



**Exploring the Spitsbergen coastline
Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen
29th of June – 6th of July 2022
On board the
*M.V. Plancius***



MV *Plancius* is named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and minister Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). She was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy with the name Hr. Ms. Tydeman. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004, when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. In 2007 the ship was completely overhauled and converted into a 114-passenger expedition ship. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draught of 5 m (20 feet), ice class 1D, top speed 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.

Captain Torry Sakkariassen

and his international crew

of 49 sailors:

Chief Officer	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
2. Officer	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Ukraine]
3. Officer	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Hotel Manager:	Aleks Lebedev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Sergey Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Valerie Feijen	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Pablo Brandemann	[Argentina]
Ass. Exp. Leader:	Marcel Paul	[Netherlands]
Kayak Guide:	Alexis Bellezze	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Elodie Boevier	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Ben Giunchi	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Beth Hitchcock	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Slava Nikitin	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Michael Green	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Keechy Akkerman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Axel Brandemann	[Argentina]

Day 1 - Wednesday 29th of June, Longyearbyen

GPS Position on arrival: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E (Harbour Longyearbyen)

Wind: Calm Sea: Calm Weather: Cloudy Temperature: 10°C

Many of the guest arrived at Longyearbyen on the day of embarkation. The morning started with drizzle and thick fog. We must wait for our return to Longyearbyen to see the spectacular views as you fly to and from Svalbard.

In the afternoon, guests arrived on board to find their luggage which had already been distributed around the cabins. The final fresh supplies were loaded on board Plancius and we cast off our lines from the pier.

Once we were underway the evening went by quickly as we were busy with the mandatory safety briefing, a lovely first dinner and of course cocktails with Captain Torry Sakkariassen. As we set off out of Isfjord in the evening, and northward towards our first scheduled activity of the trip, there was time to enjoy the views of the flat table-topped mountains in the late evening light which had now emerged from the low cloud and the sun was streaming down.



Day 2 - Thursday 30th of June, Lilliehöökreen and Signehamna

12h00 GPS Position: 79°21.2'N 011°40.5'E

Wind: Variable 3 Sea: Calm Weather: Drizzle Temperature: 4°C

The first morning of our voyage in the Arctic arrived and our Expedition Leader, Pablo, woke us up with an update of weather conditions that awaited us outside at the beginning of this adventure. Thirty minutes later Aleks announced breakfast. We were delighted with the fantastic buffet to fill ourselves with energy, so we were ready to explore. As with every expedition, we must start with a few briefings to inform us of procedures, safety, and rules. Although we cannot eliminate our impact, the guidance helps us to minimize our impact as far as possible in this pristine environment.



The first activity was a zodiac cruise at Lilliehöökfjord to see a beautiful glacier named Lilliehöökreen. The morning was cloudy and cold, but the views were fantastic. These grey days help to catch the intense blue colour of the ice. We were

lucky to have the opportunity to see the blue glacier ice from close up because there were some nice icebergs and growlers floating in the bay.

Out on the zodiac cruise the cold winds reminded us of where we were - in the Arctic. It was a lovely warm feeling to be back on board in time for a great lunch prepared and served by the galley team.



The ship stayed in the area for the next activity: a landing at Signehamna. Here we could see the historical site remains related to the presence of Germans who established a weather station that operated for a couple of years in the early 40s. The expedition team took us for a hike between hills, some of us also passing around the lake, to get to the remains of this interesting site with some dark episodes that involved a confrontation between Germans and Norwegians.

With all the logistics of the day we were able to see how the zodiac operations work on board Plancius. In addition, our good luck and the efforts of the crew and staff brought us an impressive first day to start this dreamed adventure!

Day 3 - Friday 1st of July, Svitjodbreen glacier in Fuglefjord and Alicehamna, Raudfjord with a Polar bear

12h00 GPS Position: 79°45.7'N / 011°28.8'E

Wind: ESE 4/5 Sea: Smooth Weather: Overcast Temperature: 9°C

Good morning Plancius! Rise and shine!

It was a sunny, beautiful morning. After the breakfast we were ready to explore Fuglefjorden: “Bird fjord”. The name is misleading, as there are actually no bird colonies in Fuglefjord. We went for a zodiac cruise along Svitjodbreen glacier. The panoramic view of the glacier front was breath taking with the occasional calving taking place. We were very lucky to spot a male and female of King Eider duck.



After the zodiac cruise our Expedition Leader (EL) made the decision to land on a rocky beach and to hike up the glacier, which turned out to be an amazing experience.

