



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

29th June – 6th July 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 refitted 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. She has an Ice Strength rating of 1D, a top speed of 12+ knots, and three diesel engines each generating 1230 horsepower.



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:	Tanya Bayer	[Germany]
Expedition Leader:	Beau Pruneau	[Canada]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Michelle van Dijk	[Spitsbergen]
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Laurence Dyke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Turner	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Ben Frederiks	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Anke Timmerberg	[Germany]

Day 1 – Friday 29th June 2018

Embarkation: Longyearbyen

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

Wind: SE 3. **Sea State:** Smooth. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +7°C. **Sea Temp:** +6°C.

Longyearbyen, at 78° north, is one of the world's most northerly settlements. It was founded as a coal mining settlement but it has developed into a thriving town of around 2,000 residents who live and work here all year round. During the summer months this number swells with the arrival of thousands of visitors on cruise ships.

A few of us had arrived in Longyearbyen a day early and had the opportunity to explore the town and maybe to take a day trip into the surrounding areas. Many of us arrived just this afternoon, and we were met by Tanya and Tom at the airport. We had a few hours to visit and explore the town before making our way to the port to join our ship *Plancius*.



We made our way to the floating pontoon and we were met by Katja and Michelle, who helped us with our luggage and gave us a quick introduction to travelling by Zodiac and a demonstration of how to put on the lifejackets. It was just a short boat ride into Adventfjorden to meet *Plancius*, which was lying at anchor out in the bay. It was an easy ride to the ship and it allowed us to become familiar with the Zodiacs which will be taking us to and from the shore over the coming days.



From the gangway we were shown to Reception where DJ, our Hotel Manager and his assistant Gabor checked us in and we were shown to our cabins by the very welcoming hotel staff. We found our luggage waiting for us outside our rooms. 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 then had a chance to explore the ship and to check out the many different viewing areas. Out on deck we found that the *Plancius* had quietly weighed anchor and was cruising out of Isfjord heading northwest, straight into the evening sun, for the start of our Arctic adventure.

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

We then had a chance to meet our Expedition Team who will be guiding us 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, Beau Pruneau, gave us an outline of our plans for the coming days. The first destination was to be Raudfjord, in the far northwest corner of Svalbard.

It was then time for dinner, and a chance to meet with our fellow passengers. With 24 hours of daylight many of us enjoyed some time out on deck with some sunshine and a brisk Arctic breeze, we spotted Fulmars, Guillemots, and Kittiwakes. It was a very pleasant evening on board.



Day 2 – Saturday 30th June 2018

Smithbreen and Alicehamna

GPS 08.00 Position: 079°49'N / 010°27'E

Wind: NW 3. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +3°C. **Sea Temp:** +3°C.

Overnight we sailed North along the west-coast of Spitsbergen and we arrived at Hamiltonbukta in the morning, suitably refreshed and eager to explore the area. Before we could board the zodiacs for our first cruise we listened to a safety briefing about how to enter and exit a zodiac, what to do if we encounter a polar bear, and we also learnt about the AECO rules for preserving the Arctic wilderness. The Arctic welcomed us with beautiful sunshine and just a breath of wind for our first venture towards the shore. We headed into Smithbreen on the zodiacs and sailed through the glacier ice taking in the impressive fjord cliffs along the way. As we approached the glacier we entered rafts of small icebergs, we could hear a sharp popping sound from the ice. This is caused by air-bubbles escaping from the glacier ice as it melts, the bubbles have been trapped and pressurised in the ice for many thousands of years. We could also see a great example of a small cirque glacier which occupied a deep basin that it has carved into the mountains. Next to this was the much larger calving front of Smithbreen, and a few of us witnessed small calving events as chunks of ice fell from the glacier. As we drew closer to the glacier we experienced a sudden brisk wind and it became pretty cold. This was a katabatic wind which is produced by the glacier itself. It forms as the air cools on top of the glacier, it becomes heavier and sinks, blowing down the glacier, and causing the chilly breeze we experienced. The bay in front of the glacier was surprisingly full of wildlife, we spotted some Black Guillemots, Brunnich's Guillemots, Common Eider, Kittiwakes, and some Glaucous Gulls.



After a hearty and well-deserved lunch, we crossed the fjord to Alicehamna, a chance to set foot on dry land and to explore this remote northwest corner of Svalbard. Once ashore we set off on a hike over the tundra. The weather was still excellent, bright sunshine and very warm (for Svalbard!). We split into three hiking groups, one with a focus solely on hiking, and the others having a little more time to explore and to take photos. At the beach we found an old hunting hut built by Norwegians and close to this we also saw

the grave of a whaler from the 17th century. As we hiked up the hill away from the fjord we found some small but beautiful tundra plants including the Polar willow (*Salix polaris*) and Mountain Avens (*Dryas octopetala*), and we also spotted some land birds including Ptarmigan, Purple Sandpipers, and Snow Buntings. As we gained elevation we could clearly see the different rocks on both sides of the fjord, these are a really nice example of a geological fault zone. The west side of Raudfjord is made of very old metamorphic rocks from deep in the Earth's crust; these are more than a billion years old. A large geological fault occupies the centre of the fjord and this separates the old rocks on the west side from the much younger rocks on the east side (although these still around 400 million years old!). These rocks belong to the Devonian Old Red Group, a geological period when Svalbard was located much closer to the equator than today. The fjord takes its name from the prominent red Devonian sandstones; Raud means Red in Norwegian.



