



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

In search of polar bear and pack ice

1 June – 8 June, 2023

On board *m/v Plancius*



M/v Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named “Hr. Ms. *Tydeman*”. The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). *M/v Plancius* is 89 m long, 14.5 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, ice class 1D, 10,5 knots average cruising speed and has 3 Diesel- Electric engines.

Captain Remmert - Jan Koster

And his international crew of 49 sailors

Chief Officer:	Maikel Overbeeke	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	SergiySklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Claudia Vernooij	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[United Kingdom]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Eduardo Rubio Herrera	[Guatemala]
Expedition Guide:	Pieter Beyens	[Belgium]
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Elisabeth Robinson	[United States]
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	[Switzerland]
Kayak Leader:	Alexis Bellezze	[Argentina]
Kayak Guide:	Julien Burellier	[France]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Thursday 1st of June, Longyearbyen, embarkation day

08h00 GPS Position: 78°12.60' N 15°32.6' E

Wind: NW2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +2°C • Sea temperature: +0°C

Many of the guest arrived at Longyearbyen on the day of embarkation. Throughout the afternoon, guests were arriving at our new home for the coming days: Plancius.

Once on board the evening went by quickly as we were busy with familiarisations, safety briefings, and a mandatory lifeboat instruction.

As we set off out of Isfjord in the evening, and northward towards our first scheduled activity of the trip, there was time to enjoy the views of the flat table-topped mountains in the late evening light.



Then, after departure, we had an introduction to the ship from our hotel manager. This was followed by captain's cocktails, were our expedition leader Ali also introduced herself and shared the plans for the voyage. After a lovely first dinner on the ship, most of us went to enjoy the views outside while the ship was cruising, or went to bed early, after this long day.

Day 2 – Friday 2nd of June, St Jonsfjord & Poolepynten

12h00 GPS Position: 78°31.2'N / 011°07.9'E

Wind: Calm • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +0°C • Sea temperature: +0°C

We woke up to beautiful sunshine and calm waters as we sailed towards the first landing site of our trip. Before landing, Expedition Leader Ali briefed us on Polar Bear safety and then we set off to do a variety of hikes and gentle walks at St Jonsfjord.



The long hikers walked up the moraine and steep hill to get excellent views of the glacier. The middle groups enjoyed watching the Svalbard Reindeer, the smallest sub species of reindeer, grazing on the hill. They also saw snow buntings, purple sandpipers, and ptarmigans. The leisurely walk group enjoyed views of eider ducks near the fast ice and had a moment of Arctic silence to listen to the sounds of nature, water, and ice all around them.

In the afternoon we sailed to Poolepynten where, although the wind and waves picked up, we were still able to set off in groups to visit the walrus.

The walrus, which are the only species of pinniped that have tusks, were hauled out on the beach in a big bundle of blubber and were growling and sleeping, and some were splashing in the water. The older males had impressive long tusks and many of them were flushed with a pink colouration, something they do that to regulate their body temperature.

In the evening just as most people were settling down to go to bed we had an exciting call from Ali on the bridge to say there were whale blows in the distance. We slowly sailed closer and discovered that these large blows belonged to the biggest animal in the world, the blue whale. One of the whales surfaced several times in front of the bow before leaving us. This was a very special first whale species to spot as blue whales are a rarity and even for many of the guides it was only their first or second encounter with them. It was a very spectacular end to a very successful first full day of the trip.

Day 3 – Saturday 3rd of June, Fjortende Julibukta and Lilliehöökbrean

07h30 GPS Position: 79°02.3'N / 011°07.9'E

Wind: Calm • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C • Sea temperature: +0°C

Another beautiful day in Svalbard, we made the most of the morning, with a split landing. Spending time onshore hiking across the tundra, seeing the wild flora starting to emerge, with some beautiful purple saxifrage. High up on the cliff face we observed kittiwakes in flight, and heard their loud calls. On the ground we were lucky enough to spot a few arctic foxes, even a brief chase was observed with one of the foxes still having half of its white winter coat. Very high up on rocks a few Svalbard reindeer could be seen grazing.



During the zodiac cruise, the Fjortende Julibukta glacier could be enjoyed from the water, together with lots of kittiwakes resting on the smaller ice floes. Cruising along the shoreline it was possible to see numerous Brünnich's guillemots nesting together, barnacle geese and a number of puffins too.

