



## Around Spitsbergen

20. August to 29. August 2018  
on board

***MV Plancius***



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



# Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 44

including

Chief Officer:	<b>Svein Rubach</b>	[Norway]
Second Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	<b>Mindaugas Oginskas</b>	[Lithuania]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b>	[Hungary]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	<b>Gabor Ferencz</b>	[Hungary]
Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Jannet Hubertus</b>	[The Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	<b>Christian Engelke</b>	[Germany/Norway]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	<b>Sandra Petrowitz</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Fritz Hertel</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gérard Bodineau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Irene Kastner</b>	[Svalbard]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Karin Daniels Amby</b>	[Sweden/Austria]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Shelli Ogilvy</b>	[Alaska]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Johanne Skrefsrud</b>	[Norway]

# Day 1 – Monday, 20. August 2018

## Embarkation in Longyearbyen

1600 GPS Position: 78° 14.0' N / 015° 37.1' E

Wind: N 1 Sea state: calm Weather: light overcast Temperature: 9°C



From the plane we got a first glimpse of Spitsbergen's impressive terrain of mountains and delta systems. At first glance, this seemed like a wild and inhabitable place, but as we were about to learn it is home to a lot of life. For many of us, Longyearbyen was our first stop, visiting the museum and the church or maybe shopping some extra warm clothes before leaving civilisation. Ready for adventure and exploration we first got on board M/V *Plancius* via zodiac, this would be our first ride of many for the voyage. We arrived at the ship, our new home for the next nine days. We were greeted by our Expedition leader, Christian, and Hotel manager, Zsuzsanna, proficiently we were shown to our cabins with our luggage already waiting for us.





We soon gathered in the observation lounge where we were briefed about safety on board. The briefing was held by the Third Officer who presented details of ship safety and how to prepare for the worst. A general-alarm drill (seven short blasts followed by one long blast) was made, and we all took the SOLAS orange life jackets and mustered in the lounge guided by crew and staff. After a roll call to assure everyone was present, we went out on deck to have a look at the lifeboats as *Plancius* was navigating out of Adventfjorden. Back in the lounge Zsuzsanna introduced us to the interiors of the ship, hotel operations and dining room where we would be served delicious food. Captain Alexey joined us in the end for a welcoming toast of sparkling wine or juice before we headed down to the dining room for our first scrumptious dinner prepared by Head Chef Ralf and his staff. Later that evening Christian invited us for another briefing, now about life on board and introduced the Expedition team ready to explore the wilderness with us.

The evening was a delight of an elongated sunset over the northern arctic waters. Many of us were out on deck spotting the birdlife, Northern fulmars, kittiwake gulls and a few puffins were noted. The highlight however were two blue whales feeding out in the sound. The officers on the bridge navigated the ship respectfully around the whales. Giving us an opportunity to photograph, but more importantly simply view the whales. Observing and absorbing this amazing experience. A fantastic first introduction to what Svalbard has to offer.





## Day 2 – Tuesday, 21. August 2018

### Kongsfjorden: Ny-Ålesund & Ny-London

**10.00 GPS Position: 78° 56.1'N, 011° 55.4'E**

**Wind: E 1 Sea state: calm Weather: sunny Temperature: 4°C**

Early in the morning we awoke to Expedition leader Christian's voice, giving us our first wake up call, and with it the expedition had officially started. Some of us were already up, enjoying the outer decks and breathing in the fresh arctic air. *Plancius* was sailing slowly into Kongsfjorden in front of the very scenic glacier Kongsvegen.

After having breakfast, we attended the mandatory briefing about zodiac operations and polar bear safety. Thereafter, we were called to get our rubber boots used to go ashore with the zodiacs. Quickly, we got dressed for the first activity of the trip: visiting Ny Ålesund.

The reason for the town's foundation was coal mining, which resulted in construction of the northernmost railway, which can still be seen. The company setting up the mining village was Norwegian and had its headquarters in the coastal town of Ålesund, thus the name Ny Ålesund (New Ålesund). Once a mining village, now Ny Ålesund is an international research centre. Home to roughly 13 different countries conducting polar studies.

Some of us visited the museum, the post office and the gift shop before gathering by the Amundsen bust. Amundsen is a famous Norwegian explorer who was the first to reach South Pole in 1912. He lead





many other polar expeditions, but here in Ny Ålesund is where he began the expedition on the airship *Norge*, which became the first to fly over the North Pole in 1926. Amundsen disappeared in 1928 while attempting to rescue Nobile's failed expedition on the *Italia*. We started out for a short walk out across the tundra to the mast used to anchor the Zeppelins. Gerard told us the life of Amundsen and the story behind his explorations here in the north. We took the time to enjoy the nice scenery of the King's Bay, spotting several harbour seals both on land and in the water, Common eider ducks and arctic terns foraging in the nutrient rich waters.

Immediately after lunch, we were ready to disembark at the northern side of Kongsfjorden, in a place named Ny London. We have the opportunity to walk around two old buildings, several foundations and the remains of railway lines with old





steam boilers and drills. All these remains were built between 1910 and 1913 by a company owned by Ernest Mansfield. The original idea was to exploit the marble veins on this small island, but it proved to be a failed dream as the quality of the marble was very poor.

We split into three different groups: long, medium, and contemplative. All visit the historic site and then some of us headed to the highlands of the island, others to a fresh water pond, where a couple of Red-throated Divers nests were observed as well as many purple sandpipers feeding on the shores. Although the summer bloom was coming to an end the tundra still held a few respectable flowers from the moss companion and yellow saxifrage.

A long tailed Skua was observed on the at the end of this walk, greeting us on the beach as we donned our life jackets to return to the ship. The weather was superb, a bit of warm sunshine and a gentle breeze creating the atmosphere of a true Arctic late summers day.





## Day 3 – Wednesday, 22. August 2018

### Hinlopen Strait: Alkefjellet & Torellneset

0800 GPS Position: 79° 50.0'N, 017° 59.0'E

Wind: N 2 Sea state: slight Weather: overcast Temperature: 5°C



The bright nights of the Arctic constantly create new sights and reasons to stay out on deck. The night before hand, we had yet again stayed up late to observe the passing of historically pertinent Smeerenburg and Virgohamna. It was worth it, sleep can be done at home. Spitsbergen was showing a landscape of steep mountains, the same sight as the first explorers saw and the reason for giving it this name. The barren sight

of Smeerenburg didn't give much evidence of the gloomy history of what had taken place here hundreds of years ago. This is the most well-known whaling station from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, where seven Dutch companies from different towns conducted whale slaughtering and oil extraction from the blubber operations. We also passed Virgohamna where the Swedish polar explorer Andrées started his expedition in 1897 to cross the North pole via air balloon, which tragically ended in Kvitøya, a small island covered in ice-cap to the northeast.



