



Svalbard and East Greenland
29th August – 11th September 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.

Karen Mulders

Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

of 47 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:	Ninette van Es	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Philipp Schaudy	[Austria] Assist.
Exp Leader:	Ali Liddle	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	George Kennedy	[Australia]
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]

Day 1 – Monday 29th August, Longyearbyen

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

It was a lovely 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 calm evening as we sailed out into Isfjord and we hoped this weather would be with us for the next 9 days.



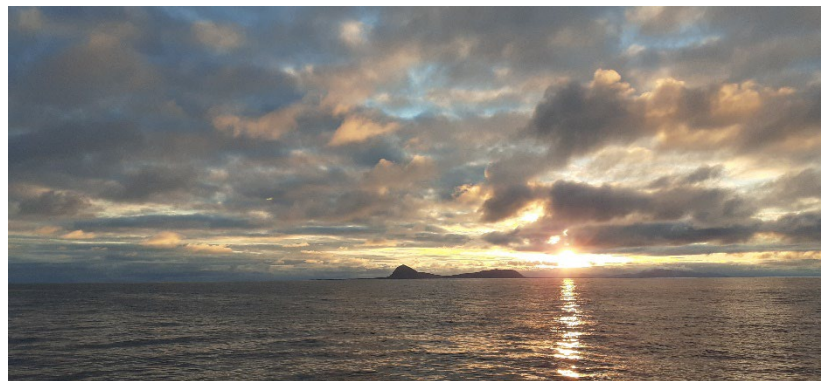
It was then time to reconvene once again and this was a chance to meet and toast our voyage with our Captain and also meet members of the Expedition team, the guides who would be taking us ashore in the coming days.



Dinner was served and we got to meet some of our fellow travellers who would be sharing this voyage to Greenland. As we began our navigation out of Isfjord there was a call over the PA system that a polar bear had been seen along the shore near the beautiful peak of Alkhornet. It was quite hard to see as it then went into the water and began swimming but with

binoculars and help from the expedition team we were able to get a glimpse of this top predator of the Arctic. What a great start to our trip!

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. What a long but exciting day!



Day 2 – Tuesday 30th August, Smeerenburg and Alicehamna

GPS Position 08:00: 79°39.1'N 011°00.5'E

Wind: SE3 Sea: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 6°C Water Temp: 7°C



It had been a quiet night at sea as we made our way northwards to our destination for the morning landing at Smeerenburg. We had two more mandatory briefings to do before we were able to go on shore which covered zodiac safety and polar bear safety, essential for going ashore here on Svalbard.

We navigated a narrow channel into the very scenic Smeerenburgfjord and soon anchored off Amsterdamøya ready to go ashore. This island was the centre of Dutch whaling in the 17th century with Smeerenburg, 'Blubber Town' home to over 200 men during the height of the industry, although legend would have it that there was a town of over 20,000 people here! As we went ashore we could see the strange constructions of the blubber ovens which were used for boiling down the blubber from the whales that were harpooned off shore.



Also, on shore we could see some real blubber in the shape of walrus that were hauled out on the sandy point of the beach. We split into 2 groups for the landing with the first 5 boats of passengers going to explore the historic remains while the next 5 walked along the beach to view the walrus. There were around 25 male walrus lying in group while in the water there were three more

that proved to be very entertaining as they were play fighting in the shallow water. On shore resting male walrus do very little but occasionally there was a snort, some raised flippers and now and then a head would lift up giving us a great view of their long tusks and whiskers, vibrissae which they use to search for shellfish on the sea bed.



After both groups had enjoyed their exploration of the area we made our way back to the landing site and back to Plancius for lunch during which we navigated around the northwest corner of the islands and into Raudfjord.



Conditions were beautiful with no wind and clear views of the mountains and glaciers of the fjord. The ship anchored off the small peninsula of Alicehamna and very soon we were heading ashore over calm glassy waters to land at a small trapper's hut near the shore. The hut known as Raudfjordhytta used to belong to a trapper known as Stockholm Sven and he spent many

winter seasons here hunting foxes, bears and seals. Once shore we split into hiking groups with the fast 'mountain goats' heading high up onto the ridge above the bay while the medium walkers went up to the cairn and the grave of Erik Mattilus, captain of a ship here who died in 1907. The guides pointed out some of the flowers that were almost finished their short growing season, explained about the effects of permafrost and freezing and thawing on the landscape and one group even had re-enactment of the use fox traps and polar bear traps! The leisurely walkers enjoyed a stroll along the beach to the small lakes and with plenty of time to enjoy the peace a quiet of this beautiful fjord.



Back on board there was time to warm up before re-cap where Philipp told us our plans for the voyage ahead and Marijke told us more about walrus.

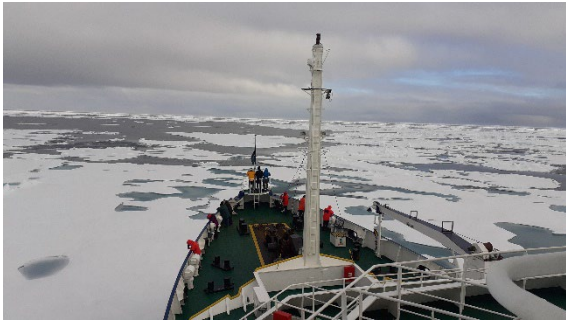


After dinner it was a beautiful evening to be out on deck and with Svalbard behind us and dolphins ahead it was a lovely end to our day.

Day 3 – Wednesday 31st August, Into the Pack Ice

GPS Position 08:00: 79°10.2 N 001°41.1'E

Wind: SE 2 Sea: Calm Weather: Partly cloudy Air Temp: 1°C Water Temp: 1°C



Last night the Plancius was heading up West towards the pack ice on route to Greenland. 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 the pack 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!

The presence of various seals in the water and birds feeding in the pack ice surrounding the ship suggested that the waters below were rich in food, which is good for polar bears as well.

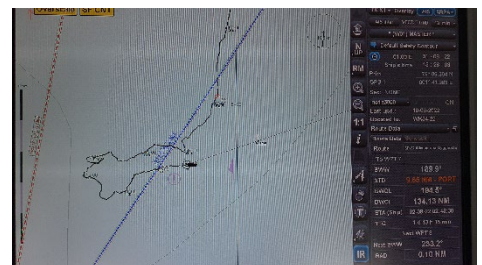
We all could marvel at the different colours of the ice. After breakfast we started to see the first seals also hauled out on ice floes, including Harp seals and also a few Hooded seals including some juvenile Hooded seals swimming near the vessel. With all the key ingredients present we soon spotted a distant polar bear walking on the ice. However, due to some fog rolling in we soon lost sight of the bear.



After lunch we found ourselves a good route away from the pack ice. A beautiful rainbow was briefly seen as we left the ice behind us.

Karin welcomed us in the lounge for a lecture on Svalbard's plant life and before dinner Philippe updated us on the ice charts and our plans for next few days. Marijke gave an

overview of the Harp and Hooded seals and the vocalisations they produce. The male Hooded seals create inflate an impressive large 'hood' – which is an enlargement of the nasal cavity. The larger the 'hood' the more chances they have to attract the females. Andreas next gave an overview about how, due to climate change, the thickness of the ice has reduced over the past decades.



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 time we had!



Day 4 – Thursday 1st September, At Sea to Greenland

GPS Position 08:00: 76°20.6'N 009°07.5'E

Wind: SE6 Sea: Moderate Weather: Overcast/Fog Air Temp: 7°C Water Temp: 6°C



Our day started with the gentle rolling motion of the ship, outside the fog hung in the air and we were surrounded by this grey embrace.

As the morning progressed the swell increased slightly to around 4 meters, with a wave height of around 2 meters. This motion was not to everyone's taste but those that braved the view from the bridge could really feel a part of this remote environment and the conditions it brought with it.

The day in the fog held host to a wonderful lecture program covering a wide range of topics.

We enjoyed lectures on Whales and what to look for when spotting them, presented by Marijke. An extremely informative introduction to Greenland by Andreas and very useful Lectures on photography by George and Kalle.

