



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

In Search of Polar Bear

June 17rd - June 24th

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:

Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	Hungary
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Oleksandr Lyebedyev	Ukraine
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	India
Sous Chef:	Ivan Ivanovic	Serbia
Ship's Physician:	Helga Schubert	Germany
Expedition Leader:	Michael Ginzburg	Germany
Asst Expedition Leader:	Florence Kuyper	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Arjen Drost	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Melissa Scott	USA
Expedition Guide:	Sandra Ophorst	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Claudio Ghiglione	Italy
Expedition Guide:	Stefanie Liller	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	John Frikke	Denmark

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – June 17, 2019

Embarkation in Longyearbyen

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

Wind: NW3 Sea State: In Port Weather: Mostly Sunny Air Temp: +6°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 anchored just beyond the pier. The Expedition Staff met us at the pier and we had the excitement of our first zodiac ride to reach the ship. Hotel manager Zsuzsanna welcomed us and the friendly Philippine crew showed us to our cabins.

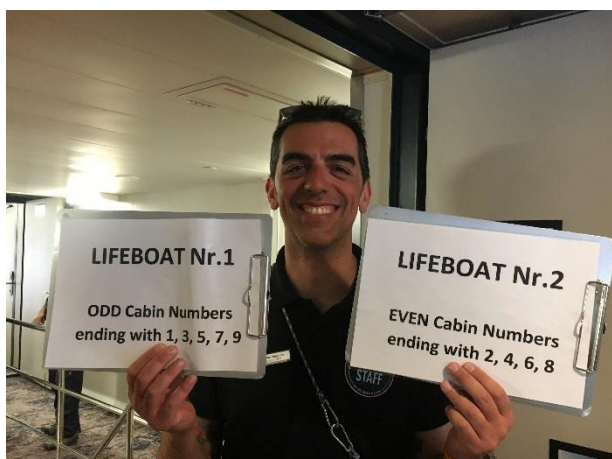
We had some time to explore the ship before we all gathered in the Lounge for an introduction to the ship and a safety briefing by first officer Miia. Then the lines were cast off and we were under way, our adventure had begun. The colourful houses of Longyearbyen grew smaller and we sailed out into 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 Captain Andrei Zybin and toasted with him and the expedition team to a successful and safe voyage. After learning about what



the team had planned for us the following morning, we went down for dinner where we enjoyed the three-course meal served by head chef Khabir.

After dinner one more thing had to be ticket 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 18, 2019

Billefjorden

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°39.4'N - 016°49.7'E

Wind: NNW 3 **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** Sunny **Air Temp:** +8°C



This sunny morning, we arrived in stunning weather conditions in Billefjorden. At the end of the fjord, in Adolfbukta, there was still some fast ice. The view of the ice and the Nordenskiöld glacier in the background was stunning.

After breakfast everybody went on to the outside decks to enjoy the views until Michael, our expedition leader called us back in for the mandatory briefings about our behaviour in the Arctic, zodiac operations and of course the polar bear.

After his briefings all went quickly outside again because belugas had been spotted. There were two big groups of in total at least a hundred beluga's swimming along the ice edge and it was fascinating to see these white



whales and to hear their blows. In the meantime, we also spotted a polar bear far away on the fast ice. Our first polar bear! By now everybody was on the outside decks to either enjoy the beluga's,



the curious seals around the ship and to try to find the polar bear on the ice.

We spent easily a couple of hours chatting, spotting, talking and sunbathing on the top deck. Only the first morning ... and already so many impressions of the high arctic!

Just before lunch we sailed out and had a quick look in another bay with ice, just in case there would be a polar bear there, and then sailed out of Billefjord. Our next destination was 4 hours away so we had

time to sit down and relax.

Early afternoon Arjen gave us a lecture about polar bears so that we can all better appreciate the king of the Arctic when we see him next time.

At about 16.00 hrs we enter Ekmanfjorden. Again, still some ice and some seals resting on the ice. It's not the best ice though and clearly summer is melting away the hunting grounds of the polar bears. The fjord is beautiful though with very nice mountains, and intriguing small islands called Flinholmen and Coraholmen.

Around 18.00 hrs we start to sail out of Ekmanfjorden and have a recap with information from Michael about our programme of tomorrow. Melissa tells us about the birds we can see in Svalbard and Arjen shows us how to identify whales.



