



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Northern Spitsbergen

29. August to 5. September, 2018
on board

MV Plancius



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



Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 44

including

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

and

Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada/Australian]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Sandra Petrowitz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Laurence Dyke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Gérard Bodineau	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Irene Kastner	[Svalbard]
Expedition Guide:	Isabelle Schulz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Shelli Ogilvy	[Alaska]
Expedition Guide:	Johanne Skrefsrud	[Norway]

Day 1 – Wednesday, 29. August 2018

Embarkation in Longyearbyen

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

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



© Gérard Bodineau

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

We soon gathered in the observation lounge where we were briefed about safety on board. The briefing was held by the Third Officer who presented details of ship safety and how to prepare for the worst. A general-alarm drill (seven short blasts followed by one long blast) was made, and we all took the SOLAS orange life jackets and mustered in the lounge guided by crew and staff. After a roll call to assure everyone was present, we went out on deck to have a look at the lifeboats and hoped to never have to use them. Soon *Plancius* was navigating out of Adventfjorden, north to tomorrow's adventures. Back in the lounge Zsuzsanna introduced us to the interiors of the ship, hotel operations and dining room where we would be served delicious food. Captain Alexey joined us for a welcoming toast of sparkling wine or juice, and Lynn introduced the Expedition team ready to explore the wilderness with us. Thereafter we headed down to the dining room for our first scrumptious dinner prepared by Head Chef Ralf and his staff.



The fresh snow on the mountain peaks freshened the air over these northern arctic waters. Many of us were out on deck spotting the birdlife, Northern fulmars, Kittiwake gulls and a few puffins were noted. The climax however were whales! Several different species were viewed feeding out in the sound,

Humpback, and Minke, but the highlight was a Blue whale, the largest animal on the planet. The officers on the bridge navigated the ship respectfully around the whales. Giving us an opportunity to photograph, but more importantly simply view the animal. Observing and absorbing this amazing experience. A fantastic first introduction to what Svalbard has to offer.





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Day 2 – Thursday, 30. August 2018

Raudfjord: Alicehamna & Hamiltonbukta

08.00 GPS Position: 78° 32.5'N, 010° 15.8'E

Wind: E 4 Sea state: calm Weather: overcast and rain Temperature: 5°C

In the early hours of the morning *Plancius* arrived off the northwest corner of Spitsbergen. Captain Alexey navigated through Sørgattet, a narrow channel between Danskøya and the mainland of Spitsbergen. The channel is only around a kilometre wide, but has been carved out by the scouring action of glaciers, and is therefore very deep. As we grabbed a morning coffee and made our way to breakfast we were treated to a panorama of Arctic wilderness; steep, heavily glaciated mountains surround the channel, and the weather was perfectly calm. The sea was an indigo mirror, reflecting the stark greys and brilliant blue of the rock and ice around us. Once through Sørgattet we entered Smeerenburgfjorden, this wide fjord was named by the Dutch whalers who were based in this area in the 16th and 17th centuries. Smeerenburgfjorden is surrounded by huge mountain peaks which rise more than 1000 m out of the sea. These sharp pinnacles give the island of Spitsbergen its name.





Spitsbergen means ‘pointy mountains’ in Dutch. On our way north through Smeerenburgfjorden we spotted a group of about 20 Walrus hauled out on a pristine sandspit on the eastern tip of Amsterdamøya (also named by the Dutch!). Captain Alexey was able to bring the ship very close to the shore and we had a fairly good view of these huge pinnipeds slumbering in peace on the sand.



After breakfast, and the excitement of the Walrus, we received several briefings from Lynn, these contained lots of information about how we can safely explore the Arctic without disturbing either the wildlife or the pristine landscapes. By late-morning we had entered Raudfjord (‘Red Fjord’ in Norwegian). The fjord is striking as the east and west sides are very different from each other. This is a result of the complicated geology of the area. The west side of the fjord is made of billion-year-old migmatites and other metamorphic rocks; these are generally referred to as Precambrian basement. These rocks are mechanically strong and are highly resistant to erosion, consequently they have been carved into extremely steep cliffs by the wind, water,





and ice. The east side of the fjord is made of much younger Devonian rocks, these are around 400 million years old. The Devonian rocks are mostly sandstones and shales; these were deposited in arid, desert conditions at a time when Svalbard was much closer to the Equator (around 25°N). The Devonian sedimentary rocks are much softer and weaker so they form a different landscape on this side of the fjord. The mountains here are slightly lower and with more gently sloping flanks. The rocks on the east side of the fjord also contain lots of haematite (iron oxide, or rust), this gives the Devonian rocks their distinctive red colour and this is also where Raudfjord derives its name (raud = red).

As we entered the main body of Raudfjord we encountered two beautiful Blue whales; a mother and her calf. These gentle giants were feeding in the rich waters of the fjord and we spent a wonderful half hour cruising gently alongside them. The whales had quite a distinctive pattern of breathing; they surfaced for between 3 to 5 breaths and then disappeared below the waves for a few minutes, trolling for food.

