

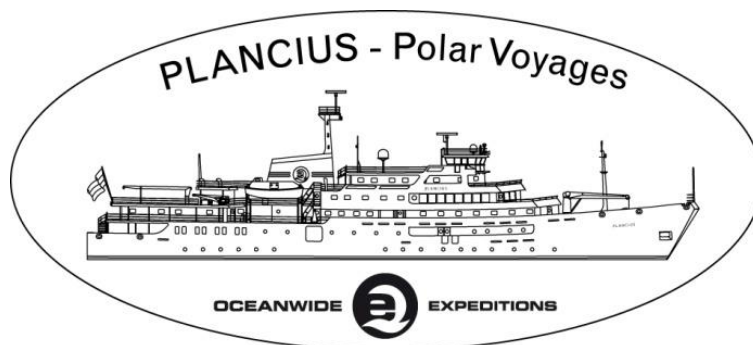
# TRIP LOG

## North East Greenland

Onboard

### MV Plancius

From September the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> 2018



# - PLANCIUS CREW -

Captain Alexey Nazarov

And his 44 international crew members

## Deck Team

First officer:	<b>Svein Rubach</b>	[Norway]
Second officer:	<b>Matei Mocanu</b>	[Romania]
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>Gábor Ferencz</b>	[Hungary]
Chef cook:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous-Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]

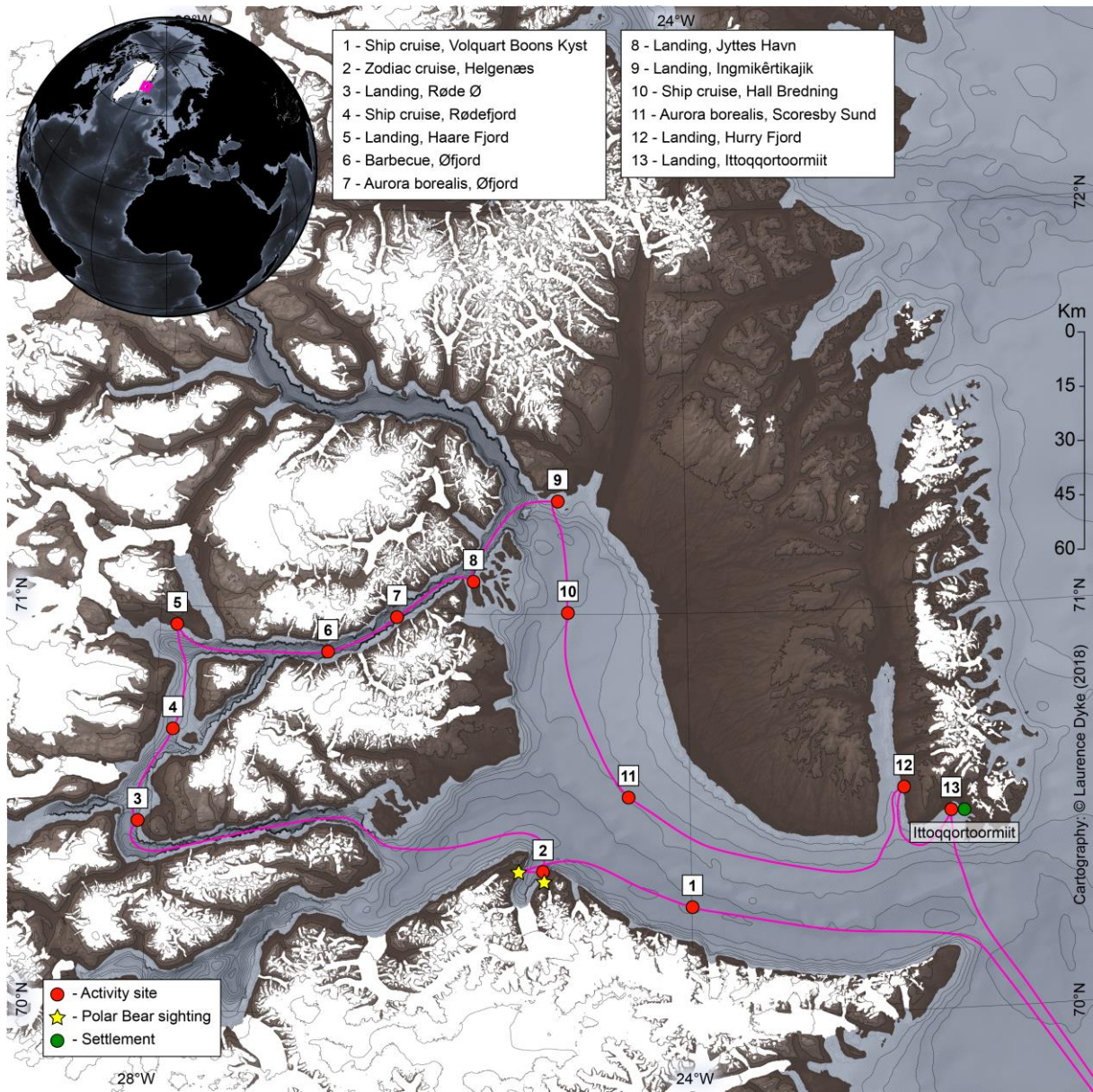
## Expedition team

Expedition Leader:	<b>Beau Pruneau</b>	[Canada/Germany]
Asst. Exp. Leader:	<b>Arjen Drost</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laurence Dyke</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Marie Manceau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andreas Alexander</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Isabelle Schultze</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jonathan Fuhrmann</b>	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Daniel Höhne</b>	[Germany]
Doctor:	<b>Lise van Turhouten</b>	[The Netherlands]

## Dive team

Dive Team leader:	<b>Henrik Enckell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>William Gilbertson</b>	[Great Britain]
Dive Guide:	<b>Catherine Buckland</b>	[Great Britain]
Dive Guide:	<b>Michael Green</b>	[Great Britain]