The sea days like these really give perspective on the environment up in the Arctic regions and can really make you think about the human endurance that brought early explorers to these waters. As well as the hostile environment which a plethora of wildlife call home.



As we continued to head southeast the fog that remained with us all day showed no signs of abating, so we waited with hope that the morning would bring with it our first views of Greenland.

Day 5 – Friday 2nd September, Kap Humboldt

GPS Position 08:00: 73°24.6'N 019°27.3'W

Wind: NNW 2 Sea: Slight Weather: Partly cloudy Air Temp: 7°C Water Temp: 5°C



We awoke to our first glimpse of Greenland, emerging from the horizon. Excitement rippled through the vessel – we had made it. After enduring the high seas of the North Atlantic, we were finally approaching our theatre of operation for the next four days - the Northeastern coast of Greenland.

After a delicious breakfast in the dining room, we ventured out on deck as the coastline loomed larger. We had high hopes for our first landing in Myggbukta. However, after a discussion between the Captain and expedition team, it was decided that the easterly swell would make operations there impossible. Instead, the decision was made to continue deeper into the fjords of Greenland, in search of Plan B.

Whilst we motored west, Andreas offered a lecture on glaciers and sea ice in the lounge, sharing his stories of the receding Greenland Ice cap – the biggest such ice cap in the northern hemisphere.

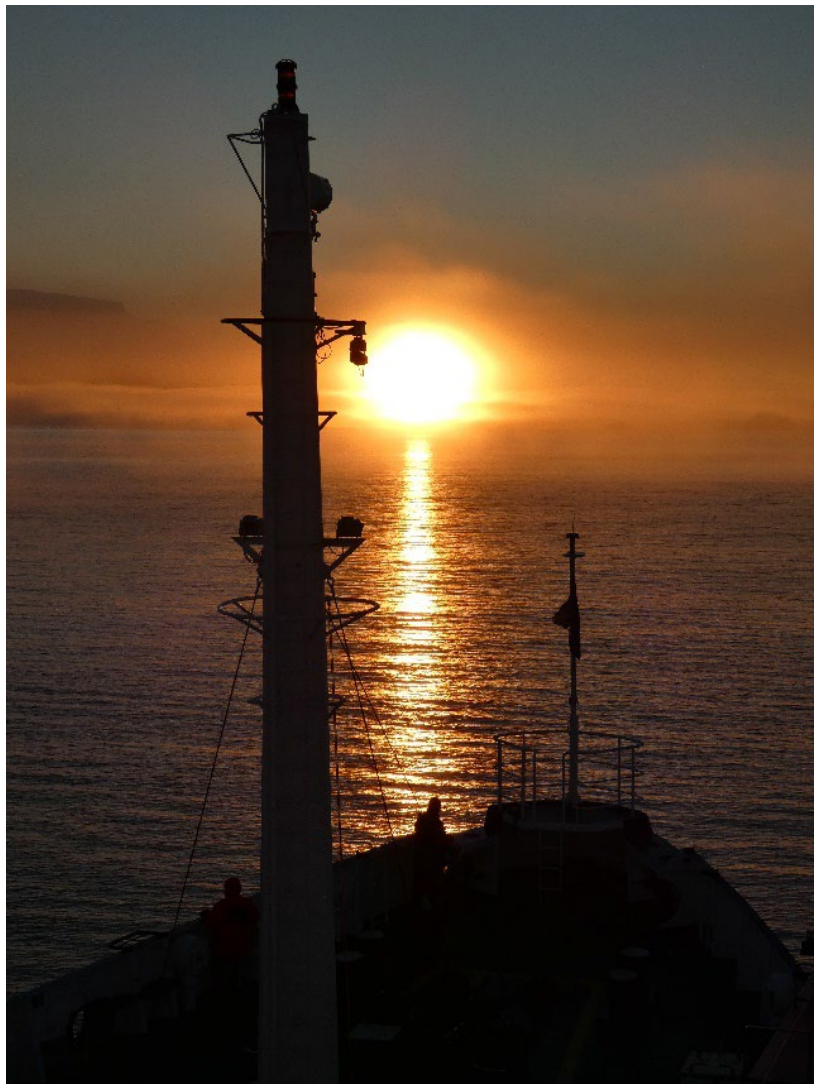
In the afternoon, after another sumptuous lunch, we arrived at our Plan B – Kap Humboldt. The expedition team went ahead, scouting the area for bears. Then shortly after, we followed, setting foot on Greenland for the first time. What awaited us was a beautiful trappers hut, built in 1929 by the famed Norwegian tapper, Harold Devold. There were also some paleo Inuit remains, homes that were used by the indigenous people hundreds of years ago. We separated into our hiking groups, exploring the colourful tundra, enjoying the late-summer flowers, and viewing the beautiful waterfalls cascading down the cliffs surrounding our landing site. The mist and fog appeared and disappeared during the afternoon but this gave an almost mystical quality to the area although it didn't always help with views from the summit ridges.





After three hours ashore, we returned to Plancius for dinner, finishing our meal with a delicious strawberry mouse. Then, after dinner, we again filled the outer decks, watching the enormous icebergs float by, glowing orange as they emerged out of the fog in the dying sun.

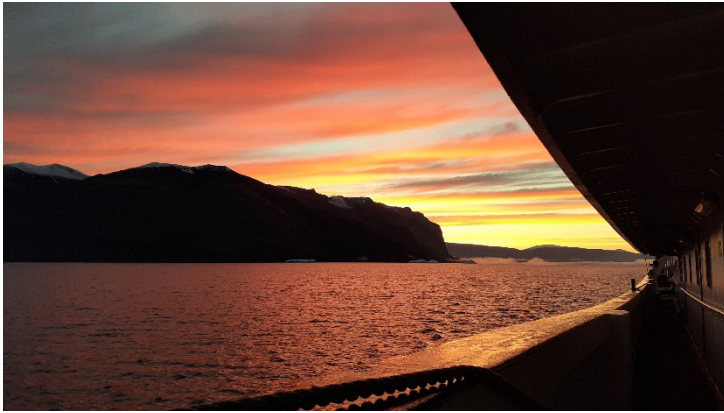
Finally, our first day in Greenland was over. We all slept well, dreaming of the landscapes we had all enjoyed, looking forward to our day tomorrow.



Day 6 – Saturday 3rd September, Blomsterbugt and Maria Ø

GPS Position 08:00: 73°19.7'N 025°17.6'E

Wind: Var 1 Sea: Calm Weather: Clear Air Temp: 8°C Water Temp: 7°C



In the hope of seeing a beautiful sunrise in the Franz Joseph Fjord, many people were up early to see the views of the mountains as the first rays of sunshine came over the hills and turned the summits pink. It really was a beautiful start to what turned out to be a fabulous day here in Kejsers Franz Joseph Fjord and Antarctic Sound. As the sun rose, we navigated further into the fjord

system for our morning landing at Blomsterbugten on Ymer Ø.

We landed at a little beach and from here we made our way up to a very small cabin known as *Varghytta* which was built in 1930 as a hunting cabin. It is now used by the Sirius patrol for short visits and it would indeed be a cosy visit here.

We divided into our usual hiking groups but with everyone heading up the pass from the landing site with the goal being to reach the lake known as Noa Sø on the other side. It was a beautiful walk with the seed heads of mountain avens glistening in the sunshine and patches of bright red bearberries creating a colourful path for us.



The long hikers headed high up onto the ridge while the medium groups headed for the lake. With such calm conditions the reflections on the water were like a mirror and with the 'Arctic Silence' broken only by birds; Arctic terns, snow buntings and red throated divers it really was a beautiful morning. Some groups were fortunate to

see some Musk ox near the lake, but they soon disappeared over the hill, their fear of man ingrained after years of hunting by Inuits and later the trappers. All too soon it was time to head back down to the landing site to continue our navigation through the fjord to our afternoon destination.



