



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Around Spitsbergen, In the Realm of Polar Bears and Pack Ice

24 July – 2 August 2023

On board *m/v Plancius*



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

Captain Artur Iakovlev

And his international crew of 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Hotel Manager:	Ingrid Van de Loo	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Sachin Anant	[India]
Ships doctor:	Anneke Planting	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Christophe Bouchoux	[France]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Koen Jongerling	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Christian Luteijn	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Júliá “Bee” Baldursdóttir	[Iceland]
Expedition Guide:	Elizabeth Robinson	[United States]
Expedition Guide:	Caroline Sanchez	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Karoline Baelum	[Denmark]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Monday 24th of July, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

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

Wind: NW-3 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Partly cloudy • **Air temperature:** 10°C • **Sea temperature:** 10°C



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 Artur wished us well on our journey with a toast in the lounge, and Expedition Leader Christophe introduced himself as well as the whole expedition team. We then set off to the restaurant for a delicious first buffet dinner.

After a lovely first dinner on the ship, most of us went to enjoy the views outside while the ship was cruising or went to bed early after a long day of travelling.

Day 2 – Tuesday 25th of July, Kronebreen & Ossiansarsfjellet

12h00 GPS Position: 78°53.6'N / 012°22.5'E

Wind: SE-2 • **Sea:** Calm/Ice • **Weather:** Fog • **Air temperature:** 6°C • **Sea temperature:** 3°C

First morning on the ship for all of us. Early in the morning our expedition leader Christophe woke us up over the announcement, which we could hear while were still lying in our beds or some of us were already in the lounge or on the outer decks. Then 30 minutes later, breakfast was ready for us on Deck 3. We could choose between fresh fruits, some eggs and so much more. Immediately after breakfast, we had our briefings for our Zodiac operations and Polar bear safety. And in the end, we watched a movie from AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operator). The drill was clear after our briefing on how to enter a Zodiac, how to behave in case of an evacuation because of a Polar Bear.



We had our first Zodiac cruise in the Arctic in front of the Kronebreen. The guides were navigating us through the ice and bringing us closer to the glacier. Our first pictures from ice were safe. We had a closer look to the ice and could hold this Arctic ice in our hands.

As we were looking at the glacier, it was calving. A big piece fell down in the water. After a while the waves which were created by this calving reached us in the Zodiac, an amazing feeling being so close to the nature.

After lunch we planned to go to Ny-Alesund, but sadly we had too much fog for a safe operation in this region with Polar bears. So we had to cancel this landing but we were going to another place called Ossiansarsfjellet. We did a Zodiac cruise along the cliffs. We saw breeding Kittiwakes and breeding Brünnich's Guillemots up high in the cliff. And while we were watching them a Reindeer appeared at the shoreline. So we had a look at our first Reindeer. It already lost almost all its winter fur and the colour was greyish. It was feeding on the tundra. Tundra is the place where we have no trees. A bit further on, we even could watch a polar fox walking around underneath the cliffs.

Back on the ship we had our first recap, where we got more information about what we saw and the plans for the next day. After the recap, we went to the restaurant for dinner. We had just finished our main course as we got informed that we're having our first polar bear. It was in front of our boat in a little bay, eating on a walrus carcass. This bear was collared, so it was a female. Only females get colored, because their necks are smaller than the males. After a while he finished eating and went for a nap.

Day 3 – Wednesday 26th of July, Raudfjorden & Raudfjordbreen

12h00 GPS Position: 79°47.5'N / 011°55.6'E

Wind: NNW-3 • **Sea:** Smooth • **Weather:** Fog • **Air temperature:** 7°C • **Sea temperature:** 3°C



After another brilliant breakfast, we started to go ashore for our first hikes in the true wilderness of Spitsbergen. We were in Raudfjorden, the red fjord so named due to the red Devonian rocks in the mountain sides. This morning we landed at Kapp Svensksund, named after a Swedish vessel from the Arc de Meridian expedition. The sea was flat, and the sun was out. What a day!

