



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

## **Around Spitsbergen**

17th August – 26th August 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.



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Captain Artur Iakovlev

and his international crew

of 45

### Including:

Hotel Manager:	<b>Siegfried Penzenleitner</b>	Austria
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Melanie Penzenleitner</b>	Austria
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	Austria
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Ivanovic</b>	Serbia
Ship's Physician:	<b>Bruno De Geeter</b>	Belgium
Expedition Leader:	<b>Philipp Schaudy</b>	Austria
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Ali Liddle</b>	UK
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gerard Bodineau</b>	France
Expedition Guide:	<b>Daniels Karin Amby</b>	Sweden
Expedition Guide:	<b>Chloe Marechal</b>	France
Expedition Guide:	<b>Michelle van Dijk</b>	Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Johanne Skrefsrud</b>	Norway
Expedition Guide:	<b>Ross Wheeler</b>	UK
Expedition Guide:	<b>Benjamin Koster</b>	Germany
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andreas Alexander</b>	Bavaria!

## Welcome on board!

# Day 1 – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Embarkation in Longyearbyen

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 78°16'N - 015°18'E

**Wind:** SSE 4 **Sea State:** In Port **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +7°C



Longyearbyen is situated at 78° north and, as such is one of the world's most northerly settlements. It grew up as a coal mining town but now is home to around 2,000 residents who live and work here all year round. This number temporarily swells during the summer months with the arrival of thousands of visitors on cruise ships.

Some of us had arrived a day earlier than our departure day on board Plancius and had time to

explore the town and maybe take a day trip but many of us arrived at the airport during the afternoon and only had a short time to visit the town before making our way to the port to join our ship for the coming trip.

We were met by members of the expedition team at the floating pontoons who helped us into lifejackets and onto the zodiacs for the short ride to the ship. From here we were shown to our cabins by the very welcoming hotel staff and found our luggage already there.



We had some time to familiarise ourselves with our cabin before we were called to the Lounge to meet Philipp, our Expedition Leader,

Captain Artur and the rest of the team. We had a glass of champagne to toast our voyage and Sigi, the Hotel Manager also gave us a briefing about life on board Plancius.

This was followed by the mandatory safety briefing which was given by our Chief Officer Francois, which outlined aspects of safety on board and the abandon ship procedures.

We then gathered at the muster station, the Lounge, wearing our big orange life jackets, the only time we hope to be wearing them. We were shown to the lifeboats on deck and by this time for dinner, which was a chance to meet with our fellow passengers before our last task of the day which was to collect our rubber boots from the boot room.

With 24 hours of daylight many of us enjoyed some time out on deck during the evening spotting Fulmars, Guillemots, Kittiwakes and the tiny Little auks. It was a very pleasant evening on board.

# Day 2 – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Blomstrand & Ny-Ålesund

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 78°31'N - 011°33'E

**Wind:** W 3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +2 C **Sea Temp:** +5°C



Our first morning waking up on board Plancius started with a wakeup call from our Expedition Leader Philipp. Some of us were already up, enjoying the outer decks and breathing in the fresh Arctic air. We had entered Kongsfjorden where we would spend the day. After breakfast we attended the mandatory briefing about zodiac operations and polar bear safety. Our guides were then ready to take us ashore in Ny-London on Blomstrandhalvøya. Close to the landing site there

were two old huts, Camp Mansfield, foundations and remains of railway lines with old steam boilers and drills, all built between the years 1910-1913 by a company owned by Ernest Mansfield.

The area was used to exploit marble, but this quickly proved to fail as the quality of the marble was very poor. We were all split into hiking groups of various speed and distance. Some of us headed up the slopes to the highlands of the island, others took a loop around the lower areas with the guides telling us about the plants we could see, we even found Svalbard's only tree. We passed a small fresh water pond where we could observe several Arctic birds such as Longtailed skuas, Longtailed ducks and Arctic terns. Some of us were also lucky to see a Redthroated diver flying back from the coast with some food for its little chick waiting in the pond.



After lunch we made our way further into Kongsfjorden to get a better view of the glacier fronts of Kronebreen and Kongsvegen. The water was calm making beautiful reflections of glaciers and the surrounding mountains.



After lunch we went ashore in Ny-Ålesund across the fjord from Ny London. The original reason for the foundation of the settlement was coal mining, which resulted in construction of the northernmost railway, as we could see when walking into the settlement. The company setting up the mining village had its headquarters in the coastal town of Ålesund in Norway, and therefore named the settlement Ny Ålesund (New Ålesund). Since the mining activity stopped in the 1960s, Ny Ålesund has developed as an international research centre with scientific research stations from a variety of different countries. In the museum we got some insight into the history of the town, especially the aviation history of the settlement. A short walk away from the settlement we gathered around the mast where Gerard and Michelle told us about Amundsen and the

story behind his explorations and his expedition on the airship Norge, which became the first to fly over the North Pole in 1926. From the mast we could also enjoy the beautiful scenery of the King's Bay with the glaciers in the distance and some seals resting nearby.

Back in board we started our navigation out of Kongsfjord and were called to the lounge for our daily re-cap. Philipp had just outlined plans for tomorrow and Karin had started to talk about her time living in Ny Ålesund when a call came over the PA system that a Blue whale had been seen near the ship. We all went out on deck to enjoy watching the biggest animal to have ever lived on earth lunge feeding, breathing at the surface and diving once more, showing its impressive tail fluke. It was a wonderful experience.



# Day 3 – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Raudfjorden & Hamiltonbukta

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 79°45'N - 012°01'E

**Wind:** Var 1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C



On our third day we were woken by expedition leader Philipp at 07:00 to a mirror calm Raudfjord; which is located in the North West corner of Spitsbergen. It wasn't our Plan A as the ice conditions during the night had slowed us down so much that we wouldn't have made it to Liefdefjord in time for the morning.

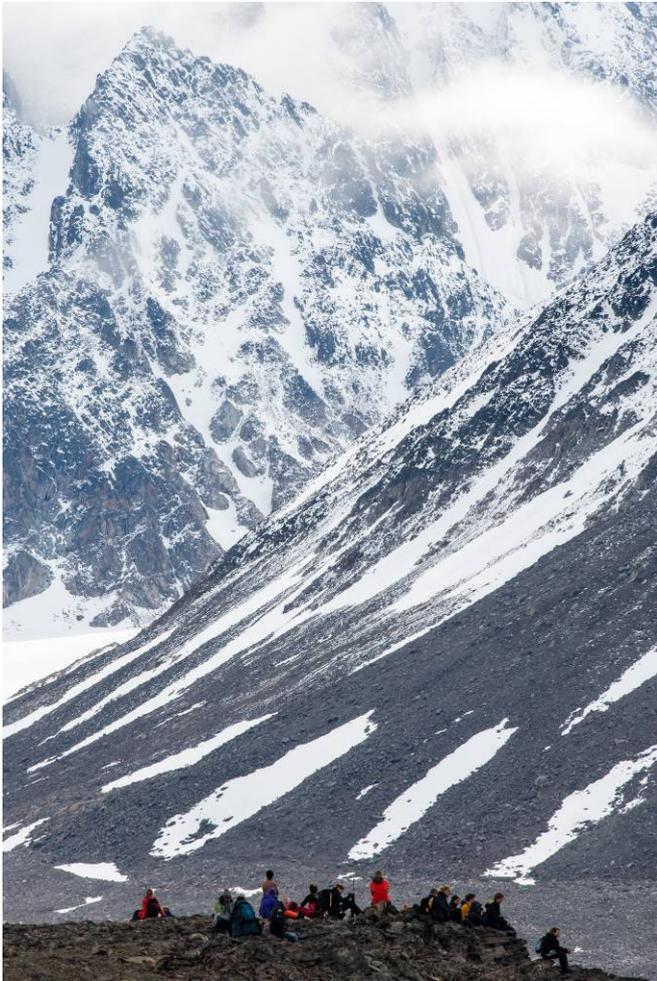
So with Plan B in place we were to enjoy the glassy waters of Hamiltonbukta and to admire the many glaciers and diverse

wildlife that can be found within this fjord. Within fifteen minutes of boarding the zodiacs and heading to our first glacier Philipp called through the radio "We have a large white animal onshore". As all zodiacs proceeded to see this mystery white animal it was quickly apparent that we had found the first polar bear of our expedition, albeit a rather sleepy one that decided it would continue to rest throughout our time with it and tease us all with its occasional stretches and unphased looks into our cameras.

