



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Around Spitsbergen
3rd of Juli – 12rd of Juli 2019
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.



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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: **Birgit Lutz** Germany

Asst Expedition Leader: **Michelle van Dijk** The Netherlands

Expedition Guide: **Arjen Drost** The Netherlands

Expedition Guide: **Irene Kastner** Spitsbergen

Expedition Guide: **Henry Pal Wulff** Germany/Iceland

Expedition Guide: **Eduardo Rubio** Guatemala

Expedition Guide: **Tanya Bayer** Germany

Expedition Guide: **Jochem Braakhekke** The Netherlands

all welcome you on board!

Day 1 – July 3, 2019

Embarkation in Longyearbyen

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°14'N - 015°37'E

Wind: SE 5-6 **Sea State:** slight **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +8°C



The trip started at the harbour of famous Longyearbyen. The Plancius is welcoming us alongside at the pier, with mild arctic weather, slight wind and some waves greeting the passengers between 16 and 17 o'clock. Staff and crew got excited to start this trip to experience Spitsbergen and to inspect the sea ice conditions. Excited were also the passengers as they try to find, lose and again find their cabin locations and their luggage and make themselves familiar with the ship. Zsuzsanna, our hotel manager and pleasantly shining as always, starts with a small introduction about life on board and after some mandatory safety information and a safety drill we set sail at 18:35, heading out towards the open sea over Isfjorden.

At 19:00, the Captain welcomes us in the lounge with a drink and our Expedition Leader Birgit introduces herself, before the rest of the team follows her example. Birgit then shows us the actual ice charts, with a lot of red colouration in Hinlopen Street and Wijdefjord, meaning there is dense sea ice to be found there. She points out that flexibility is key and that the occurrence of sea ice is the prime example of how things simply go in the Arctic.

By now, all passengers are looking forward to dinner in the dining room, before collecting their rubber boots. As dessert, our whale spotters report a blue whale, humpback whale and a minky whale. What a start, full of wildlife!



Day 2 – July 4, 2019

Lilliehöökbreen and Ny-Ålesund

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°56.2'N - 011°55.2'E

Wind: var 0-1 **Sea State:** smooth **Weather:** partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +7°C

Our first stop during this trip was planned at the scientific settlement of Ny-Ålesund, which used to be the world's most northern coal mining village during its heydays. To get there from Longyearbyen we sailed along the west coast of Prins Karls Forland Island and early morning we finally entered the Kongsfjord (Fjord of the Kings) and the clear and blue skies gave us the chance to contemplate the three famous peaks of Svea, Dana and Norska which appeared unmistakably on the horizon.



We dropped anchor and launched the zodiacs aiming to undertake the first activity of the trip. Our visit was organized in such a way that the passengers had some free time to roam around the settlement. Despite the human presence at the settlement, there are plenty of chances of spotting wildlife and we managed to spot a lone Svalbard Reindeer, a dashing polar fox, barnacle gees, an ivory gull, lots of Antarctic terns and a few snow buntings.

Around 10:30 the souvenir shop opened its doors and our guests had the chance to buy some souvenirs, as well as the chance to send some postcards to their beloved ones. Later on, at 11:00, most of the passengers gathered around the monument that depicts the bust of Roald Amundsen (1872-1928), the most celebrated Norwegian explorer.

At this monument, Arjen told the story of Amundsen who first navigated the Northwest Passage (1903-1906), first reached the South Pole in 1911 and returning safely, thereby handing out the spare food rations to his crew. Later he organized a few expeditions aiming to reach the North Pole by plane, and together with Lincoln Ellsworth and Umberto Nobile he made the first Transpolar flight in 1926 using an airship, the Norge. After this flight, Amundsen lost his life while trying to help his colleague Nobile who was declared missing in the vicinity of the pole in 1928. After this wonderful talk we walked together towards the very mast from which the Norge expedition took off, and also from where later, the Italia expedition took off as well.

During our visit we could also see various of the research stations deployed at the settlement. Among these research stations there is for example the antennas from NASA, which are used

for tracking satellites as well as to acquire telemetry data from current space missions on board the International Space Station. Other instruments constantly measure the quality of the air and its content, the behaviour and population of wild animals as well as the characterization of the marine species in the fjord.

We finish our stay in Ny-Ålesund with the last zodiac leaving the pier back to the ship at around 12:30. In the afternoon, we proceeded towards the Lilliehöökfjord. This area offers various biological and historical highlights, splendid scenery and is well protected.

It is at the end of Lilliehöökfjord where we find Lilliehöökbrean, a massive glacier with a calving front rising up to 60-70 m height. The glacier and the fjord are both named after the Swedish Commander Gustaf Bertil Lillienhök, who was a member of the Swedish Spitsbergen expedition of 1861. As we sailed into the fjord, we stopped the engines and dropped anchor at a safe distance from the glacier front.



From this point, we could hear and see many growlers calving and making incredible sounds. At 15:00 we dropped the zodiacs in the water and we started our zodiac cruise. We were 10 zodiacs driven by 8 guides and 2 crew members. During our cruise, we had the opportunity to see many massive chunks of ice calving, producing a disturbance in the water that could be perceived from up to 500 m away. During the cruise we enjoyed of warm and sunny weather and we could navigate through the ice smooth and swiftly. We returned to the Plancius at 18:00 to have our daily recap and to enjoy of a good dinner. Overnight we repositioned the ship from Lilliehöökbrean towards Magdalenafjord, the place where we would do our next activities.

Day 3 – July 5, 2019

Magdalenefjorden and a first polar bear

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°33.3'N - 011°08.6'E

Wind: 2 **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** cloudy / sunny **Air Temp:** +6°C

This morning, the sea was flat like a mirror. We sailed into Magdalenefjorden in the calmest possible weather. Some seals showed up while we were slowly floating into our anchoring position. Our Expedition Leader, Birgit wakes us up with her calm voice and the smell of toasted bread and fresh coffee signals us the start of the breakfast.

After breakfast, the crew is getting the Zodiacs ready. We are excited about what to see and what to expect. A short visit to the outside deck shows us how warm the Arctic sun can get,

so we dress up in not too many layers for the announced shore activities. We board the first Zodiac and head towards the land close to Alkekongen to go ashore. Our first proper landing brings us to a rocky beach with some slippery stones in the water, but the expedition team manages to get all of us ashore with dry feet.



Arjen welcomes us with a short story about that place. In the 70ies, a group of Austrians were circumnavigating Spitsbergen by kajak and were looking for shelter in that particular bay to set up camp for their overnight stay. They secured their camp against polar bears with a trip wire, that shoots loud explosives into the air to scare the bears away in case they step into the wire. However, one member of the group needed to go for the toilet that night and left the camp. He even managed to step over the trip wire – not the easiest task if you`re half asleep – and started looking for a place behind a rock. Unfortunately, that place was already taken by a polar bear that eventually killed the man. His screaming woke up the camp and when everybody went out of their tents the bear had taken the dead body towards the sea to secure his prey so the now-widdow took her video camera to record the last bits of her husband. Later the Governor of Svalbard – Sysselmannen – confiscated the tape to investigate the case. A cross, situated not far from the beach, pays tribute to that incident.

That story in mind, we divided into three groups to explore the surroundings. Birgit and Henry took their group on a longer hike up into the valley towards Alkebreen. The trail led us through some rocky passages but also some very nice moss patches. Arctic mouse-ear and Purple saxifrage flanked our path and sprinkled some colours along our way. While walking, a single reindeer showed up, coming out of the valley heading down to the shore. Getting a glimpse on that beautiful peaceful animal got us into awe. On our way back to the beach we spotted two more reindeers, that curiously strolled around the front of our group.

Down at the beach, two harbour seals came into the bay to get a curious look onto the visitors in their habitat. Even the starting Zodiac-shuttle back to the ship didn`t annoy them so they played around in the bay a while and we could get some nice pictures of them.

Being back on board, the restaurant crew welcomed us with an amazing lunch buffet to recharge our batteries from our morning landing and to prepare for some more adventures in the afternoon. During lunch time we sailed through the mesmerizing Sjørgattet Strait into the Smeerenburgfjorden. While some amazing glacier fronts calve into the east side of the fjord, almost the entire west side was covered with fast ice reaching from the shore of Danskøya wide into the fjord. The bird watchers on board had some good time



with a couple of Brunnich Guillemots until Steve discovered a polar bear. It took us a while to see, what Steve found out on the ice, but eventually we got close enough to get a good view. Our first encounter with the white fluffy king of the Arctic! The excitement on deck was sensible and the clicks of the camera shutters was amazing. Every move of this lazy fluffy bear was appreciated by us. Arjen even managed to film some bits and pieces of this bear, just to introduce this nice specimen in an amazing recap. We stayed the whole afternoon with the bear, just changed the ships position a bit to get a better view.

Straight before dinner, the expedition team waited for us with another recap, were Birgit gave us an outlook for the upcoming days and presented the most recent ice chart. Henry gave us a short introduction into glaciers while Jochem presented his glacier awareness project "Recogn.ice". The recap highlight indeed was Arjen`s presentation of today`s polar bear. He explained why he thought it might have been a female bear in quite a good shape and showed us stunning footage of her that he filmed earlier today. Given the fact, that it`s Arjen`s birthday today, this seems to be an amazing birthday present.

Watching out for wildlife can be quite exhausting, so we followed Suzanna`s invitation for dinner without hesitation and enjoyed the amazing creation of Khabir and his kitchen crew.

