



**Around Svalbard and Kvitoya
August 20th – August 29th 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 Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

of 51 sailors:

Chief Officer:	Maikel Overbeeke	[Netherlands]
2. Officer:	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Ukraine]
3. Officer:	Nino Cizmic	[Croatia]
Hotel Manager:	Aleks Lebedev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Sergey Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ships Doctor:	Paul van Overbeeke	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Philipp Schaudy	[Austria]
Assist. Exp. Leader:	Ali Liddle	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Kamila Oliver	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Marijke de Boer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Andreas Alexander	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Burke	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Kalle Kaub	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Karin Daniels Amby	[Sweden]
Dive Team Leader:	Henrik Enckell	[Sweden]
Diving Guide:	Tanja Bayer	[Germany]
Diving Guide:	Michael Green	[UK]
Diving Guide:	Mike Pumm	[Switzerland]

Day 1 – Saturday 20th August, Longyearbyen

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



It was a beautiful sunny day for the start of our voyage and after a day exploring Longyearbyen we made our way to the Plancius, which was moored at the coal pier just outside town.

We were met at the gangway by members of the Expedition team and shown to our cabins by the hotel staff. After settling into our cabins, we were invited to the Lounge for the mandatory safety briefing from our First Officer Maikel. This outlined procedure in the event of an emergency on board. We had an abandon ship drill and donned our big orange lifejackets as we gathered in the lounge before making our way to the lifeboats.

Shortly after the drill, we watched the mooring lines being cast off and we were on our way on our Svalbard adventure! How exciting! It was a beautiful evening as we sailed out into Isfjord and we hoped this weather would be with us for the next 9 days. As we began our navigation there was a call over the PA system that whale blows had been seen and they were identified as Fin whales and then we started to see dolphins feeding amongst them. These were White beaked dolphins and there must have been around 60 animals putting on a show for us and the day trip boat out from Longyearbyen. What a great start to our trip!

It was then time to reconvene once again and this was a chance to meet and toast our voyage with our Captain and also meet members of the Expedition team, the guides who would be taking us ashore in the coming days.

Dinner was served and we got to meet some of our fellow travellers and after dinner the last task of the day was to collect our rubber boots ready for the landings we would be doing in the days ahead.

Day 2 – Sunday 21st August Smeerenburgreen and Buchananhalvøya

GPS Position 08:00: 79°39.1'N 011°13.2'E

Wind: NNE3 Sea: Calm Weather: Clear Air Temp: 7°C Water Temp: 4°C



The sun shone down on beautiful blue sea and clear blue skies as we approached Smerenburgreen. The cruise in during breakfast had been spectacular and the glacier stood majestically at the end of the bay.

We suited up for our zodiac cruise and set off through the broken pieces of ice floating in the bay, as we approached the glacier the pieces got bigger and more impressive, the sun glinting off each one as if jewels scattered across the surface of the water.

Here we saw the beautiful glacier front calving on this warm summer morning, each collapse adding to the debris in the water. The blue of the ice was picturesque and the older glass like ice was a sight to behold.



Some of us were lucky enough to see a bearded seal as well as the usual suspects of glaucous gulls and kittiwakes.

As we ate lunch we headed out of the bay and headed around the northern corner towards

Alicehamna, on the way we weaved through the islands and were greeted by Puffins, Guillemots and the occasional Minke whale.

At Alicehamna we could see the hut and our landing site when we were greeted with a pleasant surprise of a mother polar bear with her cub. After a short stay on the ship watching as they lazily lay in the sun, we changed to plan B and headed across the bay to Buchananhalvøya. Here we took the zodiacs to get ashore and from



the driftwood strewn beach we broke into various hiking groups and headed out to see what we could find. The area was vegetation rich with mosses and lichens. The occasional flowers still in bloom brightened the grey outcrops and the polar willow with its leaves turning to orange was a sign that summer was coming to an end. The sun stayed shining all day and the water calm as we headed North in search of tomorrows sea ice.



Day 3 – Monday 22nd August, Into the Pack Ice

GPS Position 08:00: 81°29.9 N 008°31.3'E

Furthest North Position: 81°35.4'N 009°52.0'E

Wind: Variable 1 Sea: Calm Weather: Clear Air Temp: -1°C Water Temp: -2°C



Last night the Plancius was heading up North towards the pack ice above Svalbard. A few hours before breakfast the first of the keen observers were outside on the decks

patiently waiting as the ice started to significantly increase all around. Number of Fulmars and little



Auks were seen but it was not until we were surrounded by dense sea ice that we heard the vocalisations of a true Arctic bird – the Ivory Gull. What a beautiful all-white bird and how well does it blend into its icy surroundings! In fact, the presence of birds feeding in the pack ice surrounding the ship suggested that the waters below were rich in food, which would be good for seals and therefore polar bears as well.



We delayed breakfast a little so we all could marvel at the different colours of the ice. After breakfast we indeed started to see some seal species, including a few Ringed Seals and Bearded Seals. Although all the key ingredients were there, no polar bears were to be seen. Only their tracks were visible in the snowy ice floes.

After lunch we decided to go through some open water before re-entering the ice again. This time a hooded seal was seen hauled out on ice and some further seals were poking out their heads in between various ice floes. At 16:00 we were invited for a well-deserved hot drink to warm us up. Beautiful ‘fog bows’ were regularly seen as they spanned in front of the bow of the Plancius.



During our recap, Philipp updated us on ice charts and our plans for tomorrow. Andreas gave an overview about how, due to climate change, the thickness of the ice has reduced over the past decades. Marijke told us a bit more about bearded seals. These are the largest of the Arctic seals and we listened to an underwater recording of their beautiful

song. The males keep underwater territories and use their vocalisations to attract females.

Beyond the goal of seeing Arctic wildlife today, we should not forget that this was the first opportunity for most of the passengers to simply observe and experience

the fascinating environment of the arctic pack ice. And what a beautiful day we had!

Today we reached our farthest North position at **81°35.4'N 009°52.0'E**



Day 4 – Tuesday 23rd August Phippsoya and Chermsideoya

GPS Position 08:00: 80°40.8'N 020°56.5'E

Wind: E3 Sea: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 3°C Water Temp: 4°C



It had been a calm night on board as we sailed south towards the Seven Islands. We were woken at 0700 as we were navigating between the islands to our anchorage just off Phippsoya. We started going ashore after breakfast and as we approached

the beach, we could see some walrus in the water as well as a few on the beach. Looking at the length and shape of the tusks we could see that they were all males and a mixture of mature bulls and young immature males. They were certainly quite curious about the visitors to their island.





On shore we were landed by what was originally a trapper's hut, but which is now owned by the Sysselmesteren and is the most northerly hut on Svalbard. Once we were sorted into our hiking groups, we headed off in our various directions with the long hikers heading to the highest peak on the island, the medium group walking over to the other side of

the island and the leisurely walkers taking a route to the small bay near the hut. Every group enjoyed views of this northern island with staff telling stories along the way and of course every group got a chance to see the walrus on the beach. Some of the walrus that had been swimming in the water came towards the beach for a closer look at us as we were watching the sleeping walrus so we had some great views of these blubbery beasts!

Back on board we sailed further south to Chermsideoøya, to land at an area known as the Graffiti Beach. On shore there are words, dates and symbols made out of stones and many of these were made by the crew of expeditions to the area including the Swedish Arc of the Meridian



expedition in 1898. There was a message from the crew of the Russian vessels the Krassin and Red Bear who were here to rescue the Italian explorer Nobile in 1928 and finally and, most controversially in 2022, a German swastika.



Conditions were good and with our groups all sorted on shore we headed off for our walks with the long hikers heading for the top of the island and the medium groups going out along the coast. The scenery was beautiful and despite the island looking desolate from the ship we found plenty of small plants

and moss along the meltwater streams. With some light snow falling it really did feel very atmospheric as we sat quietly and had moments of 'Arctic Silence'.

Back on board it was time for recap where Marijke spoke about the walrus we had seen in the morning and Andreas about the marine debris that is found in all our oceans, particularly plastics and the nets and rubbish from our fishing industry. As a species we really need to do so much better.

Day 5 – Wednesday 24th August

GPS Position 08:00: 80°05.5'N 031°21.3'E

Wind: NW3 Sea: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 3°C Water Temp: 4°C



© Marijke de Boer

The ship gently rocked back and forth throughout the night reminding us we were steaming ahead a great distance to reach our next destination. As we awoke the early morning fog had dissipated enough to see the island of Kvitøya. The unmistakable dome shape of the glacier in all its glory stood lonely out there in the grey rolling ocean.



