



AROUND SPITSBERGEN

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

1st – 10th July 2025

On board *m/v Plancius*



M/V *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named “Hr. Ms. *Tydeman*”. The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v *Plancius* is 89 m long, 14.5 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, ice class 1D, 10,5 knots average cruising speed and has 3 Diesel- Electric engines.



Captain Evgeny Levakov (Russia)

and his international crew of 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Second Officer:	Giovanie Simone	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Solina Duguay	[Canada]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	Victoria Bridgwood	[UK]
Head Chef:	Bawa Gaurav	[India]
Sous Chef:	Oleksii Shvets	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Pauline van Paridon	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Philipp Schaudy	[Austria]
Asst. Exp. Leader:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tscherter	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Sainz Herrera	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Enric Sangra Modol	[Spain]
Expedition Guide:	Stefanie Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Daan Vreugdenhil	[Netherland]

WELCOMES YOU ON BOARD!

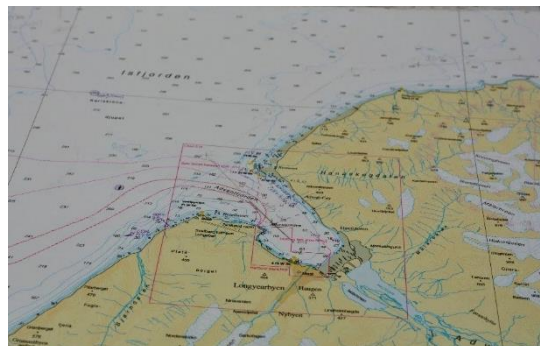
Day 1 – Tuesday, July 1st, Longyearbyen, Embarkation

12h00 GPS Position: 78°14.8'N / 014°58.4'E

Wind: SE 5 • Sea: smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air: 10°C • Sea: 5°C

The air buzzed with excitement as we gathered on the coalpier of Longyearbyen, nestled in the stark, stunning wilderness of Svalbard.

Some of us had used this last day exploring the cosy town of Longyearbyen. With its many shops and coffee places it's a friendly and welcoming little village. However at 16:00 we were expected at the main pier for our shuttle to our beautiful and gracious ship the M/V Plancius.



Once on board we had the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the ship's layout—its winding corridors, cozy cabins, and the various decks that would soon become our floating home. Friendly crew members and expedition staff, always smiling and welcoming, were quick to introduce themselves, offering help and answering questions as we explored.

Soon, we gathered in the panoramic lounge, its large windows offering great views of the surrounding landscape. There, we attended the mandatory safety drill, followed by an informative presentation by our Expedition Leader Philipp, outlining the voyage ahead—our route, the planned landings, and what to expect in the coming days.

Afterwards, we headed to the dining room for our first dinner on board. The atmosphere was warm and lively, with the hum of conversation and clinking cutlery filling the space. Over a delicious meal, we began to settle in, bonding with fellow passengers and sharing the growing anticipation of the journey into the Northern area of the Svalbard archipelago.

Day 2 – Wednesday, July 2nd Lilliehöökfjorden, Signehamna and Ny Ålesund

08:00 GPS Position: 79°16.2'N / 011°33.9'E

Wind: SW 3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air T: +11°C • Water T: +5°C

Our Arctic exploration continued as we awoke in the stunning innermost reaches of Lilliehöökfjord, greeted by the magnificent Lilliehöökfjorden glacier. We savored a delightful breakfast buffet while cruising this majestic glacial bay. A mandatory briefing followed, covering essential conduct in polar bear country and safe Zodiac operations.



After the briefing, we made our morning landing at Signehamna in Krossfjord. This area showcases a remarkable glaciated landscape, sculpted by the powerful forces of past ice ages, evident in its U-shaped valleys and polished rock surfaces. The terrain is also notably characterized by extensive patterned ground, a periglacial phenomenon where repeated freeze-thaw cycles in the permafrost create distinct geometric

patterns like stone circles and polygons on the surface. Beyond its geological interest, Signehamna holds profound historical significance, being home to the remains of German weather stations "Knospe" (also known as "Haudegen") and "Nussbaum" from the 1940s. These stations were clandestinely established during World War II by the German military to gather crucial meteorological data, which was vital for U-boat operations and naval movements in the Arctic and North Atlantic. Operating under extreme isolation and harsh conditions, these stations represent a unique chapter in Arctic wartime history. We split into groups to explore the undulating terrain before returning to the ship for lunch.

The afternoon brought us to Ny-Ålesund, originally established in 1917 as a mining settlement, which has since transformed into the world's northernmost permanent settlement and a vital, international Arctic research center. Our arrival at the port was particularly interesting due to the strong 40-knot winds, making the mooring a skillful display by the crew. During our visit, we also had the opportunity to explore the local museum, providing further insight into the history of this unique Arctic outpost. After that, Valeria provided an explanation of Roald Amundsen's history in front of his statue. She highlighted how Ny-Ålesund served as the base for his historic airship expeditions to the North Pole, including the Norge flight in 1926, which made him first to reach both poles. We also visited the Amundsen mast, where his airship was tethered.



Back on board by 18:30, we had a recap of the day and a briefing for tomorrow. Notably, Daan shared his experiences living in Ny-Ålesund during the recap. Dinner was served at 19:30, a perfect end to an eventful day.

