



North Atlantic Odyssey

Aberdeen – Noss Isle – Jan Mayen – Spitsbergen

10th June – 21st June, 2026

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 Matei Mocanu

and his international crew of 49 sailors

Chief Officer:	Sjoerd Van Hoek	[Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Aleksandrs Spiridonovs	[Latvia]
Third Officer:	Antti Lignell	[Finland]
Hotel Manager:	Jeroen Barnes	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Gaurav Bawa	[United Kindom]
Sous Chef:	Donal Cielo	[Phillipines]
Ships doctor:	Sjoerd Van Der Knokke	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Jan Belgers	[Netherlands]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Chloe Marechal	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Jongerling	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Esther Josten	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Michelle Van Dijk	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Tiphanie May	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	Daniel Vreugdenhil	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	[United Kindom]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Wednesday 10 June, Vlissingen, embarkation day

08h00 GPS Position: 51°26.8'N / 003°36.1'E

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Good • Air temperature: +10°C



Today is the day! The one we have been waiting for! It is finally embarkation day! We arrived at Vlissingen train station ready to start out adventure. The buses picked us up and took us to the port ready to board the good ship Plancius. Our new home for the next twelve days. The weather was good and the excitement built as we were dropped off inside the gates. There was a lot of crane work going on so we had to make the last part of the journey

on foot. We checked in with the expedition staff on the dock and dropped our luggage off with them before being escorted to the vessel.

Group by group we were invited onto the ship to check in with reception and be shown our room. Once everyone was confirmed onboard our Expedition Leader Jan called us to the lounge for a meeting. He introduced himself and explained that we need to complete

a safety briefing and drill before the ship could leave. The chief officer gave us a quick briefing and then it was time for the drill. When the alarm sounded we grabbed our lifejackets and met back in the lounge before being guided to our lifeboat.



Drill complete we were allowed to enjoy the disembarkation and spent some time on the decks as Plancius sailed passed Vlissingen. Later on we were invited to the lounge again to enjoy Captain's Welcome. We all had some bubbles and canapes as Captain Matei introduced himself and wished us a pleasant journey. Next the guides introduced themselves with a variety of backgrounds and specialities it appears we have a well rounded group of guides. Finally it was time for dinner and then to bed after a long day of travel. We are excited to see what tomorrow brings!

Day 2 – Thursday 11 June, North Sea

08h00 GPS Position: 53°33.4'N / 000°54.4'E

Wind: NNW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +12°C

This morning we awoke to the soft voice of Jan sounding through the PA-system, telling us the weather conditions and announcing it is wake up time to those who were still in bed. Some of us were already outside and had spotted the first gannets, guillemots and kittiwakes as we sailed past the Dogger-bank. Even a grey seal was seen before breakfast time.



After breakfast the number of birds diminished, as we left the sand bank to seek shelter in the lee of the English coast. At 10 AM, something else was on, as Jess lectured about cetaceans. She explained the difference between porpoises, dolphins, beaked whales and baleen whales. With the gained knowledge we might be able to recognise these marine mammals, if we see one. Concentrating on the birds and lectures make you feel hungry, an unpleasant feeling that can easily

be cured by our chef Bawa. Meat, fish and vegetarian options accompanied by tasty salads were on the menu. With renewed energy we went outside to spot some more... puffins, razorbills, northern fulmar and even a manx shearwater flew by. At 2.30 PM, we had to go inside again for the mandatory zodiac briefing. All who'd like to go out with the zodiacs have to attend This was followed by the handing out of the wellingtons. We were called deck by deck to collect our muckboots.

At 4 PM Daan was on for lecturing. As not everyone is born as a keen birder, Daan explained the characteristics of the different birds. Today we learned so much. :-)

Shortly before dinner there usually is something called a recap, where expedition leader Jan tells us about the plans of the



next day and some of the guides give short information about what we have seen or what to expect. After Jan explained about the plans of the next day in Aberdeen and its surroundings, ship's doctor Sjoerd introduced himself. He works in the Netherlands as a GP, but likes to join one of Oceanwide's ships at least once a year.

The recap was closed by Tiphonie, who explained more about Aberdeen, the etymology of the name, that it was founded by the Picts, a local tribe who were so powerful that they managed to stop the Romans. She concluded with some recordings of Doric, the dialect locally spoken. And if we were not puzzled yet, tomorrow we probably will be.

The day was not over until after another lovely dinner with another birthday. Then finally our birding guide Daan, collected all the species today seen.



Day 3 – Friday 12 June, Aberdeen, Scotland

08h00 GPS Position: 57°08.6'N / 001°56.2'E

Wind: SW5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +10°C

Good morning, everybody.

What a beautiful calm start of the day we had. The first birds were already spotted before breakfast by birders standing in the sun. We started entering the port of Aberdeen just before breakfast. Everybody was on deck to look out for the famous bottle nose dolphins. Sadly, they were not in sight but there were many birds and good views of the city. After Jan mentioned the dolphins were not home most people entered the restaurant to have breakfast and prepare their packed lunch.



The morning started out with some paperwork and waiting as everybody had to be cleared by the border control before we could leave the ship. This luckily did happen and we could finally hear the welcome music that we had been waiting for. A lovely and proper Scottish greeting by a girl playing the bagpipes. After the buses had been filled, we made our way to the first stop, the Sands of Forvie Nature Reserve. We took the scenic route through the city

where we could see the unique architecture of Aberdeen.