After lunch, plan A was to go to Fuglesongen island but due to strong wind gusting up to 35 knots we had to come up with a plan B. So, plan B was to look for a shelter deeper in Raudfjorden at a bay called Hamiltonbukta. In the meantime, one of ABs who was on watch on the bridge, spotted a Polar bear on Alicehamna, the other side of the fjord from Hamiltonbukta. As on a real expedition we were faced with an unpredictable situation and our EL came with a plan C: to go for a ships cruise along the shore and observe the bear behaviour. Soon the plan was elaborated and the call was made to continue watching a polar bear from the zodiacs, but by the time we approached the shore at Alicehamna, the bear has gone. We spent a good hour in our zodiacs scouting for the Polar bear, but without success. In the end we came back to the ship for cup of hot tea during the evening recap and plans for tomorrow.



After a la Carte dinner, soon we were approaching Mofen island. Mofen is an unusual little island, only four or five square kilometres in area. Mofen is home to one of the best-known Walrus haulout sites in Svalbard. It was a bit foggy and rainy around the island, but wildlife lovers enjoyed a view from the outer deck of the walrus colony on the Island and the most passionate ones were blessed to spot a rare Sabine's gulls, flying above the walruses. The Sabine's gull is a rather small gull. It is the only gull in Svalbard with a black head. The flight of the Sabine's gull is very elegant. It was perfect way to end the day. Good night Plancius. Tomorrow will be another day full of new discoveries.



Day 4 – Saturday 2nd of July, hike at Palanderbukta and afternoon zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet

12h00 GPS Position: 79°34.2'N / 020°40.8'E

Wind: S 2 Sea: Smooth Weather: Partly Cloudy Temperature: 7°C

Good morning, good morning! And what a beautiful morning it was! Just before breakfast we spotted a seal next to the ship, a good start of the day. We then did a landing and kayaking at Palanderbukta, where we had the option for a longer, fast-paced walk, or a shorter walk along the ridge behind the beach. Both hikes took us



across a few ancient beaches, also known as 'raised beaches', which were formed by uplift of the land following the retreat of the glaciers in the last millennia. This allowed us to find shells above the current seashore, that were thousands of years old! We also found evidence of freezing and thawing of the groundwater in the form of spectacular stone rings! Because finer sediment contains more groundwater than in between the bigger rocks, the expanding and contracting of the water during the freezing and thawing creates a lateral movement of the bigger rocks. Eventually the bigger rocks will form beautiful circles, with the finer sediment in the middle. Some flowers managed to manifest themselves on this rocky environment, where only the hardiest plants can grow. We saw stunning Svalbard Poppy's, Purple Saxifrage, Whitlow-grass and Tufted Saxifrage.



The kayakers did a small walk on the beach up to the first ridge before or after swapping with the team in the water. The water was very calm and acted like a mirror, which gave the kayakers a beautiful, surreal experience.

After all that walking and exploring, we were definitely ready for lunch, which was delicious as usual. On the way over to our next location, the sky was orange, the water was calm and mirror-like and icebergs were floating all around us... It was stunning!



The afternoon was like a scene from the movie 'Birds' by Hitchcock. We did a zodiac cruise along the steep cliffs of Alkefjellet, or Guillemot Mountain, where the guillemots nest and swarm in the air. The cliffs were formed by a horizontal intrusion of dolerite into a layer of limestone, giving the cliffs a black colour with light layers underneath and above it. These cliffs have tiny little ledges, which are perfect for the ca. 60.000 breeding pairs of Guillemots to nest on, as they are difficult to reach by predators such as the Arctic Fox. Speaking of the Arctic Fox, we saw three of them right underneath the cliffs! One even gave us a nice show on the snow! What an amazing and special appearance to finish of an incredible day!

Day 5 –Sunday 3rd of July, zodiac cruise at the Seven Islands (Sjuøyne) and sailing to the pack ice

12h00 GPS Position: 80°56.5'N / 020°01.6'E

Wind: NE 3 Sea: Smooth Weather: Overcast / Fog Temperature: 3°C



Plancius sailed during the whole night and was heading North toward the small archipelago of Sjuøyne or commonly named Seven Islands. We reached the latitude of 80°20.5'N making us closer to the North Pole than the arctic circle.

We were woken up by the smooth voice of Pablo, our Expedition Leader, at 6:30 sharp. We all appreciated the early morning breakfast in the Lounge before jumping in the Zodiacs at 7 o'clock. The barren and desolate landscape makes the atmosphere of this place quite special. All the zodiacs paired up and left in different directions to explore this mysterious archipelago. Some of the Zodiacs had the chance to see some Common Eiders, an Arctic Skua fighting with a Kittiwake and an Ivory Gull. Others were able to see some impressive ice bergs with an arch. And some had the experience of being surrounded by the fog in the return journey towards the ship. Soon after our arrival on board, our Hotel Manager and the galley

team prepared some sandwiches to fill the hungry stomachs after this chilly zodiac exploration cruise on this Northernmost archipelago of Svalbard.