Day 3 – June 19, 2019

14th Julibukta and Ny London

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°07.5'N - 011°50.3'E

Wind: Still Sea State: calm Weather: overcast Air Temp: +8°C



Overnight the captain brought the ship north, around Prins Karlsforland and into Krossfjord. Just after breakfast we moved into the 14th Julibukta, named by an expedition led by the Prince of Monaco after the national holiday in France. This beautiful bay has nice mountains on two sides and a glacier at the end. Here we embarked in the zodiacs and did a split landing and zodiac

cruise. One group first headed ashore and enjoyed the bird- and wildlife. Many Reindeer were seen, grazing on the lush vegetation underneath the bird cliffs and several Arctic Skuas and Glaucous Gulls were seen chasing Kittiwakes. The highlight of the landing however, were the famous hanging gardens, a patch of very lush vegetation hanging from a small cliff with many beautiful flowers. Even though many were not in bloom yet as it is quite early in the season, the tundra nicely



coloured pink from all the Moss Champion. The other half first went for a zodiac cruise close to a small bird cliff. The stars of the cruise were a few Puffins on a green rock that were posing nicely. Puffins are not very common on Spitsbergen as they prefer to dig a burrow for their nest, something that is very difficult on Spitsbergen due to the permafrost. Instead they breed on cliffs, something they don't seem to like too much, hence their low numbers. During the second cruise we also found a Bearded Seal on



© Arjen Drost



an ice floe, which also gave many nice photo opportunities. After about an hour and a half, the two groups swapped, so both got to enjoy most activities.

During lunch we headed into Kongsfjord for our afternoon landing at Blomstrandhalvøya. This landing was postponed a bit by a Minke Whale that was seen breaching next to the ship a few times. On shore we all had a look at the remains of Ernest Mansfield's Northern Exploration Company who had tried to mine for marble here

in the early 1900's. He clearly invested a lot of money, all in vein, as the marble turned out to be of very low quality so he never made any money of it. As was common in these days, he just left all his equipment behind, which now still can be seen. We split up in several different groups, who all enjoyed this place at their own place. The birders enjoyed views of Red-throated Divers and Long-tailed Ducks on the pond and saw several Purple Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones that must be breeding on the tundra and most groups had a look on



Long-tailed Skuas and Spitsbergen Ptarmigans. The hiking group gained

some extra elevation to have a better look on the scenery, while the other groups spent some more time exploring the marble mining remains.

Back on the ship it was time for our daily recap where our expedition leader Michael explained the plans for the following day: we would head to the pack ice! All were very excited, about all the nice things we saw today, but also with expectations of what was about to come.



Day 4 – June 20, 2019

Pack Ice

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°35.7'N - 010°17.0'E

Wind: S6 Sea State: ice Weather: Sunny Air Temp: +6°C



Early in the morning on the 20th of June, 2019, we started sailing in through the outskirts of the pack ice north west of Spitsbergen...the ice this year is really close to the coast-line compared the previous season. Under a cover of low clouds and in beautiful light, we kept heading north towards more dense sea ice with high hopes. The early birds spotted the first bear of the day and Michael made



the wakeup call around 06.30 that we had a Polar bear on an ice close to us. After the first spotting the bear started to move in our direction giving us a really close meeting. We spent all the morning playing and taking pictures of the amazing (male) bear.

As the day progressed, we navigated through more dense drift ice, and the animal sightings were numerous. Ivory

gulls, bearded seals, walrus and various guillemots were spotted in many directions, but one thing we saw just few minutes before the lunch time... 3 Polar bears eating a seal carcass and lying down in the ice. For this reason, the expedition staff decide to give the possibility to have a quick meal to the guests onboard in order to enjoy the Polar bears as much as possible.



After a 1 hour of observation the ice closed

us and our Captain and his bridge crew cleverly navigated the *Plancius* around the ice floes and put us in a more comfortable area.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock Stephanie gave an interesting lecture on the lounge about seals for the German speakers followed by the same lectures about seals but at this time the lecturer was Melissa. After our interesting lectures we had free time to enjoy the beautiful scenery around the ship and take some pictures before our daily recap and another nice dinner on board.

Another day at the office in the High Arctic!



Day 5 – June 21, 2019

Pack ice and Magdalenefjorden

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°42.1'N - 010°19.2'E

Wind: S4-5 **Sea State:** smooth **Weather:** cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C

After yesterday's excitement we could have a little sleep in but not too long... During breakfast our expedition leader Michael announced that we had spotted three bears on the ice!



This morning was indeed dedicated to the search of more polar bears. The pack ice had considerably changed with the southerly wind we had last night. All the ice was now pushed together. Stunning sight but it also meant that we couldn't really sail into the ice. Unfortunately, the bears we spotted were quite far away and the ice stopped us from approaching them.

We continued the morning in the ice and enjoyed looking at the stunning light and the occasional harp seals around.

Mid-morning Zsuzsanna called us out to the upper deck to celebrate summer solstice with a nice hot chocolate, even with some Sambucca for those who were really cold.

During lunch we sailed into Magdalenefjord and dropped anchor. It was rather windy but in some parts

of the Wagonwaybreen fjord the sun was shining. We dropped the zodiacs and went out for a couple of hours to enjoy the fjord, that was still a full grown glacier some hundred years ago. Right when we left the ship we saw some beluga's and later on we had some walrus in the water.





The glacier front had not calved recently since hardly any ice was present. However, the glacier was very impressive. On the way back to the ship we passed a little auk colony where hundreds of these little birds fly around like fast moving clouds.

