



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Around Spitsbergen, in the realm of polar bears and ice

15 July – 24 July, 2023

On board m/v Plancius



Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was then named Hr. Ms. Tydeman. The vessel was rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). She is 89m long, 14.5m wide, and has a maximum draft of 5m. Her ice class is 1D, average cruising speed 10,5 knots, and she has three diesel-electric engines.

## **Captain Miia Holma**

And her international crew of 49 sailors

Chief Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	<b>Yaroslav Pyetukhov</b>	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	<b>Martin Hansson</b>	[Sweden]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Volodymyr Cherednychenko</b>	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	<b>Khabir Moraes</b>	[India]
Sous Chef:	<b>SergiySklyarov</b>	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	<b>Anneke Planting</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Christophe Bouchoux</b>	[France]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	<b>Michelle Van Dijk</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Koen Jongerling</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jess Owen</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Elizabeth Robinson</b>	[United States]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Annina Scholl</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Carina Ketterer</b>	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Karoline Baelum</b>	[Denmark]

**We welcome you on board!**

## Day 1 – Saturday 15th of July, Longyearbyen, embarkation day

**12h00 GPS Position: 78°14.6'N / 015°32.6'E**

**Wind: SE4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: 12°C • Sea temperature: 8°C**

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We began arriving in Longyearbyen in the afternoon, having travelled from all over the world to reach the spectacular archipelago of Svalbard. Once everyone was on board, we took part in all the necessary safety briefings and were shown where important safety features of the ship are. We then spent some time familiarising ourselves with the layout of our new home MV Plancius and enjoying the views outside as we set sail. Before dinner Captain Miia wished us well on our journey with a toast in the lounge and Expedition Leader Christophe introduced himself. We then set off to the restaurant for a delicious first buffet dinner.

A few hours later, after some drinks and unpacking, we had a very special encounter with a fin whale. We had great views as it surfaced several times. Fin whales are the second largest animal in the world, only a few meters shorter than a blue whale, and we could clearly hear its blow as it refreshed its breath at the surface before diving. What an incredibly special start to the trip.



## Day 2 – Sunday 16th of July, Blömstrandhalvoya and Ny-Ålesund

**12h00 GPS Position: 78°57.4' N / 012°08.0' E**

**Wind: W2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Fog/Cloudy • Air temperature: 7°C • Sea temperature: 7°C**

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Here we go, our first expedition day. We start off with the wakeup call from our expedition leader Christophe and shortly after we got invited to the restaurant to enjoy a delicious breakfast on deck 3. Throughout this morning we have multiple obligated briefings planned to ensure a safe and secure Arctic operation for everybody including topics like Zodiac safety and Polar bear safety. All briefings were held in the Lounge area on deck 5. Here Christophe started out with welcoming us again onto the ship and explaining the plans for the following 9 days. He presented himself and the expedition team who all said a little about themselves. With a team filled with geologists, marine biologists, botanists, and naturalists there was no doubt about it that we were going to learn a lot during this expedition. We also got informed how the Zodiac operation would work and how we had to get in and out of the Zodiac in the most secure way. Polar bear safety and the AECO guidelines animation video were all common sense as nobody would want to stand face to face with a Polar bear in the wild or destroy plants or old human artifacts.

Now ready to make the first step out of the ship we got informed that due to the mist in the Fjortende Julibukta we had instead made our way into Kongsfjorden to see if the weather would clear up. With luck on our side, it did, and we started to see more and more of the splendid nature around us. Our EL had made the choice to do a Zodiac cruise instead of a landing that we had planned in Fjortende Julibukta so everybody prepared themselves for a beautiful cruise close to Blömstrandhalvoya and its neighbouring glacier fronts. The cruise started out near to Ny London, an old and small mining settlement set up by the Northern Exploration Company (NEC).

Here Marble was mined but due to the poor quality of the marble the settlement eventually was abandoned. Afterwards we made our way to the open drift ice which was created by the many glaciers that are coming down into the fjord system. There were beautiful and artistically shaped icebergs in many different sizes. The intense azure blue colour was intensified due to the reflection and refraction of the sunlight bouncing back and forth on the ice and water. Some were clear as crystal and others had a milky white colour due to the air bubbles trapped within. A spectacular sight to see. Adding to it was the view of the three mountain peaks at the back of the fjord called Dana, Nora and Svea. This morning could not have been better.

In the afternoon we got the chance to walk through one of the most northern scientific settlements in the world, Ny Alesund. A small town made purely for scientific work where people from many different countries work on topics like climate change, local flora and fauna, and even high up in the universe studying distant galaxies. It was therefore of the utmost importance that we had our Wi-Fi and Bluetooth turned off on our mobile phones and the ships wifi while we were in the area. In town we could visit several places like the Museum with extended explanations about the history of mining and Arctic exploration starting from Ny Alesund. There was also a chance to send a



letter to family and friends from one of the most northern post offices in the world. At the same place they managed a store where they sold many souvenirs. At 16:30 the tour to the zeppelin mast started. The group was divided in German speakers and English speakers and were told the story of Roald Amundsen and his achievements in polar exploration. After an extended explanation we walked to the mast where the Zeppelin of Amundsen and Nobile left from to reach the north pole. Not long after we all returned to the ship to join the daily recap and dinner.

The day had been filled with many new experiences, but the day was not over yet. During dinner Expedition guide Elizabeth spotted two polar bears on a distant shore. An incredible achievement spotting them from 6 km away. The captain and the EL had made the decision to approach and see if we could see them more clearly. After dinner everybody had been informed and made it to one of the outer decks. As they were not as close to the shore it was not as easy to spot them. Not even with binoculars. For a long while it was white dot nr 1 and yellowish dot nr 2. With some time and patience everybody was able to spot the bears walking over the hills in the distance. Even though this was not an amazing view of polar bears, the fact that we saw two walking in their own habitat in the middle of nowhere was a great experience and achievement. And although everybody hopes for a closer encounter this was already an amazing way to start our 10 day trip around Spitsbergen.



**Day 3 – Monday 17th of July, Liefdefiorden, Texas Bar and Monacobreen,**

**12h00 GPS Position: 79°36.9'N / 012°43.3'E**

**Wind: NNW-1 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C • Sea temperature: 6°C**

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After another brilliant breakfast we started to go ashore for our first hikes in the true wilderness of Spitzbergen. We were visiting a site called Texas bar, named so because of the old trappers hut on the shores of the beach which has in wooden letters on the outside the words 'Texas Bar' – a name given to it by one of the trappers.

