

June 3rd - June 10th

M/V Plancius



M/V *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 Andrei Zybin

and his international crew of 46 including:

Staff Capitan: **Ernesto Barria** [Chile]

First Officer: **Miia Holma** [Finland]

Second Officer: Yaroslav Pyetukhov [Ukraine]

Third Officer: **Luis Oroceo** [Philippines]

Chief Engineer: **Daniel Liliac-Zajontz** [Latvia]

Hotel Manager: **Zsuzsanna Varga** [Hungary]

Ass. Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev** [Ukraine]

Head Chef: Khabir Moraes [India]

Sous Chef: **Ivan Ivanovic** [Serbia]

Ship's Physician: **Veronique Verhoeven** [Germany]

Expedition Leader: Ali Liddle [UK]

Ass. Expedition Leader: **Katja Riedel** [Germany/New Zealand]

Expedition Guide: **Vide Brandt** [Sweden]

Expedition Guide: **Daniel Hoehne** [Germany]

Expedition Guide: **Sandra Ophorst** Germany]

Expedition Guide: Fridrik Fridriksson [Iceland]

Expedition Guide: **Tom van Hoof** [Netherlands]

Expedition Guide: Claudio Ghiglione [Italy]

Welcome on board!

Day 1 – June 3, 2019 Embarkation in Longyearbyen

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°13′N - 015°36′E

Wind: S4 Sea State: In Port Weather: P.Cloudy Air Temp: +5°C

It was a wonderful sunny day in Longyearbyen when we made our way to the port. The little blue



ship Plancius was already waiting for us at the pier. We watched how the luggage was craned on board, then it was time for us to walk up the gangway for the very first time. Hotel manager Zsuszsanna welcomed us and the friendly Philippine crew showed us to our cabins.

We had some time to explore the ship before we all gathered in the Lounge for an introduction to the ship from Zsuszanna and a safety briefing by first officer Miia. Then

the lines were cast off and we were under way, our adventure had begun. The colourful houses of Longyearbyen grew smaller and we sailed out into



the Isfjord.

The next program point was the practical part of the lifeboat drill. Equipped with warm clothes and our bright oranges life jackets we first mustered in the lounge and then went out on deck to inspect

the lifeboats. Let's hope that we will never have to see them from the inside again.

After the drill we were in for a treat: The Captain's Cocktail. We met our Captain Ernesto Barria and toasted with him and the expedition team to a successful and safe voyage. We had time to enjoy the nature surround the ship before going down for the



dinner where we enjoyed the three-course meal served by head chef Khabir.

After dinner one more thing had to be ticked off, we were issued with rubber boots which would accompany us on our adventures and keep us dry and warm. Late in the evening the Midnight sun tempted many on the outside decks. The sun wouldn't set for the next 7 days. With beautiful light and stunning mountains, it was hard to find the way into bed.





Day 2 – June 4, 2019 Ny London and 14th Julibukta

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°57.5′N - 012°87.0′E

Wind: NW4 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast Air Temp: +3°C

This morning we landed at Ny-London on Blomstrandhalvøya, the mining camp of the Northern Exploration Company led by Ernest Mansfield. In early 20th century a marble mining operation was started here, but the dreams of easy fortune were shattered just like the marble was during



transport back to the UK. We were explained that a typical Arctic condition known as permafrost was responsible for the bad quality of the marble. We could still see the remains of the mining camp. After walking around in the camp, we were split into four hiking groups. We could all see the beautiful surroundings of Ny-London with plenty of wildlife to be spotted such as reindeer, barnacle geese and purple sandpipers.

After a rewarding lunch we sailed on to the 14th Julibukta where we had a split landing and zodiac cruise along the Bird-cliff and the 14th Juli glacier. Under the watchful eye of our expedition staff we



could walk around freely within a perimeter. Under the bird cliff mainly occupied by Kittiwakes we spotted an Arctic fox who popped up several times. Cruising along the 14th Juli Glacier we could almost touch the clear blue patches of glacier ice that had calved off from the glacier. Along the bird cliff some of us spotted some Puffins and even an Ivory Gull.

After a rewarding day outdoors, under true Arctic conditions, we had a recap where Ali explained the plans for tomorrow and Vide talked about the reindeers living in Svalbard. After spending much of the day outdoors, the dinner was very welcome.











Day 3 - June 5, 2019 Pack Ice - Day 1

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°51.9′N - 010°38.9′E

Wind: NW4 Sea State: ice Weather: overcast Air Temp: 0°C

Early in the morning on the 5th of June, 2019, we started sailing in through the outskirts of the pack ice, north west of Spitsbergen. Under a cover of low clouds and in light snow we kept heading north



towards more dense sea ice with high hopes. The early birds started spotting seabirds and seals even before Ali made the wakeup call at 07.30, adding that we had a Bearded seal on an ice floe close to us. As a number of guests watched it from close distance, we got a huge surprise as a Minke whale came and stole the show and all the attention. When the whale had surfaced about ten times from various angles it decided to go about its own business and we did the

same. As the day progressed, we navigated through more dense drift ice, and the animal sightings were numerous. Ivory gulls, Ringed/bearded/harp seals, and various guillemots were spotted in many directions, but one thing remained. Guests and expedition staff alike were growing somewhat impatient as the polar bears proved to be absent and elusive this day. Snowy weather and poor visibility did not make things easier, and after lunch it was decided that we would have



some indoors education and hold a few different lectures about Svalbard. Roughly 2 minutes after everyone had gotten their coffee and found their favourite seats in the lounge the announcement came from the bridge. A Polar bear was in sight on an ice floe at our 1 o'clock. Finally! A few minutes later the bells rang again as a second bear came wandering, closer to the ship. After a 30 minute observation the ice closed in around us, and the snow showers made it hard to see anything, but our Captain and his bridge crew cleverly navigated the Plancius around the ice floes and put us in a close but comfortable distance from both bears and we watched in awe as one of them swam for





500 metres and then strolled away on the pack ice, indifferent to our presence.

