

# North-Spitsbergen, Kvitoya, and Farthest North

11 August – 20 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 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:          | <b>Romanas Vicas</b>      | [Lithuania]       |
| Second Officer:         | <b>Yaroslav Pyetukhov</b> | [Ukraine]         |
| Third Officer:          | <b>Eline Schuurman</b>    | [The Netherlands] |
| Hotel Manager:          | <b>Ingrid Van de Loo</b>  | [The Netherlands] |
| Head Chef:              | <b>Khabir Moraes</b>      | [India]           |
| Sous Chef:              | <b>Sachin Anant</b>       | [India]           |
| Ships doctor:           | <b>Martin Kriz</b>        | [Sweden]          |
| Expedition Leader:      | <b>Rinie van Meurs</b>    | [The Netherlands] |
| Ass. Expedition Leader: | <b>Koen Jongerling</b>    | [The Netherlands] |
| Ass. Expedition Leader: | <b>Henrik Enckell</b>     | [Sweden]          |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Irene Kastner</b>      | [Germany]         |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Simone Eringfeld</b>   | [The Netherlands] |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Mengxiao Liu</b>       | [China]           |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Carina Ketterer</b>    | [Switzerland]     |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Esther Josten</b>      | [Germany]         |

**We welcome you on board!**

## Day 1 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of August, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

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

**Wind:** NW-3 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** 11°C • **Sea temperature:** 9°C



We arrived 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 and enjoying the views as we set sail. Before dinner, Captain Artur wished us well with a toast in the lounge. Expedition Leader Rinie introduced himself as well as the whole expedition team. We then set off to the restaurant for a delicious buffet dinner. After a lovely dinner, most of us went outside to enjoy the views.

## Day 2 – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of August, Sarstangen, Blomstrandoya & Lilliehookbreen

**12h00 GPS Position:** 78°44.3'N / 011°24.4'E

**Wind:** SSE-3 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Fog • **Air temperature:** 7.5°C • **Sea temperature:** 9°C

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Our first night at sea went smoothly, though we had sailed on the outside of Prins Karls Forland without any shelter from the common swells of the Fram Strait. Due to the Plancius draught, we had to take the longer route in order to arrive at our planned destination at Sarstangen. Sarstangen is a narrow band of gravel and sand which extends further below the water across the whole of Forlandssundet and has depths between one to three meters, offering only a five cables wide passage with four meters of water at the lowest astronomic tide.

Instead of starting the day running aground, we came to pay a visit to the friendly group of walrus who often haul out on the sandy beaches here. After breakfast, we received an introduction to wildlife observation procedures in general and walrus etiquette specifically, as well as a safety briefing on boarding and unboarding Zodiacs.



The surrounding landscape, with their pointed peaks on both sides of the sound, almost disappeared in fog as we arrived at our anchorage, but we did not lose hope. Dressed warmly and donning the safety vests, we were soon ready to board the Zodiacs from the gangway, and our guides set off into the void on a steady course towards the beach.



Here we split up into two groups so as to not overwhelm the walrus, which indeed were hanging out in a group a bit further ahead on the peninsula. One group stayed behind for a start, attending a presentation from Rinie about walrus in the Arctic, while the other started approaching them carefully, moving calmly in a phalanx step by step, as to not startle the animals. From a distance of just about 50 meters, we were able to

observe them as they were resting there, huddled up in a group, scratching themselves and grunting. A few of them were in the water, paddling and diving peacefully, approaching us and checking us out. Halfway through our stay, we swapped: the second group went to see the walrus and the first returned as carefully and calmly as they had arrived back to the landing site to hear Rinie's lecture.

Safely back in the ship, we enjoyed the lunch buffet while Plancius continued onwards into Kongsfjorden to Blomstrandøya, where we spent the afternoon hiking. Three different groups offered everything from an easy stroll on the tundra to an energetic ascent towards a nice view across Kongsfjord. What massive glaciers!

During a delicious three-course dinner, we turned around and made way into Krossfjorden and Lilliehöökfjorden. There we could admire the impressive glacier front of Lilliehöökbrean right from the outer decks, stretching a good eight kilometers along the innermost part of the fjord. Our captain steered the ship carefully through the debris of earlier calvings, but the glacier remained silent tonight. Eventually we turned around and made our way back into Kongsfjord, heading northwards for the night.

**Day 3 – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of August, Mushamna & Liefdefjord**



**12h00 GPS Position:** 79°40.0'N / 014°10.8'E

**Wind:** NSW-6 • **Sea:** calm • **Weather:** Fog • **Air temperature:** 6°C • **Sea temperature:** 6°C

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While sailing into Woodfjorden towards Mushamna, we saw fin whales around the ship. After the breakfast, we had another short briefing from Rinie about our upcoming plans for the day. We were planning to have a hike: a medium hike or leisurely hike. We had a bit of fog on the mountain, so the long hikers couldn't go above the fog line, but they did a nice long walk around the place. The other groups were also exploring the area and listening to all the information they could get from the guides.

We saw red-throated divers just above the landing site. Skuas harassed these beautiful birds, forcing them to dive. When we headed back towards the landing site, the fog was coming in more and more. The visibility was going down, so we had to move a bit faster to stay safe and reach the landing site as quickly as possible.



Back on the ship, we had lunch and sailed towards the Monacobreen, which is in the Ljefdefjord. We had fog and a lot of ice. Our plan was to go as early as possible to the ice edge to first enjoy the beautiful scenery and to look for wildlife. And hopefully for some bears. We did a ship cruise in front of the 5km wide glacier. The glacier was named after Prince

Albert I of Monaco. Scottish polar explorer Dr. William S. Bruce was a member of the Prince's expedition in 1899 and he probably then saw the glacier, which was mapped by the expeditions in 1906 and 1907 organized by the Prince and led by G. Isachsen.

Our bridge team navigated us as close as possible to the glacier, as we even sailed into unmapped areas. After we took some pictures and enjoyed the icebergs in the water, we made our way to the sea ice. From Liefdefjord to the ice edge it was a transfer of about 15h. When we left the Woodfjord, we found Minke whales feeding. Quite close to the ship. A nice encounter!

After the daily recap and the plans for tomorrow, we went straight for dinner and after that for a drink at the bar.

#### **Day 4 – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of August, A Day in the Pack Ice**

**12h00 GPS Position:** 81°05.6'N / 025°10.3'E

**Wind:** E-2 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** -0.4°C • **Sea temperature:** -1°C

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Overnight Plancius had travelled north in search of the sea ice. This allowed us to catch up on some sleep after the past few days of hiking. At 7:45 Rinie announced to us that the sea ice had been reached. We already passed the Seven Islands now at 81°N. It was going to be our first day on the pack ice searching for wildlife, with our main goal of spotting a polar bears. Searching for polar bears feels a bit

like finding a needle in a haystack, but we know that they are here and with yellowish colored fur. We should be able to spot one sooner or later.