© Marijke de Boer

Sadly, the mornings activities had to be curtailed due to the weather conditions, with increasing wind and already high swell. It was decided that we would stay here for a little while to enjoy the view of this wonderful island.

No sooner had the anchor been lifted, Andreas was gracing us with an incredibly

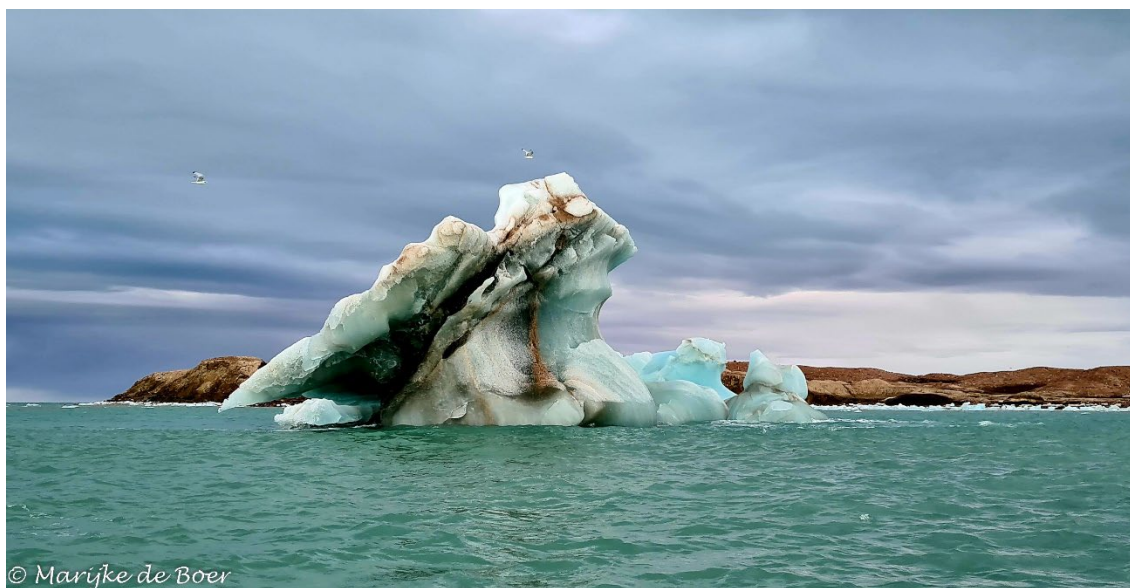
interesting and sobering lecture on glaciers. This lecture took us from the birth of glaciers all the way through to the slow demise and into future predictions.



We had a wonderful surprise encounter with whales just before lunch. The majority were humpback whales, showing off their tail flukes and putting on a fantastic display. Whilst in the background shy Minke whales surfaced occasionally, along with a sighting of a fin whale.

After our fill of lunch, we headed out on the zodiacs to view the Austfonna glacier front at Isispynten. The island sheltered us from the waves as we headed around spectacular natural ice sculptures. The skies turned a wonderful blue/grey and the icebergs really shone in comparison to the foreboding backdrop. Hundreds of Kittiwakes filled the sky above Isispynten interspersed with the graceful flight of arctic terns. The glacier front itself was spectacular, the ice blue where recent carvings had occurred, and archways hewn from the ice made for an impressive spectacle. As we returned three huge carving events took place and really showed us the raw power of this beautiful and dangerous environment.

Once back aboard we cruised along the glacier front and into our next days adventure.



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Day 6 – Thursday 25th August, Augustabukta, Lomfjorden

GPS Position 08:00: 79°25.7'N 020°37.5'E

Wind: NE4 Sea: Moderate Weather: Clouds Air Temp: 6°C Water Temp: 4°C



Last night the Plancius was heading up into Hinlopen Strait following along the magnificent ice wall. Dreaming of all the ice and the whales we saw yesterday, we awoke seeing some walrus as we approached our first landing site: Augustabukta in Nordausland. There were different hikes on offer – some of us

climbed to reach the top of the hill and enjoyed the spectacular views. Others stayed a little lower, where we joined Karin to study the different types of vegetation. All groups got lovely views of Svalbard's Reindeer which were accompanied by some curious young reindeer too! The wind was bitterly cold, but the sunshine made up for it all.



During lunch the Plancius already started to steam towards Lomfjorden. Passing the spectacular Alkefjellet bird cliffs we also saw a few whale blows. A mother and juvenile fin whale were spotted amongst the many Brunnich's Guillemot and Kittiwakes. A minke whale was breaching up to 6 times!

As we came into Lomfjord some polar bears were spotted on the far shore and all zodiacs were lowered – a change in plans. It was a bit of a splashy, wet ride to shore but we found a female with yearling (1 year and 7 months old cub) were eating from an old whale carcass. There was not much left from this minke whale carcass. But the smell of the carcass indicated that there was still some old meat buried in the sand. By now the female and cub had walked a little bit away from the carcass



to have a rest. The female was occasionally scanning the land around her, probably on the look out for male polar bears. During this time of her life, taking care of a small cub, she needs to avoid the larger male bears as they are known to kill the smaller bears. Our encounter was very peaceful, it was a great way to observe the behaviour of the bears without disturbing them and to admire seeing them in their own habitat.

Back onboard, Philip invited us for a recap in the lounge where he informed us about the plans for tomorrow. Marijke explained a little bit more about polar bear biology and behaviour and Ali gave a lovely overview of the different seabirds we have been seeing. We are starting to get to know our seabirds and especially hearing about the little guillemot chicks that have to dive from high cliffs was quite impressive. We shall be on the look out to see if we can find any father-chick guillemot pairs on the water in the coming days. While they are peddling south, the Plancius will sail south too. But before the Plancius lifts her anchor we were invited to join a barbeque on deck!



Day 7 – Friday 26th August,

GPS Position 08:00: 78°14.5'N 021°31.2'E

Wind: NE3 Sea: Moderate Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 6°C Water Temp: 5°C

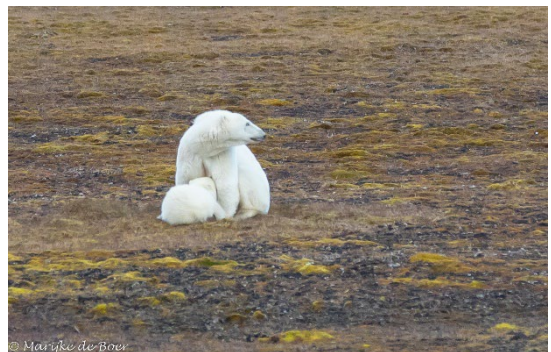


After our morning wake-up call from Philipp we were just enjoying our breakfast when we got a call over the PA system that a bear had been seen on shore and in fact it wasn't just one bear but a mother with her cub. What a great reason to finish breakfast quickly and head out on deck! It was then announced that we would go out

in the zodiacs to see if we could observe her from a closer distance.

We wrapped up warm, grabbed our cameras and memory cards and headed to the gangway with great excitement!

As we watched the bears it looked for a moment that they would walk up the small river valley but she continued along the beach and eventually settled on the grass just above the beach area. It was a female and her young cub and although the mother looked to be a little thin the cub looked to be in good health and was quite active for a while. It seemed



that they were chewing on some reindeer bones for a while but then lay down and snoozed in the morning sunshine. With reindeer behind and the morning sunshine it was an idyllic scene.



We were patient and enjoyed the occasional head movement and glances in our direction but then the cub decided to get up and walk a little and the mother got up and followed and then we could see it was trying to suckle from her as she was

walking. She then settled on some grass and what followed was a rare glimpse of a



mother polar bear feeding her young cub. It was so lovely to see her so relaxed with her cub even with 9 zodiacs and 100 people offshore albeit 170m away. This is nature watching at it's best. After a while they both lay down to sleep and it was time for us to leave them to rest, although the young cub seemed sad to see us go as it sat up and watched as the zodiacs sailed quietly away.

What a fantastic morning!

We then continued down Freemansundet towards Sundneset to see what else we could see along the coast and before long we got a call over the PA to say that another bear had been seen on top of the hill, then another one was seen further away on the ridge, then another was on the tundra and then two bears were seen on the cliff by the shore. A bear bonanza! But no good for landing!

Our afternoon plan was to land on Edgeoya and we needed to try 3 different locations before we could find a place where there wasn't a bear on shore and we anchored off Svingeldalen where we could see green tundra and plenty of reindeer on the slopes.