# - TRIP MAP -



**First and foremost we THANK YOU for your interest and friendship.**

**The guiding team would like to point out how exceptionally exemplary your group has been on shore and onboard zodiacs. We were able to successfully “listen” to the arctic silence, which is always a challenge and rarely works out, and perform beautiful hikes: Andreas was dreaming of going on top of that hill at Ingmikertikajik !**

**We greatly appreciated the spontaneity with which, without us having to ask for it, many of you picked up detritus on beaches. Thanks to your careful attention, we were able to give meaningful recaps and conferences of high scientific level.**

**You have been an easy-going and cheerful group of passengers. It is for us the best of rewards to see you guys go back home not only happy of what you saw, but also better equipped to understand the uniqueness and fragility of polar regions. You are now ambassadors of the arctic: share your experience and help protect this magical environment!**

**We hope that you are now infected by the “polar bug” and that you will soon come back onboard!**

**The expedition team.**

## - DAY TO DAY -

**Texts:** Marie Manceau, Arjen Drost, Laurence Dyke

**Photos:** Jonathan Fuhrmann, Daniel Höhne, Marie Manceau, Laurence Dyke and Arjen Drost

September the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**GPS position at 4pm:** 65°41.3' N / 018°04.5' W

**Wind:** N **Sea:** calm

**Weather:** cloudy, light rain **Temperature:** 8°C

We get our first glimpse of Plancius from the bus. She awaits us quietly at the end of Akureyri's wharf. Her bright blue hull contrasts with the dull, colorless surroundings: the city has been imprisoned in a thick fog for weeks now, and one can barely distinguish the other side of the fjord. A light rain



greet us, but also the much warmer “welcome onboard!” of crewmembers, who take care of our luggage and show us the way to our cabins. We readily start exploring the ship, striding along corridors and decks, excited like kids discovering a new playground. We rapidly find our way to the restaurant, the reception, the bridge, or the observatory lounge.

We gather in the latter for a mandatory security briefing given by our third officer **Mindo**. He warns us: the “Little Drake” (the stretch of sea that separates us from Greenland) may live up to its name! Bad weather is

forecasted and the crossing will be rough! Debate ensues: to take medicine, or not to take medicine? That is the question.

A drill, necessary simulation of the ship's evacuation in case of an emergency, follows Mindo's presentation. An hour (and a few drinks) later, our hotel manager **Zsuzsanna** explains the rules of life onboard. We are then introduced to our captain **Alexey**, from Russia, and to our international expedition team. **Beau** is the expedition leader. This charismatic Canadian



who has worked for many years as a guide in the arctic and Antarctica, was pretty much born a guide, as he grew up hunting and fishing in the wilderness of northern Ontario. **Arjen** from The Netherlands is Beau's assistant. This former biology teacher decided, fifteen years ago, that he preferred open air "classrooms" of Polar Regions. **Jonathan** from Austria, **Laurence** from the UK and **Andreas** from Germany, are glaciologists: three specialists, as we expect to see ice where we are going! **Isabelle** from Germany and **Marie** from France are marine and evolutionary biologists, respectively. **Daniel** is a professional photographer who also guides in Iceland and Lapland. Finally, **William** from Scotland, **Catherine** and **Michael** from the UK, and their leader **Heinrick** from Sweden who has been among the first to lead diving trips in Antarctica, constitute the "diving team" as a group of skilled divers onboard will undergo underwater explorations.

As Beau jokes, all members of the expedition team are "bipolar": these passionate fellows, badly infected by the infamous polar virus, all spend their time hopping from one pole to the other! **Lise** from Holland is the ship's doctor, and as she points out not only is Greenland an isolated place, but bad weather is coming: we should be extra cautious...

September the 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

GPS position at 8 am: 67° 33.2' N / 019° 32.0' W

Wind: N 50 Sea: Very rough

Weather: Rain Temperature: 5°C



Mindo and Lise were right, and those of us who have not taken medicine regret it now. Outside decks are closed, corridors are silent, and breakfast tables are partly empty: Plancius dived in a huge storm! Forty-to-fifty knots of northerly wind forms impressive waves that bang against the ship's bow, slowing it down. Minutes feel like hours while the rest of the world disappears in

the thick torpor of this long, hypnotic sea day.

The zodiac briefing, although mandatory, is postponed: Beau gives us time to get used to the ship's movement. In the afternoon, Laurence gives a lecture (simultaneously translated into German by Jonathan).

He details the unique geology and glaciology of Greenland. Its glaciers are amongst the fastest and largest in the world, yet these giants are fragile; they recede extremely fast due to global warming. Greenland's coasts are often foggy while inland, skies clear up, a strange phenomenon we will get to experience the next morning. We also learn that during human history, Greenland was populated in waves, over 4-to-5 thousand of years.

Today 56000 people of Inuit origin live in Greenland, but only 1500 have settled in the North East! Laurence explains that because there are close-to-no roads in Greenland, its inhabitants are bound to travel and get supplied by boats: living here implies logistical difficulties!

Before diner, weather gets even worse. During his evening briefing, Beau reinsures us: we should arrive at the entrance of Scoresby Sund (and sheltered waters!) tomorrow afternoon.



September the 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

GPS position at 8am: 70°21.8' N / 025° 16.2' W

Wind: SE 1 Sea: calm

Weather: Cloudy Temperature: 3°C

During the night, the sea calmed down a lot. For many who didn't leave their cabins yesterday, a welcome change! In the morning we find ourselves in the entrance of Scoresby Sund, the largest fjord system in the world. The morning is spent with mandatory briefings about zodiac operations, landings, and how to deal with



Polar Bears, and with handing out the rubber boots.

Meanwhile, the fog we had been trapped in since morning lifts up a bit and we enjoy the majestic shoreline of Volquart Boons kyst.