Another day at the office in the High Arctic!











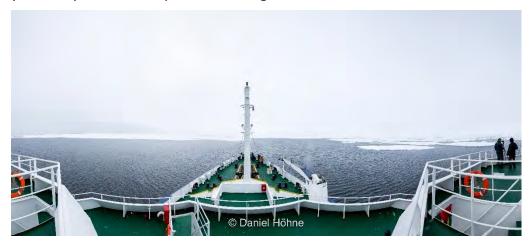


Day 4 - June 6, 2019 Pack Ice - Day 2

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°55.5′N - 010°59.2′E

Wind: W4 Sea State: ice Weather: snowfall/overcast Air Temp: -1°C

After a good night sleep and sweet dreams about our first polar bear encounters on the pack-ice yesterday we woke up in the ice again. After breakfast we went outside to scout for polar bears



again. It was snowing a bit, and we discovered a young ringed-seal on the ice. During the morning, Katja gave a detailed presentation about polar bears and Silke gave the same in German, while the expedition staff and crewmembers on the

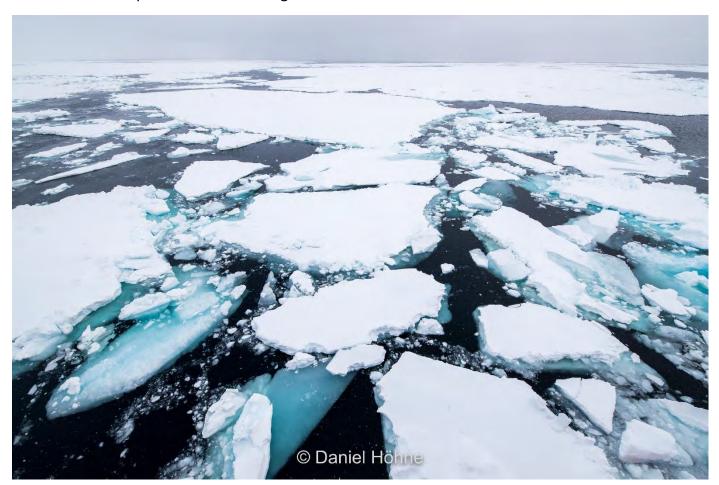
bridge kept scouting for wildlife in the ice. After a fabulous lunch buffet, we headed further east but were blocked by the ice. We headed back to the southwest again and set sail towards the Northern Islands of Svalbard. In the meantime, Vide gave his presentation about life in Longyearbyen in



English and Fridrik a similar presentation about his time in Longyearbyen in German. Just before we got out of the ice, we had our third Polar bear encounter. Fridrik spotted the bear which was still pretty far away, but most of us could get a good view through the binoculars. After checking out the bear for some time the bear disappeared behind a big chunk of ice probably to take a nap and we could not see it anymore. During recap Ali talked about the activities of today and plans for next day, Tom



told us about Petrus Plancius and Claudio talked about the North Pole expeditions of Amundsen and Nobile. After recap we had a refreshing BBQ.





Day 5 – June 7, 2019 Signehamna and Lilliehöök

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°14.3′N - 011°34.0′E

Wind: W4 Sea State: smooth Weather: snowfall/overcast Air Temp: +1°C

We arrived in Lilliehöökfjorden close to our mornings landing site at Signehamna. Drawing the curtains back and staring through the portholes the Arctic stared back with fog and light snow in the

air. This however did not deter us and as it is with the Arctic, we just have to take the weather for what it is.

The conditions in Signehamna called for snowshoes and we all headed off for a walk, looking for something to see in the black and white landscape. Luckily, we caught a view of a handful of reindeer hanging out waiting for summer and a couple of seals relaxing on a section of fast ice, most likely Bearded seals.



On the way we also caught a slight glimpse of the remains of two German weather stations from the Second World War. They were located a bit inland, out of view from the fjord in order to transmit important weather data from the Arctic.

In the afternoon we move deeper into Lilliehöökfjorden and zodiacs were dropped into the water in order for us to do a zodiac cruise in front of the majestic Lilliehöök glacier. It was still foggy and



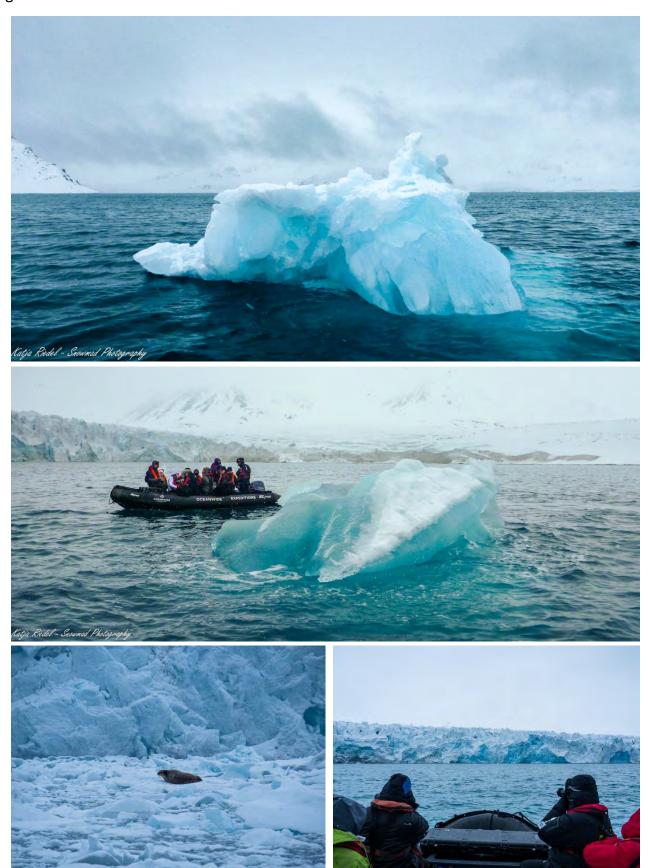
snowing and when we arrive a few hundred meters away from the glacier it was barely visible. However, as time went on the large walls of ice become increasingly clearer and more visible. We saw the strong blue hues that are so often associated with glaciers and icebergs floating in the water. On one piece of ice a bearded seal decided to have an afternoon nap.