We all gathered at the hut and then split into our three hiking groups. Koen, Elizabeth, and Jess led the long hikers up to some beautiful view points on the moraine where they found interesting bones from animal remains and beautiful flowers. The medium group, led by Karoline, Carina, and Annina, visited a waterfall, and saw an Arctic skua on its nest. The leisurely group learnt all about the flowers with Michelle such as moss campion and mountain avens. Everyone of very happy to stretch their legs and be out in nature taking in the Arctic scenery.

After lunch and a bit of a rest, we embarked the Zodiacs again, this time for a cruise along one of Svalbard's most well-known glaciers – Monacobreen. The sun came out just as we lowered our Zodiacs and set off towards the glacier. It was looking spectacular in the sunshine. As we slowly made our way along the face of the glacier, we could see birds like kittiwakes and Arctic terns feeding at the base of it where there had been recent calving events, eating small fish and crustaceans that had been disturbed by the falling ice. Arctic terns have the longest migration of any bird species, flying all the way from the Arctic to Antarctica each year. Some of the boats even saw some brown jellyfish.

As well as seeing Monacobreen in all its glory, we also had brilliant views of smaller glaciers that feed into Liefdefjorden such as Seligerbreen, Emmabreen, and Idabreen.

On the way back to the ship we saw some fantastic icebergs with arches and shades of brilliant blue.

We then enjoyed a beautiful plated dinner before relaxing in the lounge and enjoying the scenery outside.



## Day 4 – Tuesday 18th of July, Pack ice and Polar bear encounter

**12h00 GPS Position: 80°50.7'N / 019°53.0'E**

**Wind: NW4 • Sea: Ice • Weather: Drizzle • Air temperature: -1°C • Sea temperature: 0°C**

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Pack ice day! We woke up to good visibility and ice flows outside the windows at more than 80 degrees north. Being in the pack ice, hearing it move, seeing the colours and feeling the magical atmosphere at the top of the globe is a unique experience.

After breakfast it was all eyes on the ice to spot wildlife. We saw plenty of seals, guillemots, kittiwakes and even an ivory gull. Shortly after 9 the bridge spotted two bears in the distance. Everyone came on deck and Captain Miia navigated the ship northwards through the ice. After about 2 nautical miles the ice was too dense to proceed further but we got a surprise, it was not only two bears but three! A mother with two cubs. We could observe the bears through binoculars and the ships scope as they slept and later moved around on the ice. At the same time a Fin whale appeared on the starboard side of the ship, what a start to the day.

After a nice lunch the ship turned southwards in search of an area with bigger ice flows and more wildlife. Finding the right ice takes skill, experience, and a bit of luck. The ice charts are a best guess from models and available satellite data. The resolution is in kilometres not meters and the maps only show the percentage of sea covered in ice, not its thickness nor the size of the flows. Luckily, we have many experienced staff and crew onboard to guide the search.

In the afternoon the ship cruised through the ice, we saw more ivory gulls, seals and even a bloody ice flow where the polar bear has probably had dinner. Sitting in the observation lounge with a cup of coffee watching the ice flow by is not the worst way to spend an afternoon.



There were lectures on ice habitats, geology, birds, and seals in the early evening before a 3-course dinner. Tonight, we will relocate to Nordaustlandet (the northeast land), Svalbard's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest island (after Spitsbergen), and be ready for new adventures tomorrow.



## Day 5 – Wednesday 19th of July, Crozierpynten and Claravagen

**09h00 GPS Position: 79°56.9'N / 016°48.9'E**

**Wind: N3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partial clouds • Air temperature: 3°C • Sea temperature: 4°C**

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Once upon a time there was mist. And not just here but also over there. We ran, we jumped, but it did not go anywhere. So, we changed our position to the other side of the strait to find a better place to land our feet. And we did. Entering Sorgfjorden after a small delay we found a beautiful blue sky and a very interesting landing spot called Crozierpynten. Sorgfjorden and Crozierpynten have a lot of history. From the most northern naval battle between 40 Dutch whaling vessels and three French battle ships to the Arc the Meridian expedition realized by the Swedish and Russians to prove the theory that the polar region is more flattened than the rest of our round planet.

At the landing site we were able to observe the old huts that were used during the Arc the Meridian Expedition. Although they are in a poor condition now this does not take away from the importance they once had during past human discoveries. On top of the hill the group was split up in 3 smaller groups and started the exploration of the area. There were many things to be found including plants like the Svalbard poppy, the Spider Saxifrage and Mountain Avens. Some of the hikers found stone circles which are a frost pattern made in the upper layer of the permafrost. There were multiple cairns found made by the expedition between the years 1899 and 1902. During this morning many people also picked up a large quantity of plastic garbage that was found on the beaches. In the end a large bag was filled with many kinds of items from fishing nets to bottle caps.

The morning was not over until we had plunged in the ice-cold water of the Arctic. Arranged for the brave hearts that weren't afraid of the burning sensation that the freezing temperatures created throughout your whole body. Great job everybody that choose to join in this experience.

After lunch the plans were to enter Claravagen. A large lagoon separated from the Hinlopen Strait by a small entrance and connected with two smaller lagoons further inland. It was still quite misty outside but good enough to start the Zodiac operations. Passing though the small entrance was already an experience on its own as the tide was rising and there was a strong current entering the lagoon. We bumped up and down but nothing that our Zodiacs could not handle. Entering the lagoon, we were able to see nesting Glaucous gulls and some common eider ducks swimming by. Some of the Zodiacs saw a bearded seal swim by and footprints of a large fluffy white friend. We kept on going further into the smaller lagoons where suddenly we got a call from our Expedition leader.

A bear had been found on the coastline of the second lagoon. Obviously, all Zodiacs made their way directly to that specific place. It was a young female bear sleeping at the coastline. She was really relaxed with our presence and maybe looked up twice to see if we were still there or not. Christophe made the decision to do a carousel with



the boats to give everybody to best possible view and to be less invasive to the bear being on the move in different directions. She had a collar on that is very likely used by a science project to track the bear and to study its behaviour. The WWF has a program like this to study the polar bears. After a few rounds we left the bear alone and kept on going with the Zodiac cruise. We entered the third and last lake, through a small passage with a strong current, where we found a very old long boat in a reasonably good condition. And there were a group of Brent geese in the very end of the lagoon.