On several occasions they surfaced right next to the ship, perhaps drawn in by the eddies and turbulence from the ship passing through the water. Next, we headed to Buchananhalvøya, a large peninsula which juts out into the middle of Raudfjord. The expedition team were scouting the shoreline, looking for wildlife. After a little while Lynn announced through the PA that we had found a Polar Bear – the first of our trip! We got as close as we could in the ship, but the bear was resting quite high up on the hillside.



Through binoculars and the spotting telescope on the bridge we were able to get a look at the bear, and to our surprise there turned out to be two, a mother with her cub! The bears were obviously tired from foraging along the shorelines in the area and spent all of the afternoon fast asleep on the hillside, oblivious to our presence.



We crossed the fjord to a beautiful secluded bay called Alicehamna; the expedition team went ahead to scout the area, and once they gave the all-clear we piled into Zodiacs and made our way to the landing, our first in Svalbard! The weather was not especially kind to begin with, and many of us got a little damp in the surprisingly heavy rain. Lynn welcomed us ashore and we divided into different groups; each going at a different pace. The fast walkers set off up a ridge, aiming to get a view over the bay and further out across Raudfjord. The medium hikers headed up the small promontory to look at the historical artefacts left by generations of hunters and explorers. The beach group strolled along to the hunter's cabin examining the many different types of geology on display in the beach here. After around an hour the skies began to clear and before long we were bathed in glorious sunshine – a rarity for summer in Svalbard!



cleared to the north it created a wonderful atmosphere, the dark storm clouds and distant red peaks were lit gold by the late summer sunlight.

After an unforgettable few hours ashore in Raudfjord we headed back to the ship, just in time for a hearty and well-earned dinner!

Day 3 – Friday, 1. September, 2018

Liefdefjord: Monacobreen & Bockfjord: Jotunkjeldene

0800 GPS Position: 79° 37.0'N, 019° 07.6'E

Wind: E 5 Sea state: slight Weather: overcast and rain Temperature: 4°C



We woke to a rainy, grey morning at the entrance of Liefdefjorden, the “Fjord of Love”. As forecasted, the wind had picked up even further during the night, gusting with more than 50 knots. During breakfast, *Plancius* moved deeper into the fjord seeking shelter. When we arrived at our intended landing spot for the morning, some of the wind had been exchanged for fog which due to safety reasons prevented us from going ashore. Under these circumstances, no safe landing was possible. On we moved, towards the glacier front of Monacobreen. Here the Captain took *Plancius* closer to the

impressive wall of ice so we could enjoy the spectacular (yet wet) views of the hues ranging from deep blue to white. The brash ice around the ship whispered as it floated past, and we took our time to marvel at and photograph both the details and the bigger view. With the mountains partly covered in clouds, the atmosphere set was quite moody.

Scanning the coastline for wildlife, we slowly moved along the shores of Liefdefjorden. Gérard continued his introductory talk on Spitsbergen now with the history section, and after lunch we found ourselves in Bockfjorden, a branch of Woodfjorden. For one reason





stunning rocks. This site is also known as Jotunkjeldene or the Giant's springs, and the sinter terraces that have deposited from the mineral rich waters and thermal activity are a striking contrast to the other dark volcanic stones.

On the other side of the fjord, the dark red sandstone glowed in the sunlight as if burning – a spectacular scenery with a fresh dusting of snow on the tops and the greenish, milky waters below. The terrain proved challenging in parts, but everybody enjoyed being out and about. When *Plancius* sailed out of Bockfjorden, the light only got better, and those of us who managed to part with the Happy Hour buzzing bar for a