Once on shore the hiking groups were sorted, and we headed off up the hill and along the shore in our groups and it turned out to be a great afternoon with plenty to see on the ground as well as great views over Freemansundet and to the interior of Edgeoya. The long hikers headed far inland into the hills and the medium group, encouraged by Ali's need to see over the top of the hill reached a great viewpoint for some relaxed time enjoying the views with the gentle snow fall. The leisurely walkers enjoyed a good exploration of the lower slopes and had some close-up views of the reindeer that were feeding on the rich vegetation.

All the hikers were able to see the reindeer on the way back down the hill and enjoyed watching the stags with their huge sets of antlers. All too soon it was time to head back to the landing site and back to the ship where we joined the expedition team for re-cap and Marijke told us a little more about the polar bears we had been enjoying over the last few days.



What a brilliant day!



Day 8 – Saturday 27th August,

GPS Position 08:00: 76°55.6'N 018°28.4'E

Wind: ENE3 Sea: Moderate Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 6°C Water Temp: 6°C



The morning took us into more wavy seas with a headwind that slowed us down a little. As we approached our landing of Gåshamna it was clear that the wind was far too strong for us to deploy the zodiacs, so we enjoyed the scenery as we headed further into Hornsund. we found a sheltered spot

at Treskelen which was originally planned as our afternoon landing. The beach was sheltered from the wind and as we headed off into the surrounding moraines it was time to pick up the camera and take some shots of this picturesque landscape. The coastline held host to wonderful array of geology and the sedimentary colours were beautiful. Glacial erratic's lay scattered amongst the landscape as the clouds hung low on the mountains surrounding Hornsund.

Those that braved the top of the moraine were swiftly reunited with the wind that was still strong on the other side of the ridge and reminding us of the shelter we had managed to seek. Over the other side we could see beautiful blue icebergs pushed up against the beach and the exposed remnants of ice under the moraine.



After lunch we headed further into Hornsund and enjoyed a ships cruise east towards the glaciers that adorned the end of the sound.



We approached Samarinbreen with the clouds hugging the mountain tops. The Ice reflected in the now almost calm surface of the water. Heading towards the glacier front we weaved through ice sculptures and beautiful blue ice. As we were appreciating the glacier front, small blows appeared at the

surface, and we were greeted by a pod of Beluga. The curious whales manoeuvred along the ice front, and we watched as the white whales played in the ice strewn water, the grey young ones interspersed amongst the group.

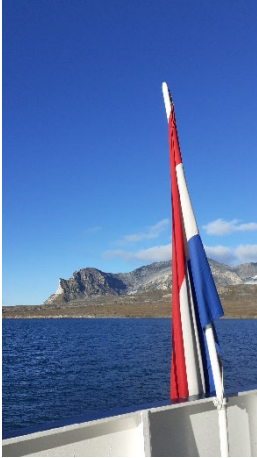
We then headed towards the main glacier front and appreciated the majestic sight of this glacier with its varied landscape marking its surface. Whilst there we witnessed three carvings, the third of which gave a dramatic display as three big ice wedges peeled from the surface and cascading into the water causing an exciting rush of water forming breaking waves giving an exhilarating end to a wonderful afternoons cruise.



Day 9 – Sunday 28th August

GPS Position 08:00: 78°14.4'N 013°57.1'E

Wind: NE3 Sea: Slight Weather: Clear Air Temp: 8°C Water Temp: 7°C



The Plancius arrived at Isfjorden this morning. Alkhornet was fully visible in the sunny clear skies – this is the largest bird colony in Svalbard. However, a rather big and fat looking polar bear prevented us from landing here and instead we were able to land a bit further on at Ymerbukta.

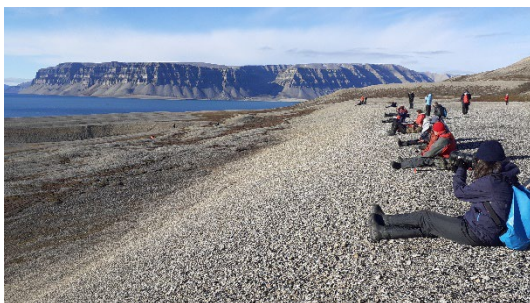
We all enjoyed the sheltered conditions from the wind here too. The long hikers went higher up to enjoy the views over Alkhornet whilst others stayed a little lower – walking the soft cushioned tundra, which was still covered, in places, with small flowers. Bird activity is not as high this late in the season – nevertheless many kittiwakes and fulmars were flying around together with Brunnich's Guillemots and quite a few puffins. A curious harbour seal swam along the coast and also briefly investigated our zodiacs.



Back onboard, the Plancius set sail to the deepest section of Isfjorden. A few fin whales were seen feeding and a minke whale briefly surfaced at our bow.



We next landed at Fredheim. A quick hike up the mountain or a medium and slow walk in the immediate surroundings of a trapper's hut were on offer. Eiders were swimming along the coastline here and a flock of sandpipers were busily poking their long bills into the rich mud in search of food.



The landing ended with the bravest among us who did a polar plunge! A lot of plunging later and we were back onboard our vessel. At 1845 our captain greeted us for a cocktail in the lounge. While we zipped our cocktails, we looked at a slideshow that Karin had prepared for us. Such lovely adventures – what a trip this has been! Beautiful weather, stunning scenery and what a diversity of wildlife we have seen. Let's toast on that!



Polar Plunge!!

Day 10 – Monday 29th August Longyearbyen

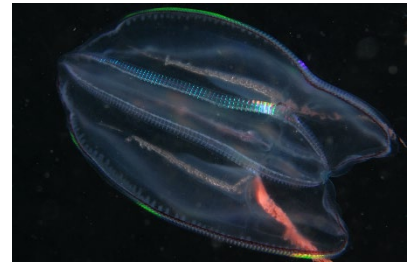
GPS position 08:00: 78°13.8' N 015°36.2'E (Harbour Longyearbyen)

We had our final wake-up call from Philipp and, after breakfast with our luggage waiting for us on the pier and the buses arriving it was time to say goodbye to The Little Blue Ship Plancius and to the staff and crew that have looked after us so well for the last 9 days.

We have been privileged to sail these Arctic waters and take a glimpse into the lives of the wildlife here and also the effect of the changes that we, as humans are inflicting on the planet. The encounters with polar bears, prime indicators of climate change were unforgettable, but you have to wonder what the future holds for these iconic polar animals.



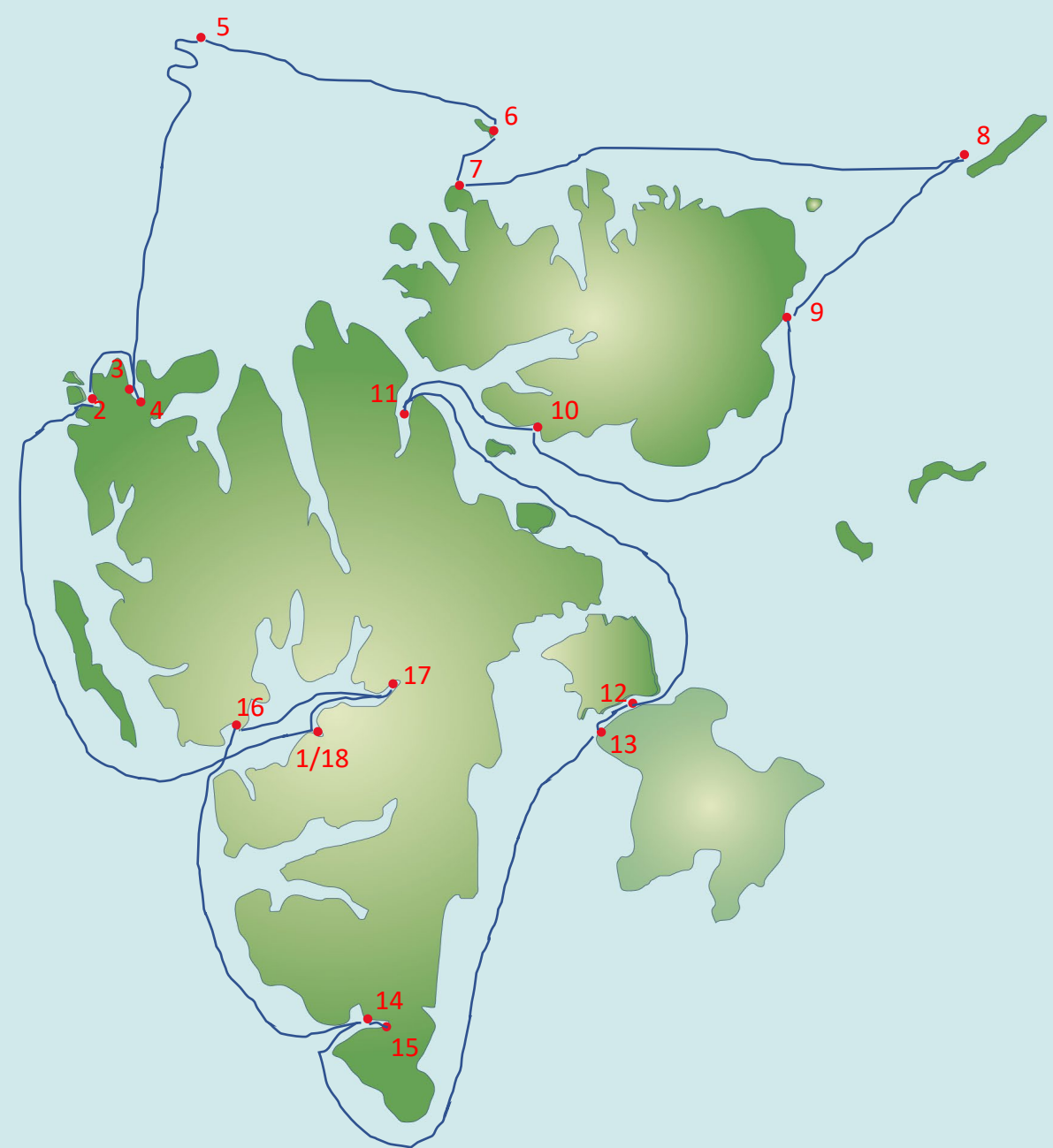
What the Divers saw.....