After breakfast we went to the outside decks and bridge with our binoculars searching for wildlife. The day was sunny, with beautiful clouds, a very good day to stay outside. Many keen eyes scanned the horizon for hours in the hope of spotting a bear. There were a lot of seabirds flying and feeding just around our vessel. Along with we went north, it was easy for us to spot bearded seals sleeping or relaxing on the sea ice. They were everywhere.



After a delicious buffet lunch, around 13:40 we spotted our first bear in the water! It was quite a health female bear, swimming all the way right and often disappearing out of sight. Then the bear decided to climb on the pack ice. She looked briefly at us, and after a few minutes walking, she jumped back into the water to try to find a seal to eat. To our surprise, an ice cream station appeared in the

lounge bar to celebrate our first bear.

At 16:30 Koen invited us all to join his lecture in the lounge. But he couldn't start, since we got message from the bridge that our second polar bear had been spotted. We all ran out of the lounge bar to get a look.



This bear was also a female, probably highly pregnant. It was very active, just like we expected. After she came out from the water, she began to roll around on the pack ice. The bear was always staring at us when it stopped to turn over itself. She was super relaxed on the ice. We all crowded the bow and decks, clicking cameras without break. It was amazing to see polar bears in their natural environment.

## Day 5 – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of August, Pack Ice

**12h00 GPS Position:** 81°13'.5 N, 024°37'.3 E

**Wind:** SE-4 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Partly clouded • **Air temperature:** 0.6°C • **Sea temperature:** -1°C

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We went out to explore more of the Arctic sea ice today. Yesterday was amazing, but the world is never done providing new and beautiful surprises. We started the day with a delicious breakfast in our restaurant while our captain moved our ship towards the pack ice. The weather was again in our favor, which made the pack ice look incredibly beautiful. The sun shining over the endless amount of ice drifting in all sorts and shapes was certainly a moment to cherish. Many people were out and about looking for wildlife during the entire morning. Since we were in an area where the sea bottom was relatively deep, there were not many seals laying around on the ice. This made Rinie decide to head a little more west to the shallower seas.

On our way, Koen finally got to give his lecture about sea ice. He explained the different types of sea ice, how it is formed and how it moves through the Arctic Ocean. From now on we could look with more knowledgeable eyes at the sea ice, as we now knew how to recognize Ice Cakes, Ice Floes, and Hummocks. He also explained the likely outcome of our planet warming up. Definitely not the most positive outcome, although it is better to know the truth than to live in ignorance. The same truth will make us understand and this will make us care for it. And while caring for something you want to protect it.

Just before lunch started, we got the news that a bear was sighted with a kill further up on the sea ice. This made everybody eat their lunch faster than normal to make their way to the bow of the ship. We indeed got closer and closer, which made it clear that we were looking at a large male polar bear that had killed a bearded seal. The approach went slow, so as to not scare the bear in any way. As the bear had just made a kill and he was eating as much as he could, he was not very interested in anything other than the delicious meal that was laying in front of him.

There were a couple of times he stood up, but he kept on eating nonetheless. To see a bear with a kill next to him was an incredible experience. Being in the environment of the bear seeing, feeling, and hearing everything. Together with a couple of sounds that were mechanically made by a few cameras of course. We stayed quite close to



the ice flow, which the bear was laying on. It did not matter if you had a high-end camera or a mobile phone: the photos were all close up with a lot of details in it. Towards the end, the polar bear started to bury his catch under the snow, which Rinie later explained was called “temporarily stashing”. Not long after that, the bear started to sleep next to the seal to slowly digest the large meal he had just had.



During the evening recap, we got explained several things about polar bear behavior by Rinie: how they catch a seal and how they sometimes share in between different bears. Simone talked a bit about her PHD in Polar Studies and let us listen to several recordings that she had made during the past days. She let us listen to the ship going through the pack ice and

how we sound when observing a polar bear. These were a lot of sounds of cameras and curiously enough no voices at all, showing how focused everybody was. And so, our day came to an end. Without a doubt we can expect more amazing experiences for tomorrow as the Arctic is a place filled with wonders.

## **Day 6 – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of August, Kvitøya, Isispynten & Austfonna**

**12h00 GPS Position:** 79°59.3'N / 030°14.7'E

**Wind:** E-4 • **Sea:** Moderate • **Weather:** Fog/rain • **Air temperature:** 3°C • **Sea temperature:** 2°

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The fog kept us company until the following morning. In addition, the ship was moving in a different way: after the past few days in calm waters, a distinct swell indicated a significant change in weather, and as we looked outside it was grey and quite windy. This did not look promising for the planned morning activities. However, the breakfast was delicious as usual, and we kept our spirits high. At least we could feel that we were at sea now!

Rinie soon confirmed that the present weather conditions were one of many reasons for landings at Svalbard's easternmost island to be few and irregular (occasional bears and walrus being other such reasons preventing landings). However, he would not quite cancel anything just yet, instead two scout Zodiacs were soon lowered into the water, and those of us who had gotten dressed and ready by now were able to witness the effects of the swell at the gangway first hand.



Looking from the window down to the water below, things had looked a bit wet. But as soon as the drivers approached the gangway to pick up their scout, the proportions of the motion were obvious. The first wave offered an unpleasantly refreshing shower for the AB waiting with the ropes, and once Irene had carefully manoeuvred towards the platform, Rinie performed a quick balancing act in order to time his vertical departure from the gangway with that of the rubber boat. Clearly he had previous experience with this, as the exercise was performed with elegance. Whether we would stand a chance to do the same seemed not equally likely. After Koen and Henrik had managed the same manoeuvre successfully, the Zodiacs went off against the wind and towards Kvitøya, and soon disappeared out of sight.

Due to limited soundings, Plancius was not able to approach closer to shore, and we had been warned about this being a long shuttle. However, judging distances had proven tricky. After about half an hour, we were yet again able to spot Irene's brightly yellow cap somewhere way out there on the water, and another 15 minutes went by until a salt-water-drenched Rinie climbed up the gangway and confirmed our suspicions. This was not the day for a nice Zodiac cruise, and the view on Kvitøya was definitely better from the decks of Plancius than from a bouncing rubber boat.



Instead we continued our travel with fingers crossed for more favourable conditions for the afternoon. Simone offered us some more interesting insight into her research on the sounds of the Arctic as Plancius made way towards the eastern shores of Nordaustland. From time to time, the fog seemed to lift a bit, but the monotonous view on the grey sea was only interrupted by a few harp

seals and some minor pieces of glacier ice, reminding us that somewhere out there was the longest continuous glacier front of the northern hemisphere, some impressive 170 kilometres long.