It was a 4 hour ship's cruise through some of the most stunning scenery many of us have had the privilege to enjoy with bands of red, white, grey and black rock folded and twisted in unimaginable patterns that had us reaching for our cameras throughout the afternoon. With warm sunshine it was a pleasure to be out on deck and watching geological history pass by.

Our late afternoon landing was on Maria Ø and it was another beautiful landing with gentle tundra backed by rocky ridges. In our usual groups we all headed up the slopes and as we reached the first rocky ridge we were greeted by a lone musk ox who took a look at us, grazed a little and then slowly walked along the slope. This was a great encounter of this shaggy Arctic animal as they usually run away as soon as they see and hear people. It was nice to see it so relaxed. Maybe it was the warm summer weather!



Back at the beach the leisurely walkers had enjoyed some time along the shore and found some polar bear tracks in the mud behind the beach. This was a gentle reminder to us all that we are still in polar bear country.

As the sun began to sink lower over the fjord we made our way back to the landing site and back to the ship for another lovely meal prepared by Ivan and his galley team.



Day 7 – Sunday 4th September, Segelsaellskapet and Alpefjord

GPS Position 08:00: 72°25.6'N 024°52.8'E

Wind: SE2 Sea: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 8°C Water Temp: 7°C



Most of us were a little sleepy eyed when an announcement was made during the night that there were Northern Lights – and yes they were all around us!

The Plancius arrived in Berzelius Berget around sun-rise and after breakfast it was time to admire the stunning rock formations in Segelsaellskapet Fjord. The many beautiful colourful layers of rock on the steep walls of this fjord are

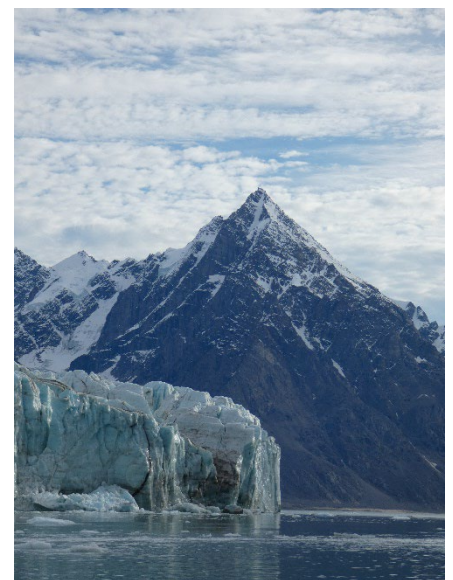
twisted and turned around and so we can in fact walk on them. All eyes were wide-open upon landing in this special place. There were many photography opportunities and some hiking tours on offer. Wildlife included more Musk ox for those keen and fast hikers and there were a variety of birds to be seen, included the Northern Wheatear, Eider Ducks and Rock Ptarmigans. A beautiful lake and autumn colours were



found in patches decorating the many rock formations.

During lunch, the Plancius started to sail towards Alpefjord. With the stunning sunny weather continuing throughout the day we were looking forward to a nice long zodiac cruise. At around 1600 we all boarded our zodiacs and passed the Sefstrom glacier – there was so much ice around and some small calvings were seen too.

We then went deeper and deeper into the fjord which became narrower along the way. The mountains were peaking around us making us feel very small and the light was changing with every turn we made. Clouds were dotted around the various peaks while we continued deeper into the fjord. At the end of the Alpefjord was yet another glacier. We stopped our engines and let ourselves drift with the current of the meltwater river coming from beneath the glacier. The silence was beautiful – hidden rumbles from the glacier were occasionally heard. We next speeded through the glassy waters of this beautiful fjord to arrive back at the Sefstrom glacier where a few bearded seals were seen among and on various ice floes. These rather large seals are well adapted to this environment. They were snoozing on the ice floes and their long whiskers (the beard) had already started to curl up as they dry.



Back onboard, Alex and Thijs were greeting us with a nice hot drink to warm up after such a long zodiac cruise. The Plancius then lifted anchor, and during our delicious dinner we could continue to enjoy the spectacular scenery of Alpefjord.



Day 8 – Monday 5th September, Fleming Fjord

GPS Position 08:00: 71°44.7'N 022°56.9'E

Wind: WNW 2 Sea: Smooth Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 9°C Water Temp: 8°C



Once again, we were woken not by the sultry sounds of Phillip waking us for the day but instead because we once more had the pleasure of sailing under the northern lights. The space weather was aligned with our position, and we had beautiful green and purple curtains in the sky, just for those few who pulled on their outdoor clothes and grabbed their cameras.

The morning held a new delight, once again it was a different vista that graced us as we lay at anchor in Flemings Fjord. We had swapped the imposing jagged mountain scape for a beautiful rolling hillside landscape. The red sedimentary rock was punctuated by river valleys and littered with brightly coloured vegetation.



The river cut spectacular forms through the sandstone surroundings leaving areas where the exposed rock had been colonised by lichens. The moist surfaces held host to wonderful areas of vegetation and flowers. The Autumnal colours flecked with small purple hare bell flowers fit beautifully with rich reds and yellows of the surrounding rock.

For those brave souls that wanted to feel more in tune with the arctic environment an opportunity to take an icy plunge was on offer. The sandy beach was the perfect place for those wishing to strip down to their swimwear and dive into the refreshing 8°C water.



The afternoon saw us leaving Kong Oscar Fjord behind as we headed back out to sea and headed south towards Scoresbysund. On the way we were treated to an extended recap, explaining a broad range of subjects from what we had seen the previous days, from Geology to Musk Ox, Clouds to Bearded seals and to round it all off a bit of detective work on what poo belongs to what animal. All rounded off by happy hour as we sailed out into the fog.

It was a bit of a rough sea as we sailed around the coast, which made life a little uncomfortable for some but as we entered Scoresbysund conditions improved and when Philipp woke us up for Northern Lights it was a beautiful evening on deck.

Day 9 – Tuesday 6th September, Vikingebugt and Danmark Ø

GPS Position 08:00: 70°21.9'N 025°16.4'E

Wind: 0 Sea: Glassy Weather: Clear Air Temp: 9°C Water Temp: 8°C



As the sun rose, we found ourselves sailing further into Scoresbysund with a few huge icebergs around the ship and clear blue sky. Our destination for the morning was Vikingebugt, which is a small fjord off the main part of Scoresbysund.

It was a beautiful start to the day and after breakfast we set off on a zodiac cruise of the icebergs and stunning basalt lava cliffs that are unique to this area. The first icebergs weren't huge but they were beautifully sculpted and we all enjoyed taking photos of the bergs that looked unmistakably like a dog and a cat standing together in the fjord! With waterfalls cascading down the hillside it was a very scenic start.

From here we made our way to the cliffs and cruised along the coast looking up at the hexagonal columns of basalt that had formed 60 million years ago when Scandinavia and Greenland parted and lava erupted. Quite an amazing geological feature. From here we made our way further into the middle of the fjord where there were more icebergs and plenty of brash ice filling the bay.



The bergs had come from the Greenland iceshelf while the brash ice came from the nearby glacier. There was even some new sea ice forming in the cold calm waters. All too soon it was time to head back to the ship to move on to our next destination.

We sailed further into Scoresbysund and with the perfect sunny weather continuing many of us enjoyed time on deck watching the icebergs float past. Our afternoon destination was Danmark Ø, a small island at the entrance of Fønfjorden. We were soon heading ashore to land on a small beach which was backed by some beautiful tundra vegetation that had many of us on our hands and knees taking photos of the flowers. Karin was very excited to be there in the 'Arctic Garden'.