Day 3 – Thursday, July 3rd, Monacobreen and Jotunkjeldene

12h00 GPS Position: 79°31.5'N / 012°29.8'E

Wind: E 5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air : 11°C • T Sea : 5°C

Early risers gathered on deck, braving the strong winds. The surrounding landscape was simply too stunning to stay in bed. Snow-covered mountain slopes rose steeply on all sides, forming an artistic pattern of vertical black-and-white stripes.

As we approached our morning destination, we were relieved to see the wind gradually die down, allowing us to cruise through calm waters.



Following Plan A, a line of warmly dressed people made their way to the gangway to board the Zodiacs. Moments later, one Zodiac after another departed the ship, heading slowly toward the glacier front of Monacobreen. Named after Duke Albert I of Monaco, this magnificent glacier stretches over 5 km across and extends 43 km inland. At first, we were simply overwhelmed by the unique landscape—unlike anything most of us had ever experienced. There was so much to see and discover. A beautifully blue, glowing iceberg immediately caught our attention. Cameras were raised, photos snapped, and a chorus of *oohs*, *aahs*, and *wows* echoed across the water. The variety of colors, shapes, and textures in the ice was breathtaking.



As we cruised along the glacier's jagged front, marked by narrow and wide vertical cracks, we spotted groups of resting kittiwakes and Arctic terns, along with the large and striking glaucous gull—beautiful, photogenic birds. To our delight, we also saw an ivory gull, a highly sought-after sighting for bird enthusiasts. The cruise ended at the contrasting face of Seligerbreen, a smaller glacier that, until just a decade ago, was still connected to Monacobreen. The effects of a warming climate are visibly taking their toll.



Back on board, we shared our many impressions over lunch. The air was filled with joy and excitement. Meanwhile, *Plancius* relocated to our afternoon destination in Bockfjorden. The sea remained calm, making it easy to shuttle ashore and land on a beach strewn with rounded rocks.

The ground was carpeted with blooming mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*), their white flowers acting like tiny parabolic dishes, focusing sunlight to retain warmth. We began hiking. The "slow" group soon stumbled upon the lower jaw and several teeth of a white-beaked dolphin, sparking an impromptu mini-lecture by Dan and Ursula—nature's classroom at its best. The higher we climbed, the more flowering plants we found: alpine bistort (*Polygonum viviparum*), rosy hairy lousewort (*Pedicularis hirsuta*), and countless white Arctic bell-heather (*Cassiope tetragona*). Thanks to the eagle-eyed vision of one guest, we even spotted a nesting ptarmigan.

Meanwhile, the medium and long hikers had reached a rather unexpected and unique spot for this far north—a sinter terrace with a hot spring. Though the water only trickled out, it reached an astonishing 60°C! After a few hours, we all regrouped at the beach for the shuttle ride back to the ship, which lay anchored in front of a striking mountain of red rock.

An informative recap, a delicious dinner, and some final moments on deck rounded out an incredible day—one that ended late in the evening, but left lasting memories.



Day 4 – Friday, July 4th, Chermsideøya, Isflabukata and BBQ

12h00 GPS Position: 80°28.1'N / 012°29.78'E

Wind: variable • Sea: rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air: 6°C • Sea: 5°C



This morning we woke up to silky calm seas and great visibility over the mountains as we sailed towards Chermsideøya, an island at the far North of Svalbard which would be our first destination of the day.

It was a short but beautiful ride in on the zodiacs and we landed on a beach covered in sand, rocks, and lots of large pieces of drift wood. The guides explained to us how the drift wood can arrive here with the ocean currents all the way from the forests of Siberia.

We split into our three hiking groups. The long hikers, or mountain goats, went with Philipp and Koen up to a high peak to enjoy the panoramic views of the island. The middle group stayed lower but headed out to enjoy the views of the sea and some of them were lucky enough to see some distant beluga whales and some walrus swimming in the still glassy water. The leisurely hikers, or beach gang as they are now known, stayed close to the landing site to learn more about the historical artefacts that were left on the beach by several different expedition parties.

There was no wind but we could certainly feel a chill in the air as we were further north than the day before. We could hear and see snow buntings, a dunlin on the shore, and our usual friends the arctic terns calling around us.

We enjoyed a buffet lunch on board the ship as we sailed towards our afternoon destination of Phippsøya. Phippsøya is the largest of the seven islands, situated in the very north of Svalbard, and as a result of its location, there are often polar bears seen here. The aim of our visit to Phippsøya was to hopefully see some walrus hauled out on the beach. Thick fog started to descend on us as we sailed nearer and eventually the island loomed out of the fog and into view. We scanned with





ship through our binoculars and telescopes and everyone was excited by the afternoons events.

In the evening recap we heard about the plans for our day in the ice and we learnt about arctic plants from Ursula and polar bears from Steffi. We then had a treat from the hotel and galley team who arranged for us to have a barbeque on the back deck. It was a real novelty to have dinner outside in the arctic fog and we danced well into the night, with excitement about what the next day might bring.



our binoculars to look for the walrus but sadly we could not see them. Instead of doing a walk to see them we decided to do a quick landing on the island to stretch our legs and experience the landscape which is known as 'The Polar Desert'.