After a short transit and a delicious lunch onboard, all of the zodiacs were lowered as the expedition team prepared for an afternoon zodiac cruise. We spent over two hours exploring the bay, getting a sense of the sheer size of the Lilliehöökbrean glacier, photographing the varying shades of colour and the different ice formations. There were plenty of birds to see including, common eider ducks, king eider, long-tailed ducks, arctic terns, snow bunting and northern fulmars. Many of us experienced true Arctic silence as the zodiac engines were turned off. We could hear the crackle and popping of the ice as the air escapes, and really enjoy the stillness and the reflections of the surrounding peaks. The perfect end to another fantastic expedition day.

The kayakers enjoyed exceptionally calm paddling conditions during both the morning and the afternoon, taking in the same sights and surroundings from the comfort of their kayaks.

Day 4 – Sunday 4th of June, day in the pack ice

08h00 GPS Position: 79°09.6'N / 008°12.1'E

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: -2°C • Sea temperature: -1°C

After a couple of days of full activities, we came to search for the pack ice.

The spotters in our bridge saw the first ice during the early morning and we started to navigate into it at around 07:30 in the morning. Conditions were very good; the sea was calm and there was no swell. Although the sky was partially clouded with grey clouds over the horizon, we still could see some interesting wildlife. We managed to see many birds, spotting numerous ivory gulls and guillemots flying around our ship, a couple of arctic skuas and also many flocks of kittiwakes and arctic terns among others.



An interesting sight we had in the morning was a low tangent arc below the Sun. This formation due to long hexagonal columns of ice crystals shone for a good half an hour before other grey clouds cover it. It is worth to notice that this is a rare sight in the sky and that Pieter, Eduardo did not hesitate to share their excitement with those around pointing it out to other guests, colleagues and crew on board.

The excitement of the day increased during the late morning and during the whole afternoon due to the expectation of our guests to witness the sight of a polar bear. Consequently, all our guides made a big effort to spot one of these elusive creatures. They spent many hours spotting for bears either from the bridge of our ship or from the outside decks. All these efforts made our guests aware of how hard is to spot polar bears in the vastness of the arctic pack ice. Hence our guides, bridge personnel and guests, played for long hours the game of seek and hide with the potential bears that could be walking in the area.



Dinner was very special today since we all had dinner outside, we enjoyed a great BBQ. This activity included music and dancing in the aft outside deck of our ship. Party lasted until 10 PM and both guests, crew and staff had a great time enjoying the music of many classic songs of rock and roll. Despite all our efforts, we all went to

sleep without having any sight of polar bear hoping that the next day would bring us this rare and spectacular arctic sight.

Day 5 – Monday 5th of June, day in the pack ice and polar bear sighting

08h00 GPS Position: 80°02.7'N / 011°18.0'E

Wind: NW2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -4°C • Sea temperature: -1°C

After the BBQ-party yesterday evening, we got an early wake-up call at 6h30! Our Expedition Leader Ali announced a polar bear sighting! Excited by the news, everyone rushed to the decks (no running though ;-)) in order to get a view on the bear. And there it was, sniffing the environment with its nose and sometimes tasting the air with its tongue. It was not too far away, yet too difficult to tell whether it was a male or female. After about 20 minutes it laid down for some time before slowly moving away from us. The ship tried to get closer but the big ice floes of the pack ice were holding us back.



While the ship made an (unsuccessful) attempt to approach the bear from another direction, Annelou gave an interesting lecture on sea ice and its formation. Surprisingly, how many types of ice exist!



In the meanwhile, bearded seals started to show up. Their main features are a chunky body with a small head which has long whiskers. Beautiful creatures.

At 11h the Expedition Staff started giving some mini lectures. Ali talked about polar bears, Emily lectured about the impressive migration of Arctic Terns and Elizabeth gave us some insight in photo identification and GPS tracking of marine mammals.



Lots of birds could be spotted around the ship. Kittiwakes really liked the disturbance of water caused by our ship. We regularly saw them catching some fish, probably polar cod. Other birds that flew next to the ship were Brünnich's guillemot, little auk, glaucous gull and of course the arctic tern.

After a glass (or two...) of hot chocolate with some rum in the afternoon, a brown-reddish animal presented himself: a male walrus with large tusks! It was lying on a (already quite dirty) ice floe. The ship circled around it and our journey proceeded.

The day ended nicely with some evening sunshine.