Last but not least we passed at a walrus haul out where we had a chance to see a large group of these heavy weight creatures who were resting on land.

Back at the ship it was time for a briefing by Michael and after that a special midsummernight BBQ on the backdeck. Temperatures were Arctic, but the mood was cheerful! Another incredible day at the top of the world.



Day 6 – June 22, 2019

Lilliehöök and Tinayrebukta

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°20.8'N - 011°39.6'E

Wind: Light Sea State: smooth Weather: overcast Air Temp: +2°C



When we woke up this morning, it was overcast and raining a bit. But when the clouds lifted, we found ourselves in Lilliehøkfjord at the end of Kongsfjord close to the magnificent



Lilliehøkbreen. This stunning glacier front stretches out for 11km and forms a semi-circle at the end of the fjord. After a while, it stopped raining and the colours of the glacier stood out even better. And it got even better, as a Polar Bear was found. First she was swimming, but after a while she climbed onto an iceberg, so we could have a look with the zodiacs. Within a few minutes all zodiacs were lowered, we got dressed and the first zodiacs headed towards the bear. She wasn't

bothered by us at all and kept on licking her paws. As we didn't want to disturb the bear, we took turns having a look, but fortunately everybody could have great looks on this bear on a blue iceberg. After several rounds, we all had a short look at the glacier, mating Arctic Terns and Arctic Skuas attacking a Kittiwake. Back on the ship, the ship moved out of the fjord and into Tinayrebukta, a small side bay of





Krossfjord. Here we had a landing, where we split up again in several groups. All of us had a similar experience, with the long hikers of course gaining more height as the leisurely group. We all had a look at the flowers on the tundra, some of us saw foxes running around, scared off a pair of Pink-footed Geese from their nest, saw a Ptarmigan on nest and a fox trap



on the tundra. And all of this in the spectacular setting with Tinayrebreen at the end of the bay.

Back on the ship, it was time for dinner already, where our hotel manager Zsuzsanna gave us the opportunity to thank the hotel team that has been taking so good care for us during the past days. After dinner, quite a few people stayed up in the bar, enjoying the views of the west coast of Spitsbergen as we headed south for our activities for the last day of the trip.



Day 7 – June 23, 2019

Poolepynton and Alkhornet

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°25.6'N - 011°58.5'E

Wind: N3 **Sea State:** slight **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +8°C



After a good night's sleep dreaming about the magnificent polar bear on the glacial ice we had the privilege to observe from close yesterday, today was the day we were going to meet the other king of the Arctic, the Walrus. While we were waiting for the first group to come back to the ship Melissa told us everything we wanted to know about the Majestic sound of whales. We anchored at Poolepynten and we went ashore where we slowly approached



the Walrus haul-out site. There were two groups of Walrus on the beach and some in the water. They gave us a nice show, burping and scratching the back of their heads with their flippers. After another delightful lunch, we sailed South towards the entrance of Isfjord. Our last adventure of this expedition was a landing at Alkhornet. The weather was amazing. We were allowed to freely explore the tundra ourselves under the watchful eye of the guides who set up a perimeter. We discovered Reindeer, Foxes, numerous birds among which the very rare Grey

Phalarope and furthermore the view was absolutely stunning. At the end of the landing some of us crossed the absolute border of sanity and reason and took the opportunity to plunge into the Arctic water of Isfjord. All arrived safely back to the ship after which we had a toast with our Captain and some words of farewell by Michael. Arjan showed us a touching movie he had shot and edited himself about our first close-bear encounter. Then the call for our final diner onboard MV Plancius was made, and we celebrated a very special voyage with a fantastic final diner.



Day 8 – June 24, 2019

Back to Longyearbyen

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

Wind: Calm **Sea State:** in port **Weather:** partly sunny **Air Temp:** +4°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 Michael 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.

Remembering Svalbard

Where sunlight falls on glaciers
and mountains rise from the sea

Where fulmars glide on arctic winds
and the bearded seal plays free

Where whales bring their young to feed
and polar bears are found

Where reindeer graze on arctic plants
and walruses abound

Where waters meet the icy north
and the sun we always see

This place – it speaks in ways untold
and is where you will find me . . .