To get to the Sands of Forvie we had to walk a couple of hundred meters before encountering the board walks leading us through the dunes. One of the largest dune systems in Scotland which shifts constantly with the wind. The mouth of the river Ythan at the end of the boardwalk is a perfect spot for wildlife watching. We had a lot of space to spread and to find a quiet spot for yourself to start birding or have a seat



on the beach. The grey seals were not laying on the beach, but they were drifting one after another into the river. Sometimes coming very close to our beach. On the other side there were a couple of hundred eider ducks resting. Black headed gulls and common terns were flying over looking for food. On the beach ringed plovers and were flying around in flocks. With the sun shining on our heads this morning activity was a very pleasant experience.



Our afternoon activity took place at the Bullers of Buchan. A coastal area with steep cliffs that are covered in breeding birds. The bus parked very close to the cliffs with only 100 m to walk to the start of the two trails. Walking the left circuit, you got to the actual Bullers of Buchan which is a large hole carved out by the sea with a small connection by a cave. This is called the boiling pot in rough weather. We had great weather however and could hear the kittiwakes clearly over the waves. The walls were filled with northern fulmars, black legged, kittiwakes, common guillemots and their cousins the razorbills. The cormorants had a green glow with the sun hitting their feathers whilst sitting next to their chicks. Walking the right circuit we had the chance to see many different flowers like the northern marsh orchid. One of the most looked for bird was also found here, the Atlantic puffin. It was resting on the high ledges near to the trails just in front of their burrow. They were quite a few sitting around and the longer you looked the more started popping out of their nest. It started dripping for a while but the weather held up, giving us a spectacular afternoon at the Bullers of Buchan.



The drive back to Aberdeen was a bit long but luckily, we had another interesting stop on our way back. The little town called Footdee Village also known as Fittie. A small village designed by John Smith in the 19th century during 1808/09. We had some time to walk around the unique buildings and could

stroll by the coastline. The hexagonal light house was an interesting stop which has been an important part of this small fisherman's village history.

We arrived back on the ship where we could meet our new fellow passengers who were performing their emergency drill. After dinner we headed out into the open sea passing through the port of Aberdeen for a last chance to see the bottlenose dolphins. By our luck, we could see them swimming and jumping around the ship for a short time. A great way to end this exciting day. In the evening we had a last gathering where Jan explained the plans for the next day. Something new to be excited about before going to sleep.



Day 4 – Saturday 13 June, Isle of Noss

08h00 GPS Position: 62°20.1'N / 001°47.4'E

Wind: N6 • Sea: Mod • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +9°C

After our great expedition leader woke us up this morning, we enjoyed breakfast and prepared our pack lunches for the day ahead. Today's adventure took us to the island of Noss, one of Shetland's most celebrated nature reserves.



On arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the staff at the visitor centre, where Jan briefed us on the available hikes, pointed out the areas off-limits to visitors, and let us choose between a few different walking routes, each offering the chance to see a different mix of seabirds.

As we hiked, we spotted puffins, wheatears, Arctic terns, common terns, great skuas, and ringed plovers along the way, and a few sharp-eyed members of the group even picked out dolphins out on the horizon. Noss is most famous, however, for its towering cliffs and the gannets that nest there in their thousands — the island holds the seventh-largest gannet colony in the UK, with over 11,000 breeding pairs calling its cliffs home. The great skuas, known locally as "bonxies," are equally notable, with Noss hosting one of the largest colonies of this globally rare species anywhere in the world. The day was sunny and the sea calm, perfect conditions for taking in the spectacle.



After re-embarking, we cruised along the base of the cliffs, where gannets wheeled overhead and along the rock faces in great numbers. Then, quite suddenly, a pod of Risso's dolphins appeared! They came remarkably close to the ship, giving everyone an unforgettable close-up view to cap off the day.



Risso's dolphins are one of the more distinctive and least understood members of the dolphin family. Unlike sleeker dolphin species, they have a stocky, robust body with a blunt, almost squared-off head and no real beak, topped with a tall, sickle-shaped dorsal fin. Their bodies are typically covered in pale scratches and scarring, picked up over a lifetime of social tussling and squid-hunting, and as they age this scarring becomes so extensive that older individuals often appear almost completely white.



Day 5 – Sunday 14 June, At sea to Jan Mayen

08h00 GPS Position: 66°34.0'N / 005°12.5'E

Wind: N5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C

After two very successful days in Aberdeen and the Shetland Islands, it was time to leave Scotland and head North to Jan Mayen. It would take us two days of sailing to reach the remote Island of Jan Mayen.



We woke up after quite a bumpy, and for some sleepless, night. The outside decks were closed due to the rough weather. We could still watch for wildlife from the bridge and over breakfast there were many windy weather loving bird species such as fulmars and storm petrels flying by us.

Not long after breakfast the weather started to improve and the sky did brighten up. We could then go outside and it was just in time as we heard a call that there were Pilot whales. Pilot whales are actually very large dolphins that can reach up to seven meters long. We had some nice but short glimpses of the first couple of pods of pilot whales.

