



OCEANWIDE
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

Around Spitsbergen
In the Realm of Polar Bears & Ice
04th July – 13th July 2024



M/V Plancius

MV *Plancius* was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geographer, and minister Petrus Plancius (1552 - 1622). *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named Hr. Ms. *Tydeman*. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Elizbar Kalaria**

2nd Officer: **Don Buren**

3rd Officer: **Anar Babaiev**

Chief Engineer: **Sebastian Alexandru**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebedyev**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Bogdan Manevski**

Head Chef: **Khabir Moraes**

Ships Doctor: **Jon Messing**

Expedition Leader: **Phillipp Schaudy**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Michelle van Dijk**

Expedition Guide: **Emily Clarke**

Paolo Bellezze

Ross Wheeler

Tiphonie May

Andrea Schwetz

Pierre Gallego

Day 1: 4th July

Longyearbyen - Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°55.7'N / 011°56.2'E

Wind: NW 3, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Today is the day, it's finally time for us to embark upon our Arctic adventure! In the late afternoon we arrived at our ship *Plancius*, our new home for the next 10 days. She rocked gently against the pier as we climbed the gangway onto the decks. The day was suitably Arctic with clouds and chilly wind – but we were warm and comfortable aboard. We all checked in smoothly and were quickly escorted to our respective cabins. We excitedly began to explore the ship and wandered the decks enjoying the views of Longyearbyen.



Once we were all aboard, we were invited to the lounge to take part in a mandatory briefing and an abandon ship drill. During the drill, we cast off and were soon on our way out of the harbor.

Whilst the crew made sure we left the harbor soundly, our expedition leader, Phillipp, invited us back to the lounge for the Captain's Cocktails, where we met Captain Ernesto Barria, and the expedition team. We celebrated our expedition with some bubbles and canapes before we all enjoyed our first dinner onboard!



We all filed down to the restaurant for a delicious buffet and an opportunity to meet some of our fellow travelers. Our day was not done yet, after dinner we located the boot room and collected our rubber boots. We were another step closer to being able to start our off-ship activities.

The rest of the evening was spent enjoying our first evening cruise and the never-ending daylight before returning to our cabins to prepare for tomorrow's adventure!

Day 2: 5th July

Ny-Ålesund & Smeerenburgfjord

12:00 GPS Position: 78°55.7'N / 015°56.2'E

Wind: N 5, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

Our expedition leader, Philip, woke us up for the first time today as we were already in Kongsfjord. Despite the overcast skies, the scenery was beautiful, with gentle moraine slopes and glaciers in the background. The research town of Ny-Ålesund was already in sight. During breakfast, Captain Ernesto maneuvered our ship *Plancius* alongside the harbor, and the gangway was lowered. We were able to disembark straight after breakfast.

Ny-Ålesund is such an exciting place because of its interesting history with the Zeppelin expeditions launched from here and because it is the northernmost research settlement in the world. We explored its narrow streets filled with wildlife: barnacle geese and their tiny chicks, arctic terns dive-bombing us if we came too close to their nests. Some of us rushed into the souvenir shop, while others decided to begin with a visit to the museum. Soon enough, it was time to gather in front of the Chinese research station for the guided walk outside of the settlement to the zeppelin mast, under the guidance of our assistant expedition leader Michelle, and escorted by our guide Paolo, who was carrying a rifle for polar bear safety. Michelle gave us an exhaustive account of the historical expeditions that departed from here, of Amundsen and Nobile and rescue missions. After strolling through the settlement and last-minute souvenir shopping, we all headed back onboard for lunch while we transited towards Smeerenburg.



After lunch, we all took part in the various mandatory briefings. Once we worked our way through the briefings, our guides spotted a polar bear in the distance on top of a hill, and we were all able to watch the bear before it disappeared behind a hill. First day, first polar bear, a great start! We then decided to have a short Zodiac cruise in Smeerenburg, where we observed a

small group of walrus hauled out on the beach. One of them went back and forth in the water and was easily identifiable as a large male because of his voluminous throat, thick neck blubber and very sizable tusks.



We then headed back to *Plancius* right on time for a delicious dinner prepared by our star chef Khabir. What an amazing way to end our first expedition day. So many new memories already.

Day 3: 6th July

Liefdefjord, Monacobreen & Texas Bar

12:00 GPS Position: 79°32.8'N / 012°34.6'E

Wind: N 2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 2.2°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C

We awoke to the sound of our expedition leader Phillip Schaudy calling us over the PA to awaken and seize the day. We prepared ourselves and headed to the dining room to enjoy a hearty breakfast. We could already see our first destination for the day through the windows of the dining room. The impressive Monacobreen could be seen, a vast glacier shrouded in morning fog standing at over 50 meters high.

After breakfast, we quickly dressed, getting ready for our first activity which would be a two-hour Zodiac cruise of the glacier and the surrounding smaller glaciers. Our expedition team prepared the Zodiacs, we loaded in and off we went to see what we could find. We cruised along the vast glacier front, enjoying all of the beautiful colors and shapes found within the ice. We saw many kittiwakes, Arctic terns, black guillemots and even some Arctic skuas feeding as we travelled along in the Zodiacs. Next thing there was a giant rumble then a crash! Part of the ice had calved falling into the sea making a huge splash and even a small wave. It was so exciting!