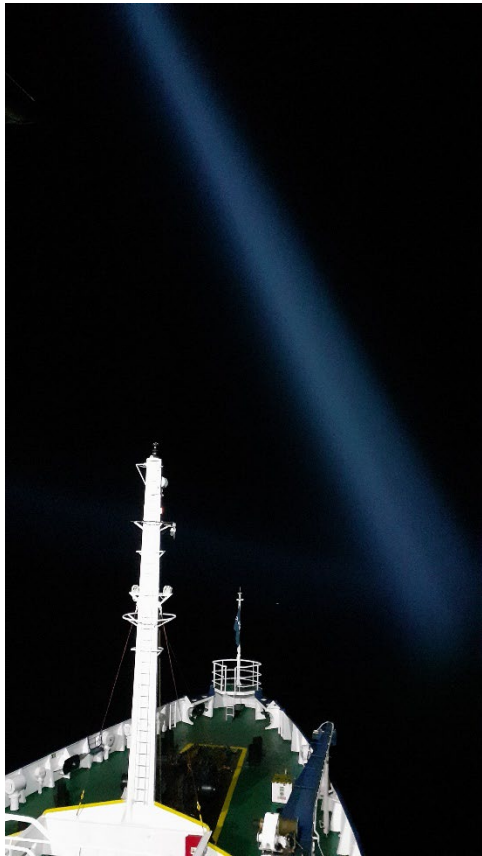
We divided into our usual hiking groups and headed off into the rocky hills that make up this island and every group, from the long hikers to the leisurely walkers, enjoyed stunning views



over the island with small lakes creating lovely infinity pools between the rocks. The weather stayed sunny and warm, almost too warm during our landing and it really was a memorable afternoon on the island.

Back on board we went straight to dinner and Plancius continued her navigation further into the fjords off Scoresbysund. What a fantastic

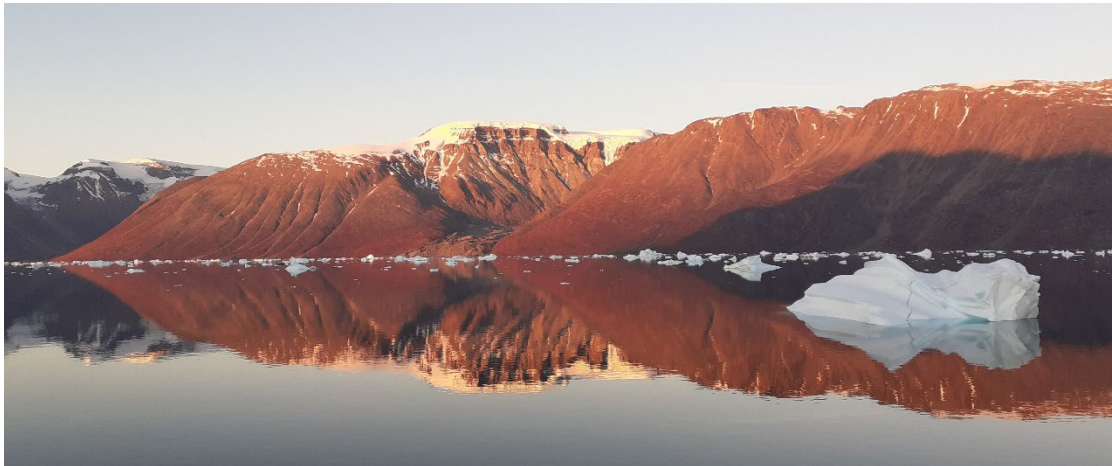
day!



Day 10 – Wednesday 7th September, Rode Ø and Harefjord

GPS Position 08:00: 70°28.4'N 028°04.9'E

Wind: 0 Sea: Glassy Weather: Clear Air Temp: 5°C Water Temp: 5°C



Again, many people had been up in the night to get a glimpse of the Northern Lights and it had been a good show as we sailed through the fjords. Sunrise was also beautiful as we found ourselves sailing towards Rode Ø, an area that is always full of large icebergs that have been stranded in the shallow waters of the fjord. After breakfast we headed off for a zodiac cruise around the

icebergs and it was to be a magical morning of sunshine and blue sky which had the towering icebergs sparking like fantasy castles all of which were perfectly reflected in the water as we sailed slowly past. There were some huge bergs which had once been tabular icebergs but had since turned over onto their sides showing the curved surfaces that had been sculpted by the action of the water. There were towers and caves in some of the icebergs and it was a photographer's paradise.



After a couple of hours amongst the icebergs we headed to shore to land on the small island of Rode Ø where we split into 2 groups to walk and view the icebergs from the hills above the bay. The combination of the white and blue ice contrasted beautifully with the red and orange of the autumn tundra and we all enjoyed the time

taking more photos of the icebergs from a different perspective.



Once back on board we set sail to our afternoon destination of Harefjord and it was a beautiful cruise through the fjords with sunshine, more icebergs and red mountains on the way.

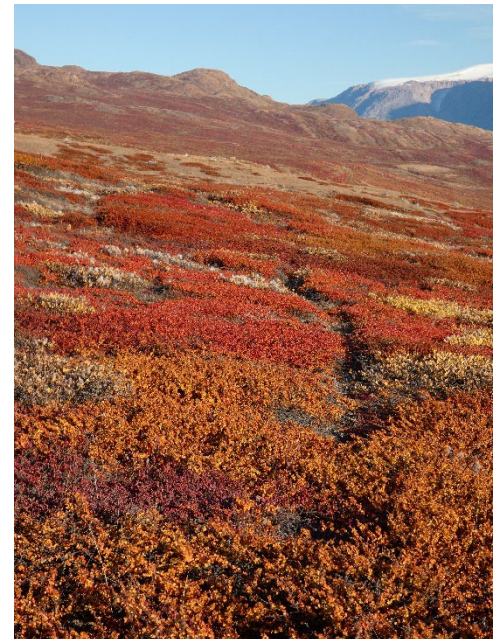
Our afternoon destination was on Harefjord where the Captain anchored Plancius close to the shore and even from the ship we could see some musk ox on the hillside.

Getting a closer view of these animals was to be our target for the landing. The long hikers headed off in one direction along the beach, the medium fast group went in the other and the leisurely group set off up the hills over the beautiful rich tundra.

The efforts of all groups paid off and the guides managed to get everyone into a position where they could get good views of the musk ox that graze these slopes. It was then time to sit and enjoy the sunshine and the views and the silence of the afternoon with only the occasional crack of the icebergs out in the fjord below. It was a memorable experience for all, including the Captain, who had joined us for our landing.



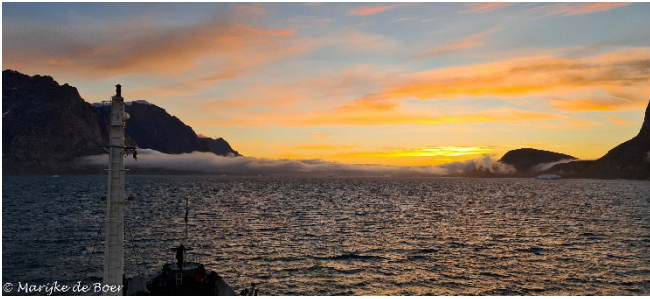
Back on board the galley team had prepared a BBQ for the evening and every seat on the outside deck was taken as we all enjoyed the food, complimentary drinks and the stunning views as the sun set over the mountains. The evening ended with dancing on the back deck as we set sail to our next destination.



Day 11 – Thursday 8th September, Jyttes Havn and Sydkap

GPS Position 08:00: 71°04.7'N 025°39.1'E

Wind: WNW 3 Sea: Slight Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 8°C Water Temp: 6°C



We were sailing the beautiful 'ø fjord' in the morning and we all admired the massive Mountain range 'the Grundtvigs Kirken' – what a beautiful sight it was when the sun was rising and with those layers of fog curling around this enormous rock face!

After breakfast it was time to put on an extra layer of clothes as today the fog crept upon us and the sunny days we have been enjoying thus far had suddenly come to an end. Nevertheless, we persisted, and the skies cleared a bit when we landed on Jyttes Havn. Quite a few birds were seen, including a raven which came flying low over the landings site and some Northern Wheatears were seen flying among the rocks. The Red-throated divers were heard calling and also seen on the water. There were different hikes on offer again, and we all enjoyed a walk through the colourful tundra. Layers upon layers of lichen were covering the rocks and also quite a few mushrooms were seen. After a good hike we gathered back on the landings site where our crew-drivers came to pick us up!