Day 4 – July 6, 2019

Pack ice

GPS Position at 8:00am: 80°06'N - 009°51'E

Wind: var 0-1 **Sea State:** smooth **Weather:** partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +8°C

"Good morning, good morning, dear guests. Today is 6th July..." When we were woken by our expedition leader Birgit this morning, our world had changed. The weather was still very good, with bright sunshine, but the open sea was now covered in large floes of sea ice. What a sight to wake up to! Already before breakfast a Bearded Seal was found on the ice showing

nicely. After breakfast a much smaller seal was found on a piece of ice and the captain managed to bring Plancius really close to this seal. Many pictures were taken and the guides were a bit puzzled by its appearance. On closer inspection it turned out to be a young Hooded Seal, a species that is quite rare in Spitsbergen waters. Throughout the day, we kept sailing through the ice, searching for wildlife, but above all enjoying this magical white world. There was hardly any wind and the sun kept shining for most of the day and many of us spent a lot of time on the outside decks watching this spectacular high Arctic scenery in gorgeous sunlight. The sea ice we saw around us was largely heavy multiyear ice that had drifted down from the pole as the local ice didn't form until late in the winter. Normally this would block this ice from coming down, but now there was just open water until late in the season. This heavy ice was difficult for the ship to manoeuvre in. Also spotting Polar Bears was more difficult, as multiyear ice often has many floes with algae on it, which can at a distance look remarkably similar to Polar Bears. Meanwhile, the captain had brought the ship well above the 80°N, a first of the season for the ship.



After lunch several Bearded Seals were found on the ice, though most of them quite far away. The Ivory Gull flying around the ship for a short while was a clear highlight for the birdwatchers on board. A little later Michelle and Arjen gave a lecture about Polar Bears and after that the bar opened with a Happy Hour, which attracted many of us to the lounge. We now went a little out of the ice, so we could cover some more distance in order to make it to our next day's destination.

As it was clear that the ice was starting to break up in the north, Birgit had changed plan C to plan D and we were now going to have a look what would be possible for us to do in Hinlopenstretet, something that would have been impossible only a few days ago. Later in the evening, we were called outside again for two Walruses hauled out on the ice. Unfortunately, they didn't like our presence too much and went into the water. At the horizon the small island of Moffen was visible. Some of us stayed out late, making the most of this spectacular day, where others decided to go to bed a bit early and get some more sleep before tomorrow's early wake up call.

Day 5 – July 7, 2019

Crozierpynten and Kinnvika – research sites on both sides of Hinlopenstredet

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°55.4'N - 016°48.7'E

Wind: var 0-1 **Sea State:** smooth **Weather:** partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +4°C

Hinlopen or not Hinlopen -that was the question we all were pondering about when we woke up. Were the ice charts we had studied yesterday still giving an accurate description of the actual conditions in the Northern part of the strait? Would it be possible to sneak past the drift ice and explore the land behind?

Indeed it was and after an early breakfast we found ourselves in Sorgfjorden in the northwestern part of Hinlopen. After a whole day on the ship we were looking forward to stretching our legs a bit and got organized in three groups. Those who were just happy putting their feet on land again stayed around the landing site at Crozierpynten. Within a short distance, polar bear poo was found as well as impressive amounts of garbage. Both



were collected instantly. The poo was to be forwarded to a Dutch research project. Trawls, shoes, strings and more rubbish of uncertain origin went straight into the garbage bags that our guides had brought along. This was to be shipped back to Longyearbyen for proper discharge.

Those who were up for a walk with opportunities to take pictures set out for a stroll around the lagoon followed by a little hike up the hill for a nice view on the remains of the Swedish-Russian Arc-de-Meridian Expedition. The remaining group was quite large and obviously keen on some exercise. Thus, the long round covered quite some distance, forcing their way over driftwood, snow patches and meltwater creeks towards the plains behind the landing site. Here, characteristic features of permafrost soil structures such as stone rings and frost ditches were found. From a distance we were able to observe some reindeer that were busy searching this barren landscape for something eatable. Obviously successful, as they went on with their heads bent towards the lichen and moss sticking out between the stones.

Back on the ship, the lunch buffet was already waiting for us, and while we did not have any struggles finding something nourishing and tasty here, Plancius made way towards the Eastern shores of Hinlopenstredet, carefully avoiding the patches of drifting ice floating by.



Again, we were lucky as our team found a landing spot free from ice. Suddenly, we had reached the Svalbard Archipelago's biggest island: Nordaustlandet! Here, the landscape seemed almost moon-like. A polar desert in soft shades of rosé which still showed a remarkable selection of lichen and some flowers. The beach group set out to explore the soft slopes around the landing site whereas the remaining two groups headed for Kinnvika to have a look at a former research station built

in 1957/58 by Swedish and Finnish geophysicists. The station is now abandoned but the buildings are still occasionally in use during field work projects and as rescue shelters. Thus, they were in good shape and we were able to stroll around between them while our guides kept their eyes on the surroundings looking for curious bears.

Back on the ship, dinner was served before the daily recap, and those who were not yet too tired spent the rest of the evening in the lounge for a nightcap, enjoying the view as Plancius proceeded further into Hinlopen.

Day 6 – July 8, 2019

Ship cruise Lomfjorden & Zodiac Cruise Alkefjellet

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°37.6'N - 018°30'E

Wind: var 0-1 **Sea State:** slight **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C

The plan for today was a Zodiac Cruise at Alkefjellet in the morning. However, when we looked out of the window in the early morning, there was only water and fog to see. Hence, we changed plans and made our way to our second destination for the landing in the afternoon - Faksevagen. At Faksevagen we dropped the anker and waited for the fog to disappear. Unfortunately, that did not happen. Change of plans - back to Lomfjorden to sail deep into the fjord. Here we found some fast ice with a lot of seals lying on the ice. This seemed to be a perfect hunting place for a polar bear. Nearly everybody had his binoculars at his eyes and tried to spot a polar bear. We found an ivory gull, hundreds of Brunnich's Guillemots, Arctic terns, Arctic skuas and nice rock formations. But no polar bear appeared.



As we arranged with “Hondius” that we share the booking of Alkefjellet in the afternoon, we made our way out of the Lomfjorden again. As we had enough time, we wanted to check with our own eyes, that it is not possible to go through the Hinlopenstrait. But the 2 days old ice charts (they are not updated over the weekends) were still right in this case. After about 2 miles a large ice barrier stopped us and as we looked back, we could see the Alkefjellet and the „Hondius“ in front of it.

We could also spot the Swedish ship “Freya” and they reported to us a polar bear climbing in the cliffs that was now probably swimming in the water. Our second officer Yaroslav spotted the polar bear and after a swim of about 300m he climbed out on an ice float and headed to the island of Tommelenøya in front of Tommelpynten. Then he started to climb up the cliffs on Tommelenøya. About 1 hour we could watch the bear going up and down the cliffs, looking for bird eggs, before he disappeared to the other side of the island.

We then had a short cargo meeting with a zodiac from Hondius. We exchanged meat and fruit and also some spare parts. Then we moved on to Alkefjellet and started our zodiac cruise at 4:45 p.m. We started at the glacier with the beautiful black (dolerite) and white rocks (limestone) above and below it. More than 60 000 breeding pairs of Brunich’s Guillemots and the fantastic rock formations and towers of the cliff were fantastic. We spotted a Glaucous gull feeding on a guillemot and also an arctic fox running around with an egg in his mouth. Lots of Kittiwakes and also some barnacle geese were to be seen. At the end we had a look at 3 small waterfalls, coming down from the icecap Odinjøkull.



Back on board, dinner was waiting. At the recap after dinner we saw a lot of happy faces. Sometimes plan „C“ turns out to be the best :-))))!



Day 7 – July 9, 2019

Liefdefjord & Worsleyhamna

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°38.7'N - 013°35'E

Wind: var 0-1 **Sea State:** smooth **Weather:** partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +9°C

We sailed overnight, aiming to enter the famous region where Woodfjord and Liefdefjord are located. Our original plan was to visit one of the most famous cabins of the area named "Texas Bar", a cabin that is not a bar and that is not related whatsoever to the American state of Texas. Anyhow, our original plans were thwarted by the weather conditions, because at the landing site, we encountered winds gusting up to 40 knots.

Consequently, we changed our plans and decided then to explore the ice flows floating along other regions in the fjord, aiming to find a more secluded place to undertake a landing. This was very early in the morning just before breakfast. However, there was a lot of fast ice floating in this fjord system and to our surprise, we had the chance to find a very sleepy polar bear resting on top of the ice. Hence, our expedition team devised a plan to have



a better view of this animal. While our officers kept a watchful eye on the Bear, the expedition team proceed to launch the zodiacs immediately after breakfast, and soon, all our guests guided by the expedition team formed an armada of zodiacs.

We approached the ice floe and started to look for a good angle to have a better view of the bear. We managed to find a few suitable spots around the ice flow, and our patience was rewarded with many good pictures. The specimen we saw was probably a young male which was not very active due to the intense heat that prevails over the day. We had also the chance to discover a sleeping seal floating in the ice which was probably a ringed seal.

In total, we spend about 3 hours in the zodiacs, and we came back to the ship around 12:00 to enjoy a good meal.

After lunch, our original plan, was to make a zodiac cruise along Monacobreen, a very scenic glacier located at the end of Liefdefjord. This is one of the most visited glaciers in the northern side of Spitsbergen. However, the thick and dense fast ice thwarted again our intentions and for the second time today, we had to change our original plans. We then decided to visit another small hut named "Villa Oxford", located in Worsleyhamna. Worsleyhamna is a natural little harbor located on the eastern side of Reindsdyrflya, on the northern coast of Liefdefjorden and is named after Commander Frank Arthur Worsley (1872-1943) who was a British naval officer, born in New Zealand who was the leader of a British Expedition to



Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land in 1925. (Curiously, Frank Worsley was also the captain of the Endurance, Ernst Shackleton's famous ship stranded in Antarctica). To reach the beach we had to make a relatively long zodiac ride, since the waters surrounding the area, are relatively shallow, and our vessel could not come closer to shore. Here we found a cabin, named "Oxford Villa", and the remains of a World War Two German weather station named "Kreuzritter".

This station had a tragic incident in which the station's leader died while handling explosives. We could see the grave of the German officer as well as some scattered pieces of wood that belonged to the station. The hut named "Villa Oxford" was built by Hilmar Nøis, the famous trapper who build other cabins elsewhere in Spitsbergen. It is worth to notice that from this position the British aviator, George Binney made flights to undertake the first aerial photography over some parts of Nordaustland.