All too soon our two hours were up. We sped back across the harbor in our Zodiacs and arriving just in time before the first spots of rain fell. We all changed back into our ship clothes, and it was time for lunch. Whilst we ate, the ship repositioned to the location of our next activity, a lovely spot called Texas Bar.

After lunch, we prepared to make our first wet landing on the trip. Once again, we loaded into our Zodiacs, and our drivers delivered us safely to the shoreline. We removed our lifejackets and made our way up to the small cabin on the hillside. The cabin had its name marked proudly in large letters, and we could enter to see what life would be like inside. Apart from the many liquor bottles decorating the inside, it was bare inside. Once we had all arrived at the landing site, we were presented with three options for hiking: fast, medium, and leisurely. The fast group would head for the high ground, the medium group would go for some distance on the lower hills, and the leisurely group would enjoy the beach. Our expedition team pitched their hikes to us, and we divided ourselves into various levels before setting off.

All hikers were able to enjoy the wonderful flora of the area. So many flowers littered the ground, and as we climbed higher, we saw lots of bird life. Snow buntings, Arctic skuas, pink-footed geese, and many other birds roamed the area. Once we had explored the areas high and low, it was time to head back to the ship. We said goodbye to Texas Bar and loaded back into our zodiacs. On returning to the ship, we were invited up to the lounge for our recap. Our expedition team had prepared a series of short talks about what we saw today. They were so interesting, and straight afterward, we were called down to the dining room for a wonderful plated dinner.



We thought the day was over, but we were wrong. As soon as we finished our dinner, there was an announcement over the PA system; a polar bear had been spotted! It was swimming in the water past the ship. We gathered our gear and headed for the outer decks to catch a glimpse of this powerful animal swimming from island to island. It was a long way from the ship, but we got to see how fast he could swim and with such ease. As we started to leave the decks to call it a night, the PA system went off again. This time we had belugas on the port side. Once again, we lined the decks and we could see the white flashes of the backs of the belugas as they swam along the shoreline. It was the perfect end to a great expedition day.

Day 4: 7th July

Cruising the Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 81°06.9'N / 06°27.7'E

Wind: NE 3, Sea State: Moderate, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: -0.9°C, Sea Temp: -1°C



We were woken up a little bit later than the previous days. At 7.45, we opened our eyes and realized that *Plancius* had arrived at the edge of the pack ice. The overcast weather made for a nice contrast to the blue shades of the ice floes. There was an excited feeling amongst us as we headed out onto the decks before breakfast, glancing at the surreal surroundings. The vastness of the ocean with ice floes everywhere gave us an image of the harsh conditions that polar bears are facing here, but still call it their home. There were many Bearded seals observed resting on the ice in all directions.

After breakfast, guests and expedition guides scouted and scanned the horizon from the bridge and outer decks ambitiously in search for wildlife. During our scouting we could see many species of birds including Brünnich's guillemots, puffins, kittiwakes and fulmars. For those who remained on the decks spotting wildlife in the cold, their efforts were rewarded with several ivory gulls and at one point even a Sabine's gull was spotted on the ice. These two are especially rare and very the sightings were much appreciated among the birders on the ship.

After lunch, we continued our search for possible sightings of polar bears. The weather had changed with a lot more fog, making spotting difficult. To keep everyone entertained during the period of poor visibility our Assistant Expedition Leader Michelle provided a very insightful lecture on the life of polar bears. As the wind picked up by the late afternoon, we slowly headed back in a southerly direction, leaving the pack ice behind.

The highest latitude we reached today was 81°14.0`North. At 18:15 we all gathered in the lounge for an extended series of recap presentations which included a briefing from Phillip on our plans for the following day, as well as a presentation from Tiphonie on sea ice, a short biography of Prince Albert from Monaco the First who the Monacobreen was named after from Paolo, and an introduction on beluga whales from Andi.

After our delicious plated dinner, we sailed into a slight storm and our ship *Plancius* began to roll a little bit. Finally some authentic Arctic weather to end our day.



Day 5: 8th July

Gyldenøyane & Faksevågen

12:00 GPS Position: 79°44.1'N / 021°08.6'E

Wind: SE 6, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

With a forecast of winds increasing in the North we leave the pack ice, and sail south overnight. We are looking for shelter and good wildlife sightings. Our planned destination is Wahlenbergfjorden. After a good night's sleep aided by the gentle rolling motion of the vessel, we wake up earlier than expected to the sounds of Phillip on the PA system. Is too early for breakfast surely? It happens that around 06:30am, in the entrance to Wahlenbergfjorden we spotted a mother



bear and her Cub roaming on Gyldenøyane Island, it was beautiful, this cub of approximately 1.5 years of age followed mum from a distance whilst she was roaming, perhaps hunting for eggs in nests.

After some time watching the bears, we carried on our way to our planned landing; unfortunately, the wind was too strong, with gusts well over 30 knots. If conditions deteriorate further once everyone is on land, evacuating everybody back to the ship would be difficult. Therefore, the landing was canceled, and we continued east, deeper into the fjord to Pemmicanpynten, where we found calmer conditions. We scouted from the bridge, but no bears were in sight. We lowered the Zodiacs, and as the expedition team got ready to head for the landing, there came a bear! It showed up right where we were planning to land; it appeared from nowhere from the dead ground behind the landing and, in the same way, walked away out of sight. After more scouting, we spotted the bear snoozing near the beach on a single patch of snow.