After a close watch of the resting bear the zodiacs continued to slowly move along the shoreline of Raudfjord where we were provided excellent views of kittiwakes and black guillemots both in the water and on the surrounding rocks. As the zodiacs neared the entrance to Hamiltonbukta we were all provided another great sighting with our first Arctic foxes that were busy scouting the grounds beneath the towering bird cliffs above. In total four foxes were seen in this

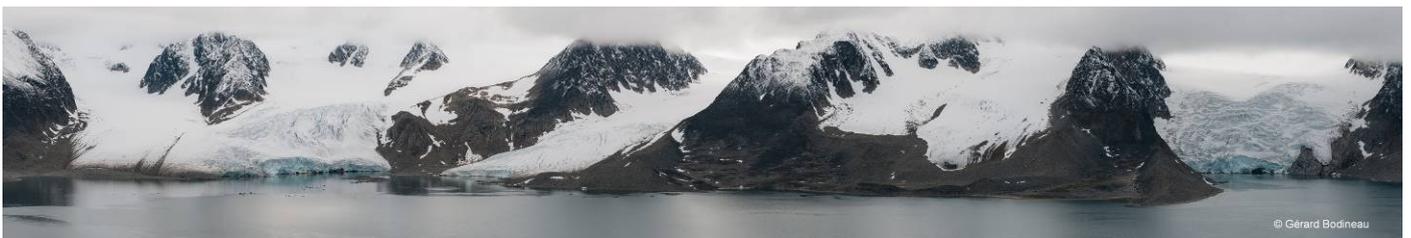


small area, including the rare blue fox which has year-round dark fur instead of the usual summer grey and winter white coloured fur that this species usually has. We then entered the bay of Hamiltonbukta where we sat amongst the ice and enjoyed the spectacular views of the sheer size and beauty of the Hamiltonbreen glacier around us.



As we returned to Plancius for lunch the ship was repositioned further South in Raudfjord to Ayerfjorden on the West side of Buchananhavøya. It is here that we all landed ashore for an afternoon of hiking along this peninsula to observe the breath-taking views of the glaciers that could be seen from both sides when we reached the top. Offering different levels of hikes to our more leisurely, slow paced and eager hikers we enjoyed an afternoon of near perfect conditions of light winds and intermittent sun. With over three hours ashore we were all able to appreciate the vastness of the fjord and its many glaciers whilst also taking a moment to sit down and take in the 'Arctic silence'. As we looked North from the top of Buchananhavøya we could already see the white glow of pack ice on the horizon which would be our next destination as we continue the expedition in search of more stunning landscapes and Arctic wildlife such as our still much desired polar bear in its natural habitat.

Before the journey went on Karin gave us insights into the life in Ny-Ålesund. Gerard gave a short talk about the migration of animals in the arctic, Michelle informed about the polar foxes and Ali presented how to spot polar bears in the ice from a far distance.



# Day 4 – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Pack Ice

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 80°37'N - 015°47'E

**Wind:** ENE 4 **Sea State:** Ice **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +0°C **Sea Temp:** +0°C



In the early morning just after 0700 we entered the pack ice. The ice floes were covered with fresh snow and the air temperature 0°C. Many people had already been up for a while to enjoy the approach to the ice and there was plenty to see. The weather was clear and sunny and the ice was sparkling far into the distance.

We saw and heard the Brünnich Guillemot chicks and fathers calling for each other while swimming between the ice floes. Several Ivory gulls were flying by and the first Polar bear tracks were visible in the

fresh snow, and we also had a visit from a female hooded seal swimming in front of the ship.

At the breakfast we could all enjoy the beautiful view on the ice from the windows in the restaurant. During the morning we continued to navigate further north and we entered an area of fog, and got to experience true Arctic mystique gliding through the ice. It made it difficult to scout for bears but the staff persevered and checked all the ice we were sailing past. With blue sky up above us but fog and mist at sea it was a strange almost fairy tale feeling as we sailed through the ice.

During the lunch buffet we got the call we had all been waiting for, a Polar bear had been spotted on the ice close to the ship. It had originally been sleeping in the shelter of a pressure ridge but as we all got dressed and went out on deck, we could see this big male walking around on the ice. It was on a large ice floe and the Captain did a great job of getting Plancius into position so that we could view it as it sniffed the air in search of seals. It was completely unconcerned by us being there but clearly didn't want to come for a



closer look. We stayed around the Polar bear for quite a while and it was a magnificent experience to see this big animal in its right habitat. We could see its big footprints in the snow and see its white breath as it sniffed the air. After some time, we decided to leave the bear to its travels and hunting and continued on our way. It was an amazing encounter for us all.

Later in the afternoon Michelle gave a lecture about Polar bears and we learned a lot of interesting facts about these fascinating animals. Just as Michelle finished her lecture, there was an announcement that a second Polar bear had been spotted and it was again sleeping in the shelter of an ice ridge. We took a closer look and, using the information that Michelle had told us

in the lecture we tried to figure out ourselves if it was a male or a female. It wasn't easy as the bear just carried on sleeping and we didn't get the close views we had enjoyed in the morning. We spent the rest of the day in the ice. In the recap Andreas told us about fog, how it is formed and what it actually is and Johanne explained what sea ice really is, how it is formed and why it is so important.



© Gérard Bodineau

# Day 5 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019

## Wahlenbergfjord & Palanderbukta

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 79°45'N - 027°31'E

**Wind:** N 5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Snow **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C



After a night of gentle rocking of the ship, we now found ourselves in a very different place. We had left the sea ice and travelled into Wahlenbergfjord, part of Nordaustlandet. The landscape here was quite different from what we had seen so far. This barren and cold landscape is called Polar desert. We went ashore Oxfordhalvøya where we were met by winter, cold, chilly wind and snow on the ground, but with warm clothes on the Arctic air is just refreshing and probably the cleanest air you can breathe. The landscape in this part of Svalbard is

spectacular. Rocks of a variety of colours and the blue colours of the glaciers stood out with the snow-covered mountains in the background. With five minutes of “Arctic silence” we could all take in and enjoy the sight and sound of the barren landscape of Nordaustlandet. Sitting still also made us a little cold and it was soon time to get moving again. The ground was quite slippery a walk on, but everyone managed to get back without falling.



During lunch we sailed around into one of the side fjords of Wahlenbergfjord, Palanderbukta where we hoped to spend the afternoon on shore exploring the Polar desert once more. As Plancius approached the Plan A landing site on the north side of the fjord it was clear that the wind was blowing straight into the fjord and creating swell that would make conditions unsafe at the gangway. We sailed further into the fjord hoping to find more shelter from the wind but with speeds of over 28 knots it wasn't looking very promising. Plan B wasn't an option and so we continued to Plan C and D but everywhere we went there the wind and swell made the plans change, and instead of another landing we had to stay on the ship. We spent some time by the glacier and then turned and headed back into the main fjord of Wahlenbergfjord, where we found better conditions and we continued to enjoy the scenery from the ship, and with the sun coming out it turned out to be quite a nice Plan .....F or maybe G.