Later in the morning, we arrive at **Vikingebugt**. There, we anchor for a while to enjoy the scenery and even some wildlife: just after the mandatory briefings, **Raymond**, one of the AB's on watch at the bridge, spots our first Polar Bear! It remains quite far away, never more than a small, moving, yellowish-white dot to the naked eye, but nicely observed with binoculars.





The ship then repositions for our afternoon activity. After a nice lunch prepared by our hotel team, we move to the other side of Vikingebugt to a place called **Helgenaes**. When we arrive, Beau finds another Polar Bear poking its head out of a snow cave. This one can be defined as a 'pixel bear' as no matter how much we magnify our pictures or use the telescope, it never becomes more than a dot... but it was a bear sighting nonetheless!

We head for our first outing, a zodiac cruise along the shores and icebergs in the bay. Steep mountains surrounding us, crackling ice and beautiful basalt columns on a tiny island make this moment magical. Some of us even manage to get a slightly closer look at the bear... still a small dot.



Back on the ship, we all head to the lounge for the daily recap. Beau presents plans for the next day and Arjen gives tips on how to take pictures of an Aurora borealis from a moving ship. Some of us sight at the prospect... if only we could be given a chance to see those! To finish, Andreas explains

the formation of basalt columns using an... interesting analogy with cow poo... and sticking a finger in a cowpat. Strange people, these geologists... Shortly after, dinner is called and in the evening, the bar is a lot busier than the previous evening! People enjoy drinks and each other's company while thinking back at their beautiful first day in Greenland.



September the 21<sup>rst</sup> 2018

GPS-Position at am: 70° 28.7' N / 028° 08.8' W

Wind: 0 Sea: calm

Weather: Cloudy Temperature: 1°C

As usual we wake to the dulcet tones of Beau. Overnight Plancius had sailed through most of Føn fjord. The weather is crisp, clear, and cold, and there is not a breath of wind; the fjord is a dark mirror, reflecting the vast mountain walls around us. As we breakfast we turn north into Røde fjord and first rays of sun bathe the fjord in golden light as we approach our destination for the morning;



approach our destination for the morning; **Røde Ø** ('Red Island').

The plan for the morning is a split cruise, half of us go ashore for a landing, and the rest stay on the zodiacs for a cruise amongst the huge icebergs.



Røde Ø is a prominent obstruction which protrudes into Rødefjord and an armada of icebergs from the nearby glaciers get stuck in the narrow, shallow channel between the island and the mainland. These icebergs originate from two huge glaciers nearby; Rolige Bræ, and Vestfjord Bræ. The landing party arrives on the beach and after a few seconds sets off to scale the hill above the beach. Rode Ø takes its name from the stunning geology here; the red sandstone and conglomerate were formed in a desert environment nearly 300 million years ago, a time when Greenland was close to the equator. As we crest the top of the hill we are greeted with an incredible sight; peering over the sandstone cliffs we can see a graveyard of icebergs laid out beneath us. From our vantage point we can see the turquoise glow surrounding the icebergs; this hints at



the vast volumes of ice in the depths of the fjord below. After an hour the groups swap and the landing party boards zodiacs for a tour amongst the silent, gleaming towers of ice. We navigate through the maze, thick clear blue streaks cut through the ice, cleaving the bergs from prow to keel; these are old crevasses which have filled with meltwater and have then frozen solid the following winter. One iceberg amongst the fleet catches everyone's attention; it was composed of the clearest glassy ice and had been sculpted into a myriad of beautiful curves by the sea.



After a glorious few hours in the south of Rødefjord we head back to *Plancius* for a much-needed buffet lunch. In the afternoon we continue deeper into the fjord system, heading north, in the direction of Harefjord. Captain Alexey navigates skillfully through the dense ice in Rødefjord, all-the-while we take in the changing landscape from the outside decks and the observation lounge.

We pass countless icebergs in all manner of shapes, sizes, and colours. In the late-afternoon we arrive in **Harefjord** and anchor off the northern edge of the fjord; a gentle slope of red and gold autumn tundra. We head ashore in the zodiacs and land on a gorgeous sandy beach for a perimeter landing. We are incredibly lucky with the weather, the fjord is completely wind-still and is drenched in warm September sun. The expedition guides set out a large perimeter and we are free to roam between them. Many of us walk up the slope to a vantage point on a small rounded knoll, from here we can see a

couple of musk ox in the distance, browsing on willow and birch leaves. The musk ox give us a wide berth, but we are able to get a good look at them through binoculars.

Musk ox are hunted in this part of Greenland so they are very

cautious around people.



Whilst we were on land we can also see a beautiful steel sailing ship anchored in the fjord, this is the *Rembrandt van Rijn*, another Oceanwide vessel. She has spent more than a month in Scoresby Sund without being resupplied and they are starting to run low. The *Rembrandt* ties up alongside *Plancius* and supplies of food, beverages and other essential are craned onto *Rembrandt* to last her the last few trips of the season.

Back aboard Plancius once more we set off into Øfjord, a narrow fjord surrounded by steep granite walls almost 2 kilometres high. The fjord itself is another 1600 meters deep making this one of the steepest places on Earth. In the evening Zsuzsanna has a special surprise for us, an Arctic barbecue on the back deck! Tables and benches are set out and the grills are



fired up. A veritable feast awaits us and is accompanied by beverages, music, and even disco lights. We eat, talk, and dance as the sun set behind us; this turns out to be pretty spectacular. In this part of east Greenland the sun sets directly over the vast Greenland Ice Sheet, the setting sun is reflected of the ice back

into the clouds and occasionally creates the most incredible sunsets. Our sunset in Øfjord was amongst the very best of these, the clouds glowed yellow, orange, and then pink over the space of twenty minutes, each colour more vivid than the last. Eventually the partying peters out and it was time for bed; much needed after an adventure-filled day in the Arctic.