After an invigorating but tiring day outside we headed back to the ship for afternoon tea and cake in the lounge. This was followed by a brief recap of the day, Laurence talked about some of the glacial features we had seen earlier in the day and Beau gave us an overview of the plans for the coming day. The *Plancius* weighed anchor during dinner and cruised gently out of the fjord, treating us to the stunning mountainous scenery of Raudfjord through the panoramic restaurant windows.

Day 3 – Sunday 1st July 2018

Bockfjorden (Jotun Quellen) and Monacobreen

GPS 08.00 Position: 79°32'N / 013°35'E

Wind: W 4. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Cloudy. **Air Temp:** +2°C. **Sea Temp:** 6°C.

Our day started with the now familiar wake-up call from Beau, our Expedition Leader, this was followed by a buffet breakfast in the restaurant. In the early morning we had entered Bockfjorden, a small arm of Woodfjorden in northern Spitsbergen, and the *Plancius* had dropped anchor off Jotun Quellen. On shore



the expedition team checked out the landing site and scouted for bears; making sure the area was safe to land. A short zodiac ride took us to the beach where we split in to our groups for the different hiking options. Michelle and Ben led the faster group high up the hillside, topping out on the summit of a large hill after just an hour. The medium group split in to two groups with Beau and Laurence with one part, and Tom and Anke leading another. The more leisurely group were led by Katja and Adam. All groups were able to enjoy the fantastic view across the fjord and to appreciate the smaller pieces of Arctic flora that were just

coming in to bloom. It was great to see these tiny flowers and their vibrant colours amongst the harsh conditions of the surrounding environment. Some of these plants are only found in this fjord on Svalbard; they are able to live here because of the unusual geothermal activity here.



All hiking groups were able to make the ascent to the location of the thermal springs. These are relatively small, but impressive nonetheless, in some places they can reach 24 degrees centigrade and they remain a source of open water even through the brutally-cold winter months. From the vantage point of the springs we were also able to see the dark conical shape of Sverrefjellet, a 500 m high volcano, and the youngest rock on the whole of Svalbard. This volcano erupted beneath an ice sheet during the last 200,000 years. This contrasts hugely with the rocks surrounding it, mostly marbles and dolomites, which are around 1 billion years old!

On our return to the ship we had a well-earned lunch and *Plancius* set sail for Liefdefjorden. After a couple of hours of stunning fjord views we arrived at the mighty Monacobreen, a vast glacier named after the Prince of Monaco who funded early expeditions around Svalbard onboard his yacht *Alice*. We then boarded the zodiacs for a cruise right up to the front of the glacier which gave us the chance to appreciate the size of the glaciers that are found here in Svalbard. It was also an opportunity to spot a variety of different wildlife, we saw Kittiwakes, Glaucous Gulls, Arctic Terns, Common Eider, and Northern Fulmars. We were also fortunate enough to see Bearded Seals hauled out on the icebergs in front of the glacier.



After an hour and a half of cruising in the tranquil fjord among the glaciers and icebergs we returned to the ship where Gabor met us with a much-needed drink at the gangway. During the evening recap Katja recounted her expedition during an Arctic winter where she had skied across the Bockfjorden, amongst the hot springs, and then across the mountains and over Isfjord to Longyearbyen. Tom also gave a short presentation about the unique geology of the area. This included the unusual volcanoes of Svalbard and he was also able to show us some fossils from the

sedimentary rocks in this part of Svalbard.

Day 4 – Monday 2nd July 2018

Bjørnsundet and Vibebukta

GPS 08.00 Position: 079°06'N / 019°59'E

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

We were woken, as usual, by the voice of Beau, as we found ourselves in the middle of Bjørnsundet or Bear Sound, infamous for its numerous polar bear sightings. We enjoyed our breakfast while watching the rugged mountain peaks and glaciers through the restaurant windows. We hoped that today would be the day to see the king of the Arctic, the mighty polar bear. The expedition team had made up a schedule to ensure that at each minute of the day at least two guides were on the Bridge to see if there were any bears along the shore or on the ice floes that were passing by.

Right after breakfast the announcement came, the expedition team had spotted at least two bears walking in front of a glacier at over 6 miles distance! *Plancius* was steered towards the bears and the zodiacs were prepared in order to see the animals at a closer distance. It appeared that the closest bear was still at quite a distance from the edge of the fast ice that was gathered in front of the glacier. Luckily, we could drive the zodiacs right up to the edge of the solid ice; this proved to be a steady location from which to observe the bear. Or bears! When the bear started to walk along the pack ice, a smaller version appeared behind her back, it was a mother with a 6-month-old cub! After half an hour of cruising along the ice edge and watching the mother and cub on the ice another polar bear appeared with two slightly larger cubs! We found ourselves right on the edge of a polar bear kindergarten. The expedition team explained that there were still more bears sighted at the northern end of the glacier on the fast ice beneath the calving front. After an hour or so we counted a total of 7 bears, all on a pretty small patch of ice. It was an incredible experience to see bears in their natural habitat, interacting with each other, and even hunting seals right in front of us. Great!