In the morning we arrived at Alkefjellet, an area in Hinlopen famous for its steep cliffs inhabiting Brunnich's Guillemots breeding colonies. With strong winds and waves crushing towards the cliffs and bouncing back creating a very confused and chopping sea, it was decided a ships cruise was the best solution

for observing this amazing sight. Similar to a skyscraper with many levels, life towered from the waters edge high into the sky. The birds were keeping their young side by side on the cliff edges, the parents taking turns in bringing food back to feed them. At this time a year most of them have already made the "leap of faith" off the cliff side into the water and have started feeding for themselves.

We spotted some of these chicks in the water, most likely together with their father.

Arctic foxes were also present, having found this area a literal buffet of either eggs or young chicks depending on the season. We observed several running after each other along the steep green slopes in display of territorial dominance or just a little wicked fun. The foxes proved quite difficult to spot and the "find the fox" game kept on lasting until everyone had at least seen one.



The geology of these cliffs is also quite a fascinating story of these dolerite rock formations lying within the scenery.





After lunch and some time to warm up inside the ship, we headed to Torellneset where a colony of walrus were waiting for us on the beach. The Expedition team went ahead before us, scouting for polar bears and assessing the temperament of the walrus before we could go ashore. We were divided into two groups to optimize our time with the walrus, walking slowly towards them and keeping our noise level down to a minimum.

As we got nearer, some of the walrus came up to us from the water inquisitively “checking us out”. They were very curious and stretched their necks up higher to see us better, as their eyesight is so poor. Amazing creatures, so comfortable in the water playing around. What an experience getting this close to them!

That evening we passed by Bråsvellbreen and Austfonna on the eastern side of Nordaustlandet. Observing the blue blue icebergs, towering waterfalls off the ice-edge and a few marine mammals either lounging on the ice or swimming in the water. Farther than the eye can see, for over 170 km the ice edge stretched making Austfonna the second largest icecap in the northern hemisphere, subsequent only to Greenland.







## Day 4 – Thursday, 23. August 2018

### Kvitøya, North to the ice

0800 GPS Position: 80° 03.6'N, 030° 55.1'E

Wind: W 2 Sea state: calm with swell Weather: partly cloudy Temperature: 4°C



Overnight we had sailed from the glorious evening views of Bråsvellbreen and Austfonna, towards Kvitøya. A light gentle swell and clear skies greeted us as we arrived. The top of the icecap was clearly visible and as we approached closer, the Expedition team were already spotting bears, both on the glacier and the small rocky beach outcrop known as Andréeneset.

Kvitøya or “White island” is 99% covered in an icecap. The island is historically relevant as it was made most famous by the tragic Swedish balloon expedition led by Salomon August Andrée, which in 1897 that had crash landed on the sea ice in an attempt to reach the north pole. The men of the expedition





were able to traverse the ice and finally reach the small 5 km stretch of beach, yet sadly they did not prevail the first weeks ashore, their remains were not found until 1930. Now, the island is home only to a few nesting arctic terns and the Lord of the North, the Polar bear.

After breakfast, we steadied our sea legs and headed for a zodiac cruise in hopes of a closer view of the bears we had already sighted. The swell at the gangway was quite high, but with the skill of the drivers and sailors on the gangway we were able to load safely. Once we all had boarded the zodiacs we headed off in a convoy to view one the bears sleeping on the western side of the beach. This was our first close sighting of the voyage outside of the Longyearbyen airport. Although the bear was resting it was a magnificent site. We continued on around the coast and found many walrus hauled out on the rocky islets there were many additionally swimming in the water. Upon our cautious approach the animals seemed a little nervous at first, but this was more likely due to the Polar bear we spotted half in the water looking hungrily at the walrus. The bear seemed thoroughly frustrated and after walking around a bit succumbed to a resting position, viewing a dinner that was unattainable. Meanwhile our zodiacs were surrounded 360° with wildlife, walrus approaching in the water, birds overhead, bears on the beach (a second had been spotted resting not far from the first). Truly a fortunate day at Kvitøya.



After nearly two and half hours in the boats we were starting to feel a chill and the wind was picking up, we headed back to *Plancius* where lunch awaited, as well as warm tea and hot showers.

In the afternoon we had some time to rest, as the ship was sailing north to be in the ice for the following day. Christian gave a presentation on the Andrée expedition, and Sandra presented tips on photography in the arctic and the ice. Lectures were given in both English and German so we could all benefit.

Later recap was to be held in the lounge, but the arrival of a blue whale delayed the start. After some views we got back on track and Christian explained the plans for the following day: a day in the pack ice. Fritz explained the mysterious life choices of Arctic terns, and Shelli very briefly on walrus and Polar bears.



# Day 5 – Friday, 24. August 2018

## Visiting the King of the Arctic

0800 GPS Position: 82° 41.0'N, 024° 56.0'E

Wind: N 2 Sea state: calm Weather: calm with snow Temperature: 2°C



Early in the morning, the first ice flows appeared on the horizon. Scattered still, yet growing more dense as *Plancius* made her way through the calm waters of the high latitudes. Fog banks passed from time to time, wrapping our views of the sun in a soft blanket of mystery. There could never be any doubt as to where we were heading on this beautiful day: we were on a quest to meet the King of

the Arctic in his true kingdom, the pack ice. Surrounded by Kittiwakes gulls and Ivory gulls searching the ship's wake for polar cod. We were otherwise alone having left chartered water quite some time ago, heading north in search for the pack ice. Far away it was indeed, well beyond 82°41 degrees North, the ice flows finally formed a tight pattern; a frozen maze for our Captain and ship to play in.







Since the early morning hours, our guides had been on watch, eyes now glued to their binoculars. Many of us soon joined in, bundling up on the outside decks or from the warmth of the lounge. A few hours after breakfast, the first bear was spotted by our Captain right ahead of us, but at some distance. Carefully, *Plancius* pushed the ice flows away, slowly getting closer and allowing us the chance to meet the Arctic royal.



The bear too, had discovered us, and at first, curiosity seemed mutual. A huge male he was, approaching at a slow, but steady pace, occasionally stopping and sniffing the air. After a while, he seemed to conclude that we were not of much interest and turned away again. As we continued onwards, he seemed to follow us for some time. Maybe he, too had spotted the huge bearded seal sleeping on the ice in a distance?

We were able to warm up again inside the ship over lunch before the next bear was spotted. At first sight it seemed to be more than one bear, but as we approached it became clear that this one seemed to be having a back rub session on a pressure ridge. Feet up in the air it was rocking from side to side, eventually sliding down in quite an elegant fashion.