At this position we could also appreciate the Reinsdyrflya, a long ridge on which it is possible to appreciate many Svalbard reindeers walking in the distance. Three groups were organized, those undertaking a long, a medium and a short walk. Each group had the chance to have a closer look at some of the fauna such as Svalbard Reindeers, a couple of Red Throated Divers and Common Eiders. It is worth to notice that a couple of the reindeers were old males displaying well developed antlers.



At the end of the landing, we went back to the ship where the crew prepared our dinner in the aft deck which this time was a delicious BBQ with drinks. All our guests very much enjoyed this dinner outside, thanks to the delicious meal as well as thanks to the wonderful weather we enjoyed.

Day 8 – July 10, 2019

Alicehamna & foggy sailing

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°52'N - 011°56'E

Wind: NNW 2 **Sea State:** slight **Weather:** fair **Air Temp:** +6°C



“The last day of the trip where you can do some exercise!” We woke up within the beautiful setting of Raudfjord, with ocean terminating glaciers all around us and the fog shining a bright white light from the southern end of the fjord. Who wasn't fully awake after Birgit her wake up call yet, might have been as surprised as Birgit herself to hear a trumpet sound through the speakers, producing the melody that's commonly sung on birthdays. It was our Eduardo, gifting his serenade to “Birthday Birgit” and thereby to all of us.

Luckily, the tears of joy from Birgit, nor the fog could keep us from our designated plan to land at Alicehamna, where the bodily exercise was meant to take place. A total of 20 people signed up to join the long hike today, whereas the other passengers split up to do smaller hikes closer to the shore. The long hike turned out to be a proper mountain climbing expedition, with Solanderfjellet and its 334 meters of elevation above sea level as the absolute summit. Three hundred and thirty-four meters, with many snow fields and a rocky crest to the summit. Our passengers could take off layer after layer of clothing, because this

day, as most of the other days this voyage, brought us brilliant arctic summer weather. Besides that, the snow regularly surrendered to our footsteps and getting yourself out of the knee-deep footsteps is a warming challenge itself.

Regular picture- and undressing-breaks kept everybody happy and fit, as did the beautiful pair of Rock Ptarmigans we passed by. With the help of Irene and Jochem, all 20 'long-hikers' made it to the summit and, more importantly, down to the shore. The way back



allowed for sliding and running through the snow fields, which resulted in an impressive time of 1 hour and 5 minutes for our way back. The way up had taken us a little bit over 1.5 hours, which is even more impressive. Well done group!

This might have been the day where we deserved our lunch the most, which, as always, tasted fabulous. Since the afternoon was fully booked for sailing, the staff fully booked the lounge and the dining room for lectures. Michelle, Henry and Irene all gave full lectures in German and in English, whereas Arjen, Eduardo and once again, Irene, gave recaps as well. Birgit and Zsuzsanna took hold of the microphone to ask for the more than deserved applause and cheering to our crew, our laundry team, the house keepers and the kitchen team! What a magical trip and how quick the days fly by!

Day 9 – July 11, 2019

Poolepynten & Trygghamna

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°26'N - 011°55'E

Wind: W 2-3 **Sea State:** slight **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +7°C

This morning we had a very early start as we were woken by Birgit already at 6:30. It was overcast and a bit foggy, but we were close to Poolepynten and it looked like there were Walruses on the beach. We were divided in three different groups and after breakfast we went ashore. Each group spent about an hour on shore looking at the Walruses. There were around 40 Walruses hauled out on the sandy beach next to a small cabin.



Most of them were just sleeping and none seemed bothered by the presence of our little group. A few animals were in the water playing around, scratching their backs or diving to get some food. Occasionally one decided to head into the water, or crawl onto the land. It was really nice to spend some time just watching these high Arctic creatures doing what they seem to do best: laying on the beach.

Towards the end, a few large blows were seen behind the Walruses. It turned out a Fin and a Blue Whale were feeding in the distance. Even as they didn't come close, it was still nice to see the huge blows and occasionally the backs out of the water.

Back on the ship it was time for lunch, while our captain brought the Plancius back into Isfjord and into the small bay of Trygghamna. Here we went ashore for our last landing. Just behind our landing beach, there was a small lagoon with a large glacier behind. Here we split up in two groups, one who was heading towards the lagoon and play with the small icebergs in the lagoon. The other one would walk a little further and play with the ice in the large glacier. As the glacier was calm, it was possible to walk a little up the glacier and enjoy the views from there. Back at the lagoon, many Christmas card pictures were shot of people sitting on icebergs. When everybody had returned, it was time for the Polar Plunge. Few people were crazy enough to get into their swimsuits and jump into the water. Jumping out of the freezing water was even quicker of course... On the way back to the landing site an accident



happened. One of the guides, Tanja, fell over a rock and broke her ankle. Quickly she was transported back to the ship and helped by our doctor Veronique. When she walked back into the dining room, she got a big round of applause from all of us as a sign of support. Before dinner, we had our final recap where Birgit thanked all who worked onboard to make this trip successful and had a look at all the things we had done.

The evening was spent packing and with a last drink in the bar to say farewell to the new friends we made. Some of us were already leaving the ship at midnight for a very early flight, while others still had a last night on the ship.

Day 10 – July 12, 2019

Back at home port Longyearbyen

GPS Position at 8:00am: 78°14'N - 015°37'E

Wind: NW 3 **Sea State:** In Port **Weather:** partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +6°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 Birgit 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.

Most northern position:

80° 15.4'N - 010° 48.3'E

Total distance sailed on our voyage

Nautical miles: 877 nm – Kilometres: 1624 km

Upon request, here the address for the ice chart:

www.polarview.met.no/regs

And, the address for Recogn.ice, Jochem's glacier awareness project

www.recognice.org



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



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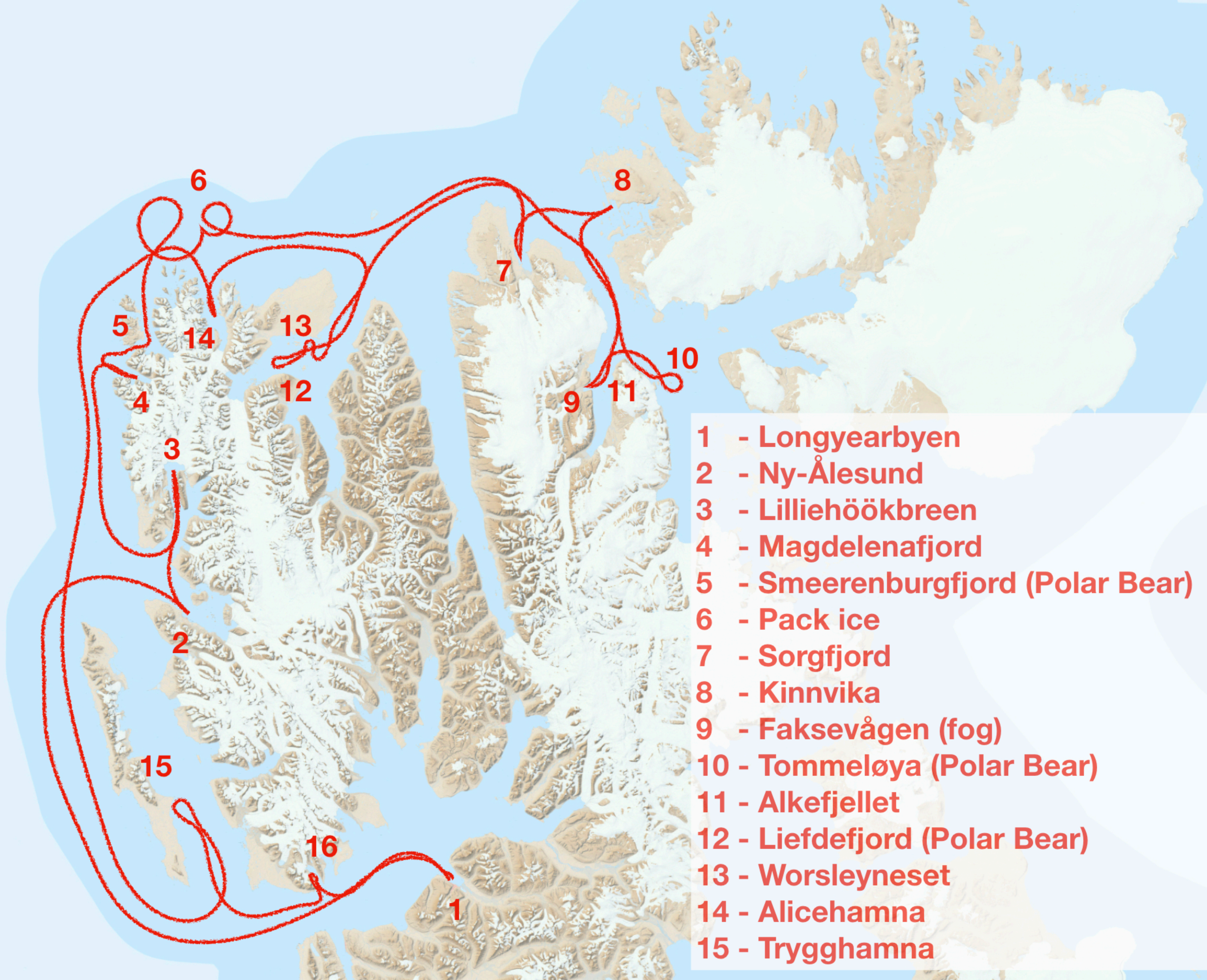
for Oceanwide Expeditions