Back onboard, the *Plancius* set course to Vibebukta, crossing the Hinlopen Strait. While underway we spotted several ice floes with walrus on the them. The groups of male animals were resting and enjoying the polar sun, they were completely unperturbed by our presence, perhaps because of the very quiet electric engines on *Plancius*.

After 3 hours of cruising we arrived at Vibebukta and near the edge of the Bråsvellbreen. We saw an armada of large icebergs that had broken off the enormous glacier front. As if cruising on *Plancius* wasn't enough, our expedition leader decided that we would go on a zodiac cruise too, passing a small stretch of the 200 km long Austfonna Ice Cap, the third largest body of ice in the world! It was a bright sunny day and once onboard the zodiacs we could feel the warm sun catching our faces. The glacier front appeared even more impressive from up close, we had a superb view of many beautiful waterfalls cascading over the ice cliff. These are formed by streams of glacier meltwater falling over the edge. On one iceberg a walrus was resting directly under the glacier cliff, a magnificent sight!



Once back on board we rounded off the day in fine style with a barbecue on the sunny back deck of the *Plancius*, it was tucked out of the wind and had the mighty glacier cliff as a backdrop. DJ played music into the evening and people were showing their best moves while doing the Macarena! What a day!

Day 5 – Tuesday 3rd June 2018

Palanderbukta and Alkefjellet

GPS 08.00 Position: 079°34'N / 020°53'E

Wind: NW 3/4. Sea State: Smooth. Weather: Clear. Air Temp: +5°C. Sea Temp: +2°C.

Overnight the *Plancius* had sailed into Palanderbukta to try and find some sea ice. This bay had some of the last sea ice in Svalbard here. We hoped to find wildlife here making the most of the very end of the Arctic spring. The expedition team were up early scouting from the bridge deck and Beau announced during breakfast that we had Polar bears in sight! The bears were on a large piece of fast ice and we could see them walking from a distance. Captain Levakov skilfully navigated the *Plancius* into the ice, clearing a small channel through the ice. As we got further into the ice it became clear that a lot of bears had chosen to live here for the last of the Spring conditions; we could see six bears including two mothers and three cubs. Some of the bears were quite far away, so-called "pixel bears". A few of the others were a little closer and we were able to see the bears patrolling the ice, through binoculars, telephoto lenses, and the big telescope on the bridge deck. Our time in Palanderbukta with the bears was made extra special by the glorious weather; blue skies, warm sunshine, and not a breath of wind. After almost an hour the bears wandered further into the fjord so we left them in peace and headed for a short landing a little further up the coast on the southern coast of Palanderbukta.



As we stepped ashore from the Zodiacs it became clear that we had entered the Polar desert of Eastern Svalbard. This area receives very little precipitation, less than 250 mm per year, and that showed in the extremely barren landscape. The few plants were extremely scarce and existed only in small areas where water was slightly more plentiful. We saw a small cabin by the beach at the landing site, this was built by the crew from the Norwegian whaling boat *Isfjord* as a base to hunt seals and fox from during the long Arctic winter. We took a stroll up over the flat shingle ridges to get a better vantage over the bay. The

ridges are raised beaches and are some of the best examples in the whole of Svalbard because they remain almost entirely unvegetated. We learnt that these raised beaches formed after the last glaciation when the land had been pushed down by the weight of the huge ice sheet which covered Svalbard. As the land slowly rose these beaches formed, these were then stranded high on land by the retreating sea resulting in the many terraces of beaches we can see today. On our way back down to the shore we encountered some whale bones, these are at least a few thousand years old and a really nice reminder that the sea covered this whole area not that long ago. We also had a chance to see an Arctic Fox on the beach, the fox was trying to hunt but was getting a very hard time from a couple of Arctic Terns which were dive-bombing it in an effort to chase it away from their nests.



In the afternoon we set off across the Hinlopen Strait towards the large island of Spitsbergen. We drew up alongside the spectacular cliffs of Alkefjellet and boarded zodiacs for a cruise in under the cliffs. The first thing we noticed as we got close was the noise; hundreds of thousands of birds make their home here and they were busy calling to each other in raucous fashion. As we got a little closer our nostrils were assaulted by the strong smell; the cliffs are covered in pungent guano. We cruised right up to the cliffs and were able to see thousands upon thousands of Brunnich's Guillemots, Glaucous Gulls, and Kittiwakes very close. Birds



cover every inch of horizontal space on the cliffs at Alkefjellet. We could also see flocks of Brunnich's Guillemots all around us on the water and even diving in the clear water beneath the zodiacs. A few of us also witnessed a small avalanche caused by a cornice of snow collapsing and cascading down a steep gully and into the sea.