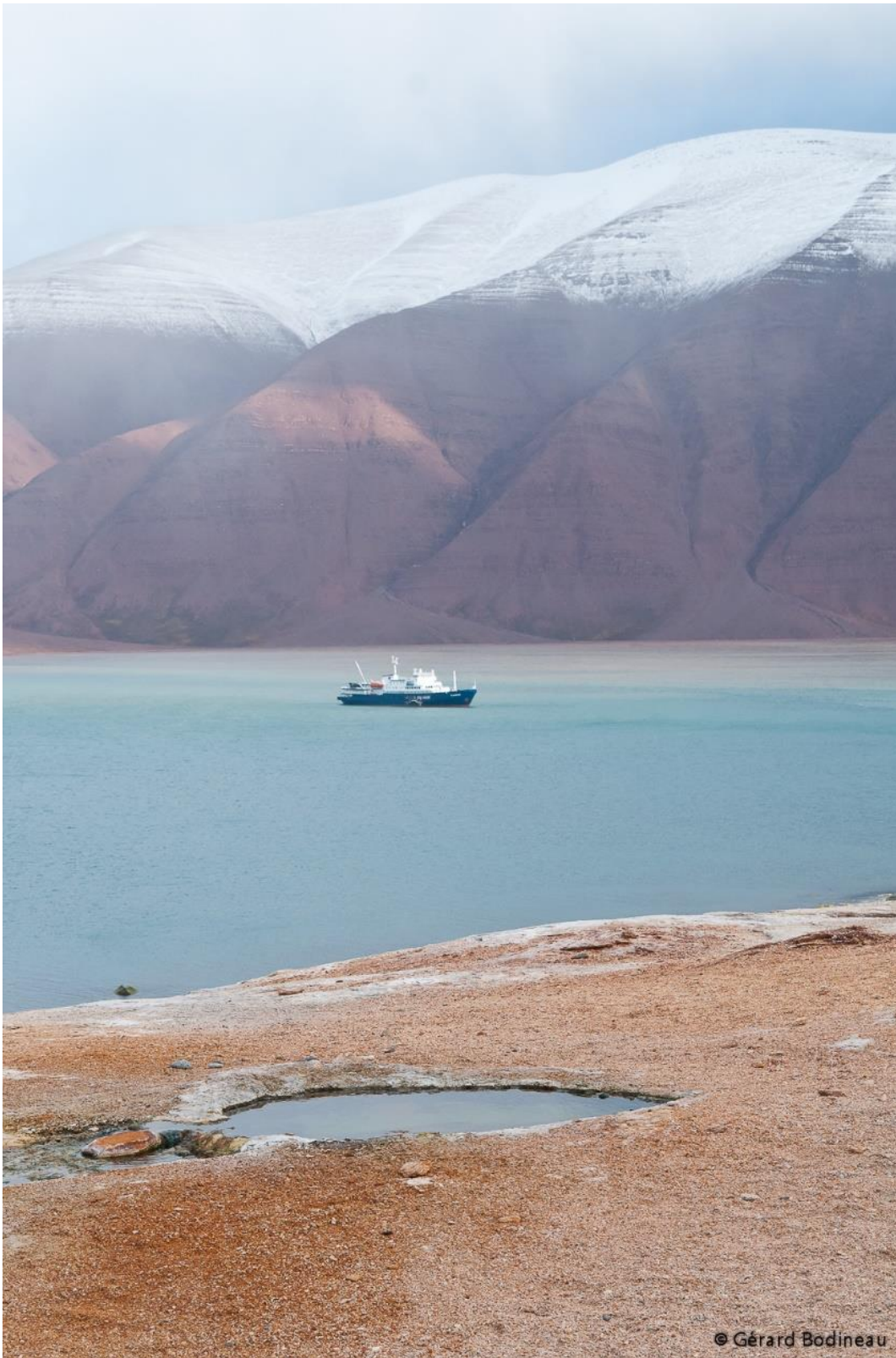
or another, here the day was looking a lot brighter: the wind had eased, although the clouds were still racing. The fog had retreated to the very mountain tops, and there was even a hint of sunshine! Thus, after lunch, Expedition Leader Lynn called us to the gangway for a landing, and off we went in the zodiacs towards a bouldery beach. Here, we split into the hiking groups, and while the fast hikers sped off towards a viewpoint, the others took it a bit easier with the photographers finding the last flowers of the season, colorful lichens and a myriad of



moment were rewarded with stunning views and a fantastic color palette. At recap, Expedition Leader Lynn revealed the plans for tomorrow and the days to come, and Johanne and Sandra respectively spoke about about waves and lichen. The day was far from over – after dinner *Plancius* swung and swayed in the open sea towards the flat sandbar island of Moffen, often home to walrus. There were a few around indeed, although camouflaged as driftwood in the dimming light, conditions of crashing surf and a rolling ship made for challenging

viewing. Nevertheless, what was an even more spectacular vista was the sky itself, with the evening light ever changing. However, with the movement of the ship, quite a few of us were very happy to be in the

Lounge where the views were just as beautiful as from the outside decks. For a few patient people, the “Green Flash” was also observed near 11:24 pm in the sunset.



Day 4 – Saturday, 2. September 2018

Hinlopen Strait: Torrellneset & Lomfjord: Faksevågen

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

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



After breakfast, *Plancius* arrived in the vicinity of Torellneset, a pebble beach where walrus often haul out to rest and digest. The plan was for us to land and have an opportunity to view the walrus a little closer on the coastline. The staff went ashore to prepare our landing. During this scout operation, a polar bear was spotted walking the beach below the glacier towards the walrus. The guides quickly came back to the landing site, packing the safety bags and gun cases in a nearby zodiac within a few minutes. Following this

Expedition leader Lynn decided to cancel all shore operations and all zodiacs returned to *Plancius*, for obvious safety reasons.

Thereafter, our Captain sailed several times nearer to the shoreline to allow us to have a good sighting and taking photos of this bear. The group of 30+ walrus was still resting along the beach and some



swimming in the water. The bear was clearly not in good condition, very thin from having missed the pack ice northbound and thus being trapped on land for the summer with limited opportunities for food. The smell of the walrus was likely the primary reason the bear had been wandering this part of Nordhaustlandet, however it had little chance of making a kill unless there was an injured animal or a young walrus on its own. This was a rare sighting to witness, and given the timing of the day it became the activity for the morning, we still had plans for the afternoon. We headed back inside from the outer decks for a quick lunch.