After a lovely lunch, we all felt recharged, and we came out on deck where we were passing some gigantic tabular icebergs – the scenery was truly magnificent!



We next landed on Ingmikatikajik on Sydkap. The different hiking routes on offer meant we spread out over this island at the entrance of the beautiful Nordvestfjord. The tundra was rather lush here with so many beautiful autumn colours and more mushrooms in different shapes and forms. Whilst discovering some narrow canyons were found a few Arctic Hares. Last but not least, a giant male Muskox made an appearance too and towered high above us whilst looking down into the valley.

Back on board, Philipp gave us a recap and outlined our plans for tomorrow. George, with wonderful translation by Andreas, told us about how many countries are officially within the Arctic Circle, the answer? Well, there are 8, at least for now!



Day 12 – Friday 9th September, Expedition Day!

GPS Position 08:00: 70°29.5'N 022°24.9'E

Wind: ESE 2/3 Sea: Smooth Weather: Fog Air Temp: 4°C Water Temp: 6°C



The day started in thick fog covering the bay, we were entrenched in its murky tendrils. A slight hint of a white disk showed us the sun was trying to break through this foggy barrier. Due to the weather we were unable to see yet alone visit our intended landing site, although there is something remarkably calming about being in a fog bank. The silence that enveloped the ship whilst it rested in the calm waters is an experience in itself.

We were treated to lectures on plants we have seen on the cruise by Karin, Basalt columns by Andreas and then a wonderful sounds quiz hosted by Marijke.

After some unfortunate news about being unable to land at Ittoqqortoormiit we revised our plans and headed off to find a location beyond the fog.

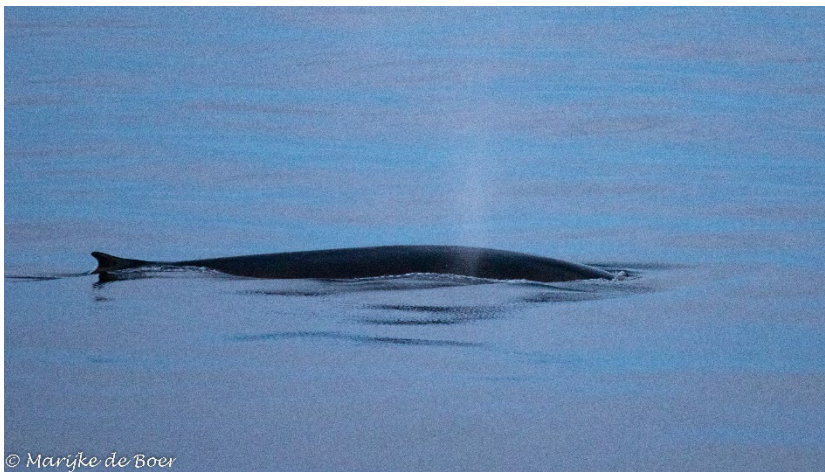
Whilst sat at lunch we could see the fog begin to thin and the mountains start to appear again, icebergs loomed like giant monuments dispersed amongst the vastness of the sound. So we headed to the south shore to find a landing. The scenery here was dramatic, the snow line extended down from the rugged mountains to meet the beach.

We found a beautiful spot nestled at the foot of the mountains due west of Kap Brewster, here there laid an abandoned settlement and on closer inspection we could see the buildings were quite dilapidated. As we were about to depart in the zodiacs we spotted a polar bear just behind one of the buildings and as the anchor chain dropped the bear stood up to see what the commotion was all about.

We monitored the bear for a little while and with zodiacs ready it was decided that unfortunately this bear was very skinny and with that we did not want to disturb the animal, so we kept our distance and watched it from the ship.

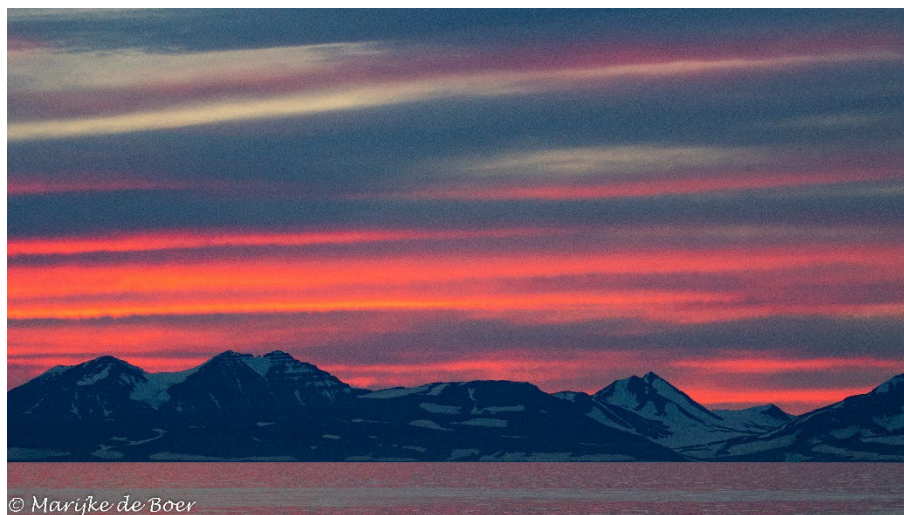
The sun was now shining and glinting off the water so we took a ships cruise along the coast line, following the mountains and enjoying the summer conditions.

Our farewell to Greenland was an oddly exciting day of ups and downs, but such is the nature of expedition cruising and the day gave us time to reflect on a trip filled with perfect weather days and excellent scenery. It was sad to see Greenland disappearing over the horizon behind us as we headed forward to Iceland.



As we rounded the headland and headed south we had our last moment with Greenland, the sunset splashed the sky with colour, a halo shone bright around the setting sun. Hues of orange gave way to bright pinks which hung above the mountains. These colours reflected in the calm waters were joined by sounds of whales as we were approached and escorted on our way by four curious fin whales. As the light faded we saw the glow of the rising orange moon on the horizon and we sailed on south towards it and Iceland and home.

As we rounded the headland and headed south we had our last moment with Greenland, the sunset splashed the sky with colour, a halo shone bright around the setting sun. Hues of orange gave way to bright pinks which hung above the mountains. These colours reflected in the calm waters were joined by sounds of whales as we were



Day 13 – Saturday 10th September,

GPS Position 08:00: 68°00.0'N 019°57.6'E

Wind: NNE3 Sea: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: 6°C Water Temp: 6°C



After a very quiet night at sea on our way to Iceland we woke to fog but still some reasonably calm conditions so everyone made it to breakfast.

It was bill paying time after breakfast and Alex was very happy to take our credit cards and cash to pay for the drinks and souvenirs from the trip! At 1000 Ali invited us to the lounge for a presentation about the women of the Arctic regions, explaining about the role of Inuit women in their communities and how this is changing as

the modern world enters their lifestyle in the frozen north. She also talked about some of the women who have travelled here on expeditions over the years, either exploring or trapping. It was an interesting insight into the women in what was historically a man's world.

After a morning coffee Karin invited us to the lounge to share her experiences of dog sledding, particularly from her time in Longyearbyen but also closer to home in Sweden. This is what she does when there is snow on the ground and she can't be on her hands and knees investigating the plants of the tundra! Maybe she should feature in Ali's presentation about Ice Maidens next time!

It was soon time for lunch, our last on board and soon after this Michael and Jay gave a brilliant towel folding exhibition, creating very cute animals for us to try to make once we are back at home! Thank you to them both for taking the time to show us some entertaining housekeeping skills!

After some time to pack bags the last activity of the afternoon was a pub quiz with George and Adam asking the questions about things we had seen on our voyage and information

that had been passed on by the guides on hikes and in zodiacs!



Day 14 – Sunday 11th September, Akureyri, Iceland

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 during our voyage.

We have been privileged to sail these Arctic waters and explore the Greenland coast taking 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.

On behalf of the crew and staff on board and Oceanwide Expeditions we'd like to thank you for travelling with us and we hope to see you again in the future.

Your Expedition Staff



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.