Svalbard & Kvitøya 2022

M/V Plancius 20/08 – 29/08

- **1:** 20/08 Longyearbyen - Embarkation.
- **2:** 21/08 Smeerenburgbreen - Zodiac cruise
- **3:** 21/08 Alicehamna, Raudfjord - On anchor + bear
- **4:** 21/08 Buchananhalvøya - Landing + hike
- **5:** 22/08 In Pack Ice
- **6:** 23/08 Phippsøya - Landing + walrus
- **7:** 23/08 Chermsideøya - Landing
- **8:** 24/08 Andréeneset, Kvitøya - On anchor
- **9:** 24/08 Austfonna - Zodiac cruise
- **10:** 25/08 Augustabukta - Landing
- **11:** 25/08 Faksevågen, Lomfjord - Zodiac cruise + bear
- **12:** 26/08 Skarpryttaren, Barentsøya - Zodiac cruise + bear
- **13:** 26/08 Svingeldalen, Edgeøya - Landing
- **14:** 27/08 Treskelen, Hornsund - Landing
- **15:** 27/08 Samarinvågen, Hornsund - Zodiac cruise + beluga
- **16:** 28/08 Ymerbukta, Isfjorden - Landing
- **17:** 28/08 Fredheim, Tempelfjord - Landing + Polar plunge
- **18:** 29/08 Longyearbyen- Disembarkation



Birds seen during cruise PLA12

English Name	Latin	German	20/08	21/08	22/08	23/08	24/08	25/08	26/08	27/08	28/08
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher									
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans						x	x		
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	x							x	
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans									
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	x	x		x					x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente									
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente									
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer									
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer				x		x	x	x	x
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen									
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen									
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe		x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	x								
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	x	x	x					x	x
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe		x	x						
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	x					x			x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste		x			x	x			
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher			x	x	x				
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	x	x					x	x	x
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer									
Rock ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>	Schneehühner				x					

Mammals seen during cruise PLA12

English	Latin	German	20/08	21/08	22/08	23/08	24/08	25/08	26/08	27/08	28/08
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross		x		x	x	x	x		
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe		x	x		x		x	x	
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe			x						
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe					x				
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze			x						
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund									x
Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Weißwal								x	
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	x	x			x	x			x
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal					x				
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal									
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär		x			x	x	x		x
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Rentier						x	x	x	x
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera Physalus</i>	Finnwal	x	x			x	x			x
White-beaked dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weißschnauzendelfin	x								x
Arctic fox	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs							x		

Philipp Schaudy – Expedition Leader



It all started on this memorable 24th of December 1973. It was cold and snow was falling on the Austrian city of Graz. I instantly loved that. Immediately I decided to become a polar explorer but managed only to be a Christmas tree vendor in front of a supermarket in my early years.

That was a dead-end job, so I packed my rucksack and tried to find happiness abroad. I bicycled across continents, climbed mountains, paddled rivers. "To be on the road" was my motto. I took pictures of everything, gave public talks and told the audience about my adventures.

Along the way I finished studies to become a Geographer. Not so easy with my drive to travel.

And then the addiction to the North. Again and again. Scandinavia, Iceland, Canada, Alaska and – more than 20 years ago – for the first time Spitsbergen. Suddenly I felt at home and stayed there for several years together with my wife.

Eventually we had seen enough polar nights and broke camp. Still plenty of virgin soil ahead of us. Greenland, the Russian Arctic, the North Pole, the deep South – Antarctica – and a lot in between.

Today I live with my family at 750 meters above sea level in a small village near Graz. A place where snow is falling at Christmas. Nevertheless, I am back in the Arctic every summer. Sure thing!

Deutsch

Alles begann an jenem denkwürdigen 24. Dezember 1973. Es war kalt und Schnee fiel in dicken Flocken auf die österreichische Stadt Graz. Das gefiel mir auf Anhieb. Sofort entschloss ich Polarforscher zu werden, schaffte es in jungen Jahren jedoch nur zum Christbaumverkäufer vor einem Supermarkt.

Das hatte keine Zukunft. Und so packte ich meinen Rucksack und suchte mein Glück in der Ferne. Ich durchquerte per Fahrrad Kontinente, kletterte auf Berge, paddelte auf Flüssen. „Unterwegs sein“ war das Motto. Ich fotografierte alles, hielt Vorträge und erzählte dem Publikum von meinen Abenteuern. Nebenbei schloss ich das Studium zum Diplomgeographen ab. Gar nicht so einfach bei meinem Reisedrang.

Und dann die Sucht nach dem Norden. Wieder und wieder. Skandinavien, Island, Kanada, Alaska und – vor über 20 Jahren – erstmals Spitzbergen. Ich war plötzlich angekommen und verbrachte mit meiner Frau mehrere Jahre auf der Insel.

Irgendwann hatten wir genug Polarnacht intus und brachen die Zelte ab. Noch immer viel Neuland voraus. Grönland, die Russische Arktis, der Nordpol, der tiefe Süden – die Antarktis – und jede Menge dazwischen.

Heute lebe ich mit meiner Familie auf 750 Meter Seehöhe in einem kleinen Dorf nahe Graz. Dort wo zu Weihnachten der Schnee fällt. Jedoch im Sommer bin ich nach wie vor jedes Jahr in der Arktis. Na klar!

Ali Liddle – Assistant Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley. Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline. She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island. Her particular interest is

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

Deutsch

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

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

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

Kamilla Oliver – Expedition Guide



Kamilla has been fascinated by nature, snow and cold since as long as she can remember. Her first career, following a PhD in Physics, was in academia. Subsequently she worked as nuclear engineer in a nuclear power plant in Cape Town and later in Germany. But she was convinced that she was meant to be driving in another lane.

After her job in Germany was axed as aftermath of Fukushima nuclear accident, Kamilla decided to hold onto her passion and switch career. Her interests led her to work as ski instructor and lead educational adventure tours on both hemispheres. She has been fortunate to travel to the high Arctic and took part in several skiing expeditions in Russia and Svalbard.

A lifelong interest in the Polar Regions has been rewarded by employment in Greenland. Kamilla has lived on a traditional Inuit settlement in East Greenland. She had an opportunity there to learn fishing and hunting techniques and building sledges and kayaks. Greenland remains her favourite destination.

Kamilla also works in a variety of art genres, including painting, drawing, seal skin embroidery and photography. Her canvasses portray penguins and polar landscapes. She jokingly asserts she is a chionophile (from the Greek word chion meaning "snow", and -phile meaning "lover"). She finds inspiration in sharing nature experiences with others.

Deutsch

Kamilla ist von der Natur, dem Schnee und der Kälte fasziniert, seit sie denken kann. Nach ihrem Doktorat in Physik war sie zunächst im akademischen Bereich tätig. Anschließend arbeitete sie als Nuklearingenieurin in einem Kernkraftwerk in Kapstadt und später in Deutschland. Aber sie war überzeugt, dass sie auf einer anderen Spur fahren sollte.