Around 2pm we arrived along a large cliff known as Alkefjellet. The blackish dolerite pillars of rock were almost fully covered by the pinkish and white dropping of the tens of thousands of Brunnich's Guillemots and Kittiwake gulls nesting here in the summer on small ledges in the crags. Most of the Guillemots were gone but there were still plenty of Kittiwakes in the upper part of the cliffs.

Two polar foxes were spotted by the staff. They were scanning the slope at the foot of this large cliff, in hope of finding carcasses of young birds that did not fully make it from nest to sea. Although the bulk of the colony had left several pairs of Guillemots, father and young chicks, were still around, preparing for the long journey southwest towards the Barents Sea for winter.



One hour later, we arrived in a well-sheltered bay named Faksevågen. We split into five groups. The first to leave were the "mountain goats" speeding up higher on the tundra to reach a viewpoint, and enjoying a scenic overlook. On the way, several reindeer were spotted and the group approached slowly to get better views before heading up the ridgeline. The second

group did a less tedious walk to a plateau above the outwash plain of the glacier behind. The third group went on a gentle slope to enjoy the scenery and the last remaining tundra flowers of the summer. The photographer's group stayed on a viewpoint to admire and record the subtle arctic light. Finally, the leisurely group did an easy stroll along the beach, spotting various tracks and footprints in the mud of a large neighbouring delta.

After dinner, Martina, the scientists' tour leader gave us an interesting presentation about their work studying the Svalbard beaches. She explained the causes for many of the new aliens (non-endemic) species occurring on these beaches.

The ship continued sailing north overnight, towards the distant pack-ice. We headed off to bed with a gentle rocking of the ocean and dreamed of tomorrow's adventures of being in the icy realm of polar north.



Day 5 – Sunday, 2. September 2018

North in the Ice

0800 GPS Position: 81° 58.0'N, 020° 20.2'E

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



We steamed due north through the night, directly towards the heart of the Arctic Ocean. Lynn woke us a few minutes later than usual, treating us to a small lie-in. *Plancius* had made a lot of progress, and by breakfast time we were already approaching 82°N. There was a palpable sense of autumn in the air; sullen skies, occasional snowflakes, and a stiff breeze from the east reminded us that the

summer is fleeting in the high Arctic and that soon it will return to the dark of the polar winter.

In the morning we were treated to a set of extended recaps from the Expedition Staff. Shelli gave a talk about Walrus, introducing us to their physical characteristics, their impressive feeding habits, and their love of body contact with other walrus, or thigmotaxis, when they haul-out on beaches to rest. Shelli rounded-off her talk with a guide to the other types of Pinnipeds we might encounter amongst the ice, this included some tips and tricks for identifying the different species. Sandra was next with a presentation about the seasonal cycle in Svalbard; she explained how the environment changes drastically in just a few months as the seasons progress from spring, through the brief summer, and into autumn by the end of August. The seasons dictate the rhythm of life in the high Arctic and





Sandra showed us how plants, birds, mammals, weather, and landscapes evolve. Johanne was next, with a talk about sea ice. Right on cue we had our first glimpse of ice floes through the lounge windows, the fragmented floes giving us a small taste of what was to come. Johanne explained that Arctic sea ice is an important regulator of global climate, and that it is also a fragile ecosystem experiencing rapid changes.

Johanne delved further into the ice, explaining how it is formed, where it is found, and how fundamental it is to all the processes happening in the Arctic Ocean. Laurence followed with a talk about the bathymetry hidden beneath our feet. He explained the techniques which are used to map the sea floor, and that we know 100 times more about the surface of Mars than we do about the bottom of the Arctic Ocean. Laurence introduced us to a few special features which are found only in the high-latitude oceans, such as gas hydrate craters, and chaotic iceberg plough-marks.

Later in the morning Peter Prokosch gave a talk entitled “A vision for the Arctic”, he highlighted the complex challenges that the Arctic faces in a rapidly changing world, but ended with a note of optimism. The Arctic is a region where environmental protection and cooperation between nations is very strong, and the Arctic has the potential to be a blueprint for successfully adapting to global challenges.

As Peter was finishing his talk we encountered our first proper pack ice and Captain Alexey brought *Plancius* carefully into it, navigating through narrow leads between the floes. We had entered a new world. The stark white ice pulsed gently in the swell, and the floes shifted constantly; driven ever onwards by the fickle whims of the wind and ocean currents.

Just 30 minutes into ice we encountered our first bear in this area, a young male bear resting sprawled over a block of ice. As the ship approached we all gathered out on deck, careful not to make a sound. The bear was curious about our presence and came over to investigate the ship,



presumably very intrigued by the large, strong-smelling foreign object in his environment. He was clearly cautious and approached on his own terms, staying downwind so he could smell us. We got to within 100 metres when a loose chunk of ice drifted into the bow of the ship with a loud crunch, this was enough to startle the bear and he retreated away across several floes. Due to his cautious behaviour we moved slowly away leaving him in solitude once more.