A day of beautiful polar landscape ended with sunshine on the aft deck where Chef Heinz and his kitchen team had prepared a proper Arctic barbeque for us. With music and delicious food, we could continue to enjoy the beautiful scenery from the outside decks. Afterwards the night continued with music turned up, and some of us were showing our moves on the dancefloor!



# Day 6 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

## Alkefjellet & Ardnaset, Wahlbergøya

GPS Position at 8:00am: 79°34'N - 018°40'E

Wind: N 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: +0°C Sea Temp: +5°C



Our day started at 06:00 with an announcement from our Expedition Leader that both a Blue whale and Fin whale were feeding close to the ship. Those who braved the open decks in freezing conditions were rewarded with fantastic views of both the largest and second largest animals on earth feeding side by side for close to an hour.

After breakfast we arrived at Alkefjellet for the second zodiac cruise of our expedition, famous for its

towering bird cliffs and 65,000 strong Brünnichs guillemot population we were in for quite a treat during this cruise. As the zodiacs approached the cliffs the sights, sounds and smells of thousands of Brünnichs guillemots filled our senses. This was a perfect time to visit the site as the three-week-old chicks were still jumping from the cliffs, some landing directly next to the zodiacs. As thousands of guillemots filled every ledge possible on the cliffs and the sky above us, we were provided great views of nature taking its course as glaucous gulls and Arctic foxes took advantage of this food bonanza. We finished our zodiac cruise at a glacier located at the North end of the cliffs and the glacier before heading back to Plancius for lunch.



In the afternoon our focus was to observe the walrus at a popular haul out sight called Torellneset, located in the Hinlopen straight. This, however, did not go quite as planned as there were only three hauled out at this sight. Our expedition leader therefore decided to continue heading south where another popular walrus site called Ardnaset is located on Wahlbergøya Island. On arrival it was clear that the gamble had paid off as there were far more walrus resting on the beach. After a short zodiac

ride to shore we split into two groups, one to take a hike then observe the walrus and the other to

see the walrus then take a short hike. The walrus were doing what walrus do best – sleeping, relaxing and arguing amongst themselves for space as they lay awkwardly on top of each other within a small section of the vast open beach. After having some great views of the walrus and taking a short hike to see the surrounding geological features of the island we head back to Plancius for dinner.



At approximately 22:00 we reached the Bräsvellbreen glacier front for a scenic sail-by. This glacier front, which is located at the southern section of the Austfonna Ice cap, is just a small section of the 160 Kilometre front. This offered some spectacular scenery and photo opportunities as we slowly moved through the ice flows and along the largest glacier front in the northern hemisphere. On many of the ice floes we could see walrus, mostly females and many of them with young calves. It was incredible to see them in this icy environment after our experience on land with them during the afternoon. What a great end to the day.



# Day 7 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019

## Isbjørnodden

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 78°29'N - 022°33'E

**Wind:** Var 2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** -1°C



When we woke up, the ship was surrounded by sea ice... and fog. Some of us went outside to look at the spectacular white landscape. Our progress had been slowed a little during the early hours of the morning and Plancius did not make it around to Freemansundet during the night as it was initially planned. The bad weather condition and the ice had slowed us down quite dramatically. We could hear the sound of the ice cracking against the ship and it was impressive.

While the Plancius was carefully making its way through the ice, our guide Gérard offered us a lecture on glaciers in the observatory lounge. Formation, colours, surges... 50 min later we knew everything we always wanted to know about ice!

During our wonderful lunch-buffet we finally got to sail through Freemansundet and the rumours there had been bears spotted in front on Isbjørnodden beach seemed to be true. As soon as our lunch was done, we got picked up by the zodiacs and tried to get closer. What a sight!

We had the chance to observe a female and her two cubs! They were resting peacefully up on the hillside and were not disturbed by our presence. They had been attracted here by a walrus carcass, the remains of which could still be seen on the beach. From time to time one of the cubs was stretching its legs and standing up while the other one could be seen chewing on what appeared to be a bone. Polar bear cubs at birth are extremely small with a cub weighing about 700g while its mother can easily top 300kg. The cubs we observed were already quite big and were probably around 18 months old. Young bears are normally weaned at 2.5 years old. during this time they stay with their mother who will teach them the skills they need to hunt out on the pack ice.



Once they have survived to this stage, they have a good chance to leave up to 25 year. We continued the cruise along the beach to look at a 4th polar bear! This bear was observed wearing a collar and so it had to be a female. She was also resting and did not move at all other than to lift her head and sniff in our direction every now and again.

After a rewarding zodiac cruise, Melanie and Sigi welcomed us back on board at the gangway with a wonderful hot chocolate. Then, once we warmed up again, it was time to go to the lounge and

listen to Chloé's lecture about Plankton. Any living creature carried along by ocean currents is classified as plankton. It ranges in size from the tiniest virus to siphonophores, the longest animals in the world, and also includes microscopic algae, copepods or fish larvae.

During recap, Philip told us the plans for tomorrow. Ali held a short presentation on walrus and Karin told us a little more about the plants around Svalbard. Another day had passed in the Arctic with some wonderful memories of sleeping, resting Polar bears.



# Day 8 – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Gåshamna & Burgerbukta

**GPS Position at 8:00am:** 76°56'N - 015°49'E

**Wind:** NW 3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C



In the morning we rounded the south tip of Svalbard and sailed into Hornsund. Today's first landing was in Gåshamna, the "Goose Bay" in Norwegian, a historical site with remains of whaling activity and Pomor huts as well as stunning views and geological diversity. We gathered around some old whale skeletons to hear Michelle talk about the times when this was the site of a whaling station. The bones and blubber oil had formed small islands of nutrient rich soil where vegetation could

grow and we had to be careful not to step on it as the plants, together with the bones, are protected. We were offered a variety of different hikes. Some challenged themselves with following Philip up the steep slopes of Wurnbrandegga, others stayed in the lowlands closer to the landing site, while the rest of us followed along the coast where we would enjoy some fascinating geological formations and Pomor remains. We also noticed remains of some



dead reindeer in their winter coats. Due to fluctuations in temperature in the winter, layers of ice make it hard for the reindeer to dig through, and this year many died of starvation in Svalbard. A reminder of what effects the changing climate in the Arctic can have on the majestic animals living here. At some point, the sun peaked out and especially the long hikers could take in some stunning scenery from the top. With the landscape of steep mountain peaks, there is not hard



to understand where the name Spitsbergen came from.

After lunch we found ourselves near the impressive Brepollen glacier where we enjoyed views of the ice and surrounding mountains from the outside decks of the ship. From here we sailed around to our next destination of Burgerbukta.

We were taken out on a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta where we could enjoy a spectacular scenery of Paierlbreen in the end of the bay, surrounded by impressive mountain walls with hanging

glaciers further up on each side. The bay was full of smaller and larger icebergs in a spectre of blue colours and we could hear the cracking sound of air bubbles as the ice was slowly melting. The smaller pieces of ice made some good practice for the zodiac drivers to navigate around. By the glacier front we all gathered and turned our engines off to enjoy some “Arctic silence” and take in the surroundings. After being out in a zodiac for quite some time, we were all getting a bit chilly, and once again we were taken good care of by the hotel team. As we finally made our way back to the ship, we were welcomed back with some hot white wine Gluwein by the gangway.



# Day 9 – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Ingeborgfjellet & Recherchefjord

GPS Position at 8:00am: 77°44'N - 014°26'E

Wind: SSE4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +5°C



As we were woken by Philipp at 0700 we found ourselves entering Bellsund, one of the large fjord systems to the south of Isfjord. Our plan for the morning was to land at Ingeborgfjellet, a beautiful area with rich tundra backed by high bird cliffs.