Michelle invited us to the lounge to give us a lecture about the history of whaling in Svalbard and the Arctic. However, she was frequently interrupted by more pods of pilot whales. The Captain and the bridge team slowed the ship for us and we

watched with amazement as a pod of pilot whales came closer and closer the Plancius until we could hear them breath as they surfaced right next to us. The sea state was still fairly choppy, yet these strong powerful mammals moved effortlessly through the waves at the surface and we could see their faces and their distinctive round heads and dorsal fins.



Later in the afternoon Esther gave us an engaging talk about the Vikings and how they made their way to the Arctic. She made it through the whole talk without being interrupted by whales.

During the evening recap Jan told us the plan for the following sea day. Jess gave us



a recap about the dolphin species we had seen on the trip so far, and Chloe enthused us about tardigrades, the little water bears that she had collected the day before in Shetland. We had really enjoyed seeing them in the microscope so it was great to learn a little more about them and their remarkable survival abilities.

Day 6 – Monday 15 June, At sea to Jan Mayen

08h00 GPS Position: 66°64.0'N / 005°12.5'E

Wind: N5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C

We woke up to a relatively calm sea, especially compared to yesterday. There were some white heads on the sea but easy to handle. We had a real nice breakfast before most of us attended Jess's lecture about seals we came across on our journey followed by seals that we can see on the remainder of our voyage. Last she talked about was the walrus which we hope to see on the ice or approaching Svalbard. Jess told us a remarkable fact that walrus has been seen sucking the brain of a common seal. We were all disgusted and thrilled at the same time.

Towards lunch the very first bottlenose whale was seen jumping out of the water. For many a new species. Not many of us got to see it but hopefully over the next couple of days we might see more.

During lunch a couple of humpback whales were seen. Relatively close to the ship, we saw their humpy back which was great. After lunch the first fin whale of the trip was spotted, swimming next to the ship before leaving the surface with a deep dive. During the day we noticed that we were very far away from any land. Therefore, the number of birds we were seeing was relatively low. We started to move away from the middle European species, and slowly started to lose our gannets, common guillemot and herring gulls. The first high Arctic specialists started to appear, Brünnich's guillemot, long tailed skua, and little auk.



Chloé gave a lecture on Killer Whales. Amazing to see how they adapt as apex predators to the changing environments in the ocean. The rest of the afternoon was used to prepare for the landing on Jan Mayen. Next Tiph gave a great lecture on the history of Jan Mayen. How it was a place that was intensely hunted by the first Dutch whalers, to the point where it became Norwegian land and is now used as a base.

Jan briefed us on the landing. It is a very tricky landing so therefore he used a lot of time to explain safety but also the things we might come across. Jan also told us that there was a significant chance to see whales in the early morning because the island causes upwelling of nutrients from the deep and therefore a lot of food in the area. So most of us decided to have an early night.

Day 7 – Tuesday 16 June, Jan Mayen

08h00 GPS Position: 70°43.2'N / 007°04.6'E

Wind: WNW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4.3°C

Today many of us woke up very early because Jan had informed us that we would be sailing over a continental shelf which is often good for whale activity. The outside decks were quite busy from around 6am and shortly before 7am we started to see some whales. We could see some humpback whales surfacing very clearly and also some sei whales and minke whales.

The island of Jan Mayen started to come into view and it was wonderful to see lots of whales in an area that was once a whaling hub where many whales were killed for their oil and blubber.



Jan had explained to us how remote and exposed Jan Mayen is and that for the last five years he had not managed to land there due to the wild weather on the shoreline. Today the sea state was remarkably calm, and as we approached our potential landing site

excitement grew amongst us as we saw how good the conditions were for landing.

As we got closer to the shore a thick bank of fog rolled down the land and the island completely disappeared from view. This wasn't too much of a problem because there are no polar bears on Jan Mayen so we could still safely operate even in thick fog. So the expedition team disappeared off into the fog in two zodiacs and we eagerly waited for news of when we could get ready to come ashore. It wasn't long before we got a call to see that we were good to go and that the station commander of the island was ready to receive us.



As we got closer to the shore in the zodiacs the wonderful cliffs and geology of Jan Mayen started to appear through the fog. It was extremely beautiful and atmospheric. We landed on the beach and Jan introduced us to the station commander and gave us a briefing about which areas we could visit.

Many of us visited the island shop which was a Landover with some T-shirts and hats available to buy. We set off in different directions. Some of us went along the beach to visit the remains of an old trapper hut and whaling artefacts. We roamed on the beach looking at all the old drift wood and whale bones and we could see some waders including ringed plovers and dunlins.

Most people went straight to see the little auks that we knew were nesting in the rocks near the Brielletarnet, a tall tower of rocks that create a distinctive landmark for the island. The little auks were completely charming. We could hear them very clearly making their calls to each other that



sound like they are laughing, and at the far end of the path we could see them sitting on the rocks and going in and out of their nests. They are the smallest of the auk family and their main diet is a plankton called copepods. There was a big flurry of excitement down at the auk colony when someone spotted a beluga whale. It was swimming alone very close to the shore, and the lucky few who happened to be at the colony at the time were able to capture some nice photos. Amazingly, we saw the beluga again around an hour later swimming back along the coast in another direction.



A few of us chose to do the longer hike along the dirt road to see a few of the other side of the island. Here we could really appreciate the dramatic barren landscape and see some extremely tough and hardy plant species growing amongst the rocks. Some passengers even spotted a butterfly, a painted lady, a migratory butterfly species that had somehow made its way to the island.