After a lovely late-afternoon amongst the busy bird cliffs we made our way back to the ship for dinner. In the evening Adam gave a very entertaining lecture about a largely forgotten British polar explorer called Benjamin Leigh-Smith. We heard about his many important expeditions around Svalbard and Franz Josef Land and this included the exploits of "Bob", Leigh-Smith's loyal dog and a firm favourite of his expedition crew.

Day 6 – Wednesday 4th July 2018

Gråhuken and Fuglesangen

GPS 08.00 Position: 079°47'N / 014°21'E

Wind: N 1. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Clear. **Air Temp:** +11°C. **Sea Temp:** +2°C.



We woke to another glorious day in the Arctic. In the early hours of the morning the Expedition Team had been on the bridge scouting the low-lying islands that lie off the coast of Woodfjorden. They spent a lot of time staring a number of suspicious white dots far in the distance, but these turned out to be just rocks, bears were not to be found. Just after breakfast *Plancius* dropped anchor off Gråhuken, our landing site for the morning. We boarded the zodiacs, a now

familiar procedure, and within a few minutes we landed on the tranquil cobble beach on this wild northern coast of Spitsbergen. Just a few metres above the shoreline we saw the famous wooden Ritter hut. In 1934–35 Hermann and Christiane Ritter wintered here in this tiny hut together with a young Norwegian hunter called Karl Nikolaisen. Christiane was the first woman to overwinter on Svalbard, and on her return, she wrote an enthralling account of her time here called "A Woman in the Polar Night".

Gråhuken is positioned at the entrance of Woodfjorden and means the grey corner in Norwegian. However, as we walked out onto the vast tundra the weather was anything but grey, we had bright blue skies, strong sunshine, and the air temperature was a stunning 11 °C, pretty incredible for nearly 80°N! Woodfjorden is named after the huge amount of wood which washes up on the beaches in this area and we could see it all along the shoreline at Gråhuken. This driftwood is mostly complete tree trunks sourced from the Siberian boreal forests. The huge northwards flowing rivers of Arctic Russia are used by loggers to transport trees to the down to the coastal ports. Inevitably a lot of logs slip through the net and end up in the Arctic Ocean. These loose logs then spend up to five years circulating anti-clockwise in the Arctic Ocean, locked amongst the sea ice. They are finally released from the cold grip of the Arctic in the Fram Strait where the warm Atlantic current melts the sea ice.

On the tundra at Gråhuken we walked in our different groups, exploring the small patches of vegetation, marveling at the wild landscape, and keeping a look out for wildlife. We spotted breeding Arctic Skua, nesting Arctic Terns, and a few Purple Sandpipers. As we headed back to the ship a thick bank of fog rolled into the fjord from the north and the ship was soon invisible from shore; a reminder that the weather in the high Arctic is extremely unpredictable. We made it back to the ship slightly damp, a little chilly, but in plenty of time for another excellent buffet lunch. In the afternoon *Plancius* headed west, during the transit Michelle gave a lecture about Umberto Nobile and his adventurous expeditions with airships in the Arctic!



In the late-afternoon we arrived off Fuglesangen; a rugged island in the northwestern corner of Spitsbergen that is home to breeding colony of Little Auks. We landed on the beach and it was just a short walk to the colony. As we sat quietly among the boulders we were approached by many of the Little Auks who landed on the rocks around us. Little Auks are the smallest members of the Auk family and they treated us to displays of their cheeky behaviour. A few times they took off en-masse, swooping low over our heads. This is a response to the threat from Glaucous Gulls which

patrol the colony looking for unguarded chicks, eggs, or even the adult Little Auks themselves.

During the daily recap by Beau gave us details about the coming day, it would already be our last aboard the *Plancius*, time really flies up here! Katja followed with a presentation about Christiane Ritter, and this included some choice excerpts from her book. Adam then wrapped up the recap with a presentation about whales (or was it Wales?!); he told us all about the Fin Whales we had seen earlier in the trip.



Day 7 – Thursday 5th July 2018

GPS 08.00 Position: 078°25'N / 011°55'E

Wind: SW 3. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Fog. **Air Temp:** +5°C. **Sea Temp:** +5°C.

The morning started a little earlier than usual with a wake-up call from Beau, this was to make the most of our last day. As we had breakfast and peered through the restaurant windows it became obvious that we were surrounded by thick fog, visibility was down to a few hundred metres at times. Unfortunately, this meant that our planned landing at Poolepynten had to be cancelled, there was not enough visibility to safely scout for Polar Bears and this is an area where they are frequently spotted. The expedition team set out in a scout boat to see how the conditions were at the beach and to see if the Walrus were home.

Fortunately, at this point the fog lifted a little and we could all board the zodiacs for a chance to visit the slumbering Walrus at one of their favourite haul-outs.

We were lucky enough to see a group of 20–30 Walrus, all adult males, adorned with huge tusks and weighing up to 1500 kg. Most were resting on shore, bunched up in an undulating pile of brown blubber and ivory. A few of the more inquisitive Walrus joined us on the water and they approached the zodiacs. We were treated to many displays as they snorted, scratched, splashed, and interacted with each other both ashore and in the water. It was especially impressive to see the big males square-up to each other as they negotiated for sleeping space on the beach!