The next highlight was lunch – Kabir and his galley team had been working their magic again. A good meal is always beneficial for the mood, and today was no exception from that rule. Eventually we were able to distinguish some shapes and contour in the mist. This had to be Austfonna! Upon approach, we could soon see what seemed like a larger dark brown sandy beach with rocks and boulders in front of the steep ice cliff. Isispynnten – and the island Isisøya – were one of only few areas with land along this part of Nordaustland.

Unfortunately for us though, the conditions had not improved, the sea was breaking in impressive waves at the shore, sending sea spray high up against the land. This time, no gangway demonstration was needed. Obviously, we were meant to stay on our

ship today and enjoy whatever the view had to offer from the protected safe space of the lounge, preferably with a cup of hot tea or coffee.

Instead of physical activity, an offer was made for the small grey cells: polar bear reproduction and ecology was the topic of today's lecture, held by Rinie, who had dedicated much of his career to these fascinating creatures and willingly shared his insights with us. As the afternoon passed by, the clouds finally lifted enough to reveal the impressive glacial front of Austfonna.

Carefully, Plancius followed its own previously recorded soundings, and just in time for dinner, a perfect location was found to let the ship stay adrift for the evening. A few walrus passed us curiously, apparently mothers with calves. Every now and then, a calving happened along the ice edge roughly 1.2 nm away, lifting Plancius gently up and down as the waves reached us. Eventually the sun broke through the clouds and illuminated the crevasses and pointed ridges to the south. A day that had started in dull and husky conditions came to an end in an almost enchanting serene atmosphere.

## **Day 7 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of August, Kapp Waldburg (Edgeøya) and Rindedalen**

**12h00 GPS Position:** 78°15.5'N / 021°55.8'E

**Wind:** W-5 • **Sea:** Slight • **Weather:** Partly clouded • **Air temperature:** 7°C • **Sea temperature:** 6°C

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First day when we were listening to the wakeup call, we had a comfortable temperature, and we had the sunshine back. After a day of rain, swell, wind and staying onboard, we were desperate to go out. Next to sunshine we had a lot of wind and breaking waves with a white foam, which always tells us we must have more than 30 knots of wind. And that would have been too much for our operation. But luckily the wind was dropping, and our brave captain went as close as he never went before, we got us to a very calm and good spot. The gangways were protected from the swell and the wind and the operation with the Zodiacs went very smooth.

After breakfast, we had our briefing and we were looking forward to seeing all these Kittiwakes at Kapp Waldburg. We dressed up quickly and went down or up to the



gangways. The drivers were already waiting for us to shuttle us ashore. After a short ride, we arrived at the beach where Rinie welcomed us once more.

There was a bit of a side swell, which hit us during disembarking, but we are expeditioners, and we could easily handle this. We took off our life vests and off we went towards the canyon with the

kittiwakes. On our way, we saw at least six reindeers walking on the tundra. There were males and females and the males had big antlers.

Further up in the tundra there was even sitting one reindeer and resting a bit. We went closer and closer to the canyon as suddenly a fox came down the slope. So nice! Our



first fox and our first reindeers and both such good sightings. And even later we saw so many more and closer ones. One fox was playing around the reindeer. Then we arrived in the canyon with the Kittiwakes and they had chicks, so many of them. After we enjoyed the sound and the flying around from the Kittiwakes, we went straight down to the beach, not back to the landing sites, and got picked up by our lovely Zodiac

drivers. They brought us back to the ship where we enjoyed another food from our galley team.

In the afternoon, the way to go to the next place wasn't that far away. So shortly after lunch, we could go for another hike at Rindedalen. We got a nice story about the place and the four Dutch men who had to overwinter there. One died, and later on even a young bear died. We got again three options that we could choose from for what to do. We arrived at the beach and the hikers went straight off up to the very top, where sadly the mist came in and ruined our beautiful view inland. But luckily the view to the Freemansundet was still there. The landscape was just outstanding, what a nice hike. Back at the beach some of us went for a polar plunge. A swim in 5 degrees cold water. And then quickly back to the ship to have a hot shower.

After a short recap and learning something about Svalbard's geology, we had a great dinner and fell fast asleep after this active day.

## **Day 8 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of August, Gåshamna & Burgerbukta**

**12h00 GPS Position:** 76°56.7'N / 015°49.5'E

**Wind:** W-4 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Partly clouded • **Air temperature:** 7°C • **Sea temperature:** 8°C

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We woke up this morning with a decent swell, which luckily calmed down once we entered the beautiful Hornsund. When the Zodiacs were launched, our drivers took us into the bay of Gåshamna. A large part of us took off with Rinie, Henrik, and Esther on the longer hike heading up the close-by hill. Irene, Carina, and Mengxiao accompanied the medium hike. Koen and Simone strolled along the beach with the leisurely wanderers. This bay had a lot to offer for all hiking levels.





Scattered along the beach, we found the relatively well-preserved remains of an old British whaling station from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The giant whale bones gave us an idea of the true size of these majestic animals that were almost hunted to extinction in these areas.

On the far end of the beach, we walked through impressive rock formations and took a path that led us further up the hill. We discovered interesting patches of vegetation that stood in contrast to the barren landscape around us. As we took a closer look, we learnt that a single bone on the ground can sustain an entire ecosystem for several centuries. We now understand why it is so crucial to leave these places untouched. Picking up one of these bones and taking them away can suddenly destroy a whole miniature ecosystem that took hundreds of years to grow.

We continued our hike further up the hill, where we got an incredible panorama view over the entire bay. On our way back towards the landing site, we passed some of the remains of old huts that were used by Pomor hunters and trappers. Bricks, wooden beams, and piles of bones told stories of a time long passed.

Back on our ship, we enjoyed yet another amazing lunch buffet and some time to relax. We were eventually called to get ready for a Zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta – named after Wilhelm Burger, an Austrian photographer and painter who accompanied the Austro-Hungarian North Pole Expedition in 1872-74. Burgerbukta offered us steep, rugged mountain cliffs and massive ice bergs that broke off the nearby glacier named Paierlbreen. Finally we even got to see puffins, one of the birds many of us have been excited to see. The closer we got to the glacier, the higher the density of ice bergs, ice floes, and brash ice. We were surrounded by the incredible sounds and colours of nature and in the Zodiac as we slowly made our way through the ice maze.





When we got back to the ship, the crew had prepared a surprise for us: we had a barbecue out on the aft deck surrounded by breathtaking Arctic scenery. What a way to end this spectacular day! After great food, some nice drinks and a real good dance session, we snuggled up in our cabins, happy and in anticipation of the coming day.

