



**Exploring the Spitsbergen coastline
Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen
6th – 15th 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 nd Officer:	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Ukraine]
3 rd Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Hotel Manager:	Aleks Lebedev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Sergey Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Jessica van Zuÿlen	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	[Scotland]
Ass. Exp. Leader:	Michael Green	[UK]
Kayak Guide:	Alexis Bellezze	[Argentina]
Kayak Guide:	David Horkan	[Ireland]
Expedition Guide:	Elodie Boevier	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tscherner	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Beth Hitchcock	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Slava Nikitin	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Keechy Akkerman	[Netherlands]

Day 1 - Wednesday 6th of July, Longyearbyen

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

Wind: SE-5 Sea: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Temperature: 11°C

Many of the guest arrived at Longyearbyen on the day of embarkation. Throughout the morning the wind started to pick up but regardless of the wind, it was a beautiful bright day. These conditions highlighted the beautiful landscape around Longyearbyen, and many were able to get out and about in the town before joining Plancius in the afternoon.

By 1500, guests started to arrive at the pier, eager to get on the zodiacs and head out to find Plancius on anchor in the bay. When those who were lucky enough to make it to Svalbard, amongst all the cancelled flights, were safely on board they were able to find their luggage in their cabins. The evening was somewhat different to usual with some time to relax and enjoy the glow of sun from the west highlighting the complexities in the mountains around us.

By the evening we had everyone on board, so the crew lifted the anchor, and we were underway out of Isfjord and heading north into the late-night sun.



Day 2 - Thursday 7th of July, Smeerenburg fjord and landing

GPS Position: 79°38.4'N 011°22.1'E

Wind: SE-2 Sea: Smooth Weather: Clear Temperature: 11°C

The day started with the typical morning call of our Expedition leader, Pippa Low. The morning allowed time for some important mandatory briefings, useful information about procedures, protocols, and environmental concerns whilst undertaking an expedition cruise in this beautiful and very important place on the planet.



Between briefings we enjoyed the spectacular views from out on deck as we cruised through the channel separating Danksøya from Spitsbergen and along the front of Smeerenburgbreen in Bjørnfjord. The sun shone brightly giving magnificent shadows on the glaciers of the mountains dividing them.

In the afternoon we were ready to visit one of the biggest historical sights of the west coast of the Archipelago: Smeerenburg, the “Blubber Town”. This site was one of the largest and is certainly now the best-known whaling station from the 17th

century in Spitsbergen. Seven Dutch companies from different towns in the Netherlands had their facilities, including two houses and at least one (double) oven each to render down oil from blubber. The site is quite barren, apart from mosses and lichens. Scurvy grass famously thrives here along with mountain sorrel. The lagoons near the shoreline were thriving with activity from the birds with arctic terns nesting and scurrying off to feed in the shallow waters. It was incredible to observe how accurate they are as they swoop down to pluck their chosen meal from near the water surface due to their adaptations to their vision which eliminates the reflection from the surface of the water. There were several nesting common eiders and Arctic skuas.



From the shoreline we walked along the beach to observe the behaviour of the walrus. We were able to see the male walrus hauled out on the beach as well as playing in the water and being inquisitive.

We did a medium walk around the remains of the blubber ovens and collected some of the abundant litter to clean up the environment in collaboration with the Clean-up Svalbard project. On the loop around the low plateau area the terrain had many erratic boulders brought down by past glaciers which extended this far. In addition, the permafrost action had created from stone rings with finer muddy areas in the middle which were beginning to show signs of desiccation cracks where they were drying out in this warm weather.

The muddy ground is also perfect for preserving the story of passers-by to this promontory... some recent Polar bear footprints were found heading to the west.



At the end of our first Arctic landing, we had a zodiac cruise to visit the harbour seal colony situated in a hidden bay, resting on the stones near the beach. We were also able to see some of the remains of the Andrée expedition at Virgohamna from the famous expedition where Andrée and his two companions attempted to reach the north pole by hot air balloon in 1896-97.

In the evening when we were all back on board and warmed up, we were joined by the captain in the lounge for a wonderful captains' cocktails welcome. This was the start of a fantastic evening navigating through the islands at Fair Haven in the clear blue evening skies.



Once we were wrapped up in our bunks after an incredible first day, the captain announced that there were some whales near the ship! Many of us rushed up to enjoy this special moment to see the rarely sighted Blue Whale as well as numerous Fin Whales in the midnight sunlight.

What a start to the trip!



