



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen – In search of Polar Bear & Birds – Summer Solstice

15th of June – 22nd of 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:	Sergiy Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Dr Bjorn Dijkstra	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Philipp Schaudy	[Austria]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Fiona-Elaine Strasser	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Matthias Kopp	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Karin Anna Irene Amby	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Chris Robert Long	[New Zealand]
Kayak Leader:	Alexis Bellezze	[Argentina]
Kayak Guide:	Andrea Schwetz	[Germany]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Thursday 15 June, Longyearbyen, embarkation day

17h00 GPS Position: 78°13.8'N / 014°38.1'E

Wind: W3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: 3.5°C



Many of the guests arrived at Longyearbyen on the day of embarkation. Throughout the afternoon the luggage was shuttled from the key out to Plancius on anchor in the bay. By 4pm there was an eager line of guests waiting to embark on the Zodiac journey! Luckily our first zodiac trip stayed dry, but we are prepared for any weather that might come!

Once on board the evening went by quickly as we were busy with familiarisations, safety briefings, cocktails with the Captain and of course a lovely first dinner. 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.

Day 2 – Friday 16 June, St. Jonsfjorden and Poolepynten

08h00 GPS Position: 78°31.2'N / 012°50.7'E

Wind: S3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: 3°C

Our first day of landings! We woke up with beautiful sunny weather, with almost no wind. The sea was almost like a mirror. Arriving at St Jonsfjord, we split up into several



hiking groups. The long hike went all the way up to the mountain to get a good view over the bay of the St Jonsfjord. The reflections were amazing! The medium hikers went all the way up the moraine, a nice ridge with beautiful viewpoints as well. The leisurely hikers and the birding group spend some extra time watching birds and reindeer. Some of the reindeer we saw were quite relaxed, and we could get extra close without disturbing

them. The svalbard reindeer is a species apart from the normal reindeer, spectacular to see them up so close! During our hikes, we saw several arctic terns, species of geese, a purple sandpiper, and arctic skua.

In the afternoon, we cruised to Poolepynten, which is situated at Prins Karls Forland. A beautiful flat tundra with a almost tropical like sandy beach. We went for a small stroll around the area, spotted some birds and reindeer, but the main highlight was: the walrus! Poolepynten is a common haul out site for these friendly blubber giants and we were lucky that they were at home today. We could get quite close without disturbing them, around 30 meters. Some of them came just out of the water and it was quite a spectacular site how much effort it costed them to roll up to the group...

After this amazing day, Philip presented us the plans for tomorrow. Annelou told a little bit about permafrost and why there are no graveyards in Longyearbyen, and Emily finished the recap for today with a beautiful presentation and lots of information about the walrus we saw today. What a wonderful day!



Day 3 – Saturday 17 June, Lilliehookbreen and Signehamna

08h00 GPS Position: 79°20.4'N / 011°41.4'E

Wind: WSW7 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly clouded • Air temperature: 3°C

Another beautiful day in Svalbard, after breakfast all of the zodiacs were lowered as the expedition team prepared for a morning zodiac cruise. We spent over two hours exploring the bay, getting a sense of the sheer size of the Lillehookbreen glacier, photographing the varying shades of colour and the different ice formations. The sun was shining, and we could hear the loud thunder like sounds as we witnessed a few calving's from the glacier front.



There was plenty of wildlife around with a number of bird species spotted, including, common eider ducks, arctic terns, arctic skua, kittiwakes, brunnichs guillemot and even a brief glimpse for some, of a king eider and long tailed skua in flight. In the water we observed a few different species of seal, the inquisitive common seal, appearing in the water every so often looking in our direction, and the smaller ringed seal moving around in the water.

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 escaped, and really enjoy the stillness and the reflections of the surrounding peaks.

Following a very short transit, we spent the afternoon anchored near Signehamna, a short zodiac ride away from the shore. We all gathered on the landing site, before dividing up into smaller groups. Those wanting a little more exercise and a slighter more elevated view embarked on a longer and faster paced hike. Other options included the medium hike, the leisurely group, and the birding group. A variety of wildlife was observed during the afternoon including Svalbard reindeer, arctic turns, many kittiwakes including dozens gathered on a few of the lakes at a slightly higher elevation. The birders and leisurely groups enjoyed a nice view of some king eider ducks on the water; and in some areas remains from the German marine weather station 'Knospe' could be seen too.

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

After another great day, we all headed back to the ship for our evening recap with the plans for the following day, followed by another delicious evening meal.



