, we landed and split into three groups. Because of the loose cobbles along the shore and the deep snow covering them, the going was much more difficult, but the groups managed just fine. Everyone was feeling sufficiently adventurous. There were old bear tracks in the snow



following the coastline, but we did not see a bear. If we had, we would not have been able to land, or we would have need to retreat from the beach immediately. Instead the local wildlife comprised a small group of friendly reindeer greeting the long walkers on the one end of the landing site and a bird cliff with breeding kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots at the other end. We spotted fox tracks and old fox traps, but Mr Fox himself did not make an appearance. Well, that's something to look forward to.

Back on board, we were treated to our first recap of the trip. During recap, Misha usually introduces the Plan A for the coming day – subject to change – and staff members pick up on things that we had seen or experienced during the landing and add some additional information. Ali talked about three common Arctic birds: the Black legged kittiwake, the Northern fulmar, and the Little auk, then Laurence reviewed cirque glaciers and some general aspects of past ice ages in Svalbard. Recap is then followed by dinner: we certainly felt we had earned us ours today!



Day 3 – Sunday 17th June 2018

Phippsoya

GPS 12.00 Position: 80°41'N / 020°46'E

Wind: SE 3. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Partly Cloudy. **Air Temp:** +7°C. **Sea Temp:** +2°C.

After the now usual wakeup call by Misha, it was time for breakfast and coffee (not too much!!) to get us started. Overnight, we had sailed North, and now we were coming into position for our intended landing on Phippsoya, one of the Seven Islands (Sjuoyane) on the far North above the main island of Spitsbergen. Phippsoya was named after Constantine Phipps, a British Naval Officer who led an expedition to Spitsbergen in 1773, onboard HM Ships 'Racehorse' and 'Carcass'.

The guides first left in two Zodiacs to scout the area of the landing site, which has been known to be quite 'Beary' in the past, then when the immediate landing site was considered safe, we all headed down the gangway and to shore to explore. Different hike options were offered, and the long hikers left first, taken by Marie and Misha to see how far they could get on this low, gravelly island. A medium hike with Ali, Laurence and Adam departed second, aiming for the Department of Mines hut on a



distant beach. The leisurely hike then strolled off with Frigga's fascinating stories already started, and Lynn and Johnny on escort duty. All of the hikes were challenging in their own way, with deep snow, driftwood, and large, awkward pebbles underfoot in most places, meaning everybody had to be careful to avoid a slip or spill. There were several raised beaches visible along the walks; this 'terracing' is caused by the changes in sea level, with each terrace reflecting a time when the sea level was at a different, higher level than now. We had chance to see some interesting formations within the pebbles, with many showing interesting patterns of feldspar veining. This happens when the rock is subjected to intense heat and pressure during metamorphism, and the feldspar melts more readily than the surrounding rock. It is then injected in sheets between the surrounding rock and cools leaving the veins that we saw.



The landing started out bright if chilly, but the weather began to deteriorate a bit, with a large drop in air pressure suggesting significant change coming. Low clouds formed and flowed over the hills of the surrounding islands, and the wind picked up enough for us to feel the bite. Our various groups gradually returned to the landing site, and the Zodiacs shuttled us back to *Plancius* where a well earned hot lunch was waiting for us. Once we were all back on board, the Captain turned the ship North, and we started sailing towards the sea ice.

After lunch, most of us had a 'polar nap', either intentionally, in our cabins, or unintentionally, in the lounge. It was also a time to review photos, catch up on some reading and talk with friends. Later in the afternoon, Marie presented a talk about Polar bears, showing some good images and telling interesting stories about how they live in Svalbard, while Johnny spoke in Mandarin in the dining room. Afternoon tea had us all back in the bar for coffee & cookies, and that lead naturally into Recap. Misha started off, giving us his plan A for tomorrow, which was simply to find the ice and search for bears. We all approved of this,

and it lead in to Ali's talk, as she gave us pointers on how to spot Polar bears. After this, Adam gave us the history of the Beaufort scale, explaining how and why this nautical measurement came into being.

During the afternoon a few small pieces of sea ice were being spotted, and finally, around 10 pm, we came to the ice edge. It was truly an edge – as far as we could see, a long line marking ice to the North and open water to the South. The Captain took us into the ice for a short period, then the ship came back out into open water, and we sailed beside the ice overnight, making it much more quiet and conducive to a good night's sleep.



Day 4 – Monday 18th June 2018

Ice

GPS 12.00 Position: 081°59'N / 016°09'E

Wind: SW 5. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +4°C. **Sea Temp:** -1°C.

In the morning, we all woke full of suspense and enthusiasm. The decision to go north to the ice edge had been met with applause just a few days earlier, and now we had arrived. This just might be the northernmost day of our lives, and our chance to see the mythical polar bear in the pack ice. A day of a lifetime.

This year is an unusual year for sea ice, the sea ice has been broken up and dispersed by the winds and melted away all around the island very early, and the edge of the main Arctic Ocean pack is at a mindboggling 82°N. It was never a given thing that we could reach that far north, no matter what an office planned itinerary would say on paper. To head North, you need good weather and hope of finding reasonably good ice when you get there, and it all came together at the right moment. The strong winds from the weeks before had somewhat settled, and a little part of the ice edge had seemingly come down a bit giving us some hope to reach it in good time. The ship has to stay clear of the ice in the night in order to not get trapped as so many polar explorers before us, so when morning came we headed along the edge of the outer brash ice, scouting for a good reason to drive our ship into the ice. A good reason being a small yellow dot in our binoculars, hopefully turning out to be a big furry animal in its natural habitat when we get closer. And not once or twice, but three times Misha called us all out on deck, because there was something bear-like in the very far distance.



