



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

In Search of Polar Bear

May 27th – June 3rd

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.



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

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:	Helene Eide	[Norway]
Expedition Guide:	Fridrik Fridriksson	[Iceland]
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Claudio Ghiglione	[Italy]

Welcome on board!

Day 1 – May 27, 2019

Embarkation in Longyearbyen

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

Wind: NE4 **Sea State:** In Port **Weather:** Sunny **Air Temp:** +1°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 Zsuzsanna 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 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 Russian captain Andrei Zybin and toasted with him and the expedition team to a successful and safe voyage.

Shortly afterwards expedition leader Ali announced through the PA system, that a polar bear was spotted on land. Everybody rushed outside. Less than 2 hours into our trip and we watched our first polar bear. It was a male bear who had visited Longyearbyen during the night and was chased off by helicopter. When we saw him, he was walking up a snowy slope under steep cliffs. Unfortunately, he soon disappeared through a saddle, but Plancius sailed around into the next bay and after a while we could observe him from the other side. Still walking



with purpose, we could appreciate how fast and easy he moved over the steep and snowy terrain.

Dinner was delayed due to the polar bear, but nobody minded, in contrast we were impressed by the flexibility of the kitchen. When we finally sat down for dinner, we thoroughly 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 – May 28, 2019

St. Jonsfjorden and Poolepynten

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°31.1'N - 012°49.9'E

Wind: S1 **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +3°C

Our first morning of the voyage started with the sound of Ali's voice, gently waking us at 07:15. After visiting the breakfast buffet, we were called to the lounge for our mandatory briefings. As we



are operating in Polar bear territory, it is essential that we understand the risks, responsibilities and tricks necessary to keep us - and the wildlife - safe. The briefings also explained the Zodiac (small boat) operations, so we were all set to go ashore when we arrived at our intended landing place for the morning. Excited to begin our adventure 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, with our lifejackets, and we took our Zodiacs to go back to the ship... lunch was calling us!

In the afternoon due to the critical sea conditions the landing at Poolepynten was cancelled. However, thanks to the help of the Captain of the ship we had a really nice ship cruise in the area with some really close meetings with walrus. We spent few hours on the decks looking for fauna and taking pictures. At the end of the evening we went to the lounge to join another short animation about how to behave in the Arctic, prepared by



AECO, the organisation for Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators and several short lectures produced by the guides on board about walrus and glaciers of Svalbard. At the end of the lecture it was time to go to enjoy and taste the good dinner prepared from the Chef onboard.



Day 3 – May 29, 2019

Ny London and 14th Julibukta

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°57.3'N - 012°03.8'E

Wind: SSW2 **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** snowfall/overcast **Air Temp:** +1°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 during transport back to the UK.



We were told that a typical Arctic condition known as permafrost was responsible for the bad quality of the marble. The remains of the mining camp were still visible. After walking around the camp, we 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, ptarmigans 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 Julibreen. 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. The fact he (or she) was shedding the winter

coat was a clear sign summer is coming to the Arctic. Cruising along the 14th Julibreen we could almost touch the clear blue patches of glacier ice that had calved off from the glacier.

After a rewarding day outdoors, under sometimes true Arctic conditions, we had a recap where Ali explained the plans for tomorrow and Helene and Fridrik talked respectively about Reindeer and the Polar Fox. After spending much of the day outdoors, the dinner was very welcome.



Day 4 – May 30, 2019

Pack Ice, Day 1

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°57,4'N - 011°29.4'E

Wind: E1 **Sea State:** ice **Weather:** sunny **Air Temp:** +5°C

It was already a lovely and sunny morning as Ali woke us up with her daily call on the ship's speaker system. It was just a little above 0°C outside of the ship and the Expedition team was already scanning the horizon to find us a wandering Polar Bear. There was almost no wind in the morning and many of us went out on the decks, excited to what we could see during the day. We all had our binoculars with us and helped scanning the scene. As we reached the edge of the pack ice we had a wonderful and rich breakfast in the dining room which was served by Zsuzsanna and her lovely team. Captain Andrei



was taking the ship slowly closer to the pack ice. We were on a more northerly position than we before expected by the ice charts Ali showed us in the briefing the previous day. That means that the ice edge due to the wind conditions was moving northwards.

During the day in the early evening, just before re-cap we reached 80° North. On this position we were just about 1000km from the north pole. The expedition team was working hard in several shifts during the whole day to scan the ice permanently. We saw a lot of birds around the ship.