### **Day 9 – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of August, Gjertsenodden & Tordenskjoldbukta**

**12h00 GPS Position:** 78°31.1'N / 012°51.0'E

**Wind:** E-2 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Partly clouded • **Air temperature:** 7°C • **Sea temperature:** 9°C

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In the morning of our last full day of the expedition, we started as usual with a nice breakfast. Our initial plan was to visit a walrus haul out place called Isispynnten on the east side of Prins Karls Forland. However, when we arrived there we counted only a few walrus on the beach. The walrus will go to sea to feed for several days this time of year, and it's not a guarantee to find them even in their usual places.

So instead we headed for a nearby location called Gjertsenodden in St. Jonsfjord, where we split up in three different groups. The long hikers went to the top of a ridge with a very nice scenery. The medium group walked in another direction and encountered some reindeer. The day started a little overcast, but while we were ashore the clouds broke up and the sun peeked through, just in time for the leisurely group to explore a little trapper's hut on the beach. Gjertsenodden got its name after H. F. Gjertsen who was part of Amundsen's South Pole expedition 1910-12 and also 2nd in command of the Norwegian Spitsbergen expedition 1920-21.

The sun stayed with us over lunch, and after the meal it was time to settle the onboard account with Hotel Manager Ingrid. A sign that the trip was slowly coming to an end. The afternoon started with a few hours of sailing time to our next planned stop called Tordenskjoldbukta, named after Petter Wessel Tordenskjold, who was a naval officer born in 1690. Here we again split up in three groups and went for nice hikes in the sun. Some of us saw several reindeer up close and another group found parts from a weather balloon. The landscape was vast and visibility great during the hikes.



After returning to the ship for the last time, we freshened up and met with the captain and the expedition team in the lounge for a farewell drink and a salute to our successful journey. The day was not quite over, as we had a nice farewell dinner. After this, it was time for returning the rubber boots that had served us well over the last 10 days!

Some of us had an early evening since the first flight was early the next morning, but others chose to continue

celebrating a successful expedition in the lounge.

### **Day 10 – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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 was fantastic, and we loved sharing our love for the Arctic with you.

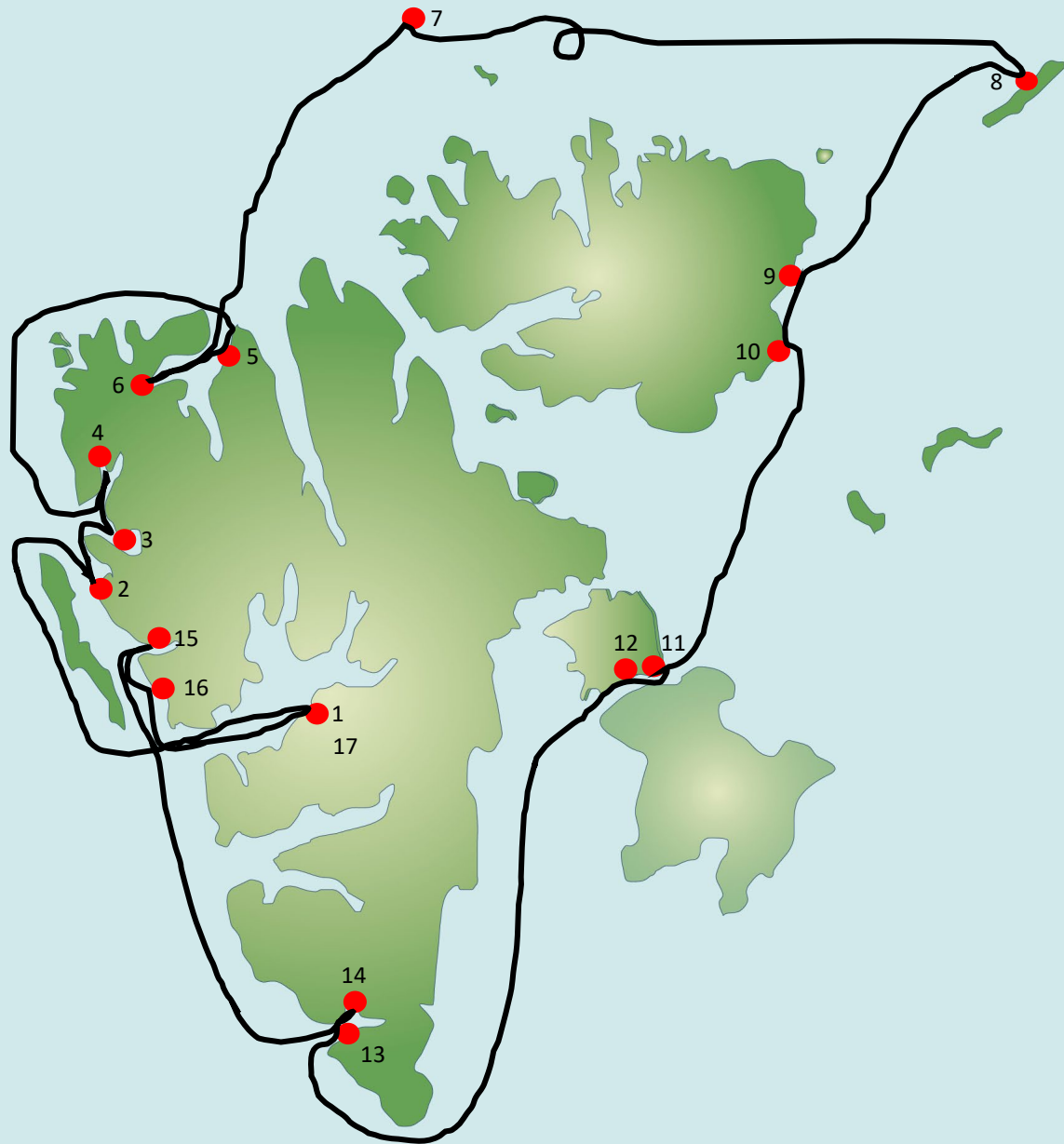
Thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage and for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We hope to see you in the future, wherever that might be!