There it rose to its feet and started walking alongside us. In the meantime, another bear was discovered on the opposite side, also resting at first. Upon our approach, it seemed undecided as to whether we were worth more attention than a sleepy glance from the pillow. Eventually, this one rose to its feet and made a few steps towards us but returned to rest soon after, posing for our cameras. By the time, the sun was on his way towards the horizon already and the light became almost magic. When the first camera batteries called for recharge we had to let go. Carefully, our captain guided Plancius out of the frozen maze again and we made way towards the coasts of Nordaustland and tomorrow's adventures.

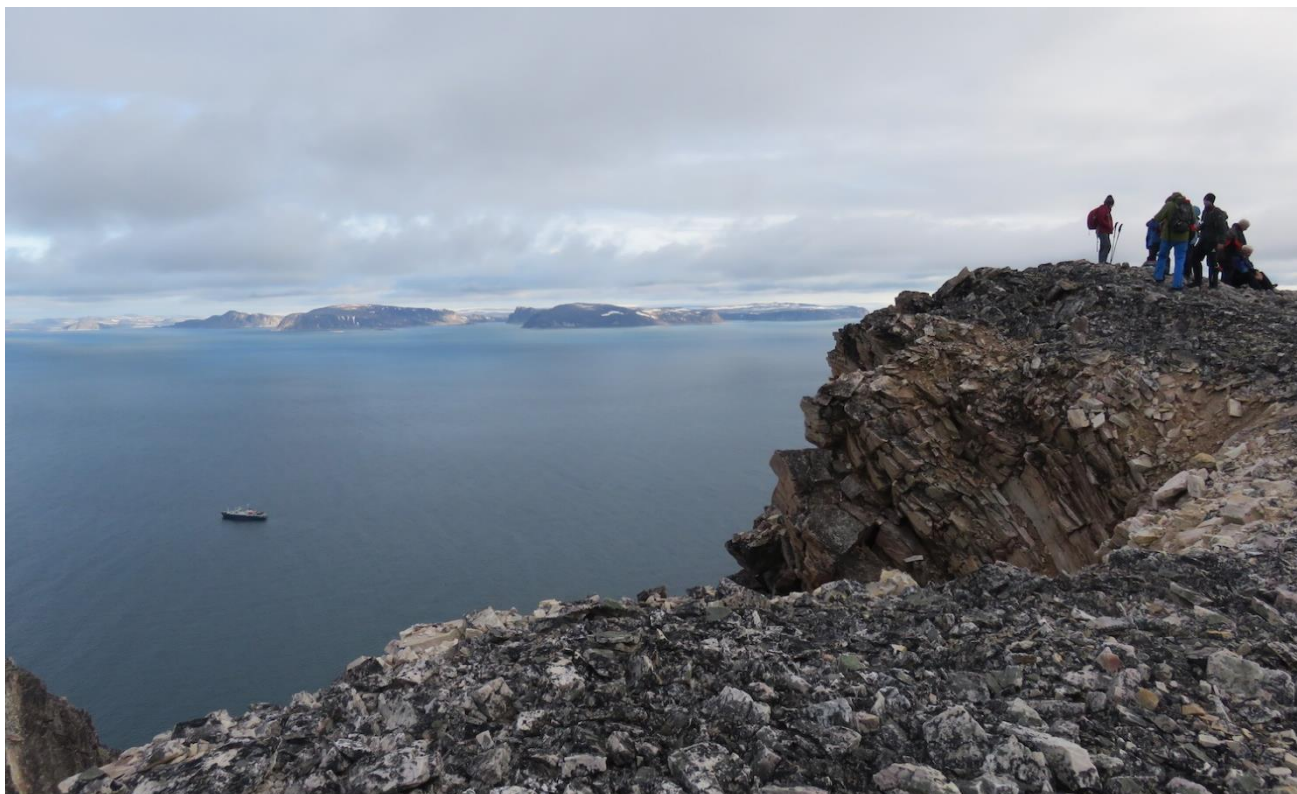


## Day 6 – Saturday, 25. August 2018

### Nordautlandet: Albertinibukta & Reliktbukta

0800 GPS Position: 80° 18.7' N, 025° 13.0' E

Wind: NE 2 Sea state: calm with swell Weather: overcast Temperatur: 5 °C



After a calm night, we woke up as *Plancius* entered Albertinibukta, on the north side of Nordautlandet. At the end of the bay, the large glacier front of Schweigaardbreen was our goal for the morning. Even being in the bay, the swell was causing *Plancius* to roll and pitch quite a lot. The expedition team launched one zodiac as a trail run and Christian made a test run at the gangway, it was quickly concluded



that boarding the Zodiacs was a pretty risky operation. Captain Alexey tried also to go in another small bay but the swell proved too big. There was no other possibility for any other activity in the area, thus Gérard gave us a talk on Polar Bears, illustrated by his own photos taken during previous expedition cruises.



For the afternoon, we landed in a small bay named Reliktbukta, sheltered from the swell coming from the Arctic Ocean. This place rarely gets visitors and it is a perfect example of polar desert, with raised beaches, geological interests and a few pockets of plants.



We divided into three groups, the more energetic ones went on a steep and fast hike to the top of Kvinberget. At 365 m elevation they could enjoy fantastic views of the surrounding landscape. The medium group, being separated in two smaller groups later on, had a walk on the raised beaches, discovering various formations of rocks and plants. Stone circles or polygons, and ice wedges were appearing from a succession of frost and thawing, lying on a base of permafrost that never thaws. The leisurely group did a similar walk but at a slower rhythm, discovering also the particularities of this barren land. We came back to *Plancius* under windier and choppy conditions, making navigation more







demanding for the zodiac drivers to keep their passengers dry and free of ocean spray. Back on board a quick recap was held about activities for tomorrow; two landings and opportunities to hike again. We also learned a few bits about the flora of the area. Karin highlighted the greener more seasonal plants and Sandra explained the ancient tactics of lichen life.





# Day 7 – Sunday, 26. August 2018

## Hinlopen Strait: Faksevågen & Palanderbukta

0800 GPS Position: 79° 33.1' N, 017° 40.8' E

Wind: NE 2 Sea state: calm Weather: overcast Temperature: 4°C



We woke up to beautifully calm water in Lomfjorden, yesterday's rough conditions of wind and swell were now only a faint memory. Impressive steep mountains were rising up on both sides of Lomfjorden, but with different rocks on either side due to a fault zone in the middle of the fjord. Our first landing today would be in Faksevågen, named after a horse in Norse Mythology. Around Faksevågen sediment layers of various colours have been flipped vertically due to this fault zone and continuing erosion have created lines of these sediments extending down the slopes of the mountains. It looked like the mountain rock was bleeding, and in different colours. We were shuttled to shore with the zodiacs, cruising through completely flat water allowing the colourful mountains to reflect in the water below. The fast group was off, hiking up the slopes up to Faksefjellet where a large boulder marked the summit. The middle groups were taking their time



© Gérard Bodineau



upwards observing flowers and photographing the beautiful view. Closer to the top, the struggle of the uphill slope paid off, with a close encounter of a small herd of reindeer, peacefully feeding on the vegetation. The leisurely group had a wander along the beach and also had views of reindeer, but at a farther distance.