At around 10 o'clock, the ship was heading North, the objective being to reach the sea ice. This is a unique environment and ecosystem that makes the arctic so iconic. Elodie gave us a lecture about the formation, evolution and climatic issues of arctic sea ice. We learnt that sea ice is a not a dead zone but a very important ecosystem

where everything about wildlife is connected. Although conditions are harsh, life thrives above, below, and within sea ice. Some species depend entirely on the presence of sea ice to survive. Seals and walrus give birth and nurse their pups on the ice, and they look for food near the ice edge and under the ice. Sea ice is also a hunting and breeding ground for polar bears, and a foraging ground for whales.

After 4 hours of sailing, we finally reached the sea ice and its loose ice floes of first-year ice. The cloudy sky gave a unique atmosphere to the place. We were all on the outside decks, living this magical moment in our life, taking pictures, looking in our binoculars to find wildlife. We had the chance to observe dozens of harp seals swimming, a bearded seal lying on an ice floe and a minke whale.

In the evening, we had the surprised polar BBQ prepared and served by the galley and dining room teams on the aft deck. It was cold but it is definitely not every day that we can eat a sausage next to the arctic pack ice! The dancefloor was busy until very late!

It was another amazing day in the high arctic!



Day 6 – Monday 4th of July, Smeerenburg and Madalenefjord landings

12h00 GPS Position: 79°43.7'N / 011°01.9'E

Wind: N 5 Sea: Smooth Weather: Partly Cloudy Temperature: 8°C

After breakfast we made a landing at this wonderful place to walk along the beach to visit the Walrus on the sand. We didn't have to wait long as the Walrus were play fighting in the sea. A big bull checked us out whilst we stood in a line enjoying the sights and smells walrus offer. On the beach Marcel explained the story behind some of the historical artifacts scattered over the spit of sand. He showed us the blubber pots and explained how the Dutch Whalers lived on this land in the 17th and 18th Century and had us imagine how it would be to live and work in this desolate place in those times. Too soon it was time to return to the ship for lunch.



Following our lunch, the team took us to this beautiful location, Magdalenefjord, where we walked around the beach and moss dodging the nesting Terns and Skuas amongst the rocks. We saw another site where whaling took place, and we could see in the distance the graves of these intrepid men who are buried here. After seeing the hut on the shoreline and the lake with its stunning reflections it was time to return to the ship to head south and allow another vessel to come into the bay.

We waved goodbye to the people enjoying the afternoon sat on the aft deck of their vessel.



Day 7 – Tuesday 5th of July, zodiac cruse at Esmarkbreen glacier in Ymerbukta and landing at Alkhornet

12h00 GPS Position: 78°17.8'N / 013°56.6'E

Wind: Calm Sea: Smooth Weather: Raining Temperature: 7°C

This morning started with some light rain and a very thick layer of fog around the ship. The sea was calm, no wind and it was quiet outside.

The Expedition Leader decided to wait until the sun burnt off the fog and after that we started a zodiac cruise close to the Esmarkbreen glacier front.

Kayakers where outside too, performing the last outing of the trip and we saw them approaching the same area. Those on the water were able to have the chance to be present during a calving at a safe distance. Some of us stayed on board for the

morning and enjoyed a talk from Beth on the Arctic Ocean in the warmth of Plancius' lounge.

In the afternoon we head to Alkhornet, a place with a great Kittiwake colony, we had the chance to see many Reindeer feeding in the surroundings with their young, we visited the base of the pillars where Beth showed us the marble and some quartzite which together form the incredible towering rock face here. And finally, the brave amongst us, did the Polar plunge!

What an amazing way to say goodbye to this Arctic voyage full of sightings of wildlife and unique landscapes.



Day 8 - Wednesday 6th of July, arrival back into Longyearbyen

GPS 0800 position: 78°14.4' N 015°37.7'E (Harbour Longyearbyen)

Wind: E 4 Sea: Smooth Weather: Overcast Temperature: 4°C

Early this morning, we arrive in Longyearbyen. While we enjoyed a last breakfast on board, our suitcases are taken off the ship and to the harbour using the zodiacs. The onward journeys after disembarkation from Plancius was going to be somewhat different to usual due to the complication around cancelled flights. Although this was challenging news for many to come back to, the overall satisfaction after a great trip certainly dominated the atmosphere on board.

It is a sad moment to disembark from the Plancius, which has been a comfortable and cosy home during this unforgettable journey. We have shared many unique moments, seen a range of rarely sighted wildlife, and made new friends. Loaded with fond memories we now must head to our onward journeys.