Day 3 - Friday 8th of July, into the pack ice

GPS Position: 80°38.4'N 011°29.7'E

Furthest North Position: 80°42.6'N 011°42.9'E

Wind: SW-2 Sea: Smooth Weather: Fog Temperature: 0°C

Plancius sailed to the north during the whole night. At around 8 o'clock, the ship reached the ice edge. The atmosphere is difficult to describe; we are surrounded by fog that gives 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. Beyond our eyes we had an unlimited view of the pack ice and this unique environment and ecosystem that makes the arctic so iconic. Plancius sailed into the open drift ice and pushed plates of ice which collided with each other. The light was magical, it alternated between complete fog and some rays of sun forming a halo. We were immersed into a black and white universe, with occasional bursts of blue and grey.





Elodie gave us a lecture about the formation, evolution, and climatic issues of arctic sea ice. We learnt that sea ice is not a dead zone but a very important ecosystem where everything about wildlife is connected. Although conditions are harsh, life thrives above, below, and even 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.

At around 12 o'clock, we had the chance to observe a huge aggregation of hundreds of harp seals swimming and lying on sea ice plates, probably a remaining nursery of last spring. We could observe males with the distinctive black pattern on the back, females with a more homogenous fur and juvenile probably born a couple of months ago. We were so lucky to be able to observe such a big number of seals!

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, Ursula gave us a very interesting and complete lecture about marine mammals. She also spoke about the encounter we had last night: a minke, a blue and a fin whale. Ursula is very passionate about her field and loves sharing knowledge with all of us.

It was another amazing day in the high arctic!



Day 4 - Saturday 9th of July, landing at Mushamna and Monacobreen zodiac cruise

GPS Position: 79°40.1'N 014°09.2'E

Wind: W-5 Sea: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Temperature: 7°C

Sailing through the sunny polar night brought us back to the North shore of Spitsbergen Island where we entered the Woodfjord in the early morning hours. Old red sediments are dominant this area. The barren slopes are however rather grey coloured in the Northern part but show the typical reddish colouration in the Southern Liefdefjord where we planned to head in the afternoon.

In the morning we landed at Mushamna on the west coast of Andrée Land. From afar we could see large hut and various structural remains. The original hut was built here in 1927 by Hilmar Nøis, a famous Norwegian trapper who overall spent 38 years in Spitsbergen! The larger hut, now owned by the Sysselemanden, was built in 1987.



In two groups we explored the gentle slope above the huts, enjoying the beautiful view over the fjord and discovered various flowering plants. The moss campion (*Silene acaulis*) creates bright green cushions of various sizes. As the purple-pinkish flowers always start blooming at the side pointing southwards and moving northwards later in the season, this plant is also called compass moss. It sure was rather difficult to keep going as many small and hidden natural beauties were to be found: Alpine sorrel (*Oxyria digyna*), Arctic mouse-ear (*Cerastium arcticum*), the Svalbard poppy (*Papaver dahlianum*) and the tufted saxifrage (*Saxifraga cespitosa*). As precipitation in Svalbard is scarce, these plants have developed various strategies to survive in the harsh Arctic tundra. Growing in tufts is one method of allowing the plant to hold water and maintain an inside temperature 2°C greater than the surrounding air temperature. The beauty was sadly interrupted when we discovered the skulls of two reindeers caught in the remains of a fishing net. These animals, perfectly adapted to survive here, were killed by human carelessness washed ashore.

In bright sunlight we then sailed across the 13 km wide entrance of the Liefdefjord. After 30 km we reached our next destination, the vertical face of the glacier

Monacobreen. Named after Duke Albert I. of Monaco who was the leader of an expedition that mapped the glacier in 1906/07. Until 2015, the glacier was connected to the neighbouring Seligerbreen now interrupted by the steep slope of the mountain Stortingspresidenten. An impressive visualisation of climate change.



In calm water we then went on a prolonged zodiac cruise along the glacial front where we found hundreds of Arctic terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) standing on floating ice. It was amazing to see how tolerant they were to our presence allowing to take countless photos. As we cruised the glacier front, we used our binoculars to discover more of these magnificent birds sitting on the water and flying above. There they profit from calvings stirring up the water column, bringing nutrients and prey to the surface. What an amazing sight! But the life of these small birds is even more impressive as they will, in a few months, start their migration to their second summering grounds in Antarctica. In April, at the beginning of the Antarctic winter, the terns will then fly back to the Arctic covering an amazing distance of 70'900 km round-trip. During the cruise we also had a close sight of an all-creamy-white Ivory gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) flying above our zodiacs.

We ended our zodiac cruise with a landing on a small island that has only recently come free from the glacier's ice cover. What at first looked like a unique idea turned into a rather adventurous landing we won't ever forget. Back on board Elodie explained in depth how glaciers move, why they calve at the front and what impact this can have.



Day 5 - Sunday 10th of July, Palanderbukta landing and zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet

GPS Position: 79°34.1'N 020°40.9'E

Wind: S-2 Sea: Rippled Weather: Clear Temperature: 12°C

Good morning, good morning! And what a beautiful morning it was! We started with 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. Before the wind picked up, it was a surprisingly warm today, almost t-shirt weather!