We returned to the ship for lunch and had a short time to relax while the ship cruised into Isfjord. The fog thickened as we entered the fjord and we had sail past our planned landing spot at Alkhornet. Instead we pushed further into the fjord, hoping for the better weather conditions that are often found in the inner-reaches. After an hour we suddenly emerged from the fog and into bright and clear conditions. We headed into Yoldiabukta and were able to cruise right up to the front of Wahlenbergreen. The glacier has recently surged and the calving front bore the scars from this acceleration, it was heavily crevassed and formed

pinnacles which towered over the *Plancius*. We also saw a flock of around 500 Kittiwakes feeding around the freshwater plume from the glacier, this very cold and fresh water stuns small fish and zooplankton in the surrounding sea and they float to the surface; a veritable sushi bar for the Kittiwakes!



After an hour in front of the glacier we reluctantly turned and headed back into Isfjord in the direction of civilisation. Beau held a final recap and gave us all the details we needed for luggage and our flights. After this we enjoyed a farewell cocktail with the Captain and Expedition Team as the ship steamed gently back towards Longyearbyen and the real world once more.



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical miles: 925 nm

Kilometres: 1665 km



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



Plancius 29 June - 06 July 2018

English Name	Latin	29-jun	30-jun	1-jul	2-jul	3-jul	4-jul	5-jul
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>							
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>							
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>					X		
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X	X		X	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>		X	X				
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		X					X
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		X	X			X	
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X		X	X		X	X
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>				X	X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>					X	X	
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		X	X				
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		X					
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>							
Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus</i>		X					
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		X	X		X	X	
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>							
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							
Eurasian Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>							
MAMMALS								
Northern Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>			X				
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>			X				
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>							
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>				X	X		X
Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X	X			
Harp Seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>							
Ringed Seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>			X	X	X		X
Hooded Seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>							
Common /Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>							
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>				7	6		
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>					X		
Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>					X	X	
Beluga Whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>							
White Beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>							



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WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

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

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



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

TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2018

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

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

Write about your experience!

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

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

Here's what you need to do:

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



PRIZES



€ 1000
GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher
for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher
for Oceanwide Expeditions



ENTRIES CLOSE OCTOBER 30

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

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Beau Pruneau - Expedition Leader



Beau grew up in the northern Canadian wilderness learning from an early age a love of wildlife, how to track wildlife, how to handle large calibre firearms and how to survive in the northern latitudes.

Graduating with a diploma in adventure tourism with certification as a wilderness guide, Beau moved out west to British Columbia working at ski resorts where he learned to drive and fix just about every kind of motorized vehicles. He has worked

on expedition ships in the Arctic and Antarctica. Beau has a special love of Africa and is happiest looking out for bears and wildlife. He currently resides in Dresden, Germany with his family.

Deutsch: Beau ist in der kanadischen Wildnis aufgewachsen, wo er gelernt hat, Tiere zu lieben, Tierspuren zu lesen, mit Waffen umzugehen, und generell in nördlichen Breiten zu überleben.

Beau hat ein Diplom für Abenteuer-Tourismus, und hat Zertifikationen als Wildnis-Expeditionsguide. Er hat in den Arktis und Antarktis auf Expeditionsschiffen gearbeitet, und hat ein besonderes Faible für Afrika. Zudem hält er besonders gerne nach Bären und anderen Lebewesen Ausschau. Beau wohnt derzeit mit seiner Familie in Dresden, Deutschland.

Dr. Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

in the North-west of the island of Spitsbergen. In Greenland, she worked as a volunteer in the vicinity of Kangerlussuaq, where she helped to quantify carbon dioxide emissions from plants and soils.

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

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

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

Michelle van Dijk – Guide and Lecturer



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

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

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

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

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

Deutsch

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

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

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

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

Tom van Hoof – Expedition Guide



Tom fell in love with the Arctic when he was attending a climatology masterclass as student at the University Centre of Svalbard in 2001. During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO₂ on climate change during the past millennium. After living a year in the desert of Tucson, Arizona (USA), where he was working as a Postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona, Tom returned to the Arctic when he started working for the Dutch Geological Survey in 2005. As a biostratigrapher (fossil-lover) he returned to Spitsbergen for a number of expeditions, collecting rocks and guiding fellow geologists. Tom's academic background in geology/paleoclimatology is a broad one, ranging from climate change during the past

1000 years to ecology of coal forming swamp ecosystems 300 million years ago. He loves to be outside especially in the Arctic wilderness. In 2018 Tom left the Dutch Geological Survey and started his own geological consultancy business.