After breakfast we headed ashore to a rocky beach and while we were waiting on shore we could already see reindeer feeding on the green slopes beyond and we even got a view of a white Arctic fox high up on the cliffs, foraging

for seabird any seabird remains.

Soon we were on our way in our usual hiking groups but today was all relaxed with plenty of time to enjoy the reindeer and views along the way. The long and medium hikers made it over to the huts known as Camp Miller, perfect examples of trapper huts here in Spitsbergen. They enjoyed reindeer along the way and had a good leg stretch over the tundra.

The leisurely hikers spent more time with the reindeer, watching a male scraping the velvet off its antlers on another old antler and marvelling at the mature male with huge antlers. It is a wonder it can lift its head with such a weight on top of its head! They also had a close encounter with an Arctic fox, already in its white winter coat. It was constantly moving, sniffing the ground and running from place to place in search of food.



It was a wonderful morning for everyone and the zodiac ride back to the ship was

also memorable as the ocean swells came into the fjord. The ride was like a roller coaster and the gangway was a challenge for drivers and passengers alike as the zodiacs went up almost 2 metres at times when the larger swells came through.

For our final landing we crossed Bellsund and made our way to Recherchefjord where we went ashore on a gravel beach and spit close to the Recherchebreen. For this location we had a perimeter landing which meant we could free roam in the area safely guarded by the guides that were on Polar bear watch. Just as we were ashore and enjoying the views of the ice on the beach, we heard some crashing at the ice front and saw some small pieces of ice falling from the glacier. Minutes later a large slab of ice calved from the front! What an impressive sight and sound! The ice fall caused waves to wash onto the beach where we were standing and pieces of ice started to float over the lagoon.

The final activity on offer was the chance to take a Polar Plunge, a swim in the Arctic Ocean to feel the final chill during our voyage around Svalbard. With plenty of shouts and screams, enough to scare any polar bear away from the area, 24 people braved the chilly waters before heading back to the ship to warm up once more. It had been a lovely landing to finish the cruise with time to watch, enjoy and reflect on the last 9 days. All too soon we were making our way back to Longyearbyen.

At 1800 we were invited to the Lounge for Captain's Cocktails, a chance to meet with our Captain, Artur Iakovlev who has navigated Plancius through the ice and around Svalbard with the help of his skilled Officers on the Bridge. It wasn't always easy but he did an amazing job.

Our final dinner on board was a chance to share memories with new found friends and as we enjoyed an after dinner drink in the bar we sailed towards Longyearbyen and our little blue ship, Plancius anchored in the bay for the night in order for some guests to leave on the 2 am flight.



# Day 10 – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Longyearbyen

Some people had left the ship at midnight in order to catch the 2am flight to Oslo but for the rest of us we enjoyed a final wakeup call on board from Philipp and our last breakfast served by our lovely Philipino crew.

After breakfast we had our final zodiac ride to shore at the floating pontoon where we had embarked only 9 days earlier. It feels like we have been away for much longer on our Arctic voyage. During our trip we have seen Polar bears on the pack ice and on shore, watched walrus on the beach and on the ice. We have seen countless seabirds and walked the tundra and Polar Desert. It has been an amazing journey and one we will remember for many years to come.



**Your Expedition Team!**

**Northern most position:**

**80° 42.6'N**

**016° 14.9'E**

**Total distance sailed on our voyage:**

Nautical miles: 1145 nm

Kilometres: 2120 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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Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

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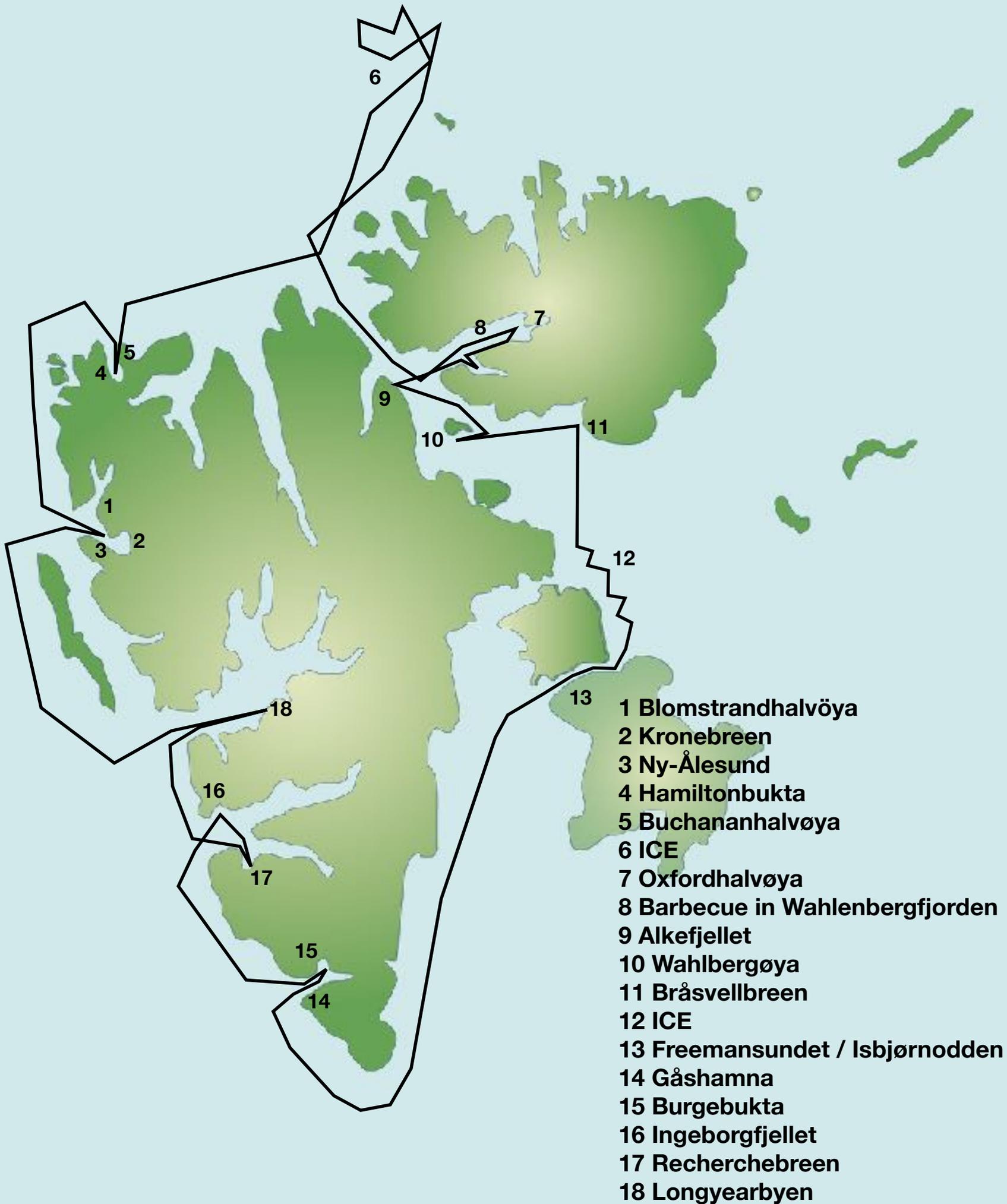
for Oceanwide Expeditions

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The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 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](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)



