



AROUND SPITSBERGEN

In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

10th – 19th 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:	Esther Josten	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Daan Vreugdenhil	[Netherland]

WELCOMES YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Thursday, July 10th, Longyearbyen, Embarkation

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

Wind: E1 • Sea: smooth • Weather: overcast • Air: 12°C • Sea: 9°C

After travelling from far and wide, with some having spent a few nights in Longyearbyen, and others flying in in the morning, we started to gather outside the Plancius in the afternoon. From four o'clock we were allowed to embark onto what would be our home for the next nine days. We were welcomed on board by the hotel and expedition team and show our cabins. We could settle in with a hot drink in the lounge before taking part in the mandatory safety briefing and abandon ship drill. Chief Officer Martin took us outside to see the life boats, with all of us dressed in our bright orange life jackets. After this we set sail and enjoyed the views as we left Longyearbyen. We were then invited to the lounge to have welcome drinks with the Captain and to meet our Expedition Leader Phillipp and the expedition team. We had a buffet dinner in the evening where we met the restaurant team, and then continued to enjoy the scenery before heading to bed.



Day 2 – Friday, July 11th Ny Ålesund & Lilliehöökreen

08:00 GPS Position: 78°59.7'N / 011°26.7'E

Wind: ESE 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast/Rain • Air: 7°C • Water T: +8°C

Day 2 began with our arrival and morning landing at Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost permanent settlement and a vital international Arctic research center. After a delightful breakfast buffet, we had an essential info-meeting about Ny-Ålesund in the lounge.

After an hour in Ny-Ålesund, we had the privilege of listening to the director of the scientific Dutch research station, Maartin Loonen, who shared insights into the groundbreaking research conducted by his group over the past 35 years there. Their long-term studies provide interesting data on Arctic ecosystems and climate change. Following this, Valeria



and Esther brought history to life, explaining the incredible story of Roald Amundsen's expeditions from Ny-Ålesund, including his pioneering airship trip to the North Pole.

After returning to the ship for a delicious lunch buffet, a mandatory briefing on polar bear



country behavior and safe Zodiac operations prepared us for the afternoon's adventure.

Our Arctic exploration continued as we sailed deeply into Krossfjord, where the magnificent Lilliehöökreen glacier awaited us for an exciting Zodiac cruise. We experienced a truly active glacier, witnessing numerous dramatic calving

events as massive chunks of ice broke away and crashed into the sea, creating thunderous roars and impressive waves. We had the unique opportunity to get close enough to touch and examine the glacier ice, marveling at the ancient air bubbles trapped within, a testament to the ice's formation over millennia. The icebergs around us displayed a fascinating palette of colors, from brilliant whites to deep blues and even occasional greens, reflecting their density and age.

Back on board, we had our daily recap. Daan shared his personal experiences living in Ny-Ålesund, explaining his research on the growth of local grasses and the significant influence that grazing animals, such as geese, have on their growth. Dinner was served, a perfect end to a day filled with scientific discoveries, historical insights, and breathtaking natural wonders. <https://www.arcticstation.nl/>



Day 3 – Saturday, July 12th, Jotunkjeldene & Texas Bar

08h00 GPS Position: 79°27.4'N / 013°22.1'E

Wind: S2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air : 7°C • T Sea : 7°C

During the night Plancius had sailed North around the tip of Svalbard and then southwards into the Woodfjorden. Early in the morning several guests were already standing on the outer decks to take in the beauty of an amazing and unique landscape. Only the sense of hunger brought them eventually back inside for breakfast.



Fortunately, the strong wind dropped as we approached our first true wet landing site at a place called Jotunkjeldene in the Bockfjord. With the zodiacs we were brought to the beach. Divided into three groups we soon after started our hikes to explore the area at various speeds. Not surprisingly it didn't take long for the mountain goats to reach a unique place not expected to be found in the High Arctic: The Hot Springs where warm water of 20° C trickled out of the ground. As they kept going to reach even higher grounds, the medium group arrived at the sinter terrace. The view was breath taking. The mineral-coloured ground to their feet contrasted beautifully with the red mountain on the opposite side of the fjord. This formation is called Devonian Old Red formed 400 million years ago.

Meanwhile the leisurely group had also gained some height continuously and slowly, walking like polar bears do. Every so often somebody bent or kneeled to take a close look at the small beauties on the ground. An unexpected high number of flowering plants were to be discovered with cameras, the magic magnifying glasses (*Lichen Candelaris*), the butterfly

binoculars or simply by naked eye. Uh's, Ah's and Oh's filled the air. Higher up the group had the great pleasure to silently watch a Ptarmigan male and female most probably nesting in the area.