Day 6 – Tuesday 6th of June, Ytre Norskøya and Fugelsongen

08h00 GPS Position: 79°51.0'N / 011°32.2'E

Wind: Calm • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +°C • Sea temperature: -1°C

We woke up to spectacular sunshine and views of mountains and ice as we approached Ytre Norskoya. The long hikers set off to reach the summit of the island where they were treated to a spectacular view and enjoyed seeing and photographing the little auks. The people on the medium walks had a lovely encounter with snow buntings, a walrus on the ice, and even a yellow wagtail flying by. The leisurely walkers had great views of a seal resting on a rock next to the shore and took a stroll to a small peninsula on the island.

Originally our plan for the afternoon was to visit Smeerenburg to see the historic remains of the blubber ovens left on the site by the whaling industry. However, due to there being a large amount of snow covering the remains and the graves of the whalers, Ali instead took us to the island Fuglesongen (meaning birdsong) to visit the little auks that are soon to be nesting there. The weather continued to be beautiful, and we had brilliant views of the little auks flying in big flocks, resting on the rocks, and even mating. These tiny seabirds breed here from June to August and spend the rest of their lives at sea. They certainly charmed us with their distinctive calls and their cute penguin like appearance. We also took a zodiac cruise to see the little auks flying from the water and some boats were lucky enough to see seals and a puffin.



Day 7 – Wednesday 7th of June, Tordenskjoldbukta and Alkhornet

08h00 GPS Position: 79°39.3'N / 011°05.2'E

Wind: NNW3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Calm • Air temperature: +3°C • Sea temperature: 1°C

In the morning we arrived in the stunning Tordenskjoldbukta.

Such a huge tundra and a nice beach to land on. It was quite snowy in the beginning, so we had to climb up a bit but then we had this nice overview and already spotted the first reindeers. During our walks (long, medium, or short) we were able to see them even closer. These animals are good to approach as long as



we stay quiet. On our way back we could see a red-throated phalarope. Some of us saw a carcass of an arctic fox.

During lunch, we cruised from Tordenskjoldbukta to Alkhornet. At Alkhornet we saw even more reindeers walking along the pinnacle. In the grass there were walking some pink-footed geese. The long hikers were quite close to a rockfall at the bird cliff, this was a bit scary. After a lovely walk some of us joined the polar plunge. The air temperature was around 4 degrees and the water temperature around 1 degree. Some



of us decided to be a little bit crazy and go for a swim, while the others could slide down to the landing site.

Back on the ship, warmed up again we joined the expedition team to captain's farewell and the slideshow. After the slideshow we had our last dinner onboard. Different to all the other evenings it was plated. The food was just delicious.

Day 8 – Thursday 8th of June, Arrival back into Longyearbyen

08h00 GPS Position: 78°12.60' N 15°32.6' E

Wind: NNW3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Calm • Air temperature: +3°C • Sea temperature: 1°C

Around midnight, we arrived in Longyearbyen. While we enjoyed a last breakfast on board, our suitcases were taken off the ship. It is a sad moment to disembark from Plancius, which has been a comfortable and cozy home during this unforgettable journey. We have shared many unique moments, seen a range of rarely sighted wildlife, and made new friends. Loaded with fond memories we now must head home.