On the first call, it turned out to be a false alarm. It is not easy spotting a bear in between the mixed up ice floes, and sometimes it simply turns out to be the underside of an ice floe, showing dirty brown algae. However, once we escaped the swell of open water and found ourselves in between slush ice and ice floes, a sense of calm immediately came over the ship. It was a world of its own there on top of the world. An environment that seems so desolate and hostile from far away, suddenly holds life and serenity when you find yourself in the middle of it. We saw a rare Ivory gull and a Ringed seal pup, as well as three confused species of



small birds that had flown too far north and now sat uncertain on the deck of our ship. More expected, kittiwakes were ever screeching through the air around us. The second potential bear call was not a false alarm, a Polar bear was in fact in sight. He was however on his way away from us, deep into ice where we could not follow.



Third time was a charm. A bear was spotted by Frigga, seemingly lying still on a piece of ice. As we got closer, making our way softly through slushy ice, we could see her lifting her head looking at us, not disturbed at all. We halted the ship at reasonable distance, and the whole ship was quiet as we were observing the top predator of the arctic food chain digesting and resting in her world. Then she suddenly got up, deciding to have a look at her new large blue neighbour. She strolled a long our starboard side, ending up right behind our aft, checking out our scent and now and then calmly lying down on the ice. It is safe to say we were all impressed by nature's wonder.

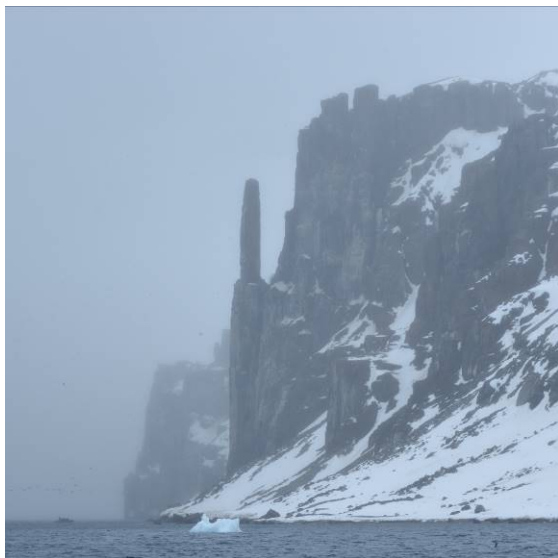


Day 5 – Tuesday 19th June 2018

Hinlopen Strait

GPS 12.00 Position: 079°34'N / 018°34'E

Wind: SSE 2. Sea State: Calm Ripple. Weather: Overcast. Air Temp: +3°C. Sea Temp: +1°C.



We woke to the sight of land and a stiff breeze whipping whitecaps off the water, a Beaufort 6 (thanks Adam!). During breakfast we entered Hinlopen Strait and continued south towards the towering cliffs of Alkefjellet. The wind eased to a gentle Force 3-4 as we drew alongside and we dressed warmly for a Zodiac cruise. As the Zodiacs were launched a sharp crack and deep boom rang out as thousands of tonnes of ice calved off the nearby glacier draining into the Buldrevågen Bay. The first boats headed into the bay shortly after and weaved through the icebergs, taking in the startling blues of ice many thousands of years old. We also saw the fantastic geology in the surrounding cliffs. The base of the cliffs was visible as a bright cream line; 260 million year old limestone which was laid down in a shallow tropical sea at a time when Svalbard was located at just 25°N. This layered limestone is sharply

interrupted by a much darker band of Dolerite, an intrusion of magma emplaced some 140 million years later when Svalbard had migrated to 65°N.

Once out of the bay we tucked in under the cliffs and the full scale of the bird colony became apparent. The sheer cliffs were accompanied by the raucous sounds (and smell!) of 200,000 guillemots, Glaucous gulls, kittiwakes, and geese making their nests. We were also lucky enough to see a couple of Arctic foxes scouring the slopes beneath the cliffs for snacks, even saw one making off with an unguarded goose egg.



After a hearty lunch and plenty of hot chocolate to warm up again we headed south and into Wahlenberg Fjord. We tried our luck at spotting Polar bears on one of the last patches of landfast ice in the whole Svalbard archipelago. No bears were to be found, but a few seals were spied in the distance making the most of the remnants of sea ice. We could also see the vast Austfonna Ice Cap in the distance, complete with a large set of overhanging lenticular clouds. Austfonna is the largest body of ice on Svalbard and is the third largest in the world, only the ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica are larger.



In the afternoon we had a medley of presentations: Ali told us all about the guillemots and foxes we had seen along the cliffs of Alkefjellet that morning. Lynn gave a presentation on sea-ice, covering its formation, the many different types, its importance as a driver of ocean circulation, and also its function as a home to wildlife. Laurence talked about the sea floor beneath our feet in the Arctic Ocean and some of the secrets that mapping has revealed. Sasha headlined with a presentation about nautical terms, their origin, their use aboard *Plancius*, and how he came to learn them.



Happy hour was announced and was cause for much celebration. During the festivities Mischa began a recap of the days events and talked about plans for the following day; a visit to Smeerenburg and a search for Walrus and more polar bears. Frigga then gave us an introduction to the rock cycle, explaining how different processes had emplaced three completely different rock types within a few hundred metres of each other at Alkefjellet. Finally, Sasha regaled us with a very amusing story about a polar bear from his time living in Pyramiden.

Day 6 – Wednesday 20th June 2018

Smeerenburg and Smeerenburgreen

GPS 12.00 Position: 079°43'N / 011°01'E

Wind: SW-2 **Sea State:** Calm Ripple **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** +4°C. **Sea Temp:** +4°C.



It was blue and sunny when we woke, and we had beautiful views of the northern end of Spitsbergen on our port side. The ship had made its way from the Hinlopen Strait region around the top of Spitsbergen to Smeerenburgfjord, which runs North-South between Spitsbergen and the islands of Amsterdamoya and Danskoya. We were heading for Smeerenburg, or "Blubbertown", at the Southeast tip of Amsterdamoya. It clouded over quickly, but there was no wind and it was comparatively warm, the seas were calm, and we were

aiming to go ashore. Smeerenburg was a Dutch whaling base from the early 1600s, with seven Dutch companies from seven different towns, and a Danish company - all working on the same small strip of land. This was the beginning of the original oil boom, where we harvested whale and walrus oil by slicing it and rendering the blubber in the large ovens we can still see the remains of today. These black asphalt-like accretions are the mix of whale oil and sand, used to form the outside of the ovens.