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 centuries/millennia. This allowed us to find shells above the current seashore, that were hundreds to 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. Svalbard Poppies were flourishing amongst the pebbles, giving the surface a pale-yellow glow in the bright sunshine. On the way back from the long hike, we had a surprise visit of a male and female Svalbard Ptarmigan, along with many of their chicks. The Svalbard Ptarmigan is the only land-based bird that actually overwinters on Svalbard!



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



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 above and below it. These cliffs have tiny little ledges, which are perfect for the ca. 65.000 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 under the cliffs! One even came up to the rocks and grabbed a bird! What an amazing and special appearance to finish of an incredible day!



Day 6 - Monday 11th of July, Torellneset landing and Bråsvellbreen ice cliff of Austfonna

GPS Position: 79°22.0'N 020°40.9'E

Wind: W-4 Sea: Smooth Weather: Overcast Temperature: 6°C



Following breakfast, we made a landing in the beautiful wilderness area at Torellneset. At first glance it looked barren and devoid of life. The crew went off scouting for Polar bears and the all-clear signalled our landing. On approach to the landing site, we could smell the Walrus on the beach. What an amazing site greeted us following a short walk where we saw many Walruses both on the beach and in the sea. After spending time with these amazing animals some went for a long and medium hike up the slopes behind the beach whilst others were too fascinated to leave the Walrus and their young so stayed on the beach. Up on the slope we enjoyed spectacular view of the bay surrounding the ship. We also saw many bones and pieces of wood scattered on the pebbles. Too soon we all met back at the

landing site and returned to the ship where fried chicken and profiteroles awaited us. A fabulous morning in all respects.



During lunch the ship began to travel to Bråsvellbreen - the largest calving ice front in the northern hemisphere. When we arrived, we saw 40-80m ice cliffs with many majestic waterfalls. The weather turned chilly with a breeze blowing across the sea from the ice. We travelled along this ice front for several hours and at 1630 we were treated by Aleks, our hotel manager, to a special Hot Chocolate behind the bridge. We continued the cruise along the ice and spent the rest of the afternoon taking pictures and watching this unbelievable sight pass by. Soon it was time for recap where the team told us more about the things we had seen during the day.

Day 7 - Tuesday 12th of July, Kapp Walburg landing and Polar bear zodiac cruise

GPS Position: 78°14.7'N 021°31.7'E

Wind: NW-3 Sea: Smooth Weather: Rain Showers Temperature: 8°C

Good morning Plancius! Rise and shine!

It was foggy, rainy, beautiful morning. Welcome to Barentsøya! It has a surface area of 1,288 sq.-km and is thus the fourth largest island in Svalbard, it has a very short history due to extremely difficult ice conditions in historical times.

After the breakfast we were ready to go for the exploration of Kapp Waldburg: named after Carl Marie Eberhard count of Waldburg-Zeil-Wurzach, sponsor and leader of an expedition to Spitsbergen in 1870.



From the very first steps on the landing site, we noticed that the regional tundra belongs to the high arctic “Polar willow zone”, but it was still surprisingly diverse. We saw a beautiful saxifrage species, together with buttercups and Svalbard

poppies. This rich tundra provides food for a large local population of reindeer that certainly enjoy a better life than their comrades on barren Nordaustland. So, from the first look we spotted quite a few reindeer, and it was just the beginning of the day - a day of full of discoveries!



Before we even reached the cliff with a bird colony, we already spotted four arctic foxes moving towards the cliff to make sure that any eggs and chicks that had fallen down from the narrow ledges are not wasted.

The bird cliff itself was fantastic, with thousands of nesting Black-Legged-Kittiwakes and their grey fluffy chicks.

After a lunch, plan A was to go Kapp Lee. However, our captain, who was up on the bridge, spotted a Polar bear on the northern shore of Freemansund, a Polar bear! It was our first our Polar bear of the trip, but not the last. So, as on real expedition we were faced with unpredictable situations. Our Expedition Leader came with a plan B, which was to go for a ships cruise along the shore and observe the bear's behaviour. Soon, we spotted another Polar bear on the steep slopes of Freemansund. A call was made to continue watching the Polar bear from the

zodiacs where we could be lower to the water. After a good hour of watching the Polar bear, we were about to go back to the ship but then we spotted a third Polar bear so we continued our zodiac cruise. It was an incredible encounter, and after another hour on the choppy waters of Freemansund, we finished our fantastic zodiac cruise and came back to the ship, from here we spotted a fourth Polar bear on a plain further away!

Back on board we had an interesting recap by our EL on Polar bears and plans for tomorrow. After A la Carte dinner, we had a chance to exchange our experience with each other and go through all the pictures we took throughout the day, many! It was a perfect way to end the day.

Good night Plancius. Tomorrow will be another day full of new discoveries.