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**Total distance sailed: 1229,3 nautical miles**

**Northernmost position: 81°13.5'N**

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



|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Longyearbyen       | 11.08.2023       |
| 2. Sarstangen         | 12.08.2023       |
| 3. Bloomstrandalvøya  | 12.08.2023       |
| 4. Lilliehöökbreen    | 12.08.2023       |
| 5. Mushamna           | 13.08.2023       |
| 6. Monacobreen        | 13.08.2023       |
| 7. ICE                | 14. - 15.08.2023 |
| 8. Kvitøya            | 16.08.2023       |
| 9. Isisøyane          | 16.08.2023       |
| 10. Bråsvellbreen     | 16.08.2023       |
| 11. Kapp Waldburg     | 17.08.2023       |
| 12. Rindedalen        | 17.08.2023       |
| 13. Gåshamna          | 18.08.2023       |
| 14. Burgerbukta       | 18.08.2023       |
| 15. Gjertsenodden     | 19.08.2023       |
| 16. Tordenskjoldbukta | 19.08.2023       |
| 17. Longyearbyen      | 20.08.2023       |

**Birds and Mammals of Svalbard**

| English Name             | Latin                            | German                | French                 | Dutch                  | Breeding / Transient / Vagrant | 11-Aug | 12-Aug | 13-Aug | 14-Aug | 15-Aug | 16-Aug | 17-Aug | 18-Aug | 19-Aug | 20-Aug |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Great Northern Diver     | <i>Gavia immer</i>               | Eistaucher            | Plongeon Imbrin        | Ijsduiker              | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Red-throated diver       | <i>Gavia stellata</i>            | Sternaucher           | Plongeon catmarin      | Roodkeelduiker         | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Northern Fulmar          | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>        | Eissturmvogel         | Fulmar boréal          | Noordse stormvogel     | B                              | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      |        | X      |        |
| Pink-footed Goose        | <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>      | Kurzschnabelgans      | Oie à bec court        | Kleine rietgans        | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        | X      |        |
| Barnacle Goose           | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>          | Weisswangengans       | Bernache nonnette      | Brandgans              | B                              | X      |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| White-fronted Goose      | <i>Anser albifrons</i>           | Blässgans             | Oie Rieuse             | Kolggans               | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Greylag Goose            | <i>Anser anser</i>               | Graugans              | Oie cendrée            | Grauwe gans            | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Brent Goose              | <i>Branta bernicla</i>           | Ringelgans            | Bernache cravant       | Rolggans               | B                              |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Snow Goose               | <i>Chen caerulescens</i>         | Schneegans            | Oie des neiges         | Sneeuwvangans          | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Eurasian Wigeon          | <i>Anas penelope</i>             | Pfeifente             | Canard siffleur        | Smient                 | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Eurasian Teal            | <i>Anas crecca</i>               | Krickente             | Sarcelle d'hiver       | Wintertaling           | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Mallard                  | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>        | Stockente             | Canard colvert         | Wilde eend             | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Northern Pintail         | <i>Anas acuta</i>                | Spießente             | Canard pilet           | Pijlstaart             | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Tufted Duck              | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>           | Reiherente            | Fuligule morillon      | Kuifend                | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Common Eider             | <i>Somateria mollissima</i>      | Eiderente             | Eider commun           | Eidereend              | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| King Eider               | <i>Somateria spectabilis</i>     | Prachteiderente       | Eider à tête grise     | Koningseider           | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Steller's Eider          | <i>Polysticta stelleri</i>       | Scheckente            | Eider de Steller       | Stellers eider         | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Long-tailed Duck         | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>         | Eisente               | Harelde boréale        | Iiseend                | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Black Scoter             | <i>Melanitta nigra</i>           | Trauerente            | Macreuse noire         | Zwarte zee-eend        | B/T                            |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Common Goldeneye         | <i>Bucephala clangula</i>        | Schellente            | Garrot à oeil d'or     | Brilduiker             | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Rock Ptarmigan           | <i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i> | Alpenschneehuhn       | Lagopède alpin         | Alpensneeuwhoen        | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher   | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>     | Austernfischer        | Hultrier Pie           | Scholkster             | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Ringed Plover            | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>      | Sandregenpfeifer      | Grand Gravelot         | Bontbekplevier         | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| European Golden Plover   | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>       | Goldregenpfeifer      | Pluvier doré           | Goudplevier            | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Sanderling               | <i>Calidris alba</i>             | Sanderling            | Bécasseau sanderling   | Drieteenstrandloper    | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Pectoral Sandpiper       | <i>Calidris melanotos</i>        | Graubruststrandläufer | Bécasseau tacheté      | Gestreepte strandloper | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Purple Sandpiper         | <i>Calidris maritima</i>         | Meerstrandläufer      | Bécasseau violet       | Paarse strandloper     | B                              |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      | X      |
| Red Knot                 | <i>Calidris canutus</i>          | Knutt                 | Bécasseau maubèche     | Kanoelstrandloper      | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Dunlin                   | <i>Calidris alpina</i>           | Alpenstrandläufer     | Bécasseau variable     | Bonte strandloper      | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Whimbrel                 | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>         | Regenbrachvogel       | Courlis corlieu        | Regenwulp              | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Common Redshank          | <i>Tringa totanus</i>            | Rotschenkel           | Chevalier gambette     | Tureluur               | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Ruddy Turnstone          | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>        | Steinwälder           | Tournepière à collier  | Steenloper             | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Grey Phalarope           | <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>     | Thorshühnchen         | Phalarope à bec large  | Rosse franjepoot       | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Red-necked Phalarope     | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>        | Odinshühnchen         | Phalarope à bec étroit | Grauwe franjepoot      | B                              |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Pomarine Skua            | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>    | Spatelraubmöwe        | Labbe pomarin          | Middelste jager        | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Arctic Skua              | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>  | Schmarotzerraub-möwe  | Labbe parasite         | Kleine jager           | B                              |        |        | X      |        |        | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |
| Long-tailed Skua         | <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>  | Falkenraubmöwe        | Labbe à longue queue   | Kleinste jager         | B                              |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Great Skua               | <i>Stercorarius skua</i>         | Skua                  | Grand Labbe            | Grote jager            | B                              |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Sabine's Gull            | <i>Xema sabini</i>               | Schwalbenmöwe         | Mouette de Sabine      | Vorkstaartmeeuw        | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Black-headed Gull        | <i>Larus ridibundus</i>          | Lachmöwe              | Mouette rieuse         | Kokmeeuw               | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Glaucous Gull            | <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>         | Eismöwe               | Goéland bourgmestre    | Grote Burgemeester     | B                              |        | X      |        | X      | X      |        |        | X      | X      |        |
| Iceland gull             | <i>Larus glaucoides</i>          | Polarmöwe             | Goéland arctique       | Kleine burgemeester    | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Herring Gull             | <i>Larus argentatus</i>          | Silbermöwe            | Goéland argenté        | Zilvermeeuw            | V                              |        |        |        | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |
| Lesser black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i>              | Heringsmöwe           | Goéland brun           | Kleine mantelmeeuw     | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Great black-backed Gull  | <i>Larus marinus</i>             | Mantelmöwe            | Goéland marin          | Grote mantelmeeuw      | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Kittiwake                | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>          | Dreizehenmöwe         | Mouette tridactyle     | Drieteenmeeuw          | B                              |        | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |
| Ross' Gull               | <i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>        | Rosenmöwe             | Mouette de Ross        | Rossmeeuw              | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Ivory Gull               | <i>Pagophila eburnea</i>         | Eifenbeinmöwe         | Mouette blanche        | Ivoormeeuw             | B                              |        | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Arctic Tern              | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>         | Küstenseeschwalbe     | Sterne arctique        | Noordse stern          | B                              | X      | X      | X      | X      |        | X      |        |        | X      | X      |
| Common Guillemot         | <i>Uria aalge</i>                | Trottellumme          | Guillemot de Troil     | Zeekoet                | B                              |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Brunnich's Guillemot     | <i>Uria lomvia</i>               | Dickschnabellumme     | Guillemot de Brünnich  | Dikbekzeekoet          | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Black Guillemot          | <i>Cepphus grylle</i>            | Gryllteiste           | Guillemot à miroir     | Zwarte zeekoet         | B                              |        | X      | X      | X      |        | X      | X      |        |        |        |
| Little Auk               | <i>Alle alle</i>                 | Krabbentaucher        | Mergule nain           | Kleine alk             | B                              | X      | X      | X      | X      |        | X      |        |        | X      |        |
| Puffin                   | <i>Fratercula arctica</i>        | Papageitaucher        | Macareux moine         | Papegaaiduiker         | B                              | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |
| Wheatear                 | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>         | Steinschmätzer        | Traquet moteux         | Tapuit                 | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Snow Bunting             | <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>     | Schneeammer           | Bruant des neiges      | Sneeuwgorst            | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      | X      |        |
| Lapland longspur         | <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>      | Spornammer            | Bruant lapon           | Ijsgors                | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Gyrfalcon                | <i>Falco rusticolus</i>          | Gerfalke              | Faucon Gerfaut         | Giervalk               | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