Day 4 – Sunday 18 June, Fuglesongen and Raudfjorden

08h00 GPS Position: 79°50.5'N / 011°24.0'E

Wind: S6 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

In the morning Philipp woke us up as usual and after breakfast we went ashore at the little island Fuglesangen. Fuglesangen is Norwegian and means "the bird song" it is a



very suitable name, since the island is home to a large Little auk colony. However, it might be up to discussion if little auks really sing. They for sure make a lot of noise.

The weather was nice and the landing spot quite challenging with slippery boulders on the beach and even more boulders and snow higher up. After a quite difficult 300m walk we arrived in the colony. Here we all found our favourite spot to watch the birds.

There were many options between big boulders or on in the snowfield. Most of us will have quite some photos to sort and edit tonight.



After the longest little auk landing the expedition team had ever experienced it was time to get back on the ship and have lunch. In the afternoon we approached Raudfjorden where there still was a lot of fast ice. Far far away on the ice we spotted our first polar bear, quite soon it became clear that she was not alone. It was a female with two cubs walking on the ice. After

watching her for a while we decided to go for a zodiac cruise. Out on the water in a small boat we could experience the fast ice up close. We had really nice encounters with bearded seals, and we saw arctic skuas, black legged kittiwakes and black guillemots. The polar bears slowly moved towards us but still really far away when we got the call from the bridge that there was Belugas close to the ice on the other side of the bay. We turned our boats around and went closer, waiting by the ice in the direction they were swimming. They came closer and it was amazing to see and hear these beautiful animals. While the belugas were diving the Polar bear mother and her two cubs came closer and now most of us could see them quite good with binoculars.

In the recap Matthias told us about Little auks and Philipp about the plans for tomorrow. And then the hotel department invited us all to an arctic barbecue on the aft deck. We had a delicious meal and then the dancing started. As the barbecue came to an end we set course for the pack ice.

Day 5 – Monday 19 June, One day in the Arctic pack ice

08h00 GPS Position: 80°09.7'N / 011°55.1'E

Wind: SE2 • Sea: Ice • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: 1°C

We spent the night in the open ocean right north of Spitzbergen. The day was announced as a day in the Pack Ice. Right after the wakeup call by our Expedition leader Philipp we entered that special area belonging to the high arctic. It was an



amazing feeling to be surrounded by quite big solid ice floes which were about 1 meter thick. All of us enjoyed that on the outer decks from various levels. Our well ice strengthened PLANCIUS was navigating north. The light was mystic in the beginning, with a little bit of fog. After lunch the fog cleared up and with that we had the possibility to look till the horizon. We all tried hard to

spot wildlife till the late evening. It was successful for the birders with, amongst others, Ivory Gull sightings but bears were not spotted. Annelou gave a very interesting lecture about ICE. It was an absolute amazing day which we will never forget.

Day 6 – Tuesday 20 June, Ny-London and Ny-Alesund

08h00 GPS Position: 78°57.2'N / 012°03.3'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Ripples • Weather: Partially clouded • Air temperature: 7°C

Today we woke to the stunning scenery of Kongsfjorden and we were anchored just offshore from Blomstrandhalvoya. After a delicious breakfast in the dining room, we eagerly dressed and got ready for our landing at “Ny-London”.



We boarded the zodiacs and were whisked ashore across the beautiful glassy calm surface of the ocean. We have been so lucky this trip with the weather and have hardly seen a single wave or breath of wind!

Once ashore we dropped our lifejackets at the beach and made our way up to the small huts at “Campo Mansfield, the location of the failed marble mine. Here we looked at the two historic wooden huts, the remains of the steam engines that drove the railway carts, and some remains of what could be recognised as a marble mine of sorts.

We all set off in different directions for our easy, medium and hard hikes and the birders set off to see every bird in the area. Most to note we managed to spot some arctic foxes, geese, the long tailed skua and the long tailed duck along with a few other species of birds here and there.

Just before lunch we loaded the zodiacs and were shortly enjoying lunch back on Plancius.

After lunch we ships cruised along the glaciers of Kongsfjorden before pulling up outside the research settlement of Ny-Alesund. This would be the focus of our afternoon! The zodiacs dropped us in the small boat harbour, and we unloaded onto a floating pontoon, very different to the beaches that we usually land on. We walked



up into the settlement and were met by sites of houses painted red, green, blue, purple, and green. This small settlement is home to up to 300 people and has been converted to a research settlement from the original purpose as a coal mine.

Some of us joined Karin for a short hike out to the tower that Roald Amundsen used to anchor the zeppelin that he flew over the north pole in 1926. Then we headed to the gift shop, museum, dog kennels, and eventually back to our good ship Plancius for some well-earned dinner!