~ Melissa Scott, Expedition Staff

Total distance sailed on our voyage

Nautical miles: 660 nm - Kilometres: 1222 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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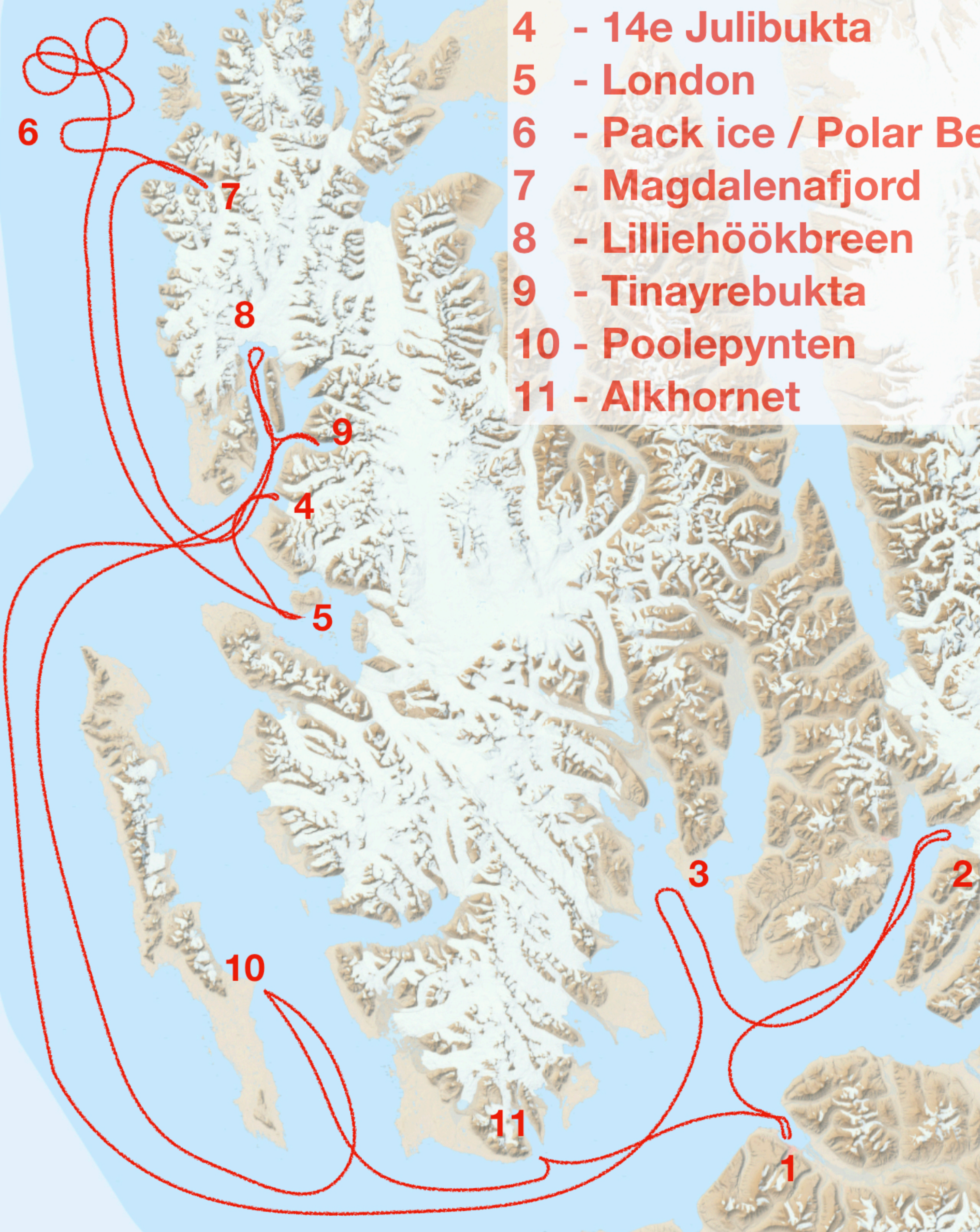
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

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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 31 October 2019. The photography contest runs from 16 May 2019 until 30 September 2019.

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

- 1 - Longyearbyen
- 2 - Billefjord
- 3 - Ekmanfjord
- 4 - 14e Julibukta
- 5 - London
- 6 - Pack ice / Polar Bears
- 7 - Magdalenafjord
- 8 - Lilliehöökbrean
- 9 - Tinayrebukta
- 10 - Poolepynten
- 11 - Alkhornet



In Search of Polar Bears Plancius June 17th - 24th

English Name	Deutsch	Scientific	17-jun	18-jun	19-jun	20-jun	21-jun	22-jun	23-jun
Red-throated Diver	Sternaucher	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			x		x	x	
Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	Kurzschnabelganz	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x
Barnacle Goose	Weisswangengans	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x
Snow Goose	Schneegans	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>							
Common Eider	Eiderente	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x
King Eider	Prachteiderente	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>							
Long-tailed Duck	Eisente	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			x				
Common Teal	Krickente	<i>Anas crecca</i>							
Sanderling	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							
Ringed Plover	Sandregenpfeifer	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							
Purple Sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	x		x			x	x
Grey Phalarope	Thorshühnchen	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>							x
Ruddy Turnstone	Steinwaelzer	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			x				
Pomarine Skua	Spatelraubmöwe	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				x			
Arctic Skua	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Skua	Falkenraubmöwe	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>			x				
Great Skua	Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		x					
Great Black-Backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	<i>Larus marinus</i>				x	x		
Glaucous Gull	Eismöwe	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	Elfenbeinmöwe	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>						x	
Sabine's Gull	Sabinenmöwe	<i>Xema sabini</i>							
Arctic Tern	Küstenseeschwalbe	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	Krabbentaucher	<i>Alle alle</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Puffin	Papegaitaucher	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	Gryllteiste	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Common Guillemot	Trottellume	<i>Uria aalge</i>							
Brunnich's Guillemot	Dickschnabellume	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ptarmigan	Alpenschneehuhn	<i>Lagopus mutus</i>			x			x	
Snow Bunting	Schneeammer	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	x		x		x	x	x