Smeerenburg is also significant in that it was the first place Europeans intentionally overwintered, with seven men staying over the winter of 1633-34, guarding equipment. The following year, another seven men also overwintered, but they did not survive the harsh conditions. Svalbard claimed many men working here, with 101 graves discovered so far up on the slopes of the island.



The other big attraction of the island is the walrus haul-out near the ruins. There were around 10-15 walrus on shore today, so we coordinated the various walking groups to visit them separately. Most of us got the story of the history of Smeerenburg from Frigga before marshalling to walk quietly to the walrus. Walrus are very susceptible to disturbance, they don't like noise, have poor eyesight and a good sense smell, so we approach slowly, quietly and so that our smell does

not get blown towards them. These were all males, resting on shore between going feeding. They mostly laid around, occasionally raising their heads, snorting or scratching themselves with their flippers. Their impressive tusks can be up to one meter long, and are used to haul themselves out onto sea ice, thus their scientific name *Odobenus rosmarus*, which translates to "toothwalker with pink skin".



Back on board, we were a bit late for lunch, but Hotel Manager DJ, Chef Khabir and the team took it in their stride, serving up another tasty and warming buffet for us. After lunch, we took our time with hot drinks, short rests and time in the bar checking our - and everybody else's - photos, while watching the scenery pass by outside. We sailed Northeast and had a look at some islands that can be promising for bears, but we didn't find any, and the fog came down.

Back in Smeerenburgfjord,

we sailed South past Smeerenburg and to the edge of the glacier that feeds in from the very end of the fjord - Smeerenburgreen. There, we launched our Zodiacs and went cruising. It was a still afternoon, and a little foggy, making it a fabulously atmospheric trip. The glacier face, approximately 40 meters high, had released quite a bit of brash ice recently, and we went into the floating icefields. Turning off our engines, it was amazing to listen to the sounds of the ice crackling all around us. The glacier itself was full of surprisingly bright blues and turquoises, with rich, dark colours in the deep cracks and shadows. After exploring through a few little islets, watching kittiwakes, terns and Black guillemots feeding, and visiting another section of the glacier, it was time to head back to the ship. At recap, Misha got us excited about his plans for our last day on board, then DJ explained how the trip must end soon - but finished on a high note, letting us know dinner would be a BBQ on the back deck.



Adding a few layers, we all trooped back through the dining room to the BBQ deck, where we filled up on chicken, ribs and all the trimmings, and especially on Charlotte's warm spiced wine. An amazing ending to a fabulous day, it was wonderful to share good food with friends and family while admiring the incredible Arctic scenery around us. We stayed at the glacier face until the party was over, enjoying the long Arctic evening.



Day 7 – Thursday 21st June 2018

Tordenskjoldbukta and Poolepynten

GPS 12.00 Position: 078°17'N / 012°53'E

Wind: NW-1 **Sea State:** Calm Ripple **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +7°C. **Sea Temp:** +3°C.



During the night we had encountered stronger winds than expected so our arrival to the Plan A destination of St Jonfjord was changed to Plan B so that we could have a longer landing. We were taken ashore at Tordenskjoldbukta which is a lovely flat area of tundra where Reindeer can very often be found. As soon as the anchor was dropped the Zodiacs were heading ashore with the staff scouting party and before long we too were going ashore for our hikes.

We divided into our usual 3 groups with a long hiking group heading off along the coast with Adam and Marie while two medium hiking groups went in slightly different directions to explore the tundra and find some Reindeer. The leisurely stroll group had a goal of Reindeer too but also had plenty of time to enjoy the flowers on the blooming tundra. Lynn and Ali pointed out Purple Saxifrage, Tufted saxifrage, Yellow whitlow grass and the Polar willow.

The medium hiking group with Frigga and Sasha had gone inland first and enjoyed the rich tundra and found a group of very relaxed Reindeer that slowly walked towards the coast which gave the other group and the leisurely hiking group the chance to get some good views of them as well. The long hikers enjoyed a lovely coastal walk with great views of fabulous rock formations, including sea stacks and cliffs, most of which had



nesting Glaucous gulls and Barnacle geese sitting on them. A Reindeer skull, complete with a huge set of antlers and backbone was found and it had probably been eaten by an Arctic fox. Continuing along the tundra they all had the chance to see some live Reindeer as well as an array of birdlife (Snow bunting, Barnacle goose, Purple sandpiper, Eider duck, Kittiwake and Great Skua).



All too soon it was time to walk back to the landing site where the opportunity to swim in the freezing cold Arctic Ocean was apparently very appealing to some! Around 25 swimmers braved the chilly waters, much to the entertainment of everyone else, so well done to our Polar Plungers!!

During lunch we repositioned to Poolepynten for our final landing of the trip. The first group was soon ashore with the guides and we made our way along the beach which was covered with driftwood,

most of which has come from the forests of Siberia and travelled around the Arctic region on the circumpolar currents. We could see Arctic terns gathered by the pond, having just arrived from Antarctica to breed for the summer season.

As we got closer to the Walrus we made a line which was controlled by the guides and we slowly made our approach. We could smell the Walrus before we could see them and as we lined up beyond the navigation marker and the hut we could see over 40 Walrus, all males lying together in a pile. The females and calves are currently out on the sea ice to the east and north as the calves are born in May and June. These males

were mostly just sleeping and scratching but occasionally one would try and climb over the pile and those being squashed by 1500kg of blubber would grunt and grumble, raising their tusks and giving us a very nice show.