By this time, we were already a little bit late and made our way back to the ship which was still quite the ride. Back at the ship we had little time to change for we got invited to the daily recap where Christophe explained us what the plans were for the next day. And we got an explanation from Elizabeth why bears are being tracked and what we do with the information having gathered it. She showed a video of a bear walking and swimming for a whole year which seemed like immense distances following the pack ice up north and back down again. A day filled with new adventures. We can only start dreaming now about what has happened and what could possibly happen tomorrow. Good night.



## Day 6 – Thursday 20th of July, Alkefjellet, Wahlbergoya/Ardneset, Brasvelbreen

**10h00 GPS Position: 79°35.9'N / 018°31.8'E**

**Wind: N1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 5°C • Sea temperature: 4°C**

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7:45 – time to wake up. Will it be foggy as well today? Will we be able to follow Plan A for a change and go to this magical place that Christophe told us about? A quick look outside the window tells us the visibility is better than yesterday. The sun is trying to find its way through the mist and there is almost no wind. Plan A is a go. So we head out to Alkefjellet for a Zodiac cruise along a



bird cliff. Here we find thousands and thousands of birds. 60 000 breeding pairs of the Brunnich's Guillemot with their chicks, some still have eggs. We start at a waterfall coming down from Odinsjökull, a small ice cap, and then drift along the cliff for most of the time. The rock is of volcanic origin and we can see basalt-like pillars in a vertical orientation. Every possible spot, however small it is, is occupied by birds. Their droppings have turned the dark rocks in a greyish color and we can smell the guano.

Some of us get guano on our clothing – the guides tells us that it is for good luck. We choose to believe them. We continue along the cliff and find some fluffy Glaucous gull chicks that are cute enough to almost forgive their parents for “harvesting” guillemot eggs and chicks. A bit further along the cliff there is someone that checks out every corner in order to find food. It is polar foxes. The size of a cat, they allow us to have an impression on how high the bird cliff actually is. They come close to the water line, roll in the snow patches for a moment and then go back to trying to find food for their hungry pups. They disappear high up in the cliffs. Our last stop of the Zodiac cruise is a short visit at the glacier Odinsbreen. Most of the Expedition Team hasn't seen Alkefjellet in calm weather like this including the sun that shines for us today.

After lunch, Christophe informs us that we have changed plans again. Instead of visiting Torelneset to see a walrus colony, we start a Zodiac cruise along the beaches of Wahlbergoya. He didn't tell us the reason for the change of plan but advised strongly to not miss out on this Zodiac cruise. So we head into a little bay, not knowing what to expect – and there he is. A young male polar bear is resting on a snow patch. After a moment he gets up and starts walking along above the beach and then crawls down to the waterline. We realise that he is now standing on a whale carcass. Scratching on the snow and ice cover he digs up some pieces to eat.

What an honour to see him in his natural habitat completely comfortable with our presence. We are ready to leave him and see what else the island has to offer, but then 3 more polar bears come over the hill. It is a mother with two large cubs that want their part of the carcass. The young male quickly gives way to the three bears. For a moment he stands on the beach playing with algae before he goes into the water. We leave the 4 bears and move around the corner to have a look at the walrus haul out at a sandy beach. Some are in the water and try to find out who we are. After spending a while just observing their behaviour on land and in the water, we are about to head back to the ship when we realize that there is a bear in the water. The large bear comes on land close to the walrus and walks along the beach. That is bear number 5 of the day.

Dinner is a little different today. There is a BBQ on the aft deck. It's foggy again but for the moment that it is okay because we spend the evening chatting and dancing together. Finally the fogg is lifting again, the sun is coming out and pieces of ice appear in the water around us. We are on the way to Brasvelbreen, the famous ice wall at Nordaustlandet. The atmosphere is magical as the ice wall becomes visible. We sail along the edge and see some of the famous waterfalls of meltwater. It is late on the evening already. How can we go to sleep now? It's just too beautiful to miss a single minute. What an incredible day it was!





## Day 7 – Friday 21st of July, Kapp Waldburg, Kapp Lee

**12h00 GPS Position: 78°16.6'N / 022°09.0'E**

**Wind: WSW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partial Clouds • Air temperature: 5°C • Sea temperature: 5°C**

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We were awoken like every morning by a gentle "Good morning". There was an announcement of strong wind and the first changes in plan for today. In Freemansundet we could already see the white foam patches on the waves from afar, this means too much wind for a safe Zodiac ride. So, a new landing was found, just around the corner. It was time for another expedition. A new territory for all of us. When we arrived, the first great things were already waiting for us – many ancient whale bones. In addition to the buoys and the driftwood, there was also polar bear droppings to see. Much of what a polar bear has eaten can be deduced from this piece of feces. On our hikes we learned a lot about why driftwood and whale bones are so far inland. We then learnt more during our recap, where Karoline explained isostatic land elevation to us. Many years ago Svalbard was still under an ice sheet, the ground was pushed down. After a large part melted away, the ground partially rose to around 60 meters, so it was then that ancient whale bones were found further inland.



After stretching our legs, we headed back to the ship where another wonderful lunch awaited us. In the afternoon we landed in Kapp Lee. There we had an incredible encounter with many walrus and reindeer. These large animals, which can lift themselves up on the ice with their tusks, were curious as to what kind of visitors were arriving on their land. After our daily recap, there was a delicious dinner and then we were already on our way to Hornsund.



## Day 8 – Thursday 22nd of July, Gashamna and Burgerbukta

**12h00 GPS Position: 77°00'.4 N, 015°57'.6 W**

**Wind: Light • Sea: Calm/ice • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 7°C • Sea temperature: 5°C**

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Today we made our way back to the western side of the Spitsbergen Island and into Hornsund, a beautiful fjord situated at the very southern end of the island. Geologically speaking, a natural gem with many kinds of layers from the old bedrock that is 1 billion years old to the newest glacial moraines. Our first landing would be in Gåshamna (goose bay). A bay that has been used since the very beginning of human activities on Spitsbergen. Here we can find old remnants of the English whalers that arrived here in 1612. The blubber ovens that they used to use in this bay are still partly visible. It looks like a whale graveyard which really represents the activity of whaling within this area. A Norwegian hunter even used this site to build his cabin/shelter in the 1900's. He built it right inside a blubber oven from whale bones and scraps of wood. As always, we organized a short hike, middle hike, and long hike. The short hike stayed around the landing site looking at the whale bones and blubber ovens with the expedition guide Koen. They saw a Arctic Fox running off with a Black Guillemot in its mouth. It was

quite fast running over the tundra, but we got a pretty good glimpse of it. The middle hike went further up the beach towards a peninsula with a viewpoint into the Hornsund. Here they found a lot of kelp laying around on the beach which Michelle explained the importunacy of. From the look out the group was able to look across the bay at the Polish research station. A station that is still active during the season going around Hornsund doing new research. The long hiking group followed Karoline and Elizabeth up a mountain on a steep gravel terrain. Walking over the spine of the mountain they followed a path towards a beautiful high look out point. A morning filled with history and beautiful nature.