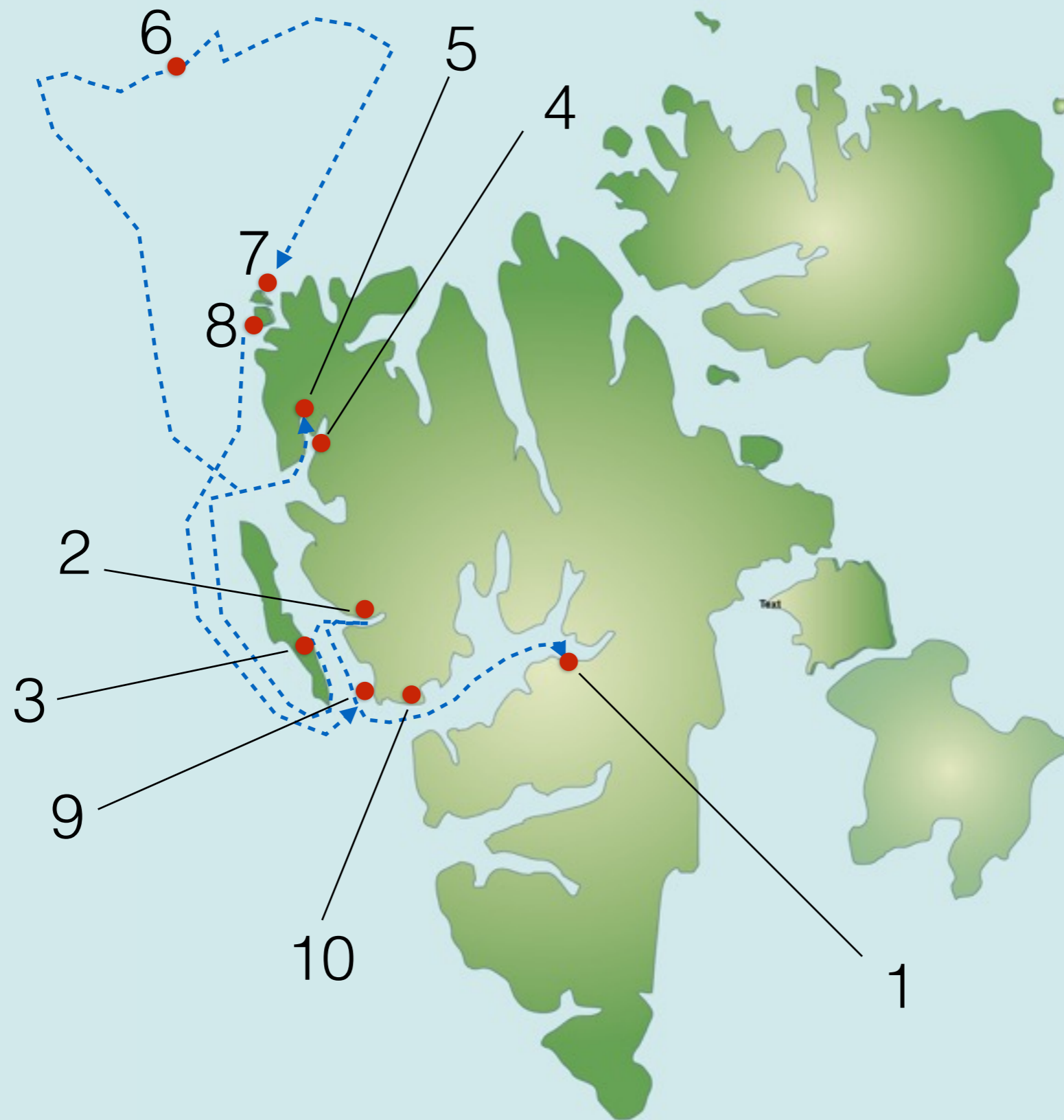
Thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage, for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We very much hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 591,6 nm

Northernmost position: 80°03.00'N

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Remmert Jan Koster, Expedition Leader Ali Liddle, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



PLANCIUS 02 Polar Bear Special

1. Longyearbyen
2. St. Jonsfjord
3. Poolepynten
4. 14. Julibukta
5. Lilliehöökbreen
6. Pack Ice
7. Ytre Norskøya
8. Fuglesongen
9. Tordenskjoldbukta
10. Alkhornet