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

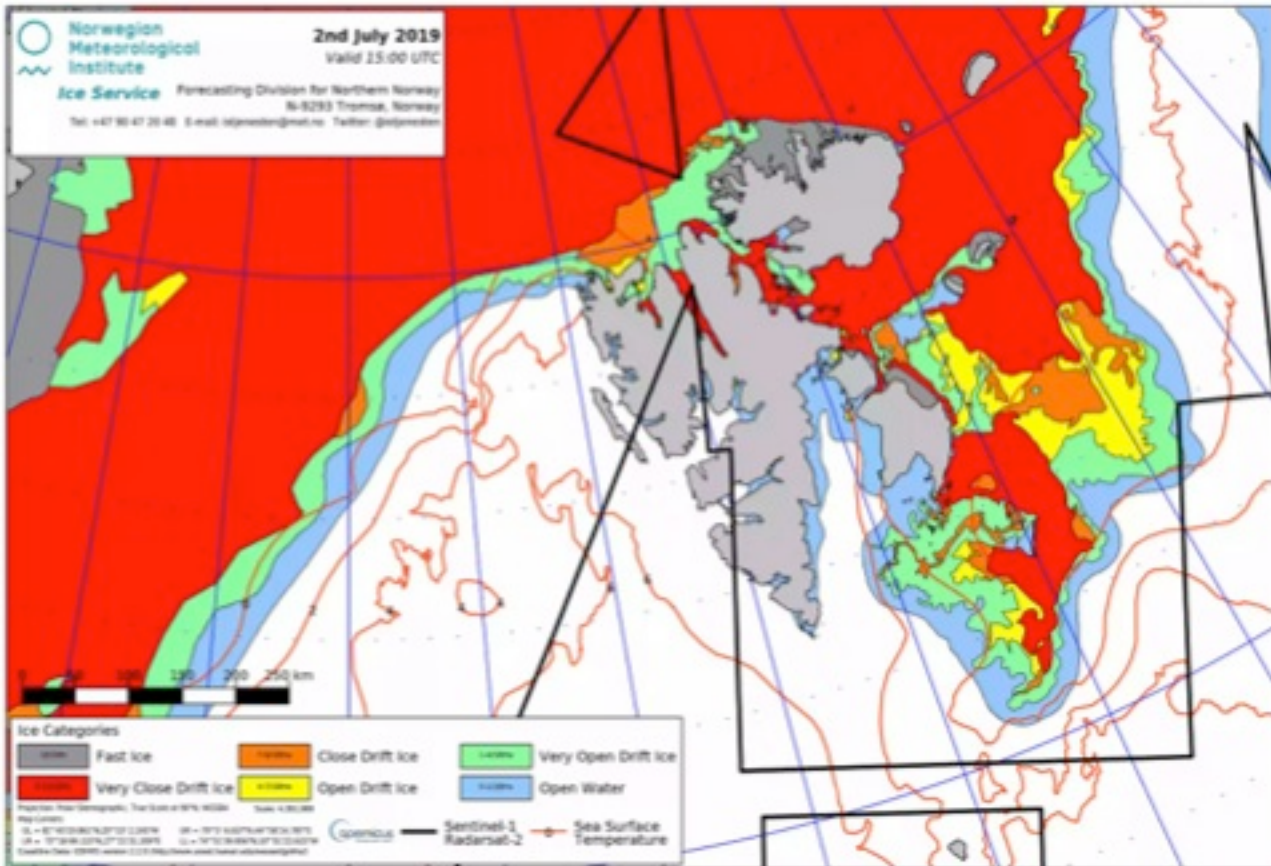


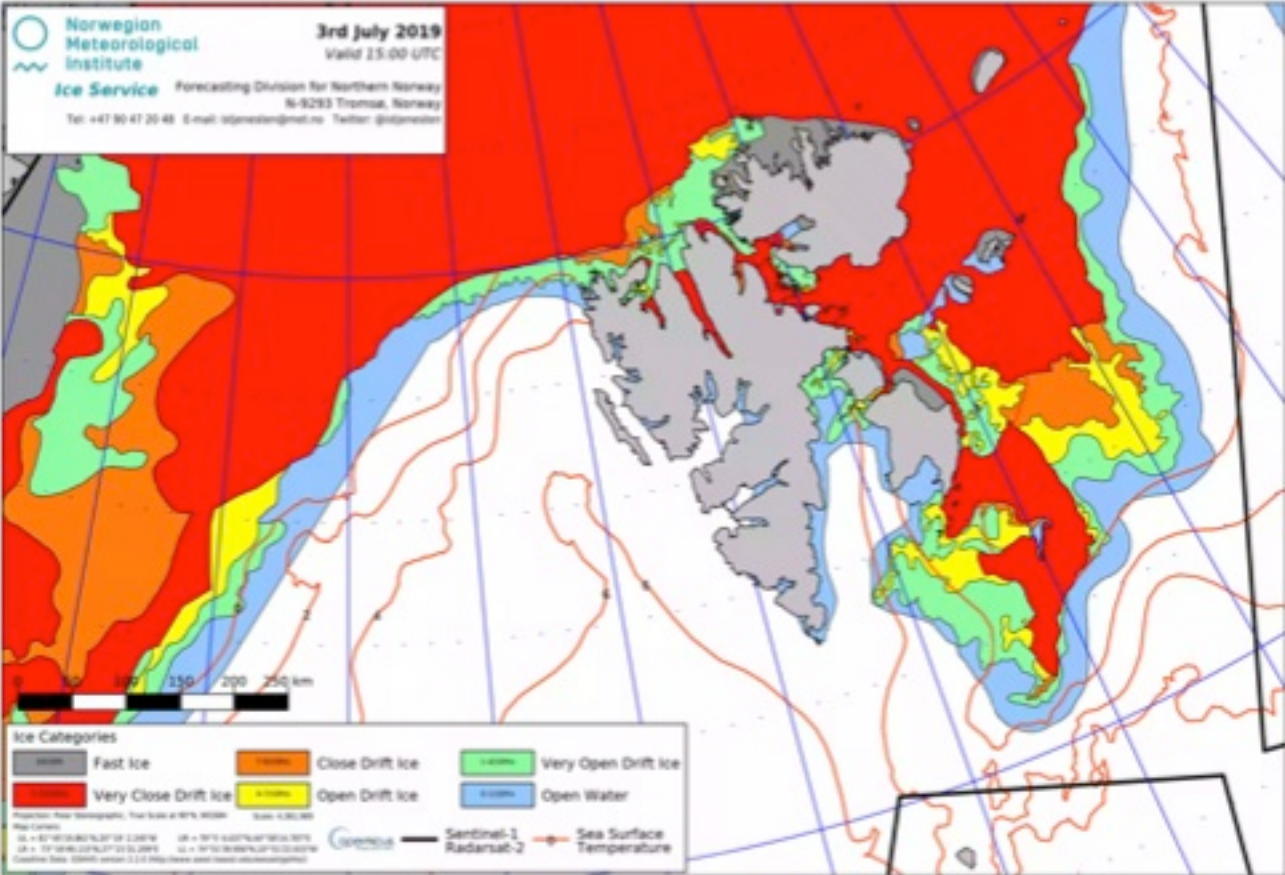
- 1 - Longyearbyen**
- 2 - Ny-Ålesund**
- 3 - Lilliehöökbreen**
- 4 - Magdalenafjord**
- 5 - Smeerenburgfjord (Polar Bear)**
- 6 - Pack ice**
- 7 - Sorgfjord**
- 8 - Kinnvika**
- 9 - Faksevågen (fog)**
- 10 - Tommeløya (Polar Bear)**
- 11 - Alkefjellet**
- 12 - Liefdefjord (Polar Bear)**
- 13 - Worsleyneset**
- 14 - Alicehamna**
- 15 - Trygghamna**