There were quite a few Walrus in the water as well which gave us a great show as they came to check us out and then play fight amongst themselves. We watched one make its way into the sea by rolling over like a sausage, an easy way to move a large volume of blubber. We could see young males and older, mature bulls, distinguished by the lumps on their necks, 'bosses' and by much longer tusks. It was a real privilege to be able to spend time with these marine mammals and enjoy watching their interactions in the group. Both groups enjoyed some fabulous time with the Walrus and the sun even came out at the end of the landing.

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, Evgeny 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 bear and we will all remember that icy afternoon for the rest of our lives.





Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical miles: 1106nm

Kilometres: 2048km

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



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS



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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 mountains)

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



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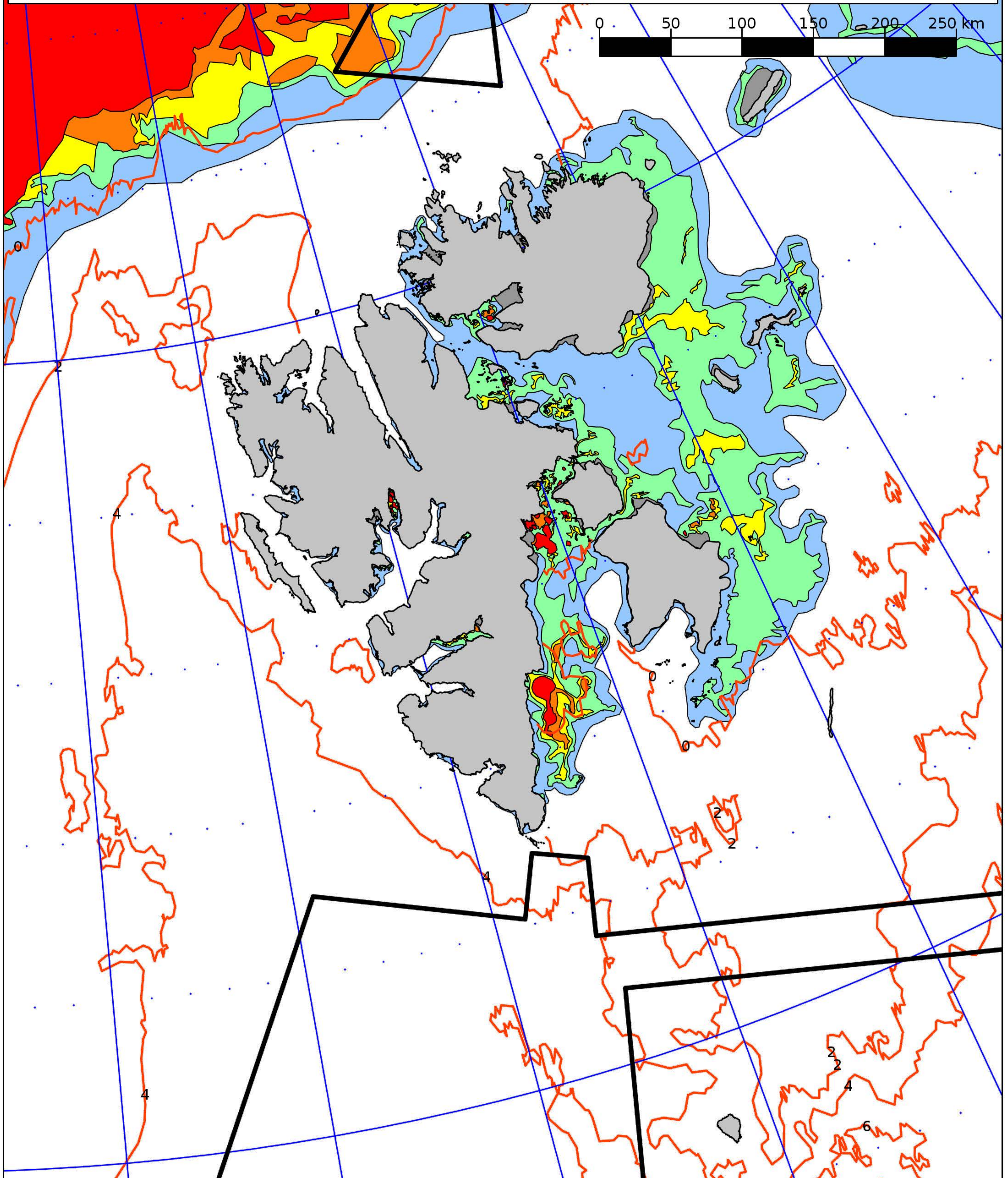
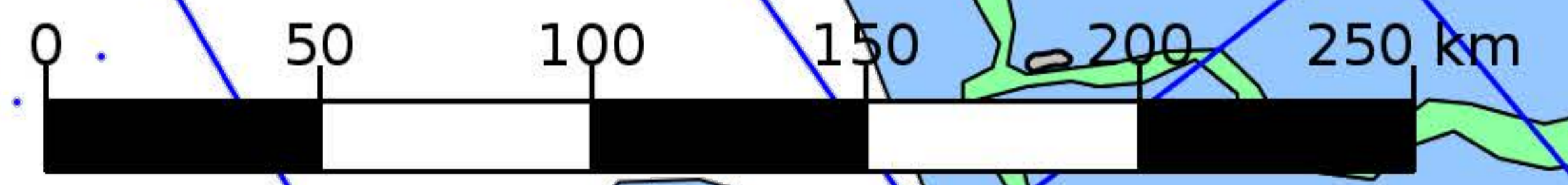


ENTRIES CLOSE OCTOBER 30

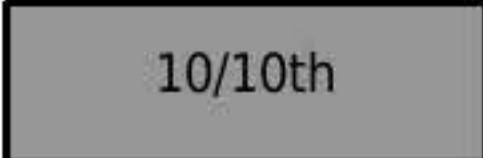

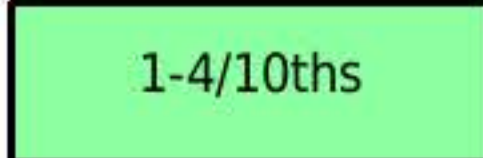
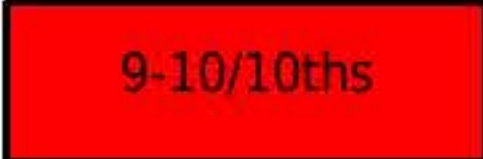