Day 8 - Wednesday 13th of July, Gåshamna landing and Burgerbukta zodiac cruise, Hornsund

GPS Position: 76°56.6'N 015°49.8'E

Wind: NE-4 Sea: Smooth Weather: Rain Temperature: 7°C

Due to our fantastic afternoon yesterday, where we were able to watch the Polar bears for the afternoon, we had a later start to the day this morning. The low cloud hung around the mountains as we approached Hornsund. The waves had made some noticeable motion on Plancius during the night as we had passed from Barentsøya, across Storfjord and around the southern tip of Spitsbergen. Storfjord is the stretch of sea separating Edgeøya and Barentsøya from east Spitsbergen and is known for having heavy ice conditions due to the East-Spitsbergen current bringing cold water and ice from the Polar Ocean. However, we did not experience any ice here primarily due to the time of year.



By late morning we were ashore at Gåshamna, meaning Goose Bay, and ready to start walking to warm up on this damp Wednesday morning. The landing site did not disappoint with its spectacular views of the mountainous scenery, several puffins flying by and some evidence of human history. There were several mounds on the beach with large whale bones around which are believed to be remains of the blubber ovens used by whalers. We could also see a small hut on the beach providing evidence of the trappers, pomors and even some scientific expedition work. From the viewpoint visited by the long hikers, we could see across to the Polish research base on the north side of Hornsund.

We were all back on board for a late lunch to warm us up. As is typical for this area, the cloud lingered as we motored over to Burgerbukta on the north side of Hornsund. However, not long after lunch the sun managed to emerge, and the clouds lifted to reveal the peaks of the high mountains around us. Hornsundtind looked particularly magnificent being the highest mountain in south Spitsbergen at 1,429 metres. The mountains surrounding us where we anchored had an incredible range of colours from reds at the base, through yellows and browns to dark black at the peaks.



We were able to cruise through this landscape in the zodiacs in the afternoon. This was a wonderful experience to feel part of the landscape with the ice crackling around us, blocks of glacier ice surrounding the zodiacs and jagged cliffs rising between the crevassed glaciers. Having had such a good week so far this was the perfect moment to turn the engine off and enjoy the retrospective pleasure of the trip so far and the peaceful yet magical landscape surrounding us. As we neared the calving glacier front the eager bird spotter amongst us pointed out an Ivory Gull sweeping over the ice cliff ahead of our zodiac. Before long a second was spotted flying so elegantly in the ice filled bay.

As we headed back to the Plancius, we were surprised to feel a drastic increase in air temperature as we rounded the promontory in the entrance to the fjord. Back on board we had a recap from Keechy, Beth and Pippa before being invited to the aft deck for a special dinner. This was a wonderful evening of chatting with those we had met on the trip and enjoy the delicious barbeque food prepared by the galley here on Plancius!

There is a wonderful atmosphere of satisfaction and happiness on board as we reflect on the wonderful trip and look forward to the final day of expedition!

Day 9 - Thursday 14th of July, zodiac cruise at Reinodden and ships cruise with Beluga Whales, Bellsund

GPS Position: 77°33.4'N 014°50.0'E

Wind: E-4 Sea: Smooth Weather: Partly Cloudy Temperature: 12°C

The wake-up call this morning made all of us jump out of bed, as there was another Polar bear on shore! The big guy was quite close to the waters' edge, so we decided to cancel our landing and go for a zodiac cruise. By the time we were all in the zodiacs, however, the bear had decided to go for a walk and was going away from us. It was still nice to follow him as he was walking and then... King eiders! As Beth had just talked about their funny looking beak in recap the day before, it was extra exciting to see them now in real life!



There were many birds in the area, so we kept cruising along the shoreline. We saw numerous Common Eiders with many, many chicks, as well as Barnacle geese and their chicks on the beach. Little auks were flying around us and every now and then an Arctic tern was fishing for some food amidst the zodiacs. The beautiful Black guillemots were diving and feeding too, and we were surprised by a couple of Bearded seals.



After a birdy morning, we were starting to relax again on the boat, patiently awaiting lunch when... BELUGA BELUGA 11 o'clock! And we did not see one, not two, but what felt like a hundred Beluga's all around the ship! We cruised amidst the pods of Beluga's for nearly an hour - it was absolutely amazing! They came

really close to the ship, so we could see their little eyes without needing binoculars. We could also distinguish that there were some youngsters in the pods, as they were a bit more greyish than the other white whales. Ironically, this was all really close to our original landing site, Bamsebu, from where they used to hunt the Beluga's and you can still find their bones on the beach. Luckily, we got to see them alive!



Ship cruising around the Beluga's did delay our afternoon plans, and because the swell was really high at our second landing site, the decision was made to head north towards Longyearbyen and enjoy the scenery from the ship. In the afternoon, Elodie gave us a brilliant lecture about how not to get to the North Pole, the tale of Salomon Andrée and his Arctic balloon adventure.

