



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen

—

In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice

22nd of June – 29th of June 2023



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 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
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:	Björn Dijkstra	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Philipp Schaudy	[Austria]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	George David Kennedy	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Karin Anna Irene Amby	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Christian Robert Long	[New Zealand]
Kayak Leader:	James David Horkan	[Ireland]
Kayak Guide:	Andrea Schwetz	[Germany]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Thursday 22nd of June, Longyearbyen, embarkation day

17h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 8°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 23rd of June, St. Jonsfjorden and Gjersenodden

11h00 GPS Position: 78°31.11'N / 012°42.18'E

Wind: Light air • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast/fog • Air temperature: 6°C

This morning we woke to a foggy sky and after a delicious breakfast in the dining room we prepared to land. As we did however the fog lowered, and it was soon obvious that a landing would not be possible due to low visibility and the fact that we can't see if there are polar bears on shore. Therefore, we continued into Saint Jonsfjorden and as we did so the fog lifted somewhat.



At around 10:30 we boarded with zodiacs with great anticipation for our first excursion off the ship and we went ashore at Charles Laguna.

Once ashore we split into groups with a fast, a medium and a slow hiking group. The hikes went up a steep spur above the beach and descended back further to the east. There saw a harbour seal hauled out on the beach.

Then it was back to the Plancius and during lunch the ship moved across the fjord for our afternoon landing. This time we went ashore at Gjertsenodden. Once ashore the first thing to look at was the small trappers hut which is built out of solid logs in a log cabin style. Inside there is a small fireplace and a bed. Certainly, a cold place to spend even a summer in these lands.

The group split again, and the fast hikers walked towards the top of the mountain, the medium hikers went to the east, and the slow hikers including a large group of photographers scoured the barren landscape for wildlife to photograph. We had an incredible encounter with a brown female, and a white male ptarmigan, a pair of skua, and a very friendly harbour seal which swam in front of us at the mouth of a small creek bubble feeding for almost an hour.

Evening came and the ship headed back out to sea. Just after 10pm, the call came over the ships PA system that a large whale had been spotted. Could it be a blue whale??

Yes! It certainly was, and for half an hour the whale was feeding around the ship, surfacing every few minutes with a huge blow before showing us its flukes each time it dove again. This was a truly special moment, and we were very lucky to have such a close encounter with this magnificent animal on our voyage.

Day 3 – Saturday 24th of June, Signehamna, Lilliehookbreen and Tinayrebukta

12h00 GPS Position: 79°16.13'N / 011°33.7'E

Wind: SW3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

The morning was spent 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 slightly more elevated view embarked on a longer and faster paced hike. Other options included the medium hike, the leisurely group, and the photography group. A variety of wildlife was observed during the afternoon including Svalbard reindeer, arctic turns, arctic skua, and dozens of kittiwakes gathered on a few of the lakes at a slightly higher elevation. In some areas we could observe the remains from the German marine weather station 'Knospe'.



During lunch we cruised along the glacier front of Lilliehookbreen onboard Plancius, a stunning glacier front stretching eleven kilometres wide. As we explored the bay, we could get a real sense of the sheer size of the glacier, photographing the varying shades of colour and the different ice formations. We could hear the loud thunder like sounds as we witnessed a few calving's from the glacier front.

In the afternoon we visited Tinayrebukta, once on shore we divided into groups with a variety of options. Those on the longer hike, went at quite a pace, reaching higher elevation to take in the beautiful views of the surrounding peaks and the Tinayrebreen glacier. Closer to the landing site the calls from rock ptarmigan could be heard; and various wildlife spotted, including arctic fox, snow bunting, and a puffin on the water during the return zodiac trip back to the ship.



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 25th of June, Gullybukta (Magdalenafjord) and Smeerenburgfjorden

11h30 GPS Position: 79°33.17'N / 010°58.34'E

Wind: SW3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C

In the morning we woke up at the entrance of the beautiful Magdalenafjord. Very curious to find out whether our toothwalking friends were home. And they were! So, after breakfast we went to see them. Half of the group had a small zodiac cruise at the glacier in Gullybukta while the other half visited the walrus. Then we swapped.



When coming ashore we could already smell the typical smell of a group of walrus, and Philipp felt the need to clarify that it was not him we could smell. We walked closer and spread out in a line to make sure everyone had a good view of the animals. They seemed to have a good time cuddled together on the beach. Some of them seemed to not quite agree on who should be where but all in all walrus life looked quite nice.