Guillemots, Skuas and Ivory Gulls. And a special guest came along very close. Walrus. They were hauling out on the ice floes laying in the sun. They were absolutely relaxed and so the ship came really close to these big seals of the northern hemisphere. A good chance to get the cameras set. But the Polar Bears seemed to be on vacation and not willing to show up. The time passed by as we spend most of the day

outside and enjoyed the bizarre scenery of a huge icy desert laying in front of us.

In the late afternoon Ali and Captain Andrey decided to leave the ice edge behind and try something different. The bridge team turned the ship around and we started sailing south to the opening of Raudfjord. There we were hoping to see some fast ice in the middle of the fjord and to get a good chance to see a Polar Bear around. The sun was still high up on the sky when the day turned to end slowly. Even though there were some seals on the distant ice there were no polar bears hoping to feed on them.

Before dinner the ship was returning to the ice edge of the pack ice and Captain Andrei tried to keep the ship's bow in the direction where the wind came from. The reason was that the Crew planned an Arctic Barbecue for us on the back deck of the ship. They tried very hard, but the wind became even stronger in the evening and so the decision was made to have an inside barbecue. We enjoyed the delicious food and went to the lounge for a good drink after that sharing our experiences of the day. Still one more day in the ice ahead of us and very happy we went to bed.



© Daniel Höhne

What a day.

Day 5 – May 31, 2019

Pack Ice, Day 2

GPS Position at 8:00am: 80°04.2'N - 010°17'E

Wind: E7 **Sea State:** ice **Weather:** cloudy **Air Temp:** 0°C

On this Friday, the 31st of May we woke up around the edge of the pack ice. Our position was well above 80 degrees north and we could just barely see the mountains of Svalbard in the south. The weather was fierce, and though not optimal for cruising it gave us an idea how relentless the Arctic



wind can be. Even when the gusts blew their worst dozens of brave passengers endured the cold to keep searching for Polar Bears in the seemingly endless landscape of the pack ice. During the morning Katja gave a presentation about polar bears and after several hours of scouting over the drifting ice to the

west we turned east again and by 1500 Ali decided that we would make a try at finding wildlife around the fjords and islands at the northwest corner of Svalbard instead. A couple of hours of sailing in open water passed quickly with a presentation about Longyearbyen's rich history by Vide. Around 17.00 we entered an area called Fair Haven which is almost like a small archipelago in itself. The beautiful scenery of the Fuglesongen, Klovningen and Norskoyane islands was an ease on our eyes after a few days in the strong white highlights of the icy wastes. Captain Andrei and Expedition Leader Ali decided to set our course for Fuglefjord and the mighty Svitjod Glacier but our cruise suddenly got interrupted as our very own Dr Veronique spotted a Polar Bear walking along the coast!!! As bear encounters go this was a great one. The young male was very active and displayed beautiful behaviour as he meandered, climbed and sniffed his way in a set of old bear tracks possibly left behind by a lovely smelling female bear.

An intense photo session that lasted well over an hour ended by the bear going into the water to swim across the fjord. When bears are in the water it is our responsibility to keep them safe, so we turned the ship to leave him to continue. It was a lovely encounter for all of us and a great relief for the expedition team that had worked so hard over the previous days! This successful day



was rounded off by a lovely cruise through the passages of the northwest corner and after we passed the many glacier fronts of the Smeerenburg fjord we eventually made our way to the Smeerenburg Glacier situated in Bjørnfjorden – The Bear Fjord. A most magical Arctic evening that left all of us – guests, staff and crew alike – full of strong impressions. A night to remember.



Day 6 – June 1, 2019

Smeerenburg and Magdalenafjorden

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°43.5'N - 011°00.9'E

Wind: SW6 **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** sunny **Air Temp:** +3°C

This morning we woke up in Smeerenburgfjorden, ready to land on Amsterdamøya, an island where the historic Dutch whaling town of Smeerenburg is located. There we could see, just sticking



out of the otherwise snow-covered ground, some of the ovens that they used to melt down the whale blubber in order to produce whale oil. We walked along the beach looking for other things of interest, some going on longer walks inland. Thankfully the morning was a sunny one with views of magnificent mountains in every direction. A walrus had been seen swimming just off shore and then decided to haul himself onto an ice floe not far from the landing site and he seemed happy to lay there and rest as we

observed from both zodiacs and land.

In the afternoon the course was set towards Magdalenafjorden, another historic area with remains from the whaling period, this time mainly English whalers, but also some incredible jagged mountain scenery as well as glaciers squeezing between the peaks flowing down towards the sea. When we landed at Gravneset, the tiny peninsula in the middle of the fjord, some headed on a hike towards the Gullybreen glacier, while others hung around nearby, enjoying the surroundings



and looking for birdlife. After a little stroll the zodiacs came to pick up everyone to observe a group of walrus that had found a nice little beach to rest and digest upon. Some even caught a little whiff of the walrus...