After an amazing week with the most stunning scenery and plenty of wildlife (and flowers and rocks!), we made it back to Isfjord and finally Longyearbyen, ready for disembarking the next morning.



Day 10 - Friday 15th of July, arrival back into Longyearbyen

GPS 0800 position: 78°13.8' N 015°36.2'E (Harbour Longyearbyen)

Wind: S-4/5 Sea: Smooth Weather: Overcast Temperature: 10°C

Back in Longyearbyen the crew did a fantastic job of getting the ship and zodiacs in the right places at the right times to get us all to our desired onward journeys successfully. We certainly lucked out for this disembarkation as we were able to go alongside the pier. After delicious last breakfast on board of French toast and fresh fruit it was time to say our goodbyes.

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 and David Horkan

Kayaking around Spitsbergen, a day in the pack ice looking for whales and hundreds of harp seals around us, the search for Polar bears in different bays, cliffs and close to the glaciers, paddling in a middle of nowhere in silence, with no engine but your soul and your arms, that is what we call proper exploration. A unique opportunity to be closer to everything around you.

Monacobreen



We started early in the afternoon at Monacobreen, a glacier that has retreated enough so that what was once one large glacier front is now split into two smaller fronts by a mountain. From this mountain we saw rocks falling from the top of a steep mountain in between the glaciers. We observed a colony of kittiwakes at the glacier.

Many sounds surrounded us including the booming from calvings in the distance. Occasionally we caught sight of an impressive mass of ice disintegrating after it collapsed into the sea, spreading growlers of ice that drift with the wind. This was an excellent start to the learning process to build foundations for a busy week in the archipelago.



Alkefjellet



After that, we went to Alkefjellet, “Guillemot mountain”, a great and long cliff of basaltic columns that serves as a breeding ground for 60,000 pairs of Brünnich’s guillemots, kittiwakes, glaucus gulls and Northern Fulmars.

The atmosphere was magnificent, and we were truly part of the landscape with the noise of the birds, the vibrating walls, the birds swimming and flying around us. We were lucky to see three Arctic foxes, one even feeding on a fallen bird, and the others looking for hunting opportunities at the base of the rock pillars. The experience was simply unbelievable and overwhelming.

Palanderbukta



The day after we had a relaxing morning at Palanderbukta.

We had the chance to practice and improve our paddling techniques, the bay was calm, no waves, no wind and not cold at all. In silence we had the chance to listen to a walrus in the distance. Luckily the walrus was not so interested so it did not disturb our morning of kayaking. This was perfect kayak training time allowing some of the kayakers to become more confident and they were extremely happy.



Torellneset

Another day under more challenging conditions was celebrated at Torellneset.



While we were paddling, several Common Eider ducks and a reindeer came from the plateau toward us. The zodiac safety driver was checking the proximity of many

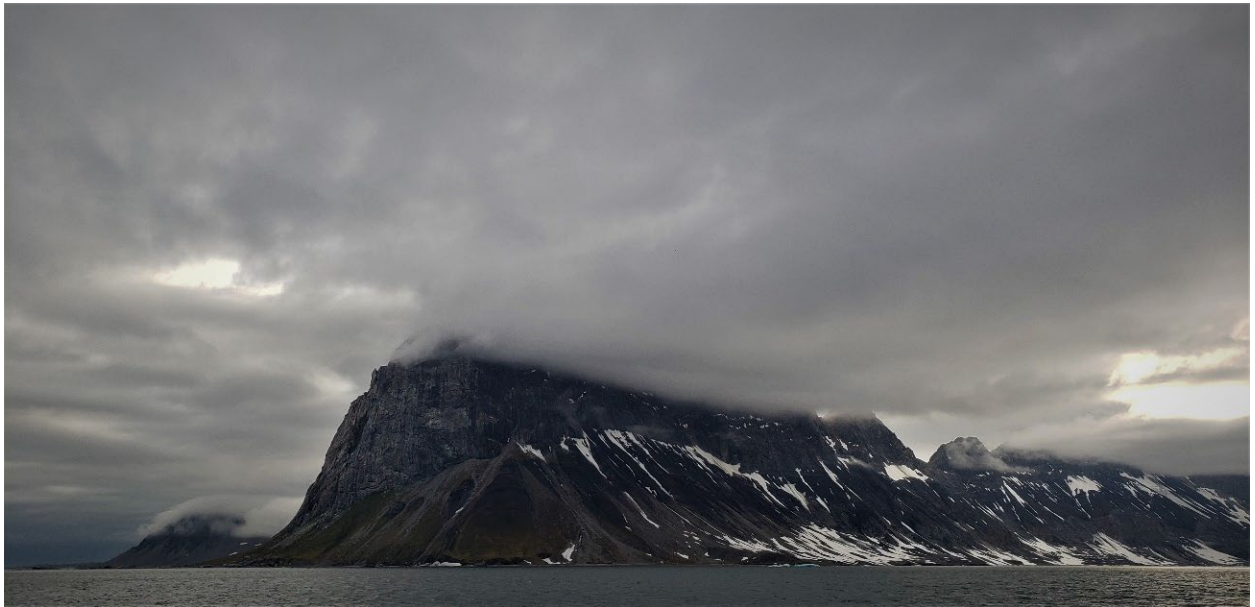
walrus in the area of the glacier and as a result, decided to bring the kayaking to an end earlier than planned. This gave us time to observe the animal behaviour from a distance in the zodiac on our way back to the ship. Many of the walrus showed interest in the visitors and check us with curiosity.