In these conditions, it is impossible to land; we would never risk a situation where a bear comes to confront a group of tourists - too much risk for both people and bears. Instead, Captain Ernesto placed the vessel broadside, and everybody could observe the bear from the safety of the outer decks. There is still more of the day to be embraced as we head for Faksevågen in Lomfjorden in the afternoon, enjoying a delicious lunch along the way.

In the afternoon we head over to the bay of Faksevågen as planned. The winds were strong from the SE blowing out of Lomfjorden, luckily the captain placed us in a sheltered area for our operations to run normally. We



landed and split into four different walks, we all had something to see, walking at our own pace. We made the most of the afternoon in spite of the wind, a good location was found and great scenic hikes were had by all! The views SW towards the Skinfaksebreen and braided river were stunning and so were the views to the red rock cliffs of Myteberget on the south side of the fjord.

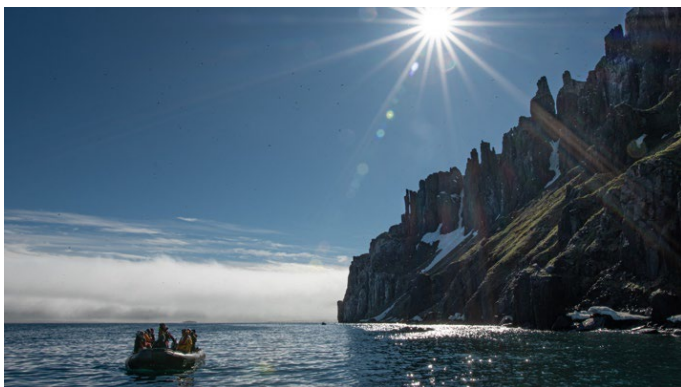
To wrap up the day, we had our first VERY wet Zodiac ride back to the ship. It was half a mile straight into the waves and wind and there was not an inch of our clothes left dry! This is adventure!

Day 6: 9th July

Alkefjellet & Torellneset

12:00 GPS Position: 79°34.1'N / 018°53.9'E

Wind: SE 4, Sea State: slight, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 4°C, Sea Temp: 4°C



After a little bit of a bumpy night, we awoke to a foggy morning in Svalbard. We had arrived at the location of our next activity, a bird cliff called Alkefjellet. Unfortunately, we were unable to see it at first because of the fog. It was breakfast time anyway, so we all filed into the restaurant to enjoy a delicious breakfast. By the time we were done with breakfast, the fog had started to clear, and our expedition leader Phillip announced that we would go ahead with the planned Zodiac cruise.

We quickly got into our expedition gear and loaded into our Zodiacs, ready for two hours of cruising one of Svalbard's most fantastic wildlife hotspots. We could see the air and water as we approached the cliff, and the cliff face was absolutely bursting with bird life. Approximately 75,000 pairs of Brunnich's guillemots lined every ledge on the huge, towering cliff face. Waterfalls poured down from the ice on top, giving the whole place an ethereal feel. There was so much noise from the guillemots as they cackled at us as we floated by. As we observed the cliff, the weather improved more and more until we cruised in beautiful sunshine. Among the guillemots were several other birds, such as black guillemots, kittiwakes, and glaucous gulls. We even observed one glaucous gull chick poking its head out of its nest. As we passed the cliffs and started passing some green hillsides, the hunt was on to find one creature we had yet to see. The Arctic fox! We were so lucky, just as the Zodiacs were about to leave the cliff face, one was spotted. It was scurrying across the rockfalls and grass. We could see it quite clearly as it still had its white winter coat. It was so exciting! After the fox disappeared up into the rocks, we made our final cruise at a small glacier at the end of the cliff. We enjoyed the beautiful colors within the ice and sounds of the water rushing out from within it. All too soon it was time to return to the ship so we could make our next destination.



Back onboard, we busied ourselves to prepare for lunch when our expedition leader's voice, Phillip, came over to the PA again. A bear had been spotted on the side of an island, and we were on our way to take a look. We all rushed out on deck to see a bear climbing a very steep slope. It was clearly visible against the dark rocks, and we all enjoyed watching it until it lay down in a snow patch and went to sleep. That was bear number seven of the trip!

We left the bear to its nap and headed to the restaurant for a nice lunch. At about 15:00, we arrived at our final destination for the day, a landing called Torellneset, which is a known place for walrus to haul out. Only 50 people are allowed to visit the walrus at once, so we split into two groups. One would go to the walrus first



and the other would go for a walk first, before the groups swapped at some point. On the hike, we were lucky to find a very curious reindeer. It kept following us and coming close so we could take nice pictures. When it was our turn to view the walrus, we approached very carefully so as not to spook them and got a nice look! There were about 50 on the shore resting in big piles, growling and poking each other with their tusks. It was so special. We spent about 30 minutes each with the walrus and then it was time to return to the ship in time for recap and a delicious dinner. It was a wonderful day and we can't wait to see what tomorrow brings.