A nice wrap-up to the day was the daily recap where as usual Ali shared the plans for the next day and Tom took us back into the time of the whalers, sharing details of how it was like to be in Svalbard some 400

years ago. The Plancius then set course South, as the midnight sun lit the way!



Day 7 – June 2, 2019

Alkhornet and Skansbukta

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°09,1'N - 012°57,8'E

Wind: SE1 **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** sunny **Air Temp:** +5°C

The morning started a bit earlier than expected when Ali announced that there were Belugas in the fjord. The lucky ones choosing to get up got a nice view of the white whales swimming around the boat. After breakfast we had a fantastic landing on Alkhornet. The mountain that more than



60,000 pairs of Brünnich's Guillemot and Kittiwakes call their home. I think all the staff agreed it was the best landings they had ever done on Alkhornet. After landing we started walking towards the mountain where we got a close up with a group of reindeer. The reindeer were standing still and grazing and did not seem to notice the group of people that approached them. Many of us also enjoyed 5 minutes of Arctic silence, and it was nearly magical just

listening to the thousands of birds around us. The silence also lured another animal out, and some of us got a very close view of an Arctic fox in summer fur. The fox was just running playfully around in the snow, and it did seem a bit surprised when it finally noticed us. At the end of the trip the bravest of us decided to really take advantage of the nice weather and go for a short swim. Crazy but brave!

After a nice lunch we continued cruising into Isfjorden (The icy fjord). In front of Borebreen we discovered a group of 40 walrus laying on the ice. When we were all staying on the decks the galley team surprised us with their special hot chocolate. I think we all very appreciate the nice warm drink with Sambucca!

We continued cruising through Isfjorden, towards Ekmannfjorden while we enjoyed the magnificent glaciers and waters so calm that we could use it as a mirror. We are starting to feel that the



trip is coming to an end when we are returning our lovely boots that have kept us dry for this last week.

Later in the evening we were invited to Captains Cocktails which was a chance to meet with our Staff Captain Ernesto Barria and share his memories of this voyage which has brought us amazing glacier fronts, polar bears, walruses, foxes, reindeers and lots and lots of birds. It brought us 30 knot winds in Forlandssundet, but mostly we had calm conditions and sun. It has been a long week, and we might not remember all that we have seen, so it was very nice that Daniel had put together a slideshow of pictures for us. So, we could really sit down and think through all that we have experienced and it have been a lot. We have shared some amazing experiences and we hope



that you take some very happy memories home with you.

Day 8 – June 3, 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:** +5°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 Bykoya in Longyearbyen, and it was time to say good-bye 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: 715 nm - Kilometres: 1345 km



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



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS



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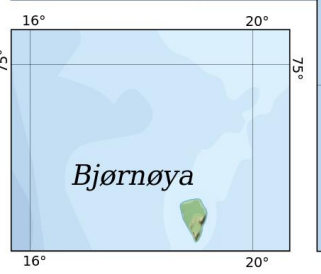
The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 30 April 2019. The photography contest runs from 01 November 2018 until 31 March 2019.

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

**Oceanwide Expeditions – PLA04 – North
Spitsbergen – 27th May to 03rd June**



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- 2 St. Jonsfjorden
- 3 Poolepynten
- 4 Ny London
- 5 14th of Julybukta
- 6 Packice
- 7 Smeerenburgfjorden
- 8 Magdalenefjorden
- 9 Alkhornet/Trygghamna
- 10 Ekmanfjorden



In Search of Polar Bears Plancius May 27 - June 02

English Name	Latin	27-May	28-May	29-May	30-May	31-May	01-Jun	02-Jun
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			X			X	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	X	X	X			X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X		X			X	X
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>				X			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		X	X			X	X
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					X		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			X		X		X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	X	X	X	X	X		
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>				X			X
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		X	X				
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	X						
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>							
Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus</i>		X	X				
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	X	X					
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		X					
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			X				
Great Black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		X			X		X

MAMMALS

English	Latin	27-May	28-May	29-May	30-May	31-May	01-Jun	02-Jun
Northern Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>				X	X	X	X
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>							
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>		X		X	X	X	X
Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>		X	X	X			
Harp Seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>							
Ringed Seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>		X		X	X		
Hooded Seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>						X	
Common /Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>						X	
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	X				X		
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X	X				X
Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X
Beluga Whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>							X

Ali Liddle — Expedition Leader



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.

Dr. Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

Vide Brandt - Expedition guide



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 land-based activities such as snowmobile tours and ice-caving trips to local glaciers, or I am at sea with various rib-tours 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.