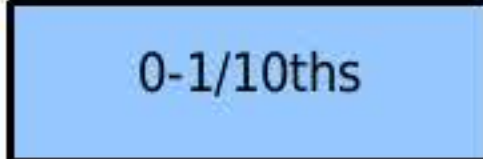
Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by November 30, 2018

Read the full terms and conditions on oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms








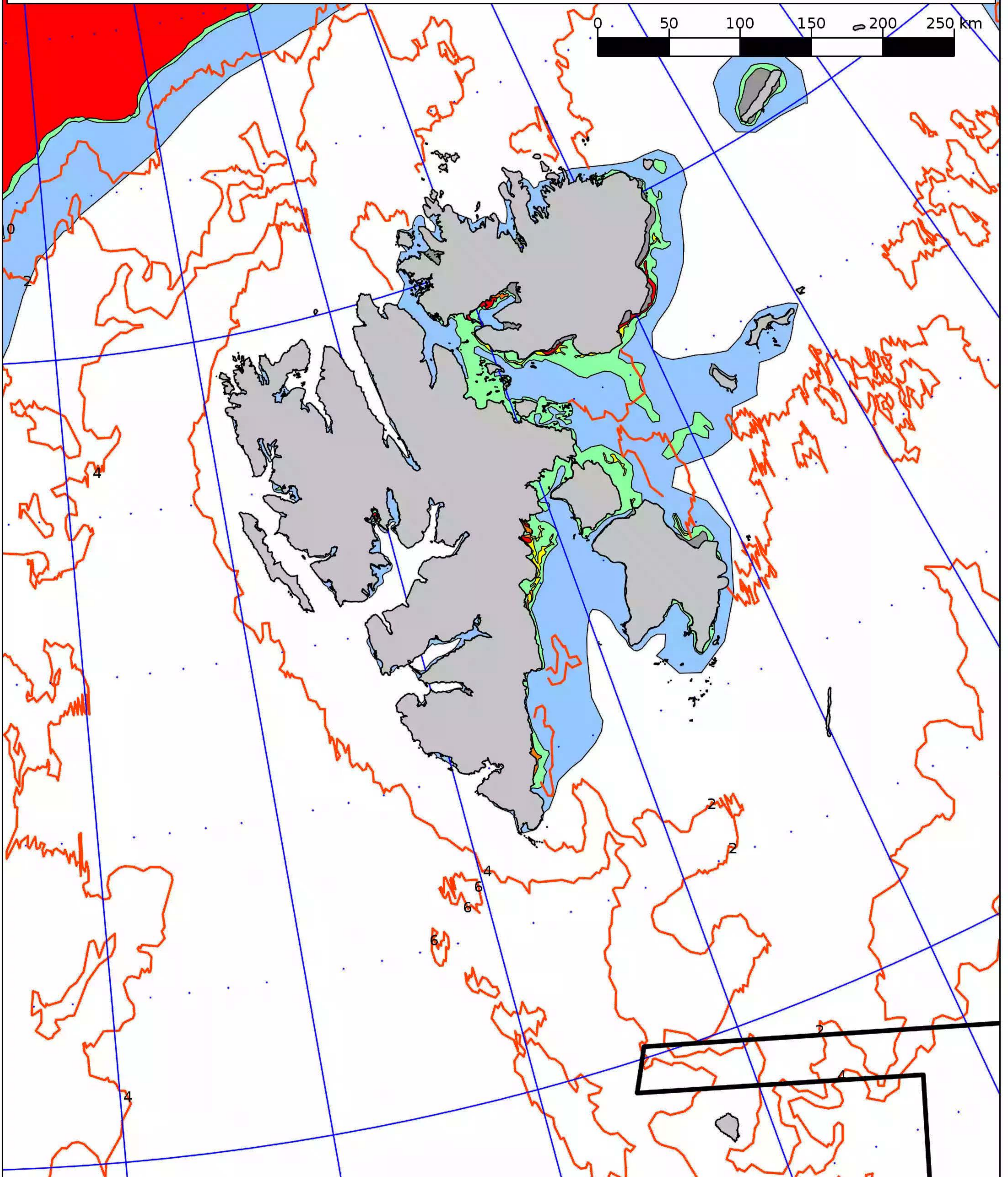
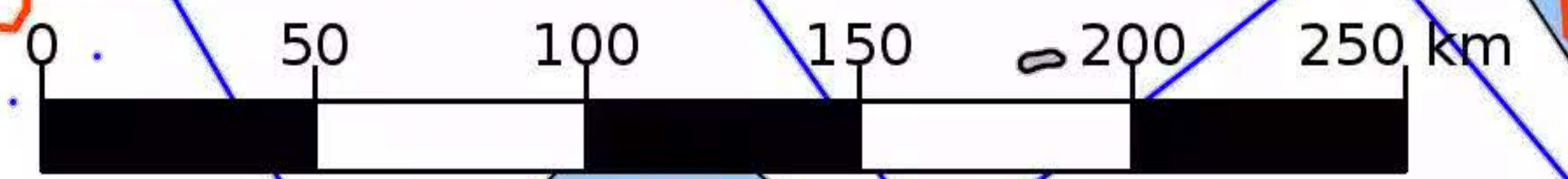
Ice Categories