**MAMMALS**

| English                   | Latin                                  | German               | French                       | Dutch               | Breeding / Transient / Vagrant | 11-Aug | 12-Aug | 13-Aug | 14-Aug | 15-Aug | 16-Aug | 17-Aug | 18-Aug | 19-Aug | 20-Aug |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Walrus                    | <i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>               | Walross              | Morse                        | Walrus              | B                              |        | X      |        | X      |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| Bearded seal              | <i>Erignathus barbatus</i>             | Bartrobbe            | Phoque barbu                 | Baardrob            | B                              |        |        |        | X      |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| Ringed seal               | <i>Phoca hispida</i>                   | Ringelrobbe          | Phoque marbré                | Ringelrob           | B                              |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| Harp seal                 | <i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>        | Sattelrobbe          | Phoque du Groenland          | Zadelrob            | T                              |        |        |        | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |
| Hooded seal               | <i>Cystophora cristata</i>             | Klappmütze           | Phoque à capuchon            | Klapmuts            | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Common /Harbour seal      | <i>Phoca vitulina</i>                  | Seehund              | Phoque commun                | Gewone zeehond      | B                              |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        | X      | X      |        |
| Mink Whale                | <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>      | Zwergwal             | Petit rorqual                | Dwergvinvis         | T                              |        |        | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Sei Whale                 | <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>           | Seiwal               | Rorqual boréal               | Noordse vinvis      | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Blue Whale                | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>           | Blauwal              | Baleine bleue                | Blauwe vinvis       | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Fin Whale                 | <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>           | Finwal               | Rorqual commun               | Gewone vinvis       | T                              |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Humpback Whale            | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>          | Buckelwal            | Baleine à bosse              | Bultrug             | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Bowhead whale             | <i>Balaena mysticetus</i>              | Grönlandwal          | Baleine du Groenland         | Groenlandse walvis  | T                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Sperm Whale               | <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>          | Pottwal              | Cachalot                     | Potvis              | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Narwhal                   | <i>Monodon monoceros</i>               | Narwal               | Narval                       | Narwal              | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Northern Bottlenose Whale | <i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>           | Entenwal (Dögling)   | Hyperoodon arctique          | Butskop             | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Orca (Killer Whale)       | <i>Orcinus orca</i>                    | Schwertwal (Orca)    | Orque                        | Orka                | V                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| White-beaked Dolphin      | <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>      | Weisschnauzendelphin | Lagénorhynque à rostre blanc | Witsnuidolfijn      | V                              | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Beluga                    | <i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>           | Weisswal             | Béluga                       | Beloeaga            | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Polar Bear                | <i>Ursus maritimus</i>                 | Eisbär               | Ours blanc                   | Ijsbeer             | B                              |        |        |        | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        |
| Arctic Fox                | <i>Alopex lagopus</i>                  | Polarfuchs           | Renard polaire               | Poolvos             | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |
| Spitsbergen Reindeer      | <i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i> | Svalbard Rentier     | Renne du Spitzberg           | Rendier             | B                              |        | X      |        |        |        |        | X      |        | X      |        |
| Sibling vole              | <i>Microtus rossiaemeridionalis</i>    | Südfeldmaus          | Campagnol des champs         | Oostelijke veldmuis | B                              |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |



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# Rinie van Meurs - Expedition Leader

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After a formal education in Forestry and Nature Conservation, Rinie started to travel around the world in search of wildlife and in particular birds.

However, he was already attracted by the polar regions since he was a boy. After he finished his study, he went in the early eighties on private trips to Iceland and Northern Scandinavia; this was as Arctic as he could afford. However, he knew, further north the pack ice in the high Arctic Ocean that was his goal. To explore one day the sea ice, as the early explorers did, that was something he could only dream of.

Until 1989, he managed to find a job on board of the “old” Plancius as a potato peeler for his first season in Spitsbergen. After he came back, he knew he was definitely hooked on the high latitudes. Rinie became one of the industry’s first expedition leaders and a pioneer in exploring new landing sites in Spitsbergen and the Antarctic. Only around Spitsbergen he has made more than 200 expedition cruises. He knows Spitsbergen better than his own backyard!

Since '89 then he has logged in his seaman’s book more than of 300 expedition cruises including; East- and West Greenland, the Canadian high Arctic, Franz Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya, Geographical North Pole, Antarctica, South Georgia, the Falklands, the sub Antarctic Islands of New Zealand, and many islands along the Atlantic Ridge.

During these years, spending so much time exploring the Arctic and having the opportunity to encounter so many Polar Bears in the ice, he has become absolutely passionate about these magnificent animals. Give him a ship with the right ice class and Rinie will take you to the Polar Bears. He has become an expert in leading Polar Bear trips. He is also leading every fall Polar Bear trips on the Hudson Bay. He has published four photo books on the Polar Regions of which one was about the Polar Bears of Spitsbergen.