We began heading to the shore and around fifty passengers had landed on the beach when a radio call from Daan informed all the staff that there was a bear onshore. Immediately we were instructed to put our life jackets back on and return to the ship. For a brief time, the bear was visible from the

Day 5 – Saturday, July 5th, Pack Ice day, Looking for Polar Bears

12h00 GPS Position: 81°50.7'N / 016°56.2'E

Wind: SW 4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: overcast • Air : 2°C • Sea : -1°C

It was Saturday morning and maybe because it was the weekend, Philipp allowed us to sleep in a bit. However, Philipp didn't stick to his promise for a *late* morning as he woke us up at 07:15. However Philipp had the best reason to do so as Chief Officer Martin had spotted a polar bear in the ice! What a way to wake up! We dressed up warm quickly and then made our way out to see where the bear was on the ice.

Spotting bears in the ice is extremely challenging and starting the day like this was fantastic. Our experienced captain Evgeny navigated the ship skillfully through the beautiful ice flows at slow speed. Our charming M/V Plancius is a very silent ship and as such it's perfect for approaching wildlife in a non-disturbing manner.



The bear was lying on an ice flow and it was amazing to see such a resilient animal in the wild. To see with our own eyes the harsh environment where polar bears live and survive was surreal. At times she lifted her head and this was when we took more and more photos. Then she decided to get up and go for a short stroll. To reach other ice floes she sometimes had to swim and climb back

onto the ice. But polar bears are classified as marine mammals and they are excellent swimmers. With their sharp nails they easily find grip on the ice to climb back on. Seeing this behavior and seeing the bear walk on the ice was nothing short of fantastic. Yet the best was still to come as she started approaching the ship to have a look at us. At times she was only a few meters away from M/V Plancius allowing everybody to have this truly unique and magical encounter.

After some time, we left the bear and many of us went back inside to have breakfast before it was too late. We didn't get much time off though as soon another announcement was made by Philipp; a second bear had been spotted!

This bear stayed a bit further away from the ship, but with the fog it made for a dramatic scene with the polar bear perfecting it. This bear gradually walked away from us and then disappeared into the fog.



We carried on and finally we could sit down and have a coffee ;). What a day it had been already!

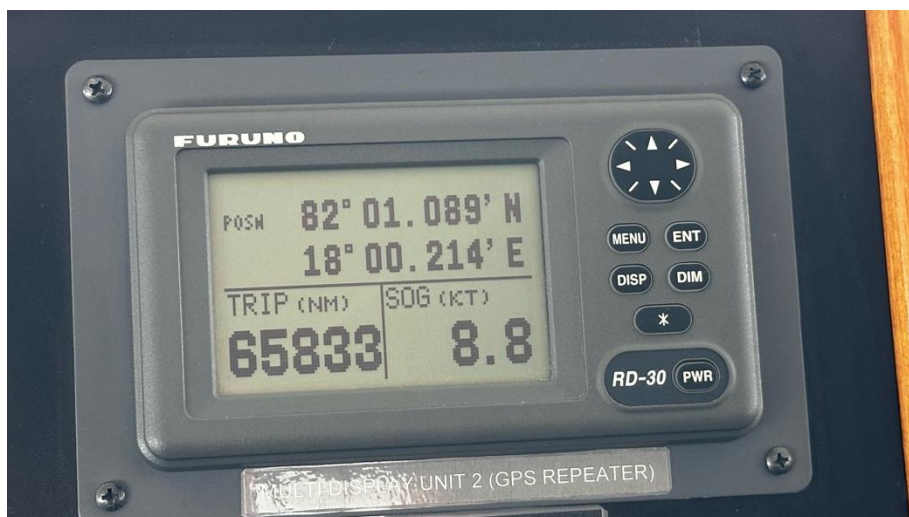
While the lounge was buzzing with excitement, the fog seemed to sneak in on us. Nevertheless, the ship kept course through the ice and then suddenly a silhouette on the ice appeared. It turned out to be a whale carcass and there was a bear on top of it! Our third bear already and it wasn't even lunch time. The captain carefully navigated the ship closer by and with the fog lifting we got a front row view of this once in a lifetime encounter. The whale was a dead sperm whale which for the polar bears meant a lot of food. Polar bears like blubber and fat and this sperm whale had plenty of that to offer. It seemed hard though to get through the thick skin of the whale so the bear was trying different spots on the whale to get some of the meat and blubber. Whale carcasses sometimes wash ashore on the main land, but finding one like this in the pack ice is rare. The risk for the bears is that the carcass eventually will deflate and sink to the bottom. Hopefully the bears will manage to fill their stomachs with plenty of food before that happens.

Lunch was announced and since we were not going to move for the next few hours, it was good to eat something knowing the bear would still be out there. But while we were enjoying the delicious food, Philipp announced another bear. This bear surely had smelled the decaying carcass and made its way down to have a taste of the whale. The bear that had been on the carcass was now sleeping next to it, but when it saw the other bear approaching it retreated to avoid a confrontation. The other bear was clearly higher in the hierarchy and once our first bear was far away enough, it made its way back and started eating.

Here and there cameras were running out of battery or even memory, but seeing such a scene with your own eyes is equally important. Survival on the ice in optima forma.



Then it was time to leave the carcass and we set sail towards the ice edge. The plan was to follow the ice edge and see what else we could find. We didn't find another bear, but we hadn't run out of luck just yet as a whale blow was spotted and this turned out to be a rare Bowhead whale. Bowhead whales have been hunted to the brink of extinction and they only recover slowly. Their numbers are estimated to be in the hundreds only and they're also an elusive whale species so seeing one so clearly from the ship was yet another special moment.