MAMMALS

English		Scientific	17-jun	18-jun	19-jun	20-jun	21-jun	22-jun	23-jun
Northern Minke Whale	Zwergwal	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>			x		x	x	
Fin Whale	Finnwal	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>							
Blue Whale	Blauwal	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>							x
Walrus	Walross	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>				x	x		x
Bearded Seal	Bartrobbe	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>		x	x	x	x		
Harp Seal	Sattelrobbe	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>		x			x		
Ringed Seal	Ringelrobbe	<i>Phoca hispida</i>		x					
Common /Harbour Seal	Seehund	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>							
Polar Bear	Eisbär	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>		x		x	x	x	
Arctic Fox	Eisfuchs	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>			x			x	x
Reindeer	Rentier	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		x	x			x	x
Humpback Whale	Buckelwal	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			x				
Beluga Whale	Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>		x	x	x			x
White Beaked Dolphin	Weisschnauzandelfin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>							

Michael Ginzburg – Expedition Leader



English: Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (Germany) at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and even turned into an addiction when he stepped on Svalbard aged 20. Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice, and ever since, he has worked on the evolution and ecology of

diatoms of the Arctic and Antarctic. Michael has studied both marine and polar biology as well as participated in over a dozen scientific expeditions with durations of up to four months.

Having travelled all seven continents, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion for nature in photography and publications. Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist throughout the world. In 2016, Michael accepted a teaching position for photojournalism as well as the position of the editor in chief for The Explorer's Magazine.

Deutsch: Mit gerade mal 17 Jahren bekam Michael die Chance an einem Forschungsprojekt des Alfred Wegener Instituts für Polar- und Meeresforschung (Bremerhaven) mitzuwirken und seitdem hat er seine Arbeit auf Eisalgen und das Meereis konzentriert. Feldarbeit bekam seine grosse Leidenschaft, nachdem er mit 20 jungen Jahren zum ersten Mal Fuß auf Spitzbergen (Svalbard) setzte. Michaels grosse Liebe für das Meereis trieb ihn dazu, Evolution und Ökologie der arktischen und antarktischen Meereisdiatomeen zu studieren und dies tut er nun schon mehr als 12 Jahre. Zwischenzeitlich nahm er an dutzenden wissenschaftlichen Expeditionen teil mit z.T. vier Monaten Länge.

Alle sieben Kontinente bereist, war es nur eine Frage der Zeit, bis Michael seine Leidenschaft für die Natur in Fotografie und Dokumentation teilte. Heute leitet Michael verschiedene Expeditionen und arbeitet als Fotojournalist rund um die Welt. In 2016 akzeptierte er eine Dozentenstelle für Fotojournalismus sowie eine Position als Chefredakteur für das Explorer's Magazine.

Florence KUYPER

Assistant Expedition Leader



Florence is a cosmopolitan with a passion for the polar regions, remote nature, deserts, history and nomadic people around the globe.

After receiving her Masters degree in Educational and Organisational Psychology in the Netherlands, Florence had a European career as a consultant-manager in the field of social affairs.

In 2004 she went for the first time to the big white desert 'Antarctica' and

her passion for this continent has drawn her back 'South' ever since. But Florence can also do extreme heat: she crossed 1,200 km of harsh Mongolian desert on foot, together with a team and her Bactrian camel. Florence lived on a British historical base on the Antarctic Peninsula "Port Lockroy" where she worked as Base Leader. She also works on sailing yachts in the Arctic and Antarctica. Florence has worked as a guide and expedition leader in both polar regions since 2013 and she looks forward to sharing her knowledge and unlimited passion for the polar regions with you.

Deutsch: Florence ist fasziniert von den polaren Regionen, abgelegenen Landschaften und Wüsten, sowie der Kultur und der Geschichte von Nomaden auf der ganzen Erde.

Nach dem Abschluß Ihres Studiums in Psychologie in den Niederlanden arbeitete Sie als Berater für soziale Angelegenheiten in Europa.

In 2004 entdeckte sie zum ersten Mal die große weiße Wüste « Antarktis » und Ihre Leidenschaft für diesen Kontinent ist seitdem nicht mehr erloschen.

Neben der Kälte kann Sie allerdings auch gut mit extremer Hitze umgehen und durchquerte 1200km mongolische Wüste zu Fuß mit Ihrem Team und Ihrem Kamel.

Florence lebte und arbeitete als Leiterin auf der Antarktischen Halbinsel in der britischen historischen Basis « Port Lockroy ». Sie besuchte die Arktis und Antarktis auf Segelschiffen und seit 2013 arbeitet Sie als Expedition Leader und Assistant Expedition Leader in beiden polare Regionen und freut sich Ihre Erfahrung, Wissen und Leidenschaft für diese einzigartige Region mit Gästen und Neugierigen zu teilen.