Expedition Staff



Kayak Trip Log

Alexis Bellezze

01 July 2022

After our safety briefing on the second day, we delivered the gear explaining the way to wear every part in the right way during our outings in the Arctic. Next, we will see if we really understood all the procedures and if we feel comfortable with our outfit selected for this conditions. Kayaking will start as a learning process and we will go further during this days improving and having more demanding experiences.

02 July 2022 Palanderbukta

We paddle in two groups of eight kayakers in the very flat water conditions, close to the shore. We had the chance to see from very close the presence of a harp seal close to an iceberg. Some icebergs had the size of a growler and some others bigger. We checked the shape and the edges where we could observe the melting process taking place. We compared the sea ice drifting in the area, the consistency and the colours between them.



We switched groups at the landing area and we did the same tour around the area paddling south, we had the chance to see Common Eider Ducks, Arctic Terns and some Kittiwakes flying over the icebergs.

This warm morning of kayaking in the Arctic was a very good first experience!

02 July 2022 Alkefjellet “Mount Guillemot”

What we saw at Alkefjellet is a cross-section through a doleritic intrusion; thinner, marginal parts are exposed at Kapp Fanshawe and the point north of Alkefjellet at the entrance of Lomfjord. The doleritic (“basaltic”) rocks shows impressive large scale columnar structures which make the perfect ledges for nesting birds.



We had the chance to approach the cliffs close up, so we were truly amongst all the magnificent natural sculptures, full of Brünnich’s Guillemots nesting all around to use every free spot of it. About 120,000 birds flying and swimming around us, the noise and the vibration of this animals overwhelmed us, the full experience was unique and unforgettable. We had the chance to see other birds: Glaucous Gulls patrolling the colony and going after chicks and eggs of other birds, Kittiwakes, northern fulmars and some Arctic Skuas.

A special addition to this paddling session was the sighting of the Arctic fox which was spotted from the zodiacs. They small delicate foxes in their summer fur were at the base of the pilers, feeding on eggs and weak birds.

03 July 2022 Parryøya

Parryøya is one of the Seven Islands, named after Parry's Expedition in 1827.

The morning was very calm, the landscape was quiet, the shores full of sand. We could see different types of kelp in the shallow and transparent waters. The moraines were piled high showing the presence of a past glacier. We paddle for more than an hour immersed in deep silence that allowed us to connect with the peace of these islands in the north of the Svalbard archipelago.

We finished the experience before the dense fog trapped us by paddling close to the Plancius who was anchored in the middle of the bay.



05 July 2022 Ymerbukta

Here we had the chance to paddle in front of the glacier in Ymerbukta which is called Esmarkbreen. We paddled coastal waters which were mostly shallow as the tide was dropping down. Early in the morning the fog was intense however this lifted later on and we were able to admire the beautiful glacial ice that is in contact with the land and still showing some calvings. Surrounded by picturesque mountains, the scenery here was an impressive highlight to the kayaking. Another

characteristic feature at Ymerbukta is the wide, rather than flat plain of Erdmannflya on the Eastern side of the bay.

The sea was full of little icebergs and the water was a fantastic range of turquoises, blues and greys from the finely ground sediment ground, and brought to the sea, by the conveyor belt glacier system. We conclude this kayaking experience in silence, grateful for so many things learned in these days at the Arctic.



Pablo Brandeman - Expedition Leader



Born and raised in Argentinean northern Patagonia, now living in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, grew up with a Fishing Guide dad that pushed me not only into adventure activities but also into guiding and the tourism industry.

I love Skiing, Snowboarding, Skateboarding, Surfing, Paragliding, Kitesurfing, Climbing, Mountaineering, Boat driving and many other thrilling activities!

I am a well-seasoned Antarctic guide, having worn all the different hats as an expedition staff, with over 150 trips to the southern continent.

I have also worked in the Arctic region and look forward to sharing new polar experiences with my team and guests onboard.

Marcel Paul – Assistant Expedition Leader



From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups on trekking's to Austria, Switzerland, England and Scotland. His own travels over the last 20 years brought him to all 7 continents. With his interest in history and as keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that is keeping him indoor most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge from the area by working with the scientists. He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he went to the Dutch polar station in Ny Alesund, again as field assistant.

From 2017 Marcel has been working as a polar guide in the Arctic followed by the Antarctic in 2018. He now spends about half the year working in both polar regions and the rest of the year is spent either at home in Holland or traveling.