During the afternoon we made our way into Burgerbukta. A beautiful side fjord of Hornsund with giant limestone walls where waterfalls pour out of the middle of the wall. The fjord was filled with growlers and small icebergs. We started at the walls nearby the ship with big orange stripes coming down which indicated that iron that was hidden within the limestone wall. Further down into the fjord we found giant waterfalls coming down the mountain and above there were many gulls flying around which are nesting on the steep cliffs. Getting closer to the glacier wall we saw a hanging glacier revealing itself whilst we came around the corner of the steep mountain walls. Some Zodiacs even saw an Ivory Gull flying around the icebergs. The icebergs themselves came in many different shapes and sizes with beautiful colours of blue. The way back to the ship went quite slow as there had entered a lot of small growlers into the bay. This did however make it a very beautiful experience being surrounded by so much ice.

On our way out of the Hornsund Fjord we got lucky and were able to observe several groups of White beaked dolphins swimming and feeding around the ship. They jumped out of the water near to the many flying birds that were taking advantage of this feeding frenzy. Later, we even were able to see Fin whales feed beside the ship. We got an incredibly good view from them while they came up to breath near to our bow. What a beautiful way to end the day.





## **Day 9 – Friday 23rd of July, Bjonahamna and Tunabreen, Tempelfjorden**

**08h00 GPS Position: 78°13.042'N / 013°51.460'E**

**Wind: NE6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear sky • Air temperature: 13°C • Sea temperature: 8°C**

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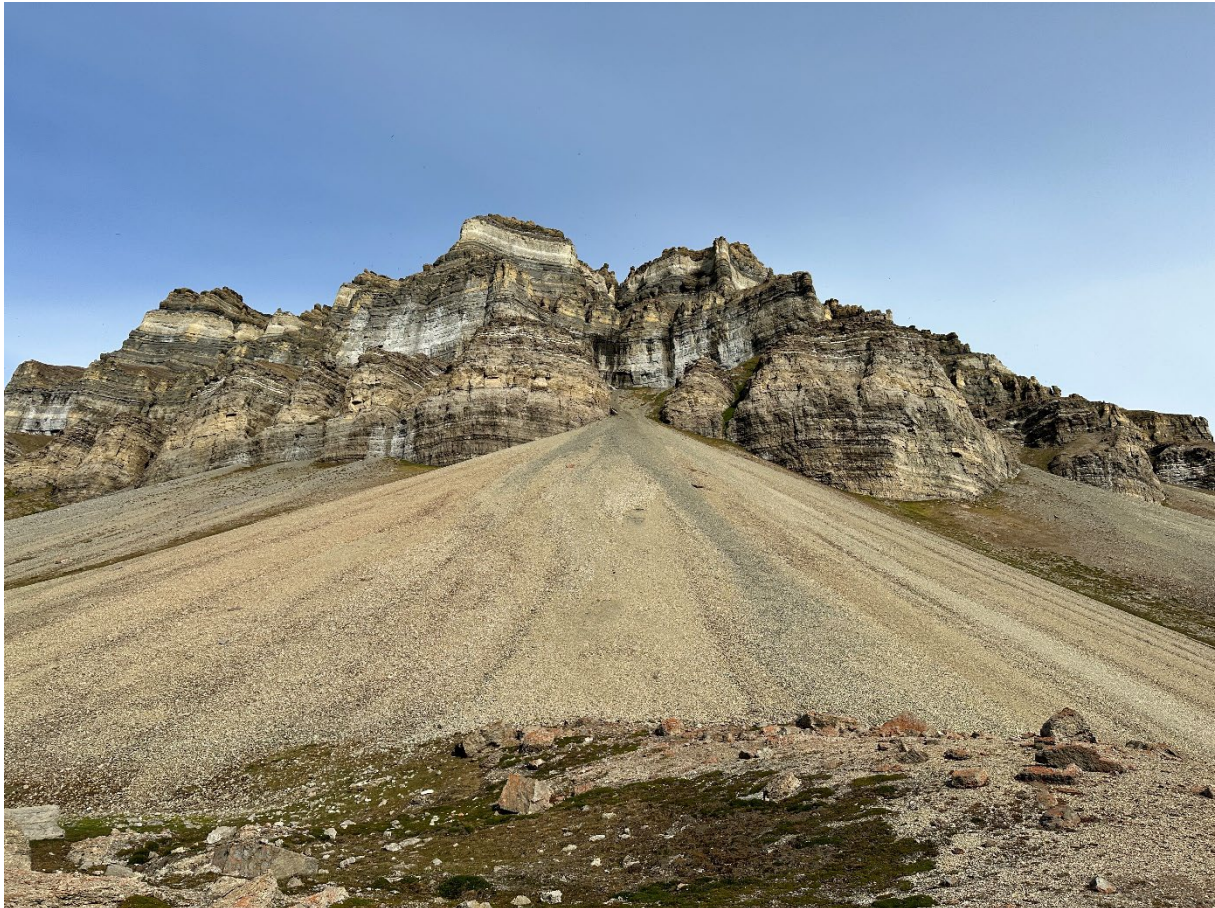
During the night the ship sailed from Hornsund and into Isfjorden, the largest fjord system in Svalbard. We woke up to calm and clear weather, perfect conditions for today's activities in Tempelfjorden, the innermost branch of the fjord. The fjord is named after Templet, the spectacular mountain guarding its northern entrance. The 700m high cliffs are 250-million-year-old lime- and clay stones from the Permian period and are full of fossils of ancient marine life such as brachiopods and corals.

As usual we divided into 3 groups and did some nice hiking along the beach and up near the slope of the mountains to look at the boulders that have tumbled down from above. The rocks and cliffs above them are home to many birds and we saw our first ptarmigans.



After lunch we arrived in the bottom of Tempelfjord near the Tunabreen glacier for our last Zodiac cruise. The weather was perfect as we cruised between icebergs and rubble ice. We saw ringed and bearded seals on the ice floes, kittiwakes, terns and glaucus gulls in front of the 50m high calving glacier front. We even observed some large pieces breaking off the glacier.

After the farewell toast by the captain and a great slideshow of all our adventures it was time for the last supper and one last drink in the bar as the ship sailed towards Longyearbyen.