# Birds & Mammals of Svalbard

English	German	French	Dutch	Latin	17/8	18/8	19/8	20/8	21/8	22/8	23/8	24/8	25/8
Red-throated diver	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X	X						
Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	Petrel fulmar	Noordse stormvogel	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Leach's Storm Petrel	Wellenläufer	Océanite culblanc	Vaal Stormvogeltje	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		X							
Pink-footed Goose	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		X				X	X		X
Barnacle Goose	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		X							
Greylag Goose	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	<i>Anser anser</i>									
Brent Goose	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	<i>Branta bernicla</i>									
Common Eider	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		X			X		X	X	X
King Eider	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>									
Long-tailed Duck	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ijseend	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		X							
Rock Ptarmigan	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède des Alpes	Spitsbergen Sneeuwhoen	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>									
Ringed Plover	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									
Sanderling	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	<i>Calidris alba</i>						X			
Purple Sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X	X	X			X		X	X
Ruddy Turnstone	Steinwälzer	Tournepierre à collier	Steenloper	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									
Grey Phalarope	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>									
Pomarine Skua	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		X	X	X			X		
Arctic Skua	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			X		X	X		X	X
Long-tailed Skua	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>		X							
Great Skua	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		X	X						
Sabine's Gull	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	<i>Xema sabini</i>									
Glaucous Gull	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Great black-backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	<i>Larus marinus</i>									
Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>				X				X	
Arctic Tern	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Brunnich's Guillemot	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	<i>Uria lomvia</i>		X	X	X		X	X		
Black Guillemot ssp mandtii	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir blanc	Zwarte zeekoet ssp mandtii	<i>Cephus grylle mandtii</i>	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Little Auk	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	<i>Alle alle</i>		X							
Puffin	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaaiduiker	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X	X	X			X		X	
Snow Bunting	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgorst	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>					X			X	

**MAMMALS**

English	German	French	Dutch	Latin	Day									
					17/8	18/8	19/8	20/8	21/8	22/8	23/8	24/8	25/8	
Walrus	Walross	Morse	Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>			X	X		X	X			
Bearded seal	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X	X		X		X		
Ringed seal	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	<i>Phoca hispida</i>					X			X	X	
Harp seal	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>				X						
Hooded seal	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>				X			X			
Common /Harbour seal	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		X								
Minke Whale	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>				X			X	X		
Blue Whale	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>		X	X			X				
Fin Whale	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>						X	X	X		
Humpback Whale	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		X					X	X		
Bowhead whale	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>										
White-beaked Dolphin	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagenorhynque à bec blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>							X	X		
Beluga	Weisswal	Belouga	Beloega	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>										
Polar Bear	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>			X	X			X			
Arctic Fox	Polarfuchs	Renard arctique	Poolvos	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>			X			X			X	
Spitsbergen Reindeer	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Spitsbergen Rendier	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X	X				X	X	X	

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## Philipp Schaudy – Expedition Leader

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**Philipp ist Physiogeograph und hat in Österreich, Island und Spitzbergen studiert. Als nimmermüder Reisender und Abenteurer, passionierter Alpinist und Ausdauersportler ist er am liebsten unter freiem Himmel unterwegs und versucht, sein Leben aufregend zu gestalten.**

***Philipp holds a Master's Degree in Physical Geography and studied in Austria, Iceland and Svalbard. Being a restless traveller and adventurer, a passionate alpinist and endurance sportsman, he loves the outdoors and tries to keep his life exciting.***

Philipp hat mehr als 80 Länder und alle Kontinente bereist, viele davon per Fahrrad. Seit seinem ersten Besuch in Spitzbergen 1998 zieht es ihn jedes Jahr weit über den Polarkreis nach Norden. Von Januar 2004 bis Oktober 2006 lebten seine Frau Valeska und er durchgehend in Longyearbyen. Seit 2005 fährt Philipp auf kleinen Expeditionsschiffen und arbeitet als Expeditionsleiter, Guide und Vortragender auf Reisen in Spitzbergen, Grönland und in der Antarktis. Der Polarvirus hat ihn befallen und lässt ihn nicht mehr los; bitte Vorsicht – er ist ansteckend!

*Philipp has visited more than 80 countries and set foot on all continents. He mostly travels by bicycle; in sum 120.000 kilometres so far. Since his first visit to Svalbard in 1998, it is dragging him far beyond the polar circle every year. From January 2004 to October 2006, he and his wife Valeska lived year round in Longyearbyen. Since 2005, he has been working on small expedition vessels as expedition leader, guide, and lecturer, on voyages to some of the wildest places on earth: Svalbard, Greenland and Antarctica. He is a victim of the polar virus; and be aware – it is contagious!*

# Ali Liddle — Assistant Expedition Leader



## English

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

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

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

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

## Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin im sogenannten "Camp" wie auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zuständig für den Bereich Bildung des Umweltamtes und teilte ihre Zeit zwischen Klassenzimmer und Naturschutz. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt betrieb. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, um zu wandern, Ski zu laufen und die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert sind. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

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

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

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## Gérard Bodineau—Expedition Guide

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Born in 1960 in Western France, Gérard started to hike and camp at any season by the age of 13. After some years of mountaineering in the Alps, he discovered his passion for the Arctic in 1986. He loved it so much that he did several cross-country ski expeditions by himself ...

... in Greenland, Nunavut and Spitsbergen, among them a one-month solo expedition in Spitsbergen, one to the North Magnetic & also Geographic Poles, and a four-week yachting expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula. For 15 years, he shared his time between working as an IT specialist and guiding expeditions in the Arctic. Since 2004, he worked as a guide and Expedition Leader in Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctica and South Georgia. He decided to do guiding as his main activity in 2009. When not travelling, he lives in Provence under a sunny climate. He is most interested in glaciology and other Earth Sciences as well as ornithology.

*Gérard, 1960 in Westfrankreich geboren, hat nach einigen Jahren der Bergsteigerei in den Alpen 1986 seine Leidenschaft für die Arktis entdeckt und war auf Skiexpeditionen in Grönland, Nunavut und Spitzbergen unterwegs (u. a. eine einmonatige Soloexpedition in Spitzbergen, Expeditionen zu den magnetischen und geografischen Polen und eine vierwöchige Yachtexpedition zur Antarktischen Halbinsel).*

*Seit 2004 ist er als Expeditionsleiter und Guide in der Arktis und der Antarktis unterwegs. Er interessiert sich besonders für Gletscherkunde, Geowissenschaften sowie für Ornithologie. Wenn Gérard nicht unterwegs ist, lebt er in der sonnigen Provence.*

## DANIELS KARIN AMBY – EXPEDITION GUIDE



Karin ist im wunderschönen Dalarna, in Schweden, geboren. Sie hat eine Guideausbildung gemacht, wodurch sie im Jahr 2004, mit gerade mal 20 Jahren, das erste Mal nach Spitzbergen kam und sich sofort in die arktische Inselgruppe verliebte. Da ihre schwedischen Freunde nach einer Weile ziemlich gelangweilt waren über das viele Geträume über Spitzbergen, packte sie 2007 ihre Sachen und zog nach Longyearbyen.

Auf Spitzbergen fand Karin vielerlei Beschäftigungen, neben Museumsarbeit und wissenschaftlicher Feldarbeit, studierte sie Biologie bei UNIS (University Centre in Svalbard), wo sie ihre Vorliebe für die arktische Pflanzenwelt vertiefte. Ihr grosses Interesse an der Botanik und der atemberaubender arktischen Natur, trieb Karin zur Gründung einer eigenen Fahrrad-Guide-Firma, mit der sie die letzten Jahre auf Spitzbergen beschäftigt war. Im Jahre 2016 beschloss Karin mit ihrer Familie schweren Herzens Spitzbergen zu verlassen. Sie leben seitdem in Älvdalen, Schweden, aber kann natürlich ihre Füße nie allzu lange von ihrer alten Heimat fern halten.