Alexis Bellezze – Kayak Leader



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal

“Dick” Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Elodie Bouvier - Expedition guide



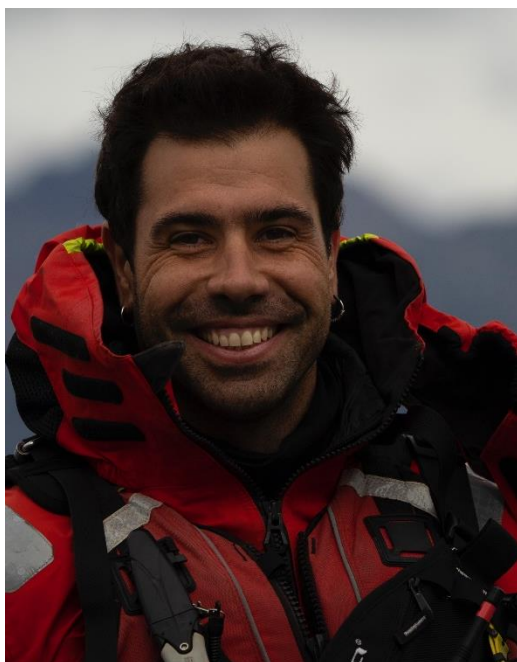
Born in the Swiss Alps, Elodie has always had a passion for mountains; climb them, discover them but also better understand the landscape, the dynamics and the evolution of glaciers and permafrost. After undertaking studies in alpine geomorphology at the University of Lausanne, she took the direction of Quebec in Rimouski where she carried out work on the deglaciation of the Laurentide ice sheet which used to cover a large part of North America.

The polar regions attract her inexorably; this passion led her to the Svalbard archipelago in 2015 for a semester to specialize in nivology and glaciology. Since then, the polar bug has infected her in a way she cannot stop returning year after year up in the North.

Elodie has also worked on the creation of educational trails that raise awareness among hikers of the impacts of climate change in high mountains environment in Switzerland. To her mind, educational communication and sharing knowledge are essential to all scientific activities.

Her passion for the great wilderness led her to discover Norway and Svalbard by ski, on foot and by sail. Elodie is particularly interested in the interpretation of the landscape and in reading the forms left by glaciers during the last ice ages.

Ben Giunchi - Expedition Guide



Ben comes from the countryside of Argentina, known as “The Pampas”. Since a very young age he developed a love of nature and after a few years traveling around his home country he discovered his passion for Patagonia and the mountains. This provoked a fascination for glaciers and wildlife and he soon became a guide around El Calafate and El Chaltén.

Spending time with people from all across the globe whilst working as a tour leader in Argentina, encouraged him to expand his knowledge of the culture and nature of other parts of South America. This newfound knowledge, and a few technical courses in relevant aspects of wilderness guiding, took him closer to his dream... Antarctica!

As we are probably hitting a dram together, I invite you to share all the good vibes and enjoy a unique place in the world with me... WELCOME TO YOUR ADVENTURE!

Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide



After graduating from her Geology honours degree in 2018 at Glasgow, Beth balanced two jobs until she succumbed to full time in the guiding world in 2021. Beth worked as a deckhand / guide on a tall ship and, when on the land, as an Engineering Geologist working mainly on Scotland's road and railway networks.

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These

are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

Beth also enjoys spending time in the mountains of Scotland where she works when she is not guiding on board ships. She grew up sailing around the islands of the west coast of Scotland - home to some fascinating geology where she spent many field trips during her undergraduate years. This sparked the desire to explore and embark on adventures to discover new landscapes and cultures around the world.

Slava Nikitin – Expedition guide



Slava was born in Russian town Sergiev-Posad (Moscow region). Studied in Moscow University of sport: Teacher of physical education, swimming teacher, rehabilitation, management of sport. Started to travel in school years and still looking to expand the geography of his trips. Slava's travel credo is to get closer to every new country, using the local transport or hitchhiking to find out more about local people, their culture and history. He threw down many shoes on backpacker's paths in Russia, Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, Arctic and Antarctic.

So, the most of the time of his last 15 years he was traveling around the World as a photographer, writer, guide and translator. During his travels he loves to do lots of activities such as trekking mountain (Mt Elbrus (5642m), Mt Everest base camp, Mt Annapurna base camp, Mt Cook base camp etc), white water rafting, kayaking, diving, surfing, snowboarding etc. Known as photographer, travel-writer, guide and translator in Russia, he also made presentations and photo exhibitions at school and university. His mountaineering and lifeguard skills on the water and recent experience in a rescue operation are very useful for client's security in crevasse rescue team. In 2013 he got an opportunity to visit Antarctica on a sail boat for the first time and to dive (literally and mentally) in Antarctic waters. It was starting point of his idea to work in cruise industry in Antarctic and Arctic on board of the expedition ships. Afterwards he made another dream come true, he put his feet on the North Pole. At this moment, Slava spent 4 full seasons working in Polar regions (Arctic and Antarctic) on board of expedition ships as a guide and found a use for his long-time interest of sea kayaking and polar history. Slava also has presentations about: R.Amundsen, F.Nansen, R.Scott, E.Shackleton, R.Peary, F.Cook, F.Bellingshausen...