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	1-jun	2-jun	3-jun	4-jun	5-jun	6-jun	7-jun						
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Pongon imbr	jdkuler	V													
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Stemtaucher	Pongon cabmarin	Roodkeetduiker	B													
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B		X	X	X	X	X	X						
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Baardgans	Cou de Basan	Jan-van-gent	T													
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singchwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	T													
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saalgans	Oie des moissons	Taigavetgans	V													
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschwabergans	Oie à bec court	Kleine reigans	B			X	X				X					
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Nelsswangergans	Bernache nonnette	Ringsgans	B						X	X						
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blaagans	Oie blanche	Scopgans	V													
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendree	Grauwe gans	V													
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rötgans	B									X				
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans	V													
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Plattente	Canard sifflur	Smart	T													
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Sarcelle chiver	Winterling	a													
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Canard colvert	Wilde eend	T													
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Canard plat	Pijlstaart	B													
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiferente	Fuligie mollon	Kullseend	T													
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidersend	B		X	X	X			X	X					
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachtelderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B				X									
Steller's Eider	<i>Polyictes stellaris</i>	Schedekente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	V													
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harleite boréale	Iseend	B			X										
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Harleite noire	Zwarte zee-eend	BT													
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schedekente	Canard à bec dor	Braugans	V													
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschnepfuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwhoen	B			X										
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Hultner Pie	Schoekester	V													
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbelteveier	B													
Eurasian Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Plover dor	Goudplover	B													
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drielenstrandloper	B													
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubrustandläufer	Bécasseau tacheté	Gestreepte strandloper	V													
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Plaanse strandloper	B		X	X			X	X						
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knütt	Bécasseau maubèche	Rançottstrandloper	B													
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Borte strandloper	B													
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu	Regenkuip	T													
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette	Turkluur	V													
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälber	Tourmeigne à collier	Steinloper	B													
Gray Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Phalaropus	Phalaropus à bec large	Roze finkspoot	B									X				
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Dänmschnchen	Phalaropus à bec étroit	Grauwe finkspoot	B													
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Späthaubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Mölette jager	T													
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schwarzotteraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B			X	X				X					
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Fälternaubmöwe	Labbe à long queue	Kleine jager	B													
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Gros Labbe	Grote jager	B			X										
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorklaarhemew	B													
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette reuse	Kokemew	V													
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Golèland cendré	Sturmmew	V													
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Golèland bourgmaître	Grote Burgemeester	B		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Lesser gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Bläuemöwe	Golèland arctique	Klein burgemeester	T													
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Golèland argenté	Zhermew	V													
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringmöwe	Golèland brun	Klein marthemew	V													
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Marthemöwe	Golèland marin	Grote marthemew	B									X				
Killdeer	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Wasserschneebe	Mouette tridactyle	Wassermew	B		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Rose Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosemöwe	Mouette de Rose	Rosemew	T													
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Eibenmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormew	B													
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B			X	X	X	X	X	X					
Common Gullskot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Troflskotte	Gullskot de troll	Zwekot	B													
Bronzy's Gullskot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Düschelablumme	Gullskot de Bronzsch	Düschelkot	B		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Black Gullskot	<i>Coccyzus grylle</i>	Gryllente	Gullskot à miroir	Zwarte zwekot	B		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbenstaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine ak	B			X	X	X	X	X						
Puffin	<i>Fregata aetidea</i>	Papagaltäucher	Macarux moine	Papagaalduiker	B				X			X	X					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe	Hirondelle rustique	Boerenzwalw	V													
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bauchschwalbe	Motacille grise	Wite kwakstaart	V													
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Wiesenpieper	Pipit farouze	Graspieper	V													
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschnitzler	Traquet moëux	Tapuit	B													
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel	Merle noir	Mesl	V													
Snow Bunting	<i>Pinicuphaea hiavelis</i>	Schneeammer	Eclair des neiges	Sneeuwgers	B		X	X			X	X						
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammula</i>	Brennzaug	Savrin flamme	Barnijs	V													
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Spornammer	Bruant lapon	legors	V													
Feldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wacholderdrossel	Givre ilorne	Kramsvogel	V													
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rötdrossel	Givre mauvis	Koprennek	V													
Bransong	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Bergfink	Frison du Nord	Keep	V													
Gryllstone	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Greifalke	Falcon Gerfaut	Geirvak	V													

MAMMALS

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	1-jun	2-jun	3-jun	4-jun	5-jun	6-jun	7-jun						
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B			X			X	X						
Bearded seal	<i>Eringiaula barbata</i>	Barbrobbe	Phoque barbu	Beardrob	B						X							
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobb	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B			X										
Harp seal	<i>Phoca groenlandica</i>	Saiebobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zeehrob	T													
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Kapmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Kapmuts	V						X							
Common Harbort seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	B							X	X					
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergwal	T													
Sea Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Saiewal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis	V				X									
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauewal	Baleine bleue	Blaue vinvis	T				X									
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	T				X									
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangiae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T				X									
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Groenlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T													
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Walvis	Phaeton	Poelwal	V													
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narval	Narwal	V													
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Döging)	Hyperoodon arctique	Bultkop	V													
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Ork	V													
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albobrochis</i>	Weisseißwal	Lagenorhynchus à rostre blanc	Witbekdolfin	V													
Beluga	<i>Harpagiferus belugas</i>	Weisseißwal	Stégas	Beluga	B													
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B							X						
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>																	

Ali Liddle – 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.

Eduardo Rubio – Assistant Expedition Leader



Eduardo describes himself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for sharing nature with others.

After studying physics, he got his PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position he became a lecturer of physics and Astronomy as well as a guide in expedition cruise ships. In 2018 he decided to become a full-time guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic and in the Arctic.

His interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips he has undertaken, he offer lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), about our Universe, and the mysteries of our ocean's depths, to mention some. At sea, besides being and engaged guide and lecturer, he loves to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore. In every trip he made, he always aim to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live. Born in Guatemala (1978), he speaks English, Spanish and German.

Pieter Beyens – Expedition Guide



Nature already had a central place in Pieter's life in his young years. A home filled with books about science, nature, the Arctic and its fauna and flora, must have been the source of his later interests.