Last but not least, we also managed to cross 82°N something many of us were hoping for.

While recap started, the bridge team set course back to Svalbard to make it in time for our morning activities the next day. We enjoyed our dinner in the restaurant while smiling and trying to

reflect on the amazing day we had just spent in the ice. It was a day on the ship, but the bears surely kept us busy!

Time to look at some or many photos, and a good night sleep after!

Day 6 – Sunday, July 6th, Faksevangen, Alkefjellet and Torellneset

12h00 GPS Position: 79°39.4'N / 017°46.2'E

Wind: SSE 2 • Sea: smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air : 2°C • T Sea : 4°C



We awoke early this morning, excited for the day ahead. A cloudy sky and calm waters awaited us!

We all went to the restaurant for a hearty breakfast. Shortly afterwards, the first activity began. We headed to the gangway, where we boarded the familiar Zodiacs.

Faksevangen in Lomfjorden was our destination. Lomfjorden is a side bay in the northern part of Hinlopenstretet.

While not the world's largest fjord, it has a beautiful side bay on its western side called Faksevangen. We divided into three walking groups. We saw several kinds of flowers and lichens. The long-distance walkers were delighted to spot a reindeer and her beautiful calf.

Walking through soft fog, we arrived at a viewpoint with a lovely view. We also had the opportunity to see a purple sandpiper on its nest.

After this exciting start to the day, it was time to head back and enjoy a well-deserved lunch.

Our next destination was the famous cliffs of Alkefjellet, which stretch for several kilometres and are home to hundreds of thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. Even without the birds, the dramatic cliffs would be well worth a visit—but the guillemots are undoubtedly the main attraction, never failing to impress those lucky enough to witness this natural wonder. During our Zodiac cruise, we had the opportunity to fully appreciate this incredible place.



Then it was time to return to the ship for some warm tea or coffee. During the recap, Philip told us about the plans for the following day. Enric explained the geology of the cliffs. Daniel spoke about the circle of life in the Arctic Ocean, and Steffi taught us all about the Brünnich's guillemot!

An early dinner was served, as the day's adventures weren't over yet.

We sailed through the fog to reach our final destination. As we arrived, the fog cleared and revealed the landing site—full of walruses.

Torellneset is a headland on the southwestern side of Nordaustlandet in the Svalbard archipelago. It is named after the geologist Otto Martin Torell. Located south of the Vegafonna glacier, it marks the southwesternmost point of Gustav Adolf Land. The island of Perthesøya lies offshore from the headland.

A soft fog rolled in again, adding to the mystery of the scene. After taking hundreds of pictures of the walruses and watching them interact and swim, it was time to return to the ship.

At almost 10 p.m., we ended this magical day—one that will be remembered for a lifetime.



Day 7 – Monday, July 7th, Sundneset and Negribreen

12h00 GPS Position: 78°35.0'N / 017°46.1'E

Wind: variable • Sea: calm • Weather: fog. Cloudy • Air: 2°C • Sea: 3°C

Day 7 dawned in Freemansundet, Spitsbergen's iconic sund in the east, but a thick blanket of fog enveloped our surroundings. Unfortunately the shore less than 2 NM distant was invisible. The area is magic but if there is no sight in the arctic environment, you better do not go on land. So, our morning activity was canceled for obvious reasons.

Ursula captivated us with a fascinating lecture on walruses. She focused on their main characteristics, highlighting their immense size, their thick, wrinkled hide, and their most distinctive feature: their long, prominent tusks. These tusks, which can grow quite long in both males and females, are elongated canine teeth used for navigating, foraging on the seabed, and hauling their massive bodies onto ice or land. We also learned about their sensitive whiskers (vibrissae) which help them find food in murky waters, and their ability to slow their heart rate and dive to considerable depths in search of clams and other benthic organisms. Following her, Daan delivered a thought-provoking presentation on climate change in the Arctic, presenting compelling data and raising awareness about the critical implications for this fragile ecosystem. His reflections prompted a deeper understanding of our collective role in preserving this unique wilderness.



After a morning of insightful discussions, a delicious lunch awaited us, providing a welcome break and time to reflect on the morning's lectures.

The afternoon brought a shift in our plans, and with the fog still lingering, we opted for an exhilarating Zodiac cruising experience at Negribreen glacier. This proved to be a serendipitous change, offering unparalleled, close-up views of the majestic tidewater glacier that dominates the Hornsund landscape. We navigated carefully through a labyrinth of icebergs, marveling at their

sculptural forms. A truly unforgettable highlight was encountering a playful group of belugas, their ghostly white forms gracefully navigating the icy waters, their presence a stark reminder of the vibrant marine life thriving amidst the dramatic glacial landscape.



Back on board, we gathered for our daily recap and a briefing for the following day, sharing our awe-inspiring experiences from the Zodiac cruise. Dinner followed, a perfect conclusion to another remarkable day in the Arctic.

Day 8 – Tuesday, July 8th, Gåshamna and Treskelen

12h00 GPS Position: 76°56.7'N / 015°48.9'E

Wind: S-2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Fog • Air: 7°C • Sea: 7°C

Tuesday morning, we woke just before sailing into the southernmost fjord, Hornsund. Visibility around the ship was good, but Hornsund itself looked very foggy. Our destination was a place called Gåshamna, but we were soon distracted by a young humpback whale feeding right in front of the ship.