We cruised along the 10 km long wall of ice, admiring it and enjoying the surroundings that started to reveal themselves as the fog started to lift. After a somewhat chilly cruise it was time to head back to the ship and as we get up the gangway, we are greeted with some hot chocolate to take away the chill.

In the evening we also enjoy one of the benefits of traveling close to the glacier as the guides brought a piece



of glacier ice on board. This made for some extra special drinks with a 1000-year-old piece of ice in the glass.



Day 6 – June 7, 2019 St. Jonsfjorden and Poolepynten

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°31.1′N - 012°51.0′E

Wind: WnW3 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast Air Temp: +4°C

Our morning started with the sound of Ali's voice, gently waking us at 07:15. After visiting the breakfast buffet our adventure began on shore. We quickly gathered at the gangway and made our



way into the Zodiac boats. Ashore, depending on the group we had chosen to join, we set off in different directions across the tundra, searching out views, wildlife and history as we went. The landscape was dotted with the occasional birds and Purple saxifrage bloomed beneath our feet. After more than 3 hours we were back down at the landing beach where the tide had retreated

somewhat but with lots of muscle power from the staff the boats were floated and we took our Zodiacs to go back to the ship... lunch was calling us!

In the afternoon we landed at Poolepynten. We spent few hours walking along the coast line and looking the big colony of Walrus present in the area. The group was divided again in 2 small groups... German speakers and the other one English speakers in



order to enjoy every story in a best way.

At the end of the evening we went to the lounge to join another recap and several short lectures produced by the guides on board about walrus, foxes of Svalbard. At the end of the lecturer it was time to go to enjoy and taste the good dinner prepared from the Chef onboard. However, the dinner it was interrupted by a call from the bridge and we had a close and spectacular meeting with few





Blue whales. After some pictures from the bridge it was the time to go back to the dinner room to enjoy the food and say goodbye at this beautiful day!

Day 7 – June 8, 2019 Billefjorden and Skansbukta

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°39.6′N - 016°45.4′E

Wind: S2 Sea State: calm Weather: sunny Air Temp: +3°C

Sunday morning. It was our last day on the expedition, and we all went to sleep with our heads full of impressions made by Blue whales and Walruses. Some of us woke up already at 05.00 by the



lovely sight of sunshine through our windows, and we were already out on deck as Ali made the earliest wakeup call of the week. As early as is was, it brought lovely words of fantastic weather and large numbers of Beluga whales close to the ship. As most of us had made our way out on deck to see whales, also the we discovered a Polar Bear on the ice edge, about a mile

from the ship. When the bear jumped in the water some of us feared it might swim away. Fortunately, we were proven wrong as the bear put on a 2 hour show along the ice edge as it jumped in and out of the water trying to catch any one of the 70 or more Beluga – a feat near impossible for a bear. This performance almost made us forget about the magic scenery and the mighty Nordenskiöld glacier that served as a backdrop. What a morning!! When our bear wandered away

on the ice, we sailed towards the bay called Petuniabukta and had many Beluga and numerous seals swimming close to us. We even met a sleepy Bearded seal on an ice floe. As we entered Petunia bay Ali announced that yet another Polar Bear had been spotted, this time further in on the ice. We watched him in our binoculars for half an hour, and at the same time we saw both Ringed seals and an ivory gull on



the ice. From here we sailed onwards, passing the Russian ghost town of Pyramiden, towards our afternoon landing in Skansbukta. We arrived our landing in sunshine and some of the wilder passengers even decided to take a "Polar Plunge"! The remainder of the evening was spent with a ship cruise through the majestic Isfjorden's northern parts. We enjoyed Captain's Cocktails with our Captain Andrei Zybin and toasted our voyage before watching a beautiful slide show that had been put together by Daniel. It was lovely to watch the last 7 days in 13 minutes and made us appreciate what an incredible journey we had been on. Late in the evening we sailed south to end our expedition in the harbour of Longyearbyen. Many new friends have been made and thousands of gigabytes of photos have been taken.



What a week!!

Day 8 – June 9, 2019 Back to Longyearbyen

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°13′N - 015°36′E

Wind: SE1 Sea State: in port Weather: sunny Air Temp: +3°C

After a lot of commotion during the night from to the people who were on the 2:30 am flight, we woke far too early, at anchor in Longyearbyen, sad to know that we would be leaving the ship soon. Our last breakfast on board was much appreciated, as we didn't know where our next meal would be coming from. After seven days of pampering we were back at the port of Longyearbyen, and it was time to say goodbye to the crew, the expedition team, but also to new-won friends.

On the dock, we found our luggage and boarded the bus. A last farewell from Expedition Leader Ali and we dispersed, each of us setting off on our travels and flights, sad to be leaving, but full with impressions of the wonderful landscapes and wildlife of the Arctic.

Total distance sailed on our voyage

Nautical miles: 692 nm - Kilometres: 1282 km



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





PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019

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

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE WORTH A € 1000 GIFT VOUCHER?

Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

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

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 30 April 2019. The photography contest runs from 01 November 2018 until 31 March 2019.

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



«Ode to an Oosik»

- Strange things have been done under the midnight sun, and the storybooks are full.