We walked back to the landing site and drove back to Plancius to refuel ourselves with a delicious lunch. After lunch we went in the zodiacs again for a cruise among the calving front the beautiful glacier Smeerenburgbreen according to the map this is one connected glacier front. But as we could see, the glacier had retreated so much that its front was now split in several pieces and large parts of the glacier front was now on land and not in the water. So even though we always kept a distance of at least 400m to the glacier front, according to the map we were traveling inside the glacier.



At the glacier front we saw a group of belugas swimming along the edge of the glacier! We could drive around beautiful small rock islands that quite recently had emerged from the ice and see the marks in the rock from the ice traveling over it. Some of us also saw a bearded seal hauled out on the ice. Then we made our way back to the ship trough drifting crush ice. In the recap Emely told us about walruses and Chris about glacier crevasses. In the evening we reached the ice edge and some eager souls started scouting for wildlife.

And shortly before midnight we had our first polar-bear sighting! A big male that ate a seal. A great end of a day full of experiences.



Day 5 – Monday 26th of June, A day in the Arctic pack ice

08h00 GPS Position: 80°05.9'N / 013°11.0'E

Wind: ESE2 • Sea: Ice • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: 1°C

The morning starts unusually late: the wake-up call, performed by Philip, sounds a whole half-hour later than usual. Last night, shortly after reaching the pack ice, we had a wonderful opportunity to observe a polar bear devouring the carcass of a seal it had killed. The observation started around midnight, so we went to sleep well past 1 AM.



Today is an ice day! No landings on the shore, no Zodiac cruises, only contemplating the eternal ice and spending time on the open decks of the ship, slowly making its way through drifting ice floes. The main task is to find a polar bear! But that, as they say, is an ambitious task. Mostly, the main idea of our presence in the pack ice is to comprehend the silent beauty of the white, cold silence.

There is a dense fog. The Plancius moves forward slowly, pushing the ice floes aside, while some of us stand at the bow of the ship with cameras and binoculars at the ready. And then – boom! – the fog dissipates. Sunlight floods everything around, as far as the eye can see – white ice floes everywhere, stretching to the horizon. Immediately, there is a need to put on sunglasses; everything is just too bright.

Arctic fulmars fly around, bearded seals and ringed seals lie here and there, looking at us in surprise. The wind has completely subsided, and the usually cold northern sun starts to scorch noticeably.



So, an hour passes, two hours, and we keep staring at this unusual landscape for those living in temperate latitudes, searching for the white, furry predator.

Lunchtime arrives, but we still don't disperse. We take turns having lunch, just in case we miss the sudden appearance of a bear. But no, it's still only seals and Kittiwakes.



Evening comes. The sun, without any intention of setting below the horizon, just descends slightly. The light becomes softer and less contrasting. At 6:30 PM, we are invited to the observatory lounge for a daily recap. Philip announces plans for tomorrow, Annelou tells us about the formation of sea ice, and Sasha and Andy talk about belugas.

Dinner is listed on the program as a special Arctic dinner. We are invited to the aft of the third deck, where a real barbecue awaits us! What a surprise! Tables are set up there as well, so while sitting at them, we can glance at the icy sea with one eye just in case the furry beast appears after all.

Closer to nine o'clock in the evening, fog starts to thicken, as if a curtain is descending in the theatre of Arctic nature. Not today, my friends, not today. There will be more days, more opportunities.



A wonderful, unhurried, harmonious day of contemplation! To experience the pack ice is to feel a unique, incomparable sense of tranquillity and witness the power and grandeur of the Arctic first-hand.

Day 6 – Tuesday 27th of June, Raudfjorden and Fuglesangen

08h00 GPS Position: 79°47.31'N / 011°51.43'E

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Calm/ice • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: 10°C

Like almost every morning Philip woke us up at 7:15. We started our day in pleasant sunshine in the pack ice, and to our surprise, there was a walrus lying on an ice floe just right next to our ship. It was taking a sun bath and holding its head in an inquisitive way to check us out.



After breakfast we started our journey towards

Raudfjorden. During our journey time, Emily held a lecture about polar bears followed by George who told us the story of Salomon August Andrée, who flew a high balloon over the Arctic in the early 19th century. Karin then talked about the flora in Svalbard. When we reached Hamiltonbukta in Raudfjorden, there was a call from the bridge who spotted the second polar bear of this trip. It was right in front of Plancius, and it moved rapidly northbound. We stayed and observed it for 1 1/2 hours until we went deeper into the fjord where we found another walrus hauled out on the ice. We scouted for more bears, but then the fog started to hit in.