And indeed, in 1996 he graduated in Biology. Intrigued by artificial life and intelligence, he completed a degree in Computer Science as well, giving him a broad and unusual academic background.

He is mainly interested in the principles behind things i.e. the workings of nature, explanation of phenomena etc. and he prefers in-depth knowledge and analysis.

After his studies he went backpacking for a year, going east this time, a great adventure ahead. Also in hobbies - diving, whitewater kayaking, bouldering (climbing) - he was always after a challenge.

Last years, fascinated by atmospheric phenomena such as halos, rainbows, mirages, clouds etc., he specialized in atmospheric optics and observing the sky in daylight. That study broadened to the more general climate science.

The idea of becoming a guide came to his mind a few years ago after looking again at pictures of his travels to northern countries (Greenland, Svalbard, Norway) and being impressed once more by the vastness and beauty of the Arctic landscape. Attracted by the unique combination of nature experiences, scientific study and adventure, he decided to apply for guide.

Pieter lives in Antwerp, Belgium, next to a small nature reserve called Hobokense polder. As a guide, he is excited to help and support you on your Polar adventure!

Jess Owen - Expedition Guide



Jess is from the South East of England and lives on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to their local wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula and she is very excited to be returning to the Arctic this season.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching, and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew.

Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide



Elizabeth was born and raised in Minnesota, a state in the middle north of the United States. Minnesota is known for having over 10,000 lakes and nature around every corner; something she took full advantage of growing up. Before the age of eighteen, Elizabeth travelled to all fifty US states, and became a Junior Park Ranger at over thirty National Parks.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mammalogy, accompanied by additional degrees in Psychology, English Writing and Environmental Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on African elephants and squirrels. Recently, she graduated from the University of Bristol (UK) with a Master of Science degree in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. Her dissertation focused on cetacean conservation and understanding how policy is integrated within conservation efforts.

Elizabeth has lived and studied whales in many places such as Hawaii, British Columbia, Alaska, Norway, and the UK. She has previously worked as an orca kayak guide, a snorkel guide in Hawaii, a wildlife documentary co-producer, and a marine mammal researcher. She has spent the last eight years studying species such as orcas, humpback whales, right whales, porpoises, and pinnipeds. She is passionate about cetacean conservation, specifically endangered species. Elizabeth currently calls both the US and the UK home and is happiest at sea.

Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide



Annelou grew up in a seaside town in the Netherlands known for its navy base and fisheries. There she spent most of her time sailing, hiking, or looking for shiny rocks and shells on the beach. This is where her passion for the Earth began, which she decided to turn into her career.

Annelou specialized in Earth Sciences and graduated from Utrecht University. She specialized in physical geography, where her focus is on land-surface processes, natural hazards, geomorphology, climate reconstruction and climate changes and a minor in sustainability.

The connection between the academic and practical aspects of Earth Sciences, which involves a lot of fieldwork and is highly hands-on, is what she enjoys most. She loves to share her understanding of the Earth in general and the Arctic in particular. She also got a special interest in the history of whaling as it played a large role in her hometown's history.

She is overjoyed to be able to combine her passion for the Earth with traveling the seas by ship.

In her free time she still loves to collect shiny rocks. Most of the time she can be found on the water sailing somewhere in Europe with her family, hiking, or, when at home, bouldering and climbing.

Emily Clarke – Expedition Guide



Emily grew up by the ocean and has always found it a source of inspiration and wonder. She has a strong sense of adventure and embraces opportunities whenever they arise, which has resulted in some amazing journeys.

A passion for wildlife conservation, travel and working with people has led her to work onboard expedition vessels.

Familiar with life at sea, Emily divides her time between two fairly different roles. The first as an expedition guide, and the second as a Marine Mammal Observer in the oil and gas industry, working onboard seismic vessels; protecting marine mammals from anthropogenic sound sources in the ocean.

Emily has over 15 years' experience working with wildlife, both in natural habitats and in rehabilitation. She has spent over ten years working with gorillas, which saw her travel to remote parts of Africa collecting data on wild gorillas, and taking part in conservation and community development projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

During her time off, Emily enjoys paddle boarding, kayaking and diving, in-between preparing her latest lectures and planning her next adventure.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



This is Carina, she grew up in the swiss capital of Bern far away from the sea. Her studies in renewable energies and environmental engineering gave her a curiosity in energy production and civil engineering. She would like to share this curiosity with you! Carina is a sports nut and runs triathlons in her spare time. But don't worry, she has vowed to slow down the tours to half-tempo.

Carinas favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination with these cute animals and their

dominion.