Day 7: 10th July

Sundneset & Kapp Lee

12:00 GPS Position: 78°12,2'N / 021°06.8'E

Wind: E 3, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C

Sundneset this morning, we landed by an old but well-preserved cabin Würzburger Hütte, built by Julius Büdel's Stauferland Expeditions in 1959-1967, dedicated to natural history, especially Geomorphology. The area we hiked had raised beaches and we saw multiple whale bones high up and far from the water, these bones may be 4000 years old or more. There were also two natural ponds and here we found red throated divers, king eider ducks and barnacle geese. During the walk we saw plenty of reindeer, some of them with young calves,

always a sweet sight to see them together with their mothers. The ground was wet underfoot, and the Arctic tundra showed itself in flower. These hikes were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



In the afternoon, we undertook a short sail across Freemansund and landed at Kapp Lee. Here we found the remains of an old Pomors hunter cabin as well as the skulls and bones of hundreds of walrus with their noses and tusks chopped off. This site was a walrus hunting and slaughtering site in the 1700s yet it was somehow



beautiful to see now dozens of walrus hauled out meters away from the graveyard. Here, nature has prevailed, and walrus are returning to the area. We also saw three cabins occasionally used by scientists staying on the site. We explored the area, observing multiple reindeer.

It is striking to see the number of bones scattered all over the place, the whole area is full of them.

We return to the ship in tricky conditions, with a very shallow beach and a difficult, choppy sea at the gangway, luckily, it is day seven, and all guests are getting the hand of our Zodiac procedures.

Day 8: 11th July

Hornstulodden & Treskelen

12:00 GPS Position: 76°38.3'N / 015°37.7'E

Wind: NW 4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, rain, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 4°C



On the morning of 11 July, our Expedition Leader Phillip woke us up as usual at 7.15. We had already entered Hornsund on the southwestern side of Svalbard. The weather outside was foggy and misty. After breakfast, Phillip announced that despite the fog, he had identified a suitable spot for us to make a landing - Hornstulodden. We were informed that not many landings are made there. After putting our gear on, we soon headed out on the Zodiacs towards the beach. We approached a dramatic mountain range with some ice slopes running down from it and some waterfalls. A wild dark beach with some whale bones awaited us. When we left the Zodiacs,

some of us observed puffins on our way to the beach and a few eider ducks flew above our heads. As usual, we were divided into four separate groups and soon after, all groups began their hikes. Many unusual and impressive rocks and volcanic formations, millions of years in age, caught our attention. Then, towards *Plancius*, a pod of beluga whales appeared close to shore, treating us to a great view! After lunch we cruised further into the bay towards the glacier aboard *Plancius*, for a nice view of Samarinbreen. When heading out of the bay, we were lucky enough to spot two humpback whales which were swimming close to the shoreline. Due to weather our Expedition leader Phillip had to change our afternoon activity to Treskelen which was a moraine. Although it was muddy, all groups were able to have a pleasant hike with a view towards the mountains of Starostinfjellet. When we returned to the ship, Philip briefed us about our plans for the last day and we enjoyed a recap from Paolo about fog and Pierre educated us with some interesting facts about humpback whales. Another delicious dinner and off to bed after another adventure filled day!



Day 9: 12th July

Bjørnhamna & Skansbukta

12:00 GPS Position: 78°23.8'N / 016°51.6'E

Wind: NW 1, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Cloudy, Air Temp: 5°C, Sea Temp: 5°C



Our expedition leader Phillipp woke us up as usual at 7:15 am to a relatively windy and cloudy day. After breakfast we all prepared for our landing, unfortunately it had to be canceled because there was too much swell on the beach, and our expedition guides got completely soaked when they attempted to land. So, the ship had to reposition, and Phillipp decided to try a landing at Bjornhamna. Less than an hour later we were at the site and this time the conditions were perfect. No polar bears were on the landing site either, and once on land we all split into our four groups, a fast hiking group, a medium fast, a medium photography group, and a leisurely group. We all decided to walk along the slope of the hill which had very interesting vegetation and minerals. All the groups except for the leisurely made it far enough to see some reindeer, and even a polar fox which was very well camouflaged at the top of the hill beneath a bird colony.

We all returned to the ship a little later than planned because of the canceled first landing attempt, and immediately after lunch we were already at our afternoon landing site: Skansbukta. This is a very nice landing where we have access to a puffin colony high on a cliff, and there are also historical remains of an old mine. We were all able to spend as much time as we wanted as it was a perimeter landing. At the end of the landing we had our Polar Plunge where our brave guests jumped into the icy waters of the Arctic!

Back on the ship, we all got dressed for our farewell cocktail drink with the captain. After a toast, and thanking all the crew involved in this expedition cruise, Ross showed us the slideshow he had prepared for us during the entire trip. We all got quite emotional seeing all of the places we had been and all the things we had experienced during these past ten days.

It was then time for our last plated dinner served by our chef Khabir, and as usual, it was absolutely delicious. Right before dessert the entire galley, restaurant, and hotel department crew came into the dining room to say goodbye and we all acclaimed them for their extremely nice work during this entire trip. They were always helpful and smiling. We will miss them very dearly.

We all gathered in the bar for a last drink with the new friends we made along this expedition cruise, and exchanged contacts. Incredible memories and friends were made along the way. We will never forget it!



Day 10: 13th July

Longyearbyen - disembarkation

12:00 GPS Position: 78°13.8'N / 015°36.1'E

Wind: ENE 2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

All too soon, we arrived back in Longyearbyen and it was time to say our goodbyes. The staff and crew took care of our luggage, placing it carefully on the dock. We had our last breakfast aboard *Plancius* then gathered the last of our things and headed for the gangway. We said goodbye to the whole team onboard and alighted the bus waiting for us to start the long journey home or to our next adventure.