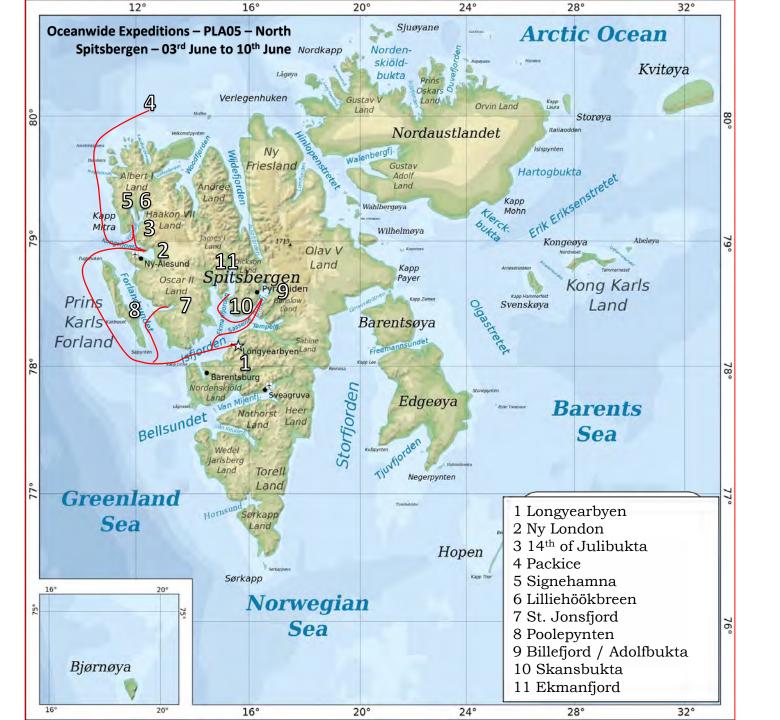
 But the strangest tale concerns the male, magnificent walrus bull!
- I know its rude, quite common and crude, Perhaps its grossly unkind. But with first glance at least, this bewhiskered beast is as ugly in front as behind.
- Look once again, take a second look then, you'll see he's not ugly or vile. There's a hint of a grin, in that blubbery chin and the eyes have shy secret smile.
- How can this be, this clandestine glee, that exudes the walrus like music. He knows, there inside, beneath blubber and hide lies a splendid contrivance the Oosik!
- "Oosik" you say, and quite well you may. I'll explain if you keep it between us; in the simplest truth, though rather uncouth, the "oosik" in fact is his penis!
- Now the size alone of this walrus bone would indeed arouse envious thinking It is also a fact, documented and backed There is never a softening or shrinking!

This then, is why, the smile is so sly, the walrus is rightfully proud.

Though the climate is frigid, the walrus is rigid.

Pray, why is man not so endowed?

Added to this is a smile you might miss, though the bull is entitled to bow – The one to outsmile our bull by a mile is the satisfied walrus cow.



In Search of Polar Bears Plancius June 3rd - June 10th

English Name	Deutsch	Latin	03-Jun	04-Jun	05-Jun	06-Jun
Red-throated Diver	Sterntaucher	Gavia stellata				
Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	Fulmarus glacialis	Х	Х	Х	Х
Pink-footed Goose	Kurzschnabelganz	Anser brachyrhynchus		Х		
Barnacle Goose	Weißwangengans	Branta leucopsis	Х	Х		
Common Eider	Eiderente	Somateria mollissima	Х	Х		
King Eider	Prachteiderente	Somateria spectabilis				
Purple Sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer	Calidris maritima		Х		
Arctic Skua	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	Stercorarius parasiticus			Х	Х
Long-tailed Skua	Falkenraubmöwe	Stercorarius longicaudus		Х		
Great Skua	Skua	Stercorarius skua			Х	Х
Glaucous Gull	Eismöwe	Larus hyperboreus	Х	Х	Х	Х
Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	Rissa tridactyla	Х	Х	Х	Х
Ivory Gull	Elfenbeinmöwe	Pagophila eburnea		Х	Х	
Arctic Tern	Kustenseeschwalbe	Sterna paradisaea				
Little Auk	Krabbentaucher	Alle alle		Х	Х	
Puffin	Papegaitaucher	Fratercula arctica		Х		
Black Guillemot	Gryllteiste	Cepphus grylle	Х	Х	Х	х
Brunnich's Guillemot	Dickschnabellume	Uria Iomvia		Х	Х	Х
Ptarmigan	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopus mutus		Х		
Snow Bunting	Schneeammer	Plectrophenax nivalis		Х		
Long-tailed Duck	Eisente	Clangula hyemalis		Х		
Great Black-Backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	Larus marinus			Х	

MAMMALS

English	Deutsch	Latin	03-Jun	04-Jun	05-Jun	06-Jun
Northern Minke Whale	Zwergwal	Balaenoptera acutorostrata			Х	
Blue Whale	Blauwal	Balaenoptera musculus				
Walrus	Walross	Odobenus rosmarus				
Bearded Seal	Bartrobbe	Erignathus barbatus			Х	Х
Harp Seal	Sattelrobbe	Pagophilus groenlandicus			Х	
Ringed Seal	Ringelrobbe	Phoca hispida			Х	Х
Common /Harbour Seal	Seehund	Phoca vitulina				
Polar Bear	Eisbär	Ursus maritimus			2	
Arctic Fox	Eisfuchs	Alopex lagopus		Х		
Reindeer	Spitzbergen-Rentier	Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus		х		
Humpback Whale	Buckelwal					
Beluga Whale	Beluga	Delphinapterus leucas				
White Beaked Dolphin	Weißschnauzandelfin	Lagenorhynchus albirostris				

07-Jun	08-Jun	09-Jun
Х	Х	
Х	Х	Х
Х	Х	
Х	Х	
		Х
Х	Х	
Х		
Х		
Х	Х	Х
Х	Х	Х
Х		Х
Х	Х	
Х		
Х	Х	
Х	Х	
	Х	
Х	Х	
Х		

07-Jun	08-Jun	09-Jun
Х		
	Х	
	Х	
Х	Х	Х
		Х
Х		
		2
Х	Х	
Х	х	
Х		
х		Х
х		

Ali Liddle — Expedition Leader



English

Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley. Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having

completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin auf dem Land als auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zusätzlich für den Bereich Bildung im Umweltschutz der Falkland Inseln zuständig. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt leitet. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, zum Wandern, Ski laufen und um die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert wurden. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

Ali arbeitet bereits seit vielen Jahren auf allen Schiffen der Oceanwide-Flotte, sowohl in der Antarktis wie auch der Arktis. Sie ist vor kurzem von Northumberland in England auf die Isle of Skye in Schottland gezogen, wo sie zur Zeit eine alte Kate renoviert. In ihrer Freizeit genießt sie die unglaublichen Wandermöglichkeiten der Insel.