There was a real celebratory atmosphere when we returned to the ship. There was a buzz from both passengers and staff about what we had achieved and the luck we had had. Everyone would have been very happy to end the day there, but nature had other plans for us. There was a call from the bridge to say that a very large baleen whale had been seen as we sailed along the coast. We all went out on deck to discover that we were looking at a blue whale. We really could not believe our luck. The whale came closer and closer to us. We could hear it exhaling as it reached the surface and saw the long roll of its mottled greyish blue back before its little dorsal fin appeared and disappeared. We stayed with the blue whale for a little while, completely in awe of the biggest animal in the world who had come to investigate us and our ship.



As we sailed away from the whale, we could finally see the very top of the Beerenburg, the famous active volcano of Jan Mayen. We also sailed past a striking glacier called Weyprecht glacier that was tumbling down from the volcano. There was a buzz in the dining room as we ate





dinner, many were in disbelief at what we had seen and experienced today.

We gathered in the lounge for an after dinner recap but we were delayed because there were more whales seen outside. The sea was silky and calm and we could see a very large whale in the distance feeding on its side and showing us its pectoral fin and tail flukes. It was another blue whale! And as we watched it we discovered a third blue whale

on the other side of the ship. One of the whales even lifted its flukes high in the air before going for a dive, a behaviour you don't often get to see in blue whales.

Eventually Jan was able to gather us in the lounge and tell us about the plans for tomorrow. Michelle then told us about how Jan Mayen is actually a microcontinent and Esther told us about how we could document our Arctic voyage through different methods of journaling and storytelling. We would certainly have a lot to write about today in our diaries.



Day 8 – Wednesday 17th June, At Sea to Greenland Pack Ice

08h00 GPS Position: 73°45.1' N, 004°47.3'E

Wind: E4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -2°C

After an incredible day on Jan Mayen, many of us enjoyed a slow morning. Leaving the volcanic island behind, we headed north towards the ice edge off the coast of

Greenland. During the day we passed the Vesteris Seamount, a large underwater volcano that rises approximately 3,000m above the ocean floor. Its base sits at a depth of roughly 3,100m and its shallowest summit reaches a minimum depth of 130m. The Vesteris Seamount is teeming with wildlife because it acts as an underwater oasis that disrupts the standard deep-sea currents and creates a solid habitat for many different species.



When the deep-sea currents hit the steep, 3,000m high slopes of the underwater volcano, they are forced upwards. This upwelling lifts nutrient-rich water to the surface layers of the ocean, where we experienced an abundance of northern bottlenose whales curiously inspecting the ship. These whales are known to be one of the deepest diving mammals, can reach depths up to 2,339m and can hold their breath for up to 130 minutes. A fully grown individual can reach almost 10m in length. Throughout the day we could observe that they are fast swimmers and they travel in small family groups.

After the many beautiful sightings of northern bottlenose whales some of us were lucky to also spot some orcas in the far distance. The ship did not turn around this time since they were very far away and not in the direction we were sailing.

In the late afternoon we spotted the first iceberg on the horizon. Slowly approaching we could feel the air getting colder and water getting calmer. In the evening we finally reached it, the pack ice, a fascinating desert of endless white and blue. More and more people gathered on the outside decks to see the white wonderland.

We spotted our first ivory gull which was a new species and a great highlight for



many of us! Another unique sighting was the pup of a hooded seal resting on an ice flow. Several groups of harp seals could be seen swimming around the ship.

All in all we enjoyed our day aboard with great sightings and some well deserved rest. We were looking forward to a whole day in the ice.

Day 9 – Thursday 18th June, Greenland Pack Ice

08h00 GPS Position: 76°21.2' N, 005°72.6'E

Wind: NNW4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -2°C



This morning we were headed for the pack ice. The first pieces of ice were seen after breakfast however; it took us another hour to get to the actual field of very open ice. Most people were outside looking out for any whale. As we were entering the area with large ice floes, more and more eyes were fixed on the horizon. The occasional seal popped up its head, and the different

auks were flying by ship. The ice was too disperse for any polar bear activity, but the Greenland bowhead whale was high on the list during this time. With over 100 eyes looking constantly there was likely no wildlife that we missed passing by the ship. The real highlight of the morning for the birders was seeing the ivory gull. There were many smiles going around and hugs given on the open deck behind the bridge. For many people the extended fields of sea ice reaching the horizon on all sides was the highlight. An incredible experience of a pristine and dynamic nature.



After a quick lunch the eyes were back on deck. With some sunshine coming through and hitting the ice everybody was more keen to enjoy the cold and frigid weather outside. In the afternoon we did leave the ice to make some speed by the edge of the pack ice to look for wildlife. To help with this cold and hard work, the hotel team had organized a hot chocolate with rum on the open deck behind the bridge. Both the chocolate and rum left behind a feeling of comfort looking out over the endless plains of ice. During the afternoon we kept on looking out for wildlife, however most wildlife was out of our sight / reach. Our expedition leader had informed us of the plans during the day that we would stay on the ice until midnight to give us more chances to spot wildlife.



For our dinner we did not sit inside as the galley team had prepared a delicious arctic dinner outside on deck 3 aft. Enjoying a BBQ in the arctic as the real explorers would have done. An extremely cold experience but surely memorably. The view of the giant pieces of ice floes passing whilst eating your food with gloves on will not happen again

any time soon. After a wide variety of desserts most people had made their way inside for warmth or on the upper deck for scouting.