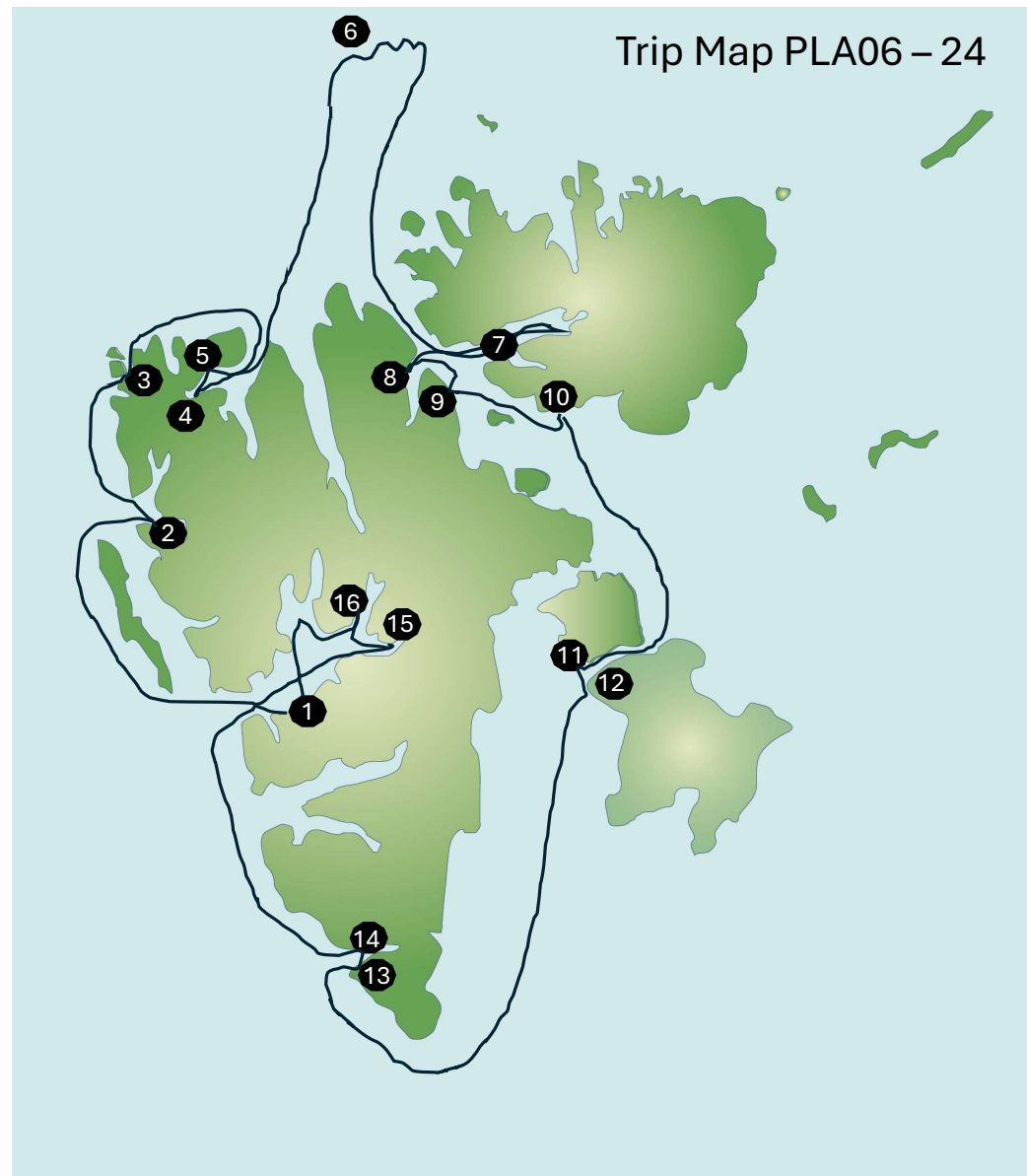
Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this exploratory Arctic voyage.
We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 1182.8 nautical miles

Farthest north: 81°14'N

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Phillipp Schaudy, Hotel Manager Oleksandr Lyebyedyev, and all the crew and staff of M/V *Plancius*, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!

No.	Time	Location	Activity
1		Longyearbyen	Boarding
2	AM	Ny-Ålesund	Landing
3	PM	Smeerenburgfjord	Zodiac cruise
4	AM	Monacobreen	Zodiac cruise
5	PM	Texas Bar	Landing
6	AM/PM	Pack Ice	Ship cruise
7	AM	Gyldenøyane Isl.	Ship cruise
8	PM	Faksevågen	Landing
9	AM	Alkefjellet	Zodiac cruise
10	PM	Torellneset	Landing
11	AM	Sudneset	Landing
12	PM	Kapp Lee	Landing
13	AM	Hornstulodden	Landing
14	PM	Treskelen	Zodiac cruise
15	AM	Bjonahamna	Landing
16	PM	Skansbukta	Landing
17	AM	Longyearbyen	Disembarkation



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land

English Name	Latin	German	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Ijsduiker	V									
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Roodkeelduiker	B		✓					✓		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Noordse stormvogel	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstöpel	Jan-van-gent	T						✓			
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Wilde zwaan	T									
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Taigarietgans	V									
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Kleine rietgans	B			✓				✓	✓	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Brandgans	B		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans	Kolgans	V									
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Grauwe gans	V									
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Rotgans	B									
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Sneeuwgans	V									
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Smient	T									
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Wintertaling	B									
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Wilde eend	T									
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Pijlstaart	B									
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Kuifeend	T									
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eidereend	B	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Konings eider	B		✓					✓		
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Stellers eider	V									
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Ilseend	B		✓					✓		
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T									
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schellente	Brilduiker	V									
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpensneehuhn	Alpensneeuwhoen	B									
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Scholekster	V									
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Bontbekplevier	B									
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Goudplevier	B									
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B									
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Gestreepte strandloper	V									
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Paarse strandloper	B		✓					✓	✓	

Philipp Schaudy - Expedition Leader



It all started on this memorable 24th of December 1973. It was cold and snow was falling on the Austrian city of Graz. I instantly loved that. Immediately I decided to become a polar explorer but managed only to be a Christmas tree vendor in front of a supermarket in my early years.