Arjen Drost - Expedition Guide



When Arjen arrived in Spitsbergen for the first time in 1999 as a biology student, he fell in love with the Arctic. After three summers of research on Barnacle Geese in Ny Ålesund, Spitsbergen he started guiding in small expedition cruise ships for Oceanwide Expeditions. Here he loves to share his passion for the Polar Regions with others.

Arjen was born in the Netherlands and soon started watching birds. Many hours were spent finding and watching birds in the local neighbourhood and enjoying nature. His choice to start studying biology came to no surprise for anybody. During this study he specialized in ecology, especially the interaction between herbivores and plants.

For ten years Arjen has combined guiding in the Arctic with a full-time teacher job at a secondary school in the Netherlands, where he taught biology. Now he gave up his teaching job to become a fulltime expedition guide in both

Polar Regions. In the past years his 'classroom' included Spitsbergen, Greenland, the Antarctic Peninsula, the Weddell and Ross Sea. In his spare time Arjen is a keen nature and wildlife photographer, giving photo workshops and lectures and is co-author of several Dutch books on nature photography.

Arjen speaks English, Dutch and German.

Deutsch:

Als Arjen zum ersten Mal in 1999 Spitzbergen besuchte, war er ein Biologie Student. Er sich zu diese Zeit in die Arktis verliebt. Er studierte über drei Sommer hinweg die Weisswangengans in Ny- Ålesund. Danach begann er für kleine Expeditionsfirmen zu arbeiten, als auch für Oceanwide. Als Guide auf den verschiedenen Expeditionsschiffen teilt er seine Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen.

Arjen wurde in den Niederlanden geboren und entdeckte früh sein Interesse an der Vogelwelt. Viele Stunden verbrachte er damit in seiner Nachbarschaft nach Vögeln Ausschau zu halten und sie zu bestimmen. Er liebt die Natur und so entschied er sich für ein Biologie Studium.

Für 10 Jahre verbandete Arjen das Leben als Guide in den Polar Regionen mit einer Vollzeit Stelle als Lehrer an einer niederländischen Schule. Er unterrichtete natürlich Biologie. Er hat die Stelle als Lehrer nun aufgegeben und arbeitet als Vollzeit Guide in der Arktis als auch in der Antarktis. In seine Freizeit verbringt er viel Zeit mit Natur und Tier Fotografie. Er hält Vorträge über Fotografie und schrieb auch schon mehrere Bücher in den Niederlanden über Fotografie. Er spricht Englisch, Niederländisch und Deutsch.

Melissa Scott - Expedition Guide



In 1987, Melissa moved to the mountains of Montana and never looked back. She completed her degree in Environmental Science Education and has dedicated her career to inspiring conservation through relevant, first-hand encounters with the natural world.

She is a dynamic and enthusiastic professional naturalist/guide with over 28 years of experience leading natural history and cultural trips around the globe. While she truly enjoys every region in which she guides, whether deserts or mountains or oceans, the arctic marine environment is probably top on her list.

The complexity and richness of this system is incomparable, supporting such iconic creatures as polar bear, arctic fox, bowhead, beluga and narwhal along with the vast abundance of seasonal migrants. So, whether exploring the arctic wilderness of Svalbard & eastern Greenland, the bamboo forests of China, the nursery lagoons of Baja's grey whales, or the wilds of the U.S. and Canada, you can be sure she is excited to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with you!

Deutsch

In 1987 zog Melissa in die Berge (Montana) und blickte nicht mehr zurück. Sie absolvierte ihren Abschluss in „Environmental Science Education“. Sie ist ein dynamischer und begeisterter Natu Guide. Sie hat über 28 Jahre Erfahrung in Natur Geschichte rund um die Welt. Sie genießt es in jeder Umgebung auf der Welt als Guide zu arbeiten, aber ihre Vorliebe sind die Polar Regionen. Die Komplexität dieser Regionen und die Lebensweise von Eisbären, Polarfüchsen, Grönlandwalen, Beluga Walen und Narwalen beeindrucken sie immer wieder. Sie liebt es ihr Wissen zu teilen. Ganz egal ob es dabei um Spitzbergen, Ost Grönland, Bambus Wälder in China oder um die Grauwale in Mexiko geht.

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 spend time in nature, especially in 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 quit 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 verschiedenen Expeditions-Schiffen in der Arktis. Während der Wintermonate findet man Sie auf Spitzbergen auf Skiern als auch auf Schneemobiltouren oder auf Reisen.

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 Umweltwissenschaften 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 wissenschaftlichen 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.

Stefanie Liller, Expedition Guide



Steffi Liller was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1978. After completing her apprenticeship as a biology lab technician at the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute in Langen, Germany, she earned a degree in Biology and Meteorology at the Universities of Darmstadt and Freiburg in Germany. Alongside her studies and her love of nature, Stefanie developed an interest in and a passion for skydiving. This eventually changed from being a hobby to her profession. While working at drop-zones and indoor skydiving facilities throughout central Europe, Stefanie enjoyed sharing her passion

for the sport with other people. A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria.