We all gathered at the beach and split into our three hiking groups. Koen, Carina, and Bee led the long hikers up to a stunning viewpoint on the Rivieratoppen. The medium group, led by Caroline, Christoff, and Karoline, visited a small hill with a cairn and beautiful views of the fjord. We could hear the call of the juvenile guillemots on the cliffs above as the parents came with food. The short walk included beach views, flowers, and lots of driftwood. We observed sandpipers, kittiwakes, terns, and surprisingly for Svalbard, quite a few mosquitoes. 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 were suddenly enclosed in fog, and it was time for some quick thinking and a plan B. We headed for the nearest big glacier, Raudfjordbreen, as there is often less fog there due to the cold ice. And we had luck! It was clear and we embarked the Zodiacs again. 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 a bearded seal and four great skuas.



We made a short impromptu landing at the east side of the glacier some 500m from the front to look at the ice on the shore and observe the glacier before heading home to the Plancius.

We then enjoyed a beautiful plated dinner before relaxing in the lounge and enjoying the scenery outside. Now we sail north towards the pack ice!

Day 4 – Thursday 27th of July, A Day in the Pack Ice

13h00 GPS Position: 80°53.9'N / 016°40.0'E

Wind: N-3 • **Sea:** Calm/Ice • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** 2°C • **Sea temperature:** 2°C

Our fourth day on board Plancius would prove to be a fantastic day! It was our first sea ice day, the moment many of us saw sea ice for the very first time. Previously on the trip, on our Zodiac cruises, we had experienced glacial ice, composed of freshwater in the shape of icebergs with different shades of blue shining through. Today, however, we experienced something new. We woke up to a horizon filled with sea ice. Being in the pack ice, hearing it move, seeing the colors, and feeling the magical atmosphere at the top of the globe is a unique experience. The bridge team excellently navigated us through the ice finding channels and spots in which Plancius could push through and weave her way through the ice flows. It was a perfect sight to wake up to. But for many onboard, it was not our first wake up.



At approximately 1245 in the morning, Christophe woke up the ship with the announcement of “something strange and special” nearby. Those that arose for the announcement were treated with the sight of a dead and decaying juvenile sperm whale carcass. The cause of death was unknown, but there were a few speculations. The carcass also attracted many bird species, specifically northern fulmars, and an ivory gull! The ivory gull is a highly sought after bird in the Arctic.

After about half an hour of examining the carcass, the ship pushed on and all guests went back to sleep.

After breakfast it was all eyes to help spot wildlife. The expedition and bridge team were on a watch. We spotted many seals first thing in the morning, which is a good indication of possible polar bear sightings. We also saw guillemots and kittiwakes.

After a nice lunch, the ship changed heading in search of an area with big ice flows and more wildlife. Finding the right ice takes skill, experience, and a bit of luck. We use ice charts that show percentage of sea covered in ice to try to voyage plan and luckily, we have many experiences staff and crew on board to guide the search. After a bit of search, guests were treated to another polar bear



sighting. This time the bear was hunting! We were lucky enough to watch the polar bear successfully hunt a seal and drag it onto an ice flow before devouring its meal. What an incredible sight! The first bear of the trip was a female feasting on a walrus carcass, but seeing a bear hunting and catching its meal was even more special.

Next on the daily agenda was recap to learn more information from our expedition team about what we have been seeing. Then back to the restaurant for a delicious meal. All smiles onboard when heading off to bed!

Day 5 – Friday 28th of July, Pack Ice and Ice Landing

13h00 GPS Position: 80°46'.3 N, 019°37'.9 E

Wind: Still • **Sea:** Calm/Ice • **Weather:** Cloudy • **Air temperature:** -1°C • **Sea temperature:** 1°C



Let's explore some more of the Arctic Sea ice today. Yesterday was amazing already, but the world is never done with organizing new and beautiful surprises. We started the day with a delicious breakfast in our restaurant while the expedition team was trying to find a good piece of sea

ice to land on. They started early in the morning and found a very good candidate.