George Kennedy - Expedition Guide



George is a social scientist with a keen interest in polar geopolitics and Arctic cultural identities. He has completed a Masters of Anthropology at Monash University and a Graduate Diploma in Antarctic Governance and Policy at the University of Tasmania. Most recently, George has worked at the Australian Antarctic Division, collaborating across the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to develop sustainable tourism policies in the region.

In his practice as an anthropologist, George has worked predominantly with community development organisations in Latin America. His work has focussed on identifying collaborative solutions to support environmental conservation and sustainable tourism in Patagonia and the Amazon basin.

Prior to his work in anthropology, George served as a paramedic in Australia, still occasionally throwing on the uniform to work with Ambulance Victoria in Melbourne.

Second only to expedition cruising, George's great passion is motorcycle travel. He has ridden from Mongolia to India, around Australia, and most recently from Patagonia to Mexico on his Kawasaki KLR650.

Deutsch

George ist Anthropologe und Politikwissenschaftler und studiert derzeit am Australian Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science. Er hat ein großes Interesse an kultureller Identität und zeitgenössischer Geopolitik in den Polarregionen. Seine aktuelle Forschung konzentriert sich auf die komplexe Dynamik zwischen indigenen, wissenschaftlichen und politischen Stakeholdern in ihrem Streben nach Umweltschutz in der Antarktis und Arktis.

In seiner Erfahrung als Anthropologe hat George vorwiegend mit Community Development Organisationen in Lateinamerika zusammengearbeitet. Seine Arbeit konzentrierte sich auf die Identifizierung kollaborativer Lösungen zur Unterstützung des Umweltschutzes und des nachhaltigen Tourismus in Patagonien und im Amazonasbecken.

Bevor er als Anthropologie arbeitete war George als Sanitäter in Australien und gelegentlich findet man George noch immer im Rettungswagen Victoria in Melbourne.

Seine zweite Leidenschaft nach den Expeditionskreuzfahrten sind Motorradreisen. Er ist mit seiner Kawasaki KLR650 von der Mongolei über Indien nach Australien und zuletzt von Patagonien nach Mexiko gefahren.

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'.

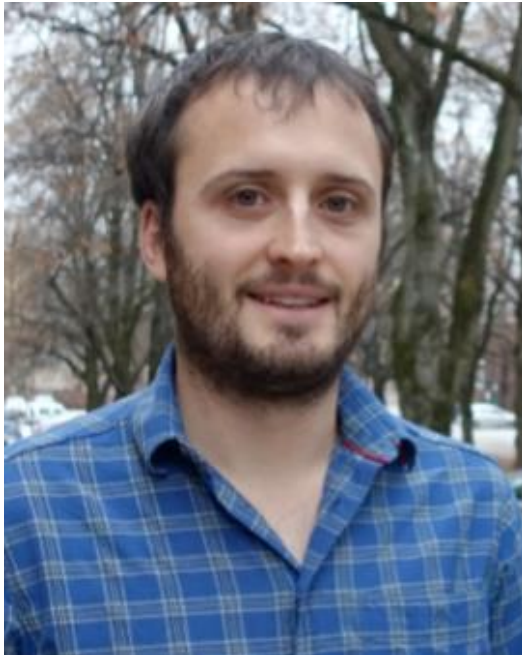
Deutsch

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 Cornwell (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.

Ninette van Es - Ship's doctor



Ninette was born in the southern part of the Netherlands and undertook her medical training at the University of Utrecht. After completing medical school and 6 clinical years of residency in the Department of Surgery at the University of Utrecht and Amsterdam she served as a surgeon in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam.

Feeling the need to widen her horizons further she changed her specialization towards a general practitioner. Also interested in travelling she was excited when an opportunity came up while she was finishing her studies to travel as a ship's physician to the South Pole in 2011. Since then she has been bitten by the Polar bug and has returned back each summer and winter to the North and South Pole since. More recently she has had a permanent job in two different GP practices which enables Ninette to combine her time

with opportunities to travel to far away places with, often as ship's physician.

Currently she is chairman of a Medical Committee to improve medical treatment on board of the expedition ships and besides this is a member of the Dutch Medical Nautical Society. When time permits she enjoys reading, running, traveling and skating.

Deutsch

Ninette wurde im Süden der Niederlande geboren und absolvierte ihre medizinische Ausbildung an der Universität von Utrecht. Nach Abschluss des Medizinstudiums und sechs klinischen Jahren der Facharztausbildung in der Abteilung für Chirurgie der Universität Utrecht und Amsterdam arbeitete sie als Chirurgin in der Abteilung für orthopädische Chirurgie am Akademischen Medizinischen Zentrum in Amsterdam.

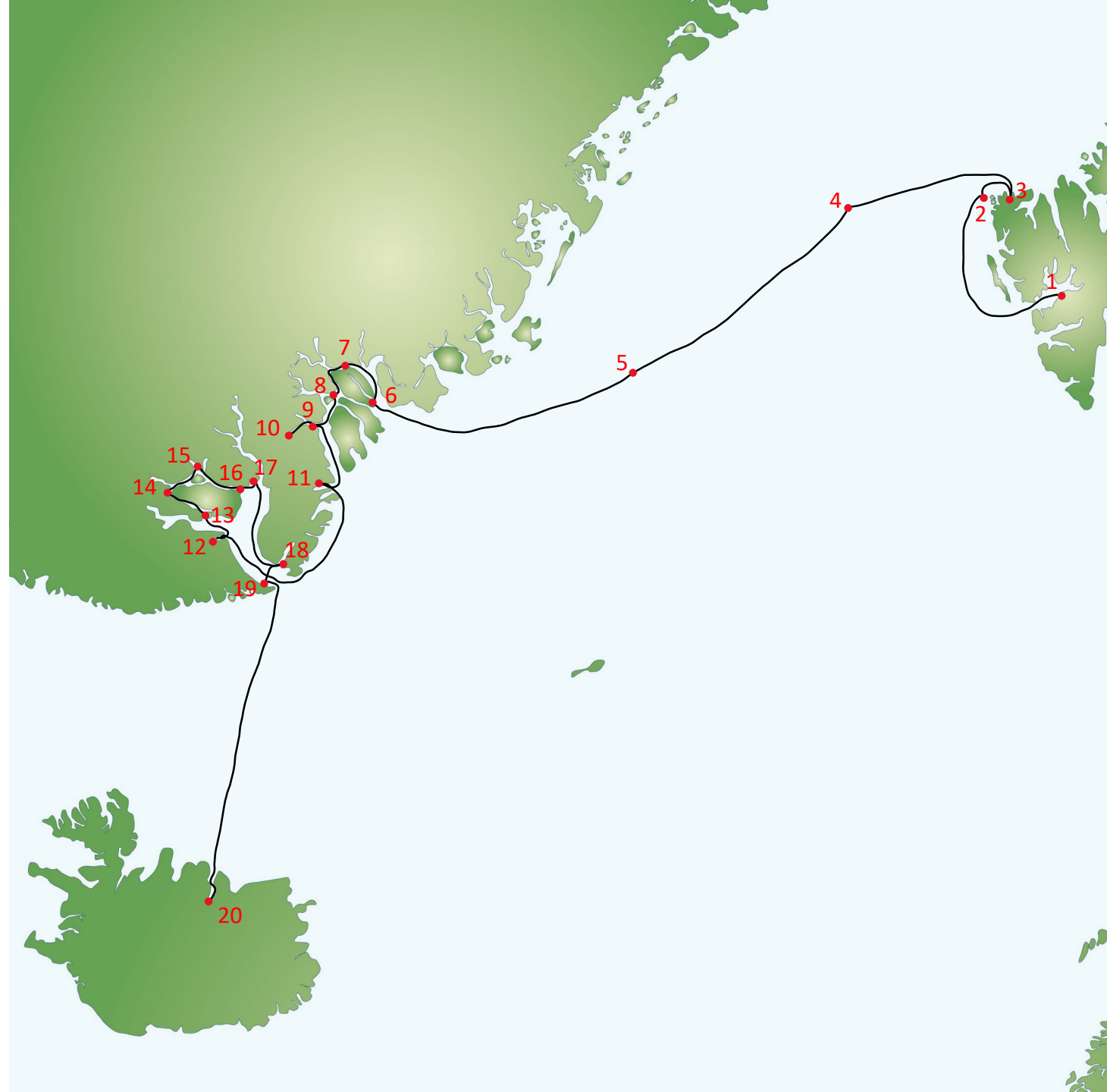
Da sie das Bedürfnis verspürte, ihren Horizont weiter zu erweitern, änderte sie ihre Spezialisierung in Richtung Allgemeinmedizin. Da sie sich auch für das Reisen interessierte, war sie begeistert, als sich während ihres Studiums die Gelegenheit ergab, 2011 als Schiffsärztin zum Südpol zu reisen. Seitdem hat sie das Polarfieber gepackt und sie ist seitdem jeden Sommer und Winter an den Nord- und Südpol zurückgekehrt. In jüngster Zeit hat sie eine Festanstellung in zwei verschiedenen Hausarztpraxen, was Ninette die Möglichkeit gibt, ihre Zeit mit Reisen an weit entfernte Orte zu kombinieren, oft als Schiffsärztin.