## Day 10 – Saturday 24th of July, Arrival back into Longyearbyen

**08h00 GPS Position: 78°14.6'N / 015°32.6'E**

**Wind: NW3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear sky • Air temperature: 14°C • Sea temperature: 7°C**

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After a final wonderful buffet breakfast, we said farewell to the Plancius and its team and we began our journeys home and onto other adventures. Our wildlife encounters on this trip have been truly spectacular. For many of the guides, this trip they had their best polar bear sightings yet. For the most part the weather has been fantastic, and we have loved sharing our love for the Arctic with you.



**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1'120 nautical miles**

**Northernmost position: 80°51.044'N / 019°53.287'E**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Miia Holma, Expedition Leader Christophe Bouchoux, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko, and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



ZC  
**Around Spitsbergen onboard M.V. Plancius**

★ Longyearben Start/End

- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Fin Whales sighting / SC       | 10. Alkefjellet / ZC         |
| 2. Blomstrandhalvøya / ZC         | 11. WahlbergOya – BEARS on a |
| 3. Ny-Ålesund / L                 | WHALE and Walrus / ZC        |
| 4. First Sighting of 2 Bears / SC | 12. Bråsvellbreen / SC       |
| 5. Texas Bar / L                  | 13. Kapp Waldburg / L        |
| 6. Monaco Breen / ZC              | 14. Kapp Lee (Walrus) / L    |
| 7. Pack ice - Seven Islands (and  | 15. GasHamna / L             |
| Bears) / SC                       | 16. BjonaHamna / L           |
| 8. Crozier Pynten / L             | 17. Tunabreen / ZC           |
| 9. ClaraVagen – Bear sighting /   |                              |

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## Christophe Bouchoux : Expedition leader



Christophe Bouchoux is french. His background is sixteen years of backpacking around the world on the five continents with nature as a guide.

He is a big lover of our planet's nature and wildlife.

He has been working as a wildlife guide since Twenty years in India and Nepal and as a trilingual guide in Finnish Lapland between reindeer herders, frozen lakes and rivers, northern lights and snowmobiles.

He guides groups of naturalists in search of whales, moose and musk ox in Norway. He also works in polar region in the Arctic since 2012 : Svalbard, Franz joseph land, and East Greenland ; and Antarctic zone : Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctic peninsula.

His main subject is the history of early polar expeditions.

Recently he started to guide groups in Kamtchatka searching for brown bears.

When he is not in « cold » regions, Christophe spends his time in his jungle safari lodge in south Nepal near Bardia National park, home of the Bengal tiger.

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## Michelle van Dijk – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Is nearly a local, since she is the owner of Longyearbyen Camping, world's northernmost camping site. Working as a guide, this campsite has been her homebase since 2004.

Living in a tent, she spends three months a year on Spitsbergen guiding day trips, trekking & expedition cruises. These days she mainly works on ships, as guide or expedition leader.

She believes that there is no better way to get closer to a place than to work there – she has also lived in Sweden & Iceland. Her first visit to Spitsbergen was back in 2001 and instantly she fell in love with this remote archipelago.

Although she picked plants as her specialism, Michelle is a generalist. She took the course Arctic & Antarctic studies at Groningen University whereafter she published a book about Sjeff van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928. Her second book was a Dutch Spitsbergen guidebook, in collaboration with Rolf Stange.

Michelle has been working as a guide in Antarctica, the Falklands, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Jan Mayen, South Georgia, Spitsbergen and Sweden.

### Deutsch

Michelle besitzt Longyearbyen Camping, den nördlichsten Campingplatz der Welt. Als sie 2001 zum ersten Mal die Arktis besuchte, verliebte sie sich in diese karge, minimalistische Landschaft. Sie arbeitete anschließend als Naturführerin auf Tages- und Trekkingtouren sowie Expeditionskreuzfahrten.

Sie lebte in Schweden und Island und arbeitete dort, denn sie glaubt, dass man einem Land am besten nahe kommt, wenn man dort auch zur Arbeit geht.

Michelle hat an der Universität Groningen einen Kurs in Arktischen und Antarktischen Studien belegt. Sie hat in der Antarktis, auf den Falklands, Faröer-Inseln, Grönland, Island, Jan Mayen, in Schweden, auf Spitzbergen und Südgeorgien gearbeitet.

Sie können Michelle in verschiedenen Sprachen ansprechen, aber sie wird nur in Holländisch, Englisch, Deutsch oder Schwedisch antworten.

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# Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide

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Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he chose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

## Deutsch

Koen, welcher in den Niederlanden aufgewachsen ist, wusste schon immer, dass er in einer rauen Landschaft leben wollte, im Gegensatz zu den eher flachen Niederungen, welche ihn umgaben. Deshalb zog er nach Abschluss seiner Outdoor-Ausbildung 2011 nach Patagonien, Chile, um endlich die Berge zu finden, nach denen er sich so sehnte.

Er kombinierte seine Liebe zur Natur mit dem Wunsch, mehr zu erfahren, und leitete Expeditionen durch die Bergketten Patagoniens. Er pendelte zwischen Europa und Patagonien für weitere Bergkurse – und jedes Mal, wenn er in Patagonien zurückkehrte, fühlte er sich mehr und mehr zu Hause. 2017 gründete er seine eigene Guide-Firma, die Reisende in die Schönheit Südchiles einführte.

Während er in Puerto Natales lebte, liebte er vor allem das kalte und extreme Wetter, und nach Jahren in einem der südlichsten Gebirgszüge der Welt zu arbeiten, orientierte er sich weiter südlich auf dem großen weißen Kontinent, der Antarktis.



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# Jess Owen - Expedition Guide

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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 Antarctica 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.



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# Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Annina Scholl – Expedition guide

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Annina is a biologist with a passion for remote destinations and marine life – especially plankton, one of the most essential groups of creatures on our planet.

After dreaming of everything alive and wild during her childhood, she studied biology at the TU Darmstadt, where she graduated with a PhD in cell biology. More specifically, she studied how genetic material, DNA, is packed and organized within the cell nucleus.

During her bachelor and master studies however, Annina decided to deepen her understanding and knowledge in marine biology when she worked at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven, Germany in the research group “Antarctic krill”. Her master thesis focused on how the annual light conditions in Antarctica influence the metabolism of Antarctic krill, which is the very centre of the food web.