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

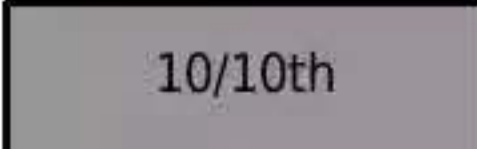

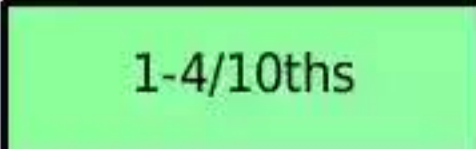
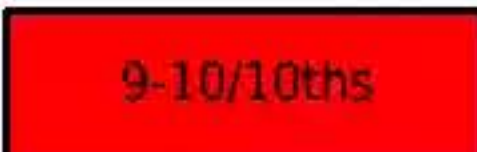
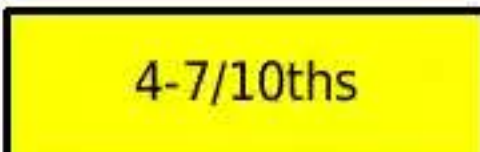
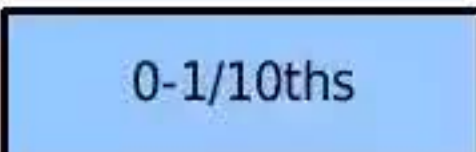
Projection: Polar Stereographic, True Scale at 90°N, WGS84 Scale: 3,792,530
 Map Corners:
 UL = 82°59'26.367"N, 4°23'24.258"E UR = 80°15'44.998"N, 44°11'58.041"E
 LR = 72°32'49.391"N, 22°45'57.155"E LL = 73°52'48.561"N, 1°53'51.282"E
 Coastline Data: GSHHS version 2.2.0 (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/wessel/gshhs/>)



 Sentinel-1
 Radarsat-2  Sea Surface Temperature






Ice Categories

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

Projection: Polar Stereographic, True Scale at 90°N, WGS84
 Scale: 3,792,530
 Map Corners:
 UL = 82°59'26.367"N, 4°23'24.258"E UR = 80°15'44.998"N, 44°11'58.041"E
 LR = 72°32'49.391"N, 22°45'57.155"E LL = 73°52'48.561"N, 1°53'51.282"E
 Coastline Data: GSHHS version 2.2.0 (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/wessel/gshhs/>)



 Sentinel-1
 Radarsat-2  Sea Surface Temperature



Norwegian Meteorological Institute

Ice Service

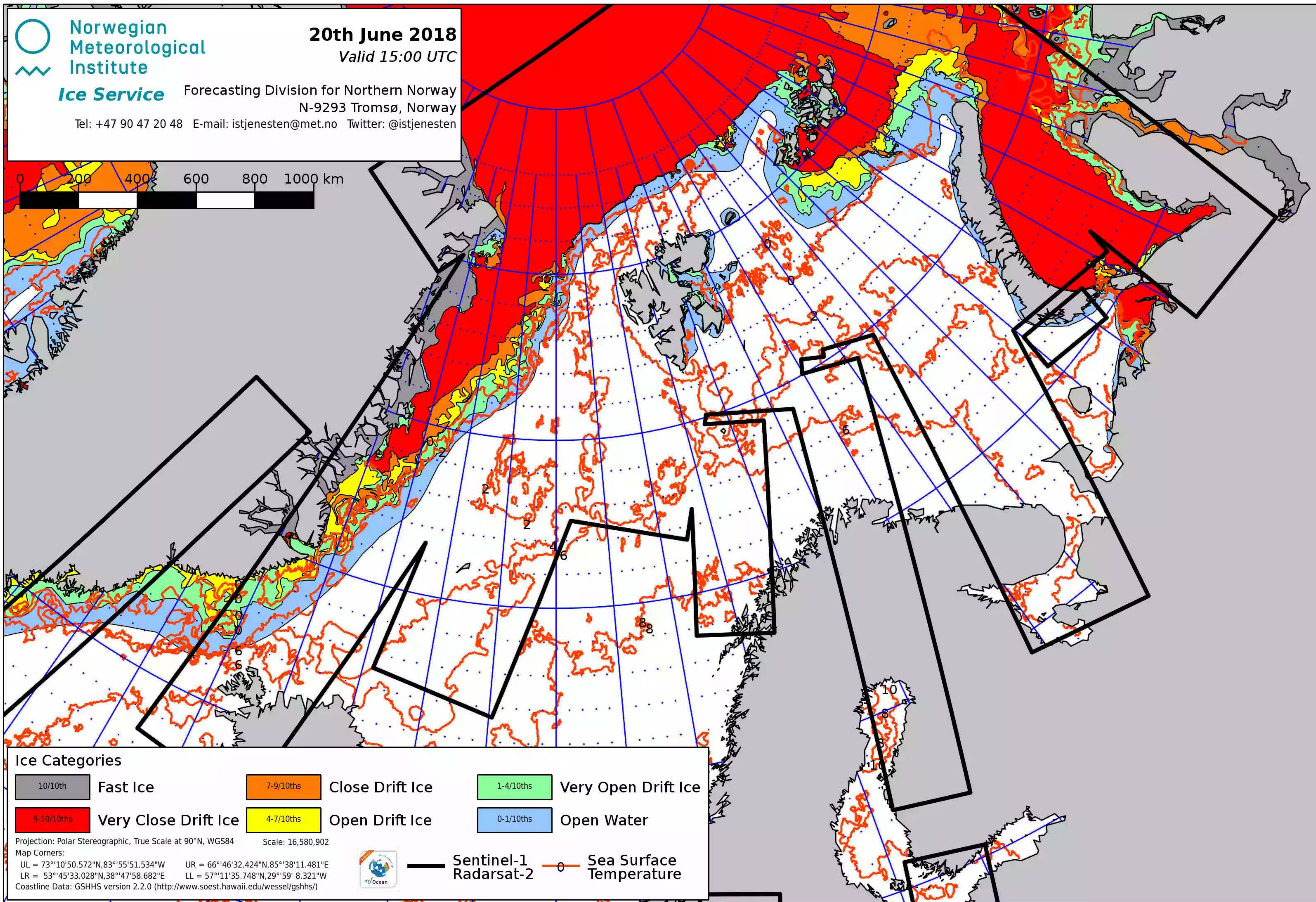
Forecasting Division for Northern Norway

N-9293 Tromsø, Norway

Tel: +47 90 47 20 48 E-mail: istjenesten@met.no Twitter: @istjenesten

20th June 2018

Valid 15:00 UTC



Ice Categories

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

Projection: Polar Stereographic, True Scale at 90°N, WGS84 Scale: 16,580,902
 Map Corners:
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 Coastline Data: GSHHS version 2.2.0 (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/wessel/gshhs/>)



Sentinel-1
 Radarsat-2
 Sea Surface Temperature

Ali Liddle — Assistant Expedition Leader



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.