That was a dead-end job, so I packed my rucksack and tried to find happiness abroad. I bicycled across continents, climbed mountains, paddled rivers. "To be on the road" was my motto. I took pictures of everything, gave public talks and told the audience about my adventures.

Along the way I finished studies to become a Geographer. Not so easy with my drive to travel.

And then the addiction to the North. Again and again. Scandinavia, Iceland, Canada, Alaska and – more than 20 years ago – for the first time Spitsbergen. Suddenly I felt at home and stayed there for several years together with my wife.

Eventually we had seen enough polar nights and broke camp. Still plenty of virgin soil ahead of us. Greenland, the Russian Arctic, the North Pole, the deep South – Antarctica – and a lot in between.

Today I live with my family at 750 meters above sea level in a small village near Graz. A place where snow is falling at Christmas. Nevertheless, I am back in the Arctic every summer. Sure thing!

Michelle van Dijk

Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

She believes that there is no better way to get closer to a place than to work there, she also lived in Sweden & Iceland.

Her first visit of Spitsbergen was back in 2001 and instantly she fell in love with this remote archipelago.

Although she picked plants as her specialism, Michelle is a generalist. She took the course Arctic & Antarctic studies at Groningen University. Michelle published a book about Sjef van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928 and the Dutch Spitsbergen guidebook on which she worked together with Rolf Stange.

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

You can speak to her any language you like, but she will only reply in Dutch, English, German or Swedish.

Emily Clarke – Expedition Guide



Emily grew up by the ocean and has always found it a source of inspiration and wonder. She has a strong sense of adventure and embraces opportunities whenever they arise, which has resulted in some amazing journeys.

A passion for wildlife conservation, travel and working with people has led her to work onboard expedition vessels.

Familiar with life at sea, Emily divides her time between two fairly different roles. The first as an expedition guide, and the second as a Marine Mammal Observer in the oil and gas industry, working onboard seismic vessels; protecting marine mammals from anthropogenic sound sources in the ocean.

Emily has over 15 years' experience working with wildlife, both in natural habitats and in rehabilitation. She has spent over ten years working with gorillas, which saw her travel to remote parts of Africa collecting data on wild gorillas, and taking part in conservation and community development projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

During her time off, Emily enjoys paddle boarding, kayaking and diving, in-between preparing her latest lectures and planning her next adventure.

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Born in Argentina (Dec 80') and raised in Italy, Paolo finally moved to Scotland where he settled in 2006. Nowadays, when not at sea, he splits his time between Argentina and Scotland.

Before expedition cruises Paolo spent 12 years working shoreside in merchant shipping. He was a Product Manager for a Norwegian company developing Voyage Planning and Marine Weather Forecasting Systems for merchant ships.

He also started Paragliding at the age of 14 and has been very involved in the sport as a school owner instructing both beginners and advanced courses for over 20 years. When not paragliding, Paolo likes to sea kayak and he mixes Field Guide with Kayak Guide roles onboard.

In 2021 he started working full time in expedition cruises, since then he has guide in several expeditions such as Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands, Greenland West coast, Greenland East coast, Iceland, Faroes Islands and British Isles.

Aside from sea kayaking and flying he is into hiking, motorbikes and spending time with friends. He is passionate about polar regions and sharing the experience with our guests.

“Happiness is only real when shared” (Chris McCandless)

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Ross Wheeler - Expedition Guide



Ross lives in a small town in Cornwall, which is located in the south western corner of the UK. As he grew up in a coastal town he has always been fascinated by marine wildlife and the marine environment.

Having completed an undergraduate degree and master's degree in environmental sciences / conservation biology at Plymouth University he then went on to use his passion and education to work as an environmental consultant and researcher in the coastal

and marine field.

This progressed into the offshore sector where he worked as a marine mammal observer and passive acoustic monitoring operator in the offshore seismic and renewable industry sectors. This role took him to a wide range of areas throughout the North Atlantic, Central Africa and Southern Africa where he conducted marine mammal and sea bird surveys aboard various survey vessels. After a few years in this industry he then moved into the environmental compliance side of the cruise ship industry where he continues to work for six months of the year today. Whether he is working on ships around the world, volunteering for conservation based organisations or travelling in his 'time off' he is constantly seeking opportunities to photograph wildlife in their natural environment.

Feel free to ask him any questions about marine mammals, seabirds or anything environmentally related with the shipping industry.

Tiphanie May - Expedition Guide



Tiphanie is an 8th generation Falkland Islander living in Stanley. She was raised on a small group of islands called Speedwell Island Group, owned and worked by her parents as a sheep farm and family crab business.