In 2018 her dream of the polar regions became true when she started working as an expedition guide. Since then, Annina has worked in some of the wildest and remotest environments on earth - from the high Arctic down to Antarctica. While it is easy to infect guests with the polar bug in these unique places, it is important to Annina that this happens in a passionate but respectful manner. It is a privilege to visit, and it is our responsibility to protect these environments and all its inhabitants.

In her free time, Annina enjoys spending time outdoors especially hiking, horseback riding and photography.

## Deutsch

Annina ist Biologin mit einer Schwäche für abgelegene Reiseziele und alles Leben im Meer – insbesondere interessiert sie sich für Plankton, eine der essentiellsten Gruppen von Lebewesen auf unserem Planeten.

Den Kindheitsträumen von allem Wilden und Lebendigen folgte ein Biologiestudium an der TU Darmstadt, das sie mit einer Promotion in Zellbiologie, über die Organisation und Struktur unseres Erbgutes im Zellkern, abschloss.

Während ihres Bachelor- und Masterstudiums entschied sich Annina dafür ihr Fachwissen in Meeresbiologie zu vertiefen. Sie arbeitete am Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung, in der Forschungsgruppe “Antarktischer Krill”, wo sie auch ihre Master-Arbeit absolvierte. Fokus dieser Arbeit war, wie sich die Lichtbedingungen während des Jahres auf den Stoffwechsel von Antarktischem Krill, dem Zentrum des antarktischen Nahrungsnetzes, auswirken.

Annina’s Traum die Polarregionen zu erkunden erfüllte sich 2018, als sie anfangs als Expeditionsguide in einigen der abgelegensten und wildesten Regionen der Erde zu arbeiten – von Arktis bis Antarktis. Seither genießt sie es an diesen wunderbaren Orten Gäste mit dem “Polar-Virus” anzustecken, allerdings sollte das mit Leidenschaft aber auch Respekt geschehen. Diese Regionen zu erleben ist ein Privileg und es ist unsere Verantwortung sie und alle seine Bewohner zu schützen.

Ihre Freizeit verbringt Annina am liebsten draußen, beim Wandern, Reiten und der Fotografie.

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# Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide

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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.

Beeing 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!

## Deutsch

Das Adjektiv "stillsitzen" beschreibt Carina in etwa so, als würde man der Schweiz "Meeresanstoss" zuschreiben. Carina ist draussen zuhause. Sie ist eine Sportskanone und rennt, schwimmt und fährt in ihrer Freizeit gerne Triathlon. Es fällt ihr sicher noch ein wie man auf einem Schiff in der Antarktis einen Triathlon organisieren kann.

Carina ist im schönen Bern aufgewachsen, weit weg vom Meer. Wenn sie gerade nicht einen Berg hoch rennt, liebt sie es zu reisen. Schon ihr Studium für erneuerbare Energien und Umwelttechnik absolvierte sie zu Teilen in Berlin und Rapperswil.

Seit sie denken kann ist ihr Lieblingstier der Pinguin. Im Jahre 2019 war es endlich soweit und es ging als Touristin in die Antarktis. Dabei durfte sie zum ersten Mal die Pinguine in ihrer natürlichen Umgebung beobachten. Diese Reise hat sie dazu bewogen sich als internationaler Guide bei Oceanwide Expeditions zu bewerben und die Faszination für Pinguine und ihrem Lebensraum mit vielen neuen Menschen zu teilen.

In ihrem Beruf als Ingenieurin beschäftigt sie sich neben Solaranalgen, Wärmeerzeugungsanlagen auch mit der Wasseraufbereitung und möchte auch dieses spannende Thema mit euch teilen. Carina freut sich, euch auf eurem Abenteuer zu begleiten und euch mit interessanten neuen Geschichten zu faszinieren.

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# Karoline Bælum – Expedition Guide

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Karoline came to Svalbard as an undergraduate geology student in 2001 and never managed to leave. After more than 20 years on the island she has so far acquired a team of sled dogs, a master's degree in glaciology, a PhD in Geology, a kid and a trapper station.

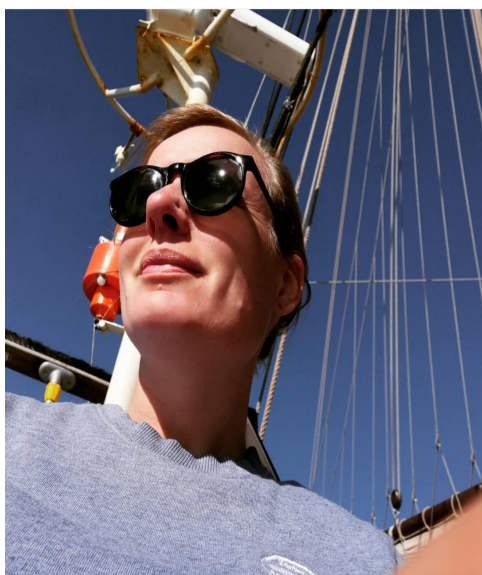
In addition to guiding part time since 2002 she has worked both at the University Centre in Svalbard as a scientist and as a senior advisor for the Norwegian Research Council. She has guided trips for Oceanwide in Svalbard, Greenland, and Antarctica since 2007.

Together with her son, partner and 7 dogs she has done two overwinterings at Farmhamna Trapper station in Forlandssundet, keeping Svalbard's 400-year-old trapper tradition alive. When not working you can find her out with the dogs, up on a glacier or training with the Red Cross Avalanche rescue team.

Working and guiding in the Polar regions is a geoscientists dream as most of the landscape consists of rocks and ice. With no trees or much other vegetation to obscure the rocks the fascinating geological history is visible and easily accessible.



# Anneke Planting - Doctor



Anneke was born and raised in the picturesque province of Friesland, the Netherlands. She skipped her high school graduation to travel to Canada and work as a summer camp counsellor before she embarked on her medical studies in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. It was during this time that she discovered a profound love for Canada and its majestic nature. For years she explored Canada by all means possible: Motorcycle, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, climbing and of course kayaking and sailing. Outside of her demanding career as a vascular surgeon in the North of Germany, Anneke finds solace in gardening, which provides a therapeutic escape and a connection to nature.

Combining her love for travel and medicine, she became a ship's doctor, joining transatlantic trips on tall ships. Her experiences as a ship's doctor have been transformative, as she has sailed across vast oceans, navigating unpredictable seas, and providing medical assistance to crew members and passengers. As a ship's doctor, Anneke's role has also provided her with the opportunity to

realise her long-held desire to explore the polar regions. Having flown over these pristine landscapes so many times, she now has the chance to step foot on the ice and witness the awe-inspiring beauty of the Arctic firsthand. This convergence of her love for medicine, travel, and the polar regions has been a dream come true for Anneke. With a twinkle in her eye and a friendly smile, she now has the extraordinary opportunity to step foot on the ice and witness the awe-inspiring beauty of the Arctic firsthand.