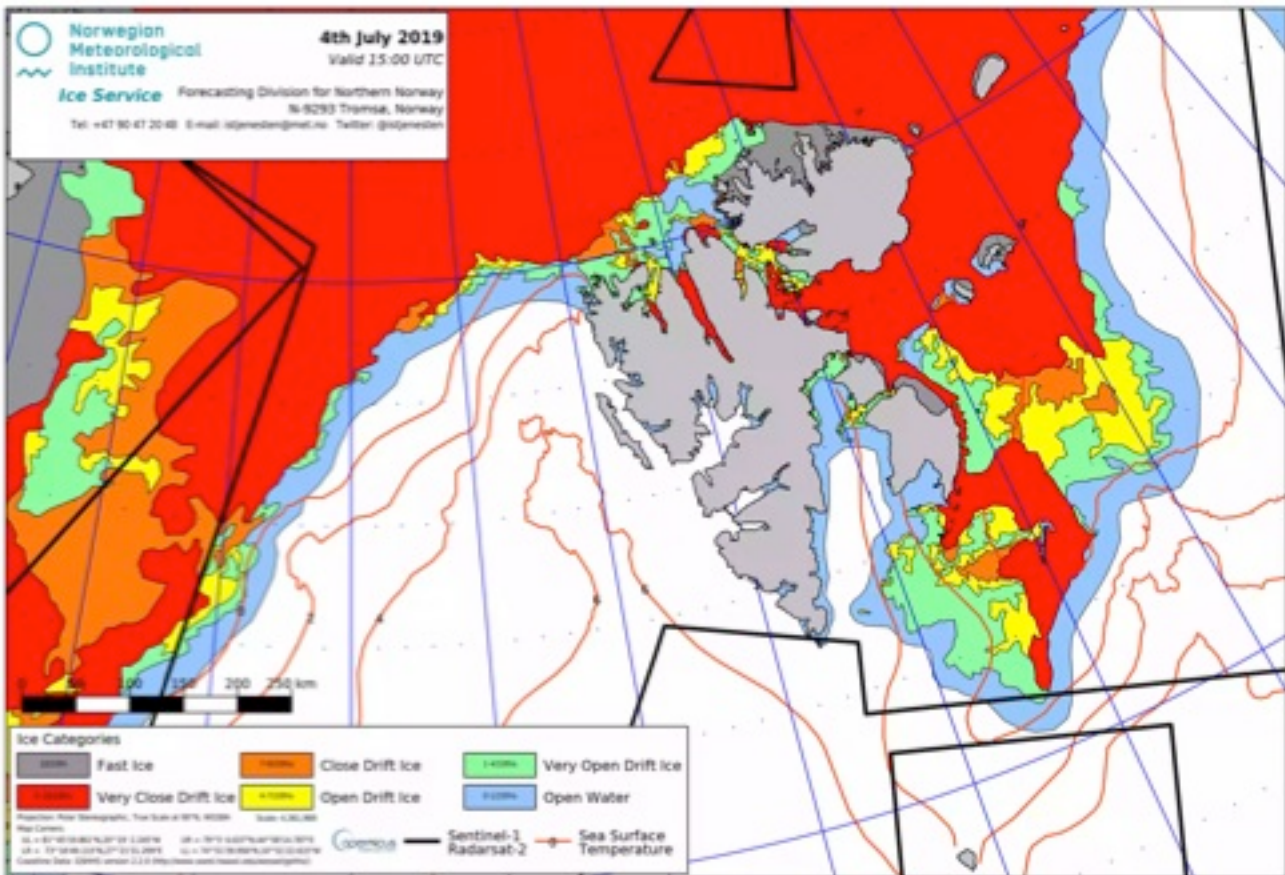
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Snow Buttercup	Schnee-hahnenfuss	Sneeuwboterbloem								
<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Buttercup	Zwerg Hahnenfuss	Dwergboterbloem								
<i>Ranunculus sulphureus</i>	Sulphur-coloured Buttercup	Schwefelgelber Hahnenfuss	Zwavelkleurige boterbloem								
<i>Salix polaris</i>	Polar Willow	Polarweide	Poolwilg				X			X	X
<i>Salix reticulana</i>	Net-leaved Willow	Netzweide	Netwilg								
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	Yellow Mountain Saxifrage	Fetthennen-steinbrech	Bergsteenbreek								
<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>	Drooping Saxifrage	Nickender Steinbrech	Hangende steenbreek								X
<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	Tufted Saxifrage	Rasensteinbrech	Groenlandse steenbreek	X	X		X			X	X
<i>Saxifraga flagellaris</i>	Polar Stoloniferous Saxifrage	Faden-steinbrech	Spinneplantje								
<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	Yellow Marsh Saxifrage	Moorsteinbrech	Bokjessteenbreek								
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Purple Saxifrage	Roter Steinbrech	Zuiltjessteenbreek	X	X		X		X		
<i>Saxifraga rivularis</i>	Highland Saxifrage	Bachsteinbrech	Beeksteenbreek								
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Mos campion	Stengelloses Leimkraut	Stengelloze silene				X				
<i>Silene furcata</i>	Arctic White Campion	Kleine Alpennelke	Arctische silene								
<i>Silene wahlbergella</i>	Northern Campion	Nördliche Alpennelke	Knikkende silene								
<i>Stellaria crassipes</i>	Tundra Chickweed	Schnee-Sternmiere									
<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>	Arctic Chickweed	Artische-Sternmiere	Arctische muur								
<i>Taraxacum arcticum</i>	Arctic Dandelion	Arktischer Löwenzahn	Arctische paardebloem								
<i>Taraxacum brachyceras</i>	Polar Dandelion	Polar- löwenzahn	Poolpaardebloem								

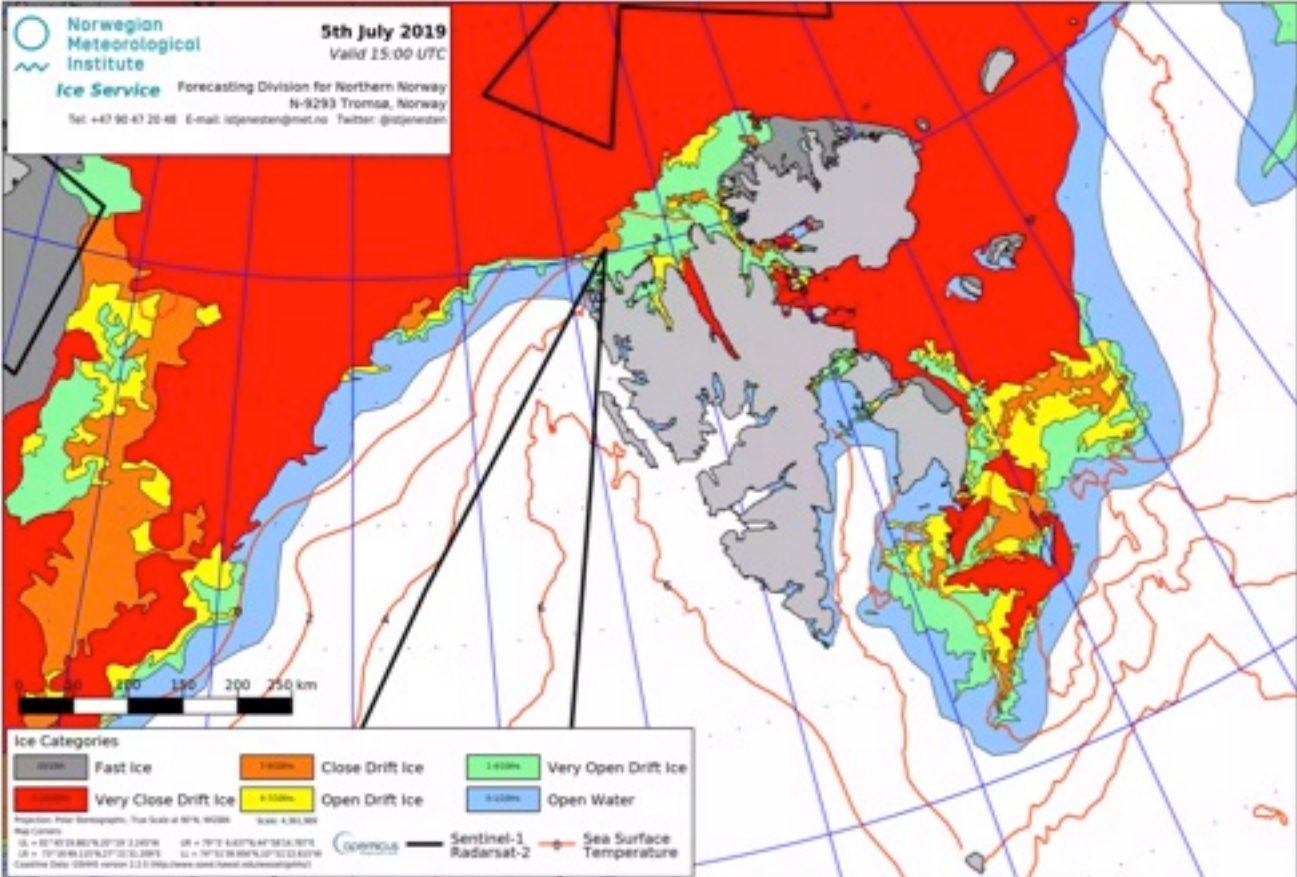
Spitsbergen Experience July 3rd - 12th

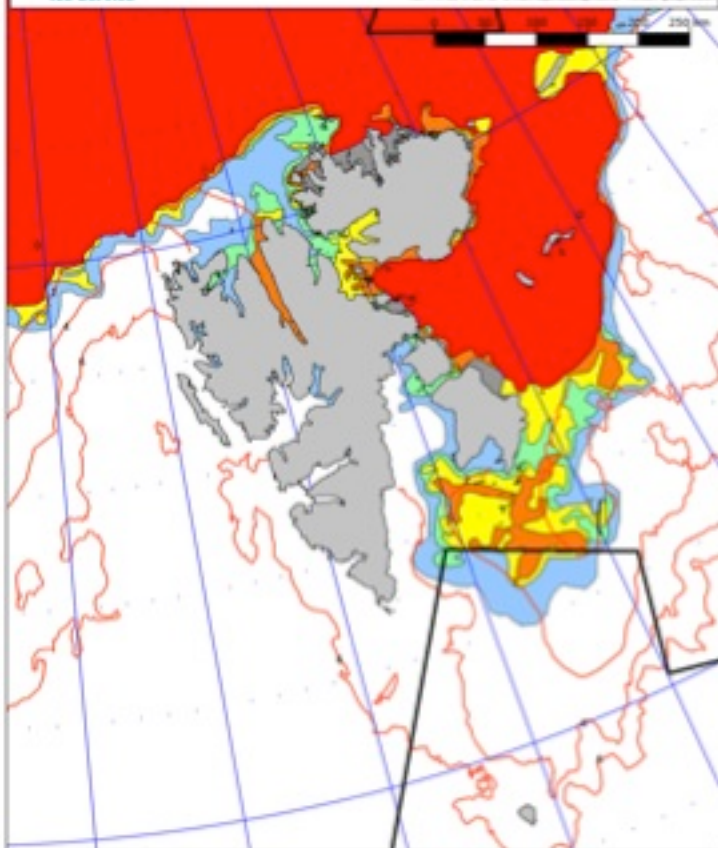
English Name	Deutsch	Scientific	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
Red-throated Diver	Stern-Taucher	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		x			x		x			
Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	Kurzschneibgans	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		x								
Barnacle Goose	Weisswangengans	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		x				x		x		
Snow Goose	Schneegans	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>										
Common Eider	Eiderente	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		x	x		x		x			
King Eider	Prachteiderente	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>		x								
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>		x								
Purple Sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		x			x		x			
Grey Phalarope	Thorshühnchen	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>										
Ruddy Turnstone	Steinwälzer	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>										
Pomarine Skua	Spatelraubmöwe	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		x							x	
Arctic Skua	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		x	x	x	x		x			
Long-tailed Skua	Falkenraubmöwe	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>										
Great Skua	Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		x		x		x				
Great Black-Backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	<i>Larus marinus</i>										
Glaucous Gull	Eismöwe	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	Elfenbeinmöwe	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>		x		x		x	x			
Sabine's Gull	Sabinenmöwe	<i>Xema sabini</i>						x				
Arctic Tern	Küstenseeschwalbe	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	Krabbentaucher	<i>Alle alle</i>	x	x	x		x		x			
Puffin	Papegaitaucher	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Black Guillemot	Gryllteiste	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	x	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		
Snow Bunting	Schneeammer	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	x	x	x		x				x	