During the evening there were still many hopes as we were approaching some yellow/ orange ice fields on the ice map. This meant closer drift ice for polar bears to walk over. Eyes were fixed through the telescopes passing by the horizon for that tiny speck of yellow. However, it was not meant to be to find the large animals this day. Scouters kept outside passed midnight and did all they could to make the sighting happen. The lack of sightings of large wildlife definitely did not lack due to enthusiasm.

Day 10 – Friday 19th June, At Sea to Svalbard

08h00 GPS Position: 77°22.8' N, 002°14.4'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C



We left the ice at midnight to sail across the sea to Svalbard. We woke up to a slightly choppy sea. In the morning Jan gave a mandatory briefing on the arctic rules and polar bear safety. Esther followed with a brief introduction to Svalbard, about history, flora, fauna and climate. It was a bit rainy, and wildlife wise, a rather quiet the morning.

In the afternoon Michelle gave a talk on the history and geopolitical status of Svalbard. Right after the talk we approached the continental shelf of Spitsbergen. Over a short period of time the bottom of the ocean rose significant. So there is potential upwelling again and we saw it happening. The first white beaked dolphins of the trip appeared. Followed by fin whales, humpback whales and we rounded off with a magnificent view on two giant blue whales. We again realised how lucky



we were. The end of the afternoon Daan gave a talk about climate change. A very important talk on what is happening in the world, especially in the arctic regions.

At around dinnertime we arrived at Forlandet National Park, the long island protection Spitsbergen. We sailed between the island and the 'mainland' of Spitsbergen. The first Svalbard reindeer were spotted grazing the tundra. The snow covered peaks and the vast glaciers reflecting a little bit of sunlight radiating through the clouds. Late in the evening when we arrived at St Jonsfjorden we were treated with a perfect dessert of the day. Several belugas in the distance. We positioned the ship in the direction the white whales were traveling. They are normally very skittish but now the ship was already there, the whales past very close to us. Many of us had a fantastic look at them.

Day 11 – Saturday 20th June, Gipsvika

08h00 GPS Position: 78°24.2' N, 012°11.9'E

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3.7°C

We woke up to a fairly blue sky, sunshine and strong winds. Our initial plan was to land at a place called Poolepynten, a sandy spit of land that is known for the walrus that often haul out here. Unfortunately, walrus do not like to relax on land when the wind is too strong so when we arrived at Poolepynten we unfortunately could not see any animals on land. In addition to the lack of walrus, the wind had picked up and blew so strong that a landing was out of question. So while we were enjoying the views of the snowy mountain tops during our breakfast, the expedition team was working on a new plan. Since we spent many days at sea and would love to get some movement, Jan decided to skip the initially planned zodiac cruise in Ymerbukta and sail further into Isfjorden instead. Our next destination was named Gipsvika – which literally means the “gypsum bay”, after the gypsum beds in the surrounding mountains. This area was first used by Russian Pomor hunters and trappers who set up a summer hut here. Later on, in the early 20th Century, the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate has left its mark on the landscape. They were looking for coal, the black gold of the North. Coal was found, but the mining efforts of the Scots never turned out to be profitable, so the site was abandoned when the mining company went bankrupt in the 1920s.

We arrived at Gipsvika in the early afternoon after sailing through the scenic Isfjord. Our guides went on land first to set up the landing site for us and scout for polar bears. Even though we would have all loved to see a bear, we surely did not want to



encounter one when we were on land as that would have meant that we need to evacuate immediately and abandon the landing.

Once the area had been inspected and deemed safe, we were picked up at the ship and shuttled to shore, where we split into four different groups. One

group for a sporty hike, two for the medium walks and one for a leisurely stroll along the beach. The sporty hikers left first walking up into the valley where several reindeer had been spotted. Accompanied by Koen and Esther, we took a closer look at how the landscape had been created by glaciers, the history of this place, and the impact of the permafrost on the soil. During our hike up the southeastern slopes of the bay, we crossed some streams and muddy areas where we could find the tracks of many different bird species, reindeer, arctic foxes, and even paw prints of a polar bear that must have been several weeks old. We also encountered arctic skuas, purple sandpipers, snow buntings, barnacle and pink footed geese, and even a rock ptarmigan. On top of the hill, we all enjoyed 6 minutes of arctic silence, a treat we will try to incorporate more into our daily lives: to just stop for a moment and simply be.

Along the shoreline, king eider ducks were observed in large numbers. The medium and leisurely hike had the chance to stop often, wonder about the hearty little flowers, learn more about the miniature trees we could find here, and gaze at the incredible scenery around us.



After a wonderful afternoon at Gipsvika where we finally got to stretch our legs a bit we took the zodiacs back to the ship one last time. We freshened up and were then invited for our final dinner in the restaurant, which was extra special for us today. The kitchen and hotel team went above and beyond to create a beautiful last evening for us!

After dinner it was time to gather in the lounge again to raise a glass to this wonderful voyage we have been on all together. As a special gift from the expedition team, Koen put together a small movie that summarizes all the amazing things we've seen and all the places we have visited in these two weeks in which we travelled from the Netherlands and Scotland via the Shetland Islands to Jan Mayen and all the way to the pack ice, Svalbard, the Arctic. We have been blessed with unforgettable experiences and countless beautiful moments, learned many new things, found new friends... For many of us it is time to say goodbye for now.