Of course, we couldn't miss such a sight. Solina, our third officer, slowed the ship down. "Humpy," as we quickly named her, was curious and came very close. We could see her entire body beneath the water, including her striking white flippers. She was foraging in very shallow waters, which meant she lifted her tail many times, giving us a clear view of its underside— a key feature for identifying individual whales.

After about 45 minutes of whale-watching, we repositioned the ship in front of Gåshamna. Once again, we were lucky—the fog cleared, and Philipp decided it was safe to land. We landed near the remains of whales hunted in the 17th and 18th centuries. In those times, large ovens were used to boil down the blubber after flensing. It was both sobering and fascinating to see the bones and skulls still lying on the tundra.



Around them, green moss and plants had taken root, nourished by nutrients slowly released from the decaying bones. It felt especially meaningful to have seen a living whale just before, a reminder that whales are slowly returning to Spitsbergen.



As usual, we split into three groups. The long hikers made their way far up the mountain, climbing a scree slope. As we ascended, the fog began to roll in again, and by the time we reached the highest point, visibility was gone. On the descent, we slid down patches of snow—some on our feet, others with heels dug in, depending on personal preference.

The medium and leisure groups stayed near the whale bones. They hiked up to

get a better view of the bird cliffs and even discovered a dead redwing—a vagrant bird that had taken a wrong turn and ended up on Spitsbergen.

Lunch was postponed so we could enjoy a longer stay on land. We returned to the ship for another delightful meal. After lunch, Plancius sailed past Samarinbreen, a stunning glacier front with some fast ice still clinging on.

At 15:30, we set out for our next adventure: a landing at Treskelen, a small spit on the opposite side of Hornsund fjord. We came ashore on a pebbled beach with snow-covered ground just above it. From there, we walked to a sedimentary rock plateau covered in square cracks. The long hikers explored the spit for a view from its tip, while the medium hikers were lucky enough to spot lakes with red-throated divers. The leisure group got down on all fours to examine lichen, plants, and fossils in detail.



That evening during the recap, we learned that we'd be sailing back to Isfjorden, the largest fjord, to spend another day there.

Koen gave a talk on baleen whales, explaining their foraging behavior and reproductive cycles. Vale helped us grasp the scale of Arctic animals by using a rope to represent their sizes—from Arctic foxes to blue whales. Then Ursula captivated us all with a heartfelt presentation on the importance of showing children the beauty and vulnerability of animals and the Earth. She does this through her artwork, which features animals from the Arctic and beyond. The highlight was when the guides carried in a life-sized humpback whale made of fabric—it filled almost the entire lecture room.

We were tired but fulfilled—most of us turned in early after another incredible day in the Arctic.

Day 9 – Wednesday July 9th, Gipsvika and Skansbukta

12h00 GPS Position: 78°25.7'N / 015°48.9'E

Wind: SSE-2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air: 7°C • Sea: 10°



On our final morning, we started in Gipsvika — and finally saw the sun again. After days of fog while circumnavigating Spitsbergen, this sudden burst of light lifted our spirits. We landed in a wide valley and split into our usual hiking groups to explore an area rich with vegetation. The medium hiking group eventually split into two, allowing the birders their own group to explore the freshwater pools that dotted the valley. The scale of the landscape was simply breathtaking. Sunlight danced across the towering, steep mountains, creating a spectacular light show. We spotted puffins high up on the cliffs, while reindeer grazed peacefully in the valley below. The birding group discovered a young ringed plover family with four tiny chicks — a sight they proudly shared with the slower group.

The middle hikers reached a small plateau, taking in sweeping views of the high Arctic landscape. The long hikers explored the entire valley, even crossing some muddy ground. Eventually, we all made it back to the beach, where we discovered the swell had picked up. The Expedition Team had a very wet job getting us back into the zodiacs — a true expedition moment! By now, everyone understood why waterproof outer layers are essential. What a magical morning in a place that made us all feel small in the best possible way. As we

enjoyed lunch, our bridge team navigated us to our afternoon destination: Skansbukta, on the northern shore at the entrance to Billefjorden. There, we found a small cabin, rusting train tracks, and a barge — remnants of a gypsum mine established in the early 20th



century. Despite being reopened after an initial closure, the mine was ultimately abandoned due to the poor quality of the material and the remoteness of the site. The landing at Skansbukta was truly special. We had the freedom to walk around within a safe perimeter set up by the guides. A lone walrus was lounging on the beach, so the Expedition Team roped off the area to ensure we kept a respectful distance. Around the corner, puffins were taking off from their nesting sites. Despite the crowd, the experience of watching these iconic birds soar on the Arctic winds was unforgettable. For many of us, it was the first time seeing puffins, adding the perfect finishing touch to our wildlife encounters. We ended this special landing with hot chocolate, a celebratory shot — and for the brave, a dip in the Arctic

Ocean. What a finale to an incredible trip. We couldn't have wished for anything more: the landscapes, the wildlife, and, above all, the people we shared these past ten days with. Emotions ran high as we boarded the zodiac for the last time and returned to our beloved *Plancius*. The evening was filled with laughter, stories, heartfelt appreciation, and a stunning slideshow of memories — a celebration of the moments we'll carry with us in our hearts and souls.