As a ship's doctor, Anneke plays a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and safety of everyone on board. Her expertise spans a wide range of medical disciplines, allowing her to address various health concerns that may arise during a voyage. She is passionate about creating a safe and supportive environment where everyone can enjoy their time at sea with peace of mind, knowing that their medical needs are in capable hands.

Anneke wurde in der malerischen Provinz Friesland in den Niederlanden geboren und aufgewachsen. Sie ließ ihre Abschlussfeier am Gymnasium aus, um nach Kanada zu reisen und als Betreuerin in einem Sommercamp zu arbeiten, bevor sie ihr Medizinstudium in Nijmegen, den Niederlanden, begann. Während dieser Zeit entdeckte sie eine tiefe Liebe für Kanada und seine majestätische Natur. Jahrelang erkundete sie Kanada auf vielfältige Weise: mit dem Motorrad, beim Wandern, Skifahren, Schneeschuhwandern, Klettern und natürlich beim Kajakfahren und Segeln. Abseits ihrer anspruchsvollen Karriere als Gefäßchirurgin im Norden Deutschlands findet Anneke Trost im Gärtnern, das ihr eine therapeutische Flucht und eine Verbindung zur Natur bietet.

Indem sie ihre Liebe zum Reisen und zur Medizin kombinierte, wurde sie Schiffsärztin und begleitete transatlantische Reisen auf Großseglern. Ihre Erfahrungen als Schiffsärztin waren transformativ, während sie über weite Ozeane segelte, unberechenbare Meere navigierte und medizinische Hilfe für Besatzungsmitglieder und Passagiere leistete. Als Schiffsärztin bot ihr diese Rolle auch die Möglichkeit, ihren lang gehegten Wunsch zu erfüllen, die Polarregionen zu erkunden. Nachdem sie diese unberührten Landschaften so oft überflogen hat, hat sie nun die Chance, auf dem Eis zu stehen und die atemberaubende Schönheit der Arktis aus erster Hand zu erleben. Diese Zusammenführung ihrer Liebe zur Medizin, zum Reisen und zu den Polarregionen ist für Anneke ein wahr gewordener Traum. Mit einem Funkeln in den Augen und einem freundlichen Lächeln hat sie jetzt die außergewöhnliche Gelegenheit, das Eis zu betreten und die atemberaubende Schönheit der Arktis aus erster Hand zu erleben.

Als Schiffsärztin spielt Anneke eine entscheidende Rolle bei der Sicherheit und dem Wohlergehen aller an Bord. Ihre Expertise erstreckt sich über eine Vielzahl medizinischer Fachrichtungen, sodass sie verschiedene Gesundheitsprobleme, die während einer Reise auftreten können, angehen kann. Sie setzt sich leidenschaftlich dafür ein, eine sichere und unterstützende Umgebung zu schaffen, in der jeder seine Zeit auf See genießen kann, in dem Wissen, dass seine medizinischen Bedürfnisse in fähigen Händen sind.



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Welcome aboard!

Date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 1

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

**when all are on board** we will cast off. Please listen to announcements for our **mandatory safety and lifeboat drill** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

**thereafter** **Welcome Aboard Briefing** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

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

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

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### IMPORANT FOR TOMORROW IN KONGSFJORD:

It is forbidden to use transmitting devices like mobile phones, Bluetooth, etc. around the village of Ny Alesund. Please turn devices off today when you go to bed.

# Put mobile phones into flight-mode.

# Turn transmitting function on cameras, etc. off.

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

*Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Krossfjord & Kongsfjord

Date: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day 2

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**IMPORTANT FOR KONGSFJORD:** Don't use transmitting devices like mobile phones, smart watches, Bluetooth, etc  
# Put mobile phones into flight-mode.  
# Turn transmitting function on cameras, etc. off.

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- 07.15**      **Wake up call.**
- 07.30**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 08.30**      **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge on **how to behave in Polar Bear country and on Zodiac operations.**
- thereafter**      **Landing: 14e Julibukta.** This morning we intend to land on the north side of the 14e Julibukta. We will stroll along the beach in different hiking groups. This place is known for its beautiful glacier and rich flora.
- 13.00**      **Lunch-Buffer** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00**      **Landing: Ny-Ålesund.** The northernmost permanent settlement in the world was established in 1917 as a mining settlement. Today, Ny-Ålesund is a centre for Arctic research and a famous historical site. From here Amundsen, Ellsworth & Nobile flew over 90°N in the airship *Norge*.  
At the **souvenir shop** you can send postcards, which will then get the **special postal stamp.**
- Stay on the gravel roads at all times. Transmitting devices need to be switched off.
- 17.00**      We meet at the **bust of Roald Amundsen** to walk to the anchoring mast of the *Norge* and to hear some more of the history.
- 19.00**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.30**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

*Adventure is just bad planning.*

*Roald Amundsen (1872 - 1928), polar explorer.*





## DAILY PROGRAM

# LIEFDEFJORD

Date: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 3

**Liefdefjorden.** Today we will wake up in Liefdefjord, one of Spitsbergen's most beautiful fjords. Depending on the ice still remaining in the inner fjord, we will adjust our activities of today on the area around Monaco Glacier and Texas Bar. **Please listen to announcements.**

- 07.45**      **A wonderful good morning.**
- 08.00      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09:15      Zodiac cruise in front of the wonderful Monaco Glacier
- 12.30      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14:30      Landing in Texas Bar for some walking options and to visit a hut built by hunters in 1927
- 18.30**      **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00      **Dinner!** Enjoy 😊.

*What is the secret of the Arctic?*

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

*You must have gazed on the deadness of all things to grasp their livingness. In the return of the light, in the magic of the ice, in the life-truths of animals observed in the wilderness...*

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

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



## DAILY PROGRAM

# 7 ISLANDS and PACK ICE

Date: Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Day: Day 4

**Expedition day in the pack ice near the 7 islands!** Northwest of Nordaustland we will encounter the pack ice around the 7 islands, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck in the search of wildlife – it is a brilliant experience unto itself to navigate in the pack ice. According to the conditions we will find, we will try to have an activity in the 7 islands.

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

- 07.45**      **Pack-ice-sleep-in** 😊.
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.15?**      Excursion in the 7 islands?
- 12.30**      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- Afternoon: **PACK ICE**
- 18.30**      **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00**      Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is ready!