Nachdem ihr Job in Deutschland nach dem Reaktorunfall in Fukushima weggefallen war, beschloss Kamilla, ihrer Leidenschaft treu zu bleiben und den Beruf zu wechseln. Ihre Interessen führten sie dazu, als Skilehrerin zu arbeiten und Abenteuerreisen auf beiden Hemisphären zu leiten. Sie hatte das Glück, in die hohe Arktis zu reisen und an mehreren Skiexpeditionen in Russland und Svalbard teilzunehmen.

Ihr lebenslanges Interesse an den Polarregionen wurde durch eine Anstellung in Grönland belohnt. Kamilla hat in einer traditionellen Inuit-Siedlung in Ostgrönland gelebt. Dort hatte sie die Möglichkeit, Fischerei- und Jagdtechniken sowie den Bau von Schlitten und Kajaks zu erlernen. Grönland ist nach wie vor ihr Lieblingsziel.

Kamilla arbeitet in einer Vielzahl von Kunstgattungen, darunter Malerei, Zeichnung, Robbenhautstickerei und Fotografie. Ihre Gemälde zeigen Pinguine und Polarlandschaften. Sie behauptet scherzhaft, sie sei eine Chionophile (von dem griechischen Wort chion für "Schnee" und -phile für "Liebhaber"). Inspiration findet sie darin, Naturerlebnisse mit anderen zu teilen.

Marijke Nita de Boer – Expedition Guide



Marijke grew up in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. In the early-90s, she worked over a number of summers as a field biologist specialising in sea turtle conservation in Greece. This was a magnificent experience and formed the inspiration for switching her Academic career towards Marine Biology.

She is fascinated by cetaceans, and has worked with Minke whales, Killer whales, Blue whales, Belugas, Bottlenose whales in the Arctic Labrador Sea, Risso's dolphins and Sperm whales. She has also participated in various ocean-crossing surveys, namely the Davis Strait, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Southern Ocean and Antarctica. These surveys formed the core foundation of her detailed in-depth experience with marine mammals.

She completed a MSc in Marine Ecology (University of Utrecht) and a PhD (Marine Mammal Ecology) at the University of Wageningen focusing on the abundance and distribution of cetaceans using (low-cost) seagoing vessels ('Platforms of Opportunity'). Nowadays her research focuses on marine fauna within the Wider

Caribbean Region, West Africa and Cornwall (UK). Marijke has produced a wide selection of scientific publications.

Whilst she very much enjoys the academic side of her career, her first love is sharing her knowledge in the field. She has worked as a wildlife guide during multiple oceanic expeditions and is happy to 'escape the office'. She currently lives in the Netherlands and England and speaks Dutch, English and German. The ocean is very special to her – 'after more than 20 years of sailing the seven seas, it never fails to educate, surprise and enthral me'.

Deutsch

Marijke wuchs in den Niederlanden, der Schweiz und Deutschland auf. Sie ist fasziniert von Walen und hat an mehreren ozeanweiten Studien teilgenommen, in der Davis Strasse, dem Indischen Ozean, der Südchinesischen See, dem Südozean und in der Antarktis. Diese Studien formen die Grundlage ihrer genauen und tiefgreifenden Erfahrungen mit Meeressäugern und Seevögeln.

Sie hat einen Master Abschluss in mariner Ökologie (Universität Utrecht) und einen Doktor in Meeressäuger Ökologie (Universität Wageningen) mit Schwerpunkt Häufigkeit und Verteilung von Cetacean, beobachtet von verschiedenen Schiffsplattformen.

Ihre jetzige Forschung konzentriert sich auf marine Fauna in der Karibik, Westafrika und Cornwall (UK). Marijke hat eine Vielzahl von wissenschaftlichen Artikeln veröffentlicht. Während sie die akademische Seite ihrer Karriere mag, liebt sie es, ihr Wissen im Feld mit andern zu teilen. Sie hat als Naturführerin auf verschiedenen Ozean-Expedition gearbeitet. Marijke spricht Niederländisch, Englisch und Deutsch. Das Meer ist etwas ganz besonderes für sie – 'nach mehr als 20 Jahren auf allen sieben Weltmeeren hört es nicht auf mich zu belehren, zu überraschen und zu begeistern'.

Andreas Alexander - Expedition Guide



Andreas started his career as one of the 'bad guys'. As a mechanical engineer on fossil power plant construction sites.

Not completely convinced by that he continued in materials research to finally follow his fascination for polar research

The direction was clear during the parallel studies in mechanical engineering and geology: North. Scientific drilling in the caledonic mountains in Sweden, volcanoes in Alaska and finally Svalbard.

Andreas lived almost three years there and studied Arctic Geology and Geophysics at the University Centre in Svalbard. Hereby he could regularly be found crawling and climbing in and under glaciers for his research.

Meanwhile Andreas is working as a PhD Research Fellow at the University of Oslo and spends his time in Norway, Svalbard, Greenland, Japan and Alaska. When he is not standing in the lecture room, sitting in his office or doing fieldwork in the Arctic, he works as an Expedition Guide in the Arctic and Antarctic. A job, where

he shares his polar fascination with his guests and gladly talks about the life in polar sciences, glaciers and geology.

Deutsch

Andreas hat seine Karriere als einer der „Bad Guys“ begonnen: Als Maschinenbauingenieur auf fossilen Kraftwerksbaustellen. Nicht so ganz davon überzeugt, geht es in der Materialforschung weiter, um dann letztendlich der Faszination der Polarforschung zu folgen. Während des parallelen Studiums des Maschinenbaus und der Geologie geht es dann auch schnell Richtung Norden: Auf eine Forschungsbohrung in die schwedischen Kaledoniden, auf Vulkane nach Alaska und nach Spitzbergen.

Dort verbrachte Andreas knapp drei Jahre und hat an der dortigen Universität Arktische Geologie und Geophysik studiert. Dabei konnte er regelmäßig, im Rahmen seiner Forschungsprojekte, kriechend und kletternd in und unter Gletschern angetroffen werden.

Mittlerweile arbeitet Andreas als Doktorand in der Satellitenfernerkundung von Gletschern an der Universität in Oslo und verbringt seine Zeit in Norwegen, Spitzbergen, Grönland, Japan und Alaska. Wenn er mal nicht im Hörsaal steht, im Büro hockt oder auf Gletschern herumklettert, dann arbeitet Andreas als Guide auf Schiffen in der Arktis und Antarktis. Ein Job, bei dem er seine polare Faszination mit den Gästen teilt und gerne über das Leben in der Polarforschung, Gletscher und Geologie referiert.

Adam Burke – Expedition Guide



Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term

data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

Deutsch

Adam hatte schon immer eine Vorliebe für die Natur und das Abenteuer. Schon in jungen Jahren träumte er davon, exotische Orte zu besuchen und in andere Kulturen einzutauchen.

Diese Liebe zur Natur brachte ihn dazu, als Lehrer für abenteuerliche Aktivitäten zu arbeiten, und seit mehr als fünfzehn Jahren hat ihm diese Tätigkeit die Möglichkeit gegeben, auf der ganzen Welt zu leben und zu arbeiten. Er unterrichtete Segeln in Australien, Paddelsport auf Europas Flüssen und leitete Expeditionen in Afrika.

Nachdem er fünf Jahre lang die Feuerwehr in den Bereichen Wildwassersicherheit und -rettung sowie Bootshandhabungstechniken unterrichtet hatte, arbeitete er in der Antarktis in der Meeresforschung. Er hat über fünf Jahre zwischen dem antarktischen Kontinent und der Insel Südgeorgien gelebt und zweimal überwintert.

Während seiner wissenschaftlichen Unterstützung verbrachte er seine Zeit in der Antarktis mit der Leitung von Bootseinsätzen und der Steuerung von RIBs für Taucheinsätze. Dies umfasste das Verständnis von Umweltveränderungen und deren Auswirkungen, die Überwachung und Zählung von Wildtieren sowie die Entnahme von Wasserproben für eine langfristige Datensammlung.

Adam reist gerne mit seinem Partner, der die gleichen Werte und die Liebe zur Natur teilt. Dies hat sie von Wüsten zu Regenwäldern und Ultramarathons in den Bergen geführt.

Kalle Kaub – Expedition Guide



It's fair to say that Kalle's life has been a wild and colourful journey so far, considering it all started in grey mining town in Germany's industrial heartland, where he was born back in the summer of '69.

After 2 years in the Armed Forces he completed an apprenticeship as a journalist and photographer in 1990 and then set off to report about untold wars and unique cultures across Central / South America, Africa, New Guinea, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Five years later he went to study filmmaking in the UK & US. Upon completion, Kalle took up a job with the BBC as one of the few guys and gals who were on stand-by 24/7, shooting films literally all over the world. In 2002 Moscow became his base for many years covering the entire former Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq.