Day 12 – Thursday 21st June, Longyearbyen, Disembarkation Day

08h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

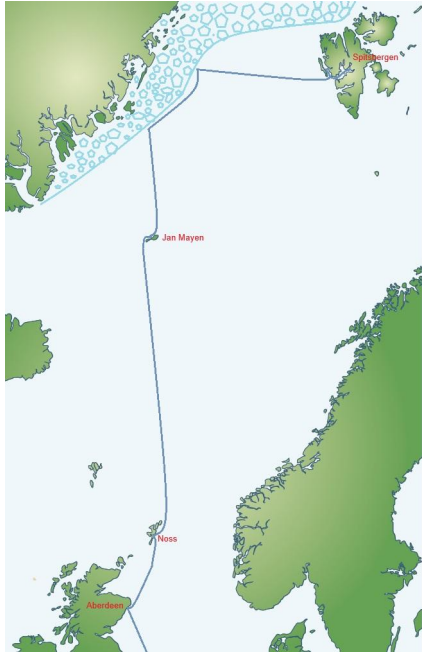
Early this morning, we arrive in Longyearbyen. While we enjoyed a last breakfast on board, our suitcases are taken off the ship. It is a sad moment to disembark from the Plancius, which has been a comfortable and cosy home during this unforgettable journey. We have shared many unique moments, seen a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

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

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 2,165 nm

Northernmost position: 78°32.9'N, 013°09.54'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Matei Mocanu, Expedition Leader Jan Belgers, Hotel Manager Jeroen Barnes and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.





Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Bontbekplevier			X	X			X				X	X
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Goudplevier												
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper			X								X	
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Gestreepte strandloper												
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Paarse strandloper											X	X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Kanoetstrandloper			X									
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bonte strandloper			X	X			X					
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Regenwulp												
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Tureluur												
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäizer	Steenloper	X			X			X					
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Bekassine	Watersnip				X								
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Regenwulp												
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Grosser Brachvogel	Wulp												
Bar tailed Gotwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Pfuhschnepfe	Rosse grutto			X									
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Rosse franjepoot												
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Grauwe franjepoot												
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Middelste jager												
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Kleine jager		X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Kleinste jager						X	X	X	X		X	
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grote jager				X		X	X					
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Vorkstaartmeeuw												
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Kokmeeuw	X		X	X								
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Stormmeeuw	X		X	X								
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Grote Burgemeester							X	X	X	X	X	X

Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Potvis												
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narwal												
Long finned pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Grindwal	Griend					X							
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Butskop						X		X				
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orka					X			X				
Atlantic White Sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantischer Weißseitendelfin	witflank dolfin					X							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Witsnuitdolfijn										X		
Bottle nosed dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Tümmler	Tuimelaar			X									
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Schweinswal	Bruinvis		X		X			X					
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Beloega							X				X	
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ijsbeer												
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Poolvos												
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Rendier										X		
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Hirsch	Ree			X									
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Hase	Konijn			X	X								
Otter	<i>Lutra Lutra</i>	otter	Otter				X								
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Rundkopfdelfin	Gramper				X								

Jan Belgers - Expedition Leader



Jan Belgers, from the Netherlands, has been working as a professional outdoor guide and expedition leader in the Polar regions for many years now. Travelling and guiding in wildernesses all over the world are his passion. His work as a guide brought him from the high mountain ranges of the Himalayas and Andes to the extreme latitudes of Spitsbergen and Antarctica.

His first experience with the Polar Regions was in 1990 when he joined a scientific expedition from Iceland to Kapp Farvell in Greenland for the “World Ocean Circulation Experiment” (WOCE). In 1992 he joined the “Winter Weddell Gyre Study” (WWGS) with the German scientific icebreaker Polarstern into the remote Weddell Sea, in the Antarctic and wintered there. During these expeditions Jan got bitten by the Polar Bug and therefore he has been returning to the Polar regions frequently, joining in more than 180 Polar expeditions.

Jan's professional background is marine ecology, but he quitted science a long time ago. Since 1998 he works full-time as a professional guide and expedition leader for Oceanwide Expeditions, in the high northern and southern latitudes.

Jan is a keen nature and outdoor enthusiast and feels at home on the sea, due to his background in marine biology. He lectures on natural history, biology and polar history and is a polar literature fanatic.

Chloé Maréchal – Asst.Exp. Leader



Chloé is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Armed with a European master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, she's on a mission to share her expertise and promote the conservation of the marine environment. But here's the twist—while everyone else is busy oohing and aahing over flashy dolphins and majestic whales, Chloé's heart belongs to the unsung heroes of the ocean—the often underrated world of plankton and the mysteries of unseen microbes. She's here to show that even the tiniest organisms can have big personalities!

In April 2013, Chloé's dedication and skills were recognized when she was chosen as the prestigious 2013-14 European Rolex Our World Underwater Scholar. This remarkable opportunity allowed her to work alongside renowned leaders in the fields of marine science and diving industry, providing her with diverse experiences and invaluable insights. During this transformative year, her first encounter with Antarctica left an indelible mark, igniting a lifelong passion for polar exploration.

Chloé isn't just a science nerd with a thing for plankton. She's an adventurous soul with an insatiable curiosity. She's dived across all continents, lived in 20 countries, and now sails on her 12-meter aluminum boat. Together with her partner she has recently crossed the challenging waters of the North Sea.