September the 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018

GPS position at 8am: 71° 06.0' N / 025° 48.0' W

Wind: SW 4 Sea: light

Weather: clear Temperature: 1°C



Waking up is a bit difficult this morning! Beau indeed woke us up in the middle of the night, for a good reason: northern lights could be seen from the



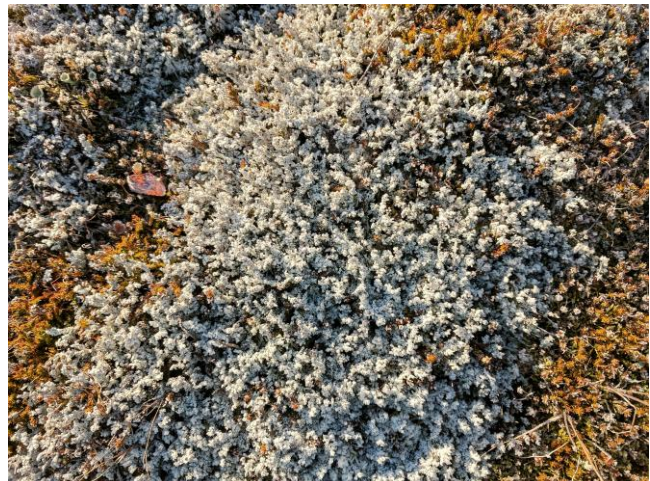
starboard side of the ship! Being able to observe this fantastic phenomenon represented a dream for most of us. While this dream became a reality, it remained hard to believe... as one can hardly describe the mélange of sheer amazement and melancholia that auroras create. The impressive heights of Ofjord's rock walls, dormant giants slowly passing by in the darkness, were lighten up by eerie curtains of green light. Northern lights formed various shapes, changing in a smooth and soothing manner, from long lines extending through the entire night vault to vertical pikes seemingly dropping from constellations.

Despite this short night, and with

the help of coffee and tea from breakfast, we are excited to land on one of the many islands of Bjorne Oer (Bear islands), where we split in three groups: gentle, intermediate and fast. The first explores the frozen willow trees, mosses, and berry bushes of the tundra bordering several beaches of this site, called **Jytte Havn**, and bask in the incredible morning light. The second hikes the gentle slopes of surrounding hills to gain some height and observe Plancius dwarfed by fantastic snow-capped mountains. The third picks up a fast, calorie burning pace, and climbs up a hill offering magnificent views on the other side of the fjord.



In the afternoon, we land in a place with the unpronounceable name of **Ingmikertikajik**, an historic highlight: there, Tulle people who grew crops when Greenland benefited a much warmer climate about five hundred years ago, built winter houses. The latter are small constructions of a few square meters, the entrance of which was a tunnel. We can also observe circles of stones, or “tent rings”, that served to hold temporary shelters made of animal skin and narwhal tusks. Again, the tundra is lit up by the oblique arctic light of this Greenlandic fall, decorated by shining patches of cotton grass and frozen water.





After a recap' during which Laurence points out that one of the remarkable mountain peaks seen in the morning has been called grundtvigskirken after Reykjavik's iconic church, and Andreas explains how and why glaciers calve, we recharge batteries with a delicious diner meal. **Faith**, from the group of divers, gives a presentation on Oceanwide Expedition's trip to Antarctica "in the footsteps of Shackelton", and just as she finishes, a last incredible sight greets us: a gigantic full moon rising above an iceberg in the dusk...



September the 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018

**GPS position at 8am: 70° 29.5' N / 022° 25.4' W**

**Wind: NW 2 Sea: Calm**

**Weather: Clear Temperature: 2° C**

Those of us who manage to make it to bed early, our sleep is short-lived, we are roused again by Arjen who calls to let us know that there are northern lights again! We rush to don warm clothing and head for the decks. Outside the light show is incredible, even stronger than the night before and lasting for more than an hour. The lights come in waves, spreading across the heavens from horizon to horizon. As the light swells we begin to see vivid greens and dancing curtains of light right above our heads. The sky is otherworldly, and even though there is a scientific explanation for the phenomenon, even this is spectacular; the light we are seeing is the wind from the sun colliding with the Earth's atmosphere.

As usual we are woken by the call from Beau; he lets us know the weather (sunny), wind speed (5 knots), and temperature (a brisk  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). As we breakfast Plancius covers the last few miles to our goal for the morning, **Hurry Fjord**, a large fjord which incises into Jameson Land on the northern edge of Scoresby Sund. The expedition team set off into the rising sun to scout the area and ensure that it is safe for us to land. After a little while the radio call comes through that it is clear to land, and we set off for the shore



in the zodiacs. The landing site is a shingle slope with some relatively large waves surging up the beach. We pick our moment carefully and soon we are at the top of the beach with mostly with dry feet. We remove our life jackets and set off to explore the area. This outing is a perimeter landing and the guides are posted in a large semi-circle

around the beach. We roam freely between them, exploring the tundra which has a dusting of fresh snow. The snow is covered with tracks and these hold clues to the animals in the area. There are fox prints, prints from Snow buntings, and even spoor from Ptarmigan. As we wander deeper into the landscape we also find traces of previous human habitation; we stumble across several tent rings, and the more substantial remnants of a Thule winter house. As this is our last landing in the wilderness of Greenland we all take a moment to say goodbye to this wild landscape on our own terms, most just with a moment of quiet contemplation.

After boarding Plancius once more and feasting on lunch we arrive off the small Greenlandic village of **Ittoqqortoormiit**. A crisp, sunny scene greets us here; the colourful houses on the hillside are bathed in weak winter light from the low afternoon sun. A Greenlandic policeman boards the ship to check paperwork and to allow Plancius to clear customs, and shortly after we are boarding Zodiacs to be shuttled to the shore.