In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveller by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others.

Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Steffi wurde in Offenbach/Main 1978 geboren. Nach erfolgreicher Ausbildung zur Biologielaborantin am Paul-Ehrlich-Institut in Langen absolvierte sie das Studium der Biologie und Meteorologie in Darmstadt und Freiburg. Neben dem Studium und ihrer Liebe zur Natur entwickelte sie darüber hinaus eine weitere, sportliche Leidenschaft und zwar fürs Fallschirmspringen, das im Laufe der Zeit vom Hobby auch zum beruflichen Lebensmittelpunkt wurde.

Stefanie Liller arbeitete auf Fallschirmsprungplätzen und Indoor-Skydiving-Anlagen in ganz Mitteleuropa und erfreute sich besonders daran, anderen Menschen ihre Faszination für diesen Sport näherbringen zu können. So verbrachte sie einen Großteil ihrer Karriere als Coach und legte stets besonderen Wert darauf ihre eigene Leidenschaft, Neugierigen und Interessierten zugänglich zu machen. Ab 2011 war sie im Management verschiedener Indoor-Skydiving-Anlagen in Deutschland und Österreich tätig.

Neben dem beruflichen Werdegang war und ist Stefanie Liller stets begeisterte Weltreisende geblieben. Auf allen sieben Kontinenten erkundete sie Landschaften und Gebiete, meistens zu Fuß oder mit den öffentlichen Verkehrsmitteln, und erfreut sich daran, ihre Erfahrungen und einzigartigen Momente mit Interessierten zu teilen.

Seit 2017 arbeitet sie selbstständig als Coach auf Sprungplätzen und Indoor Skydiving Anlagen, sowie Lektor und Guide auf verschiedenen Schiffen in abgeschiedenen Regionen. Als Wahlheimat und Basis zwischen den Trips ist sie in Wien ansässig.

Tom van Hoof – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Dr. Helga Schubert – Medical Doctor



Helga is working as a surgeon in a hospital in Erfurt/Germany. She has a qualification in surgery and vascular surgery, emergency medicine and is a doctor for sports medicine. Despite her work in the hospital she is interested in mountaineering and polar regions.

She took place in several expeditions to high mountains all over the world, often as expedition doctor. By herself she climbed a lot of mountains over 6000 and 7000 meters high. Helga was the doctor of international expeditions to the over 8000m high mountains Shishapangma und Cho Oyu.

As a young doctor she was working in Anchorage in Alaska and she was falling in love with polar environment. In Alaska she was getting familiar with the treatment of frostbites during the season of Mount Mc Kinley climbing. A couple of years later she came back to Alaska to climb the summit of the Mount McKinley and to hike in the Brooks Range alone. She wrote a book about this adventure (“Lebenselixier Berg”

books on demand 2011).

At Antarctica Helga was working as Medical Doctor and Expedition Leader at die German Neumayer Base/Ekström Shelf Ice for 16 months.

Despite the polar regions she is also interested in culture, people and landscapes of foreign countries. Altogether she visited around 100 countries of the world, sometimes by bicycle. Helga crossed Europa from the Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean Sea by bicycle.

In the past she also worked in a Hospital of the Malteser in Iraq.

Helga arbeitet in einem Krankenhaus in Deutschland. Sie ist Chirurgin, Gefaesschirurgin, Notfallmedizinerin und Sportaerztin.

Neben ihrer Arbeit als Aerztin interessiert sie sich fuers Bergsteigen und fuer polare Regionen.

Sie hat an mehreren Expeditionen zu hohen Bergen weltweit teilgenommen, oft als Expeditionsaerztin. Bestiegen hat sie die Gipfel von mehreren ueber 6000 und 7000m hohen Bergen. Sie war die begleitende Aerztin auf internationalen Expeditionen zu den 8000ern Shishapangma und Cho Oyu.

Als junge Aerztin arbeitete sie in Anchorage in Alaska und verliebte sich in die polaren Regionen. In Alaska hatte sie mit der Behandlung von Erfrierungen waehrend der Mount McKinley - Saison zu tun. Jahre spaeter kam sie zurueck nach Alaska, um den Mount McKinley selber zu besteigen und die Brooks Range zu bewandern. Sie schrieb ueber dieses Abenteuer ein Buch (Lebenselixier Berg – books on demand 2011).

In der Antarktis arbeitete Helga als Aerztin und Expeditionsleiterin auf der deutschen Forschungsstation “Neumayer” auf dem Ekstroem – Schelfeis 16 Monate lang.

Abgesehen von den Polarregionen interessiert sie sich auch fuer die Kultur, die Menschen und die Landschaften fremder Laender. Sie hat inzwischen etwa 100 Laender bereist, manchmal mit dem Fahrrad. So durchquerte sie Europa vom Antlantik bis zum Schwarzen Meer.