Derzeit ist sie Vorsitzende eines medizinischen Komitees zur Verbesserung der medizinischen Versorgung an Bord von Expeditionsschiffen und außerdem Mitglied der Dutch Medical Nautical Society. Wenn es die Zeit erlaubt, liest sie gerne, läuft, reist und läuft Schlittschuh.

Svalbard & Kvitøya 2022

M/V Plancius 20/08 – 29/08

- **1:** 29/08 **Longyearbyen** - Embarkation.
- **2:** 30/08 **Smeerenburg** – Landing & Walrus
- **3:** 30/08 **Alicehamna, Raudfjord** - Landing
- **4:** 31/08 **In the Pack Ice** – 79°56,6'N / 11°44,6'E
- **5:** 01/09 **Sailing West**
- **6:** 02/09 **Kap Humboldt, Ymer Ø** - Landing
- **7:** 03/09 **Blomsterbugten, Ymer Ø** - Landing
- **8:** 03/09 **Maria Ø** - Landing
- **9:** 04/09 **Segelsällskapets Fjord** - Landing
- **10:** 04/09 **Alpefjord** – Zodiac Cruise
- **11:** 05/09 **Fleming Fjord** – Landing & Polar Plunge
- **12:** 06/09 **Vikingebukta** - Zodiac cruise
- **13:** 06/09 **Denmark Ø** - Landing
- **14:** 07/09 **Rode Ø** – Zodiac cruise
- **15:** 07/09 **Harefjord** – Landing & BBQ
- **16:** 08/09 **Byørneør** - Landing
- **17:** 08/09 **Ingmikatikajik** - Landing
- **18:** 09/09 **Kap Hope, Hurry Fjord** – At anchor
- **19:** 09/09 **Kap Brewster** – At anchor & Polar Bear
- **20:** 11/09 **Akureyri** – Disembarkation





DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen & Northeast Greenland

29. 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

Spitsbergen & Northeast Greenland

30. August 2022

- 07.15** **Wake up call.**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 08.30** **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge on **how to behave in Polar Bear country** and on **Zodiac operations.**
- thereafter** **Landing: Smeerenburg, Amsterdamøya.** Smeerenburg was in the 17th century one of the main whaling places on Spitsbergen. Still today remains of the blubber ovens can be seen. Today, the sandy beaches are often used by walrus for a rest. If our friends are at home, we plan to visit them. On land we split into groups, for some exploration of the area, to hear some of the whaling history and to visit the walrus.
- 12.30** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Landing: Alicehamna, Raudfjord.** 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!

*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 varmíng
(Norwegian artist, grew up in Longyearbyen)*



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

31st August 2022

- We are generally moving westwards and change time. Please **put your watch one hour back!**
- We are sailing in open water. **Be prepared for movements of the ship.** Take precautions for **seasickness** and also put your camera equipment, laptops, etc. in a **safe place** (inside drawers, on the floor), so they don't fall off the tables...
- **West of Spitzbergen** we will encounter the **pack ice**, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck in the search of wildlife – it is a brilliant experience unto itself to navigate in the pack ice. If we have the luck to encounter polar bears, please **keep noise levels low** (voices down; close doors gently) for the best opportunities of finding and remaining with the wildlife.
- Possible **lectures** and **recap** are dependent on the movement of the vessel and the wellbeing of the passengers.

07.45 (new time)	Sleep in ☺! Wake up call.
08.00	Breakfast is available for one hour in the dining room.
13.00	Lunch is available for one hour in the dining room.
19.00	Dinner time! Enjoy your meal.

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

André Gide



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

01st September 2022

- We are sailing in open water. **Be prepared for movements of the ship.** Take precautions for **seasickness** and also put your camera equipment, laptops, etc. in a **safe place** (inside drawers, on the floor), so they don't fall off the tables...

- 07.45** Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 08.00** **Breakfast** is available for one hour in the dining room.
- 10.00** **Lecture in German:** Introduction to Greenland
Join Andreas in the **lounge**.
- Lecture in English:** Whales
Join Marijke in the **dining room**.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is available for one hour in the dining room.
- 14.30** **Lecture in German:** How to take better pictures
Join Kalle in the **lounge**.
- Lecture in English:** Introduction to polar photography
Join George in the **dining room**.
- 16.00** **Lecture in German:** Whales
Join Marijke in the **lounge**.
- Lecture in English:** Introduction to Greenland.
Join Andreas in the **dining room**.
- 18.30** Daily **Recap** in the lounge.
- 19.00** It is **dinner time!** Enjoy.

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

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

02nd September 2022

- We are generally moving westwards and change time. Please **put your watch one hour back!**
- In the morning we are sailing in open water. **Be prepared for movements of the ship.**

- 07.45** Wake-up call. **Good morning!**
- 08.00** **Breakfast** is waiting for you in the Dining Room.
- morning** The **Greenland coast** and our first huge ice bergs gets in sight. Wind and weather dependent we enjoy the views and/or call you for a lecture.
- 12.30** The **Lunch buffet** is waiting for hungry explorers.
- afternoon** **Landing: Myggbukten.** We aim to do our first landing in Greenland close to a hut at „Mosquito Bay“. Built in the early 1920s, the hut has an interesting history, serving as the first Greenlandic weather and telegraph station. This is also the place where Norway claimed Northeast Greenland. Today the hut is used and maintained by the Sirius Patrol, the Danish Special Forces, specialized in dogsledding. We will explore the open and wide tundra in the usual groups. It is fairly easy to walk for all groups.
- 18.30** **Recap** for today and **plans** for tomorrow!
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served – bon appétit!

"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

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

03rd September 2022

SUNRISE  05:37

- 05.37** Around **sunrise** we are at the landmark mountain **Teufelsschloss**. When the sky is clear it is worth getting up early today!
- 07.15** A wonderful **good morning!**
- 07.30** **Breakfasttime!**
- 08.45** **Landing: Blomsterbugten, Ymer Ø.** This morning our landing is surrounded by beautiful geology. We keep an eye open for hare, muskox and birdlife. From higher ground we have nice views over a lake on the other side.
- 12.30** **Lunchtime!**
- afternoon** **Ship's cruise: Antarctic Sund.** This is Northeast Greenland as beautiful as it gets. The steep rockwalls of this narrow passage consist of colourful Eleonora Bay Sediments and Vendian Tillites. Get out on deck and enjoy the stunning scenery!
- Late afternoon** **Landing: Maria Ø.** In the afternoon we plan to land on the small island Maria Ø, situated in waters where Kong Oscar Fjord meets Sonia Sund, Vega Sund, Kempes Fjord and Antarctic Sund. The landscape is inviting for hikes and we intend to do so in our well known groups. Again the geology around this little island is extremely beautiful.
- 19.00** **Let's get together** – Recap and Briefing for tomorrow.
- 19.30** **Dinnertime!**
- 21.33** **Sunset** 