Frigga Kruse — Expedition Guide



English

Frigga comes from the beautiful county of Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany. She makes her living as an archaeologist, geologist, and guide. When she travelled to the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula in 1999, there was nothing to suggest that the polar regions would become her place of work. In 2008, she first visited Svalbard to carry out archaeological fieldwork as part of her PhD research on the British mining history of the Arctic archipelago, which resulted in the book *Frozen Assets* (2013). She has since become a regular. Her current research focuses on 420 years of natural-resource exploitation (whaling, sealing, fur-hunting, and mining) in and around Svalbard and Jan Mayen and the lasting impact on Arctic marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Since 2015, she

has been sharing her broad polar knowledge and a knack for story-telling as a guide and lecturer on Oceanwide's expedition cruises. You can approach her in German, English, and Dutch.

Deutsch

Frigga stammt aus dem herrlichen Holsteinland in Norddeutschland. Sie verdingt sich als Archäologin, Geologin und Guide. Als sie 1999 die Südshetlandinseln und die antarktische Halbinsel besuchte, ließ noch nichts vermuten, dass die Polarregionen später ihr Arbeitsplatz werden würden. 2008 reiste sie das erste Mal nach Spitzbergen, um archäologische Feldarbeiten für ihre Doktorarbeit in der britischen Bergbaugeschichte des Archipels auszuführen, was zu dem Buch *Frozen Assets* (2013) führte. Seitdem gehört sie zum arktischen Inventar. Ihre derzeitigen Forschungen konzentrieren sich auf 420 Jahre Rohstoffausbeutung in Spitzbergen und Jan Mayen. Welchen bleibenden Umwelteinfluss hatten Wal- und Robbenfang, Pelzjagd und Bergbau? Seit 2015 teilt sie ihr breitgefächertes Wissen und ein Händchen zum Geschichtenerzählen als Guide und Lektorin auf Oceanwide's Expeditionskreuzfahrten. Ihr könnt sie auf Deutsch, Englisch und Niederländisch ansprechen.

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

Marie Brekkehus — Expedition Guide



English

Marie is Norwegian, coming from a town on the west coast of Norway just south of Bergen. Currently she is however an all year resident of Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Growing up in a mountain loving family, she quickly developed a taste for nature and the outdoors. Becoming a teacher in Norwegian literature, she realized she also somehow had to bring her love for being outdoors into her professional life. She therefore combined her teachers degree with a BA in the Norwegian “friluftsliv”, meaning the hard safety skills of the mountains, but also philosophy and history of nature activities, and how to bring people into

nature. She then went to Spitsbergen for the education program Arctic Nature Guide in 2012 and was quickly smitten with love for the Arctic. Since then she been working both as an outdoor activities teacher in high school, and in the recent years working as a full-time guide in Spitsbergen, Greenland and Antarctica, not only on expeditions ships but also skiing expeditions, hiking, glacier walking and snow mobile guiding. In 2014, she performed the expedition of skiing the island of Spitsbergen from north to south, 700km in 34 days. In her spare time, she is a dedicated member of the Longyearbyen Red Cross Avalanche Rescue Team.

Deutsch

Marie stammt aus einem Ort an der Westküste Norwegens, gleich südlich von Bergen. Zur Zeit lebt sie allerdings das ganze Jahr über in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Sie wuchs in einer Familie auf, die in die Berge vernarrt ist, womit die Weichen gestellt waren und Marie schnell eine Vorliebe für die Natur entwickelte. Als sie als Lehrerin für norwegische Literatur arbeitete, stellte sie fest, dass ihre Freude an der Natur einen Platz in ihrem Arbeitsleben finden müsste. Also machte sie einen Bachelor im norwegischen “friluftsliv”, was eine komplette Sicherheitsausbildung für die Berge beinhaltet, aber auch Philosophie und Geschichte der Freizeitaktivitäten in der Natur und eine Ausbildung als Guide. 2012 ging sie nach Spitzbergen, wo sie die Ausbildung zum Arctic Nature Guide abschloss – von der Arktis war sie sofort angetan. Seitdem arbeitet sie sowohl als Lehrerin für “friluftsliv” als auch im Gymnasium. Seit ein paar Jahren arbeitet sie ausschließlich als Guide in Spitzbergen aber auch in Grönland und der Antarktis – auf Expeditionskreuzfahrten, aber auch auf Skitouren, Wanderungen, Gletschertouren und als Schneemobil-Guide. 2014 hat sie Spitzbergen der Länge nach von Norden nach Süden auf Skiern durchquert: 700km in 34 Tagen. In ihrer Freizeit ist sie aktives Mitglied der Lawinenrettungsgruppe vom Roten Kreuz Longyearbyen.

Nicolette Bester — Doctor



English

Nicolette was born in Cape Town in South Africa. She studied Medicine at Stellenbosch University and worked for several years before adding a Master degree in Family Medicine.

In 2003, she took a vacation to work a contract as a cruise-ship doctor and never looked back.

Nowadays in her vacations, she works at sporting events such as the Cape Epic Extreme Mountain Bike Race, Iron Man events and other-ultra sporting events.

This is her second contract on the *Plancius*.

Deutsch

Nicolette ist in Kapstadt in Südafrika geboren. Sie hat Medizin an der Stellenbosch Universität studiert. Nach einigen Jahren im Beruf legte sie noch einen Master in Familienmedizin drauf.