After lunch, Palanderbukta in Wahlenberfjorden was our next destination. Yet again, a very different landscape of more polar desert. With a prominent cinnamon colour to the rocks here, it looked similar to the Sahara Desert during an occasional snow fall. The fast hikers set off again, this time to a summit of the steep cliffs facing the fjord. Passing fascinating rocks of a great variety of colours from light blue



to green and pink we climbed the steep slopes to reach the top. Amongst the colourful rocks there were also plenty of marine fossils of shells and shallow water organisms making this a very geologically interesting area. A few Northern fulmars were showing some impressive flying techniques above us as we looked out at the view from the summit. Below we could see the other hiking groups as small ants down in the valley and along the beach. On the way back down to the beach we discovered some quite sturdy skeletons lying on the ground, remains from a polar bear. The medium and leisurely hikers also had some interesting discoveries today such as the whale bones long ago deposited and a few flowers that resiliently survive in these meagre conditions.





A fairly special observation of two Arctic skua displaying territorial behaviour was encountered. Common when nesting, the birds trying to scare us away. However, if they had young the chicks should already be fledged and independent of their parents. Regardless, we could tell we were not wanted and respectfully turned and headed in a different direction for the birds.

A day of varied landscape, amazing views and quite some special sights of what Svalbard has to offer was coming to an end, but a surprise was awaiting us back on the ship. Chef Ralf and his kitchen team had prepared for us a proper Arctic barbeque on the outside on deck. We enjoyed the scenery and the calm evening, with good food and music. Afterwards the night continued with the music turned up, and a great deal of us were showing our best moves on the dancefloor.





**Day 8 – Monday, 27. August 2018**

## **Freemansundet: Isbjørnodden & Kapp Lee**

**0800 GPS Position: 78° 17.5' N, 022° 17.5' E**

**Wind: NE 2 Sea state: calm Weather: overcast Temperature: 4°C**



A new day, fresh scenery, new environment. We now hoped to explore a completely different and green environment in the landscape of Freemansundet, a direct contrast to the polar desert of yesterday. It was time to experience a beautiful tundra hike and discover further in-depth the arctic flora around Isbjørnodden on Edgeøya. In the morning we passed by our first option of a landing at Kapp Waldburg, home to a stunning colony of Kittiwake gulls making life in the steep canyons of the land. However, a polar bear was also staging a home with a meal and we passed by in hopes of finding equally stunning terrain minus the bear.

Not too far away we found the shores of Isbjørnodden, inviting and safe to land. Botanist, hikers, and birders as well were equally pleased to observe species such as Pink-footed geese, Purple Sandpiper, an assortment of Saxifrage still in bloom and views beyond measure. As usual, we were spread into four



different hiking options: long, middle plus, middle photo, and leisurely. We enjoyed walking in this lush tundra vegetated which was made possible due to a large quantity of rich sediments deposited by the river delta. A very different environment from the last hike we experienced in the polar desert of Palanderbukta!



After lunch time we headed south to Kapp Lee. The zodiac drivers did their best in keeping us dry as wind and waves made our shuttle to the landing site a bit more challenging than usual. Once safely landed on shore we were able to freely move about a perimeter of landscape. Our expedition guides were positioned on key viewpoints to scout any oncoming wildlife. We soon discovered three most interesting sights of this landing: historical Pomor culture remains, a group of walrus (37 in total) relaxing on

the beach, and a small cove providing an opportunity to soak in the arctic silence.

During our evening recap a Minke whale sporadically arrived and also quickly departed. However, we were in the “whale waters” of Storfjorden, as we continued to navigate overnight around the southern end of Spitsbergen completing the final portions of our circumnavigation of the Island archipelago. During dinner, we had the opportunity to see all the hotel department crew, including crew working in more hidden places onboard *Plancius*, such as the laundry team and the galley. A spectacular sunset was happening outside and we lingered in the lounge or outer decks enjoying the evening.



# Day 9 – Tuesday, 28. August 2018

## Hornsund: Samarinvågen & Gåshamna

0800 GPS Position: 76°57.7' N / 015°38.19' E

Wind: SW 2 Sea state: calm Weather: partly cloudy Temperature: 6°C



The morning was brilliantly calm and blue skies abounded as we entered Hornsund. We passed by several small fjordlets before entering Samarinvågen where the glacier face several kilometres wide. We had ample time to cruise down to the face of the glacier, fortunately we were able to observe several calving's as well as spotting a Bearded seal in the water. Kittiwake gulls were resting on the smaller icebergs in front of the ice-face waiting for the opportunity to feast just after the ice has fallen. The warmth of the august sun fell on our faces, and the pure bliss of such a morning was a welcome joy.

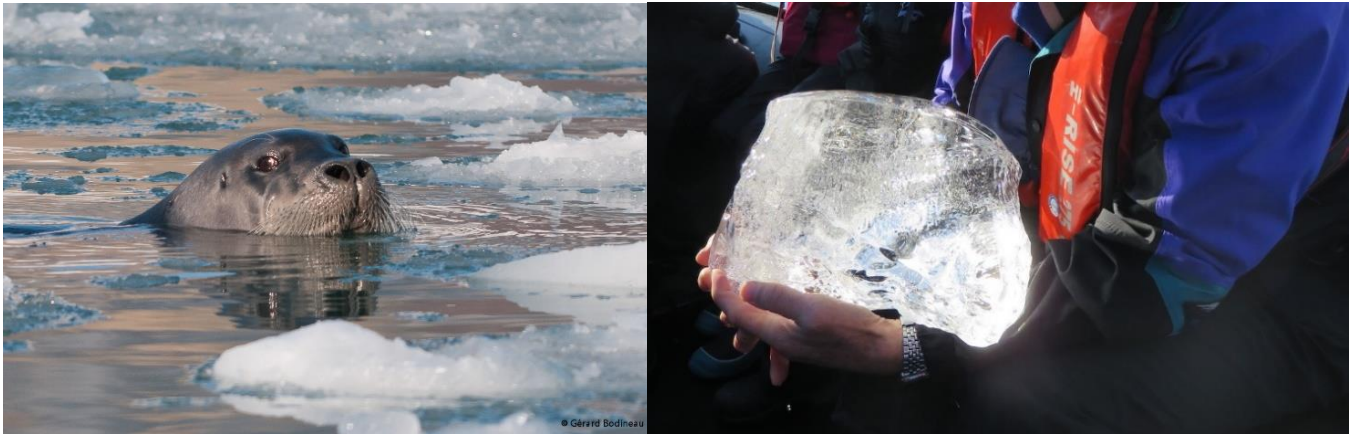




After a quick lunch we headed out for a final landing and hiking opportunity in Gåshamna known as “Goose Bay” in Norwegian. It was formerly a site of an English whaling station, in current condition the remains create small islands of nutrient rich soil and a biosphere for plant life. The relics of Pomor huts are also a relevant historical visit along with stunning views out into the sound.