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

*Richard Bach, 1970, Jonathan Livingston Seagull*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# NORDAUSTLAND

Date: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 5

**Nordaustland:** We plan to spend the day on Svalbards second largest island (14.443 km<sup>2</sup>). We have arrived in the polar desert. The bareness and stunning landscapes of Nordaustland are fascinating. Nevertheless, some plants like the Svalbard Poppy and Purple Saxifrage are found on this rugged island. The landscape attracts with gentle sloped and massive icecaps are covering most of the island.

- 07.45** A wonderful **good morning!**
- 08.00** **Breakfast buffet** for one hour.
- 09.15** **Landing: Kinnvika, a scientific village built for the international geophysical year of 1957/58 and used by scientists for the international polar year of 2007/2008**  
We plan to get ashore on Nordaustland and want to explore the landscape in different hiking groups.
- 12.30** **Lunch buffet** for one hour.
- 15.00** **Zodiac cruise in the secret bay of Claravagen.**
- 18.30** **Today & tomorrow.** Recap & briefing in the lounge.
- 19.00** **Dinner**

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

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





## DAILY PROGRAM

# HINLOPENSTRET

Date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 6

- 07.45**      **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 08.00      Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 09.15      **Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet.** This morning we would like to visit the "Auk Mountain", so named due to the enormous number of Brünnich's guillemots breeding along these 100m high basaltic cliffs. We intend to do a Zodiac cruise following the whole spectacular cliff. **Dress warm**, we are not getting ashore.
- 12.30      **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.00**      **Landing: Torellneset.** In southern Hinlopen we have a potentially good place for walrus. If our friends are at home we will visit the animals in two groups. **Both groups will get the same amount of time walking and with the walrus.**
- The first 5 boats:** We are **going for a short stroll first.** After that we visit the walrus.
- The second 5 boats:** We are **going to the walrus first.** After that we go for a short stroll. There will be the possibility to get back to the ship right after the walrus visit.
- 18.30**      Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00      Summer in the Arctic! It's **BBQ** tonight 😊 and we eat outside in front of the stunning Bråsvellbreen ...

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

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



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Edgeøya & Barentsøya

Date: Friday 21<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 7

We plan to spend today on the islands **Barentsøya** and **Edgeøya**. We have left the polar desert behind and find relatively rich tundra. The landscape is great for hiking and we want to explore the islands in our well-known walking groups. However, on Edgeøya we might find **walrus** on shore. If our friends are at home (and no bears are around) we plan to visit them in the afternoon.

**Attention!** Both islands are quite “contaminated” by bears, and it happens regularly that we are changing to plan B, C, D or E. There are a couple of good landing spots on Barents- and Edgeøya. If we find a bear on land at one potential landing site, we will continue to the next one. Generally we intend to land on both of the islands.

- 07.45** A wonderful **good morning!**
- 08.00** **Breakfast buffet** for one hour.
- 09.15** **Landing: Barentsøy on Kapp Waldburg**
- 12.30** **Lunch buffet** for one hour.
- 14.30** **Landing: Edgeøya on Kapp Lee**
- 18.30** **Today & tomorrow.** Recap & briefing in the lounge.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is waiting for us.

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

*Author unknown*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# HORNSUND

Date: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 8

- 07.45**      **Good morning!**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** – enjoy!
- 09.15**      **Landing: Gåshamna, Hornsund.** Today we will be exploring Hornsund, Spitsbergen's most southerly and arguably one of the most beautiful fjords. We intend to land on the western side of Gåshamna, a wide bay that has been witness to different phases of Spitsbergen's history. Remains of a 17<sup>th</sup> century English whaling station and foundations of Pomor houses (Russian hunters) are found in the area. If weather permits the mountain-goats can climb a very (!) steep mountain to gain some great views. The other hikes are on easy terrain.
- 12.30**      **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 14.30**      **Zodiac Cruise: Burgerbukta, Hornsund.** Today's afternoon we plan a Zodiac cruise in beautiful Burgerbukta, a smaller side arm of Hornsund, with great glacial scenery. Please dress warmly!
- 18.30**      **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00**      **Dinner.** Bon Appetite!

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

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





## DAILY PROGRAM

# ISFJORDEN

Date: Sunday 23rd July 2023

Day: Day 9

- 07.45**      **Good morning, wake up!**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** for one hour in the dining room.
- 09.15**      **Landing: Bjonahamna.** This morning we plan to go ashore at the majestic Tempelfjellet. The impressive geology here inspired the name of the mountains and fjord. As usual we will have 3 groups of walkers and different options to enjoy the stunning surroundings.
- 12.30**      **Lunchtime!**
- 14.45**      **Zodiac cruise Tunabreen, Tempelfjorden.** This afternoon we will do our last zodiac cruise at the end of this spectacular fjord. It is a great place to roundup an extraordinary voyage.
- 18.15**      **Farewell Cocktail with Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.30**      **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!

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

*John Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# LONGYEARBYEN

Date: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Day: Day 10

**For the 12 passengers leaving at night.** Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors latest at 11 PM (tonight 23<sup>rd</sup> July). The crew will bring it on shore for you.  
00:10 (24<sup>th</sup> July) Disembarkation and transportation for the airport

- ✓ *Kristi Hanson- cab 407*
- ✓ *Bero Martin- cab 202*
- ✓ *Annika Weigelt/Barbara Steller- cab 204*
- ✓ *Anke Linzmayer/Annchen Fleger- cab 307*
- ✓ *Katharina Mueller / Heinz-Herbert Reimer- cab 415*
- ✓ *Harald Dr. Bergter/Annette Dr. Bergter- cab 306*
- ✓ *Ella Christine Dr. Jäckel/Max Hans Dieter Dr. Jäckel- cab 403*

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

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

**07.30** **Breakfast is available** in the restaurant.

**08.30** **Last landing: Longyearbyen.** The busses will bring you to town and drop you at Svalbardbutikken.

**Important:** Please identify your luggage on shore. We will deliver it at the airport for you, the luggage truck will be waiting for you at the airport.

### Transfer from City (Svalbardbutikken) to Airport

- *52 x passengers at 13:00 Svalbard Butikken – Airport SK4425 at 14:30 (Luggage with **Purple Ribbons**)*
- *26 x passengers at 15:00 Svalbard Butikken – Airport SK4491 at 16:25 (Luggage with **Red Ribbons**)*
- *5 x passengers at 18:00 Svalbard Butikken – Airport DY397 at 19:45 (Luggage with **White Ribbons**)*