Day 10 – Thursday, July 10th, Longyearbyen, Disembarkation

08h00 GPS Position: 78°13.9'N / 015°37.6'E

Wind: NE 1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air: 8°C • Sea: 5°C

This morning, we were woken up one more time by Philipp's soft morning voice. Surely we will miss him waking us up! Unfortunately, the only activity planned for today was our disembarkation and saying our farewells and goodbyes to our fellow guests that had become our friends in the past week. However, Oceanwide wouldn't let us leave the ship with one last breakfast. So, after we had put our big luggage pieces in the hallways, we made our way to the restaurant for one more delicious breakfast and to see the wonderful dining room crew once again. Although some of us felt melancholic that the expedition was about to end, we also felt happiness and gratitude for the past seven days that had been so intense and wonderful.

Then the time had arrived to leave the beautiful M/V Plancius, the ship that had brought us to so many places and that had allowed us to observe fantastic wildlife, landscapes and the mesmerizing pack ice. We will surely miss this little blue ship.

Today we were docked at the general pier so no need to dress up in those waterproofs again, no today we could walk down the gangway and set foot in Longyearbyen once again. Some of us went to town whereas others made their way to the airport. However, one thing we all had in common was this wonderful trip and the amazing memories it has given us. Saying goodbye is never easy, but it often also means that you've had a fantastic time and that made it totally worth it.

The wonderful expedition team waved us goodbye while the buses slowly departed and the ship slowly became smaller. Off to new adventures and maybe one day back on board with Oceanwide Expeditions. Thank you and goodbye!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1354 NM
Northernmost position: 82°01.203'N



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff we would like to thank you for pleasant times, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	1-jul	2-jul	3-jul	4-jul	5-jul	6-jul	7-jul	8-jul	9-jul	10-jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker	V										
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Stermtaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B		x				x		x		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstölpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	T										
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	T										
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	Taigarietgans	V										
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B						x		x	x	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B	x	x				x	x	x	x	x
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans	Oie Rieuse	Kolgans	V										
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	V										
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B						x				
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans	V										
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	T										
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	Wintertaling	B										
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Canard colvert	Wilde eend	T										
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Canard pilet	Pijlstaart	B										
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Fuligule morillon	Kuifeend	T										
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidereend	B	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B						x			x	
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	V										
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ilseend	B		x				x				
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						x				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Huitrier Pie	Scholekster	V				x						
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B		x							x	
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B										
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B						x				
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Bécasseau tacheté	Gestrepte strandloper	V										
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B	x		x	x		x		x	x	x
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper	B										
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B										
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu	Regenwulp	T										
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette	Tureluur	V										
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer	Tournepierre 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										
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T								x		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B		x	x	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						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										
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Goéland cendré	Stormmeeuw	V										
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B	x	x	x	x	x	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										
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									x	
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

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!

Koen Hoekemeijer – Exp. Guide



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales

and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife.

Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and portraits of people all over the world.

Koen believes that travelling does not only enrich your life, it also makes you more humble, more appreciative and it provides new levels of perspective and understanding. Koen has won the prestigious WWF Frans Lanting Photo contest, and in 2020 he won the Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Photography competition. It's Koen's dream to one day have a Vizsla dog and own a small cabin somewhere in northern Norway surrounded by snow and trees ;).

Jess Owen – Expedition Guide



Jess is from England and has recently been living on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. She is very excited to be returning to work with Oceanwide Expeditions for another season in the polar regions.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching. She loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew and likes travelling in her beloved campervan.

Ursula Tscherter - Expedition Guide



She grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of her childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed her life radically. She gave up her original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation she combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

She is a true minke whale enthusiast. A thousands of hours she observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years she obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). She nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 she started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home she produced life-sized foldable animals, which she carries to schools and ships. Visit her lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as her urge to learn and explore is her need to share her knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach her at any time, as she loves to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, traveling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions, and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island names Ilhabela in Brazil,

working in tourism area.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or camping and hiking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like scuba diving, kayaking and sailing.

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream of her, and now are part of her life.

Enric Sangra Modol – Exp. Guide



Enric Sangrà holds a Master's degree in Scientific Communication from the Valencian International University and a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Barcelona. With extensive experience as a science communicator in various research institutes in Spain, he has worked closely with researchers to effectively communicate their discoveries.

Enric is passionate about making Earth Science understandable to the public through storytelling. He bridges the gap between researchers and society, transforming complex scientific results into clear and engaging messages. His skills led him to be one of the ten finalists in the national final of scientific monologues in Spain, "Solo de Ciencia," where the top ten science communicators in the country were selected.

For Enric, Antarctica represents the pinnacle of geological exploration. The continent's unique geological features, including ancient rock formations, meteorite-rich fields, and glacial landscapes, provide invaluable insights into Earth's history. Studying these rocks and minerals reveals secrets about past climates, tectonic movements, and the processes that have shaped our planet over millions of years.

What truly excites Enric about guiding in Antarctica is the opportunity to make passengers see beyond the ice and rocks, bringing out his full potential by sharing the fascinating geological stories of this pristine and remote region.

Stefanie Liller – Expedition Guide



Steffi Liller was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1978. After completing her apprenticeship as a biology lab technician at the Paul-EhrlichInstitute in Langen, Germany, she earned a degree in Biology and Meteorology at the Universities of Darmstadt and Freiburg in Germany. Alongside her studies and her love of nature, Stefanie developed an interest in and a passion for skydiving. This eventually changed from being a hobby to her profession. While working at drop-zones and indoor skydiving facilities throughout central Europe, Stefanie enjoyed sharing her passion for the sport with other people.