As a result Kalle has over the past 28 years seen more than 160 countries and lived in New Zealand, Russia, Canada, Norway and Tanzania. In between shooting

films he has taught filmmaking at his former University in England and scuba diving as a hobby.

Kayaking, scuba, skydiving and sailing are his favourite past-times.

Filming in Greenland for several weeks and sailing from Tromsø to and around Spitzbergen in a wee 30' Optima 101, scraping past the 80th latitude, whilst shooting an environmental adventure documentary, really whet his appetite for the icy fringes of our planet. He now calls a small cabin on Canada's West Coast or an old, but mobile dive boat in Hamburg his home.

Deutsch

Man kann mit Fug und Recht behaupten, dass Kalles Leben bisher eine wilde und farbenfrohe Reise war, wenn man bedenkt, dass alles in einer grauen Bergbaustadt im industriellen Kernland Deutschlands begann, wo er im Sommer '69 geboren wurde.

Nach zwei Jahren bei der Bundeswehr absolvierte er 1990 eine Ausbildung zum Journalisten und Fotografen und zog dann los, um über unsägliche Kriege und einzigartige Kulturen in Mittel- und Südamerika, Afrika, Neuguinea, Laos, Kambodscha und Vietnam zu berichten.

Fünf Jahre später studierte er Filmemachen in Großbritannien und den USA. Nach Abschluss des Studiums nahm Kalle einen Job bei der BBC an, als einer der wenigen Mitarbeiter, die rund um die Uhr in Bereitschaft waren und buchstäblich überall auf der Welt Filme drehten. Im Jahr 2002 wurde Moskau zu seiner Basis, von der aus er viele Jahre lang über die gesamte ehemalige Sowjetunion, Afghanistan, Pakistan und den Irak berichtete.

So hat Kalle in den letzten 28 Jahren mehr als 160 Länder gesehen und in Neuseeland, Russland, Kanada, Norwegen und Tansania gelebt. Zwischen den Dreharbeiten unterrichtet er Filmemachen an seiner ehemaligen Universität in England und betreibt als Hobby Tauchen.

Kajakfahren, Tauchen, Fallschirmspringen und Segeln sind seine Lieblingsbeschäftigungen.

Mehrwöchige Dreharbeiten in Grönland und Segeltörns von Tromsø nach und um Spitzbergen in einer kleinen 30'-Optima 101, die am 80. Breitengrad vorbeisegelte, während er eine abenteuerliche Umweltdokumentation drehte, haben seinen Appetit auf die eisigen Ränder unseres Planeten geweckt. Heute nennt er eine kleine Hütte an der Westküste Kanadas oder ein altes, aber mobiles Tauchboot in Hamburg sein Zuhause.

Karin Amby Daniels - Expedition Guide



Karin was born and raised in Dalarna, Sweden. She explored the forests around her home from a early age. Camping out in tents, snow-caves and wind-shelters has been an important part of her life since childhood. As a teenager she became fascinated by the polar regions. White wide barren landscapes pulled her to the north. In 2001-2004 she studied to become a Guide. In her final year she had a five week internship in Spitsbergen. That changed her life forever and In 2007 she moved to the Arctic Archipelago permanently. She stayed for nine years and learned a lot about the polar regions. During her time in Spitsbergen she studied biology at The University Centre in Svalbard, worked as a scientific field assistant, started her own guiding business and worked in the tourist information and museum. She is a dedicated Botanist with a broad knowledge in Arctic plants. She also has a burning interest in everything that grows in extreme conditions.

Karin has a special bond to water. If its not frozen its warm enough to swim in according to her and if it's frozen mostly an axe or chainsaw can solve the problem. In 2016 she left Spitsbergen, went back to

Sweden and worked in a refugee camp. As the camp closed down she continued her "desk based" career for some time, but soon found out that working Monday to Friday every week was not a life for her. Since 2018 she works as a guide for Oceanwide expeditions. When she is not on a ship exploring the polar regions she can be found in the beautiful village Älvdalen in Sweden. Here she spends a lot of time in nature, preferably on the dogsled or on skis. So far she has been guiding in Sweden, Spitsbergen, Greenland and the Norwegian coast.

Deutsch

Karin wurde in Dalarna, Schweden geboren und wuchs dort auf. Schon früh erkundete sie die Wälder rundum ihres Zuhauses. Camping, Schneehöhlen und Wildschutz ist seit ihrer Kindheit ein wichtiger Teil ihres Lebens. Als Teenager war sie fasziniert von den Polarregionen. Weiße weite und karge Landschaften zogen sie in den Norden. Von 2001 bis 2004 bildete sie sich aus um als Guide arbeiten zu können. Im letzten Jahr Ihres Studiums absolvierte sie ein fünfwöchiges Praktikum in Spitzbergen was ihr Leben veränderte. 2007 war der Umzug in das arktische Archipel. Sie blieb neun Jahre und lernte viel über die Polarregionen. Während ihrer Zeit in Spitzbergen studierte sie Biologie am Universitätszentrum in Spitzbergen, arbeitete als wissenschaftliche Feldassistentin, gründete ihr eigenes Führungsgeschäft und arbeitete in der Tourist-Information und im Museum. Sie ist eine engagierte Botanikerin mit einem breiten Wissen über arktische Pflanzen. Sie hat auch ein brennendes Interesse an allem, was unter extremen Bedingungen wächst. Karin hat eine besondere Bindung zu Wasser. Wenn es nicht gefroren ist sei es warm genug, um zu schwimmen. Und wenn es gefroren ist, kann eine Axt oder Kettensäge das Problem lösen!

2016 verließ sie Spitzbergen und kehrte zurück nach Schweden. Sie arbeitete dort in einem Flüchtlingslager. Als das Lager geschlossen wurde, setzte sie ihre "Schreibtisch basierte"-Karriere für einige Zeit fort, fand aber bald heraus, dass die Arbeit von Montag bis Freitag kein Leben für sie war. Seit 2018 arbeitet sie als Guide für Oceanwide Expeditionen. Wenn sie nicht auf einem der Schiffe ist um die Polarregionen zu erkunden, findet man sie im schönen Dorf Älvdalen in Schweden. Hier verbringt sie viel Zeit in der Natur, am liebsten auf dem Hundeschlitten oder auf Skiern.

Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader



Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first dive masters to bring tourists diving in Antarctica.

Henrik has been diving for over 25 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR. He runs the IART (International Association of Rebreather Trainers) Regional Office for Northern Europe and is a member of the IART Board of Advisors. Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters *General von Steuben* and *Wilhelm Gustloff* in the Baltic and *HMS Victoria* ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast. His interest for both the ocean and space has engaged him in projects with the European Space Agency (Mars500 project) and the SeaSpace Exploration and Research Society (Project Poseidon) among other adventures. He

has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions during almost 20 years and he was one of the first persons to take people diving on expedition vessels in these remote, challenging and many times undived waters.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and is working in the automotive industry when not travelling to the polar regions. He has lived and worked in Tokyo, Japan for two years and he is currently living in India with his wife, his three teenage daughters and his 5-year-old son.

Deutsch

Henrik ist ein erfahrener Tauchlehrer und Rebreather Instructor Trainer. Er war einer der ersten Tauchinstruktoren welcher Touristen in die Antarktis brachte.

Henrik ist seit über 25 Jahren Taucher und als Rebreather Instructor Trainer unterrichtet er alle Niveaus des Freizeit- und technischen Tauchens bis hin zu Advanced Trimix CCR. Er leitet das Regionalbüro der IART (International Association of Rebreather Trainers) für Nordeuropa und ist Mitglied des IART Board of Advisors. Henrik ist ein begeisterter Wracktaucher und war an Tiefenwrackexpeditionen auf der ganzen Welt beteiligt. Zu den interessanten Wracks, die er besucht hat, gehören die KATASTROPHEN *General von Steuben* und *Wilhelm Gustloff* im Zweiten Weltkrieg in der Ostsee und die *HMS Victoria* ("das vertikale Wrack") auf 145 Metern vor der libanesischen Küste.