*Karin was born in beautiful Dalarna in Sweden. She studied to become a guide and in 2004 with just 20 years she travelled the first time to Spitsbergen and fell in love with the Arctic Archipelago. Back in Sweden her friends got tired about her dreams of Spitsbergen, therefore Karin decided in 2007 to pack her bags and move to Longyearbyen.*

*On Spitsbergen Karin had a diverse range of occupations, besides working at the museum and doing scientific fieldwork, she studied Biology at UNIS (University Centre in Svalbard) where she increased her passion for the arctic plant world. Due to her love for Botany and the beautiful arctic nature, she decided to start her own bike-guiding company that kept her busy the last years. In 2016 Karin and her family decided with a heavy heart to leave Spitsbergen, since then she lives in Älvdalen, Sweden. However, Karin can never keep her feet away from her old home for too long.*

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## Chloé Maréchal - Expedition Guide

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Chloé is a passionate diver fascinated by marine life and exploration. She earned a European master degree in Marine biodiversity and conservation and has a love to share her expertise for the marine environment. In April 2013, she was selected as the 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater scholar. She spends a year working side

by side with current leaders in underwater fields, getting very different experiences in marine science and in the diving industry. Diving and science are not her only passion; she enjoys exploring new countries and discovering new cultures. She has been diving on all continents and living in more than 20 countries. Chloé now lives in northern Norway just above the polar circle. When she is not onboard, she can be found underwater: observing the ocean's inhabitants, searching for forgotten wrecks or mapping and exploring undiscovered underwater cave passages.

Chloé ist eine leidenschaftliche Taucherin mit einer Faszination für Meeresleben und Exploration. Sie hat einen Masterabschluss in Marinerbiodiversität und Naturschutz und liebt es ihr Wissen über den Meereslebensraum zu teilen. In April 2013 hat sie das 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater Stipendiat bekommen. Sie verbrachte daraufhin ein Jahr Seite an Seite arbeitend mit den derzeitige führenden Experten in Unterwassergebieten und erhielt so einen breiten Hintergrund in Meereswissenschaften und der Tauchindustrie. Tauchen und Wissenschaft sind nicht ihre einzige Leidenschaft. Sie liebt es auch neue Länder zu erkunden und neue Kulturen zu entdecken. Sie hat auf allen Kontinenten getaucht und in mehr als 20 Ländern gelebt. Chloé lebt mittlerweile in Nordnorwegen, unmittelbar oberhalb des Polarkreises. Wenn sie nicht an Bord ist, dann kann man sie Unterwasser antreffen. Dort beobachtet sie die Bewohner des Ozeans, sucht nach vergessenen Schiffswracks oder kartiert und erkundet Unterwasserhöhlen.

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## Michelle van Dijk – Expedition guide

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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.

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## Johanne Skrefsrud – Expedition Guide

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Growing up in Norway with the forests, lakes and mountains as her backyard, she has a strong passion for the outdoors and everything they have to offer. She enjoys travelling, exploring new places and meeting people of different cultural background. Of all the places she has visited, the spectacular northern nature and pure wildness of the Arctic have a special place in her heart.

Johanne has always had a fascination towards the complexity of nature and the extreme forces lying within it, especially the ocean, which has led her to study oceanography. Scuba diving deepened her

love for the sea and the wish to protect our environment. Her studies give her the possibility to get an insight into how this incredible natural system works.

*Johanne ist in Norwegen aufgewachsen; Wälder, Seen und Berge waren ihr Spielplatz, woraus sich eine Leidenschaft für alle Outdooraktivitäten und die Natur entwickelt hat. Sie reist gerne, entdeckt neue Orte und trifft gerne Menschen mit unterschiedlichen kulturellem Hintergrund. Die Wildheit der Arktis und ihre spektakuläre Natur liegen ihr besonders am Herzen.*

*Die Vielschichtigkeit der Natur und die extremen Kräfte, die in ihr liegen, haben Johanne schon immer fasziniert – ganz besonders die Ozeane, was sie dazu brachte, Ozeanographie zu studieren. Das Tauchen hat ihre Liebe zum Meer und den Wunsch, unsere Umwelt zu schützen, noch verstärkt. Durch ihr Studium bekommt sie die Möglichkeit zu sehen, wie dieses unglaubliche System der Natur funktioniert.*

# Ross Wheeler- Expedition Guide



Ross is from Cornwall, which is located in the south western corner of the UK. As he grew up in a coastal town he has always been fascinated by marine wildlife and the marine environment. Having completed an undergraduate degree and master's degree in environmental sciences / conservation biology at Plymouth University he then went on to use his passion and education to work as an environmental consultant and researcher in the coastal and marine field. This progressed into the offshore sector where he worked as a marine mammal observer and passive acoustic monitoring operator in the offshore seismic and renewable industry sectors. This role took him to a wide range of areas throughout the North Atlantic, Central Africa and Southern Africa where he conducted marine mammal and sea bird surveys aboard various survey vessels. After a few years in this industry he then moved into the environmental compliance side of the

cruise ship industry where he continues to work for six months of the year today. Whether he is working on ships around the world, volunteering for conservation-based organisations or travelling in his 'time off' he is constantly seeking opportunities to photograph wildlife in their natural environment. Feel free to ask him any questions about marine mammals, seabirds or anything environmentally related with the shipping industry.

Ross ist aus Cornwall an der Südwestecke von England. Da er in einer Küstenstadt aufgewachsen ist, war er schon immer von Meerestieren und der marinen Lebenswelt fasziniert. Nach dem er seinen Bachelor und seinen Masterabschluss in Umweltwissenschaften und biologischem Naturschutz an der Universität von Plymouth gemacht hat, hat er seine Leidenschaft und Ausbildung genutzt, um als Umweltberater und -forscher im Küsten- und Meeresbereich zu arbeiten. Dies hat sich in den Offshore Bereich ausgeweitet, wo er als Meeressäugerbeobachter und passiver Akustikoperator in der Offshoreseismik- und Erneuerbaren Energieindustrie. Diese Rolle hat ihn in eine weite Vielfalt von Gebieten im Nordatlantik, Zentralafrika und Südafrika gebracht, wo er Meeressäuger- und Meeressvogelzählungen auf verschiedenen Forschungsschiffen durchgeführt hat. Nach einigen Jahren in diesem Sektor, ist er in die Umweltschutzeinhaltung von Kreuzfahrtschiffen gewechselt, wo er heute sechs Monate im Jahr arbeitet. Egal ob er auf Schiffen rund um die Welt arbeitet, sich in Naturschutzorganisationen engagiert oder in seiner Freizeit reist, er sucht kontinuierlich nach Möglichkeiten, um Tiere in ihrer natürlichen Umgebung zu fotografieren. Fragt ihn ruhig zu Meeressäugern, Meeressvögeln oder Umweltthemen in Verbindung mit der Kreuzfahrtindustrie.

## Benjamin Koster – Expedition Guide



Benjamin (born in 1984) is an enthusiastic and interdisciplinary educated geoscientist. He studied at the RWTH Aachen University (Germany) and holds a PhD in geoscience (area of specialization: neotectonics and natural hazards).

His interests are not exclusively focused on geoscience, geology or geophysics, but additionally on outdoor activities, photography and music.

Although Benjamin travelled to several beautiful northern countries (like Norway, Iceland or Canada), he was fascinated by the Arctic's unique landscape and its outstanding environment since he performed his scientific investigations in the Arctic regions (including stays on Svalbard as well as Jan Mayen) some years ago. He visited the Arctic regions several times on his own after the research projects were finished.

Benjamin is part of the expedition team on board of the vessels of 'Oceanwide Expeditions' since the Arctic season 2018 and is deeply grateful for this fascinating, interesting and unique opportunity that one doesn't get often in life.