Slava very happy to share his experience and positive vibe with people.

Michael Green – Expedition Guide



He has always loved the Sea and so joined the Navy as soon as he left School. In the Navy he became a diver and have enjoyed diving and instructing all over the world.

He joined Oceanwide Expeditions three years ago as a dive guide and have led and guided both in the Arctic and the Antarctic. He loves both equally. Antarctica is one of the most special places on this planet in my opinion.

He is in his third year of a photography art degree and love seeing your photos they are all fantastic and capture

different aspects of what we are going to see.

If you need any help with your camera or your photos just ask. White balance is a favourite as our cameras aren't used to an all-white background.

He looks forward to helping you get the most from your holiday so please don't be frightened to ask any questions you may have.

His only tip for your trip is to take the time to look, then see and most importantly think.

The nicest moments are when you can be quiet and relaxed, stop listen to the silence and think where you are. Not many people get to do what you are doing so savor every second.

Keechy Akkerman - Expedition Guide



Growing up in a big city (The Hague, The Netherlands) the outdoors has always fascinated Keechy, especially the Polar Regions. She has travelled to Norway repeatedly; for holidays, to work on a sheep farm, and to conduct research on the island Jan Mayen. During her studies in Biology and Geology her passion led her to follow several courses at the University Centre in Svalbard, and she fell in love with the area.

For Keechy's final internship with TNO (The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) in 2015, she had the amazing opportunity to participate in a scientific expedition (SEES) to Edgeøya, located in the southeast of the Svalbard archipelago. The aim of the expedition was to study the impact of anthropogenic activity in one of the most remote and pristine areas on earth, thereby highlighting the relevance of Arctic research in the context of current transitions. This expedition was in collaboration with Oceanwide Expeditions and after talking to the guides, she became very enthusiastic to work as a Polar Tour guide as well.

In 2016 Keechy moved to the UK to take on a PhD on lake ecosystems in Greenland. Her fieldwork allowed her to complete the Arctic Circle Trail in Greenland, a 10-day hike from the ice sheet to the coast. She spends most of her weekends exploring all the national parks the UK has to offer, in the form of hiking, camping, climbing and winter mountaineering. Now that she is in the final stages of her PhD, she is keen to share her love for nature and the Polar Regions as a tour guide!

Axel Brandeman – Expedition Guide



Axel was born and raised in Ushuaia Tierra del Fuego, having been born in a such special region.

Axel was always in touch with outdoors activities and wildlife.

On he's free time, he likes to skateboard, snowboard and wakeboard.

He has a closed relation with antarctica and expedition cruising since been a child, having visited Antarctica three times before reaching penguin size.

Since then he became a zodiac driver, activity logistics and naturalist.

Valerie Fijen – Ship`s doctor



After wandering around the globe and working for 6 years as a military doctor in the Dutch Navy, looking for new adventures.

Just recently finished her GP training and will start working as a general practitioner in the beautiful Maastricht.

Has spent a lot of time at sea, from the Baltic Sea to crossing the Suez canal to scuba diving in the Red Sea (but still gets sea sick).