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveler by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Daan Vreugdenhil – Expedition Guide



The Arctic and Antarctic are in Daan's blood. Although 2011 was his last visit to the region, the icy mountains, King eider ducks and Svalbard reindeer were never far from his mind.

His first visit was in 2004 at an age of 21 when he started ecological research in Ny Alesund, the world most northerly village. The research covered surveys on geese, vegetation, nest counts and measuring grasses. He returned for this research in '05 and '06. In 2007 he started guiding for

Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic. Since then, he visited both poles until 2011. From 2011 he founded a wilderness and awareness school in the Netherlands. In 2024 he could not resist the call of the north any longer!

Daan lives and works in the Netherlands as an ecologist for Natuurmonumenten, a Dutch nature organisation. At home he loves to watch birds, walk large distances or go camping in wild European environments with his wife Mirte.

He is a keen birdwatcher and loves to see the Northern fulmar glide along the boat, the little auk squeaking on the rocky slope or the long call of a red throated diver. The conscious walk of an Arctic fox stepping on the smallest tree of the world, the polar willow, or a white Beluga whale in the water. He also loves to share the art of reading the landscape. Daan loves to speak about the large processes which form our surroundings. In short, he likes to take guests on a journey to experience the rich and well-adapted flora and fauna of the polar region.

What makes the polar regions so special for him is the pristine environment with the crisp air. This gives a feeling of being feral and free. The special adapted animals who live the tough life and feel at home. He loves to share his knowledge with you in lectures and even better, in the field!

Pauline van Paridon – Ships Doctor



Let us introduce you to Pauline van Paridon, who will be our medical doctor onboard. Pauline was born and raised in the Netherlands. Currently Pauline is a medical doctor training in Global Health and Humanitarian Medicine. For this reason she has previously worked abroad in countries such as Suriname, India and Greece. In addition, Pauline has also lived in Germany and Denmark.

Therefore she is able to speak Dutch and English fluently, and has a good command of the German and Danish language.

She will be joining this Oceanwide expedition to the polar region. However, in the past Pauline has travelled extensively to different parts of the world, including a 3,500 km cycling trip to the "end of the world" (Patagonia, South America). Pauline loves adventurous travels and is passionate about medicine, therefore joining on an oceanwide expedition is an excellent opportunity to combine both.

In her spare time Pauline enjoys being outdoors and practising sports such as trail running, mountaineering and rock climbing.

So, in case you have any concerns regarding your health or if you just want to have a small chat about travelling or mountains, then you know where to find her.



DAILY PROGRAM

Welcome aboard!

Day 1, Tuesday 01st July 2025

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

When all are on board

Introduction to the ship and **mandatory safety and lifeboat drill** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5. Please listen to announcements.

Thereafter **We invite you to our Welcome Aboard Briefing** in the Lounge/Bar on 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.

Cast off We are leaving Longyearbyen and our journey begins...

*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



KROSSFJORD & KONGSFJORD

Day 2, Wednesday 02nd July 2025

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

We wake up in the innermost part of Lilliehöökfjord, where magnificent **Lilliehöökbrean** spills into the sea. During breakfast we intend to cruise this glacial bay with the ship.

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

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

thereafter **Landing: Krossfjord, Signehamna.** After our briefings, we plan to land at Signehamna on the west side of Krossfjord. Once on land, we will split into groups, to explore the area in different walking speeds. A bit inland are the remains of the German weather stations “Knospe” and “Nussbaum”, which were used in the years 1941 to 43. The topography is undulating but generally easy.

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

Radio silence at Ny Ålesund! Please turn off Bluetooth on ALL your devices latest at lunchtime!

15.30 **Landing: Ny Ålesund.** The northernmost permanent settlement in the world was established in 1917 as a mining settlement. Today, Ny Ålesund is a centre for Arctic research and a famous historical site. From here Amundsen, Ellsworth & Nobile flew over 90°N in the airship *Norge*.

- **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.
- **17.30** we meet at the **bust of Roald Amundsen** (in the middle of the village) to walk to the anchoring mast of the *Norge* and Valeria will tell us the history behind it.
- **18.30** be **back on board**, we are leaving Ny Ålesund

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

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



LIEFDEFJORD & BOCKFJORD

Day 3, Thursday 03rd July 2025

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Zodiac-Cruise: Monacobreen, Liefdefjorden.** Today's morning we will spend in the innermost part of Liefdefjord (Love-Fjord), one of the most picturesque fjords of northern Spitsbergen. We plan a Zodiac-cruise along the impressive glacier-front of Monacobreen. Please dress warmly, we are not getting ashore.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 15.00 **Landing: Bockfjord.** Named for a German surveyor, Bockfjord is a smaller branch of Woodfjord. Here we find the only visible traces of volcanism in Spitsbergen, including the pyramidal volcanic ruin of Sverrefjellet and sinter terraces deposited from the warm mineral-rich waters. We plan on three hiking options here for terrific views and exploration. On the medium and especially on the long walk the terrain is getting more and difficult (blockfields), the further we hike.
- 18.30 **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon Appetite!