A couple of hours later we all gathered at the beach to be brought back to the ship where lunch was awaiting us. It didn't take long for the guides and crew to heave all zodiacs back on deck, to lift anchor and to sail into the Liefdefjorden (Love Bay). Scouting from the bridge no bear was discovered in the area allowing us to go on land near the Texas Bar. Gathered around the bar there were surely some faces expressing some degree of disappointment as no drinks were served.

Soon we stood on a nearby high rocky point, which offered a breath-taking view onto a wide flat and rocky estuary. The wind was blowing strong giving us a feeling for living conditions in the High Arctic. To stay warm and cover some ground we kept walking. Which was a challenge however as too many flowers, mosses and lichens continued to catch our attention. Finally we reached a huge rounded rock at the far end from where we enjoyed a fantastic panoramic view over the water, various bays and the long glacier front of the Monacobreen.

As the cold crept through our layers it was time to walk back to the landing site where the others already boarded the zodiacs. Thanks to the skilled drivers we arrived safe and dry on board despite the wavy sea. As time was short we soon met in the lounge to learn about tomorrow's plans. In a short presentation Enric introduced us to the geology of Svalbard taking us back in time when the Archipelago was positioned at the equator some 500 million years ago.

It was such a fulfilling and active day that we all fell easily asleep later that night. Despite the daylight shining through the curtains.



Day 4 – Sunday, July 13th, Chermsideøya & Phippsøya

08h00 GPS Position: 80°29.0'N / 020°05.4'E

Wind: NE1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air: 10°C • Sea: 8°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. The bright sunlight reflected in our sunglasses, and it felt very warm for the Arctic climate.

It was a beautiful ride in on the zodiacs, and we landed on a sandy sunlit beach with lots of large pieces of drift wood. At the beach two curious reindeer walked up to us to check us out. After the lovely encounter, we split into our three hiking groups. The long hikers, or mountain goats, went with Philipp, Esther and Jess up to a peak to enjoy



the panoramic views of the island. The middle group had an survival experience hike with Daan, Valeria and Koen. Daan asked us what we would need to survive on the bare rocks of Chermsideøya. We got out of our comfort zone by walking on the tundra, snow, and in the meltwater river on bare feet! The leisurely hikers, or Arctic Strollers, as they are now known, learned a lot about the stones and geology from Enric. Ursula invited us to help her clean up the plastic from the beach. We were shocked by the amount of plastic in such a remote place, but we were happy to contribute to the cleaning.

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. We scanned the still sunlit bay of Isvlakbukta. Where we saw our first walrus in the water. They were curious and came up pretty close to Plancius. Maybe that was why they were not at home, laying on the beach. Instead of doing a walk to see them we decided to go to a landing on the island to stretch our legs and experience the landscape which is known as 'The Polar Desert'.

The staff team scouted from the ship to see if the coast was clear. While the guides were landing on the beach to check out the land what was not visible from the bridge we dressed warm and slid in our life vests. As soon as we were finished, There was movement on the beach. Philipp made a radio call that he encountered a bear on land! That meant that the landing was cancelled. Luckily Philipp quickly changed the plans for the afternoon and we all



got on the zodiacs, exited to encounter the king of the Arctic, the Polar bear, from a safe distance. We got a feeling for the very good camouflage of the bear as it was laying in the snow like a big white boulder. It got up to have a look on the strange site of 10 floating large seals in the water, but it soon got back to sleep on the tundra this time. What

a beauty to see the bear in its natural environment displaying his natural behaviour. Next to the bear we also looked small because next to our zodiac were many beautiful jellyfish. During our zodiac cruise the weather changed from blue sky and sunlight until we were surrounded by fog in a couple of minutes time.

In the evening recap we heard about the plans for our day in the ice and we learnt about arctic



plants from Esther and Plastic in our oceans from Ursula. 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.