Plancius then headed towards our destination for the afternoon. After lunch, we arrived at Fuglesangen. We loaded all zodiacs to visit a little auk colony. There are over 10,000 birds nesting and they make big noise on the way to the landing site. We encountered another curious walrus in the water and the landing was not the easiest because of the slippery boulders on the beach but with the help of all the staff, we made it safe and sound as we all gathered to make our way for the little auk colony. We spotted an Arctic Fox, which was running towards the ridge of the mount. It was moulting, but still had white patches of fur on its coat. Once we made it to the birds, we all split into small groups and sat down for over one hour to observe these wonderful little birds. We were able to see them flying in and out of their little burrows under the rocks. It was amazing to see them up close, and to listen to their funny

calls that sounded like laughter. Occasionally, the walrus would make an appearance in the water. We slowly returned to the ship.



As always we gathered in the lounge for the recaps of the day. After our Expedition Leader Philip told us the plans for the upcoming day, Chris gave us a recap about his work with huskies in Arctic Norway. Karin talked about the circle of life in the Arctic sea, and finally we enjoyed once more the delicious dinner, which ended with an Austrian classic: the Apfelstrudel with vanilla sauce.

After gathering at the bar for some drinks, the bridge noticed us again that they had spotted a large whale blow. It took us some time but eventually the whale came up to the surface again, and it was a blue whale. The second one of the trip. What a way to end another fabulous day in Svalbard.

Day 7 – Wednesday 28th of June, Ymerbukta and Alkhornet

08h00 GPS Position: 78°16.7'N / 014°0.54'E

Wind: NE2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 7°C

Another day, another beautiful landing in the Arctic! This morning it was slightly overcast, but almost no wind just like in the past days. 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 some rock ptarmigans and some snow buntings, and some reindeer (plus young juveniles). We were astonished by the number of flowers in bloom we encountered during our walks. To top off this morning landing we even went for a polar plunge! The water had about 3 degrees Celsius. 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 in front of us as we shuttled towards the landing site by zodiac again. The beautiful brown, green tundra covered almost all the landscape and here and there we could see little white dots from the distance: reindeer – 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 several pups that 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.

We ended the day with a toast by the captain, and a farewell by our expedition leader Philipp. George showed us the amazing slideshow he had been working on.



Day 8 – Thursday 29th of June, Arrival back into Longyearbyen

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

Wind: NE2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 7°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 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.

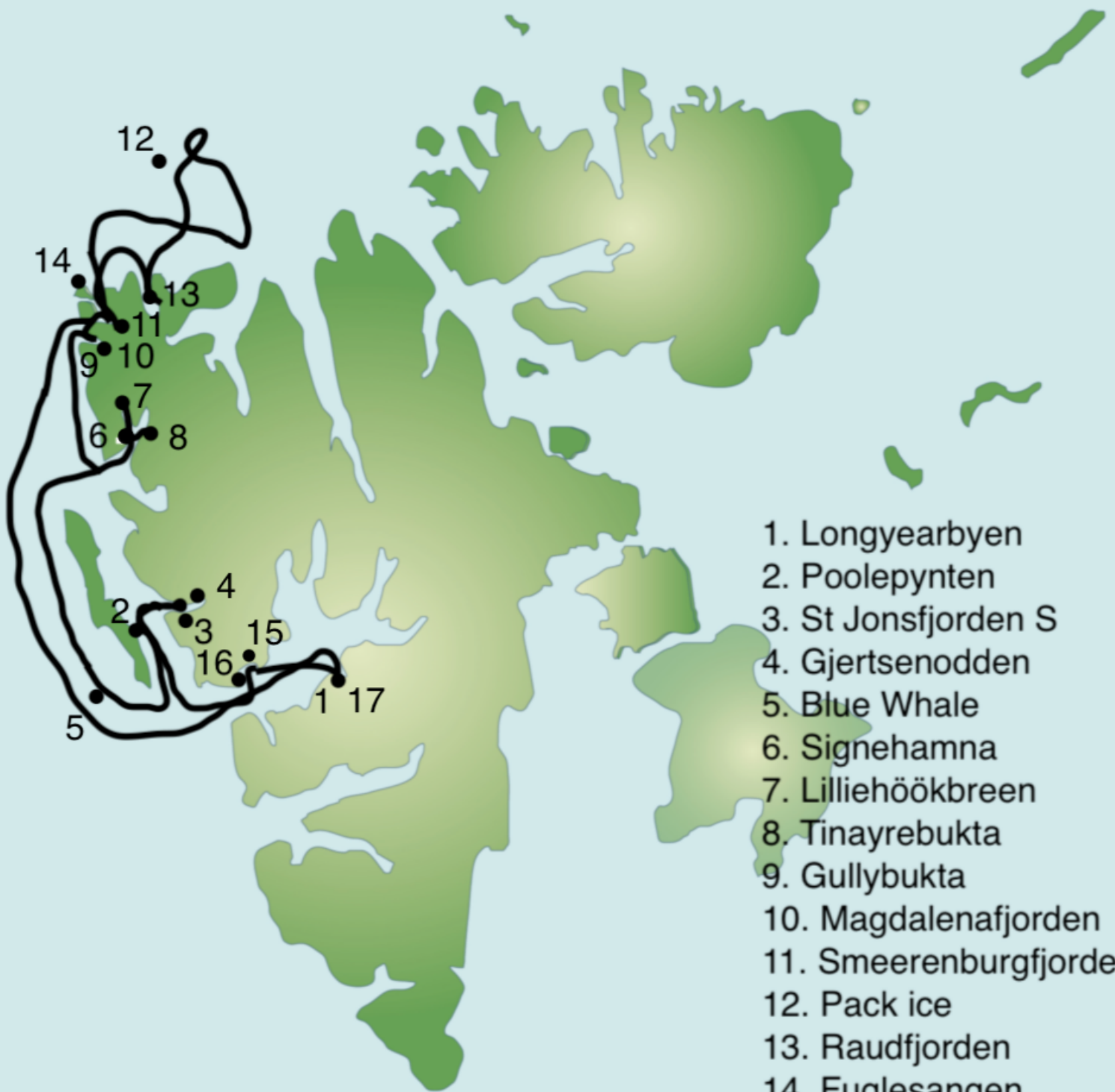
Thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage, for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We very much hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 590 nm