Deutsch: Tom hat sich in die Arktis verliebt als er 2001 einen Master-Kurs für Studenten der Klimatologie am Universitätszentrum von Svalbard besuchte. Während seiner Doktorantenzeit an der Universität Utrecht hat er einige Sedimentkernbohrungen in Seen Skandinaviens und der USA organisiert und durchgeführt. Während seiner Promotion veröffentlichte er eine Reihe von wissenschaftlichen Artikeln über die Rolle von CO₂ in Zusammenhang mit dem Klimawandel des letzten Jahrhunderts. Nach einem Jahr in Tucson, Arizona (USA), wo er nach seiner Promotion als wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter an der Universität von Arizona tätig war, kehrte Tom in die Arktis zurück, wo er 2005 begann für den holländischen Geologischen Dienst zu arbeiten. Als Paläontologe (Fossilienliebhaber) kam er für eine Reihe von Expeditionen nach Spitzbergen zurück, um Gestein zu sammeln und andere Geologen zu führen. Toms akademisches Hintergrundwissen Geologie und Paläoklimatologie ist breit angelegt und reicht von Klimaveränderungen in den letzten 1000 Jahren bis zur Ökologie Kohle bildender Sumpfsysteme vor 300 Millionen Jahren. Er ist gerne draußen unterwegs, besonders in der arktischen Wildnis. 2018 hat Tom den Holländischen Geologischen Dienst verlassen und sein eigenes Unternehmen im Bereich Geologie gegründet.

Laurence Dyke – Expedition Guide



Laurence is from Cornwall in the far southwest of the UK and grew up on the coast, never far from the water and boats. Laurence has a background as a geo-grapher with a special focus in glaciology, a choice inspired by seeing a glacier up close for the first time in the Austrian Alps. For the last 7 years he has worked in science, both in the UK and Denmark, working to understand how and why huge glacier systems have changed in the past. Laurence first visited the Arctic in 2010 whilst undertaking research for his PhD and was immediately captivated

by the wild landscapes of the high latitudes. His subsequent research has taken him on numerous expeditions to remote areas of Greenland, Svalbard, and Arctic Canada. Laurence is also a passionate advocate for polar science, when time allows he produces videos and articles about research from Greenland and the wider Arctic. Laurence lectures in glaciology and geography.

Deutsch: Laurence stammt aus Cornwall weit im Südwesten von Großbritannien und ist an der Küste aufgewachsen, niemals weit weg von Wasser und Booten. Laurence ist Geograph mit speziellem Fokus auf Glaziologie, beeinflusst durch das Erlebnis in den Österreichischen Alpen erstmalig einen Gletscher aus nächster Nähe gesehen zu haben. Die letzten sieben Jahre hat er in Großbritannien und Dänemark wissenschaftlich gearbeitet. Seine Arbeit galt dem Verständnis wie und warum große Gletschersysteme sich in der Vergangenheit verändert haben. 2010 hat Laurence die Arktis zum ersten Mal besucht, als er Untersuchungen für seine Dissertation durchgeführt hat und dort haben ihn die wilden Landschaften der hohen Breitengrade sofort gefangen genommen. Seine weiteren Untersuchungen haben ihn auf zahlreichen Expeditionen in die entfernten Regionen Grönlands, Svalbards und der kanadischen Arktis gebracht.

Laurence ist außerdem passionierter Fürsprecher der Polarwissenschaften. Wenn seine Zeit es zulässt, dreht er Filme und schreibt Artikel über Untersuchungen in Grönland und der weiteren Arktis. Laurence hält Vorträge in Glaziologie und Geographie.

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

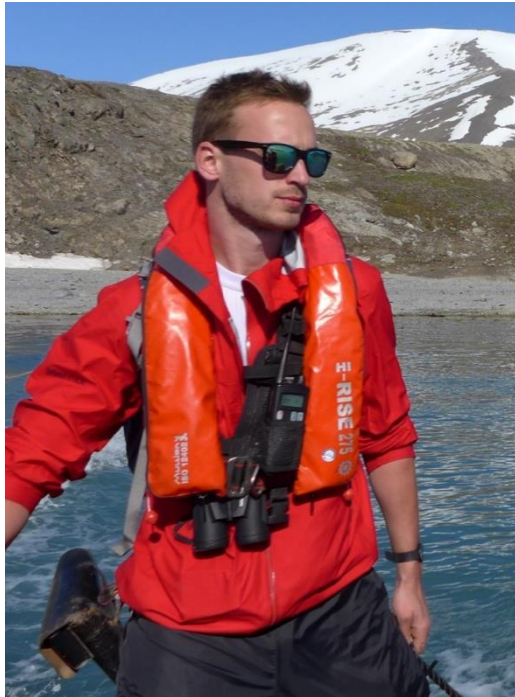
Boating Officer for British Antarctic Survey at King Edward Point, South Georgia where he spent just over a year. Adam studied at Middlesex University and gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, he now works as guide and Consultant.

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.

Ben Frederiks – Expedition Guide



2013 hat Ben Spitzbergen zum ersten Mal besucht, und für ihn wurde damit ein Traum wahr. Während seines Studiums der Meeresbiologie hat er mehrfach Feldarbeiten im nördlichsten Dorf der Welt Ny-Ålesund durchgeführt. Seitdem kommt er regelmäßig nach Spitzbergen und freut sich darauf seine hocharktischen Erfahrungen mit Euch teilen.

Ben hat sich mit den verschiedenen Effekten des Schiffverkehrs auf die arktischen Regionen; inklusive des Problems der Ölverschmutzung beschäftigt. Er ist sehr interessiert an der

Biologie/Ökologie und Geschichte der Arktis. Für Ben ist Spitzbergen der perfekte Ort um zu arbeiten, denn hier gibt es all dies auf engstem Raum!