Day 5 – Monday, July 14th, Pack Ice day, Looking for Polar Bears

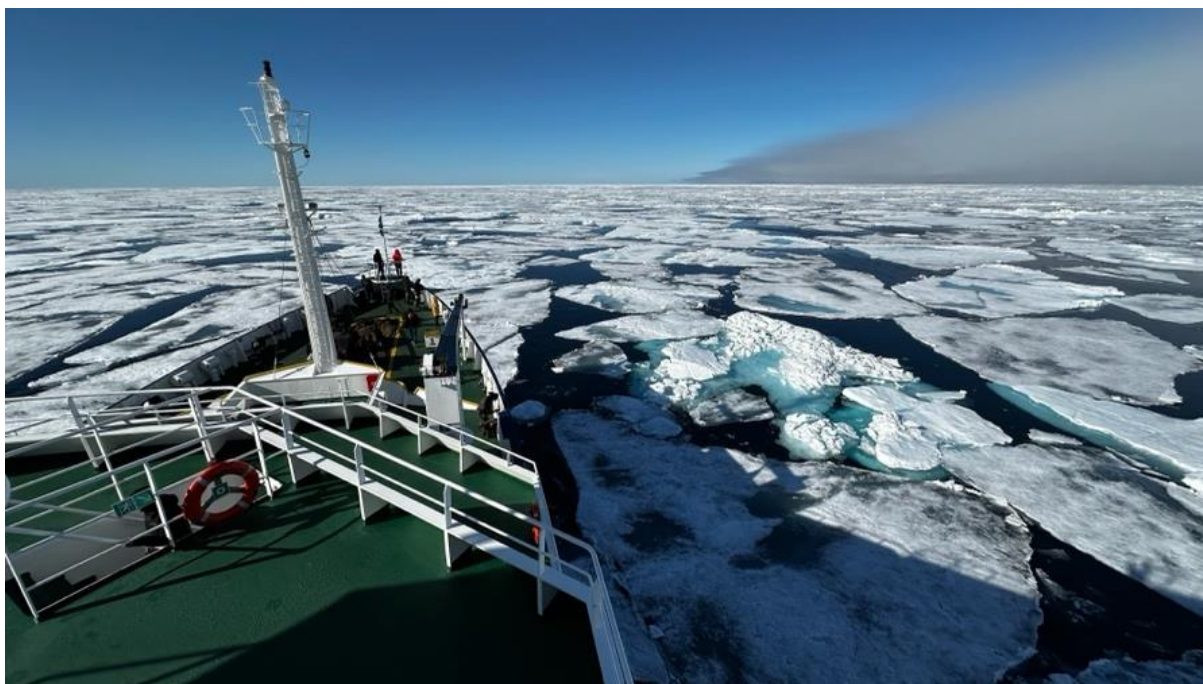
08h00 GPS Position: 81°55.9'N / 029°41.2'E

Wind: W3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air : 2°C • Sea : 0°C

This morning Philipp allowed us to sleep in. Not much, but the extra 15 minutes were very welcome after our first intense days with so many impressions and beautiful hikes. The plan to sleep in was unfortunately not really working out as our first polar bear had been spotted already. We had only just arrived at the mesmerizing pack ice when our first bear was seen. It was at the edge of the ice and it was amazing to see such a beautiful animal in its natural habitat.



We forgot about breakfast and rushed out to see the bear with our own eyes. Our captain navigated the Plancius carefully through the ice to get us closer without disturbing the bear. Captain Evgeny has more than 30 years of experience navigating through the ice and it showed. Slowly and silently, we crawled closer until we had a fantastic view of our first pack ice bear. Things got even better and then onwards to fantastic, as the bear showed an interest in the Plancius and it started making its way up to us.



We were all in awe while we snapped away with our cameras and smartphones. The bear walked half around the ship and almost under our bow before it decided to move on. For the big lenses this was way too close, but none of us were “complaining” ;).

After a short while we started to head further into the ice while we made our way down to the restaurant for breakfast. The room was buzzing with excitement as this had been the perfect start to our day. According to the guides such a close encounter is very rare and doesn’t occur every trip. We clearly were very lucky!



While we were digesting our breakfast, Philipp made another announcement; a second bear had been spotted and on we went! Our captain demonstrated his skills once again and we had

another magical encounter with the true king of the Arctic. At a certain point the bear entered the icy cold water so we decided to leave it.

It was time for a coffee, quickly scan through our photos and warm up a bit. But as they say; "There's no rest for the wicked", Philipp had spotted yet another bear! We were super lucky once again as also this bear came close to the ship and our cameras did overtime once more.

This day had been fantastic. The views on the ice, the bright sun and blue skies, it was a fantastic landscape and something many of us had never experienced before. Nothing but ice until the horizon and with a little bit of effort we could have walked all the way to the North Pole as we had reached 82°N which is only a rough 900km from the northernmost point in the world. We felt very remote and truly on top of the world. And with all these fantastic polar bears it was simply the perfect day.



Towards the end of the day, we were fulfilled with fantastic photos, unforgettable memories and impressions that would last forever.

As if the weather knew we would start to head south soon, the fog came in and soon we lost all visibility. Perfect, no more *stress* to find more bears and time for a beer while listening to recap. Philipp presented the plans for the next day while Koen gave us a crash course in Polar Bear knowledge. Time for dinner!