The last session happened at Burgerbukta, the perfect place for a farewell to the Arctic! In a bay surrounded by jagged mountains and beautiful clouds in the sky.



The landscape was dramatic. Extremely beautiful mountains and an ocean littered with ice. There was silence amongst us as we listened to the crackling ice and the rolling icebergs. It was magical. We were paddling with more freedom but under supervision of the kayak guides and the zodiac driver. We enjoyed the icebergs and the quiet afternoon in one of the most beautiful places in Svalbard.



We want to wish you all more adventures in beautiful places like this one, and hope that we can paddle around the Antarctic sound in the future.



It was a pleasure for us to share this passion and respect for nature and wildlife with you. Thank you very much and see you soon!!



Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 10 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and the polar regions. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age,

becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

Upon completion of her degree, Pippa has worked as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant on various research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research.

After working in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica as a research assistant, she fell in love with Antarctica. Pippa now works as a full-time guide and assistant expedition leader in both the Arctic and Antarctica. In-between seasons, she still finds time to work on research projects.

Michael Green –Assistant Expedition Leader



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.

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.

David Horkan - Kayak Guide



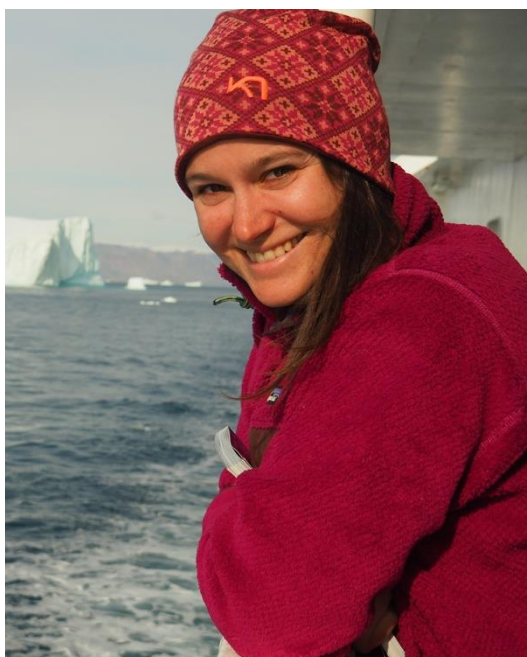
Coming from the rugged West Coast of Ireland David has been involved in kayaking and water sports for most of his life. Kayaking since the age of 12 he honed his skills in the coast and rivers in his home county. Over the past ten years David has made kayaking and the outdoors his life both business and pleasure.

He has run his own kayaking business in Ireland since 2013 and in 2015 guided in Patagonia. He has since guided in Antarctica, Iceland and the Faroe Islands and coached at events in Canada, USA and UK.

As well as professional guiding David is an accomplished expedition and competitive paddler with circumnavigations of Vancouver Island and Ireland under his belt. He has a passion for long distance kayaking and crossed the Irish Sea from Ireland to Wales at night -100km, raced the 201km Devizes to Westminster kayak race on four occasions and completed many other races around the world.

When not kayaking, David is never far from the water and exploring new places. Kitesurfing, cycling, SUP surfing are just a few of his other passions. He has worked in Environmental and Marine education for over 7 years and has a degree in Business and a diploma in Earth and Ocean science.

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.

Ursula Tschenter - Expedition Guide



I grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of my childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed my life radically. I gave up my original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation I combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

I am a true minke whale enthusiast. I thousands of hours I observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years I obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). I nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 I started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home I produce life-sized foldable animals, which I carry to schools and ships. Visit my lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as my urge to learn and explore is my need to share my knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach me at any time, as I love to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

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.

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!