We headed deeper into the ice and continued our look-out. The ice was full of life; Kittiwake and Ivory gulls wheeled around the stern of the ship, taking the opportunity to forage on the Polar cod disturbed by the ships turbines. On the water Black guillemots, Brunnich's guillemots, and little auks fished in the leads between the floes. Later in the afternoon we came across two more bears, a beautiful mother with her cub from last year. The bears were very relaxed in our presence and approached us with some interest. We spent a wonderful half an hour in the company of these majestic creatures before heading off again.

Having had two amazing bear encounters, we turned, making our way west and towards open water once more. However, this was not before reaching the latitude of 82°46.59' N, a record for Captain Alexey, the ship *Plancius*, and for most of the staff and crew too!





In the evening Zsusanna and chef Ralf had arranged a special experience for us; a barbecue on the back deck, right amidst the pack ice of the Arctic Ocean! We feasted from the grill and enjoyed a drink in this unique and slightly surreal setting. Just as the music was getting warmed up Lynn came over the PA to announce that we had spotted one more bear, this time a young female who was extremely interested in the ship. She came gambolling across the ice right to us, and got to within just 10 metres from the bow

whilst we observed her from above. An incredible experience to round off an amazing day.

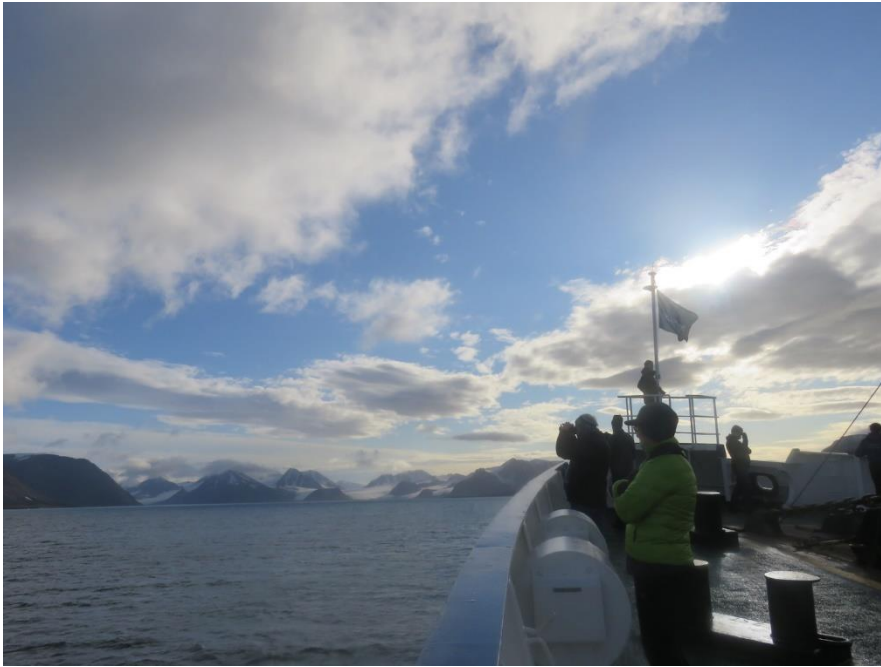


Day 6 – Monday, 3. September 2018

At Sea and Smeerenburgfjord

0800 GPS Position: 80° 95.0' N, 014° 49.5' E

Wind: NE 2 Sea state: calm with swell Weather: overcast Temperatur: 3 °C



Today was spent more or less at sea, due to the distance needed to be navigated back from the ice to Svalbard mainland. Fortunately, conditions were quite fair and our expedition team presented some entertaining facts for the morning recap. Expedition leader Lynn held a talk about what the Arctic and Antarctic have in common and what makes them different. Irene explained the midsummer light and the Arctic midnight. Had it not been for the

fog and clouds, September 2nd would have been our last opportunity to see the midnight sun this season given our position so far north. Sandra introduced us to the translated Latin names of many of the bird species we have seen so far. Later in the morning a more in-depth lecture was given by Isabelle, she explained some interesting background knowledge about whales and whale poo.

Fogbanks came and went as we continued closer to our destination of the late afternoon. We were heading back to the Smeerenburg area to have another look at the walrus or -if they weren't home for the day- cruise the magnificent Smeerenburg glacier by zodiac. The walrus were home, but unfortunately, they had already visitors from another vessel and were too occupied to attend us. The glacier however presented itself in the last rays of the evening sun, and was a photographers dream.



© Gérard Bodinseau



Everyone dressed warmly and joined in the boats for a closer, yet safe viewing of the ice face and accompanying icebergs. The glacier was quite active, grumbling every so often and calving smaller and larger pieces which then floated our direction. We enjoyed at an arm's length these gems of ice sparkling in the sunlight from the zodiacs. Our drivers maneuvered carefully between all the bigger and smaller pieces which came in many shapes and colours. Some Arctic terns as well as Kittiwake gulls observed us from

their perch on small icebergs, and several seals popped up as we came to the little bay at the glacier's southern end. Our drivers took the opportunity to switch off their engines and the sound of small air bubbles releasing from in the ice trickled into our ears.