Seit 2015 arbeitet Ben zu Hause als hydrographischer Vermesser an der Nordsee. Trotzdem hat ihn, seit seinem ersten Besuch, der "Arktisvirus" nicht mehr losgelassen und er freut sich immer auf ein weiteres Abenteuer in diesem arktischen Archipel.

English: *Discovering Spitsbergen in 2013 was like a dream coming true for Ben. During his studies in marine biology he conducted fieldwork which took him to the world's most Northern settlement: Ny-Ålesund. Here he fell in love with the Arctic Archipelago, and he has been returning to the Arctic ever since.*

In the past, Ben worked on different scientific topics: Arctic shipping and the effect of oil spills in Arctic Regions. Ben is very interested in the Arctic biology/ecology and history, which makes Spitsbergen a perfect place for him to work, because it is filled with all of it!

Since 2015 Ben works as a hydrographic surveyor on the North Sea, but since his first visit to Spitsbergen he has caught the "Arctic virus" and is always looking forward to another adventure in the Arctic Archipelago!

Anke Timmerberg – Expedition Guide



Anke was born in 1963 in Germany where she still lives in a very rural area as a teacher for German, geography and physical education. During her holidays she has been working as an expedition guide since 2010. Already as a child she was fascinated by the polar regions. After travelling to most parts in Scandinavia, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand she finally got the chance to see the remote places of Antarctica and the Arctic. Right from the beginning she was infected with the “polar virus” and returns every year as a guide and lecturer sharing her love and knowledge of the icy parts of the world.

Anke’s special interest is all kind of wildlife from the smallest bug to the King of the Arctic. She’s an experienced photographer and was already working as a photographer in residence on an expedition cruise ship. Anke speaks German, Swedish and English.

Deutsch: Anke ist 1963 in Deutschland geboren, wo sie noch immer lebt und als Lehrerin die Fächer Deutsch, Geographie und Sport unterrichtet. Seit 2010 arbeitet sie während ihrer Ferien als Expeditions Guide. Schon als Kind haben sie die Polarregionen fasziniert. Nachdem sie fast alle Gegenden in Skandinavien, Canada, die USA, Australien und Neuseeland bereist hat, ergab sich die Gelegenheit die weit entfernten Gebiete der Antarktis und Arktis zu besuchen. Gleich zu Anfang hat sie sich dabei mit dem „Polarvirus“ infiziert und kommt seither jedes Jahr als Guide zurück, um ihre Kenntnisse und ihre Liebe zu den eisigen Gegenden unserer Welt zu teilen.

Ankes besonderes Interesse gilt der Tierwelt vom kleinsten Käfer bis zum König der Arktis. Sie ist eine erfahrene Fotografin und hat auch schon als Bordfotografin auf Expeditionskreuzfahrtschiffen gearbeitet. Anke spricht Deutsch, Schwedisch und Englisch.



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:	Tanya Bayer	[Germany]
Expedition Leader:	Beau Pruneau	[Canada]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Michelle van Dijk	[Spitsbergen]
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Laurence Dyke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Turner	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Ben Frederiks	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Anke Timmerberg	[Germany]



Polar Bear Special

Embarkation Longyearbyen

Friday 29th 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.
- 1715 We will have 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.
- 1830 Our Hotel Manager DJ will give an **introduction to the ship.**
- 1900 **Captain's Cocktails!** Captain Evgeny Levakov and Hotel Manager DJ invite you to join them for a Welcome Drink in the Lounge. You will meet your Captain and your Expedition Leader, Beau Pruneau 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.



Hamiltonbukta & Alicehamna Saturday 30th June 2018

- 0700 Your first wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Beau. Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 Mandatory Briefings.**
You must attend these essential briefings with your Expedition Team. This will cover aspects of Polar bear safety and Zodiac operations on board. These will take place in the Lounge.
- Once the mandatory zodiac & polar bear briefings are done we will hand out your rubber boots. Please listen to announcements as we will call you deck by deck. Please remember to bring your thick warm socks.
- ~1100 **Hamiltonbukta.** This will be a zodiac cruise at a small but lovely glacier nearby bird cliffs. Keep a lookout for arctic foxes at the base of the bird cliffs. German speakers please come first to the gangway to enter the zodiacs.
- 1300 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1500 **Alicehamna.** This will be a landing at an old trapper's hut. We will organize several hikes of various speed and level. Lovely red sandstone geology can be found here.
- 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.



Monacobreen & Texas Bar

Sunday 1st July 2018

- 0715 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Beau. Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Monacobreen.** This will be a zodiac cruise at a large impressive glacier front called Monacobreen glacier. It is named after Duke Albert I. of Monaco, who led an expedition to map the glacier in 1906/1907. German speakers please go to the gangway first.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1430 **Texas Bar.** This will be a landing at an old trapper's hut called Texas Bar. Oddly enough, there are neither Texan's nor a bar there. Various hikes of a gentle, medium, and fast pace will be organized with fantastic views of the mountains all around. Fast hikers please go to the gangway first.
- 1830 **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room.