Being the happiest outside, Carina chose to make the world her workplace and to become an international guide for Oceanwide Expeditions.

Carina is a passionate and optimistic person who always likes to learn new things and has a broad interest in geography, history, archaeology, the arts and the natural sciences. As the cheesy Instagramposts say: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". So step up and let Carina share her passion for civil engineering and penguins with you and take part in your once in a lifetime adventure!

Alexis Bellezze – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Julien Burellier – Sea Kayak Guide



Julien was born and raised in the Auvergne region in central France. He started kayaking and skiing as a child and never stopped.

Sea kayak instructor since 1998, he is also a whitewater kayak and ski instructor. He travelled all over the world paddling and guiding guests in various locations such as Papua, Oman, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Sweden, Greece, Corsica... and of course Norway!

He visited North Norway for the first time in 2010 and fell in love with the sea and mountain mix. Snow and northern lights in the winter combined with midnight sun during summer produce many breathtaking moments. Since then, Julien goes several times a year to Norway either for kayaking, skiing or hiking.

When he is not traveling, Julien lives in the French Alps and teaches skiing at Serre Chevalier or supervises whitewater rafting activities on the local rivers. He is also passionate about photography which led him to collaborate with French outdoor and kayak magazines, writing articles and reporting on his trips.

Claudia Vernooij – Ships Doctor



Claudia holds a medical degree in Emergency Medicine and has been working with Ocean Wide since 2009. Born in the heart of the Netherlands, Claudia's passion for travel was ignited after completing high school. Throughout her medical studies, she embraced opportunities to expand her horizons, not only in her home country but also in India, Suriname, and Tanzania.

After completed her training as a medical doctor specialized in Emergency Medicine in the Netherlands in 2008, she embarked on a professional journey as an Emergency Physician in a major city hospital in Sydney, Australia. Living abroad, encountering new cultures, and exploring unfamiliar places brought Claudia great joy.

It was during this time that Claudia first stepped on board Ocean Wide's vessels as a ship's doctor. Her initial experience in the Arctic opened her eyes to an entirely new world. She developed a deep appreciation for the beautiful landscapes, fascinating wildlife, and and the overall experience of life on board the vessels. Working alongside a dedicated team on the vessels and interacting with passengers who sought to celebrate their perfect vacations, Claudia found herself drawn to the Arctic and Antarctic, leading her to undertake several journeys to the polar regions.

Since 2011, Claudia has settled back in the Netherlands to be close to her family, especially her growing children. With her children becoming more independent, Claudia's desire to travel has resurfaced. Alongside her work at a prominent teaching hospital in the Netherlands, she enjoys playing tennis and cycling, taking advantage of the beautiful landscapes her home country has to offer.



DAILY PROGRAM

Welcome aboard!

Date: Thursday 1st June 2023

Day: Day 1

- 1600 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage or if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know.
Tea and coffee is available in the Lounge on Deck 5.
- >1700 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.
- 1800 Departure from the pier.
- 1845 Please join us in the Lounge for an **introduction to the ship** from your Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko.
This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktails**, a chance to meet your Captain for this voyage and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Ali Liddle. She will explain the plans for the coming days, and it will be a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

After dinner we will hand out your rubber boots. We will do this by deck so please listen for announcements.



St Jonsfjord and Poolepynten

Date: Friday 2nd June 2023

Day: Day 2

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Zodiac Briefing and Polar Bear Safety** Please join Ali in the Lounge for the Zodiac safety briefing and Polar Bear safety briefing.
All Passengers must attend this briefing. We will also explain the plans for the morning landing.
- TBA **St Jonsfjord.** For our first landing we hope to be able to take you ashore at Gjertsenodden where there is an old trapper's hut, and we will offer guided walks along the shore or up onto the moraine for views onto the glacier.
We will offer a longer hike, a medium hike, a medium photography hike and a leisurely walk.
Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding times.
- 1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1530 **Poolepynten.** This is a known walrus haul out on a sandy beach. If they are at home, we hope to go ashore to see them. We need to do this in smaller groups.
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|------|
| 1 st group | Gangway | 1530 |
| 2 nd group | Gangway | 1610 |
| 3 rd group | Gangway | 1650 |
- 1900 **Recap and Plans.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the daily recap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.