Day 6 – Tuesday, July 15th, Faksevågen, Alkefjellet and Torellneset

08h00 GPS Position: 79°33.1'N / 017°41.5'E

Wind: SE 3 • Sea: smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air : 14°C • Sea : 6°C

This morning, we sailed towards our morning landing site Faksevågen to do some hikes. However, we arrived to find a wonderful surprise. There were not one, but two bears resting on the hillside. One was a mother, and one was a small cub. We were invited to the outside



decks to see these special bears interacting with each other. We stayed with them for a little while before setting off to another bay nearby to try to land there instead. Geerbukta offered us a bear free alternative, and we landed for a short while. The long hikers went with Jess and Koen up to a view point to see an almost panoramic view of a glacier. The leisurely group who stayed close to the landing site with Esther and Valeria had a real treat as they discovered a den of an Arctic fox and were surprised to find three pups peeping out. The medium group did a litter pick with Ursula and Enric along the beach as they were surprised to find so much marine rubbish washed up on the shore.

Back on board we had lunch as we sailed to our next stop Alkefjellet, the home of around sixty thousand pairs of breeding Brunnich's guillemots. On arrival, we realised the weather had other ideas for us. The wind and waves were far too strong for us to operate in. We looked at the cliffs from afar and then continued our route to Torellneset. On our way we passed by an island Wahlbergoya where it is forbidden to land. We sailed by just close enough to see some huge male walrus laying on the beach.



To pass the unexpected free time in the afternoon, Daan gave us a talk about climate change in the Arctic.

After a restful afternoon we gathered to watch the recap. But it was cut short by yet another bear. This time spotted on the fast ice in a bay.

In the evening around 9pm we arrived to see a spectacular sight. We began sailing along the edge of Brasvelbreen, the largest ice cap in Svalbard. The glacier was enormous, and it was hard to get a sense of scale. The captain sailed close to the glacier front and the light was beautiful. It was a special way to end a day that didn't go entirely to plan, and we went to bed feeling satisfied.

Day 7 – Wednesday, July 16th, Negribreen & Sundneset

08h00 GPS Position: 78°35.7'N / 019°13.3'E

Wind: W1 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partial cloud • Air: 11°C • Sea: 2°C

This morning, we sailed through Freemansundet into Storfjorden, the “Big Fjord” that separates Spitsbergen from Barentsøya and Edgeøya. In the northwestern corner of the fjord, the majestic glacier front of Negribreen awaited our visit. Negribreen is the largest glacier of Spitsbergen with its total size of 1,180 km² and the 20km long glacier front. It was mild and sunny when we boarded our zodiacs after breakfast. We started at the eastern

end of the glacier and soon encountered the first towering ice bergs that had run aground in the bay creating fascinating formations shaped by the elements. Then we heard the first call out for whales! A small pod of belugas was sighted. Many of us didn't get to see them at first but approximately 15 minutes later they were spotted again. This time most boats were lucky enough to get a good view of these beautiful white whales with their dark grey calves. What a perfect scenery observing them amidst the floating ice bergs! After we spent a decent amount of time with these wonderful animals, we continued our zodiac cruise along the gigantic wall of ice, accompanied by several ivory gulls and kittiwakes. Many great ice bergs



ran aground in the waters in front of the glacier, wind and waves turned them into ice sculptures with many beautiful shapes and shades of different colours. From our guides we learned more about the composition of the ice and what determines the colour we perceive. The morning came to an end, and we headed back to the ship for lunch. The anchor was hoisted, and our voyage took us south again towards Freemansundet and a place called Sundneset. Picturesque, gentle slopes covered in big patches of green, lakes promising bird observations, rugged rocks and ridges, and a historic hut characterize this landing site. We landed in the late afternoon and were first sent over to the hut to take a look inside, before we split up into the usual three groups. Philipp and Koen took the direct path up towards the ridge and highest viewpoint in the bay. Ursula, Esther, and Jess walked along the shores of the first lake, eventually also headed for the viewpoint. Enric, Vale and Daan stayed at the lower end of the slope and took a closer look at the world at our feet. We were all enjoying to finally stretch our legs again when the guides received Philipp's call: "All guides, all guides, there's a polar bear on land, everybody back to the landing site". This message very clearly meant one thing: evacuate. No more photos, no more stops, we all turned around immediately and headed back to the landing site to get off this island. The sea was challenging and there was a very strong current at the ship which made getting to the gangway difficult, but we all managed to get back on board safely. Thrilled, excited, slightly nervous, but happy

that everything went well after all. And at least we got a little bit of walking and some nice things to look at before we had to leave Sundneset faster than anticipated.

During our daily recap, Philipp shared his plans for the next day – we'd be sailing around the southern cape of Spitsbergen and into Hornsund. Afterwards Ursula told us more about Beluga whales and Jess revealed some shocking truths about walrus. After dinner, Esther offered a little storytelling session about Norse mythology. What did we take away from this? The strong connection to nature that all old religions share, and the attitude that we sometimes just need to accept our faith, not worry too much, not overthink, and just accept that every now and then, the gods are playing tricks on us.