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# Koen Jongerling - Assistant Expedition Leader

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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.

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# Henrik Enckell – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first persons to bring tourists diving in Antarctica

He has been diving for over 30 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions for more than 20 years and has supervised thousands of dives in polar waters. Henrik also works as a submersible pilot and surface officer.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and has previously lived and worked in Japan and India several years before becoming an expedition guide full time. He now lives in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters and his son.

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# Irene Kastner - Expedition Guide

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In her ordinary life, Irene was working as an accountant for a major Norwegian company in Tromsø. However, she has a hard time sitting still for long periods and has a strong urge to explore the outdoors. Luckily for her, she lived in Longyearbyen, Svalbard with access to both fibre cable internet providing her with the chance to attend to her customers online, and impressive wildlife right outside her bedroom.

She first came to Longyearbyen in 1999 to help her best friend move back to the mainland after a year at the local university. They could have saved themselves the effort, since they both were back on the

archipelago the year after. Several years of commuting back and forth followed and eventually, Irene surrendered to the Polar Bug and moved to Longyearbyen for good.

Irene's special interest is sled dogs. She has been working with Alaskan Huskies for over ten years, both at racing kennels and with tour operators. Her own team of eager huskies is taken care of by fellow mushers while she joins us on our expeditions to areas where sled dogs have been the main form of transport during winter for centuries.



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# Simone Eringfeld – Expedition Guide

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Simone grew up in The Netherlands, and has been drawn to adventure and the outdoors ever since she was a child. She was particularly into winter weather: any time it snowed, her parents would have a hard time getting her to come back inside.

As soon as Simone turned 18 and finished high school, she started traveling the world, and she hasn't stopped since.

Simone properly caught the 'polar bug' when she first travelled to Antarctica in 2014. Other adventures have led her to

a wide range of experiences, from kayaking on glacial lakes in Patagonia and climbing volcanos in the Andes, to scuba diving in Indonesia and crossing the Atlantic from south to north on a tall ship.

Besides an outdoor enthusiast, Simone is a polar researcher currently undertaking a PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute, which is part of the University of Cambridge (UK). Her research focuses on polar acoustic ecologies, visitor experiences of the sounds and silences of 'the silent continent', and polar soundscape conservation.

She is also an award-winning storyteller who is passionate about combining science with art and creative communication to enable as many people as possible to enjoy polar sounds. That is why she combines her academic work with her skills in field recording, podcasting, and music production.

When Simone is not at work in the polar regions, or writing papers from her office in Cambridge, she loves to spend time on her creative interests. She is part of a band, and loves to perform, dance, and produce new music. She is also an avid reader and writer, and is always happy to chat to you about her work and anything polar-related.

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# Mengxiao Liu - Expedition Guide

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Mengxiao is from Beijing and graduated from Institute of Technology Carlow in Ireland. She has a background in Sport Science and Nutrition.

Mengxiao has spent her life fascinated by the natural world. She has also been in love with hiking and snow-sports.

She has previously worked as a tour leader and organised teenagers' scientific expedition to the polar regions at a scientific and educational organization. At her first arrival to Svalbard in 2015 she knew she was home. At that time the idea started to

grow to become an expedition guide.

She gained more knowledge about wildlife and polar environment by travelling with scientists while she was a tour leader. Mengxiao joined the Oceanwide family in 2019 and is excited to share the unforgettable moments with you.

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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!

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# Esther Josten – Expedition Guide

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The place she calls home is a small village in a western German hillside area called Eifel. It's surrounded by extinct volcanoes, vast forests and steep valleys. From this base she started exploring the world and found my great passion in the travel industry and outdoor life.

She studied International Tourism Management in the Netherlands, lived in France, Spain, and New Zealand for a while. She worked as a guide for over 7 years now and in many different countries. My recent time I spent working as an outdoor guide and

skipper for a small locally owned tour company in the beautiful fjord lands of Southern Norway.

What she loves about her job is not only getting out into nature and being in touch with the elements, but also the meaningful connections with people from all corners of the world. Travelling opens our eyes and expands our horizon. She personally takes a lot of inspiration from all the beautiful people and experiences along the way. Besides all natural beauties our planet offers, she is fascinated by its' history, cultures and languages. And at the end of the day, she believes there's nothing better than sharing stories and memories with your travel companions and eventually with your beloved ones back home.

She is grateful for all the opportunities and chances she has been given in life and she loves to share her enthusiasm and knowledge with other passionate globetrotters. One of her biggest motivations for every tour is to help create a truly unforgettable experience for the travellers she guides.



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## Martin Kriz – Ships Doctor

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Dr Martin Kriz, senior consultant in surgery and full-time member of the American College of Surgeons FACS, and The Swedish Society Of Surgeons, completed his initial training in Lund Sweden at the University Hospital and subsequently, in Helsingborg County Hospital, where he specialized in cancer surgery and emergency surgery.

Currently he works in his own private practice and at the University Hospital in Lund Sweden.

Besides his specialization in surgery, he is also a specialist in Hyperbaric and Naval Medicine and is a diving

physician accredited by the EDTC (European Diving Technology Committee).

Furthermore, he is a Specialist in Aero and Space Medicine, AME (aero medical examiner) accredited by the Swedish Transport Agency.

Dr Kriz has extensive surgical experience and has also worked as a surgeon internationally, in such places as head surgeon in a Kenyan rural mission hospital in Mutomo, a jeep doctor for The Swedish Rotary Doctors in Kisumu, and in Afghanistan, where he spent a year as head of the Swedish military medical division within ISAF. In addition, he works as a diving physician for the Swedish Armed Forces. He worked as a surgeon in Bangladesh at Emirates Friendship Floating Hospital and at the Friendship hospital in Shyamnagar in 2019.

He was invited by the Hospital No 1 in Ulan Bator to go to Mongolia in 2013 and 2014 where he performed operations and instructed local surgeons in surgical techniques.

On several occasions Dr Kriz has been working as chief surgeon and SMO, senior medical officer, in St Helena, British Overseas Territories, one of the most remote and until recently inaccessible places on earth. He has also worked as a ship doctor for Oceanwide in Arctic and Antarctic regions on several occasions.

He is married and has one son. All his life he has been backpacking all over the world with his camera. He plays golf badly, skies downhill quite well and is quite an experienced scuba diver.



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Welcome aboard!