Currently, Chloé calls northern Norway her home, residing just above the polar circle. When not guiding, she explores underwater wonders, uncovers forgotten wrecks, and maps uncharted underwater caves. Her passion for the ocean, sailing, and work with Oceanwide Expeditions fuel her relentless pursuit of adventure.

Koen Jongerling – Expedition Guide



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he chose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for. Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travellers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

He started to work there in 2019 as a camping/ snowshoe guide and year by year got more knowledgeable about the history and fauna. And so, his work kept on evolving into different roles within the team. Since 2021 he works as an assistant expedition leader and that year he started to work in the Arctic region as well. His everlasting curiosity will keep him yearning to learn more. Together with his passion to teach this will surely be a lifelong project that he is more than happy to share with you.

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.

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, it can inspire, educate, trigger thought, and expand our horizons. Esther loves sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others and specializes in storytelling, history, and tourism management.

Michelle van Dijk – Expedition Guide



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

Living in a tent, she is based three months a year on Spitsbergen guiding day trips, trekkings & expedition cruises. These days she mainly works on ships, as guide or expedition leader.

She believes that there is no better way to get closer to a place than to work there – she has also lived in Sweden & Iceland. Her first visit to Spitsbergen was back in 2001 and instantly she fell in love

with this remote archipelago.

Although she picked plants as her specialism, Michelle is a generalist. She took the course Arctic & Antarctic studies at Groningen University and in 2015 she published a book about Sjef van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928.

Together with Rolf Stange she wrote a Dutch guide book for Spitsbergen-Svalbard. This was first published in 2020, a revised edition was published in 2025.

Last winter she has been working on a new book, titled '50 Arctic expeditions in a modern era'. This will be published soon.

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

You can talk to her in different languages, but she will only reply in Dutch, English, German or Swedish.

Tiphanie May – Expedition Guide



Tiphanie May is an 8th generation Falkland Islander and holds an MSc in Marine Biology. She guides in the Arctic and Antarctic with warmth and curiosity. A certified first responder and trained firefighter, she brings calm, practical leadership to every trip. Raised on her family's island in the Falkland Islands, Tiphanie grew up on boats and developed a lifelong love of the sea and its wildlife. From the penguins on the doorstep to the fish in the rock pools Tiphanie has always had an affinity for all creatures great and small.

Tiphanie started her career at 21 working aboard spanish trawlers for the Falkland Islands Government working in fisheries research and protection. Spending 200 days per year at sea she later moved on to manage an inshore boating project. Nowadays when shes not on the ship she works doing marine mammal observation, habitat restoration and occasionally working on her parent's farm.

She enjoys sharing simple, memorable moments on deck — spotting whales, pointing out seabirds, or watching guests meet their first iceberg. Friendly, down-to-earth, and passionate about conservation, Tiphanie loves helping guests connect with the polar world and leave with a little more wonder than when they boarded.

Daan Vreugdenhil – Expedition guide



The Polar regions are in his blood. The icy mountains, glaciers, the frigid cold waters themed with wildlife are never far from his mind.

His first visits were on Svalbard in 2004-2006 at an age of 21. He started ecological research in Ny Ålesund, the world most northerly village. The research covered surveys on Geese, vegetation, and Arctic foxes. In 2007 he started guiding for Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic. Since then, he visited both poles until 2010. And started on a break of several years. In 2024 he

could not resist the magnetic pull to the poles no longer. And returned to where he feels most alive, The Arctic and the Antarctic!

Daan lives and works in the Netherlands as an ecologist for Natuurmonumenten, a Dutch nature organization. At home he loves to watch birds, go on walks or goes camping in wild European places. Preferably in the wild, living of the land practicing ancient survival skills.

He is a keen birdwatcher. He admires a graceful Fulmar gliding alongside the ship. The ear deafening sound in a Guillemot colony or the sneak attack of an Arctic Skua. Or what about a pack of Orca's breaking the water surface. Daan loves to take you on a walk to enjoy the enchanting flora and fauna of the polar regions.

What makes the polar regions so special to 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 or even better, outside.

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.

Sjoerd van der Knokke – Doctor



Sjoerd grew up in a small village just below Rotterdam in the Netherlands. After highschool he decided to study Chemistry in Amsterdam. But soon he found out that he rather worked with people than with chemicals. He quit chemistry and started Medical studies at the Radboud university in Nijmegen.

After his Medical studies he has worked in the Intensive Care and the Emergency department, before specializing in General Practice. He is currently working as a doctor for the Dutch military.

Sjoerd is also a freelance photographer. In 2019 he decided to start professional photography training. In his work he focuses on portrait and studio photography, but he also loves nature and wildlife photography.

Besides his work as a doctor and a photographer. He has a passion for travelling and diving. His favorite parts of the world are Central Asia and Africa. However, when he went on his honeymoon to Antarctica he fell in love with this beautiful continent and directly knew he needed to go back. "The feeling you get when you see the first iceberg is an unforgettable experience."

As the father of a young family it is a bit harder for him to be away for longer periods of time, but being surrounded by the stunning Arctic and Antarctic scenery compensates it all.



Welcome aboard!

Day 1, Wednesday, June 10

Embarkation Vlissingen

16.00 hrs Embarkation. Once you have found your cabin, please feel free to explore the ship. First check if you found all your luggage in your cabin and if not, inform the reception.