Plans were in the making and guides had been sent down to their cabins to change however, Elizabeth the expedition guide had found a Polar bear in the distance. Just like yesterday this threw the whole plan around and the captain made ready for a route towards the bear. On our way to the bear, we found another bear that was resting on a piece of ice just at the edge of a massive plateau of sea ice.

The captain slowed down which made it possible for us to observe the bear from up close. Slowly getting closer the bear kept laying in the same place in complete ignorance to our giant ship approaching. There was no wind whatsoever which made it possible to get a complete mirror reflection from the bear in the water. An absolute wonderful experience seeing a Polar bear in its own habitat being so relaxed. After a while observing the bear, it stood up and started sniffing around.

We already had confirmed the bear to be a female and as females are more curious than males, she made her way slowly to the ship. We could see her reflection in the water while she was putting out her tongue and opening her mouth to get more details about us. The most surprising moment was when she walked right next to our ship almost touching the outer wall. Something that almost never happens during the Arctic summer season. She finally found out that we had nothing of her interest, so she moved on and walked away into the open sea ice.

Afterward we made our way further up north into the direction of 0° north to follow the tracks of another polar bear that the expedition team had spotted. On our way up north, we made our way again by the female polar bear which was resting in between of some hummocks. Soon



after the expedition team had spotted the larger yellow polar bear again, so we went further up north. The second bear was not as interested as the first. We could make out that it was a male and without changing his attitude walked alongside our ship towards the west. This together with the sun in the back made a beautiful contrast of a Polar bear walking over the sea ice looking for his next meal.

Day 6 – Saturday 29th of July, Alkefjellet & Arneset

12h00 GPS Position: 79°28.4'N / 019°03.6'E

Wind: Still • **Sea:** Smooth • **Weather:** Drizzle • **Air temperature:** 5°C • **Sea temperature:** 4°C



Our daily wake-up call was already at seven o'clock in the morning. We were ready for a new adventure at a new place Alkefjellet. The place of the Brunnich's Guillemot. Not less than 66'000 pairs are nesting there. Short after eight we went with our drill in three steps in our Zodiacs and then we were

cruising first towards the waterfall. We had all the Brunnich's guillemot sitting in the water. Our Zodiac drivers tried their best to disturb the birds as less as possible.

When we reached these outstanding cliffs which are more than 150 million years old the dolomites also known as basalt. Cruising along the cliffs showed us more and more how many birds were nesting there from the top till the bottom of the cliffs. The Brunnich's guillemot have two big predators: The Polar fox and the Glaucous Gull both kinds we were able to see. We even could see the little chicks of the Glaucous Gull. The Brunnich's Guillemot are facing the rocks while they are incubating or nesting. The

shape of the egg looks like a pear. So that the egg spins when it gets touched and not just rolls down. They incubate about a month and three weeks later the chicks are leaving their nest in jumping down from the cliffs into the water. After 3 weeks in the water, they can fly and flying out to the sea. In the end we could see a beautiful glacier. Back onboard we had a great lunch and then we went to Whalbergoya / Ardnaset.

We did another Zodiac cruise and we were expecting Walruses. But next that we even had two more bears. One was lying on the snow and doing some kind of stretching and sort of yoga. The other one was walking around and tried to hide from us. But it was still visible lying on top of the stones. Then



we cruised further to see a whale carcass with a Glaucous gull and an Ivory gull on it. After that it wasn't finished yet we drove around the corner to see the walruses in the water and a big haul out too. They have big tusks which can get up to one meter. They use them to help them to pull themselves up to the ice.