Purple sandpipers along the shore and in the muddy outwash stream fresh fox tracks and older Polar bear prints were found. The long hikers were direct to scrambling up the steep mountain just behind, finding outstanding summit views and lingering moments of arctic silence.



Back on board we had a quick moment to relax before heading to a final Captain's farewell toast to the voyage and instructions for the following day. We would have one last zodiac ride tomorrow on the way back to the pier just like how we had first arrived.

Late in the evening in our last hours at sea. We were accompanied by humpback whales feeding near the surface, a spectacular farewell!







# Day 10 – Wednesday, 29. August 2018

## Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

0800 GPS Position: 78°14.4' N / 015°37.3' E

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

After 9 days we were back from where we had started, Longyearbyen. It was sad to say good-bye to all the beautiful places we had visited and to disembark *Plancius*, the ship that had been our comfortable, cosy home for an unforgettable journey to the North.

But at the same time, we were richer in memories and knowledge about the Arctic and its wildlife. We have had special and incredible experiences, taken hundreds of pictures and made new friends. We shared truly unique moments, we talked and we laughed with each other. This trip will last us a lifetime – in our memories, in our imaginations, and in our dreams.





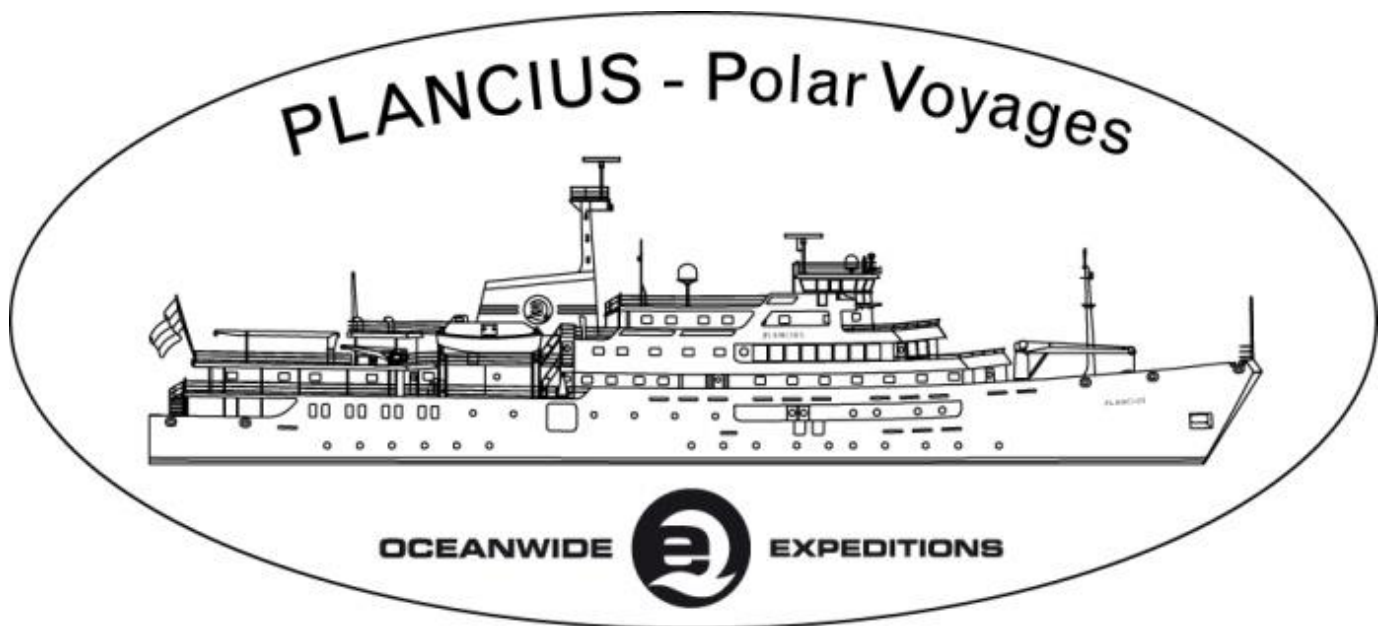
*Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!*

**Total distance sailed on our voyage:**

**Nautical miles 1.493,7**

**Furthest North Point: 82°42.36`N / 025°41.88`E**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Alexey Nazarov, Expedition Leader Christian Engelke, Hotel Manager Zsuzsanna Varga and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**





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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

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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

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





LATIN	ENGLISH	GERMAN	DUTCH	
<i>Arenaria pseudofrigida</i>	<b>Fringed Sandwort</b>	Wimper-Sandkraut		
<i>Arnica alpina</i>	<b>Alpine Arnica</b>	Alpen-arnika		
<i>Betula nana</i>	<b>Dwarf Birch</b>		Dwergberk	
<i>Braya purpurascens</i>	<b>Purplish Braya</b>	Purpurkresse		
<i>Campanula uniflora</i>	<b>High Alpine Hairbell</b>	Einblütige glockenblume		
<i>Cardamine nymanii</i>	<b>Polar Cress</b>	Polar-schaumkraut		
<i>Carex misandra</i>		Russ segge	Zegge	
<i>Carex nardina</i>	<b>Nard Sedge</b>		Zegge	
<i>Carex rupestris</i>	<b>Rock Sedge</b>		Zegge	
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	<b>White Arctic Bell-heather</b>	Vierkantiges heiderkraut	Vierkante lavendelheide	x
<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	<b>Arctic Mouse-ear</b>	Arktisches Hornkraut		x
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	<b>Polar Schurvygrass</b>	Gebräuchliches löffelkraut	Lepelblad	x
<i>Deschampsia alpina</i>	<b>Alpine Haigrass</b>	Alpenschmiele		
<i>Draba spec.</i>	<b>Whitlow-grasses</b>	Felsenblümchen		x
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	<b>Mountain Avens</b>	Silberwurz	Zilverwortel	x
<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	<b>One flower fleabane</b>			x
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>	<b>Arctic Cottongrass/ - segde</b>	Scheuchzers wollgras	Scheuchzers Wollegras	
<i>Luzula arctica</i>		Scneesimse		
<i>Luzula confusa</i>		Polarsimse		
<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	<b>Oystersplant</b>	Mertensie		
<i>Minuartia rubella</i>	<b>Mountain Sandwort</b>	Rötlichte miere		
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	<b>Mountain Sorrel</b>	Alpen-Säuerling	Bergzuring	x
<i>Papaver dahlianum</i>	<b>Svalbard Poppy</b>	Svalbard-mohn	Spitsbergen papaver	x
<i>Pedicularis dasyantha</i>	<b>Woolly Lousewort</b>	Wolliges läusekraut	Kartelblad	
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	<b>Hairy Lousewort</b>	Behaartes läusekraut	Kartelblad	x
<i>Petasites frigidus</i>	<b>Lapland Butterbur</b>	Nördliche pestwurz	Hoefblad	
<i>Poa alpina</i>	<b>Alpine Meadow-grass</b>	Alpen Rispengras	Alpenbeemdgras	
<i>Polemonium boreale</i>	<b>Boeral Jacob's-ladder</b>	Nördliche himmelsleiter		