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Benjamin (geboren im Jahr 1984) ist ein passionierter und multidisziplinär ausgebildeter Geowissenschaftler. Er hat an der RWTH Aachen University angewandte Geowissenschaften studiert und im Fachbereich Neotektonik und Georisiken promoviert.

Seine Interessen sind nicht nur die Geowissenschaften, die Geologie oder die Geophysik, sondern auch diverse Outdoor-Aktivitäten, Fotografie und Musik.

Nach diversen Forschungsprojekten auf Spitzbergen und Jan Mayen ist Benjamin von der einzigartigen und vielfältigen Landschaft sowie Umwelt der Arktis sehr angetan, obwohl er zuvor schon einige Male diverse nordische Länder (beispielsweise Norwegen, Island oder Kanada) bereist hat. Nachdem die Forschungsprojekte abgeschlossen waren, bereiste er die arktischen Regionen noch mehrere Male auf eigene Faust.

Benjamin ist Teil des Expeditionsteams von 'Oceanwide Expeditions' seit der arktischen Saison 2018 und ist sehr dankbar an dieser spannenden, interessanten und einzigartigen Möglichkeit, welche man nicht oft im Leben hat, teilhaben zu können.

# Andreas Alexander – Expedition Guide



Andreas started his career as one of the „bad guys“: As a mechanical engineer on fossil power plant construction sites. Not completely convinced by that, he continued in materials research to finally follow his fascination for polar research. The direction was clear during the parallel studies in mechanical engineering and geology: North. Scientific drilling in the caledonic mountains in Sweden, volcanoes in Alaska and finally Svalbard. Andreas lived almost three years there and studied Arctic Geology and Geophysics at the University Centre in Svalbard. Hereby he could regularly be found crawling and climbing in and under glaciers for his research. Meanwhile Andreas is working as a PhD Research Fellow at the University of Oslo and spends his time in Norway, Svalbard, Greenland, Japan and Alaska. When he is not standing in the lecture room, sitting in his office or doing fieldwork in the Arctic, he works as an Expedition Guide in the Arctic and Antarctic. A job, where he shares his polar fascination with his guests and gladly talks about the life in polar sciences, glaciers and geology.

Andreas hat seine Karriere als einer der „bad guys“ begonnen: Als Maschinenbauingenieur auf fossilen Kraftwerksbaustellen. Nicht so ganz davon überzeugt, ging es in der Materialforschung weiter, um dann letztendlich der Faszination der Polarforschung zu folgen. Während des parallelen Studiums des Maschinenbaus und der Geologie ging es dann auch schnell Richtung Norden: Auf eine Forschungsbohrung in die schwedischen Kaledoniden, auf Vulkane nach Alaska und nach Spitzbergen. Dort verbrachte Andreas knapp drei Jahren und hat an der dortigen Universität Arktische Geologie und Geophysik studiert. Dabei konnte er regelmäßig, im Rahmen seiner Forschungsprojekte, kriechend und kletternd in und unter Gletschern angetroffen werden. Mittlerweile arbeitet Andreas als Doktorand in der Satellitenfernerkundung von Gletschern an der Universität in Oslo und verbringt seine Zeit in Norwegen, Spitzbergen, Grönland, Japan und Alaska. Wenn er mal nicht im Hörsaal steht, im Büro hockt oder auf Gletschern herumklettert, dann arbeitet Andreas als Guide auf Schiffen in der Arktis und Antarktis. Ein Job, bei dem er seine polare Faszination mit den Gästen teilt und gerne über das Leben in der Polarforschung, Gletscher und Geologie referiert.



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

# Captain Artur Iakovlev

and his international crew

of 45

Including:

Hotel Manager:	<b>Siegfried Penzenleitner</b>	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Melanie Penzenleitner</b>	[Austria]
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Ivanovic</b>	[Serbia]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Bruno De Geeter</b>	[Belgium]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Philipp Schaudy</b>	[Austria]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Ali Liddle</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gerard Bodineau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Daniels Karin Amby</b>	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Chloe Marechal</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Michelle van Dijk</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Johanne Skrefsrud</b>	[Norway]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Ross Wheeler</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Benjamin Koster</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andreas Alexander</b>	[Bavaria!]

Welcome you on board!

## Around Spitsbergen

ON BOARD THE

# *Plancius*

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August 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 (Day 1)

# Welcome Aboard!

**16.00**      **Embarkation.** Once you have found your cabin, please feel free to explore the ship.

**When all are on board**

**Welcome Aboard Briefing** in the Lounge/Bar – on Deck 5.

**thereafter**    **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill.**

**19.30**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.

**thereafter**    You will get your **rubber boots** in the boot-room (Deck 3).  
Listen to **announcements** – we will call you by deck.

*Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck betide us;  
Let us journey to a lonely land I know.  
There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star a gleam to guide us,  
And the wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.*

*Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019

- 07.00** Wake up call.
- 07.30** Breakfast buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 08.15** For all German speakers: **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge.
- thereafter** For all English speakers: **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge on **how to behave in Polar Bear country and on Zodiac operations.**
- thereafter** **Landing: Blomstrandhalvøya.** This morning we intend to land on the north side of Kongsfjord at a derelict mining settlement, where Ernest Mansfield, a notorious character in Svalbard's history, mined for marble a century ago. We will stroll through the tundra and one group can hike up a higher hill for some great views of Kongsfjord. All groups keep eyes open in the search for red-throated divers, reindeer and long-tailed skuas that are nesting in the area.
- 13.00** **Lunch-Buffer** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Landing: Ny Ålesund.** One of the most northerly settlements in the world (78°55'N) was run by a Norwegian coal company until a series of tragic mining accidents shut operations down in 1962. Today, Ny Ålesund is a centre for Arctic research and a famous historical site. It was from here that the North Pole was finally attained in 1926, when Amundsen, Nobile and Ellsworth flew over 90°N in the dirigible *Norge*. The anchoring mast still stands as a memorial to that famous event.
- Please follow the rules.** Stay on the gravel roads *at all times* or we might disturb sensitive (often hidden) scientific equipment and destroy the vegetation. Mobile phones are not working here and have to be used in flight-mode only. Do not leave the settlement this is polar bear country!
- The northern-most post office (not manned) in the world is here, as is the northern-most souvenir shop (open for us from 15.30 to 16.30). Bring cash (\$, €, NOK) or credit card.
- 16.30** The **English-speakers** meet at the **bust of Roald Amundsen** to walk to the anchoring mast of the *Norge* and to hear some more of the story behind it.
- 17.00** The **German-speakers** meet at the **bust of Roald Amundsen.**
- from 17.00** **Zodiac shuttle** back to the vessel. **Last Zodiac leaves at 18.00!**
- 18.45** **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.30** **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

"Where does the white go when the snow melts?"

Author unknown



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

- 07.00 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00** **Landing: Bockfjord.** Named for a German surveyor, Bockfjord is a smaller branch (8 km long) of Woodfjord. Here we find the only visible traces of volcanism in Spitsbergen, including the pyramidal volcanic ruin of Sverrefjellet and sinter terraces deposited from the warm mineral-rich waters. We plan on three hiking options here for terrific views and exploration. On the medium and especially on the long walk the terrain is getting more and blockier, the further we hike. No easy walking!
- 12.30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 15.30** **Landing: Texas Bar, Liefdefjorden.** This afternoon we want to get ashore on the northern side of Liefdefjorden, at a small trapper's cabin called "Texas Bar". We will split into groups and explore the tundra in different walking speeds. Except for the strenuous hike, walking here is easy.
- 19.00** **Recap** of today and **Briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon Appetite!