Day 8 – Thursday, July 17th, Gåshamna and Treskelen

08h00 GPS Position: 76°47.6'N / 015°16.6'E

Wind: E4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partial cloud • Air: 13°C • Sea: 8°C

We woke just before we sailed into the most southernly fjord, Hornsund. It looked foggy so we hoped for the best. Luckily it turned out to be a small fog bank. When we cleared this, Hornsund welcomed us with blue sky and sunlight. Our destination was a place called Gåshamna, Goose Bay.

We landed close to the remains of the whales that got killed in the 17th and 18th century by Dutch and English whalers. The first reports when Spitsbergen was discovered was that you could walk over the backs of the whales from one side of the fjord to the other. In the beginning of the 17th century the whalers started their hunt. From small wooden boats they would hunt the whales. It was a fight between life and dead. For the whale, and the whalers. Once the whale was killed by various harpoons, it was dragged ashore. The whales were flensed and transported to the blubber ovens which we could still see on top of the green hills. The ovens were used to boil up the blubber which got transported to Europe. It was impressive to see the bones and skulls laying on the tundra. Around the bones was a lot of green moss and plants because the bones slowly release their nutrients to the surroundings.



Like normal, we divided into three groups. The long hikers went to a high ledge to enjoy the view during a relaxing Arctic silence.

The medium hikers went to a nice lookout and had stunning view of the purple sandpipers who gathered their food in the low tidal pools. The arctic strollers got a lot of important information from Ursula and Esther about how the whales are crucial in the circle of life. Due to the disappearance of the whales the ecosystem decreased. Very slowly we see a recovery in the numbers. Hopefully, they help to rebalance the ecosystem. Ursula and Koen took us up to the bird cliff to see glaucous gulls and kittiwakes. Back at the landing site a few brave explorers dove in for a polar plunge.

We enjoyed one of the delightful lunches once more. After lunch the Plancius sailed past Paieribreen in Burgerbukta. a beautiful glacier front with steep mountains in the back.

Later in the afternoon we got to our next landing site on a spit on the other side of the Hornsund fjord, called Treskelen. We landed on a pebbled beach in a swelly surf. As usual we divided the group into three. The long hikers went to the top of the spit and followed it towards the sea. The medium hikers solved a tracking case of a Guillemot that got killed by an Arctic fox. The leisure hikers went looking for cool rock formations, plants and lichen with Enric and Valeria.

In the recap Philipp told us that we are heading to Kings Karls Forland to spend our last expedition day exploring the large island just north of Isfjorden.

Vale told the story of Andree and his crew who went off with his hot airballoon to reach the north pole. Unfortunately, they failed and stranded on Kvitøya where they were found 34 years later, dead. After that Ursula impressed us all by giving a talk that it is important to show children the beauty and vulnerability of the animals and the earth. She does that by making artwork of the animals not only from the Arctic but the whole world. We were in awe when a life size Humpback whale was carried in by the guides covering almost the whole lecture room.

We were tired, most of us had an early evening after another fantastic day in the Arctic.



Day 9 – Friday, July 18th, Poolepynten & Sankt Jonsfjord

12h00 GPS Position: 78°27.8'N / 012°06.4'E

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air: 10°C • Sea: 7°

Today we rose with mixed feelings, excited by what today might bring, but sad to know this was our last full day of operations. We set off to go to Poolepynten to see a walrus haul out, but the wind was wild, and we were unable to complete our operations. So, we continued into a sheltered fjord.

Philipp and Koen made the decision to land in a different spot called Bulltinden and it turned out to be an excellent alternative. We landed and split into our usual walking groups. There were just a handful of long hikers that set off up the hill with Koen. They had excellent views of reindeer with their young. The medium group covered some ground with Philipp and explored the canyon. The leisurely group explored the

beach and looked at all the kelp and marine invertebrates hiding in the intertidal zone, they even saw a walrus swimming.

After lunch we managed to land at our 'Plan A' location for the afternoon in Sankt Jonsfjord. The weather was very warm. The long hikers with Philipp and Enric were sweating as they managed to get to a high viewpoint overlooking the glacier on the other side. The medium group had fun with Ursula, Koen, and Daan, as they made their way along a ridge to enjoy views and flowers. The leisurely group watched purple sandpipers and their chicks running along the beach and the tundra. They spent some time at the trappers' hut with Esther who explained more about Norwegian huts and Arctic exploration.

We returned to the ship and had just enough time to grab a shower before meeting in the lounge for a final gathering with everybody. We said farewell to the Captain, the hotel team, and Expedition team. We toasted to our voyage and then enjoyed watching a photo slideshow produced by Valeria.

We had a final dinner together and got to meet some of the staff working behind the scenes in the hotel department.

We chatted into the evening enjoying drinks in the bar and savouring our last few hours on board the Plancius.