Polygonum viviparum	<b>Alpine Bistort/ Viviparous Knotweed</b>	Knöllchen-Knöterich	Levendbarende Duizendknoop	x
Potentilla chamissonis	<b>Bluff Cinquefoil</b>	Chamisso's-fingerkraut	Vijfvingerkruit	
Potentilla hyparctica	<b>Arctic Cinquefoil</b>	Polar-fingerkraut	Vijfvingerkruit	
Potentilla pulchella	<b>Tufted Cinquefoil</b>	Polster-fingerkraut	Vijfvingerkruit	
Puccinellia phryganodes	<b>Creeping Saltmarsh Grass</b>	Arktischer Salzschwaden		
<b>Ranunculus hyperboreus</b>	<b>Tundra Buttercup</b>	Nordischer hahnenfuss	Arctische boterbloem	
Ranunculus lapponicus	<b>Lapland Buttercup</b>	Lappländischer Hahnenfuss	Lapland boterbloem	
Ranunculus nivalis	<b>Snow Buttercup</b>	Scnee-hahnenfuss	Sneeuw boterbloem	
Ranunculus pedatifidus	<b>Lobe-leafed Buttercup</b>	Gelappter hahnenfuss		
Ranunculus pygmaeus	<b>Pygmy Buttercup</b>	Zwerg hahnenfuss	Dwerg boterbloem	
Ranunculus sulphureus	<b>Sulphur-coloured Buttercup</b>	Schwefelgelber hahnenfuss		x
Salix polaris	<b>Polar Willow</b>	Polarweide	Poolwilg	x
<b>Salix reticulata</b>				
Saxifraga aizoides	<b>Yellow Mountain Saxifrage</b>	Fetthennen-steinbrech	Berg steenbreek	
Saxifraga cespitosa	<b>Tufted Saxifrage</b>	Rasen-steinbrech	Steenbrekk	x
Saxifraga flagellaris	<b>Polar Stoloniferous Saxifrage</b>	Faden-steinbrech	Spinneplantje	
Saxifraga hieracifolia	<b>Hawkweed Saxifrage</b>	Habichtskraublätt-riger		x
Saxifraga hirculus	<b>Yellow Marsh Saxifrage</b>	Moor-steinbrech	Bokjes steenbreek	x
Saxifraga hyperborea	<b>Pygmy Saxifrage</b>			x
Saxifraga nivalis	<b>Alpine Saxifrage</b>	Schnee-steinbrech		
Saxifraga oppositifolia	<b>Purple Saxifrage</b>	Roter steinbrecht	Zuiltjes Steenbreek	x
Saxifraga rivularis	<b>Highland Saxifrage</b>	Bach-steinbrech	Beek steenbreek	
Saxifraga cernua	<b>Drooping Saxifrage</b>	Nickender-steinbrech	Hangende steenbreek	x
Silene acaulis	<b>Mos campion</b>	Stengelloses Leimkraut	Stengelloze silene	x
Silene furcata	<b>Arctic White Champion</b>	Kleine Alpenelke	Arctische silene	
Silene wahlbergella	<b>Northern Champion</b>	Nördliche Alpenelke	Knikkende silene	
Stellaria crassipes	<b>Tundra Chickweed</b>	Schnee-Sternmiere		



Stellaria humifusa	<b>Arctic Chickweed</b>	Artische-Sternmiere		
Taraxacum arcticum	<b>Arctic Dandelion</b>	Arktischer Löwenzahn	Pool paardebloem	x
Taraxacum brachyceras	<b>Polar Dandelion</b>	Polar- Löwenzahn	Arctische paardebloem	
Saxifraga foliosa				x
Silene uralensis				x

## Birds and Mammals of Svalbard PLA14-18

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker	V
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeel duiker	B
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans	V
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eider eend	B
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ilseend	B
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Sneeuw hoen	B
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbek plevier	B
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteen strandloper	B
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepieuvre à collier	Steenloper	B
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaart meeuw	B
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	B
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoor meeuw	B
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troïl	Zeekoet	B
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	B
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	B
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	B
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaai duiker	B
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgors	B



**MAMMALS**

<b>English</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Dutch</b>	<b>Breeding / Transient / Vagrant</b>
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	B
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts	V
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	B
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis	T
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis	V
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	T
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	T
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Cachalot	Potvis	V
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narval	Narwal	V
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Hyperoodon arctique	Butskop	V
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Zwaardwalvis	V
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn	V
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloega	B
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Rentier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	B

20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug
	X		X					
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X				X	X	X	X
	X							
							X	
X	X				X	X	X	X
				X				
X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
	X							
	X	X			X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
		X			X	X		
X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
				X				
X	X				X	X		X
	X						X	X



20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug
	X	X	X		X		X	
	X	X		X				X
				X	X			
		X						
							X	X
X								
							X	X
			X	X	X		X	
		X					X	
	X					X	X	X

# Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 44

including

Chief Officer:	<b>Svein Rubach</b>	[Norway]
Second Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	<b>Mindaugas Oginskas</b>	[Lithuania]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b>	[Hungary]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	<b>Gabor Ferencz</b>	[Hungary]
Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Jannet Hubertus</b>	[The Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	<b>Christian Engelke</b>	[Germany/Norway]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	<b>Sandra Petrowitz</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Fritz Hertel</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gérard Bodineau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Irene Kastner</b>	[Svalbard]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Karin Daniels Amby</b>	[Sweden/Austria]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Shelli Ogilvy</b>	[Alaska]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Johanne Skrefsrud</b>	[Norway]

welcome you on board!