Ihr besonderes Interesse gilt der Natur und der Tierwelt: dieses Wissen und ihre Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen teilt sie gerne mit anderen.

Dr Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader



Katja Riedel grew up in Germany where she studied and completed a Phd in Atmospheric Chemistry. For her research she overwintered 1997 at the German Antarctic Base Neumayer where she was responsible for the Atmospheric Observatory. Since then she has been on several scientific expeditions to Antarctica, for example measuring ozone at Scott Base, drilling ice cores at Law Dome and taking samples of 120,000 years old ice on Taylor Glacier in the Dry Valleys. She completed a course in Antarctic studies and worked for more than 12 years as a research scientist in Wellington, New Zealand. Her research interests were green-house gases in the atmosphere and in ice cores. She works as a

guide and lecturer on expedition cruises in the Arctic and Antarctic since 2011. The Polar Regions have always fascinated Katja. On private adventures she skied over 220 km through Svalbard, sailed on a small yacht to Antarctica, kayaked icy waters and worked as a science assistance in West-Greenland. Her fondest memories of Antarctica are building a 24h sundial and sledging from Hut Point to the Erebus Ice Tongue. Most recently she skated 250 km across the frozen Lake Baikal in Siberia, cuddled reindeer in Kamchatka and ski toured in East Greenland. Life is an adventure for Katja and she loves to travel, hike, cycle, sea-kayak or ski to the remote and beautiful places on earth. When not traveling Katja lives in New Zealand and works as a guide, science communicator and photographer. She speaks fluently English and German.

Deutsch: Katja Riedel studierte Chemie in Wuppertal und promovierte am Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meerforschung in Bremerhaven. Für ihre Dissertation in Atmosphärenchemie überwinterte sie 15 Monate auf der Neumayer Station in der Antarktis. Seitdem hat sie an mehreren wissenschaftlichen Expeditionen in die Antarktis teilgenommen, um Eiskerne zu bohren oder Ozon zu messen. Mehr als 12 Jahre lang arbeitet sie in Neuseeland als Atmosphärenwissenschaftlerin. Ihre Forschungsschwerpunkte warenTreibhausgase in der Atmospäre und in Eiskernen. Seit 2011 arbeitet sie als Expeditionsleiterin und Dozentin auf Expeditionsschiffen in der Arktis und Antarktis. Die Polarregionen haben Katja schon immer fasziniert und auf privaten Reisen hat sie Spitzbergen auf Skiern erkundet, ist mit einem Segelboot in die Antarktis gesegelt, hat dort Kajak- und Skitouren unternommen und als Wissenschaftsassistentin in Westgrönland gearbeitet. Erst kürzlich war sie 250 km mit Schlittschuhen auf dem gefrorenen Baikalsee in Sibirien unterwegs und hat Rentiere in Kamchtaka geknuddelt. Für Katja ist das Leben ein grosses Abenteuer und wann immer sie kann reist, wandert oder kajakt sie zu den schönsten und abgelegensten Winkeln der Welt. Wenn sie nicht auf Schiffen unterwegs ist, arbeitet sie als selbständige Naturführerin, Wissenschaftsjournalistin und Fotografin in Wellington. Sie spricht fließend Deutsch und Englisch.

Vide Brandt - Expedition guide



English: I am originally from Sweden, but have been living in Longyearbyen for more than 12 years. I fell in love with the Arctic during my first visit, as a young boy back in the year 2000. Today I work as a field guide all year around and try to spend as much time as possible outdoors in the Polar Regions. When not working for Oceanwide Expeditions do landbased activities such as snowmobile tours and ice-caving trips to local glaciers, or I am at sea with various ribtours or film projects involving Arctic

wildlife. After 11 dark seasons in Svalbard I decided to enjoy a bit more light and work for Oceanwide Expeditions in Antarctica, and with other projects such as whale swimming in northern Norway.

Deutsch: Urspünglich stamme ich aus Schweden, aber seit mehr als 12 Jahren lebe ich in Longyearbyen. Ich habe mich bereits bei meinem ersten Besuch als kleiner Junge in die Arktis verliebt. Heute arbeitet ich als Naturführer und versuche soviel Zeit wie möglich draussen in den Polarregionen zu verbringen. Wenn ich nicht für Oceanwide Expeditions arbeite, leite ich Schneemobil Touren oder Ausflüge in Eishöhlen in der Umgebung. Ausserdem bin ich als Bootsführer unterwegs oder arbeite für verschiedene Filmprojekte über Tiere in der Arktis. Nach 11 Wintern in Spitzbergen hatte ich Sehnsucht nach etwas mehr Licht und began für Oceanwide Expeditions in der Antarktis und für andere Projekten wie zum Beispiel Schwimmen und Tauchen mit Killerwalen im nördlichen Norwegen zu arbeiten.

Daniel Höhne - Expedition Guide



Deutsch: Ein stimmungsgeladenes und gut fotografiertes Bild ist nicht nur immer wieder schön anzusehen. Es ist mehr, gelebte Leidenschaft und Emotion, ein unvergessliches Naturgefühl. Für viele Jahre war es ein leidenschaftliches Hobby, mittlerweile ist es Berufung geworden. Menschen, die sich für Themen rund um die Fotografie und Umwelt interessieren mit hinaus auf Tour zu nehmen und dabei neben foto-grafischen Inhalten auch die Geographie unserer Landschaften zu vermitteln, das ist mein Anliegen.