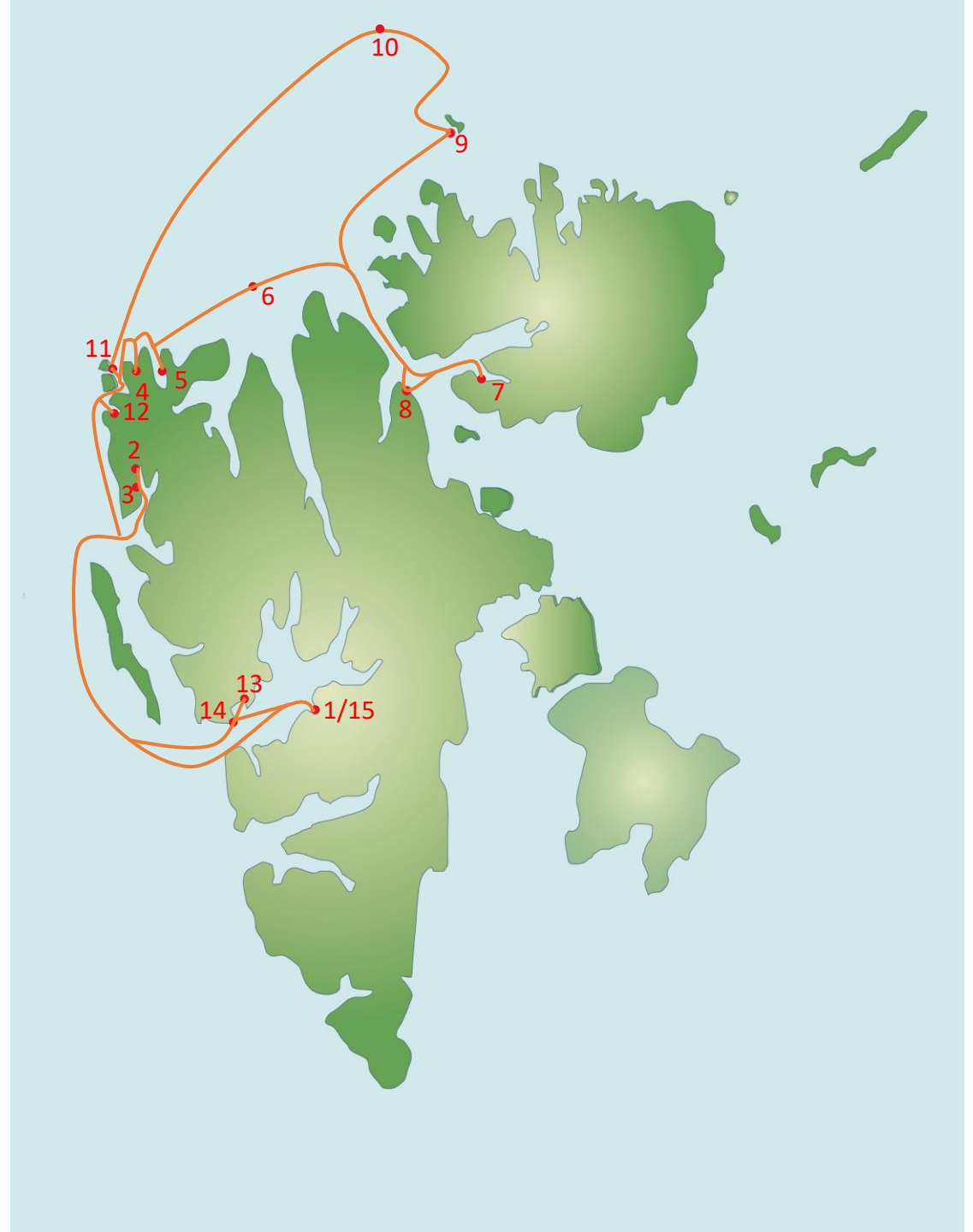
Big passion for travel, sports and adventure. Hence the choice to join expeditions as a ship`s doctor. Previous medical experience in diving-, travel-,

and emergency medicine. Has been lucky enough to travel once before on the Plancius, to Antarctica. Hopefully there isn`t much work for the physician on board: for all passengers enjoy the fantastic scenery including wildlife and arrive safe and sound back at home filled with spectacular naval stories.

Svalbard 2022

M/V Plancius 29/06 – 06/07

- **1:** 29/06 **Longyearbyen** - Embarkation
- **2:** 30/06 **Lilliehookbreen** - Zodiac cruise.
- **3:** 30/06 **Signehamna** - Landing + hiking.
- **4:** 01/07 **Fuglefjorden** - Landing + hiking.
- **5:** 01/07 **Alicehamna** - Zodiac cruise.
- **6:** 01/07 **Moffen Island** - Ship cruise.
- **7:** 02/07 **Palanderbukta** - Landing + hiking + kayaking.
- **8:** 02/07 **Alkefjellet** - Zodiac cruise + kayaking.
- **9:** 03/07 **Seven islands** - Zodiac cruise.
- **10:** 03/07 **At Sea**. The most Northern position reached.
- **11:** 04/07 **Smeerenburg** - Landing.
- **12:** 04/07 **Gravneset** - Landing + hiking.
- **13:** 05/07 **Ymerbukta** - Zodiac cruise.
- **14:** 05/07 **Alkhornet** - Landing + hiking.
- **15:** 06/07 Arriving at **Longyearbyen**.



MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	Dutch							
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Walrus			X		X	X	
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Baardrob				X	X		
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Ringelrob							
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Zadelrob					X		
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Klapmuts							
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Gewone zeehond		X	X	X			X
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Dwergvinvis					X	X	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Noordse vinvis						X	
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Blauwe vinvis						X	
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finwal	Gewone vinvis						X	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Bultrug							
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Groenlandse walvis							
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Potvis							
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narwal							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Witsnuitdolfijn						X	
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Beloege							
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ijsbeer			X				
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Poolvos				X			
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Rendier		X					X



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Departure Longyearbyen Wednesday 29 June 2022

- 16:00 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Please check carefully if you are missing anything. Please feel free to look around the ship.
- TBA **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.
- 18:30 **Captain's Cocktails!** Captain Torry Sakkariassen and Hotel Manager Aleks Lebedev invite you to join them for a Welcome Drink at the bar, where you will meet your Captain. Hotel Manager Aleks Lebedev will introduce you to life on board, and your Expedition Leader Pablo Brandeman will introduce the Expedition Team to you.
- 1930 **Dinner** Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal

PLEASE NOTE: The Bridge and side wings of the Bridge are closed when the pilot is on board. We will call it as soon as the bridge is open.

Tonight we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. THANK YOU.



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Northwest of Svalbard Thursday 30 June 2022

- 08:00 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room
- 09:00 **Mandatory AECO regulations, Zodiac Briefing and Polar bear safety.**
- 10:30 We will be going for a zodiac cruise at Lillehookbreen.
- 12:30 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk.
Enjoy your meal
- 15:00 We will go for a cruise and a landing at the 14th of July Glacier.
- 18:30 Join the expedition Staff team in the Lounge for **Recap & Briefing**
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal.

"Life is better on skies" Fridtjof Nansen.



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Northwest of Svalbard

Friday 1 July 2022

- 07:30 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room
- 09:00 Cruising into Fuglefjord where we will explore the area and look for wildlife
- 12:30 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal
- 15:00 We will take you on a zodiac cruise around Fuglesangen island, home of a little alk colony.
- 18:30 Join the expedition Staff team in the Lounge for **Recap & Briefing**
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal.

We don't take a voyage... a Voyage takes us!



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Northwest of Svalbard

Saturday 2 July 2022

- 07:30 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room
- 09:00 We will land at Palanderbukta, we will have the chance for an extended hike and incredible views of Wahlenbergfjord.
- 12:30 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal
- 15:00 We will go on Zodiac cruise to the spectacular bird cliff of Alkefjelet.
- 18:30 Join the expedition Staff team in the Lounge for **Recap & Briefing**
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal.

"Adventures is nothing but bad planning", Roald Amundsen



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Northwest of Svalbard

Sunday 3 July 2022

- 06:30 Some pastry will be available in the lounge
- 07:00 We plan to go for an early exploration of Parroya.
- 10:00 Sandwiches will be available upon our return
- 13:00 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk.
Enjoy your meal
- PM In the afternoon we will sail to the pack-ice. On the way there we will
have some lectures to keep you entertained.
- 18:30 Join the expedition Staff team in the Lounge for **Recap & Briefing**
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal.

"Ice, ice, baby". Vanilla ice!!



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Northwest of Svalbard

Monday 4 July 2022

- 08:30 As we had an early morning yesterday and a late night for some after the BBQ, we are serving breakfast an hour later than normal. Enjoy your long sleep 😊. For the early risers under us the morning passage into Smeerenburg Fjord is beautiful.
- 10:00 We plan to land at Smeerenburg. A fantastic historic location where we can see the remains of the original blubber ovens. Besides that, we hope to also visit the resident group of walrus when there at home.
- 13:00 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal
- 15:00 In the afternoon we will be sailing into Magdalena fjorden, depending on conditions we might be able to go for a landing or another exciting zodiac cruise.
- 18:30 Join the expedition Staff team in the Lounge for **Recap & Briefing**
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal.

Happy 4th of July to all of us!



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice

Tuesday 05 June 2022

- 07:30 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room
- 09:00 We will go Zodiac Cruising at Ymerbukta, this is a long fjord with a massive glacier on the back, good chances of wildlife.
- 12:30 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk.
Enjoy your meal
- 15:00 Landing at Alkhorneret where we expect to see a variety of birds, reindeer and hopefully some Arctic fox action.
- 18:00 Join the expedition Staff team in the Lounge for our final **Recap**
- 18:30 **Captains Farewell Cocktail will be held in the Lounge, please join us**
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal.

All good things come to an end ...



North of Spitsbergen, into the Pack Ice Wednesday 6 July 2022

07:00 Please leave your luggage outside of your cabin door before you make your way to Breakfast.

07:30 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room.

09:00 Last Landing! Welcome back to Longyearbyen. We will be at anchor in the bay so this will be also your last zodiac ride. At the port we will have buses ready for you to go into town.

Due to the flight disruptions please take all of your luggage with you on the busses.

"I'm leaving on a jet plane, don't know when I'll be back again" – John Denver.