Our landing is a small beach next to the pier where are briefed by Beau and Arjen, and after collecting maps from a Greenlandic representative of the local travel agency, we set off into the village, to explore this unique settlement. After 7 days on a ship, in some of the most remote landscapes on Earth, it took a few moments to adjust to the sights, sounds, and smells of village life. Most of us head to the gift shop first where we sample musk ox and peruse the souvenirs; these range from carvings and beadwork, to maps, postcards, and t-shirts. From there we set off around the community,

walking the surprisingly numerous roads. Many of the people in Ittoqqortoormiit still actively hunt and fish to support themselves and we see evidence of this all around us; one house has a polar bear skin hung over a rail to dry, and several others have musk ox hides outside. There are also many sled dogs at the edge of the village, waiting patiently for the snow and ice to return and for the



winter hunting trips to begin again. The village has a sleepy feel, this was definitely exacerbated by the fact that we are visiting on a Sunday afternoon! Despite this there is plenty to see and do. A few of us make it as far as the astroturf football pitch in a small valley on the northwest edge of the settlement. This flat, uniform, green surface is entirely incongruous in the landscape. After an interesting few hours exploring Ittoqqortoormiit it is time to head back to the ship.



From Ittoqqortoormiit Captain Alexey takes Plancius south, first to the mouth of Scoresby Sund, which is lit gold by the setting sun. Just a few

minutes later and we are move past Kap Brewster and off into the open sea, bound south for Iceland and our final destination, Akureyri!

## September the 24<sup>th</sup> 2018

**GPS position at 8am: 67° 32.0' N / 019° 40.1' W**

**Wind: S 4 Sea: Moderate**

**Weather: Cloudy Temperature: 4° C**

This is a quiet day at sea. We are now well accustomed to the gentle rolling of the ship, and are almost all able to enjoy breakfast!

The morning is educational: Marie (in English) and Beau (in German) tell us more about the incredible mammal all of us got to exceptionally observe during this trip: the polar bear! Their conferences illustrate the overall distribution, evolution and ecology of these animals. We learn how studying polar bear population behavior and physiology helps us understand the impact of human related activity on the environment and how many fields of research, from evolutionary genetics to obesity and cancer research, benefit



from studying these animals! **Christina**, a passenger specialized in polar bear research, pitches in to explain how scientists estimate the age of a large mammal from the layers of its teeth.

In the afternoon, the weather becomes rough again and outside decks are closed. Laurence (in English) and Jonathan (in German) nonetheless give fascinating conferences to explain how glaciers such as those we observed in Greenland form and evolve. We learn how scientists name glacier types, from

small “glacieret” to the huge ice sheets (only two exist in Greenland and Antarctica), as well as the more poetic words used to define the different areas of a typical glacier, such as icefalls, glacier front, meltwater plumes and moraines... Laurence and Jonathan’s conferences help us better understand current changes occurring in the cryosphere and how such changes contribute to the rise of sea levels.

Later in the afternoon, while **Richard** who is part of the diver’s group explains how to edit photos in the dining room, the main lounge bathes in a blinding light. The sea calms down as we enter the fjord and during the captain’s cocktail, Alexey and the Expedition team celebrate with us the end of an incredible trip as we enjoy magnificent views of the Icelandic coast.

**Total Nautical Miles Sailed: 968.91**

**Northern-most Position: 71° 17.3’ N, 025° 32.6’ E**





**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

## Plancius Dive Log 18th to 25th September 2018. Scoresby Sund, Greenland Arctic.

Divers: Faith Ortins, Cleridy Lennert, Gregory Cody, Lorne Sprackman, Michael Williams, Judy Ormandy, Gregg Pearce, Margaret Lundberg, Thomas Nordland, Roman Streed, Andrew Deitsch, Adam Beard, Carmen Toanchina, Richard Salas, Pamela Kay Hollich, Kevin Mead, Betty Orr, Dan Orr.

Dive Team: Leader- Henrik Enckell, Dive Guides - Catherine Buckland, Will Gilbertson, Michael Green.



After enjoying all the natural wonders of Iceland, we met the ship in Akureyri on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> September to begin the next stage of our expedition towards Greenland. The crossing was an adventure with a force 10-11 blowing and a severe swell, but we used the time to complete briefings for the dive operations and get as much of our gear ready as we could. As soon as we arrived in sheltered fjord system of Scoresby Sund we started the dive program.

### **Dive One 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Helganaes, Scoresby Sund 070N 21.7 25 02.7W**

We completed our check dive in this small bay near Viking bay, to ensure our weights and equipment were in good order. Once this was complete we made a dive in this interesting site. Despite very silty, murky water on the surface due to the nearby glaciers, the visibility was good once below this layer and the water reminded us we were diving in the polar seas being 2-3 degrees Celsius. We saw nudibranch and brittle stars on a gently shelving seabed. Soon it was time to return to the ship for charging of cylinders, whilst admiring the above water scenery including the interesting basalt columns rising from the sea to form majestic pillars.



**Dive Two 21st September 2018 Røde Ø Island Scoresby Sund, 070 26.811N 26 16.446W**

Our first dive of the day was on ice. The structure reminded us of a large cathedral with pillars of ice plunging into deep. The water was definitely arctic being 1 degree by the ice. It was also our first experience of the changes in buoyancy that come from being near the melting freshwater ice. The visibility was excellent and allowed us to really see all the strange textures and patterns on the berg. On the surface the red coloured mountains contrasted with the white and blue ice.



**Dive Three 21st September 2018 Hare Fjord Scoresby Sund. 070 28.4N 28 05.5W**

In the afternoon we did were lucky enough to find another stunning piece of ice suitable for diving on in this attractive fjord. The visibility was again fantastic and we saw many shrimps moving around on the ice as well as various planktonic life in the water column. Now we were experienced around ice we could enjoy ourselves playing in this strange but beautiful environment. Once back at the ship we enjoyed a wonderful BBQ on the back deck of the Plancius, watching our dive site disappear into the sunset.