Anything you want to know about Svalbard's history and our community – please ask me!

Daniel Höhne - Expedition Guide



A well photographed picture is more than just looking at it again and again, it is emotional and unforgettable passion and has a story behind.

Most of the past years it was more or less my hobby to get outside and take nature photos. But today it is my profession and beside working as a fulltime guide I work also 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. Today it is even more important and necessary to understand our ecosystems. For this reason, I try to take people into the wilderness, to understand why things happen in nature and what our part as humans 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 am 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 is spent in Iceland, exploring and working in unique places and feeling the strength of the old Viking land.

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 therefore 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.

Fridrik P. Fridriksson

Arctic Nature Guide / General Naturalist



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.

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 Expeditions. 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



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he 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 the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK). For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective was to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide for some national and international agencies. He works for them in different countries, creating and managing new travels, often including also remote areas such as – of course – polar regions.

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 photographic-informative book 'Polar Lights' with whom he wants to share his passion for nature photography and polar areas.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Captain Andrei Zybin

and his international crew

of 46

Including:

Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Oleksandr Lyebedyev	[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:	Helene Eide	[Norway]
Expedition Guide:	Fridrik Fridriksson	[Iceland]
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Claudio Ghiglione	[Italy]

Welcome you on board!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

27th May 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 is 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!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

28th May 2019

- 0715 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!
- 0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- 0830 Please join Ali in the lounge for mandatory briefings. This will outline our Zodiac operations on Plancius and Polar Bear safety on shore.
- 0945 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. There will be a number of hiking options; an energetic hike which will move at a faster pace and cover a longer distance, medium hiking groups which will have more time for photographs and a leisurely group who will view the glacier from a lower elevation and enjoy the coastline. We will all be on shore for the same amount of time.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first!
- 1300 Lunch is served in the dining room
- 1430 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 landing will take place in three groups in order not to cause a disturbance to the animals.
- Group 1: Deck 6, 5 and 3**
Group 2: Deck 4 Cabins 401 – 420 inclusive
Group 3: Deck 4 Cabins 421 – 429 inclusive and all passengers on Deck 2
- You will all have some time on shore to explore and spend some time with the Walrus. More details of our afternoon; the timings and the group rotation will be given at lunchtime.
- 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 in the Dining Room located on Deck 3 (behind reception). Bon appétit!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

29th May 2019

0710 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!

0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.

0830 **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 the summit 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 and Birdwatching – 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 will take the first 5 boats to shore where you will walk below the high cliffs and seabird colonies. There are often reindeer and sometime Arctic fox. 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. There is the option to just do the Zodiac cruise and then comeback to the ship.

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!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

30th May 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! Northwest of Spitzbergen 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 with luck 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 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!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

31th May 2019

All activities today are ice- and wildlife-dependent.

We will approach the ice edge at around 0600 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!

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. Depending on our success and the weather conditions we may offer a lecture presentation during the afternoon. Please listen for announcements.

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 Restaurant. Bon appétit!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

1st June 2019

0715 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!

0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.

0845 **Smeerenburg**, on Amsterdamøya. This morning we hope to take you ashore at Smeerenburg, a Dutch whaling settlement from the 17th century where we will be able to see the remains of old blubber ovens. Sometimes walrus are hauled out on the beach. Please remember to be quiet when we approach the walrus and listen to the instructions of the guides. We will offer our usual hiking options exploring the local area. All hikes are on low level terrain and each group will have time with the walrus.

Long Hike Group – please come to the gangway first.

Medium Hike Group

Medium Hike Photography Group

Leisurely walk and Birdwatching

Later we will sail down Smeerenburgfjord and plan to sail through the scenic **Sørgattet**, a narrow passage between Spitsbergen and Danskøya. We will continue to search for polar bears during our navigation.

1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room

Expedition Afternoon

Our afternoon destination and activities will depend on ice, wildlife and weather. There are a number of options available to us in the area. Please listen for announcements.

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!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

2nd June 2019

0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Good Morning!

0800 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.

~0900 **Alkhornet.** For our final landing we would like to take you ashore at Alkhornet which is a very scenic location. There is a high bird cliff above rich tundra and it is a good place to see reindeer as well as the nesting seabirds. We will offer the usual groups on shore. Long hikers please come to the gangway first.

1230 Buffet Lunch is available in the dining room.

During lunch time we will cruise into Isfjord with a planned destination of Skansbukta but we will ship cruise some of the smaller fjords and bays to see if we can find anything else of interest!

TBA **Skansbukta.** For our final landing 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 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.

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!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

3rd 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.



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

3rd June 2019

0700 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 to reception.

0845 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

0900 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.