In the evening we were sailing towards the Brasvelbreen but the fog stopped us from seeing it but next to that we had our BBQ outside on deck 3. We had dinner and had a look at the ice around us. As the dinner was finished the music was continuing and we were dancing. Before the evening was over, we had a quick sighting of a polar bear before some of us were singing karaoke in the lounge and then go happily to bed.

Day 7 – Sunday 30th of July, Kapp Waldburg (Edgeøya) and Kapp Lee (Barentsøya)

13h00 GPS Position: 78°13.2'N / 021°16.2'E

Wind: SSW-4 • **Sea:** Slight • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** 7°C • **Sea temperature:** 4°C



After the amazing BBQ yesterday evening we were awoken by Christoph at 07.45 to fair weather and good visibility east of Edgeøya. The ship cast anchor near Kapp Waldburg where we made our first landing in Eastern Svalbard.

We walked up to the mouth of a small canyon. The walls were covered with nesting with Kittiwakes and a family of foxes have made their den in the canyon.

We were extremely lucky and were able to observe the cubs up close, sleeping on the tundra and running amongst the stones. A large part of the group walked up the steep slope to the top of the canyon to enjoy the view before a few brave souls did the polar plunge at the beach.

During the lunch we sailed through the Freemansundet between Edgeøya and Barentsøya to get to Kapp Lee, a well-known walrus haul-out site. In order not to disturb the walrus we divided into 3 groups, alternating between walking on the tundra, and observing the group of roughly 50 walruses resting on the beach and frolicking in the shallow water near the beach. We could hear them breathing, blowing, and even whistling. There were reindeer nearby and we observed Arctic terns, snow buntings and eider ducks on the water.

Kapp Lee has a long history as a hunting ground and a site for scientific exploration. There are remains of a hunting station build by Russian hunters (Pomors) in the 17th century and hundreds of walrus and reindeer bones scattered on the ground. In Svalbard all items from 1945 or before are automatically cultural heritage and thereby protected.

Before dinner we had our daily recap, today covering topics such as scurvy and how to avoid it, why we can find whalebones far in land, 10s of meters above the present sea level, and an outline of tomorrows program. As the sun didn't set outside the windows we sailed south towards new adventures!



Day 8 – Monday 31st of July

13h00 GPS Position: 77°31.1'N / 019°16.2'E

Wind: SW-2 • **Sea:** Smooth • **Weather:** Clear Sky • **Air temperature:** 8°C • **Sea temperature:** 5°C



The early wake up call of our dearest expedition leader was made in the mist of fog all around the ship in front of Russebukta. We waited to let the sunshine pierce through. As this took some time, the landing was transformed in a Zodiac cruise in the Ekrolhama just south of the initial landing site with not an inch of wind.

Great new bird species for our trip were waiting there: pink footed geese resting in big groups before flying back south and one lonely long-tailed duck, also on the go. A walrus haul was sunbathing and resting on the beaches in between the intrusive rock horizontal layers. In the water some bioluminescent comb jellies were swimming in the water!

After a hot chocolate back on board we started crossing the Storfjorden strait to the Spitsbergen Island during lunch time in direction of Boltodden. This site is special in several aspects: the amazing landscapes, the three huts, the geology, and the pond. This is in this last one that 2 families of red throated divers were staying with at least a chick. Those birds are not the most common Arctic breeding birds.

This site is an amazing one to observe a really special feature: dino tracks! Indeed, 122 million years ago, dinosaurs called iguanodons of up to 10 meters and 3 tons were walking on beaches when Svalbard was located way further south. Now, those remaining prints remain.



In the late afternoon, the recap was about the dinosaur's history in Boltodden, the history of the Arc of meridian and the briefing for the next day. After diner we had the chance to have a quiz evening organized by Christiaan with a panoramic lounge full of guests to answer the questions.