Svalbard 2022

M/V Plancius 06/07 – 15/07

- **1:** 06/07 **Longyearbyen** - Embarkation.
- **2:** 07/07 **Smeerenburgreen** - Ship cruise.
- **3:** 07/07 **Smeerenburg** - Landing + Zodiac cruise.
- **4:** 08/07 **At Sea into the Pack ice.**
- **5:** 08/07 **At Sea.** The most Northern position reached.
- **6:** 09/07 **Mushamna** - Landing + hiking.
- **7:** 09/07 **Monacobreen** - Zodiac cruise.
- **8:** 09/07 **Moffen Island** - Ship cruise.
- **9:** 10/07 **Palanderbukta** - Landing + hiking + kayaking.
- **10:** 10/07 **Alkefjellet** - Zodiac cruise + kayaking.
- **11:** 11/07 **Torellneset** - Landing + hiking + kayaking.
- **12:** 11/07 **Brasvellbreen** - Ship cruise.
- **13:** 12/07 **Kapp Waldburg** - Landing + hiking.
- **14:** 12/07 **Freemansundet** - Zodiac cruise.
- **15:** 13/07 **Gashamna** - Landing + hiking.
- **16:** 13/07 **Burgerbukta** - Zodiac cruise.
- **17:** 14/07 **Reinodden** - Zodiac cruise.
- **18:** 15/07 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						
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Dwergvinvis	x			x			
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Noordse vinvis							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Blauwe vinvis	x						
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	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							
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Beloega							x
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ijsbeer						x	x
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Poolvos				x		x	
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Rendier				x		x	



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Departure Longyearbyen
Wednesday 6th July 2022

1630 **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.

><1730 **Welcome** – Please join us in the lounge for a short welcome to Plancius. Please enjoy the film **'The Hunt'** in the **Lounge** to give you a taste of Svalbard.

Due to the airline strikes, some of our passengers will be embarking later this evening. Due to this we will our mandatory safety briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal

For our late arriving guests, we invite you to enjoy some sandwiches and canapes in the lounge this evening.

TBA **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.

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.



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Smeerenburg
Thursday 7th July 2022

- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (Deck 3).
- 0930 **Expedition Briefing & Zodiac Briefing** – Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a proper introduction to the expedition, your expedition team and a **mandatory** zodiac briefing.
- 1100 **AECO & Polar Bear Briefing** – Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a mandatory Arctic and Polar bear briefing.
- 1200 **Boots** – We will give you your rubber boots from the **boot room** (deck 3 forward). We will call you in groups - please listen for announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1400 **Smeerenburg Landing** - This afternoon we will visit the old dutch whaling station Smeerenburg. Home to a rich history, arctic tundra, beautiful scenery and (hopefully) some walrus. Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3 starboard). Please listen for announcements.
- 1830 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a recap on our first day in Svalbard and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). Bon Appetit!

***This evening we will sail through some incredible scenery and spot for wildlife.
Enjoy a beautiful evening in Northern Spitsbergen.***



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Sea Ice Day

Friday 8th July 2022

Expedition sea ice day – Today we hope to sail north to the sea ice. Please join us on the decks and observation lounge to enjoy the beauty of the sea ice and (hopefully) some wildlife!

0700 Wake up call & approximate time of arrival to the sea ice.

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (Deck 3).

We will have a lecture program throughout the day depending on weather and sightings. Please listen out for announcements.

1100 **Kayaking briefing.** Please join Alexis & David in the **Library** (deck 5) for the kayak briefing. If you are registered to kayak or may be interested in kayaking this trip – this will be a mandatory briefing.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

1830 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a recap on our first day in Svalbard and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). Bon Appetit!



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Liefdefjord
Mushamna & Idabreem
Saturday 9th July 2022

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This morning we hope to land at Mushamna in Liefdefjord. The site has an actively used trappers' cabin, trapper artefacts, as well as Arctic tundra and a lagoon. Here we could see bird life, foxes, as well as Arctic flora.

0900 **Long Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

0900 **Kayakers** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** dressed and ready to go.

0915 **Short Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise Idabreem glacial front. Beautiful opportunities to view the glacier, wildlife and the area's unique geology.

1500 **Idabreem Glacial Zodiac Cruise** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please listen for announcements.

1500 **Kayakers** - Please come to the gangway dressed and ready to go.

1830 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** for a recap on our first day in Svalbard and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). Bon Appetit!



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Hindlopen Strait
Palanderbukta & Alkefjellet
Sunday 10th July 2022

0645 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This morning we hope to land at Palanderbukta. Situated in Wahlenbergfjord, the landing site is surrounded by the beautiful scenery of Nordaustland peaks and glaciers. An Arctic Tundra walk with chances of Svalbard flower plants, reindeer, foxes and bird life. The walks are both across flat tundra.

0830 **Long Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

0845 **Short Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

No Kayaking this morning.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise Alkefjellet bird cliffs. Home to 60,000 breeding pairs of Brunnich's Guillemots, the towering cliffs of Alkefjellet are an incredible sight, shrouded in incredible wildlife.