Bjornsundet & Vibebukta

Monday 2nd July 2018

- 0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Beau. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- AM **Bjornsundet.** We will be ship cruising looking for wildlife & ice. Bjornsundet is a large bay in the southern-western side of the Hinlopen Strait known for wildlife. Please join us out on deck or on the bridge to scout for large white fluffy things.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- PM **Vibebukta.** Join us out on deck or on the bridge as we search for wildlife. Vibebukta is located at the eastern end of the Hinlopen Strait next to Bråsvellbreen glacier, part of the Austfonna ice sheet which is the third largest in the world after Antarctica & Greenland. The more eyes out searching, the higher our chances of spotting polar mammals.
- 1830 **Re-cap.** This is a chance to meet with the Expedition Team to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **A special dinner has been arranged. Please join us outside on deck 3 behind the dining room and bring your warm jacket!**
- TBA** Time and conditions allowing we will offer lectures throughout the day. Please listen out for announcements pertaining to timings.

TBA = To Be Announced



Palanderbukta & Alkefjellet

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

- 0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Beau. Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- AM **Palanderbukta.** We will be ship cruising looking for wildlife & fast ice. Palanderbukta is a large bay on the western side of Nordaustlandet, the second largest island in the Svalbard archipelago after Spitsbergen. Depending on what we find we will offer a lecture, timing & subject to be announced.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1530 **Alkefjellet.** We would like to offer a zodiac cruise along a large bird cliff, known as Alkefjellet, or Auk Cliff. Brunich's Guillemots & Kittiwake's nest there by the thousands. Remember to wear guano proof clothing!
- 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. Bon Appetit!
- ~2030 Adam would like to regale you all with tales of Lee Smith. Please join him in the lounge if you would like to hear all about this fascinating insight into Polar history.



Gråhuken & Fuglesangen

Wednesday 4th July 2018

- 0715 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Beau. Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Gråhuken Landing.** This area is a nice flat plain with a historical hut where a German woman called Christiane Ritter overwintered, after which she wrote a book about her experience called 'A Woman in the Polar Night'. Various hikes will be arranged at a gentle, medium, and fast pace.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~1600 **Fuglesangen Landing.** We will land at an island in the North-West part of Spitsbergen called Fuglesangen, or 'Birdsong'. A colony of Little Auks live here, and we will arrange a hike up to the colony to view these beautifully noisy little birds. The landing will be rough and rocky, and the way to the birds is also rocky.
- 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. Bon Appetit!

- 0700 Wakeup call. Good Morning!
- 0715 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Poolepynten Landing.** This flat spit of land jutting out from the eastern side of Prins Karls Forland off the west coast of Spitsbergen, is known for walrus colonies hauling out on the flat sandy beaches. If the walrus are home then we will land and split into 3 separate groups. The first group will visit the walrus while the other two groups hike, rotating groups every 30 minutes to give everyone a chance to view them. If there is anyone who only wants to view the walrus and not hike, then please come to the gangway **FIRST**.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~1630 **Wahlenbergreen Ships Cruise.** We will sail through the fog bank and cruise into Yoldiabukta, heading to Wahlenbergreen a fantastic surging glacier at the end of the bay. Enjoy the fantastic geology and scenery as we slowly make our way back towards Longyearbyen.
- 1815 **Captains Farewell Cocktail.** We will meet one last time in the lounge to toast our voyage before sailing further into Isfjord and back to Longyearbyen.
- 1900 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room. Bon Appetit!



Longyearbyen
Thursday 5th July 2018

1. Passengers disembarking tonight for the flight SK/SAS 4497 Longyearbyen to Oslo at 02:25

Please leave your large luggage outside your room **before 10pm**. Please remember to take from reception after dinner a **RED ribbon** to put on your large luggage so we can identify it in the hallway. Please go to the Gangway with your hand luggage at 12 midnight. Your bus will take you to the airport at 12:30am.

2. Passengers who are on the flight SK/SAS 4491 Longyearbyen to Oslo at 13:35 please put your large luggage outside your room before 10pm July 5th as well, **WITHOUT** a red ribbon. Please keep your waterproof clothes out as you will be disembarking via Zodiac the next morning.

3. Passengers who stay a night in Longyearbyen please keep your luggage inside your cabin. You will put your large luggage outside your cabin when you go for breakfast on July 6th.

All passengers will disembark the ship via Zodiac around 08:00 in the morning after breakfast on July 6th.

0645 Your final Wake-up call from Beau. Good Morning!

0700 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

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

0815 We will take you by Zodiac to the pier.

0900 Bus transfer for all from the pier to town.

Please identify **your own** luggage on the pier. If you are on the **SK/SAS 4491 flight** your luggage goes into the luggage truck. If you are **NOT** on that flight your luggage goes into the bus with you. Staff will be there to help you.

11.45 Your bus will take you to the airport for your flight. It will leave from the same place it dropped you off in town. At the airport take your luggage from the truck and check it in. Flight **SK/SAS 4491 leaves at 13:25**

On behalf of Captain Evgeny Levakov, his officers and crew, Beau 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.