Day 9 – Tuesday 1st of August, Treskellen / Burgerbukta

12h00 GPS Position: 76°59.8'N / 016°11.4'E

Wind: Still • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Cloudy • **Air temperature:** 6°C • **Sea temperature:** 6°C



We woke up for one final day of expeditions. Knowing this was the second to last breakfast we would have onboard, we savoured the food and maybe even had an extra slice of bacon. For the last time, we put on all our warm and waterproof layers and headed out for our final explorations of this expedition.

The first outing today was supposed to be a landing at Gashamna, an old whaling site, however the weather conditions were not in our favour. Due to the fog, we were unable to make a safe landing at the side and therefore opted for Plan B, a landing at Treskellen. There, some of us marched up on the highest hill for a good view of a glacier while others took it slower and examined fossils on the limestone close to the sea level.

The second outing of the day was a Zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta. High mountains on both sides of a deep fjord led us to a tall glacier front. On the way we saw among other things a hanging glacier, i.e. a glacier on top of the mountain, some large icebergs and some of us saw a seal.

Once back on board, it was time to return the muck boots that have served us so well for the past nine days. We gathered in the Panorama Lounge for a Captain's farewell cocktail, and then enjoyed a final, delicious dinner onboard. Some of us spent the evening relaxing in the lounge one last time while others got on with packing.



Day 10 – Wednesday 2nd of August, Port of Longyearbyen

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

Wind: N-5 • **Sea:** Slight • **Weather:** Cloudy • **Air temperature:** 9°C • **Sea temperature:** 5°C

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

Our wildlife encounters on this trip were truly spectacular. For many of the guides, this trip yielded their best polar bear sightings. For the most part, the weather was fantastic, and we loved sharing the Arctic with our guests.

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



Total distance sailed: 1019 nautical miles
Northernmost position: 80°54.6'N / 016°49.5'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Artur Iakovlev, Expedition Leader Christophe Bouchoux, Hotel Manager Ingrid Van de Loo, and all the crew and staff of Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



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|---|------------|
| 1. Longyearbyen | 24.07.2023 |
| 2. Kongsfjorden | 25.07.2023 |
| 3. Ossian Sarsfjellet (Polar foxes) | 25.07.2023 |
| 4. Bloomstrandalvøya (1 st polar bear) | 25.07.2023 |
| 5. Raudfjorden | 26.07.2023 |
| 6. Ice day | 27.07.2023 |
| 7. Seven islands | 28.07.2023 |
| 8. Alkefjellet (Brunnichs guillemots) | 29.07.2023 |
| 9. Ardneset | 29.07.2023 |
| 10. Bråsvellbreen (Barbecue) | 29.07.2023 |
| 11. Kapp Whalberg | 30.07.2023 |
| 12. Kapp Lee (Walrusses / reindeers) | 30.07.2023 |
| 13. Ekrolhama | 31.07.2023 |
| 14. Boltodden (dinosaurs tracks) | 31.07.2023 |
| 15. Treskelen | 01.08.2023 |
| 16. Burgerbukta | 01.08.2023 |

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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 betwen 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.

Koen Jongerling – Assistant Expedition Leader



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. So, in 2019 he started to work as an activity guide on the Oceanwide fleet as the Camping and Snowshoe guide. He quickly realized that this natural paradise was so captivating that he came to love every bit of the job description. Zodiac driving in good or bad days, giving lectures about the cultural and natural history and exploring new wild places. A dream to come true.

A few years later he started to follow the ships back up north to work in the Arctic polar region. An area with an even richer history, more plants and rocks to teach people about. You will find him talking about every little thing he can find. Teaching people about our beautiful and amazing world is what he loves. Be curious and ask away.

Christiaan Luteijn – Expedition guide



Christiaan is a passionate starter in the medical field and a life-long ocean lover at the same time. He enjoys exploring the cultural and scenic diversities of different countries, as well as to connect with the people he meets along the way.

He grew up in the southwestern coastal province of The Netherlands, Zeeland. For his studies, he moved to Amsterdam where he completed a three-year bachelor's program in medicine at the Vrije Universiteit. During this program, he took part in several exchanges and conducted research about health care onboard expedition cruise ships. Currently, he is busy with his second year of clinical rotations as part of his

masters in medicine.