Sein Interesse für den Ozean und den Weltraum hat ihn unter anderem in Projekten mit der Europäischen Weltraumorganisation (Mars500-Projekt) und der SeaSpace Exploration and Research Society (Project Poseidon) eingebunden. Er hat einen militärischen Hintergrund war in friedenserhaltenden und friedensstiftenden Missionen im Nahen Osten und im ehemaligen Jugoslawien unterwegs. Er leitete auch Tauchexpeditionen in der Antarktis und Arktis in den letzten 20 Jahren und war einer der ersten Menschen welche auf Expeditionsschiffen in diesen abgelegenen, herausfordernden und oft unerschlossenen Gewässern tauchten. Henrik hat einen M.Sc.-Abschluss in Elektrotechnik und arbeitet in der Automobilindustrie, wenn er sich nicht auf einem unserer Schiffe befindet. Er lebte und arbeitete zwei Jahre in Tokio und lebt derzeit mit seiner Frau und seinen drei Töchtern im Teenageralter und seinem fünfjährigen Sohn in Indien.

Tanja Bayer - Dive Guide



Tanja is at home in Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt / Main in Germany.

She has been diving since 1990 and has more than 4200 dives. In Oberursel she is running her own Diving Center "TaWo Diving" since 1996.

As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.

Her 'second' profession is being a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in Antarctica and since 2015 also in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

As a Dive Guide and Diving Expedition Leader she takes divers all around the world.

Asked for her favourite dive sites, she mentions 'Planeau Bay' in Antarctica. Cold water diving is really something

special and challenging.

You have to be experienced and always aware of hypothermia. But it is a great feeling to touch an iceberg or to see all these colorful animals surviving in these harsh regions.

Deutsch

Tanja ist geboren in Deutschland und zu Hause in Oberursel, einem kleinen Ort in der Nähe von Frankfurt am Main.

Sie taucht seit 1990 und hat mehr als 4300 Tauchgänge in den verschiedensten Gewässern dieser Welt gemacht.

In Oberursel betreibt sie, zusammen mit ihrem Mann, seit 1996 ein Tauchcenter. Als Master Instructor und Course Director bildet sie Taucher und Tauchlehrer aus. Das Training für Kaltwassertauchen und Eistauchen mag sie besonders.

Ihr '2. Beruf' ist Ärztin für Allgemeinmedizin und Unfallchirurgin. Seit 2009 arbeitet sie auch als Schiffsärztin in der Antarktis und seit 2015 an beiden Polen.

Als Tauchguide und Reiseleiter führt sie Taucher zu den Tauchgebieten weltweit und wenn man sie nach ihrem Lieblingstauchplatz fragt, sagt sie 'Planeau Bay' in der Antarktis.

Michael Green - Dive Guide



I began diving in 1980 learning with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour. Leaving the Navy, I continued to dive mainly around the U.K. dive into the wrecks always looking for a new story to learn.

I am qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. I have worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the last five years. I enjoy spending time giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions. My biggest tip for you is slow down.

Look around you, enjoy these beautiful flames they are amazing. I look forward to spending some time with you over the coming days. Please ask any questions you may have as soon as you have them, we are here to help!

Deutsch

1980 habe bei der Royal Navy das Tauchen im Hafen von Portsmouth gelernt. Nach der Marine tauchte ich hauptsächlich in England und suchte immer nach neuen Herausforderungen.

Ich bin als Instruktor bei BSAC und PADI qualifiziert. Zusätzlich qualifiziert, um Drager Dolphin und Buddy Inspiration Rebreather auszuüben. Ich arbeite seit fünf Jahren für Oceanwide. Ich genieße es, unseren Gästen ein sicheres, aber angenehmes Erlebnis in den Polarregionen zu bieten. Mein größter Tipp für Sie ist das slow down!

Schauen Sie sich um, genießen Sie diese Umgebung. Ich freue mich darauf, in den kommenden Tagen einige Zeit mit Ihnen verbringen zu dürfen. Bitte stellen Sie alle Fragen, wir sind hier um diese zu beantworten!

Mike Pumm – Dive Guide



I was born in Switzerland in 1987. I am the owner of a dive company in central Switzerland and work as a dive instructor where I specialise in technical diving and cave diving.

I got the travel bug very early, when I found myself travelling alone at the young age of fourteen. Since then, travelling has been my favourite hobby no matter if it takes me deep underwater or high up in the mountains. I like to be on the move and preferably include diving whenever possible. So far, I've travelled to more than 60 countries, and I have already been in all climate zones including the Arctic and Antarctic. When I'm not abroad I still try to find time to dive at least once a week in the lakes around my hometown.

I had the opportunity to live in Honduras for a few years and together with my wife I managed a dive resort there.

However, I am now very much looking forward to accompanying you as a guide on this polar expedition.

Deutsch

Ich wurde 1987 in der Schweiz geboren und arbeite als Tauchlehrer in meinem eigenem Tauchshop. Neben meiner Arbeit reise ich gerne durch die ganze Welt.

Die Reiselust hatte ich sehr früh, als ich zum ersten Mal mit 13 Jahren alleine unterwegs war. Seitdem ist Reisen mein grösstes hobby, egal ob tief unter Wasser oder hoch oben in den Bergen. Natürlich bevorzuge ich jederzeit das tauchen. Bis jetzt bin ich in mehr als 60 Länder gereist und war bereits in allen Klimazonen einschließlic der Antarktis & Arktis. Wenn ich nicht im Ausland bin, tauche ich immer noch ungefähr einmal pro Woche in den Seen meiner Heimatstadt.

Ich hatte die Gelegenheit einige Jahre in Honduras zu leben und zusammen mit meiner Frau dort ein Tauchresort zu betreiben.

Ich freue mich aber schon jetzt sehr darauf, Sie als Guide auf dieser Polarexpedition zu begleiten.

Paul van Overbeeke – Ship's doctor



Paul van Overbeeke is an Emergency Medicine Specialist from the Netherlands, who has worked in different remote areas all around the world and has been on several expeditions to both the Arctic and Antarctic Regions as Ship Physician.

He is an Advanced Wilderness Life Support-instructor and course director for Outdoor Medicine, after following courses in Costa Rica & Australia, and point-of care ultrasound (POCUS)-instructor for Médecins Sans Frontières. With Critical Care and Resuscitation as special interest, he is also an instructor for the Advanced Life Support course.

Furthermore, he did one year of Prehospital and Retrieval Medicine as a Flight Doctor in the Top End of Australia (Darwin) for CareFlight Air-Ambulance Service, both flying in fixed wing aircrafts and helicopters in the remote and vast area of the Northern Territory and in the countries north of Australia.

Frequently he has worked within Aboriginal communities, treating acutely sick people after car crashes, snake bites and severe sepsis. Additionally search and rescue and retrieving people from the oil & gas rigs was part of the job. Also, he has followed training in treating trauma, paediatric, neonatal and obstetric emergencies during this placement.

Momentarily, he is working in different hospitals across the Netherlands and is instructor for several different courses for different specialties.

Deutsch

Paul van Overbeeke ist ein Notfallmediziner aus den Niederlanden, der in verschiedenen abgelegenen Gebieten auf der ganzen Welt gearbeitet hat und als Schiffsarzt an mehreren Expeditionen in der Arktis und Antarktis teilgenommen hat.

Er ist Advanced Wilderness Life Support-Instruktor und Kursleiter für Outdoor Medicine, nachdem er Kurse in Costa Rica und Australien absolviert hat, und Point-of-Care-Ultraschall (POCUS)-Instruktor für Médecins Sans Frontières. Sein besonderes Interesse gilt der Intensivpflege und der Wiederbelebung; er ist auch Ausbilder für den Kurs Advanced Life Support.

Darüber hinaus absolvierte er ein Jahr Prähospital- und Rettungsmedizin als Flugarzt im Top End von Australien (Darwin) für CareFlight Air-Ambulance Service, wobei er sowohl in Starrflüglern als auch in Hubschraubern in den abgelegenen und weiten Gebieten des Northern Territory und in den Ländern im Norden Australiens flog.

Häufig arbeitete er in Aborigine-Gemeinden und behandelte akut erkrankte Menschen nach Autounfällen, Schlangenbissen und schwerer Sepsis. Auch Such- und Rettungseinsätze und die Bergung von Menschen von Öl- und Gasplattformen gehörten zu seinen Aufgaben. Außerdem hat er während dieses Praktikums eine Ausbildung in der Behandlung von Traumata, pädiatrischen, neonatalen und geburtshilflichen Notfällen absolviert.

Zurzeit arbeitet er in verschiedenen Krankenhäusern in den Niederlanden und ist Ausbilder für verschiedene Kurse in unterschiedlichen Fachbereichen.



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya
20. August 2022

Welcome Aboard!