Ausserdem war Helga laengere Zeit in einem Malteser – Krankenhaus im Irak taetig.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

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:	Helga Schubert	Germany
Expedition Leader:	Michael Ginzburg	Germany
Asst Expedition Leader:	Florence Kuyper	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Arjen Drost	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Melissa Scott	USA
Expedition Guide:	Sandra Ophorst	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Claudio Ghiglione	Italy
Expedition Guide:	Stefanie Liller	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	John Frikke	Denmark

Welcome you on board!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

17th 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 **Michael Ginzburg** 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.

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.

~1830 Plancius will leave Longyearbyen. Enjoy the views from the outside decks.

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!

18th June 2019 - Isfjord

- 0700 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- 0830 Please join Michael in the lounge for **mandatory** briefings. This will outline our Zodiac operations on Plancius and Polar Bear safety on shore.

Expedition Morning in Billefjord

- ~0945 **Billefjord.** This fjord has some interesting geology and birdlife on the islets at the entrance of the fjord. The scenery is spectacular. We will sail in early morning to enjoy all that and also look for big mammals in the sea or on land. Please join us and be prepared for any activity in case we can go off the ship for nice observations

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

- 12.30 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room

~1400 Expedition Afternoon in Ekmanfjord

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.

- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Michael 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!

19th June 2019

0700 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!

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

~0845 **14 Julibukta.** For the morning 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 will walk towards the hanging gardens 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.

The groups will then swap so that all of you can explore this beautiful place from land and sea.

German speaking guests are welcome to come to the gangway first.

1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room

~1400 **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 afternoon 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. *Long hikers please come to the gangway first*

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 Birders' 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.

1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Michael 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!

20th June 2019

All activities today are ice- and wildlife-dependent.

0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. 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. We will get to the ice even before the wakeup call so don't hesitate to go out on deck as soon as you wake up.

Being in the ice and manoeuvring close to the edge of the pack ice is a brilliant experience in itself, so enjoy this morning!

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, like whales, polar bears and seals. We will also look for seabirds, and maybe we even see the Ivory gull.

15.00 Vortrag auf Deutsch in der Lounge: „Robben“ von Steffi

16.15 Lecture in English in the Lounge : „Northern seals“ by Melissa

1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Michael 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 appétit!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears! 21th June 2019 – summer solstice

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0800 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Ice cruising.** After having spent a great day in the ice, we now know that there are polar bears roaming around. Therefore, we would like to optimize our chances and spend one more morning in the ice in the hope to find more bears and wildlife. Come and join us on the outside decks.
Of course, this program is dependent on the ice and wind conditions.
- 1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room
- 1400 **Magdalenafjord.** We plan to spend the afternoon in this very scenic fjord which has a number of glaciers feeding down into it and is surrounded by steep pointed mountains.
We will **zodiac cruise** to view one of the stunning glaciers in Magdalenafjord, the Waggonwaybreen.
- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Michael will outline our plans for the coming days and there will be some stories from staff!
- 1900 A very special **Arctic Summer Solstice Dinner** is waiting for you on the backdeck. Please dress up warmly and don't forget to put on your dancing shoes. You reach the backdeck through the door in the back of the Restaurant. Bon appétit!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

22th June 2019

- 0715 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!
- 0730 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- 0845 **Lilliehöökreen.** We will sail towards the glacier at the head of the fjord. The face of the majestic Lilliehöökreen glacier is around 11 km in length and curves around the end of the fjord. We will cruise along the face of the glacier to enjoy the spectacular scenery. Keep a look out for seals on the ice near the glacier
- 1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room
- 1415 **Ossian Sars.** During lunch we will sail towards this very scenic island that has been declared a nature reserve. Depending on the conditions we will try to land and walk to a birdcliff and see foxes, reindeer and lots of birds.
- 1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge for our Re-cap. Michael 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!

23th June 2019

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

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

This morning 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.

0830 **German Speaking Guests:** We will embark you in the zodiacs to go ashore.

1000 **English Speaking Guests:** Be ready at the gangway to be taken to land.

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

1200 Buffet Lunch is available in the dining room.

~1400 **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 as usual different hikes on shore.

1800 Captain's Cocktails. We will meet with our Captain to toast the success of the voyage and Michael will outline the procedure for disembarkation.

1830 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!



DAILY PROGRAM

In Search of Polar Bears!

24th 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 **during, or at the latest immediately after dinner.**

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 3.

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!

24th June 2019

0715 Your final Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Michael. Good Morning!

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

Before 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.

0830 Please make your way to the Gangway on Deck 3 and identify your luggage on the pier.

There will be a luggage truck at the pier.

0900 The bus will take you up to town, where you can spend some last moments before leaving for the airport.

13:00 Your bus transfer from town (Svalbard Butikken) to the airport will leave for those on **Flight SK4425 departing Longyearbyen at 14:45**

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.