Ice Categories

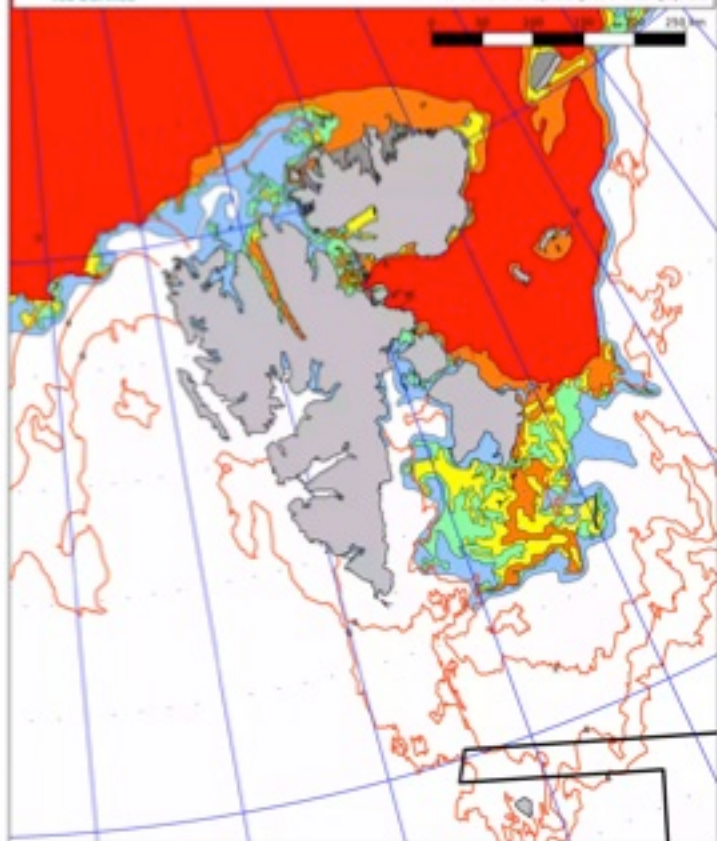
	Fast ice		Close Drift Ice		Very Open Drift Ice
	Very Close Drift Ice		Open Drift Ice		Open Water

Produced by: Iver Isachsen, Torodd Østby, Øyvind
 15.07.2019 20:17:23 (UTC) 18.07.2019 08:00:00 (UTC)
 10.07.2019 00:00:00 (UTC) 10.07.2019 00:00:00 (UTC)
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Sentinel-2
 Radiant-2

Sea Surface
 Temperature



Ice Categories

	Fast ice		Close Drift Ice		Very Open Drift Ice
	Very Close Drift Ice		Open Drift Ice		Open Water

Prosjekt: Vår, Sommer, Trosser og Øst, 2019
IS - 07/09/2019 15:00 UTC
IS - 07/09/2019 15:00 UTC
IS - 07/09/2019 15:00 UTC
IS - 07/09/2019 15:00 UTC



— Sentinel-1
— Radarsat-2
— Sea Surface Temperature

10th July 2019

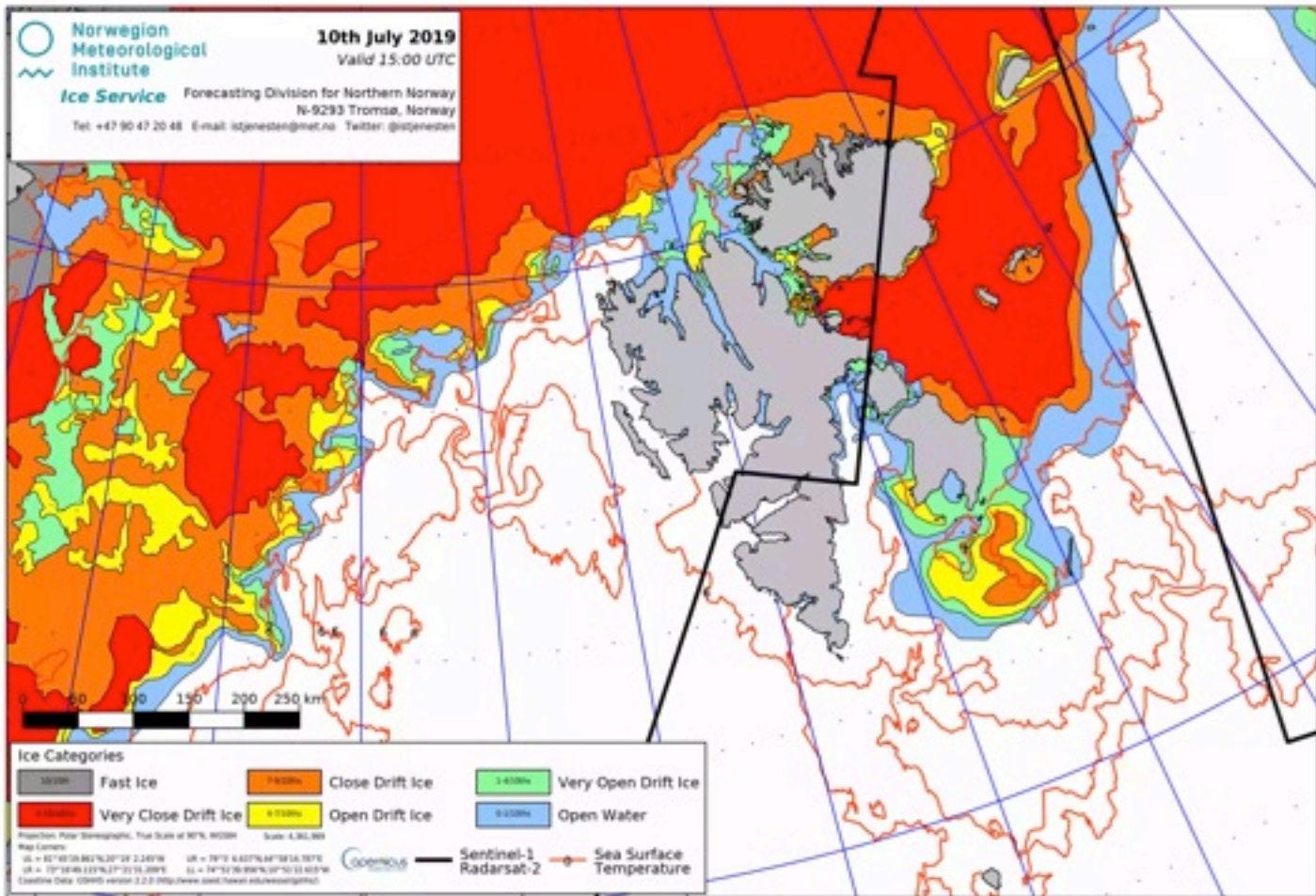
Valid 15:00 UTC

Ice Service

Forecasting Division for Northern Norway

N-9293 Tromsø, Norway

Tel: +47 90 47 20 48 E-mail: isjenesen@met.no Twitter: [isjenesen](https://twitter.com/isjenesen)



Birgit Lutz – Expedition Leader



English: Birgit changed her life from award-winning journalist to Arctic addicted adventurer in 2007, after a first voyage to the North Pole aboard the Russian icebreaker Yamal. She took up „Circumpolar Studies“ at the Canadian University of the Arctic and since then combines arctic voyages with writing.

In 2010 and 2011 she skied from drift ice station Barneo to the North Pole. In 2013 Birgit crossed Greenland on skis and became Fellow of the Explorers Club New York. In 2015 and 2016 she spent several months in East Greenland, in the region of Ammassalik and went hunting and fishing with natives. Her fourth book tells about this experience.

In 2016 Birgit has initiated a project for the German Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research, for which she collects data about marine anthropogenic pollution. She is a requested speaker for companies and speaks English, Italian, Dutch and a bit French. She loves sharing her enthusiasm for the Arctic and lives with her husband besides an idyllic mountain lake in Bavaria.

Deutsch: Birgit ist ausgebildete Journalistin. 15 Jahre lang arbeitete sie für die Süddeutsche Zeitung, aber nach einer ersten Reise zum Nordpol an Bord des russischen Eisbrechers Yamal im Jahr 2007 begann sie „Circumpolar Studies“ an der University of the Arctic in Kanada und kombiniert seither Schreiben mit Reisen und Arbeit in der Arktis.

2010 und 2011 ging sie auf Skiern von einer russischen Station zum Nordpol, 2013 durchquerte sie Grönland und wurde Fellow des Explorers Club New York. Über diese Abenteuer veröffentlichte sie mehrere Bücher. 2015 und 2016 verbrachte sie mehrere Monate in Ostgrönland und ging mit Einheimischen Jagen und Fischen. Ihr viertes Buch handelt von diesen Erfahrungen.

2016 initiierte Birgit ein Projekt für das Alfred-Wegener-Institut in Bremerhaven, für das sie Daten über marine anthropogene Verschmutzung sammelt. Sie ist eine gefragte Rednerin vor Unternehmen und sie spricht Englisch, Italienisch, Niederländisch und ein bisschen Französisch. Sie liebt es, ihre Begeisterung für die Arktis mit anderen zu teilen und lebt mit ihrem Mann an einem bayerischen Bergsee.

Michelle van Dijk – Assistant Expedition Leader



Is nearly a local, since she is the owner of Longyearbyen Camping, world's northernmost camping site. Working as a guide, this campsite has been her home base since 2004. Living in a tent, she spends more than three months a year on Spitsbergen guiding day trips, trekking & expedition cruises. These days she mainly works on ships, as guide or expedition leader. She believes that there is no better way to get closer to a place than to work there – she has also lived in Sweden & Iceland. Her first visit to Spitsbergen was back in 2001 and instantly she fell in love with this remote archipelago. Although she picked plants as her specialism, Michelle is a generalist. She took the course

Arctic & Antarctic studies at Groningen University and recently she published a book about Sjef van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928.