Day 10 – Saturday, July 19th, Longyearbyen, Disembarkation

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

Wind: W2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air: 6°C • Sea: 7°C

We woke up to the sound of Phillip's voice for the final time. We left our luggage outside our rooms and had breakfast while the expedition staff took the bags down to the pier. We said goodbye to the dining room team and made our way to the gangway. Saying goodbye to the Plancius, our home for the last nine days, along with the new friends we made, was a sad and surreal moment for some. It is hard to explain all the sights we have seen over these last nine days. We've had the privilege of travelling to one of the most remote locations in the world, soaking up its beautiful scenery, and seeing some of its incredible inhabitants. Perhaps a quote from David Attenborough can help – 'It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living'.



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1399 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 travelling with us, 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	10-jul	11-jul	12-jul	13-jul	14-jul	15-jul	16-jul	17-jul	18-jul	19-jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker	V										
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B		x				x				
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Fulmar glacialis	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			
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B		x					x			
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans	Oie Rieuse	Kolgans	V										
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Gaugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	V										
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B										
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	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	Brlduiker	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										
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										
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Bécasseau tacheté	Gestreepte strandloper	V										
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B		x	x				x	x	x	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécaseau 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>	Phalaropus	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B		x								
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	x	
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B										
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B			x		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 glaucooides</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										
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T										

[illegible]

MAMMALS

[illegible]

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 ;).

Deutsch

Koen Hoekemeijer wurde 1974 in den Niederlanden geboren. Wenn es um die Natur und die Tierwelt geht, war Koen ein ziemlichlicher Spätzünder, denn er war schon immer eher für das Nachtleben und sonnige Strände zu begeistern. Das änderte sich jedoch, als er 2009 in Costa Rica seine Leidenschaft für die Tierwelt und die Fotografie entdeckte. Während dieser Reise sah Koen zum ersten Mal Buckelwale, in die er sich sofort verliebte. Er wollte nicht nur mehr und andere Arten von Walen an Orten auf der ganzen Welt sehen, sondern auch lernen, wie man diese erstaunlichen Kreaturen besser fotografiert. Mit der Liebe zu Walen und zur Fotografie wuchs auch seine Leidenschaft für alle Arten von Wildtieren.

Seit diesem denkwürdigen Urlaub im Jahr 2009 reist Koen um die Welt, um die schönsten Orte der Welt zu sehen und zu fotografieren. Normalerweise von Booten, Jeeps oder einfach mit dem Gesicht im Schlamm, aber seit 2016 auch unter Wasser. Schnorcheln in der Gegenwart von Walen und Orcas macht Koen einfach glücklich.

Zu seinen Lieblingstieren gehören Wale, Orcas, Pinguine, Tiger und Jaguare. Aber zwischen den Safaris macht er auch gerne Straßenfotografie und fängt das Leben und die Porträts von Menschen auf der ganzen Welt ein.

Koen ist davon überzeugt, dass Reisen nicht nur das Leben bereichert, sondern auch bescheidener und wertschätzender macht und eine neue Perspektive und ein neues Verständnis ermöglicht. Koen hat den prestigeträchtigen WWF Frans Lanting Fotowettbewerb gewonnen, und im Jahr 2020 gewann er den Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Fotowettbewerb. Koen's Traum ist es, eines Tages einen Vizsla-Hund zu haben und eine kleine Hütte irgendwo in Nordnorwegen zu besitzen, umgeben von Schnee und Bäumen.

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, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals and conservation. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to wildlife and active in 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 Arctic and to Antarctica. 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.

Jess kommt aus England und lebt seit Kurzem auf der Isle of Sky in Schottland. Seit ihrem Abschluss in Wildtierkunde und Medienwissenschaft arbeitet Jess in der Umweltforschung und -erziehung bei Naturschutzorganisationen in Grossbritannien. Dabei konzentriert sie sich auf Meeressäuger und Vögel. Jess ist eine leidenschaftliche Wissenschaftskommunikatorin, Wildnisführerin und Naturliebhaberin. Sie hält Vorträge, Schulbesuche und Schulungen für ein breites Publikum zu Themen wie Vögel, Insekten, Meeressäuger, Meeres- und Landschaftsschutz und wildtierfreundliche Gärten. Besonders engagiert sie sich für die Bürgerwissenschaft und der Umweltbildung, um Menschen die Natur zu vermitteln, um sich aktiv für deren Schutz einzusetzen.

Jess hat sich auf Wale und Delfine spezialisiert und arbeitet seit 2015 als Meeressäugerbeobachterin und Whale Watching Guide im europäischen Atlantik, in der Arktis und in der Antarktis.

Wenn sie nicht auf See ist, verbringt Jess viel Zeit im Garten, beim Lesen, Filmen, Schnorcheln und Vogelbeobachtung und in ihrem geliebten Wohnmobil.