**Dive Four 22nd September 2018 Jyttehavn, Scoresby Sund 71 05.100N 25 41.938W**

We woke up today to the incredible scenery of the Bear Islands and Jyttehavn. We went across the fjord a short way to dive a steep wall on a headland jutting out in the ice filled fjord. When we arrived on the site the visibility looked promising again and the dive didn't disappoint with fantastic topography and varied life including some fish, shrimp and huge slow growing anemones. The life obviously took advantage of the current in the exposed place to flourish. Too soon forty minutes had passed and we had to surface. We continued to enjoy this spectacular spot from the zodiacs as we returned to the ship to warm up.



**Dive Five 22nd September 2018 Ingmikertikajik, Scoresby Sund 071 17.8N 25 02.2W**

In the afternoon, whilst the other passengers landed on the island of Ingmikertikajik, we set off across the channel near a point called Sydkap to dive a small wall/rocky slope. Before starting the dive, we carefully clambered from the zodiacs onto a small flat piece of ice floating in the fjord for a team photo. What a location for a group shot! Once back in the zodiacs we kitted up and rolled in for the dive on this pretty spot with various macro life hiding amongst the rocks.



**Dive Six 23rd September 2018 Hurry Fjord, Scoresby Sund. 070.29.6N 22 24.2W**

Despite being a little sleepy from the wake-up call to watch the northern lights the night before, we got ourselves geared up for our last dive of the trip. The topography in this area is gentler than some of our other locations, so the bottom was more of a flat rocky/muddy seabed but there was still some interesting life to be found in amongst the kelp. We also found once again great visibility – a good way to finish off a week with really great conditions for diving in this harsh and unpredictable environment. Once back on the ship we packed away our gear to prepare for a well-earned afternoon off from diving as we explored the remote Inuit town of Ittoqqortoormiit.



**Thank you for diving with the team and with Oceanwide Expeditions. We look forward to seeing you in the Polar Regions again very soon.**





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If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

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

Read the terms and conditions of the contest on [www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)



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

# TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2018

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

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

### Write about your experience!

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

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

### Here's what you need to do:

1. Write a post (600 – 1200 words) in Dutch, English, or German about what excited you the most on your Oceanwide Expeditions cruise. The topic is entirely up to you.
2. Make sure you add titles and subtitles to the story.

3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post. The link could connect to the ship's page, the trip itinerary, the particular destination's page, or perhaps a page related to one of the activities you enjoyed.
4. Add 3 to 5 pictures (they should be 2 MB minimum in size, in landscape format and attached separately when you decide to send your entry to us).
5. Post it online by completing the entry form "Share your story" (<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/customer-story/create>) **OR** send your post to us at [marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com](mailto:marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com). Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
6. **Spread the word!**



## PRIZES



**€ 1000**  
**GIFT VOUCHER**

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 500 gift voucher**  
for Oceanwide Expeditions



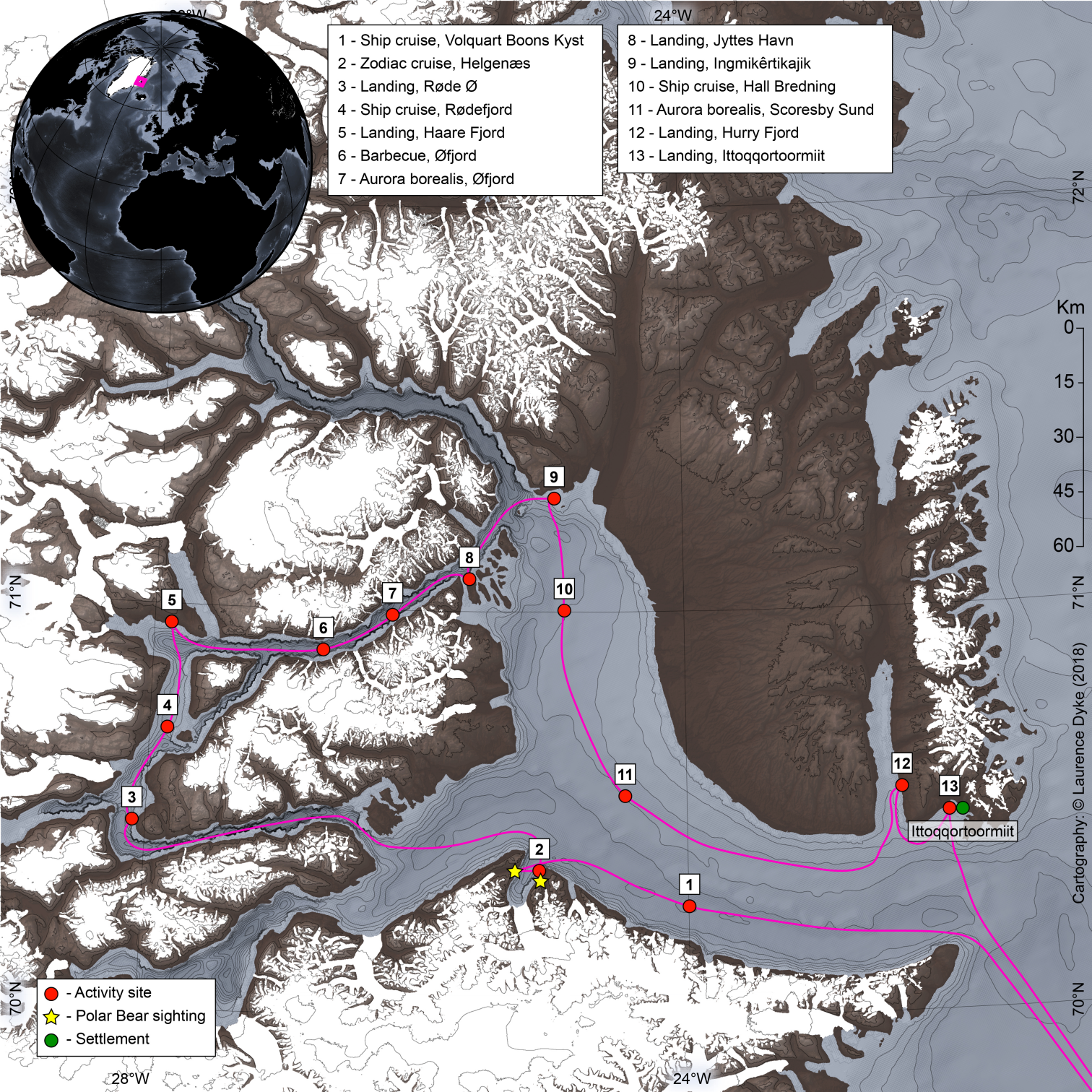
**€ 250 gift voucher**  
for Oceanwide Expeditions