14 Julibukta and Lillehöökbreen

Date: Saturday 3rd June 2023

Day: Day 3

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0845 **14 Julibukta.** We hope to be able to spend the morning in the bay of 14 Julibukta. We will offer a landing and a zodiac cruise. On shore we will walk to the base of the bird cliffs and see what we can find at the Hanging Gardens of Svalbard.
The zodiac cruise will take us past the bird cliffs and up towards the glacier.
The first 5 boats will go to shore and the next 5 will go cruising. We will then swap. **We will all do both activities!**
- 1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1530 **Lillehöökbreen.** This afternoon we hope to take you all out on a zodiac cruise along the face of the glacier. There may be seals on the ice and the scenery is beautiful. We will be out in the boats for maybe 2 hours, depending on what we find so please dress warmly!
- 1900 **Recap and Plans.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the daily recap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind Reception. Enjoy your meal!



Polar Pack Ice

Date: Sunday 4th June 2023

Day: Day 4

Today we will be arriving at the ice edge at around 0730 in the morning. During the day we will navigate along the ice edge and search for wildlife. Please join the staff on deck to see what we can find!

During the day we may schedule lecture presentations so please listen for announcements.

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1830 **Recap and Plans.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the daily recap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Arctic Dinner** will be served! Dress warmly and enjoy your meal!



Polar Pack Ice

Date: Monday 5th June 2023

Day: 5

Today we will continue to navigate along the ice edge towards the East. During the day we will navigate along the ice edge and search for wildlife. Please join the staff on deck to see what we can find!

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sea Ice.** If you would like to learn more about the sea ice we are navigating through then please join Annelou in the Lounge for a presentation about all things cool!
- 1100 Staff will present a series of mini lectures in the Lounge. Please join them to find out more about the Arctic region and its wildlife.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1830 **Recap and Plans.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the daily recap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served! Enjoy your meal!



Ytre Norskøya and Smeerenburg

Date: Tuesday 6th June 2023

Day: Day 6

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0845 **Ytre Norskøya.** This morning we hope to take you ashore on the island of Ytre Norskøya. This island was one of the places where whaling took place in the 16th century and on shore there are 165 graves. On shore we will offer a series of walks to explore the area.
Long hikers will hike to the summit of the island. It is steep and strenuous so please be realistic with your ability. **Please come to the gangway first.**
Medium and leisurely walkers will explore the coast and reach a viewpoint over the island and sea to the north.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Smeerenburg.** This island was where the Dutch whalers had a number of whaling stations in the 17th century represented by towns such as Middleberg and Delft. In the peak of the whaling there were 200 men stationed here. On shore there are the remains of their blubber ovens. This is also a place where walrus haul out on shore so there is plenty to see. We will assess the conditions on shore when we arrive and make a final decision about our activities.
- 1900 **Recap and Plans.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the daily recap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind Reception. Enjoy your meal!



Tordenskjoldbukta and Alkhornet

Date: Wednesday 7th June 2023

Day: Day 7

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~0900 **Tordenskjoldbukta.** This morning we hope to take you ashore on the tundra at Tordenskjoldbukta. The coastal scenery is beautiful, and reindeer can often be seen on the tundra. We will offer our usual walking groups but the area is very flat so it is easy walking for everyone.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1500 **Alkhornet.** For our last landing we hope to take you ashore in the beautiful location of Alkhornet. There is a high cliff above the tundra where many seabirds nest in the summer. Reindeer are often seen and it is a good place to look for Arctic foxes.
Again, we will offer hiking groups and we ask that the long hikers come to the gangway first.
At the end of the landing, we will offer a Polar Plunge, the chance to swim in the Arctic Ocean around Svalbard. We'll bring the towels, you bring the insanity!
- 1845 **Captain's Cocktails** Please join the Expedition Team and our Captain in the Lounge to toast our Arctic voyage.
- 1930 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind Reception. Enjoy your meal!



Disembarkation Longyearbyen

Date: Thursday 8th June 2023

Day: Day 8

0640 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
Before breakfast at 0700 please could you put your large check in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you.

If you are going to the airport for Flight SK4425 on June 8th please put a GREEN RIBBON on your luggage.

0800 It is time to leave the Little Blue Ship, Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception.
We will be disembarking by zodiac so please wear waterproof clothing.

0900 You will all be taken to the centre of town – the Butikken. If you are staying in a hotel please make sure your luggage goes on the bus with you.
If you are going on the afternoon flight leave your luggage on the pier and it will be taken the airport ready to check-in for your flight at 1430.

1300 **The bus will collect passengers on the afternoon flight from the Butikken to take you to the airport. Your luggage will meet you there.**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff would like to thank you for travelling with us and wish you a very safe journey home.
We hope to see you on board again in the future!**