Ursula Tscherter – Expedition Guide



I grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of my childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed my life radically. I gave up my 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 I combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

I am a true minke whale enthusiast. I thousands of hours I observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years I obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). I nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 I started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home I produce life-sized

foldable animals, which I carry to schools and ships. Visit my lectures to meet some of them.

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

Deutsch

Ich bin weit weg von den Ozeanen in der Schweiz aufgewachsen, als in den 70er Jahren der Hoch-Zeit des Walfanges, der Traum von meiner Kindheit entstand; Wale in ihrer natürlichen Umgebung zu sehen. Dieser wurde 1993 wahr und veränderte mein Leben radikal. Ich gab meinen ursprünglichen Beruf als Lehrerin für Handwerk und Kunst auf und verbrachte die nächsten 20 Sommer in Ostkanada, um Wale zu studieren. Als Direktor der schweizerisch-kanadischen ORES Foundation kombinierte ich wissenschaftliche Forschung und Bildung für internationales Publikum und hinterließ tiefe Spuren im Leben vieler Menschen.

Ich bin ein echter Zwergwal-Enthusiast. Ich beobachtete tausenden von Stunden diese geistesreichen Wale und untersuchte ihre Lebensraumnutzung, Jagd und Atemökologie mittels Foto Identifikation. Mit 50 Jahren erwarb ich meinen Master in Marine Mammal Science an der University of St Andrews (Schottland). Ich nährte meinen Drang, in verschiedenen Forschungsprojekten in Australien, Neuseeland oder Südafrika mehr von den Ozeanen und Walen zu lernen. 2008 begann ich als Expeditionsführer und Dozent in der Antarktis und später in der Arktis zu arbeiten. Zu Hause produziere ich lebensgroße faltbare Tiere, die ich zu Schulen und Schiffen mitbringe. Besuchen Sie meine Vorträge, um einige von ihnen zu treffen.

Genauso stark wie mein Drang zu lernen und zu erforschen ist mein Bedürfnis, mein Wissen und meine Faszination mit anderen zu teilen, um das Umweltbewusstsein zu schärfen. Bitte kommen sie zu mir bei Fragen oder Schließen sie sich an, ich liebe es Fragen zu beantworten und an Deck auf der Suche nach Wildtieren zu sein.

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.

Esther Josten – Expedition Guide



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

She studied International Tourism Management in the Netherlands, lived in France, Spain, and New Zealand for a while. She worked as tour leader, hiking guide, skipper, and expedition guide for almost 10 years now. When she's not guiding in the Polar regions, she spends most of her time building up a small business for outdoor experiences and tailor-made tours in the fjords of southern Norway and works as freelancer in several other fields.

What she loves about her job is not only getting out into nature and being in touch with the elements, but also the meaningful connections with people from all corners of the world. Besides all the natural wonders our planet offers, she is fascinated by its' history, cultures and languages.

She strongly believes that – if managed well – tourism can be a catalyst for positive change. Travelling can inspire, educate, trigger thought and discussion, and expand our horizons. Esther loves sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others and specializes in storytelling, history, and tourism management.

Deutsch

Esthers Heimat ist ein kleines Dorf im Westen Deutschlands, in der Mittelgebirgsregion Eifel. Die Landschaft dort ist geprägt von erloschenen Vulkanen, weiten Wäldern und tiefen Tälern. Von dort aus begann sie, die Welt zu entdecken und fand dabei ihre Leidenschaft für die Reise- & Outdoor-Branche.

Sie studierte Internationales Tourismus Management in den Niederlanden und lebte eine Weile in Frankreich, Spanien und Neuseeland. Seit fast 10 Jahren arbeitet sie als Reiseleiter, Wander- und Bootsführer und Expeditions-Guide. Wenn sie nicht in den Polarregionen unterwegs ist, verbringt sie die meiste Zeit damit, ihre eigene Firma für Outdoor-Erlebnisse und maßgeschneiderte Touren in der Fjordlandschaft Südnorwegens aufzubauen und arbeitet als Freiberufler in verschiedenen Bereichen.

Was sie an ihrem Beruf liebt, ist nicht nur die Nähe zur Natur und den Elementen, sondern auch die wunderbaren Begegnungen mit Menschen aus aller Welt. Neben all den natürlichen Wundern, die unser Planet zu bieten hat, ist sie fasziniert von dessen Geschichte, Kulturen und Sprachen.

Sie ist davon überzeugt, dass Tourismus ein Katalysator positiver Veränderung sein kann, solange er richtig organisiert wird. Das Reisen kann inspirieren, lehren, Gedanken und Diskussionen anregen und unseren Horizont erweitern. Esther liebt es, ihren Enthusiasmus und ihr Wissen mit anderen zu teilen und hat sich auf das Geschichtenerzählen, Geschichte und Tourismus-Management spezialisiert.