As a side project, Christiaan learned the Spanish language at the same university. Besides a sufficient level in Spanish, he is fluent in Dutch and English, but also able to express himself in French.

Last year, he was part of the medical team onboard m/v Hondius and worked as an expedition guide in the Antarctic and Arctic as well. During these five months in the Antarctic, South Georgia, the Falklands and the Arctic region, he got even more interested and acquainted with becoming an expedition guide. As Christiaan would say: "I like to be challenged and am passionate to impact other people's lives positively. Another source of inspiration that gives me energy is the sea. So, it might not be surprising that the work of an expedition guide in polar regions appears very interesting to me. To be part of this Antarctic expedition is a unique and much-appreciated opportunity in many ways!"

Júlía(Bee) Baldursdóttir- Expedition Guide



Born in Iceland and raised by a family of nature-loving explorers, Julia developed her love for the arctic nature and travel at a young age. She gained Tourist Guide Certification at the University of Iceland and later went on to study psychology. Initially intended as a part-time job, tour guiding quickly developed into a passion and a main job, on land and at sea. She has a strong passion for auks, particularly the puffin, and if unchecked may go on for hours talking about those winged friends of hers. She has been traveling

around the arctic regions, mainly Greenland and Iceland, for a decade. It doesn't come as a surprise that when Julia isn't based on a ship, she travels the world in her free time. Despite the months (or maybe because of it) that she works in the cold regions every year, she is then drawn to the sunny Caribbean, whereby her other great passion, salsa dancing, certainly also plays a role.

Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Caroline Sanchez - Expedition guide



Passionate about rocks since her childhood in France, Caroline embraced a university career in Geosciences, with a preference for landscape studies, called geomorphology. Wanting to discover other continents' geology, she travelled to Africa and South America especially in Chile during her undergraduate years. When not being on the field or in class, she explored some remote places, as Tierra del Fuego or the Andean Altiplano, by bike.

In love with the Andes, she continued with a PhD between Chile and France, focusing on unravelling the geological history of the Atacama Desert and the relationship between the onset of its hyperaridity and the copper superficial ore deposit formation. Then, she continued with a Postdoc position on landscape evolution, this time on the other side of the Andes, the Northern Amazonian Basin.

Besides her mineral passion, she caught the birdwatching virus while travelling in Africa, which motivated more periods abroad, travels and activism in Bird protection NGO's in different regions.

Eager to share her passion for understanding the environment while being on the field, Caroline started to embark on expedition cruises as a naturalist guide, in both polar and tropical regions. Lately, she co-authored a French book which is an introduction to geology.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



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

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

dominion.

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

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

Karoline Bælum – Expedition Guide



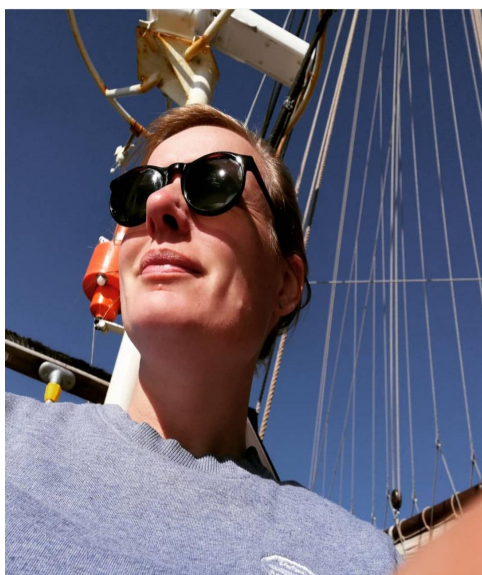
Karoline came to Svalbard as an undergraduate geology student in 2001 and never managed to leave. After more than 20 years on the island she has so far acquired a team of sled dogs, a master's degree in glaciology, a PhD in Geology, a kid and a trapper station.