Wenn wir beginnen zu verstehen, dann lernen wir auch, Natur und natürliche Einflüsse, bzw. natürliche Gegebenheiten nicht als "unsere", des Menschen Gegner, zu betrachten, sondern im Einklang mit unserer Umwelt zu leben und sie als Teil unseres Lebens zu betrachten.

Inspiriert durch mein Studium der Geographie hatte ich in den letzten Jahren immer wieder die Möglichkeit, unterschiedlichste Projekte im Bereich Fotografie und geographischer Umweltbildung durchzuführen, wozu mittlerweile auch mehrfache bildliche Veröffentlichungen in Magazinen und Zeitungen zählen.

Sich auf die Natur einzulassen, bedeutet für mich Emotion, Leidenschaft, persönliche Entwicklung und Freiheit. Dabei führen mich meine Reisen derzeit in Regionen wie Island, Spitzbergen, Grönland, Antarktis und Deutschland.

English: A well photographed picture is not only pretty to look at. It is more, emotion and passion and a story behind it. In the past it was my hobby to get outside and take nature photos. But today it is my profession and besides working as a fulltime guide I also work for newspapers and magazines.

Taking people outside and showing them what to see and what can be felt outside is one of my greatest passions. In modern times it is even more important and necessary to understand our ecosystems. For that reason, I take people out in the wilderness, to understand why things happen in nature and what our part as human beings is in different environments. We only can protect what we know and love.

I studied Geography and Geology in the south of Germany, Tübingen. Since then I was fascinated by the power and vulnerability of our white and cold ecosystems. I am self-employed and combine nature photography with guiding nature and photographic journeys. My 'hot spots' are Iceland, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctica and Germany. Most of my time I spend in Iceland exploring and working in unique places where I feel the strength of the old Viking land.

Sandra Ophorst – Expedition Guide



English: Sandra is originally from the middle part of Germany. She worked eight years in a pharmaceutical business as the chief assistant of the director. She always loved to spent in nature, esspecially Northern Norway and Spitsbergen. Already after the first visit north of the polar circle she got bitten by the arctic bug and from that point there was no way back. She decided to guit her previous life and to leave Germany. After a year of preparations, she arrived in September 2016 on Spitsbergen. For almost three years she has worked as a guide on different expedition ships. During the winter/dark period on Spitsbergen you can find her on skis, snowmobiles or travelling around the world.

Deutsch: Sandra ist eine waschechte Rheinländerin, hat jedoch überwiegend in Hamburg gelebt. Sie hat acht Jahre in einem Pharmaunternehmen als Assistentin des Direktors gearbeitet. Sie verbrachte schon immer gerne Ihre Urlaube in der Natur. Vor allem in Norwegen und natürlich insbesondere auf Spitzbergen. Bereits nach dem ersten Besuch nördlich des Polarkreises wurde Sie vom sogenannten arktischen Käfer gebissen und von da an gab es kein Zurück mehr. Sie entschloss sich, Ihr bisheriges Leben in Deutschland aufzugeben und startete die Vorbereitungen für ein Leben als Guide in der hohen Arktis. In 2016 wurde der Traum Wirklichkeit und Sie flog in Ihr neues zu Hause, Longyearbyen. Seit nun fast drei Jahren arbeitet Sie als Guide auf verschieden Expeditions-Schiffen in der Arktis. Während der Wintermonate findet man Sie auf Spitzbergen auf Skiern als auch auf Schneemobiltouren oder auf Reisen.

Fridrik P. Fridriksson Arctic Nature Guide / General Naturalist



English: Fridrik was born and raised in Iceland, however, he currently lives in mainland Norway. He graduated from an Arctic Nature Guide program in 2013. This was a one year course on the Arctic island of Svalbard, with a focus on expeditions and guiding in the Arctic. Fridrik continued living year-round in Svalbard until 2017. He professionally led tours and expeditions in the Arctic, be it on snowmobiles, skiing, hiking, fast boats or with expedition cruise ships. Though he has no fixed base in Svalbard anymore, he continues to guide in the Arctic seasonally. Fridrik has a great passion for the outdoors, especially winter

sports. He is a very active person and in his spare time he is most likely out on private adventures, such as skiing or mountaineering with friends. The last couple years Fridrik has spent some time in the Alps, hiking and skiing the highest mountains of Austria and Germany. Photography is another of Fridrik's great passions and he has been diligently photographing his adventures and personal travels for over a decade. He is more than willing to share tips and tricks that he has learned. He speaks fluently Icelandic, Norwegian, English and German.

Deutsch: Fridrik ist in Island geboren und aufgewachsen, wohnt aber zur Zeit in Süd-Norwegen. 2012 zog er nach Longyearbyen und machte eine Ausbildung als "Arctic Nature Guide", einen einjährigen Kurs mit Schwerpunkt Expeditionen in Spitzbergen. Bis 2017 hat er vor allem Touren von Longyearbyen geführt, per Schneemobil, Ski, Schnellboot, Kreuzfahrtschiff oder zu Fuss. Selbst wenn er nicht mehr in Longyearbyen lebt, ist er als Guide während der Saison immer in der Arktis. Seine Leidenschaft ist die Natur, insbesondere Skitouren. Wenn er nicht arbeitet, unternimmt er seine eigenen Abenteuer. In den letzten Jahren hat er viel Zeit in die Alpen verbracht und die höchste Berge Deutschlands und Österreichs bestiegen. Fotografie ist eine weitere Leidenschaft von Fridrik und er er hat seine persönlichen Abenteuer seit mehr als einem Jahrzehnt fotografiert. Er spricht fließend Isländisch, Norwegisch, Englisch und immer besser - Deutsch.

Thomas van Hoof – Expedition Guide

Tom fell in love with the Arctic when he was attending a climatology masterclass as student at the University Centre of Svalbard in 2001.

During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO₂ on climate change during the past millennium. After living a year in the desert of Tucson, Arizona (USA), where he was working as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona, Tom returned to the Arctic when he started working for the Dutch Geological Survey in 2005.