Tiph was raised surrounded by Falkland's wildlife with her family island boasting rookeries of Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins as well as several other breeding birds. The islands also include haul outs of South American sealions and elephant seals. Surrounded by all this wildlife it was of no surprise that she found nature

fascinating. From the penguin couple that lived under her house to the wonderful variety of creatures found in the crab pots, marine life was a theme. This led to her to travel to the UK at 16 to study to be a marine biologist.

Tiph spent 6 years in the UK studying to get her BSc (HONS) Marine Biology and MSc in Marine Biology. Using her holidays to volunteer in the Falklands for various conservation projects to gain experience. Upon completing her studies, she joined the Government Fisheries Department, spending 200 days per year at sea monitoring seabird activity and collecting research material. The sea has been a big part of her life, from a young age she worked to haul crab pots with her father's boat. Later she went on to work for an experimental sustainable fish farm which allowed her to get her RYA qualifications in Power Boat. Tiph currently works full time operating a small boat in the Falklands.

Tiphanie started working in the tourist industry at the age of 23. Having grown up with no roads her whole life, 4X4 tour driving just made sense. Tiph has worked to provide a variety of tours such as hiking, 4X4 and penguin colony visits. In 2018, Tiphanie was offered the amazing opportunity to go to Antarctica and South Georgia with Oceanwide as guide. She fell in love with the scale of the landscape and has never looked back.

Andi Schwetz – Expedition Guide



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

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

Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide



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

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

whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

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

Jon - Ships Doctor



Meet Jon, currently living in Birmingham, United Kingdom. With a background as an intensive care consultant, he brings a wealth of medical expertise to our expedition. Jon has volunteered his time on several similar expeditions to this, which has seen him contribute his work across five continents. He values global exploration and has an interest in understanding and embracing the local cultures on his travels.

Having lived in New Zealand for eight years, he can call himself a kiwi despite his persistent British accent. Outside of medicine, Jon enjoys road cycling, mountain biking, and snowboarding, but is willing to give anything adventurous a go! His remaining spare time is currently dedicated to a diploma in mountain medicine, showcasing his commitment to expanding his skills in challenging outdoor environments.



DAILY PROGRAM

Welcome aboard!

Day 1, Thursday 04th July 2024

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

When all are on board, we are ready to cast off.

Please listen to announcements for our **introduction to the ship** by our hotel manager Aleks and our **mandatory safety and lifeboat drill** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

thereafter We invite you to our Welcome Aboard Briefing in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5. Please listen to announcements.

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

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

IMPORTANT: Before you go to bed tonight.

For all transmitting devices in Kongsfjord tomorrow morning (Mobile phone, cameras, laptops, ...),

turn off bluetooth

turn off wifi

*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

NORTHWEST SPITSBERGEN

Day 2 | Friday 05th July 2024

IMPORTANT: For all transmitting devices in Kongsfjord this morning (Mobile phone, cameras, laptops, ...),

turn off bluetooth

turn off wifi

07.15 **Wake up call.** A wonderful good morning!

07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
We will get to the pier of Ny Ålesund.

When the gangway is prepared

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*.

- **Feel free** to leave (and come back to) the ship any time.
- Please stay on the **gravel roads** at all times.
- The souvenir shop will be open for us from 08.30 until 10.00.
- **09.30** we meet at the **bust of Roald Amundsen** (in the middle of the village) to walk to the anchoring mast of the *Norge* and Michelle will tell the story of Amundsen.
- **11.00** be **back on board**, we are leaving Ny Alesund

12.30 **Lunch-Buffer** for one hour in the Dining Room.

15.00 **Mandatory** briefing in the lounge on how to behave in **Polar Bear country** and how to get ashore (and back) safely with our **rubber boats** (Zodiacs).

thereafter **Ships cruise: Sjørgattet & Smeerenburgfjorden.** On our way north we are passing through the narrow passage of Sjørgattet in the very northwest of the archipelago. Together with Smeerenburgfjorden, this is a scenic cruise and usually a good area for wildlife. Come out on deck, enjoy the cruise and bring your binocular to search for Arctic wildlife.

19.00 **Recap of today and briefing** for tomorrow.

19.30 **Dinner** is served. Bon Appetite!

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward."

David Livingstone (1813-1873)



DAILY PROGRAM

Liefdefjord

Day 3 | Saturday 06th July 2024

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Zodiac cruise: Monacobreen.** Today we wake up in beautiful Liefdefjorden (Love fjord), where majestic Monacobreen dominates the scenery and spills into the sea. If wind and weather are in our favour, we will go for a Zodiac cruise along the 5-kilometre-wide glacier front.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us. Enjoy your meal.
- 14.30** **Landing: Texas Bar, Liefdefjorden.** This afternoon we want to get ashore on the northern side of Liefdefjorden, at a small trapper's cabin called "Texas Bar". We will split into groups and explore the tundra in different walking groups. Except for the strenuous hike, walking here is easy.
- 18.00** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 18.30 Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

*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

A DAY IN THE PACK ICE

Day 4 | Sunday 7th July 2024

Expedition day in the pack ice! North of the Spitsbergen 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 polar pack.