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: Monday 24th 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.

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.

*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

Kongsfjord

Date: Tuesday 25th July 2023

Day 2

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.

- 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** **Zodiac cruise : Kronebreen.** This morning we intend to have a zodiac cruise in front of one of the most beautiful glaciers of the west coast of Svalbard. A first excursion to put in practice the do's and don'ts we learn during this morning's briefing.
- 12.30** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 13.45** Briefing about **Ny-Ålesund** landing in Panorama Lounge
- 14.30** **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.
- 16.30** 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.
- 17.30** **Last zodiac back to the ship**
- 18.30** **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

Adventure is just bad planning.

Roald Amundsen (1872 - 1928), polar explorer.



DAILY PROGRAM

RAUDFJORDEN

Date: Wednesday 26th July 2023

Day 3

Raudfjorden. Today we will wake up in Raudfjord, one of Spitsbergen's most beautiful fjords. Known to be the place where Spitsbergen got its name from, being surrounded by many pointy mountains. A fjord filled with a lot of human history and amazing views.

- 07.45** **A wonderful good morning.**
- 08.00** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09:15** Get ready for our Landing at AliceHamna where we get the chance to great views of the surroundings.
- 12.30** The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14:45** Join our Zodiac cruise at Hamilton Bukta exploring the diverse nature and geology and ice.
- 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

PACK ICE

Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023

Day: Day 4

Expedition day in the pack ice! 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.

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.

Morning PACK ICE

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

PACK ICE and 7 ISLANDS

Date: Friday, 28 July 2023

Day: Day 5

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 try to find the possibility 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?** Ice landing?
- 12.30** The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14:30** Excursion in the 7 islands
- 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

HINLOPEN STRAIT

Date: Saturday 29th July 2023

Day: Day 6

- 07.00** **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 07.15 Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 08.30 **Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet.** This morning we would like to visit the "Auk Mountain", named so 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 warmly**, we are not getting ashore.
- 12.00 **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 13.30** **Zodiac cruise Ardneset.** In southern Hinlopen where we have a potentially good place for walrus. If our friends are at home, we will visit the animals on our zodiacs.
- 19.00** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30 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: Sunday 30th 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: Barentsøya 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

RUSSEBUKTA & BOLTODDEN

Date: Monday 31st July 2023

Day: 8

- 07.00** **Good morning!**
- 07.15 **Breakfast** – enjoy!
- 08.30** **Landing: Russebukta, EdgeOya.** Today we will be exploring beautiful green fields filled with mosses and flowers. If we are lucky and cautious, we can find several bird species in the small lakes that are spread out over the hills.
- It is a wet landing and swampy area, please take your muck boots with you.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.00** **Landing: Boltodden, Spitsbergen Island.** Today's afternoon we plan a hike at a very special place where we will take a journey back in time. Here we will be able to trace the footsteps of animals that lived millions of years ago.
- 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

HORNSUND

Date: Tuesday 01st Aug 2023

Day: 9

- 07.45** **Good morning!**
- 08.00** **Breakfast** – enjoy!
- During the day we would like to ask you to come to the reception to pay your bill.
- 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 17th 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.
- 14.00** **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!
- 16.00>** **Muck Boot Retrieval** During the afternoon we will call deck by deck to bring back the Muck Boots to the boot Room on Deck 3.
- 18.00** **Farewell Cocktail with the Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.00** **Dinner.** 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: Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Day: 10

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

Important: Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors before 7:30! So that we can bring it on shore.

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

08.30 / 09:00 **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

- At 13:00 for passengers with the flight at 14:30
(Luggage with **White Ribbons**)
- At 15:00 for passengers with the flight at 16:25
(Luggage with **Blue Ribbons**)
- At 18:00 for passengers with the flight at 19:45
(Luggage with **Green Ribbons**)