As a palaeontologist he returned to Spitsbergen for a number of expeditions, collecting rocks and guiding fellow geologists. One of these expeditions

was on board the Ortelius (SEES.NL) where he got into contact with Oceanwide Expedtions. Tom's academic background in geology/palaeoclimatology is a broad one, ranging from climate change during the past 1000 yrs to fossils of almost 300 million years ago. He loves to be outside especially in the Arctic wilderness. Since 2018 Tom left the Dutch Geological Survey and started his own geological consultancy business. To be able to spent some time in the Arctic, and share his passion for the outdoors, he started to work as a expedition guide.

CLAUDIO GHIGLIONE

Marine ecologist, expedition guide and wildlife photographer Meerebiologe, Naturführer und Tierfotograf



English: Claudio graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with Italy and UK.

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole.

During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England. Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book 'Polar Lights' with which he wants to share his passion for nature and polar areas.

Deutsch: Claudio hat einen Abschluss in Marinen Umweltwisenschaften und Meereswissenschaften. Im März 2017 schloss er seine Doktorarbeit in Erd-, Umwelt und Polarwissenschaften ab. Mehrere Jahre arbeitete er als Polarforscher mit Schwerpunkt Südpol. Während seiner akademischen Karriere nahm er an mehreren wissen-schaftlichen Expeditionen teil, die in Kooperation mit Norwegen und England durchgeführt wurden. Als Fotograf hat sich Claudio auf Natur- Wissenschaft- und Reisefotografie spezialisiert. Er benutzt seine Bilder, um Geschichten zu erzählen und das Augenmerk auf Tiere, Natur und Umwelt zu lenken. 2019 veröffentlichte er sein erstes Buch 'Polar Lights'. Er hofft damit, seine Leidenschaft für die Natur und Polarregionen mit andern teilen zu können.

Helene Eide – Expedition Guide



Helene is originally from a small island on the west coast of Norway. Both the Arctic and the ocean have always fascinated her, and it was therefor naturally for her to choose to study Arctic marine biology at the university centre in Svalbard.

She moved up to Svalbard in 2013, and fell in love with the place. There is just something special with the place. Her favourite time of the year is February. When the sun is finally returning after 4 months of darkness, and all the mountains are getting this beautiful pink light. During her master degree she focused on the Arctic planktons, but she also very much likes birds and the big round fluffy things called reindeers.

Helene is also very fascinated by the Arctic history, and particular the history of Svalbard. She speaks English, Norwegian and a little bit of German.



Captain Andrei Zybin

and his international crew

of 46

Including:

Hotel Manager: **Zsuzsanna Varga** [Hungary]

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev** [Ukraine]

Head Chef: Khabir Moraes [India]

Sous Chef: **Ivan Ivanovic** [Serbia]

Ship's Physician: **Veronique Verhoeven** [Belgium]

Expedition Leader: Ali Liddle [UK]

Asst Expedition Leader: Katja Riedel [Germany/New Zealand]

Expedition Guide: **Vide Brandt** [Sweden]

Expedition Guide: **Daniel Hoehne** [Germany]

Expedition Guide: **Sandra Ophorst** [Germany]

Expedition Guide: Fridrik Fridriksson [Iceland]

Expedition Guide: **Tom van Hoof** [Netherlands]

Expedition Guide: Claudio Ghiglione [Italy]

Welcome you on board!



3rd June 2019

Welcome on board!

Your luggage should already be in your cabin. Please check that you are not missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does NOT belong to you or your cabin mate please tell a member of staff or crew.

Feel free to explore the ship. Tea and coffee are always available in the Lounge on Deck 5

- ~1700 We would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Ali Liddle** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Zsuzsanna Varga.** This will be followed by **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Briefing** in the Lounge. **ALL** passengers **must** attend this very important safety briefing.
- ~1800 Plancius will leave the pier of Longyearbyen. Enjoy the views from the outside decks.

Lifeboat Drill.

After departure we will complete the **Lifeboat Drill**. Please listen for alarms and announcements and make your way to the Muster Station, the Lounge with your warm clothes, Lifejacket and Key Card. This is on Deck 5.

The Bridge and Bridge wings will be closed this evening.

- ~1900 **Captains Cocktails!** Captain **Andrei Zybin** invites you to join him for a welcome drink in the Lounge. You will also meet the Expedition Team and hear more about our voyage around Svalbard.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on Deck 3 (behind reception). Bon appétit!



4th June 2019

- 0700 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!
- 0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- O830 Please join Ali in the lounge for mandatory briefings in English. This will outline our Zodiac operations on Plancius and Polar Bear safety on shore.
- Ny London. At this time we would like to start taking you ashore at Ny London. This was the site of a marble mine in 1911 and we can still see some of the industrial history of the island. There are sometimes reindeer in the area and Arctic fox have sometimes been seen. For the morning we will offer you 4 groups:
- **Long Hike Group** the aim is to reach a viewpoint on the upper slopes of the island. The terrain is steep and rocky in places.
- **Medium Hike Group** we will follow the long hiking group to a lower view point. The pace will be a little slower and there will be more time to stop for photographs.
- **Medium Hike Photography Group** we will spend some time along the coastline before following a similar direction to the hiking groups but there will be plenty of time for photos and also advice from the guides.
- **Leisurely walk** we will enjoy the lower coastal area with plenty of time for birdwatching over easy terrain.
 - Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1300 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room
- ~1500 **14 Julibukta.** For the afternoon we will explore the beautiful fjord of 14 Julibukta which has the 14 Julibreen at the end of it. We would like to take our German speaking guest ashore first and we you will walk below the high cliffs and seabird colonies. The next boats will go on a Zodiac cruise to some low cliffs to see some of the nesting seabirds and then navigate to the glacier front.
 - The groups will then swap on the beach.
- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Ali will outline our plans for the coming days and there will be some stories from staff!
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!



5th June 2019

All activities today are ice- and wildlife-dependent.

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.