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



CHERMSIDEØYA & PHIPPSØYA

Day 4, Friday 04th July 2025

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Landing: Chermsideøya, Beverlysund.** This morning we wake up in the far north of the Svalbard archipelago. We intend to land on the barren island of Chermsideøya. Close to our landing we find “stone-graffiti” from many years ago. Besides others from the Icebreaker Krassin, who rescued the survivors of the Nobile expedition in 1928. We also find a swastika, made by young Germans in 1939. In our three groups we will offer hikes in this remote polar desert.
- 12.30 **Lunch** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 15.00 **Landing: Phippsøya, Sjuøyane.** The Sjuøyane (Sevenislands) are the northernmost islands of the archipelago. Those barren islands are locked in pack ice most of the year and often landings are not possible before the end of summer.
Our intention is to go ashore on Phippsøya, in a wide bay, where walrus are often seen. If our friends are at home, we will visit the animals in two groups. If there are no walrus resting on the beach, we plan to do some exploration in our walking groups.
- 18.30 Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00 **BBQ** on the back deck! Enjoy and bring your dancing rubber-boots 😊.

*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*

song by Susi Varming (Norwegian artist, grew up in Longyearbyen)



A DAY IN THE PACK ICE

Day5 | Saturday 05th July 2025

Expedition day in the pack ice! North 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 polar pack.

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

- 07.30** **Pack-ice-sleep-in** 😊.
- 07.45** **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.
- 18.30** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served! Enjoy 😊.

*"One does not discover new parts of the world,
without the courage
of leaving all coastlines behind.*

André Gide



DAILY PROGRAM

HINLOPENSTRETET

Day 6, Sunday 06th July 2025

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Landing: Faksevågen, Lomfjord.** Overnight we will be sailing towards Hinlopenstretet and into Lomfjord. We intend to land in a little side bay 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.
- 12.00 **Lunch** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14.00 **Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet.** This afternoon 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.
- 17.00 Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 17.30 **Buffet-dinner.** Enjoy 😊
- 19.00 **Landing: Torellneset.** In southern Hinlopen, Torellneset is a very good place to see walrus. If our friends are at home and ice conditions in our favour, 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.

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

Robert Peary (1856 – 1920), polar explorer.



FREEMANSUND & STORFJORD

Day 7, Monday 07th July 2025

- 07.15** **A wonderful good morning.** Wake up call.
- 07.30** Breakfast buffet for one hour.
- 09.00** **Landing: Sundneset, Barentsøya.** We plan to spend today's morning on Barentsøya, the 4th largest island of the archipelago. At the cape of Sundneset we intend to land close to a cabin (Würzburgerhütte), erected in 1959 by German researchers. The landscape is undulating and easy to walk. Nice birdlife can be found on some small lakes further inland.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.30** **Zodiac cruise: Negribreen.** The glacier Negribreen has one of the longest glacier fronts on Spitsbergen. If conditions are in our favour (specially wind and waves) we will intend to do a Zodiac cruise around the glacier. Please dress warm, we are not getting ashore.
- 19.00** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30** 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, Tuesday 08th July 2025

- 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.
- 14.30** **Landing: Treskelen, Hornsund.** In the afternoon we plan to get ashore on the north side of Hornsund on a land-spit called Treskelen. Interesting geological formations and great views of Hornsund are waiting for us.
- 18.30** **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00** **Dinner.** Bon Appetite!

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

ISFJORD

Day 9, Tuesday 09th July 2025

- 07.15** **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 07.30** Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 09.00** **Landing: Gipsvika, Sassenfjord.** Today we are in the innermost Isfjorden, where Sassenfjord is the southeastern branch. In the morning we plan to get shore in the bay of Gipsvika, where we find remains of (unsuccessful) coalmining activities from 1921. Gipsdalen is a broad valley surrounded by steep slopes and rock walls. We offer easy valley hikes.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 14.30** **Landing: Skansbukta, Billefjord.** The small bay of Skansbukta is situated in the entrance of Billefjord. This is another place of unsuccessful mining activities in the beginning of the 20th century. Steep rock walls and picturesque slopes are dominating the landscape. This is also a place where the Boreal Jacob's ladder is found.
- 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!
- 18.00** **Farewell Cocktail with the Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.00** **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!

"Where does the white go when the snow melts?"

Author unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

LONGYEARBYEN

Day 10, Thursday 10th July 2025

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 – latest at 07.45. The crew will bring it on shore. Please **identify your luggage** on shore, to be sure it's off the vessel and bring it to your luggage truck.

Blue tags: All booked on SK4491 at 10:45 – your luggage comes with you on the bus.

Yellow tags: All booked on SK4493 at 16:40 – your luggage goes to a luggage truck.

Red tags: All booked on SK4497 at 19:35 – your luggage goes to a luggage truck.

White ribbon: All staying in Longyearbyen – your luggage comes with you on the bus.

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

Thereafter **Last landing: Longyearbyen.**

08.45 **The bus to the airport is leaving.**

09.00 **The buses to Longyearbyen are leaving.**

14.30 **The bus from Longyearbyen to the airport (for flight SK4493 at 16:40)** is leaving from the central parking lot. Your luggage will be delivered by the luggage truck.

17.30 **The bus from Longyearbyen to the airport (for flight SK4497 at 19:35)** is leaving from the central parking lot. Your luggage will be delivered by the luggage truck.

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

Listen to the Wild - it's calling you.

Robert William Service „Call of the wild“