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, Thursday 10th 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 are ready to cast off. Plancius is leaving port.

Thereafter **We invite you to our Welcome Aboard Briefing** in the Lounge/Bar on Deck 5. Please listen to announcements.

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

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

*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 agleam to guide us,
And the wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.*

Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild



KROSSFJORD & KONGSFJORD

Day 2, Friday 11th July 2025

- 07.15** **Wake up call.** A wonderful good morning!
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 08.30** **Info-meeting for Ny Alesund.** Please see us in the Lounge for a short briefing on our landing in Ny Ålesund.
- 09.00** **Landing: Ny Ålesund.** The northernmost permanent settlement in the world was established in 1917 as a mining settlement. Today, Ny Ålesund is a centre for Arctic research and a famous historical site. From here Amundsen, Ellsworth & Nobile flew over 90°N in the airship *Norge*.
- **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 **09.00 until 12.00**.
 - **11.00** 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. (German speakers at 11.30)
 - **12.15** be **back on board**, we are leaving Ny Alesund
- 12.30** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 14.00** **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).
- 16.00** **Zodiac cruise: Lilliehöökbreen.** This afternoon we are sailing deep into Krossfjord, where magnificent Lilliehöökbreen is spilling into the sea. We plan to go for a Zodiac cruise along the beautiful glacier front. Please **dress warm**, we are not getting ashore.
- 19.00** **Recap of today and briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30** **Dinner** is served. Bon Appetite!



WOODFJORD & LIEFDEFJORD

Day 3, Saturday 12th July 2025

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00** **Landing: Bockfjord.** Named after 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 difficult (blockfields), the further we hike.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 15.00** **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 landscape in different walking groups. Except for the strenuous hike, walking here is easy.
- 19.00** **Recap of today and briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30 **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, Sunday 13th 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 have arrived in the polar desert and we intend to land on the barren island of Chermsideøya. In our three groups we will offer exploration on this remote island.
- 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. These islands are locked in pack ice most of the year and often landings are not possible before the end of summer. We plan to offer different hikes 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 | Monday 14th 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



HINLOPENSTRETET

Day 6, Tuesday 15th July 2025

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Landing: De Geerbukta, Lomfjord.** Overnight we will be sailing towards Hinlopenstretet and into Lomfjord. We intend to land in a little bay called De Geerbukta. The landscapes are beautiful and after a day on the ship we invite you to stretch your legs in our three hiking groups.
- 12.00 **Lunch** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14.00 **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. (The first five boats will have a German speaking driver)
- 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, Wednesday 16th July 2025

- 07.30** Sleep in! **A wonderful good morning.** Wake up call.
- 07.45** Breakfast buffet for one hour.
- 09.30** **Zodiac cruise: Negribreen.** The glacier Negribreen has one of the longest glacier fronts on Spitsbergen and huge ice bergs are usually found nearby. 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. (The first five boats have German speaking guides)
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 16.00** **Landing: Sundneset, Barentsøya.** We plan to spend today's afternoon 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.
- 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 17th July 2025

07.30 **Good morning!**

07.45 **Breakfast – enjoy!**

10.00 **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.

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!

13.00 **Lunch** is waiting for us.


15.30 **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.

19.00 **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow.

19.30 **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

FORLANDSUND

Day 9 | Friday 18th July 2025

- 07.15** **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 07.30** Let's get a bite. **Breakfast.**
- 09.00** **Landing: Poolepynten.** Today we will wake up in Forlandsund. The long sandy beach of Poolepynten (on Prins Karls Forland) is one of the places, where walrus often are found resting. 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.**
- First five boats:** We are **going for a short walk.** After that we visit the walrus.
- Second five boats:** We are **going to the walrus first.** After that we go for a short walk. If you are in this group, there will be the possibility to get back to the ship right after the walrus-visit.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 14.30** **Landing: Sankt Jonsfjord.** We plan our last landing in Sankt Jonsfjord, a 20 kilometre long fjord, cutting into the west coast of Spitsbergen. We will land close to an old trapper cabin. Once on land, we will split into our well known groups with different targets. It is a nice and easy landing and a good place to say goodbye to Svalbard's wilderness.
- 18.30** **Farewell Cocktail with the Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.30** **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!

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

Author unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

LONGYEARBYEN

Day 10, Saturday 19th 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 the flight SK4491 today – your luggage goes to a luggage truck.

Yellow ribbon: All staying in hotels 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 buses into town are leaving.** (All booked on SK4491 today)

09.00 **The bus to the hotels in Longyearbyen is leaving.**

10.15 **The buses from Longyearbyen to the airport (for flight SK4491 at 12:15) are leaving from the central parking lot. Your luggage will be delivered by the luggage truck.**

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“