Expedition Morning! North of Svalbard we will encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck – it is a brilliant experience itself to manoeuvre close to the edge of the pack ice.

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

1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room

Expedition Afternoon! We will remain in and around the pack ice as we continue our search for Arctic wildlife. But we will also spot seabirds, maybe even the Ivory gull and some seals.

- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Ali will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some stories from staff!
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon Appetite!



6th June 2019

All activities today are ice- and wildlife-dependent.

We will approach the ice edge at around 0700 to begin our search once more.

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.

Expedition Morning!

We will continue our search for Arctic wildlife at the edge of the pack ice. Join us on deck or view from the comfort of the Lounge. Fingers crossed!

- 1000 **Polar Bears.** We have been lucky to see Polar bears on the ice. Please join Katja in the Dining room for a presentation about these incredible marine mammals.
- 1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room

Expedition Afternoon!

We will remain in and around the pack ice as we continue our search for Arctic wildlife. Depending on our success and the weather conditions we may offer a lecture presentation during the afternoon. Please listen for announcements.

- 1530 **Life in Longyearbyen.** Please join Vide in the Lounge for his presentation about living here on Svalbard. This was the postponed presentation from yesterday.
- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Ali will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some stories from staff!
- 1900 A very special **Arctic Dinner** is waiting for you on the backdeck. Please dress up warmly. You reach the backdeck through the door in the back of the Restaurant. Bon appétit!



7th June 2019

- 0715 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!
- 0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- Signehamna. We hope to go ashore in the small fjord of Signehamna, which is a side arm off the Lilliehöökfjord. Here there are some remains from a German marine weather station but the attraction of this area is the Arctic scenery. We will offer our usual hiking options exploring the local area.

Long Hike Group – please come to the gangway first.

Medium Hike Group Photography Group Leisurely walk

- 1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room
- 1500 **Lilliehöökbreen.** During lunch we will sail towards the glacier at the head of the fjord. The face of the Lillehöökbreen glacier is around 11 km in length and curves around the end of the fjord. We will Zodiac cruise along the face of the glacier to enjoy the spectacular scenery. Keep a look out for seals on the ice near the glacier.
- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Ali will outline our plans for the coming days and there will be some stories from staff!
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!



8th June 2019

0715	Wakeup call from	your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Mornin
U, 13	vvakeap can nom	your Expedition Leader 7 th. Good William

- 0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- This morning we aim to land in **St Jonsfjorden**, and we will offer the chance for a hike on a moraine wall overlooking the Gaffelbreenglacier. We would like to take you all up onto the moraine for views of the glacier. There will our usual hiking options; **Long hike:** you will reach the top of the moraine and take a longer route back.

Medium hike: you will reach the top of the moraine and take a more direct route back

Medium photo: you will reach the top of the moraine and take direct route back.

Leisurely walk: you will reach the lower slopes of the moraine.

Long hikers please come to the gangway first!

Don't forget if you would like to do the Polar Plunge wear your swimwear, bring your insanity and we will bring the towels!

- 1230 Lunch is served in the dining room
- This afternoon we would like to land at Poolepynten in the hope of meeting some Walrus! Due to regulations and numbers of passengers allowed with walrus at any one time the approach to Walrus will take place in 2 groups in order not to cause a disturbance to the animals. You will all have some time on shore to explore and spend some time with the Walrus.

German Speaking Guests: We will embark you in the zodiacs first.

English Speaking Guests: Be ready at the gangway as well and we'll take you ashore.

At the Walrus please follow the instructions of the guides and stay very quiet.

- 1900 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Ali will outline our plans for the coming days and there will be some stories from staff!
- 1930 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit!



9th June 2019

- 0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- ~0900 **Skansbukta.** We would like to take you ashore at Skansbukta which was the site of an old gypsum mine. You can still see the train tracks and the mine entrance. The surrounding scenery is spectacular and there are sometimes reindeer and foxes in the area. We will do a perimeter landing at this site so please stay within the boundary of the guides and enjoy your time on shore.
- 1230 Buffet Lunch is available in the dining room.

Expedition Afternoon in Ekmanfjorden

During the afternoon we will sail into Ekmanfjord where we know there is still some fast ice and there may be some seals. We will continue our search for other wildlife. Any activities will depend on the ice conditions, the wildlife and the weather so please standby for announcements.

- 1815 Captain's Cocktails. We will meet with our Captain to toast the success of the voyage and Ali will outline the procedure for disembarkation.
- 1845 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!



10th June 2019

This is for those of you leaving on Flight SK4497 to Oslo at 02.25

Please leave your large check in luggage outside your room before 10pm.

There will be some soft drinks and chocolate bars in the Lounge for to take to the airport as facilities may be limited at this time.

At Midnight please make your way to the gangway and identify your luggage on the pier. The gangway is on Deck 4.

Take your luggage to the bus which will be waiting to take you to the airport at 00:20.

On arrival take your luggage from the bus and check in for your flight.

On behalf of Oceanwide and all the crew and staff on board Plancius we thank you for travelling with us and wish you all a safe journey home.



10th June 2019

O715 Your final Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

When you go to breakfast, please place your check-in luggage outside your cabin for collection by staff and crew and return your keycard-holders and keychains to reception.

Please feel free to keep your keycard as a memory of this trip.

O845 Please make your way to the Gangway on Deck 4 and identify your luggage on the pier.

There will be a luggage truck at the pier. Please let the staff know if you are on flight Norwegian flight DY397 or SAS flight SK4425

O900 The bus will take you up to town.

Flight DY397 departing Longyearbyen 12:40

Your bus transfer from town to the airport will leave at 11:00

Flight SK4425 departing Longyearbyen at 14:45

Your bus transfer from town to the airport will leave at 13:00

On arrival at the airport you need to collect your luggage from the truck and check in for your flight.

On behalf of Oceanwide and all of the staff and crew on board Plancius we would like to thank you for travelling with us onboard Plancius, and we wish you a pleasant and safe onward journey.