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS



# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## *Plancius*

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20. August 2018 (Day 1)

# Welcome on board!

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

**TBA** First meeting and Welcome Briefing in the Lounge (Deck 5), including a **Mandatory Safety Briefing & Lifeboat Drill**. **All Passengers are required to attend** this very important safety briefing. Please listen for **announcements**.

**ca. 18.00** *Plancius* departs Longyearbyen northbound.

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

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

**TBA** = to be announced

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

- Sir Ernest Shackleton

# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## *Plancius*

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### 21. August 2018 (Day 2)

- 07.15** Early **Wake-up call**.
- 07.30** The **Breakfast** buffet is ready for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 08.30** **Mandatory Briefing** in the Lounge: **Polar Bear Safety, Zodiac routine & AECO guidelines** (in English).
- ca. 09.15** After the briefings we would like to hand out your **rubber boots**. We will **call you by decks** and ask you to come to the Boot Room on Deck 3 forward. Please bring your thick socks!
- ca. 10.15** **Landing: Ny-Ålesund**. We visit one of the world's northernmost permanent settlements. The former mining town has been converted into a scientific center of international Arctic research but it's also famous for its polar history. Amundsen, Nobile and Ellsworth started their zeppelin journey here in 1926 to be the first ones to fly over the North Pole. The anchoring mast is still there and can be visited.
- TBA** **Please follow the rules**. Always (!) stay on the gravel roads in order to not damage vegetation, disturb wildlife (especially birds) or interfere with scientific devices which may not be obvious or even visible. Please do not leave the settlement – danger of polar bears! Ny-Ålesund boasts the world's northernmost post office (self-service) and the northernmost souvenir shop (accepted currencies: US\$, €, NOK or credit card).
- 11.15** **We meet at the Amundsen bust** for a walk to the *Norge* anchoring mast and a talk (**in English**) about Amundsen's, Nobile's and Ellsworth's voyage to the North Pole.
- from 12.00** **Zodiac shuttle** to the ship. **Last Zodiac at 12.45!**
- 13.00** For one hour, the **Lunch** buffet is waiting for you!
- 14.15** **Landing: Blomstrandhalvøya**. We intend to land on the north side of Kongsfjord at a derelict mining settlement where Ernest Mansfield, a notorious character in Svalbard's history, mined for marble a century ago. We will stroll through the tundra, and one group can hike up a bit for some great views of Kongsfjord. It's worth in all groups to keep eyes open in search for birdlife and reindeer in the area.
- 18.00** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow and the days to come in the **Lounge!**
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy!

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

*Sir Ernest Shackleton*



# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## *Plancius*

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22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2018 (Day 3)

- 07.45** The day starts with the **wake-up call**.
- 08.00** **Breakfast buffet**
- TBA** **Zodiac Cruise: Alkefjellet.** In the morning we would like to visit a place called Alkefjellet, literally „Auk Mountain“. Several ten thousand pairs of Brünnich’s guillemots are nesting on the steep basaltic cliffs which are up to one hundred meters high. In addition, kittiwakes and Glaucous gulls are also present here, and the geology is interesting as well. Our plan is to offer you a Zodiac Cruise along those spectacular cliffs, passing them at close distance to observe the birds. It is a fantastic experience even if you are not a birder! Please dress warmly; we will not go ashore.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for you.
- afternoon** **Landing.** The **southern part of the Hinlopen Strait** is a good place for walrus as they find food here and can haul out on the gravel beaches of Nordaustlandet. We are hoping to visit the charismatic „toothwalkers“ to observe them on land. To make this happen, the walrus have to be home of course, and the conditions need to be good for a landing. Please listen for announcements; before we can land to visit the walrus we need to brief you on how we will approach them on land.
- 18.00** Welcome to our **recap**.
- 19.00** Dinnertime, and the livin’ is easy ...

*"To allow mystery, which is to say to yourself: there could be more, there could be things we don't understand; is not to damn knowledge."*

BARRY LOPEZ

# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## ***Plancius***

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23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2018 (Day 4)

- 07.15**      **Wake-up call** – rise and shine :-)
- 07.30**      **Breakfast buffet** for one hour in the Dining Room
- TBA**        **Zodiac Cruise** and maybe a mini landing, **Kvitøya**.

We hope to be able to offer you a Zodiac Cruise and – only if conditions allow – maybe a mini landing near Andréeneset on Kvitøya. Both is highly dependent on wind, weather and wildlife. We will keep you updated; please listen for announcements.

- 12.30**      Lunchtime – enjoy your meal!

- TBA**        **Expedition afternoon**. Our route is influenced by a lot of factors. Weather and wind will determine the course. Maybe we will have the chance to continue with our lecture program. We will let you know via announcement.

- 19.00**      Time for **dinner** – bon appetit!

*Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing at all.*

- HELEN KELLER

# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## ***Plancius***

---

23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2018 (Day 4)

- 07.15**      **Wake-up call** – rise and shine :-)
- 07.30      **Breakfast buffet** for one hour in the Dining Room
- TBA**      **Zodiac Cruise** and maybe a mini landing, **Kvitøya**.
- We hope to be able to offer you a Zodiac Cruise and – only if conditions allow – maybe a mini landing near Andréeneset on Kvitøya. Both is highly dependent on wind, weather and wildlife. We will keep you updated; please listen for announcements.
- 12.30      Lunchtime – enjoy your meal!
- 15.15**      **Lecture in English:** Christian talks about **Kvitøya** and the fascinating story of **Andrée**. In the Lounge.
- 15.15      Lecture in German: Photography – Towards better images. By Sandra in the Dining Room.
- 16.30**      **Lecture in English:** Sandra talks about „**Photography: Towards better images**“. In the Dining Room.
- 15.15      Lecture in German: Christian talks about Kvitøya and the fascinating story of Andrée. In the Lounge.
- 18.15      **Recap** and outlook in the Lounge
- 19.00      Time for **Dinner** – bon appetit!

*Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing at all.*

- HELEN KELLER



# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## *Plancius*

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24<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 (Day 5)

**Expedition Day!** North of Nordaustlandet – this season: far north of Nordaustlandet – we will encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. The exact time of arrival is depending on our speed during the night. In any case, ice will be the topic of today. Please join us on deck – it is a brilliant experience to manoeuvre close to the edge of the pack ice. We are keeping a lookout for wildlife throughout the day.

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

- 07.45**      **Wake-up call!** Christian's voice will stop our sleep. (If we do arrive in the ice earlier, you will be woken up earlier.)
- 08.00      The **breakfast** buffet is available for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 12.30      The **lunch buffet** is waiting for you in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!
- 18.00**      **Recap** of today and **Briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room.