Eventually it was time to return to *Plancius*, where she was waiting for us in the bay about 1,8 nm away from the glacier front. A fresh cup of tea and a delicious warm dinner made us soon forget the slightly frozen fingers and toes we had endured out in the ice. This evening's cocktails at the bar was offered with a special treat; as some of us had taken the opportunity to fish for the clearest ice pieces from the glacier and brought them back to the ship.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 4. September 2018

Poolepynten & Alkhornet

0800 GPS Position: 78° 22.5' N, 012° 02.1' E

Wind: NW 3 Sea state: smooth Weather: partly cloudy Temperature: 7°C



We woke to sunny skies and a rolling swell. The ship slowly navigated around towards the low-lying terrain of Poolepynten another known walrus haul out location. This would be our last chance to see if the animals were “home” and could have the chance to visit them. We were in luck, and just off from the huts and navigational marker several older male walrus were resting contently on the sandy spit.

We were divided into three different groups to allow everyone equal viewing time and space at the walrus. A bit of crashing surf on the beach added to the ambiance of the landing. Behind the walrus included a wetland home to several late season birds and the chaotic beauty of driftwood logs long ago tossed up on the land.

To add to the morning came a passing Sisselman search and rescue helicopter wishing to make a test drill with the cooperation of *Plancius*. Fortunately, the walrus did not take any mind to this operation and continue on in their languished behavior.





We returned to the ship, headed for a lunch and then to our cameras and computers to start editing the images of the “Tooth walkers”. There was a little time to rest or sort our items for packing before the afternoon excursion at Alkhornet. This is a jewel of Spitsbergen landing sites, with bird colonies on the cliffs above, reindeer grazing the green tundra below and a vista across the bay, nevermind a glacier just off to the east. A perimeter landing was established, giving us time to explore on our own, but still under the watchful eyes of our guides. Many reindeer were around grazing on the rich grasses and lingering flowers of the summer. Mothers and calves were seen as well as t males, shedding the velvet off their antlers and preparing for the strength needed for the fall rut or mating season. Towards the end of the landing a “Polar Plunge” was offered to those who chose to brave the Arctic waters. Lasting memories for everyone. We came back to the ship for a final toast to the



voyage with the Captain and Expedition staff. Thereafter a meal and lingering moments in the lounge collecting stories and memories, the light outside was a delight as we ship cruised the evening through Isfjord.

Day 8 – Wednesday, 5. September 2018

Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

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

Wind: E-3 Sea state: slight Weather: overcast Temperature: 5°C

After 8 days we were back from where we had started, Longyearbyen. It was sad to say good-bye to all the beautiful places we had visited and to disembark *Plancius*, the ship that had been our comfortable, cosy home for an unforgettable journey to the North.

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

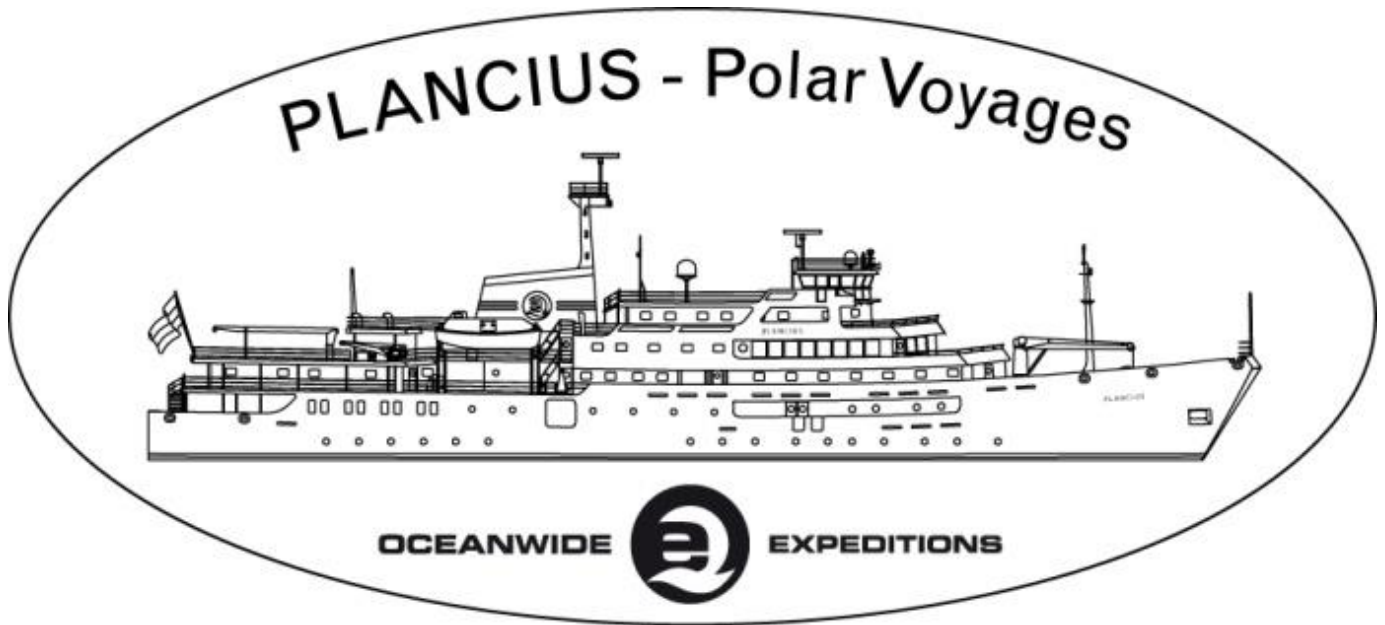
Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical miles 1,155.7

Furthest North Point: 82°46.59'N / 020°55.20'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Alexey Nazarov, Expedition Leader Lynn Woodworth , Hotel Manager Szuazzana and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.