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.
- 12.30** The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 18.15** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00** Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

"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

NORDAUSTLAND / HINLOPEN

Day 5 | Monday 08th July 2024

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Landing: Nordaustland.** We have arrived in the polar desert and plan to spend today's morning on Svalbards second largest island. The bareness and stunning landscapes of Nordaustland are fascinating. Nevertheless, some plants like the Svalbard Poppy and Purple Saxifrage are found on this rugged island. The landscape attracts with gentle sloped and massive icecaps are covering most of the island.
Depending on the increasing wind and change in weather, we hope to get ashore in either Palanderbukta or Wahlenbergfjord. Both landings are great examples for the landscapes of Nordaustland.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us. Enjoy your meal.
- 16.00 **Landing: Faksevågen, Lomfjord.** Over lunch we will cross the Hinlopenstrait and sail into Lomfjord. We intend to land in a little sidebay called Faksevågen. The landscapes are beautiful and the tundra lush. The small mountain range of Faksefjellet invites us to some easy hikes in our three groups.
- 19.00 Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30 **BBQ** on the back deck! Enjoy and bring your dancing rubber-boots 😊.

"Many times I have thanked God for a bite of raw dog."

Robert Peary (1856 - 1920), polar explorer.



DAILY PROGRAM

HINLOPENSTRETET

Day 6 | Tuesday 09th July 2024

- 07.15** **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 07.30** **Breakfast.** Let's get a bite.
- 09.00** **Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet.** This morning we would like to visit the "Auk Mountain", so named due to the enormous number of Brünnich's guillemots breeding along these 100m high basaltic cliffs. We intend to do a Zodiac cruise following the whole spectacular cliff. Please **dress warm**, we are not getting ashore.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.00** **Landing: Torellneset or Ardneset** (depending on weather). In southern Hinlopen, both landings are very good places to see walrus. If our friends are at home, we will visit the animals in two groups. **Both groups will get the same amount of time with the walrus.**
- The first 5 boats:** We are **going for a short stroll first**. After that we visit the walrus.
- The second 5 boats:** We are **going to the walrus first**. After that we go for a short stroll. There will be the possibility to get back to the ship right after the walrus visit.
- 18.30** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00** Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

*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


Barentsøya / Edgeøya

Day 7 | Wednesday 10th July 2024

- 07.15** **A wonderful good morning.** Wake up call.
- 07.30 Breakfast buffet for one hour.
- 09.00 **Landing: Freemansund.** If wind conditions permit, our intention is to spend today's morning in the southwestern end of Freemansund, the strait between Edgeøya and Barentsøya (Svalbards 3rd and 4th largest islands). Plateau mountains and gentle hills dominate the landscape. Landings in Freemansund are generally easy terrain to walk.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.00** **Landing: Russebukta.** During lunch we will be sailing south and intend to land on southwestern Edgeøya, in a bay named Russebukta. It is a beautiful and easy to walk place, with small lakes, birdlife and flowers.
- 18.30** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

What is the urge to travel? I think it comes from the desire to see what is behind the next hill; a sense of adventure and restlessness.

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen, Sirius man 1977 - 1979



DAILY PROGRAM

HORNSUND

Day 8 | Thursday 11th July 2024

07.15 **Good morning!**

07.30 **Breakfast** – enjoy!

09.00 **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. In different hiking groups we invite you to explore the area.

12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us.

15.00 **Landing: Gnålodden, Hornsund.** This afternoon we intend to go ashore at the Cape of Gnålodden. It is a beautiful spot with lush vegetation and a cliff above our landing site, where seabirds are nesting. We will go ashore close to an old trappers hut. The cabin was used as a bystation by the first female trapper of Svalbard Wanny Wolstad in the 1930s.

Bring your swimsuit. If you ever wanted to take a swim in the Arctic-ocean, this is your chance at the end of our landing. We bring towels. Enjoy!

18.30 **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow.

19.00 **Dinner.** Bon Appetite!

Where does the white go when the snow melts?

Author unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

ISFJORDEN

Day 9 | Friday 12th July 2024

We will spend our last day in the innermost **Isfjorden**, Spitsbergen's largest fjord. The landscapes are picturesque, with tabular mountains and steep cliffs. In the summer, those are the warmest areas of the archipelago, and plant life is rich. We plan to get ashore twice today. We will choose our locations, depending on the wind conditions in the fjord. Generally, the beaches are easy to land and walking is easy as well.

For all who would like to **take a swim** today, there will be a good beach for that – either in the morning or in the afternoon. Please listen to announcements.

- 07.15** **A wonderful good morning!**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for one hour – enjoy!
- 09.00** **Landing: Isjorden I**
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 14.30** **Landing: Isfjorden II**
- 18.00** **Farewell Cocktail with Captain & last official meeting.**
Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.00** **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

LONGYEARBYEN

Day 10 | Friday 13th July 2024

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

Important: Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors before you go to breakfast! The crew will bring it on shore. Please **identify your luggage** on shore, to be sure it's off the vessel.

Orange Tags: for all who stay in Radisson Hotel

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

from 08.45 **Last landing: Longyearbyen.**

BUS I. Radisson Hotel. Your luggage will be delivered by a luggage truck.

BUS II. All other Hotels. Please bring your luggage with you on the bus.

On behalf of Captain, Crew and Staff, have a safe journey home!

*Have you suffered, starved and
triumphed,
grovelled down, yet grasped at glory,
Grown bigger in the bigness of the
whole?*

*"Done things" just for the doing,
letting babblers tell the story,
Seeing through the nice veneer the
naked soul?*

*Have you seen God in His splendours
heard the text that nature renders?*

*The simple things, the true things,
the silent men who do things --
Then listen to the Wild -- it's calling
you.*

*Robert William Service „Call of the
wild“*