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

*André Gide*

# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## ***Plancius***

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25<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 (Day 6)

### **Expedition Day in the North of Nordaustlandet**

- 07.15**      **Wake-up call** – good morning!
- 07.30**      **Breakfast buffet** for one hour in the Dining Room
- 09.00**      **Zodiac Cruise, Albertinbukta.** On the north coast of Nordaustlandet the rarely visited Albertinbukta offers fantastic possibilities for a Zodiac Cruise. The glacierfront of Schweigaardbreen often sends fascinatingly beautiful icebergs out into the fiord. Please dress warmly, we will not go ashore.
- 12.30**      Hungry? Enjoy your **lunch!**
- TBA**        **Landing at Reliktbukta.** Welcome to the Arctic Nothing! Reliktbukta is a perfect example for polar desert. It is an impressive – and just superficially empty – landscape, and there is a lot to see. Happy exploring!
- 18.45**      **Recap** and plans in the Lounge
- 19.30**      Time for **dinner** – bon appetit!

*“This we know, the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth.  
All things are connected like the blood which unites us all.  
Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it.  
Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”*

*Chief Sealth*

## Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

# *Plancius*

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26<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 (Day 7)

- 07.15**      **Wake-up call** – good morning!
- 07.30      **Breakfast buffet** is waiting for you for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 09.00**      **Landing, Faksevågen.** This small fjord on the east coast of Spitsbergen is part of the bigger Lomfjord and boasts fantastic possibilities for tundra hikes of any length. A moderate (yet initially steep) ascent gets you to viewpoints, the beachcombers can actually do exactly that, and the “mountain goats” can go for a big walk.
- 12.30      **Lunchtime** – enjoy!
- TBA**      **Landing, Palanderbukta.** Polar desert reloaded: Nordaustlandet’s Palanderbukta is a moonscape of its own. Mostly the terrain is easy to navigate, and gaining a bit of height makes for fantastic views. Enjoy the unique colors and shapes!
- 18.00**      **Recap** and plans in the Lounge
- 19.00      A **special dinner** is waiting for you – bon appetit!

*“A large volume of adventures may be grasped within this little span of life,  
by him who interests his heart in everything.”*

- LAURENCE STERNE



# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## *Plancius*

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27<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 (Day 8)

### Expedition Day in Freemansundet and Storfjorden

Today our plans are very dependent on weather conditions and wildlife. Freemansundet in between the islands Barentsøya and Edgeøya is a notoriously beary place. In early summer the last ice can be found here, and when it melts, the bears find themselves stuck on land – keep your eyes peeled for the tell-tale creamy-coloured dots on the mountain slopes. For the same reason it is impossible to predict whether, and if so, where, we might be able to make a landing. We will provide you with updates; please listen for our announcements.

- 07.45** Good morning – this is your **wake-up call!**
- 08.00** The **breakfast buffet** is waiting for you.
- TBA** **Expedition morning in Freemansundet.** Many of the landing sites here boast tundra vegetation and rather gentle slopes perfect for hiking. Meltwater rivers have carved our wide valleys; flower fans might have the chance to spot the last blossoms of the season. However, please keep in mind that conditions and bears have to cooperate to allow for a landing ...
- 12.30** The **lunch buffet** is waiting for you.
- TBA** **Expedition afternoon in Storfjorden.** The eastern side of Spitsbergen – called Storfjorden – offers a number of possibilities for activities like a landing or a zodiac cruise. However, we need weather and wildlife to co-operate. Again, we will keep you updated via announcements.
- 18.00** **Recap** and **outlook** in the Lounge
- 19.00** **Dinner** is waiting for you.

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

*- Oscar Wilde*

# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## ***Plancius***

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28<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 (Day 9)

### **Hornsund**

Hornsund, located at the west coast, is a very scenic place, well known for its beautiful landscape and spiky mountains. It is often called „Spitsbergen en miniature“.

- 07.45**      **Wake-up call** – time to start the day!
- 08.00      **Breakfast.**
- morning**      **Zodiac Cruise, Samarinvågen.** Join us on our scenic zodiac tour in Samarinvågen. The landscape of this small branch of Hornsund is stunning. Please dress warmly!
- 12.30      **Lunchtime!**
- 14.00**      **Landing: Gåshamna.** We would like to land at Gåshamna (literally: „Goose Bay“). Gåshamna boasts different hiking options, some of which provide great panoramic views. English whalers had a land station here in the 17th century, and there are remains of Pomor huts. Weather permitting, the fast hikers might be able to climb up to a viewpoint – but be aware this will include a VERY STEEP and demanding scramble on scree slopes.
- 18.15**      **Captain’s Farewell and last official meeting.** Please join us in the Lounge for a toast to our special voyage!
- 19.00      **Dinnertime** – once more: bon appétit! We would like to ask you to put your **rubber boots** in front of your cabin door before attending dinner.
- afterwards      **Settling of ship’s accounts** – we will call you by deck for the settling of your ship’s accounts.

*“Difficulties are just things to be overcome”*

*Sir Ernest Shackleton*

# Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

on board the

## ***Plancius***

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29<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 (Day 10)

- 07.15**      **Wake-up call** – time to start the day!
- 07.30**      **Breakfast** until 08.30. Please put **your check-in luggage outside your cabin door BEFORE breakfast**, latest by 07.30. Please mark your luggage with a coloured ribbon (see separate information regarding luggage transfer) if you are booked onto either of today's two flights. The ribbons are available in the Lounge.
- 08.45**      **Landing in Longyearbyen.** Please come to the gangway to be shuttled to the pier. Depending on the weather, waterproof clothing is advisable. Please don't forget to return your cabin key card holders to reception prior to leaving the ship; you are very welcome to keep the cabin key card as souvenir.
- 09.00**      The **bus from the pier to the center of Longyearbyen** is departing.  
Your **luggage** will be waiting for you at the pier. Please identify it and take it to the luggage truck/trailer yourself in order to make sure it's off the vessel. For those of you staying in Longyearbyen, please take your luggage with you on the bus (not in the trailer/truck)!
- 11.00**      If you are on the **12.40 flight (DY397)**: The **bus** will take you from the center of Longyearbyen (the same place where you were dropped off in the morning) **to the airport**. There you will find your check-in luggage waiting for you in the luggage truck/trailer.
- 11.45**      If you are on the **13.25 flight (SK4491)**: The **bus** will take you from the center of Longyearbyen (the same place where you were dropped off in the morning) **to the airport**. There you will find your check-in luggage waiting for you in the luggage truck/trailer.

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

*- Rudyard Kipling*

## **Happy traveling home!**