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

When all are on board

First meeting in the Lounge/Bar – on Deck 5. **Introduction to the ship & mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill.**

thereafter **Cast off!** We are leaving the pier of Longyearbyen.

thereafter **Second meeting** in the Lounge/Bar – on Deck 5. Have a toast with **captain Evgeny** and learn to know your **expedition guides.**

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

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

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

Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

21. August 2022

- 07.00** **Wake up call.**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 08.45** **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge on **how to behave in Polar Bear country and on Zodiac operations.**
- thereafter** **Zodiac-Cruise: Smeerenburgreen.** After a long overnight sailing we wake up in the northwest corner of the archipelago. Today's morning we are planning a Zodiac cruise at Smeerenburgreen, a massive glacier spilling into the sea. Dress warm, we are not getting ashore!
- 12.30** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Landing: Alicehamna.** During lunch we are sailing into Raudfjord, where we plan to get on shore close to an old trappers cabin at Alicehamna, to explore the harsh landscapes of Northwest-Spitsbergen in different hiking groups.
- 19.00** **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.30** **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

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

Author unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

22. August 2022

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

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

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

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

André Gide



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

23. August 2022

- 07.00** **Get up**, stand up. Wakeup call.
- 07.30 **Breakfast buffet** for one hour.
- 09.00** **Landing: Seven-islands.** The Seven-islands are the northernmost islands of the Svalbard archipelago and the northernmost islands of the European plate. Most time of the year they are locked in pack ice. If weather conditions are in our favour, we plan to land on Phippsøya for some exploration in our three hiking groups. The mountain goats can reach the highest point of the island through first steep and later rough-rocky terrain.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** for one hour.
- 15.00** **Landing: Chermsideøya, Beverlysund.** This afternoon we intend to land on the barren island of Chermsideøya. Close to our landing we find "stone-graffiti" from many years ago. Besides others from the Icebreaker Krassin, who rescued the survivors of the Nobile expedition in 1928. We also find a swastika, made by young Germans in 1939. In our three groups we will offer hikes in this remote polar desert.
- 19.00** **Today & tomorrow.** Recap & briefing in the lounge.
- 19.30 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Enjoy!

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

24. August 2022

- 06.45** Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.00** **Breakfast** buffet in the Dining Room.
- 08.00** **Zodiac-Cruise: Andréeneset, Kvitøya.** Today we reach Svalbard's most eastern and most remote Island, Kvitøya. Most of the year this island is covered in pack ice, therefore it is not visited often. It is here where the remains of the Salomon August Andrée expedition, who tried to reach the north pole in 1897 with an airballoon, were found. After the balloon crashed on the sea ice, the party of three made it to Kvitøya where they died. 99% of the island is covered by an ice cap and only a small piece of land is ice free. There is a small monument in memory of the Andrée expedition. On the small area of Andréeneset Polar bears and Walrus are found most of the time. To get on shore is most likely impossible.
- 12.30** **Lunch** buffet in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- Afternoon** "Recap" of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- Late Afternoon**
- Zodiac-Cruise: Isispynten, Austfonna.** Austfonna is the 3rd largest glacier in the world, after the Antarctic and the Greenland inland ice. On the eastern side of Nordaustland we reach the massive glacierfront of Austfonna, that begins in the north of the island and ends almost 200 km further south in Hinlopenstrait. Isispynten is a small Island, that was cut off the glacier just a few years ago. We plan a Zodiac-Cruise for great views of the spectacular scenery.
- 19.30** **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon Appetite!

What is the secret of the Arctic?

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

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

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

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

25. August 2022

- 07.00** **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 07.30 Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 09.00** **Landing: Augustabukta, Nordaustland.** Today we plan a landing on Nordaustland, Svalbard's 3rd largest island. The flat moonlike landscapes are great for easy hikes. It seems to be barren but taking a close look we still find some plant life in the area.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 16.00** **Landing: Faksevågen, Lomfjord.** Today's afternoon we sail into Lomfjord and intend to land in a little sidebay called Faksevågen. The landscapes are beautiful and the tundra lush. The small mountain range of Faksefjellet invites us to some easy hikes in our three groups.
- 18.30** **Daily Recap** to hear our plans for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Summer in the Arctic, we eat outside! It's **BBQ** tonight!

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

26. August 2022

We plan to spend today on the islands **Barentsøya** and **Edgeøya**. We have left the pack ice and the polar desert behind and find relatively rich tundra. The landscape is great for hiking and we want to explore the islands in our well-trying walking groups.

Attention! Both islands are quite “contaminated” by bears, and it happens regularly that we are changing to plan B, C, D or E. We find a couple of good landing spots on Barents- and Edgeøya, and if we find a bear on land at one potential landing site, we will continue to the next one. Therefore we don't want to set a specific location to get on shore. Generally we intend to land on both of the islands.

- 07.00** **Wake up call!** Good morning!
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00** **Landing: Barentsøya**
- 12.30** **Lunch** is available in the restaurant.
- 14.30** **Landing: Edgeøya**
- 18.30** **Today and tomorrow.** Recap and briefing.
- 19.00** **Enjoy your meal!**

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

Author unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya

27. August 2022

- 07.00** **Good morning!**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** – come and get it.
- 09.00** **Landing: Gåshamna, Hornsund.** Today we will be exploring Hornsund, Spitsbergen's most southerly and arguably one of the most beautiful fjords. The area is stunning – high mountain peaks, glaciers, and the potential for good views on our hikes this morning. We intend to land on the western side of Gåshamna (Goose-bay), a wide bay that has been witness to different phases of Spitsbergen's history. Remains of a 17th century English whaling station and foundations of Pomor houses (Russian hunters) are found in the area. If weather permits the mountain-goats can climb a very (!!!) steep mountain to gain some great views. The other hikes are on easy terrain.
- 12.30** **Lunchtime** – for one hour.
- 15.00** **Landing: Treskelen, Hornsund.** In the afternoon we plan to get ashore on the north side of Hornsund on a land-spit called Treskelen. Interesting geological formations and great views of Hornsund are waiting for us.
- Bring your swimsuit.** At the end of our landing we offer, for those of you, who ever wanted to swim in the Arctic-ocean, now is your chance to do exactly that. Towels will be on shore for you. Enjoy!
- 18.30** **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served in the restaurant. Bon Appetite!

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya 28. August 2022

- 07.00** **Good morning, wake up!**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** for one hour in the dining room.
- 08.30** **Landing: Alkhornet, Isfjorden.** This morning we intend to land at the northern entrance of Isfjorden, Spitsbergens largest fjord, at a picturesque place called Alkhornet. Here we find lush vegetation, birdlife and reindeer. We plan to explore the country in our three well known hiking groups. All groups keep an eye open for polar foxes that are often seen in this area.
- 12.30** **Lunchtime** – for one hour.
- 16.00** **Landing: Fredheim, Tempelfjord.** Over lunch, we will sail deep into the inner part of Isfjorden and into beautiful Tempelfjorden. We plan to go ashore close to the main cabin (Villa Fredheim) of the most famous trapper of Svalbard, Hilmar Nois (who also built Texas Bar). This character spent more than 30 winters on Svalbard. In our hiking groups we will explore the area and have great views on the massive mountain Templet on the other side of the fjord.
- Bring your swimsuit.** At the end of our landing we offer, for those of you, who ever wanted to swim in the Arctic-ocean, now is your chance to do exactly that. Towels will be on shore for you. Enjoy!
- 18.30** **Farewell Cocktail with the Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.30** **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!

BE A SEAGULL
Take the breath
Of the wings of morning
Lift your eyes
To the canyons
Of the skies
And fly!

Richard Bach, 1970, Jonathan Livingston Seagull



DAILY PROGRAM

Around Spitsbergen & Kvitøya 29. August 2022

07.30 For a last time: **A wonderful good morning.**

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

08.00 **Breakfast** in the restaurant.

09.00 **Last landing: Longyearbyen.** The **bus from pier to town** is leaving.

- When you get off the vessel, **please identify your luggage on shore** – to be sure it is off the vessel. Your luggage stays on the pier and will be at the airport when you get there.
- If you stay in Longyearbyen, please bring your luggage with you on the bus.

12.00 For all booked on the **Norwegian Airline** flight: The **bus** is leaving from **town to the airport.**

12.30 For all booked on the **SAS** flight: The **bus** is leaving from **town to the airport.**

*Have you suffered, starved and triumphed,
groveled down, yet grasped at glory,
Grown bigger in the bigness of the whole?*

*"Done things" just for the doing,
letting babblers tell the story,
Seeing through the nice veneer the naked soul?
Have you seen God in His splendors
heard the text that nature renders?*

*The simple things, the true things,
the silent men who do things --
Then listen to the wild -- it's calling you.*

Robert William Service „Call of the wild“