*What is the secret of the Arctic?*

*You must live through the long night, the storms, and the destruction of human pride.*

*You must have gazed on the deadness of all things to grasp their livingness.*

*In the return of the light, in the magic of the ice, in the life-truths of animals observed in the wilderness...*

*lies the secret of the Arctic and the overpowering beauty of its lands.*

*Christiane Ritter (1898-2000). A Woman in the Polar Night*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

20<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Expedition day in the pack ice!** North of Spitzbergen we will encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck in the search of wildlife – it is a brilliant experience unto itself to navigate in the pack ice.

If we have the luck to encounter polar bears, please **keep noise levels low** (voices down; close doors gently) for the best opportunities of finding and remaining with the wildlife.

- 07.30**      **Sleep in** 😊. Philipp's voice will stop our sleep.
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 12.30**      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 19.00**      **Recap** of today and **Briefing** for tomorrow in the library.
- 19.30**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room.

*"One does not discover new parts of the world,  
without the courage  
of leaving all coastlines behind.*

*André Gide*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

21<sup>st</sup> August 2019

**Nordautland:** We plan to spend the day on Svalbards second largest island (14.443 km<sup>2</sup>). The bareness and stunning landscapes of Nordautland are fascinating. We have arrived in the polar desert. Nevertheless, some plants like the Svalbard Poppy and Purple Saxifrage are found on this rugged island. The landscape attracts with gentle sloped and massive icecaps are covering most of the island.

We hope to **get ashore twice** on Nordautland and want to explore the landscape in our well-known hiking groups. For the **mountain goats** in the afternoon: up and down through **loose gravel**. Otherwise walking is **easy at both locations**.

- 07.00** A very **good morning!**
- 07.30** **Breakfast buffet** for one hour.
- 09.00** **Landing: Wahlenbergfjord**
- 12.30** **Lunch buffet** for one hour.
- 15.00** **Landing: Palanderbukta**
- 19.00** **Today & tomorrow.** Recap & briefing in the lounge.
- 19.30** Summer in the Arctic, we eat outside! It's **BBQ** tonight!

*something feels so cold against my skin  
the coldness goes so well with the state i'm in  
barefoot in the snow  
what do you do  
where do you go  
barefoot in the snow*

*part of a song by Susi varming  
(Norwegian artist, grew up in Longyearbyen)*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

- 07.00**      **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 07.30**      Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 09.00**      **Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet.** This morning we would like to visit the "Auk Mountain", so named due to the enormous number of Brünnich's guillemots breeding along these 100m high basaltic cliffs. We intend to do a Zodiac cruise following the whole spectacular cliff. Keep also an eye out for kittiwakes nesting in between, predatory glaucous gulls and amazing geology. Dress warm, we are not getting ashore. The first two boats will be German speaking.
- 12.30**      **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15:30**      **Landing: Torellneset.** This is a place where we often find walrus resting on the beach. If our friends are at home and conditions in our favour, then we will visit the animals in two groups. **Both groups will get the same amount of time with the walrus.**
- The first 5 boats:** We are **going for a short hike first.** After that we visit the walrus.
- The second 5 boats:** We are **going to the walrus first.** After that we go for a short hike. If you are in this group there will be the possibility to get back to the ship right after the walrus-visit.
- 19.00**      Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30**      Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!
- after dinner** **Ships cruise: Bråsvellbreen.** At the exit of Hinlopen Strait we will navigate towards Bråsvellbreen, a massive glaciertongue that is part of the Austfonna icecap. This is where the 200-kilometre-long ice-cliff starts, which is the longest glacier front of the northern hemisphere. Come out on deck and enjoy the impressive scenery.

*Men wanted for hazardous journey.  
Small wages. Bitter cold.  
Long months of complete darkness.  
Constant danger.  
Safe return doubtful.  
Honour and recognition in case of success.*

*Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922) newspaper announcement before his Endurance Expedition*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

23. August 2019

- 07.00**      **Wake up call!** Good morning!
- 07.30**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00**      **Landing: Barentsøya/Edgeøya.** We plan to spend today's morning in the **Freemansund**. We have left the pack ice and the polar desert behind and find relatively rich tundra. The landscape is great for hiking and we want to go for exploration.  
**Attention!** Both islands are quite „contaminated“ by bears, and it happens regularly that we are changing to plan B, C, D or E. We find a couple of good landing spots on Barents- and Edgeøya, and if there is a bear on land at one potential landing site, we will continue to the next one. Therefore we don't want to set a specific location to get on shore.
- 12.30**      **Lunch** is available in the restaurant.
- 15.00**      **Zodiac cruise: Negribreen.** The glacier Negribreen did „surge“ (glacier-advance due to mass-balance) in the last year. The glacier-front still is productive and spectacular. If conditions are in our favour [specially wind and waves) we will do a Zodiac cruise around the area.
- 19.00**      **Today and tomorrow.** Recap and briefing.
- 19.30**      **Enjoy your meal!**

*A lonely seagull flies the winds  
Majestic... soaring...gliding wings  
A single screech sounds from the sky  
Come fly with me... come here and fly*

*Author unknown*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

24<sup>th</sup> August 2019

- 07.00**      **Good morning!**
- 07.30**      **Breakfast** – come and get it.
- 09.00**      **Landing: Gåshamna, Hornsund.** Today we will be exploring Hornsund, Spitsbergen's most southerly and arguably one of the most beautiful fjords. The area is stunning – high mountain peaks, glaciers, and the potential for good views on our hikes this morning. We intend to land on the western side of Gåshamna ('Goose-bay'), a wide bay that has been witness to different phases of Spitsbergen's history. Remains of a 17<sup>th</sup> century English whaling station and foundations of Pomor houses (Russian hunters) are found in the area.  
If weather permits the mountain-goats can climb a very (!!!) steep mountain to gain some great views.
- 12.30**      **Lunchtime** – for one hour.
- 14.30**      **Zodiac Cruise: Burgerbukta, Hornsund.** Today's afternoon we plan a Zodiac cruise in beautiful Burgerbukta, a smaller side arm of Hornsund, with great glacial scenery. Please dress warmly (we will stay in the boats)!
- 19.00**      **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow – what's next?
- 19.30**      **Dinner** is served in the restaurant. Bon Appetite!

*"We need the tonic of wildness... At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature."*

*Henry David Thoreau (Walden: Or, Life in the Woods)*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitzbergen

25. August 2019

- 07.00**      **Good morning, wake up!**
- 07.30      **Breakfast** for one hour in the dining room.
- 09.00**      **Landing: Ingeborgfjellet.** Today's morning landing will be at Ingeborgfjellet, a place with lush vegetation and potentially good chances to see reindeer and birdlife. In our well-known hiking groups we plan to explore the country.
- 12.00      **Lunchtime!**
- 14.00**      **Landing: Recherchefjord.** Our last landing will be in the very back of Recherchefjord. It is a beautiful place to say goodbye to Spitsbergen ...
- Bring your swimsuit.** At the end of our landing we offer, for those who ever wanted to dip in the Arctic-ocean, to do exactly that. Towels will be on shore for you. Enjoy!
- 18.00**      **Farewell Cocktail with Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.00      **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen

26<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Important:** Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors before you go to breakfast! Latest at 08.00. So that the crew can bring it on shore.

- 07.00** For a last time: **A wonderful good morning.**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** in the restaurant.
- 08.30** **Last landing: Longyearbyen**
- 09.00** **The bus from pier to town is leaving.**
- 11.00** For all booked on **flight DY397**: The bus is leaving from town to the airport. (From exactly where he has dropped you before. Please be on time.)
- 13.00** For all booked on **flight SK4425**: The bus is leaving from town to the airport. (From exactly where he has dropped you before. Please be on time.)

*"And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time."*

*T.S. Eliot*

**Safe journey home!**