## ENTRIES CLOSE OCTOBER 30

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

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



- 1 - Ship cruise, Volquart Boons Kyst
- 2 - Zodiac cruise, Helgenæs
- 3 - Landing, Røde Ø
- 4 - Ship cruise, Røde Fjord
- 5 - Landing, Haare Fjord
- 6 - Barbecue, Øfjord
- 7 - Aurora borealis, Øfjord

- 8 - Landing, Jyttes Havn
- 9 - Landing, Ingmikêrtikajik
- 10 - Ship cruise, Hall Bredning
- 11 - Aurora borealis, Scoresby Sund
- 12 - Landing, Hurry Fjord
- 13 - Landing, Ittoqqortoormiit

- - Activity site
- ★ - Polar Bear sighting
- - Settlement

Ittoqqortoormiit

Cartography: © Laurence Dyke (2018)

Birds and Mammals of East Greenland PLA17-18

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	中文名	Breeding / Transient	19-sep	20-sep	21-sep	22-sep	23-sep	24-sep	25-sep						
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker		V													
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Starntauucher	Plongeon calmann	Roodkeelduiker	红喉潜鸟	B													
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	北方暴风鹱	B	x	x				x	x						
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschneiblgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	粉脚雁	B													
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	白颊黑雁	B													
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	黑雁	B													
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans		V													
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidereend	鸭绒鸭	B		x											
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Koningseider	王绒鸭	B													
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalk	Faucon Gerfaut	Giervalk							x								
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Falco peregrinus	Faucon pèlerin	Siechtvalk															
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ijseend	长尾野鸭	B		x											
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwoen	岩雷鸟	B													
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	剑鸻	B													
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	三趾鹬	B													
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	紫滨鹬	B					x		x						
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper		B													
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Sleinwäzler	Tournepiere à collier	Sleinloper	红翻石鹬	B													
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	灰瓣蹼鹬	B													
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spätelraubmowe	Labbe pomann	Middelste jager	中贼鹬	T													
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraubmowe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	短尾贼鹬	B													
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmowe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	长尾贼鹬	B													
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	大贼鹬	B						x							
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmowe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	萨宾氏鸥	B													
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismowe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgmeester	北极鸥	B		x	x	x	x	x	x						
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmowe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	大黑头鸥	B													
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmowe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	三趾鸥	B		x			x	x	x						





# Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 49

including

Chief Officer:	<b>Svein Rubach</b>	[Norway]
Second Officer:	<b>Matei Mocanu</b>	[Romania]
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>Lise van Turenhout</b>	[Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	<b>Beau Pruneau</b>	[Canada/Germany]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	<b>Arjen Drost</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laurence Dyke</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Marie Manceau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andreas Alexander</b>	[Germany/Norway]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Isabelle Schulz</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jonathan Fuhrmann</b>	[Austria]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Daniel Hoehne</b>	[Germany]
Dive Team Leader:	<b>Henrik Enkel</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Catherine Buckland</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Will Gilbertson</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Michael Green</b>	[UK]

## Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

# *Plancius*

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18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

# 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.

**~ 1715** 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 Akureyri northbound.

**~ 1830** **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!

*As we will be sailing out into open waters please make sure personal belongings are secure in your cabins. Please always have one hand for the ship while moving around.*



# Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

## *Plancius*

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19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### At Sea

- 07.45** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 08.00** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour.
- 09.30** **Mandatory** Zodiac & Polar Bear safety briefing in the **Lounge** for all **English** speakers. Your Expedition Leader Beau will go over the plans for the day and the general voyage plans. During this time the **German** speakers will receive their rubber boots in the **Boot Room** on Deck 3.
- 10.45** **Mandatory** Zodiac & Polar Bear safety briefing in the **Lounge** for all **German** speakers. During this time the **English** speakers will receive their rubber boots in the **Boot Room** on Deck 3.
- 12.30** Lunch is served for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Laurence** would like to give a lecture called **Introduction to Greenland**, this will be in English in the Lounge on Deck 5 but translated into German via the translation headsets.
- 18.30** Daily Recap in the Bar. We will talk about the things we saw during the day, and the plans for the following day.
- 19.00** Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

# Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

## *Plancius*

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20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Scoresbysund & Helgenaes

- 07.45** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 08.00** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour.
- 09.30** **Mandatory** Zodiac & Polar Bear safety briefing in the **Lounge** for all **English** speakers. During this time the **German** speakers will receive their rubber boots in the **Boot Room** on Deck 3.
- 10.45** **Mandatory** Zodiac & Polar Bear safety briefing in the **Lounge** for all **German** speakers. During this time the **English** speakers will receive their rubber boots in the **Boot Room** on Deck 3.
- 12.30** Lunch is served for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 14.30** **Helgenaes Split Zodiac Cruise.** We will head out in the zodiacs and explore this eastern part of Viking Bay. Ice, as well as interesting basalt formations can be found here. Wildlife is sometimes also spotted here so keep a lookout. We will split into two groups for this cruise, and the last 3 zodiacs of each group will be German speaking:
- 14.30** **Group 1 Deck 2, 3, 5, & 6**
- 16.00** **Group 2 Deck 4**
- 18.30** Daily Recap in the Bar. We will talk about the things we saw during the day, and the plans for the following day.
- 19.00** Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!

## Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

# *Plancius*

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21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

## Røde Ø & Harefjord

- 07.15** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 07.30** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour.
- 09.00** **Røde Ø Split Landing & Zodiac Cruise.** We will offer a split landing and zodiac cruise here. The first 5 zodiacs will land ashore first while the rest zodiac cruise, swapping on land after about an hour. Red sandstone cliffs overlooking a narrow passage choked with icebergs awaits us, while the cruisers will cruise amongst some of these majestic icebergs.
- ~ 10.15** Swap-over groups.
- 12.30** Lunch is served for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Harefjord Landing.** We will try to land at a place called Harefjord. This area has rolling tundra hills where sometimes muskox is seen. If a group is spotted, then we will attempt to approach them. Please remain quiet in your hiking group if such an attempt is made, as muskox are easily spooked. We will all land ashore, and split up into 3 groups for hiking at a gentle, medium, and fast pace.
- 18.30** Daily Recap in the Bar. We will talk about the things we saw during the day, and the plans for the following day.
- 19.00** A special dinner is served on Deck 3 behind the dining room. Bon Appetit! We will be ship cruising through Ø Fjord during this special dinner, with fantastic geology surrounding us.

## Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

# *Plancius*

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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

## Jytte Havn & Ingmikertikajik

- 07.45** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 08.00** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour.
- 09.30** **Jytte Havn Landing.** We plan to land at a bay in the Bjørneøer, or Bear Islands, called Jytte Havn, after an old sailing ship. Rolling tundra hills with colorful vegetation awaits us, with northern willows abounding on the slopes. We will all land and then split into 3 groups for hiking at a gentle, medium, and fast pace.
- 12.30** Lunch is served for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Ingmikertikajik Landing.** We hope to land at an island called Ingmikertikajik, or Rune Ø, where we will split up into 3 separate groups for hiking at a gentle, medium, and fast pace. Thule Inuit culture abounds here, so please be careful walking around. Old stone tent rings, graves, and winter houses can be found. We would also like to offer a polar plunge to those who are interested. Wear your bathing attire underneath your clothes as we will plunge at the **end** of the landing before heading back to the ship. Don't worry about towels, we will bring plenty for all!
- 18.30** Daily Recap in the Bar. We will talk about the things we saw during the day, and the plans for the following day.
- 19.00** Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!

## Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

# *Plancius*

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23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

## Hurry Fjord & Ittoqqortoormiit

- 07.15** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 07.30** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour.
- 09.00** **Hurry Fjord Landing.** We would like to try to land at an area in Hurry Fjord, with flat tundra plains and mountains as a backdrop. We will all land and divide into 3 groups for hiking at a gentle, medium, and fast pace.
- 12.30** Lunch is served for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 14.30** **Ittoqqortoormiit Village Landing.** We will land at a Greenlandic village called Ittoqqortoormiit, population about 350. Once on shore maps will be handed out by Mette, a representative of the local tourism agency Nanu Travel, with points of interest explained. Feel free to leave postcards with exact money (Danish Kroner, USD, or Euro's) for postage to be mailed out at the souvenir shop. Feel free to wander around at one's leisure, and be back to the beach on time for the last zodiac back to the ship. **We will have to wait for customs to clear the ship before we are allowed to land so please be patient as this may take a while.**
- 18.30** Daily Recap in the Bar. We will talk about the things we saw during the day, and the plans for the following day.
- 19.00** Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!

# Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

## *Plancius*

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24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### At Sea Towards Iceland

- 07.45** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 08.00** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour.
- 10.00** **Marie** would like to explain all about polar bears. This will be for the **English** speakers in the **Lounge**. At the same time, Beau will talk about polar bears in the Restaurant for the German speakers.
- 12.30** Lunch is served for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Laurence** will offer a lecture on glaciers & glaciology, this will be in the **Lounge** for the **English** speakers. At the same time, Jonathan would like to talk about glaciers in the Restaurant with the German speakers.
- 17.00** **Rubber Boots Return.** Please listen out for announcements as we will call you deck by deck to return your rubber boots to the Boot Room on Deck 3.
- 18.30** **Captains cocktails in the Bar.** We will toast to the success of our voyage, while explaining the details of disembarkation for the following day.
- 19.00** Last dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

## Scoresbysund East Greenland

on board the

# *Plancius*

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25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Akureyri Disembarkation

- 07.15** Wakeup call by your Expedition Leader Beau. Good morning!
- 07.30** Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the Restaurant for one hour. Please remember to put your large check-in luggage outside your cabin door in the hallway **before 07.30** so that we can collect it and set it on the pier for you. Also, don't forget to leave your room key chains at reception when you go for breakfast. The room key cards themselves feel free to keep as a souvenir.
- ~ 09.00** 2 buses will pick those up who pre-ordered to bring you to bus stop Reykjavik city hall center/Radhus Reykjavikur. Please identify your own large luggage on the pier and bring it to the bus you are on so that you know yourself it is put onboard. These buses have been pre-ordered and only those with vouchers are able to board. The trip to Reykjavik takes about 5-6 hours and the buses will stop halfway for a lunch break.

**The gangway to the pier is above reception on Deck 4.**

Those who are not booked on the transfer buses to Reykjavik please walk off the pier with your luggage into town. A small tourist shop is next to the jetty where taxis may be ordered. It is only about a 5-minute walk into the town center.

*On behalf of Captain Alexey and Expedition Leader Beau, and their respective teams, we wish you a pleasant journey onward.*