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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



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

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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.
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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



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard PLA15-18

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	中文名	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	29-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	3-sep	4-sep
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeel duiker	红喉潜鸟	B				x			x
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	北方暴风鹱	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschneibeltgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	粉脚雁	B				x			
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	白颊黑雁	B							x
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans		V							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eider eend	鸥绒鸭	B		x					
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harekde boréale	Ilseend	长尾野鸭	B			x				
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteen strandloper	三趾鹬	B							x
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	紫滨鹬	B		x	x	x		x	x
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spätelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	中贼鸥	T					x		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	短尾贼鸥	B		x	x	x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	长尾贼鸥	B							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	大贼鸥	B		x					
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	北极鸥	B		x		x		x	x
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	三趾鸥	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoor meeuw	象牙鸥	B					x	x	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	北极燕鸥	B		x		x			x
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	厚嘴海鸦	B				x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Grylleteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	白翅斑海鸦/黑海鸦	B		x		x	x	x	
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	小海雀	B					x		
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaai duiker	海鹦	B	x						x
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgors	雪鹀	B		x	x				x

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	中文名	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	29-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	3-sep	4-sep
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	海象	B		x		x		x	x
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	髯海豹	B			x		x	x	
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	环斑海豹	B					x		
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	斑海豹	B						x	x
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	蓝鲸	T	x	x					
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	长须鲸	T							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfin	白鲸鼻海豚	V	x					x	
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbar	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	北极熊	B		x		x	x		
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	北极狐	B				x			x
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Rentier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	北极驯鹿	B				x			x

Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 45

including

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

and

Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada/Australia]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Sandra Petrowitz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Laurence Dyke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Gérard Bodineau	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Irene Kastner	[Svalbard]
Expedition Guide:	Isabelle Schulz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Shelli Ogilvy	[Alaska]
Expedition Guide:	Johanne Skrefsrud	[Norway]

welcome you on board!



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

29. August 2018 (Day 1)

Welcome on board!

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

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

ca. 18.00 *Plancius* departs Longyearbyen northbound.

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

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

TBA = to be announced

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

30. August 2018 (Day 2)

Raudfjorden

- 07.45** **Wake-up call.**
- 08.00 The **Breakfast** buffet is ready for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 09.00** **Mandatory Briefing** in the Lounge: **Polar Bear Safety, Zodiac routine & AECO guidelines.**
- ca. 10.15** After the briefings we would like to hand out your **rubber boots**. We will **call you by decks** and ask you to come to the Boot Room on Deck 3 forward. Please bring your thick socks!
- ca. 11.30** **Lecture** by **G rard** in the Lounge: **An introduction to Spitsbergen**
- 12.30 For one hour, the **Lunch** buffet is waiting for you!
- 14.30** **Landing or Zodiac Cruise: Raudfjorden.** Depending on weather and wildlife conditions, we would like to offer you either a landing or a Zodiac Cruise in Raudfjorden. We will keep you updated; please listen for announcements.
- 18.30** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy!

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

31. August 2018 (Day 3)

Liefdefjorden

- 07.15** **Wake-up call.**
- 07.30 The **Breakfast** buffet is ready for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 09.00** **Landing at Texas Bar.** Conditions permitting, we would like to offer you a landing at a spot named Texas Bar in Liefdefjorden. (Liefde means “love”.) You won’t find a bartender here but there is a hut in this place, and hiking possibilities abound.
- We will offer you **four different hiking groups** to choose from: The **fast group** will attempt to climb up to a fantastic viewpoint. The focus of the **medium group** will be on walking but they will also stop for the occasional photo. The **medium photo** group will probably cover a bit less ground but concentrate more on photography, and the **leisurely group** will be having a stroll in the vicinity of the beach.
- 12.30 Time to refuel: the **Lunch** buffet awaits you!
- afternoon Our afternoon activities will depend on the weather. We would like to explore deeper into Liefdefjord towards a huge glacier called **Monacobreen**, a very scenic place. Either we go by ship or by zodiac – we will update you via PA announcements.
- 18.15** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinnertime.** Bon appétit!