2003 nahm sie Urlaub, um als Ärztin auf einem Kreuzfahrtschiff anzuheuern. Diese Entscheidung hat sie nie bereut.

Wenn sie jetzt Urlaub nimmt, arbeitet sie bei Ultra-Sport-Events, wie z. B. das Cape Epic Extreme Mountainbike Race oder Iron Man Wettkämpfe

Dies ist ihr zweites Mal für Oceanwide auf der *Plancius*.



Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

Including:

Chief Officer:	Artur Iakoviev	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	Teunis van't Verlaat	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Dejan Nikolic	[Serbia]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Gabor Ferencz	[Hungary]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Nicolette Bester	[South Africa]
Expedition Leader:	Michael Ginzburg	[Russia/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Frigga Kruse	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Laurance Dyke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Turner	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Johnny Yeh	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Marie Brekkhus	[Norway]
Expedition Guide:	Sasha Romanovskiy	[Russia]



Polar Bear Special

Embarkation Longyearbyen

Friday 15th 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.



Raudfjorden and Hamiltonbukta Saturday 16th 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 and Boot Collection.**
You must attend these essential briefings with your Expedition Team. This will cover aspects of Polar bear safety and Zodiac operations on board.
Our Chinese group. Please come to the Lounge for your mandatory Briefings with Johnny.
Our English speaking/understanding guests. Please collect your rubber boots on Deck 3. We will call you by Deck as our boot room is quite small.
- ~0915 English speaking guests please go to the Lounge for your mandatory Briefing.
Chinese group please go to the boot room to collect your rubber boots
- ~1030 We hope to make our first landing on the western side of **Raudfjorden**. We will offer a number of 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
- 1300 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~1430 **Hamiltonbukta.** We hope to be able to offer a longer landing with more time on shore. Again, there will be a number of hiking and exploring options available.
- 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.

Expedition Day in the Seven Islands!

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~0900 *Our arrival at **Phippsøya** will depend on our progress during the night so please listen for announcements regarding our Zodiac boarding time.*
- Phippsøya** is the largest of the Seven Islands and we hope to be able to take you ashore and offer our usual hiking options. Most of the island is relatively flat but we don't know what the snow conditions will be like until we get there.
- The island is sometimes a haul out place for Walrus so we will see if they are on the beach when we go ashore. It can sometimes be quite a 'beary' place so please stay close to your guides on shore.....
- 1300 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- After our landing on Phippsøya we will continue north to the pack ice. We may offer a lecture presentation at some point so please listen for announcements.
- 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.

Expedition Day in the Ice!

Today we will spend all day in the ice searching for polar bears. If we find any we will inform you over the PA system. Please join us on deck to help with the search!

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1030 **History of Svalbard.** Please join Frigga in the Lounge for a fascinating presentation about the early history of exploration and exploitation on Svalbard, including the early whalers and trappers.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- During the afternoon we will continue our navigation in the ice on our search for polar bears.
- 1530 **Presentation Montage.** Please join some of the members of the Expedition Team for a re-cap style lecture covering aspects of sea ice, seals and other polar topics!
- 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.

Please remember that polar bears and other wildlife are sensitive to noise. On deck keep the voices low and please prevent your tripods and cameras from hitting the railings and metal floors. Thank you very much!



Hinlopen Strait

Tuesday 19th 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 1 Everyone living on Deck 6, 5, 3 and 2.** Please come to the gangway at approximately 0900.
- Group 2 Everyone living on Deck 4.** 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.
- During the afternoon we will continue our navigation in the Hinlopen Strait on our search for polar bears and we may offer a presentation during the afternoon.
- 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.

Please remember that polar bears and other wildlife are sensitive to noise. On deck keep the voices low and please prevent your tripods and cameras from hitting the railings and metal floors. Thank you very much!



Smeerenburgfjorden Wednesday 20th 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 **Smeerenburg.** Known as Blubber Town this was the centre of Dutch whaling in the 17th Century with 7 whaling stations here for a number of years. There are the remains of the buildings and the blubber ovens as well as the graveyard. We hope to take you ashore to view these historic remains and we will offer a walk inland to explore the region further. We can sometimes see Walrus on the beach here. Please listen carefully to your guides when we approach the Walrus.

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

Expedition Afternoon!

During the afternoon we will continue to explore this north western corner of Svalbard. Our activities will totally depend on weather and wildlife so please listen for announcements over the PA.

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 on board!! Dress warmly and put on your dancing shoes!

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **St Jonsfjord.** This morning we will be in the beautiful St Jonsfjord and hope to take you ashore near an old trapper's hut and will offer our usual hikes. We will take you up onto a moraine to look down on a glacier and explore the tundra area in long, medium and leisurely hiking groups. We will offer you a Polar Plunge! A chance to swim in the Arctic Ocean!!!
We will provide the towels!
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1430 **Poolepynten.** This is a regular haul out site for Walrus so we hope to be able to go ashore and spend some time with these blubbery marine mammals. Due to regulations regarding viewing Walrus we can only take half of you ashore at a time so we will split into two groups. Each group will have the same amount of time with the Walrus on shore.
- Group 1 Everyone living on Deck 6, 5, 3 and 2.**
Group 2 Everyone living on Deck 4.
- Group 2 will go first as Group 1 went first at Alkfjellet bird cliffs.**
- 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 22nd June 2018

Passengers disembarking tonight for the flight **SK4497 at 02:30** Please leave your luggage outside your room before **10pm**. Please go to the Gangway with your lifejacket and hand luggage at **12 midnight**. Your bus will take you to the airport at 12:30am. Safe Travels Home!

For the small group on their pre-booked day trip on 22nd June from Longyearbyen. Please go to the Gangway with **all of your luggage** at 07:00.

For everyone else.....

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 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 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 and ensure it goes onto the bus with you. Staff will be there to help you.

11.45 Your bus will take you to the airport for your flight. **SK4491 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.