Date: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 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

# Sarstangen & Kongsfjord

Date: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day 2

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**IMPORTANT FOR TOMORROW:** The ship won't have any Wi-Fi connection from 06:00 until 21:00. This is due to important scientific work that is being done at Ny Alesund. They receive very detailed information from satellites and we can distort this info using Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Don't use the WIFI or BLUETOOTH on your 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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- 07.45**      **Wake up call.**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00**      **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge on Deck 5 about **how to behave in Polar Bear country and on Zodiac operations.**
- thereafter**      **Landing: Sarstangen.** This morning we intend to have a landing at the thin sandy peninsula of Sarstangen which Walrus have made one of their favourite haul out points. An impressive first landing and a good moment to put in practice the do's and don'ts we learn during this morning's briefing.
- 13.00**      **Lunch-Buffer** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- t.b.a**      **Landing:** Blömstrandhalfoya. A beautiful island situated in the heart of the Kongsfjord. Here we intend to stretch our legs more inland. A place with amazing views of Glaciers and many Flowers. We will brief you shortly before the landing where further details will be given about the different hiking options.
- 18.00**      **Last zodiac back to the ship.**
- 18.30**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge on deck 5.
- 19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

**t.b.a = to be announced**

*Adventure is just bad planning.*

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



## DAILY PROGRAM

# WOODFJORDEN/LIEFDEFJORDEN

Date: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2023

Day 3

**Woodfjorden.** Today we will wake up in Woodfjord, one of Spitsbergen's most beautiful fjords. This area is known for polar bears roaming the small islands of Andoyene and searching for food. It is also known to be the farthest point that Willem Barents got to in his Third Voyage in search of the Northeast Passage.

**07.45**      **A wonderful good morning.**

**08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.

**09:15**      Meeting in the lounge to discuss options for Mushamna. This small little bay is situated in the beginning of the woodfjord. An area with a lot of history as it is a natural harbour where you are protected from the elements.

**12.30**      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.

**t.b.a.**      In the afternoon we will explore Liefdefjord where the giant Monaco glacier is situated. A fjord filled with bird reserves so keep your eyes open and on your binoculars.

**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: Monday, 14 August 2023

Day: 4

**Expedition day in the pack ice!** Northeast of Nordaustland we will encounter the pack ice, 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. Depending on our wildlife encounters or weather conditions we will announce Lectures through the day.

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**      **A very good Arctic morning to you** 😊.

**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

Date: Tuesday, 15 August 2023

Day: 5

**Expedition day in the pack ice above Nordaustlandet!** Another majestic day in the Arctic Pack Ice. These expedition days are always filled with adventure and possible animal encounters. Keep your eyes out for Seals, Walrus and of course Polar bears. Now you know what they look like and what to look for. Adventure awaits. We will inform you of any possible lectures depending on wildlife sightings and weather.

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**      **A very good morning to you** 😊.
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00**      Morning Pack ice exploration.
- 12.30**      The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 13:30**      Afternoon Pack ice exploration
- 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*



## Kvitøya and Isispynten

Date: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day: 6

**Expedition day in the pack ice near Kvitøya. An island heavily glaciated with only few areas to land. These specific areas are also known to Polar bears which could make our landing risky. A day of adventure where many people did not choose to go but ended up whilst their expedition ran badly – Solomon August Andree.**

- 07.45**      **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 08.00**      Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 09.00**      **Expedition Morning at: Kvitøya.** This morning we are going to visit one of the most remote places on Svalbard. This island is known to have the most polar bear dens per km<sup>2</sup> during the winter. We are going to explore the west side of the island where Andree stranded as well. **Dress warmly**, as conditions could be rough.
- 12.30**      **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- t.b.a.**      **Expedition afternoon at Isispynten.** A small little bit of rock just off the face of the giant Icecap AustFonna. Here we get the chance to be amazed by the 160 km long glacier wall. An impressive sight to see an everlasting wall of ice to your left and right.
- 19.00**      Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30**      Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is ready!

*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

# Kapp Waldburg & Rindedalen

Date: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day: 7

We plan to spend today on the island of **Barentsøya**. We have left the polar desert behind and find relatively rich tundra. The landscape is great for hiking and we want to explore the island.

**Attention!** Barentsøya is quite “contaminated” by bears, and it happens regularly that we are changing to plan B, C, D or E. If we find a bear on land at one potential landing site, we will continue to the next one.

- 07.45** A wonderful **good morning!**
- 08.00** **Breakfast buffet** for one hour.
- 09.15** **Briefing for our landing on: Barentsøya at Kapp Waldburg.** Here will find a large colony of Black legged Kittiwakes in a protected cliff. An area that is also home to a large family of Arctic fox. Be prepared for some real cuteness.
- 12.30** **Lunch buffet** for one hour.
- t.b.a.** **Landing: Rindedalen** Here we are going to explore the Arctic tundra. These beautiful valleys give us the opportunity to hike further inland and up to higher ridges to get great views of the surroundings. Looking inland to a glaciated terrain with the chance of seeing Svalbard Reindeer grazing on the land.  
**Remember:** We will offer a **Polar Plunge** at the end of this landing. Towels will be provided but don't forget to put on your swimming wear.
- 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: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day: 8

- 07.45** A very good morning to everyone!
- 08.00** Let's get to the most important meal of the day, **Breakfast!** – Enjoy.
- t.b.a.** **Landing: Somewhere in Hornsund.** Standby for announcements!
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- t.b.a.** **Zodiac cruise: Burgerbukta East and West.** Not one but two beautiful fjords surrounded by steep mountain cliffs, hanging glaciers and lots of icebergs. Let's explore this amazing and versatile area where in the end we will face the Glacier walls from up close.
- 18.30** **Today & tomorrow.** Recap & briefing in the lounge.
- 19.00** **Special Arctic 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 01<sup>st</sup> 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 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.
- 14.00**      **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: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Day: 10

**05.15** There will be **NO wake-up call** for the early birds through the PA system. Instead, there will be three knocks on your door at this time. We advise to also put an alarm to wake yourself up.

For the early birds there will be a takeaway breakfast available in the lounge on **Deck 5** at 5:45.

**Important:** Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors **before 5:30!** So that we can bring it on shore. Please identify your luggage on the shore and take it with you in the bus.

**06.00** **Last landing for the early birds: Longyearbyen.** Your transfer will leave from the ship to the Airport.

**07.15** For a last time through the PA: **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 in the city center.

**Important:** Please identify your luggage on shore. For Group 2 **Blue Ribbons**, your luggage will stay behind at the pier until you pick it up again on your way to the Airport. For group 3 **White Ribbons**, please take your luggage with you to the city centre.

*Transfer in the afternoon from City (Svalbardbutikken) to Airport*

- *Group 2 – passengers with the flight at 14:35*  
*The transfer will depart at 13:00. (Luggage with **Blue Ribbons**)*