Michelle has been working as a guide in Antarctica, the Falklands, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Jan Mayen, South Georgia, Spitsbergen and Sweden.

Deutsch

Michelle besitzt Longyearbyen Camping, den nördlichsten Campingplatz der Welt. Als sie 2001 zum ersten Mal die Arktis besuchte, verliebte sie sich in diese karge, minimalistische Landschaft. Sie arbeitete anschließend als Naturführerin auf Tages- und Trekkingtouren sowie Expeditionskreuzfahrten. Sie lebte in Schweden und Island und arbeitete dort, denn sie glaubt, dass man einem Land am besten nahe kommt, wenn man dort auch zur Arbeit geht. Michelle hat an der Universität Groningen einen Kurs in Arktischen und Antarktischen Studien belegt. Sie hat in der Antarktis, auf den Falklands, Faröer-Inseln, Grönland, Island, Jan Mayen, in Schweden, auf Spitzbergen und Südgeorgien gearbeitet.

Sie können Michelle in verschiedenen Sprachen ansprechen, aber sie wird nur in Holländisch, Englisch, Deutsch oder Schwedisch antworten.

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.

Irene Kastner—Expedition Guide



Irene has a hard time sitting still for longer periods, and has a strong urge to explore the Arctic outdoors. Luckily, she lives in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. She first came here in 1999 to help her best friend move back to the mainland.

They could have saved the effort for they both were back on the archipelago the year after. After years of commuting back and forth, Irene surrendered to the Polar Bug and moved to Longyearbyen for good.

Irene's special interest is sled dogs. She has been working with Alaskan Huskies for over ten years, both at racing kennels and with tour operators, and has her own team of eight huskies. In her ordinary life, Irene is studying Economics in Oslo – with the help of Longyear-byen's access to fiber cable internet, and courses on the internet.

Längeres Stillsitzen war noch nie Irenes Stärke, und sie hat einen unwiderstehlichen Drang, ihre Umgebung zu erkunden. Glücklicherweise wohnt sie in Longyearbyen auf Spitzbergen, wo sie nicht nur eine sehr schnelle Internet-Verbindung hat, die ihr das Fernstudium im Fach Buchhaltung und Rechnungswesen ermöglicht, sondern auch die faszinierende und vielfältige Natur gleich vor der Tür.

Irene kam 1999 zum ersten Mal nach Spitzbergen, um einer Freundin beim Umzug zu helfen. Die Mühe hätten beide sich sparen können, denn noch nicht mal ein Jahr später waren beide zurück auf der Insel. Nach mehreren Jahren hat sich Irene dem Polarvirus letztendlich ergeben. Irenes Spezialgebiet sind Schlittenhunde. Sie arbeitet seit mehr als zehn Jahren mit Alaskan Huskys, sowohl im Rennsport als auch im Tourismus, und hat acht eigene Hunde.

Henry Páll Wulff – Expedition Guide



Traveling the world by profession, Henry is dedicated to the polar regions of our planet. The timeless yet rapidly changing landscapes of North and South are what arouse his keen interest. The understanding of the fragility of these regions, the influence of humans in these areas and our chance to preserve those unique habitats for posterity are the main tasks of his professional activity. Only by that a comprehensive understanding of our environment can be generated and He truly believe that we protect better what we know well.

Classic office jobs in the advertising and film industries have kept him from breaking out of the big city jungle for years. But after a two-month backpacking trip to Iceland, he could not get back into big city life and quickly moved to the island

at the edge of the Arctic. Here he discovered a new field of profession and started his guide career first as a hiking guide in the Icelandic highlands and later as a glacier guide on Europe's largest ice cap and at the foot of Iceland's most notorious volcano, Katla.

For almost 10 years, he has been able to gain profound knowledge of geology through his documentary work with numerous well-known geologists. Today he mainly works as a naturalist and lecturer on expedition cruise ships in the Arctic and tries to share his deep passion about glaciers and volcanoes with his guests.

Deutsch

Als Berliner Großstadtkind kam Henry erst spät mit der Natur in Berührung, konnte sich nach einer Islandreise allerdings nicht wieder in Deutschland akklimatisieren und zog kurzerhand auf die Insel am Rand der Arktis. Hier startete er als Guide zuerst als Wanderführer im isländischen Hochland und später als Gletscherguide auf Europa's größter Eiskappe. Inzwischen hauptsächlich auf Expeditionsschiffen in Island, Grönland und Svalbard unterwegs, lässt den Grüntee-Enthusiasten vor allem seine Faszination für Vulkane und Gletscher noch immer neugierig neues in der Arktis entdecken.

Fast 10 Jahre lang betrieb Henry eine eigene Filmproduktionsfirma in Hamburg, mit der er insbesondere Dokumentarfilme, Werbeclips und Musikvideos produzierte. Über die Zusammenarbeit mit zahlreichen namhaften Geologen konnte sich Henry über die Jahre ein profundes Geologie-Wissen aneignen, mit welchem er nun seinen Gästen die Arktis noch ein Stück näher bringt. Aktuell arbeitet er an einem Dokumentarfilm über die Gletscherlagune Jökulsárlón und kann damit drei seiner Interessen vereinen - Filmproduktion, Guiding und Geologie.

Eduardo Rubio Herrera -Expedition Guide



Eduardo describes himself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for nature, particularly for the sea, mountains, sunrises and sunsets.

Trained as an astronomer, he got a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position, in 2013 he decided to split his time between lecture halls and ships. Hence you could find him part of the year lecturing physics and astronomy and the other part giving lectures and guiding in ships to Antarctica and in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Eduardo's interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips he has undertaken, he has given lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), our Universe, famous battles at sea and optical phenomena, to mention some. At sea, besides being an engaged guide and lecturer, he loves to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore.

Eduardo always aims to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live.

Deutsch

Nach meinem Physikstudium promovierte ich 2010 an der Universität von Amsterdam als Doktor in Astronomie. Nach einer Postdoc-Stelle wurde ich Dozent für Physik und Astronomie sowie Guide auf Segel- und Expeditionskreuzfahrtschiffen. 2018 entschied ich mich als Vollzeit-Reiseleiter für Oceanwide Expeditions in der Antarktis und in der Arktis zu arbeiten.

Meine Interessen sind dabei insbesondere die Geschichte der grossen Entdecker und die Komplexität der Astronomie. Während der Reisen halte ich Vorträge über Polarforscher, über Wissenschaft in der Antarktis (insbesondere Astronomie), über unser Universum, und die Geheimnisse der Tiefen unseres Ozeans, um einige zu nennen.

Auf See bin ich ein engagierter Reiseleiter und Dozent und liebe es besonders, den Gästen in der Nacht den Sternenhimmel zu zeigen und zu erklären. Mir ist es wichtig die Begeisterung der Gäste für die Wissenschaft und das Bewusstsein für den einzigartigen und fragilen Planeten, auf dem wir leben, zu wecken. Astronomie ist mein Beruf, Naturerlebnisse mit anderen zu teilen meine Leidenschaft.

Tanja Bayer – Expedition Guide



Tanja was born 1966 in Germany and lives in Oberursel. Since 2009 she has been travelling and working on different ships to the Antarctic Peninsula as a Diver and Doctor.

Since 2015 she is working for Oceanwide Expeditions as Ship's Physician and Diveguide, in this Arctic Season for the first time as Expedition Guide.

She loves the Polar Areas and their fascinating fauna and flora, fighting their life in this harsh environments. Especially the marine mammals, the glaciers and the historic sites with their stories are her favourite topics.

She likes to show the people the nature, going on a nice and safe hike and have fun!

When diving she gets fascinated by the colourful and diverse life underwater.

In Germany she owns a Divecenter and Diving School, plans and leads Diving Expeditions all around the world. If there is some time left, she works as Emergency Doctor and locum.

Tanja speaks German and English.

Deutsch

Tanja ist 1966 in Oberursel geboren und wohnt in Oberursel, nordwestlich von Frankfurt am Main.

2009 hat sie begonnen auf verschiedenen Schiffen in der Antarktis zu reisen und zu arbeiten. Seit 2015 arbeitet sie für Oceanwide Expeditions in der Arktis und Antarktis als Schiffsärztin und Tauchguide. In dieser Saison nun auch erstmals als Expedition Guide.

Die Polargebiete mit ihrer faszinierenden Flora und Fauna haben es ihr da angetan. Vor allem die großen Meeressäuger, die Gletscherlandschaften und die vielen historischen Geschichten rund um Spitzbergen faszinieren sie. Das möchte sie auch an andere weitergeben und die Faszination teilen.

Wenn sie taucht, fasziniert sie vor allem die Farbenpracht und die Vielfalt der Unterwasserlebewesen. „Die Anpassung dieser Lebewesen an die kalten, lebensfeindlichen Temperaturen des Wasser sind unglaublich.“

In Deutschland leitet sie eine Tauchschule, plant und führt Tauchreisen und -expeditionen rund um den Globus durch.

Wenn noch Zeit ist, arbeitet sie im ärztlichen Notdienst und als Praxisvertretung.

Tanja ist 1966 in Oberursel geboren und wohnt in Oberursel, nordwestlich von Frankfurt am Main.

Tanja spricht Deutsch und Englisch



Jochem Braakhekke

**Cycling geologist &
stone-cold glaciologist**

Being born in one of the more mountainous regions of the Netherlands, with hills up to impressive heights of almost 100 m a.s.l., young Jochem was naturally attracted to alpine environments and the extreme importance of ice ages.

As a 2-year-old, still covered in baby seal blubber, he got introduced to hut life in the Austrian Alps. The black and white pictures exhibited in those huts, depicting huge glacier tongues and impressive ice-falls with noble men wearing hats posing on them, left a lasting impression. What in the world has happened to those glaciers since then!

It wasn't until two decades later, that Jochem got reinjected with the glaciology virus; during his Bachelor's in Earth Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, Jochem spend a semester in Longyearbyen, studying Arctic and Marine Geology. In order to be a little bit closer to the tiny remnants of the Last Ice Age, he moved to Switzerland and continued studying geology and glaciology at the ETH Zürich.