1500 **Alkefjellet Zodiac Cruise** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please listen for announcements.

1500 **Kayakers** - Please come to the gangway dressed and ready to go.

1830 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** for a recap on our first day in Svalbard and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). Bon Appetit!



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Hindlopen Strait
Torellneset & Brasvelbreen
Monday 11th July 2022

0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This morning we hope to land at Torellneset. The area is dominated by polar desert and home to a walrus haul out – hopefully they are home! We hope to take you to see walrus and offer some hiking options for those that wish.

0900 **Long Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

0915 **Medium Walkers & Walrus watchers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

Kayakers – No kayaking this morning.....unless there are no Walrus and...."it's perfect"- Alexis

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This afternoon we hope to ship cruise Brasvelbreen – the calving ice cliff of the ice cap of Austfonna. The ice cliff is the largest glacier front in the Northern hemisphere. We will cruise along the edge of this 10 to 25 metre high ice cliff.

1800 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** for an extended recap on today and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). Bon Appetit!



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Freemansundet
Kapp Waldburg & Kapp Lee
Tuesday 12th July 2022

0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This morning we hope to land at Kapp Waldburg, a beautiful landing on the South of Barentsoya. Home to a beautiful kittwake colony and surrounded by the incredible scenery of Freemansundet.

0845 **Viewpoint Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

0900 **Bird Cliff Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

Kayaking – we will assess the weather on arrival at Kapp Waldburg. Please listen for announcements – we will let you know if kayaking will be possible this morning.

1200 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This afternoon we hope to land at Kapp Lee for some free walking within a perimeter. Often frequented by reindeer, foxes, and walrus.

After our landing at Kapp Lee we will head Southwest to round the Southern tip of Spitsbergen – we will sail into open sea – please secure your belongings and take care when moving around the ship.

1830 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** for a recap on today and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). Bon Appetit!



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Hornsund

Gashamna & Burgerbukta

Wednesday 13th July 2022

0745 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This morning we hope to land at Gashamna, the oldest whaling station in Svalbard. Here you will find cultural remains, and a glacial plain surrounded by incredible scenery.

1030 **Viewpoint Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

1045 **Medium Walkers** - Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

Kayaking – we will assess the weather on arrival at Kapp Waldburg. Please listen for announcements – we will let you know if kayaking will be possible this morning.

1300 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

This afternoon we hope to take you on a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta – a beautiful glacial fjord. We hope to cruise ice, and spot wildlife and birds.

1530 **Burgerbukta zodiac cruise** – Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please pay attention to announcements.

1830 **Daily Recap & Briefing** - Please join your expedition team in the **lounge** for a recap on today and a briefing for tomorrow's activities.

1900 **Special Arctic Dinner** – Please join us on deck 3 aft (behind the dining room) for a special arctic dinner – **dress warmly** :)



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Bellsund

Bamsebu & Ingeborgfjellet

Thursday 14th July 2022

0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning we hope to land at Bamsebu. Here you will find a hunters cabin, beluga remains and beautiful arctic tundra.

0900 **Bamsebu Landing** – Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please listen for announcements.

We will also offer a Polar Plunge at Bamsebu for those that would like to. We will offer this at the end of the landing – please bring/wear your swimwear with you. Please do not take your cabin towels – we will provide the towels.

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

This afternoon we hope to land at Ingeborgfjellet. Beautiful Arctic tundra, towering Guillemot nesting slope, and the chance of reindeer and foxes.

1400 **Long walkers** – Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please listen for announcements.

1415 **Medium walkers** – Please make your way to the **zodiac boarding area**. Please listen for announcements.

1830 **Captain's Farewell & Slideshow** – Please join us in the lounge for a toast to the voyage and a slideshow of our amazing trip.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.



Around Spitsbergen

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Disembarkation
Longyearbyen
Friday 15th July 2022

0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

Please leave your large check in luggage outside your cabins when you leave for breakfast. It will be taken to the pier for your disembarkation.

0900 **Disembarkation** – Please listen for announcements.

Option 1 – You are flying on the morning flight – Please pick up your luggage from the pier and put it on the airport bus.

Option 2 – You are staying in town – Please pick up your luggage from the pier and put it on the town centre bus.

Option 3 – You are flying on the afternoon flight – Please leave your luggage on the pier for storage. You can then board the town centre bus. This bus will leave the centre of town at 11:45am – it will then take you to pick up your luggage from the pier and then to the airport.

Option 4 – You are flying on the evening flight – Please either pick up your luggage from the pier and take it on the town centre bus – you can then either keep it with you or find somewhere to store it. You will then need to organise your own transport to the airport.

If you would like to go to the airport early – you can board the airport bus in town at 11:45am – which will take you to pick up your luggage from the pier and then to the airport.

On behalf of all at Oceanwide Expeditions and all the Plancius crew; thank you for sailing with us and safe travels :)