Northernmost position: 80°05.9'N / 013°11.0'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. Poolepynten
3. St Jonsfjorden S
4. Gjertsenodden
5. Blue Whale
6. Signehamna
7. Lilliehöökbreen
8. Tinayrebukta
9. Gullybukta
10. Magdalenafjorden
11. Smeerenburgfjorden
12. Pack ice
13. Raudfjorden
14. Fuglesangen
15. Ymerbukta
16. Alkhornet
17. Longyearbyen

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	22-jun	23-jun	24-jun	25-jun	26-jun	27-jun	28-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							
Brent Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	Taigarietgans	V							X
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnebelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B		X	X		X	X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B		X	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	Fuligule 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		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							
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	Brielduiker	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							
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
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							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer	Tournepipe à collier	Steenloper	B							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B	X						
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot	B							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B		X		X		X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B		X					
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B							
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B							
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette riuse	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		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	
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T								
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	B					X			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B								
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet	B		X	X	X			X	X
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Dikbekzeekoet	B				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
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	22-jun	23-jun	24-jun	25-jun	26-jun	27-jun	28-jun
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus	B		X		X		X	X
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Barbrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob	B		X			X		
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob	B				X			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob	T					X		
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		X	X	X			X
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis	T		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							
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	Witsnuidolfijn	V				X			
Beluga	<i>Dezhinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	Beloega	B				X			

Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer	B				X		X	
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos	B		X	X			X	X
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier	B							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!

Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geoecological researches.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

George Kennedy – Assistant Expedition Leader



George is an anthropologist and political scientist currently studying at the Australian Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science. He has a keen interest in cultural identity and contemporary geopolitics in the polar regions. His current research focusses on the complex dynamics between indigenous, scientific and political stakeholders in their pursuit of environmental protection in Antarctica and the Arctic.

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.

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.

David Horkan - Kayak Leader



David is one of Ireland's most accomplished kayakers, with a passion for pushing the boundaries of the sport. A skilled guide, coach, and athlete, David excels in multiple disciplines, including whitewater rivers, surfing, and long-distance racing. In 2022, he made history as the first ever Irishman to win the prestigious Devizes to Westminster international kayak race.

Growing up on the West Coast of Ireland, David began kayaking at the age of 12 and quickly developed a love for the sport. After taking a break during university, he returned to kayaking with renewed vigor,

seeking out new challenges and exploring the world through his love of the water.

As a professional kayaker, David has also set records for the fastest team to kayak around Vancouver Island and the fastest crossing of the Irish Sea. In addition to his competitive achievements, David has also guided kayaking expeditions in remote locations such as Patagonia, Antarctica, Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.

In addition to his kayaking expertise, David is also a certified Canoeing Ireland instructor in whitewater, paddle surfing, and sea kayaking. He is also an ISKGA Advanced Guide and a Leave No Trace trainer, making him well-equipped to share his love of the outdoors with others. When not on the water, David is an avid kitesurfer, cyclist, and stand-up paddleboarder.

David is also a technical consultant for Online Sea Kayaking and partners with leading brands such as Aquabound and Kokatat. Through his knowledge and experience, he helps these companies develop and improve their products, ensuring the best possible experience for kayakers around the world.

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.