Jochem is particularly interested in the interplay between glaciers and bedrock, the so-called field of Glacial Geology. He has extensive knowledge about the past ice ages and the related tools and clues presented to us by the current landscape; silent witnesses of the incredible power of ice.

In contrary to popular believe, glaciology is not a dying field: the cryosphere is a big box of discoveries yet to be made and it is Jochem's goal to get as many people involved in unboxing those.

Veronique Verhoeven - Doctor



No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

... .but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer too. For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures. However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career. That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic

every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.

Deutsch

Niemand will an Bord eines Schiffes krank werden!

...falls aber doch, befinden Sie sich in den guten Händen unserer Schiffsdoktorin Veronique.

Als sie neun Jahre alt war, schenkte ihr ihre Grossmutter ein Buch über Christopher Columbus, welches sie derart faszinierte, dass sie ebenfalls ein Entdecker werden wollte.

Jahrelang schlief sie mit dem Traum von grossen Abenteuern ein. Schliesslich fand sie heraus, dass viele Abenteurer jung starben, verarmt und unglücklich, und so entschied sie sich für eine andere Karriere. Sie wurde Notärztin und Professorin für Allgemeinmedizin an der Universität von Antwerpen.

Ihre erste Expedition in die Polarregionen war eine Trekking-Tour mit Wissenschaftlern in Spitzbergen im Jahr 2005, bei der sie neben ihrer Tätigkeit als Ärztin, auch als Köchin und als Eisbär-Nachtwache tätig war. Seit dieser wundervollen Erfahrung ist die jedes Jahr mit Oceanwide Expeditions in die Arktis und Antarktis zurückgekehrt.

Zu ihren Hobbies zählen Wildwasserkajakfahren, Kitesurfen und das Spielen der Oboe in einem Orchester.



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:	Veronique Verhoeven	Belgium
Expedition Leader:	Birgit Lutz	Germany
Asst Expedition Leader:	Michelle van Dijk	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Arjen Drost	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Henry Pal Wulff	Germany / Iceland
Expedition Guide:	Tanja Bayer	Germany
Expedition Guide	Irene Kastner	Spitsbergen
Expedition Guide:	Eduardo Rubio Herrera	Guatemala
Expedition Guide:	Jochem Braakhekke	Netherlands

Welcome you on board!



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen

3rd July 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 **Birgit Lutz** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Zsuzsanna Varga**. This will be followed by a **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 Cocktail!** 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

Around Spitsbergen

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DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

5th July 2019

- 0730 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Birgit. Good Morning!
- 0800 The breakfast buffet is available in the Restaurant for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Landing in Magdalenefjord.** We go on land deep inside the scenic Magdalenefjord. Magdalenefjord is the place where the Dutch explorer Willem Barentsz first set foot on land in 1596. We land close to Alkekongen at the northern coast of the fjord. Alkekongen is named after the many little auks nesting in that area. We divide into three groups for walks and hikes in that fascinating landscape.
- 1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room
- 1500 **Landing in Smeerenburg.** At this historic site, we will find remains of blubber ovens from the early whaling period in the 16th century and hear more about the history of the Dutch whalers.
- 1830 Re-cap. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge. Birgit will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some more information from our staff!
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appetit!



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

6th July 2019

All activities today are ice- and wildlife-dependent.

Please listen to our announcements

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

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

Expedition Morning!

North of Spitsbergen we will encounter the pack ice. We will spend the morning approaching and going deeper into the ice, watching out for wildlife.

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. Sound travel very far on the ice! Close to wildlife we do not make announcements on the outer decks.

1230 Buffet Lunch is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

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, maybe we even see the Ivory gull. Stay outside and search, enjoy this unique opportunity of experiencing the arctic pack ice!

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

1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

2030 And the day is not over yet! Birgit will give a talk about her **skitour to the North Pole** in the Lounge.



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

7th July 2019

Expedition! Reachability of our planned landing sites and timings are depending on the ice conditions we encounter. Please listen to our announcements!

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

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

~0900 **Landing in Sorgfjorden.** This sheltered bay has been used by mankind since the early whalers arrived. Traces of its history are still visible. In 1693 there was even a sea battle, which is said to be world's northernmost, three French warships attacked 40 Dutch whaling ships.

1230 Buffet Lunch is served in the dining room

To reach our next landing site on Nordaustlandet we have to cross Hinlopenstretet! Speed will depend on ice conditions, therefore the afternoon timing is to be announced.

~1600 **Landing at Kinnvika.** Kinnvika is a bay at the western side of Murchisonfjord in Nordaustland. This bay hosts an old Swedish research station that was built for the International Geophysical Year 1957/58 and used again during the International Polar Year 2007/2008. We like to show you the high arctic polar desert that is typical for Nordaustland.

1900 **Re-cap.** Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge. Birgit will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some more information from our staff!

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appetit!



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

8th July 2019

Expedition! Reachability of our planned landing sites and timings are depending on the ice conditions we encounter. Please listen to our announcements!

0730 **Wakeup call** from your Expedition Leader Birgit. Good Morning!

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

~0915 **Zodiac Cruise near Alkefjellet.** This 'Mount Guillemot' was named so because of the Guillemots that breed on the dolerite cliffs. Exact counts have not been made, but it is estimated that about 60,000 breeding pairs of Brünnich's Guillemot breed here. Also Kittiwakes and Glaucus gull use the cliffs for breeding. With so many birds, keep an eye out for Arctic foxes in search of a morning egg.

1230 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the dining room

~1430 **Expedition afternoon in Lomfjord.** Lomfjord is also called after the Guillemot and is an interesting place for geologists as the fjord follows a large fault zone (Lomford-Agardbukta fault zone). It does not need a trained eye to see the difference between the mountains at the east and the west side of the fjord. Depending on ice conditions we might do a landing.

1900 **Re-cap.** Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge. Birgit will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some more information from our staff!

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appetit!



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

9th July 2019

In the early morning we sail into Liefdefjord, the fjord of love! It is named after the the Dutch ship *Liefde*. There are several island groups in the fjord which are home to bears and birds. It is worth to scout again here!

0700 **Wakeup call** from your Expedition Leader Birgit. Good Morning!

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

0900 Landing at **Texas Bar**.

We plan to land at this place with a very promising name, but it is not a bar, but a cabin. It was built in 1927 by the famous Norwegian trapper Hilmar Nøis. We divide in three groups and go hiking and walking in the tundra.

1300 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the dining room.

1500 **Zodiac cruise at Monacobreen**. The Monacoglacier is one of the most impressive glaciers of Spitsbergen. We get into the zodiacs to enjoy this glacier to the max. Keep your eyes open, you never know what we will find here!

1830 **Re-cap**. Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge. Birgit will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some more information from our staff!

1900 Today we have a special dinner: In front of the impressive Monacobreen we have a **barbecue** on the open deck! Put on warm clothes and come to the back deck behind the Restaurant. If it is too windy, you can also eat inside.



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

11th July 2019

0700 **Wakeup call** from your Expedition Leader Birgit. Good Morning!

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

0900 Landing at **Bruceneset in Raudfjord.**

We plan to land at this place with a long history. The view over the fjord was already known and used by the old whalers. Later it was the home of trappers. we hope you join us and enjoy the same view.

1300 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the dining room.

Lecture afternoon! We have a long way to go – so we use the chance and offer you some lectures to tell you more about Spitsbergen!

1500 *Magic of the Uncertain – Expeditions in the Arctic* in the lounge by Henry.
(Michelle will be giving her plant talk in German in the dining room.)

1630 *It is not easy being a plant in the Arctic* in the dining room by Michelle.
(Henry will be giving the expedition talk in German in the lounge.)

1845 **Re-cap.** Please join the Expedition staff in the Lounge. Birgit will outline our plans for the coming day and there will be some more information from our staff!

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appetit!

2100 And the day is not over yet! Irene will give a talk about **Dogsledding** in the Lounge.



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen Experience

11th July 2019

*Some guests are leaving us already tonight to get their night flight.
To be able to fully enjoy our last day on Spitsbergen nevertheless,
we start our programme a little bit earlier.*

0630 Wake-up Call.

0700 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

0800 Landing at **Poolepynten**.

We plan to do a landing on Poolepynten, where we hope to find walrus on land. Due to regulations and for a better experience we divide you into three groups. **Please see the lists at the reception or the lounge entrance** for your group assignment.

Please listen to our announcements and only come to the gangway when your group is called.

0800 Group 1

0900 Group 2

1000 Group 3

1200 For one hour, the **Lunch** buffet is waiting for you!

1515 Landing in **Trygghamna**. If conditions allow, we go on land in front of Harrietbreen. This glacier calves into a small lagoon which give us the opportunity to get very close to the ice.

1800 **Captain's Cocktail**. We will meet with our Captain Andrei Zybin to toast the success of the voyage and Birgit will outline the procedure for disembarkation.

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

For those who leave with the night flight: We will give you green ribbons during Captains Cocktail. Please put them on your check in luggage. Put the check in luggage outside your cabin during, or latest immediately after dinner. More information you find at the reception and the entrance of the lounge.



DAILY PROGRAM

North Spitsbergen

11th /12th July 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.**

At midnight please make your way to the gangway to board the zodiacs that bring you to the pier. There you identify your luggage and bring it to the bus which will be waiting for you at 00:30, to take you to the airport.

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

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions 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

Spitsbergen Experience

12th July 2019

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

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

Please place your check-in luggage outside your cabin latest 0730 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. Those of you NOT leaving on 12th of July with flight SK4491 please place a pink ribbon on your luggage.

0830 Zodiacs will bring you to the pier. At the pier you identify your luggage and bring it to the luggage truck.

0900 The bus will take you to town (Svalbard Butikken), where you can spend some time to shop souvenirs or visit one of the two museums.

11:45 The bus will take you from town (Svalbard Butikken) to the airport, if you leave on Flight SK4491 departing Longyearbyen at 13:35.

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.