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

1. September 2018 (Day 4)

Expedition Day in Hinlopen Strait

- 07.15** **Wake-up call.**
- 07.30 The **Breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 09.00** We hope to **Land** or **Zodiac Cruise** in **Palanderbukta**. Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet – which is the second largest island of the archipelago, quite different from the west coast of Spitsbergen proper and covered by a huge icecap – is polar desert at its best and the third largest ice cap on the planet after Antarctica and Greenland. There is a lot of beautiful nothing there, and the fjord boasts possibilities for walks as well as for Zodiac Cruises. Depending on the conditions we would like to offer you an activity here; please stand by for announcements.
- 12.30 **Lunchtime!**
- TBA We intend to make a **Landing** at **Faksevågen** on the northeast side of Spitsbergen. The bay is part of the bigger Lomfjorden; there is good hiking here in tundra terrain with a possibility to reach a spectacular viewpoint. Again, all will be dependent on the conditions; we will brief you on the possibilities once we get there.
- 18.15** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is being served. Enjoy!

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

2. September 2018 (Day 5)

Expedition Day in the Ice

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

If we encounter marine mammals, please **keep noise levels down** (speak quietly; close doors gently; no dropping of lens caps etc.) for the best opportunities to remain with the wildlife.

07.45 **Wake-up call!**

08.00 The **breakfast** buffet is available for **one hour** in the Dining Room.

09.30 **Extended Recap** in the Lounge

11.00 **Lecture** by Peter Prokosch in the Lounge: “A Vision for the Arctic”

Depending on our speed and progress, we expect to arrive in the ice sometime around noon. We will keep you updated!

12.30 Enjoy the **lunch buffet!**

19.00 A special **Arctic Dinner** is waiting for you – bon appétit!

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

3. September 2018 (Day 6)

Northwest Spitsbergen

- 07.45** **Wake-up call** – good morning!
- 08.00 The **Breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the Restaurant.
Due to the huge distance from the pack ice, we will sail towards the northwest corner of Spitsbergen during the morning and probably also all of the afternoon. Keep an eye out for marine wildlife!
- 09.30** **Extended Recap** in the Lounge
- 11.00** **Lecture** by **Isabelle** in the Lounge: **Whales** – giants of the ocean. Who they are, how they feed, and why whale poo is important.
- 12.30 The **Lunch** buffet is available for one hour in the Restaurant.
- TBA **Lecture** by **Irene** in the Lounge: **Sled dogs** – why dogsledding is not just history but pastime, passion and sports today, and a very convenient way of traveling in the Arctic.
- 18.15** **Briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 18.30 **Dinnertime** – enjoy!
- TBA **Landing** or **Zodiac Cruise, Smeerenburgfjord**. If timings and conditions allow, we would like to either do a landing or a zodiac cruise in beautiful Smeerenburgfjord after dinner. Please listen for announcements!

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

4. September 2018 (Day 7)

Forlandsundet & Isfjorden

- 07.15** **Wake-up call** – good morning!
- 07.30 The **Breakfast** buffet is available for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 09.00** **Landing at Poolepynten.** This spit of sand in Forlandsundet is a regular haul-out site for Walrus so we hope to be able to go ashore and spend some time with these blubbery marine mammals (if they are home). Due to regulations regarding viewing Walrus we need to do so in three groups. Each group will have the same amount of time with the Walrus on shore. Please stand by for announcements!
- 12.30 The **Lunch** buffet is available for one hour in the Restaurant.
- 14.00** **Landing at Alkhornet.** For our last landing we hope to take you ashore at beautiful Alkhornet. The towering cliff is home to seabirds, and often there are reindeer grazing on the tundra below.
- At the end of the landing there will be a possibility for a dip into the Arctic Ocean. For those of you who are brave enough to **polar plunge**, wear your swim suit under your regular landing clothes, and we will bring the towels.
- 18.45** **Captain's Farewell and last official meeting.** Please join us in the Lounge for a toast to our voyage!
- 19.30 Enjoy your **Dinner!** We would like to ask you to put your **rubber boots** outside your cabin door before attending dinner.
- afterwards **Settling of ship's accounts** – we will call you by deck for the settling of your ship's accounts.

North Spitsbergen

on board the

Plancius

5. September 2018 (Day 8)

Longyearbyen

07.15 **Wake-up call** – good morning!

07.30 **Breakfast** until 08.30. Please put **your check-in luggage outside your cabin door BEFORE breakfast**, latest by 07.30. Please **mark your luggage** with a coloured ribbon (see separate information regarding luggage transfer) if you are booked onto either of today's two flights. The ribbons are available in the Lounge.

Please don't forget to return your cabin key card holders to reception prior to leaving the ship; you are very welcome to keep the cabin key card as souvenir.

Your **luggage** will be waiting for you at the pier. Please identify it and take it to the luggage truck/trailer yourself in order to make sure it's off the vessel. For those of you staying in Longyearbyen, please take your luggage with you on the bus (not in the luggage trailer/truck)!

~09.00 The **bus** will depart from the pier to the center of **Longyearbyen**.

11.00 If you are on the **12.40 flight (DY397)**: The **bus** will take you from the center of Longyearbyen (the same place where you were dropped off in the morning) **to the airport**. There you will find your check-in luggage waiting for you in the luggage truck/trailer.

11.45 If you are on the **13.25 flight (SK4491)**: The **bus** will take you from the center of Longyearbyen (the same place where you were dropped off in the morning) **to the airport**. There you will find your check-in luggage waiting for you in the luggage truck/trailer.

Happy traveling home!