*This grand show is eternal.
It is always sunrise somewhere.
The dew is never all dried at once.
A shower is forever falling.
Vapor is ever rising.
Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset.*

*Eternal dawn and glowing,
on sea and continents and islands,
each in its turn as the earth rolls.
And for this
I am forever grateful to be alive.*

John Muir




DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

04th September 2022

SUNRISE  05:51

- 05.51** Around **sunrise** we are at **Berzelius Berget**. The sun will most likely hit the south face slightly after sunrise. When the sky is clear it is anyways worth getting up early today!
- 07.15** **Good morning!**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** is waiting for you!
- 08.45** **Landing: Segelsällskapet Fjord.** We have seen lots of stunning geological formations on our trip so far. Nevertheless this afternoon will be a blast! There are not only colourful layers of rock on the steep walls of this beautiful fjord, but we will literally walk on them. If you haven't yet – get ready to fall in love with geology.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for you!
- 15.00** **Zodiac cruise: Alpefjord.** This afternoon we sail deep into Alpefjord. With our Zodiacs we will pass Sefstrøm glacier, that almost cuts off the fjord. It is a long way in, but if conditions are good, we will get to see the majestic mountains of the Stauning Alps that reach more than 2000 meters. Dress warm, it is a long distance to cover!
- 19.00** **Recap** and briefing for tomorrow.
- 19.30** **Dinner** is waiting for you!
- 21.20** **Sunset** 

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward."

David Livingstone (1813-1873)



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

05th September 2022

SUNRISE  05:53

07.15 **Good morning!**

07.30 **Breakfast** is available for one hour in the dining room.

09.00 **Landing: Flemings Fjord.** The landscape and the geology have changed. The sediments are younger and the mountains are not steep and rugged anymore. The mostly soft hills are inviting for hikes. Walking is easy for all groups.

Bring your swimsuit. At the end of our landing we offer, for those of you, who ever wanted to swim in the Arctic-ocean, to do exactly that. Towels will be on shore for you. Enjoy!

12.30 **Lunch** is available for one hour in the dining room.

afternoon **At sea to Scoresby Sund.** We are sailing in open water. Be prepared for movements of the ship and take precautions for seasickness if needed.

Possible **lectures** and **recap** are dependent on the movement of the vessel and the wellbeing of the passengers.

19.00 **Dinner time!** Enjoy your meal.

21.03 **Sunset** 

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

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

06th September 2022

SUNRISE  06:18

- 07.15** **Good morning!** We are in Scoresby Sund!
- 07.30** Enjoy your **breakfast**.
- 09.00** **Zodiac Cruise: Vikingebugt.** Vikingebugt is a wide open bay in southern Scoresbysund. Besides the pretty landscape especially the geology will strike our eyes. Beautiful column-basalt can be seen in the steep cliffs. We plan a Zodiac cruise along those magnificent formations. Please dress warmly, we are not getting ashore and will stay in the Zodiacs for at least two hours.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is ready!
- 15.00** **Landing: Danmark Ø.** We plan our afternoon landing on the southern tip of Danmark Ø. Beside a crooked cabin close to our landing site, we find some house foundations from the Thule culture. On our hikes we walk across striated and gently rounded rock. On higher ground small, picturesque lakes are found.
- 19.00** **Recap** of today and **Briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.30** **Dinner** is served. Enjoy!
- 21.04** **Sunset** 

If you have cold feet, cover your head.

Inuit saying



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

07th September 2022

SUNRISE  06:30

We are cruising through beautiful **Føhnfjord**. Come out on deck and enjoy the morning scenery!

07.15 **Rise and shine!**

07:30 **Breakfast** for one hour in the restaurant.

09.00 **Zodiac Cruise: Strømbugt.** This morning we intend to do a zodiac cruise close to Røde Ø (= Red Island) in Strømbugt. This bay is famous for the many XXL-icebergs that get stranded here. If wind and weather permits, we would like to cruise with our rubber boats in this amazing labyrinth of icebergs in all shapes. Dress very warm! We might also get ashore at Røde Ø to get another view on Strømbugt and the icebergs.

12.30 Time for **lunch!**

afternoon During and after lunch we will sail through amazing **Røde Fjord** that sometimes is almost blocked by icebergs – enjoy the scenery!

afternoon **Landing: Rypefjord.** Depending on how much time it takes us to get through Røde Fjord, we will go on shore in beautiful Rypefjord. Here we find tundra vegetation, as lush as it gets in Northeast Greenland, and glacially overridden basement rock. As usual, we would like to split into three hiking groups to explore the country. Our landing will not be before 16:00.

18.30 **Past and future** - Recap of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.

19.00 Still summer in the Arctic, we eat outside! It's **BBQ** tonight!

21.07 **Sunset** 

What is the urge to travel? I think it comes from the desire to see what is behind the next hill; a sense of adventure and restlessness.

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen, Sirius man 1977 - 1979



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

08th September 2022

SUNRISE  06:22

We are cruising in beautiful **Ø Fjord**. The massive Mountain **Grundtvigs Kirken** is eye catching and had an enormous rock face. Come out on deck and enjoy the early morning!

07.15 **Wake up!** ...and Good Morning ☺

07.30 **Breakfast** for one hour in the restaurant.

09.00 **Landing: Jyttes Havn, Bjørneøer.** Today's morning landing will be on one of the islands of the Bjørneøer-group. The rough looking islands seems to be quite barren, nevertheless we find some vegetation. In our hiking groups we plan to check out the hills and get a good view of the steep rockwalls and high mountainpeaks of mainland Greenland and the island Milne Land.

12.30 **Lunch buffet** for one hour.

14.30 **Landing: Ingmikatikajik, Sydkap.** We will go on shore at the entrance of beautiful Nordvestfjord. At the small island Ingmikatikajik we find lush tundra vegetation and have good views on the huge ice bergs coming from Nordvest Fjord. It is a nice spot to explore the area in our hiking groups.

18.30 What was today? What will be tomorrow? **Recap** in the lounge.

19.00 **Dinner!** Bon Appetite!

SUNSET  20:56

*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

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

09th September 2022

SUNRISE  06:16

- 07.15 Philipp says: **A wonderful good morning.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet until 08.30 in the restaurant.
- 08.45 **Landing: Hurry Fjord, Liverpool Land.** We will go ashore at the east side of Hurry Fjord to explore the flattish land in our hiking groups. The beach is easy to land, so is the vegetated area to walk.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** for **one hour.**
- 14.00 **Landing: Ittoqqortoormiit.** We will visit the only village in Scoresbysund, where about 350 Greenlandic people live. The village was founded in 1925 by people coming from Ammassalik due to good hunting grounds in the area. Until today, Ittoqqortoormiit remains to be one of the smallest towns in East-Greenland.
- Important:** Don't get too close to any dogs (on chain or running loose), they are working dogs and might react aggressive. This is a hunter's village – please respect the traditions of the society. Ask people before taking a picture of them.)
- 16.00 - 17.00 **Zodiac shuttle back** to our vessel. **Last Zodiac at 17.00.**
- 18.30 **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the **lounge.**
- 19.00 **Dinner is ready.** Enjoy!

We are sailing in open water during the night. Be prepared for movements of the ship. Take precautions for seasickness and put your camera equipment, laptops, etc. in a safe place (inside drawers, on the floor), so they don't fall off the tables.

20.35 **Sunset** 

*A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike.
And all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of
struggle that we do not take a trip;
a trip takes us.*

John Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)



DAILY PROGRAM

Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland

10th September 2022

- 07.45 Sleep in 😊! **Wake up call.**
- 08.00 **Breakfast** is available for one hour in the dining room.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is available for one hour in the dining room.
- 19.00 **Dinner time!** Enjoy your meal.

We are sailing in open water. Be prepared for movements of the ship.

Possible **lectures** and **recap** are dependent on the movement of the vessel and the wellbeing of the passengers.

*A ship, that lies in the harbour, is safe.
But therefore ships are not built.*

Saying from England