Day 7 – Wednesday 21 June, Trygghamna and Alkhornet

08h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5'N / 013°56.7'E

Wind: N2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 11°C

Another day, another beautiful landing in the Arctic! This morning the sun was shining just like in the past days and our first goal of the day was to explore Trygghamna. The water was crystal clear, and we got dropped by zodiac at the landing site and as always we divided into different hiking groups.



We had an amazing view into the bay and the water surface was mirroring the whole scenery. The relatively flat hills on this landing site were still mostly covered with snow and here and there we could see the meltwater rivers finding their way through the ice and into the sea close to the landing site. We were lucky to observe long tailed skuas (even a juvenile with darker feather coloration) and reindeer (plus young juveniles). To top off this amazing morning landing we

even went for a polar plunge! The water had about 3 degrees Celsius but with the sunshine and absolutely no wind it almost felt like a normal day at the beach! Quite a lot of people went swimming and some even went a couple of times! What a great way to start the day with!

After a short lunch break and a chance to get a warm tea after this eventful morning we landed in Alkhornet. A stunning scenery opened up in front of us as we got shuttled towards the landing site by zodiac again. The beautiful brown, green tundra covered almost all landscape and here and there we could see little white dots from the distance: reindeers – everywhere! Not too long after arrival we all spotted a little Arctic Fox den up the hill quite in the distance. As we had a closer look, we even saw that around 11 pups were actively exploring the surrounding area of the den! Everyone was overwhelmed with the sheer amount of cuteness watching the little ones play in the grass under strong supervision of their mum. What a special place to finish this incredible journey.



Day 8 – Thursday 22 June, Arrival back into Longyearbyen

08h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 8°C

Early this morning, 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 the Plancius, which has been a comfortable and cosy home during this unforgettable journey. We have shared many unique moments, seen a range of rarely sighted wildlife, and made new friends. Loaded with fond memories we now must head 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: 645nm
Northernmost position: 80°22.1'N, 012°18.8'E

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



1. Longyearbyen
2. St Jonsfjorden
3. Poolepynten
4. Lilliehöökbreen
5. Signehamna
6. Fuglesangen
7. Raudfjorden
8. ICE
9. Ny-London
10. Ny-Ålesund
11. Trygghamna
12. Alkhornet
13. Longyearbyen

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	15-jun	16-jun	17-jun	18-jun	19-jun	20-jun	21-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker	V							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B						X	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstöpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	T							
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	T							
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	Taigarietgans	V							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnebelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B		X	X			X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B			X	X		X	X
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans	Oie Rieuse	Kolgans	V							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	V							
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B							
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwvangans	V							
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	T							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	Wintertaling	B							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Canard colvert	Wilde eend	T							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Canard pilet	Pijlstaart	B							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Fulgule morillon	Kuifeend	T							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidereend	B	X	X	X	X		X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B		X	X				
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	V							
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ilseend	B						X	
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T							
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schellente	Garrot à oeil d'or	Brilduiker	V							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwhoen	B		X				X	X
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Huitrier Pie	Scholekster	V							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B		X					
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B							
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Bécasseau tacheté	Gestreepte strandloper	V							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B	X	X	X	X		X	X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper	B							
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B							
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu	Regenwulp	T							
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette	Tureluur	V					X		
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer	Tournepipe à collier	Steenloper	B		X				X	
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalaropé à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B						X	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalaropé à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot	B							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T					X		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B		X	X	X		X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B		X	X			X	
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B		X		X			
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B							
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse	Kokmeeuw	V							
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Goéland cendré	Stormmeeuw	V							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B			X	X		X	

Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T								
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw	V								
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V								
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	B								
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T								
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	B					X	X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet	B								
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaaiduiker	B			X		X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe	Hirondelle rustique	Boerenzwaluw	V								
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze	Bergeronnette grise	Witte kwikstaart	V								
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Wiesenpieper	Pipit farlouse	Graspieper	V								
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	Traquet moteux	Tapuit	B								
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel	Merle noir	Merel	V								
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgorst	B	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Birkenzeisig	Sizerin flammé	Barmsijs	V								
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Spornammer	Bruant lapon	Ijsgors	V								
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wacholderdrossel	Grive litorne	Kramsvogel	V								
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rotdrossel	Grive mauvis	Koperwiek	V								
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Bergfink	Pinson du Nord	Keep	V								
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalke	Faucon Gerfaut	Giervalk	V								

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant								
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B		X	X					
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	B		X	X	X				
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B		X	X	X				
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T								
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klapmuts	V								
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond	B								
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis	T	X	X	X	X			X	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis	V								
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	T		X					X	
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis	T								
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug	T		X						
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis	T								
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Cachalot	Potvis	V								
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narval	Narwal	V								
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Hyperoodon arctique	Butskop	V								
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Orka	V								
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc	Witsnuitdolfijn	V						X		
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloega	B				X				

Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B				X			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B						X	X
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	B	X	x	x	x		X	X
Sibling vole	<i>Microtus rossiaemeridionalis</i>	Südfeldmaus	Campagnol des champs	Oostelijke veldmuis	B							
Short tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Erdmaus	Campagnol agreste	Aardmuis	B							

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!

Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide



Pierre is a veterinarian specialized in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organizing marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback

whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

Fiona Strasser – Expedition Guide



With an international background in marine research, science communication, and experience in the intersection between science and policy, Fiona is a marine biologist and expedition guide originally from landlocked Munich, Germany.

Fiona is committed to the protection of our ocean and strongly believes that in order to preserve our blue world, it is crucial to engage and communicate with the non-scientific community. That's why she is passionate about spreading awareness of the problems the ocean is facing today and finds inspiration in hearing other people's ideas and opinions on how to tackle them.

Having studied (BSc and MSc) at six different universities in Europe, Australia and South Africa while volunteering with various NGOs and working in marine tourism (whale watching and dive master), Fiona is also a Youth Ambassador of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

Representing Germany alongside 26 fellow Youth Ambassadors from countries bordering the Atlantic basin, she loves to share her personal experience from international engagements with governmental organizations and initiatives such as the European Commission, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance and the UN Ocean Decade where she puts all her efforts into ensuring that scientists' voices are being heard – at both local and international level.

Equipped with a never-ending curiosity for the exploration of our ocean, Fiona is also a very passionate scuba diver, kite surfer and photographer and you'll most likely find her along the coastline engaged in these activities whenever she is not at sea exploring the polar regions with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Matthias Kopp – Expedition Guide



Matthias live most of the year in Thuringia/ Germany. After school he started an apprenticeship to become a wholesale dealer but decided after a couple of years settled work right next to the home village, to do a great step in direction uncertainty. He started studying biology at the University in Jena. Matthias' main interests were Ecology and Ornithology. He wrote a diploma thesis about the breeding biology of Antarctic Skuas in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula. But also after that degree,

Matthias kept on studying those impressive animals for a couple of years. While studying both, his interest and his network brought Matthias all over the world. Thereby most impressive for him were the Polar Regions. Matthias stayed for his studies with the Skuas in total 5 summer seasons at Antarctic bases and meanwhile 10 seasons in the high Arctic as a Tour guide onboard vessels.

Currently Matthias is predominantly settled, based again in the village of his childhood, but now with wife, 3 young girls, 2 cats, a couple of bee colonies and a wide-ranging garden, who all need him. However, his wife knows that for Matthias the high summer in Germany is much too warm. For that reason, he is together with you in the high north – also to escape the heat.

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.

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.

Chris Long – Expedition Guide



Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an emerald green river. Most of their food came from a huge vegetable garden or was fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set out to explore

what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.

Alexis Bellezze – Kayak Leader



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

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

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

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

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Andi Schwetz – Expedition Guide



Andi was born in Budapest and grew up in Germany. Andi has always been fascinated by animals and nature, especially marine mammals ever since she was a child. She wanted to be a whale researcher, became a whale expert, without studying at a university, but through passion. She initially graduated in sociology, but then ran her own cocktail bar for 10 years. However, her enthusiasm for sea creatures never left her and she began to travel the world to be close to these fascinating animals and to observe

them.

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

Björn Dijkstra – Ships Doctor



For the first four years of his life, Björn lived in Africa, where his parents worked as physicians.

From the age of five he grew up in Maastricht, in the south of The Netherlands. His childhood was spent playing outdoors: riding bikes and playing with his friends.

He has traveled to and worked in various regions of the world, such as Costa Rica, Kenia, South africa and Nepal. In 2012 he worked on the Plancius as a ship physician on an expedition to the Antarctic.

His first study was biology in Utrecht, which he graduated in 2001.

During this study however he realised he wanted to work as a medical doctor and started his medical study in Amsterdam in 2000. He worked as a resident in pediatrics as well as emergency medicine. Since 2012 he has been working as an emergency physician in a hospital north of Amsterdam.

During his residency he met his wife and they have been married for 7 years. They have 3 children, ages 5, 7 and 9 years. He recently moved to Schoorl where nature is nearby.

Travelling has always been a passion and continues to be so.

In his spare time he likes to bike and run. He also enjoys wood crafting, reading a good book or doing some adult lego-ing.