Tea, coffee, and some snacks are available in the observation lounge (deck 5)

+/-17.00 **When all are on board, we will have our first meeting** in the Observation Lounge on deck 5. Introduction to the ship & mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill.

+/-17.15 **Departure!** We are leaving the pier. Please stay off the bridge during the departure and while we are sailing out of the port in Vlissingen. It will be announced when the bridge will be open for visitors.

19.00 Dinner buffet is ready in the Dining Room.

+/-20.30 **Welcome meeting** in the Lounge/Bar – on deck 5. Have a toast with the captain, learn to know your expedition guides and hear about our plans.

Soon after departure from Vlissingen we enter the North Sea. It will take us about one and a half day to reach our first destination, Aberdeen in Scotland. It is about 400 Nautical Miles from Vlissingen to Aberdeen (1 nm. is around 1.9 kilometres so about 750 km.). We plan to arrive there on Sunday morning, May 25.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you feel the movements of the vessel. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors jamming!



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 2, Thursday, June 11

At Sea

- 07.30 Wake-up call
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast buffet in the dining room.
- 10.00 Lecture in the observation lounge by Jess: An introduction to the whales and dolphins in the north of the UK.
- 12.30 Lunch buffet
- 14.30 Zodiac briefing in the observation lounge.
After the briefing we will hand out rubber boots. You will be called deck by deck to the boot room on deck 3. Take thick socks with you to find the good size of boots!
- 16.00 Lecture by Daan: Identification of the most common seabirds around the North Sea.
- 18.15 Recap and briefing in the bar with information on tomorrow's plans in Aberdeen. This briefing is compulsory for everyone!
- 19.00 Dinner

Today we will be the whole day on the open sea. It is about 400 Nautical Miles from Vlissingen to Aberdeen (1 nm. is around 1.9 kilometres so about 750 km.). We plan to arrive there on Friday, June 12.

When special wildlife is seen, we will announce this through the intercom. Also, during lectures, we will make announcements and when needed, pause a lecture so everybody has the chance to go outside.

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself, and at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 3, Friday, June 12

Aberdeen

Tonight, the night between June 11/ 12, we will change the time on the ship. We will change to British time: at 00:00 o'clock tonight the clock will go one hour back. 00:00 it will become 23:00. Therefore, we will have one extra hour of sleep!

00.00	Time Change (-1 h.)
07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast. Do not forget to prepare your packed lunch.
± 07.00	Pilot Station, where we pick up the pilot
± 08.00	Arrival Aberdeen. Customs come on board.
± 09.00	Leaving the ship - bus tour starts.
± 17.30	Back at the ship.
18.00	Departure from Aberdeen. Please stay off the bridge during the departure and while we are sailing out of port. It will be announced when the bridge will be open for visitors.
19.00	Dinner buffet
+/-20.30	Briefing on our tomorrow's landing.

Today we will visit Aberdeen. We expect to arrive there around 08.00. The busses for the tours will be ready in the harbour in the morning at 09.00 and plan to be back at the ship at the latest 17.30. Make sure you have been cleared by customs before you go off the ship and do not forget to take your passport with you when you go ashore. On the pier we are not allowed to wander of on our own, we need to be accompanied by officials who will walk us to the bus.

The ship needs to depart at 18.00 to reach our next destination in time so please be on the ship not later than 17.30!



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 4, Saturday June 13

Noss

- 07.30 Wake-up call
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast. Please prepare your packed lunch during your breakfast
- +/-11.00 Landing by zodiac on Noss (lifejacket, rubber boots!)
Wait for announcements
- 14.00 – 17.00 Every hour a zodiac shuttle service back to the ship
- 17.00 Last zodiac back to the ship
Departure and sailing towards Jan Mayen
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner.
- 20.30 Species list

Today we will visit the isle of Noss
The highlights of Noss are the bird-cliffs and seabirds, such as Puffins.
You can wander around on your own or join one of the longer or shorter walks.

After Noss we continue our voyage towards Jan Mayen. It is about 700 nm or 1300 km. to Jan Mayen, which will take us about two and a half days.



Day 5, Sunday June 14 **At sea to Jan Mayen (day 1)**

Tomorrow, on Sunday June 14, we will change our time during the daytime. We will change back to Middle European Time. During lunch, at 13.00 the clock will go one hour forward. Instead of 13.00 it will become 14.00.

- 07.30 Wake-up call
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast buffet in the dining room.
- 10.00 Lecture by Michelle: Early whaling history.
- 12.30 Lunch buffet
 At 13.00 we will change time!
- 14.30 Lecture by Chloé: Drifting life: An introduction to the planktonic world.
- 16.30 Lecture by Esther: Westwards – Viking conquests in the North Atlantic.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner

Today we will be for the whole day on the open sea, the first of the two days. It is about 700 nautical miles, or 1300 kilometres to Jan Mayen and it will take us two and a half days to reach this remote island. We expect to arrive at Jan Mayen on Tuesday morning, June 16.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 6, Monday, June 15 **At sea to Jan Mayen (day 2)**

Sometime in the early morning we will cross the Arctic Circle (66° 33' 41.410" N)

- 07.30 Wake-up call
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast buffet in the dining room.
- 10.00 Lecture by Jess: Seals of our journey, an introduction
- 12.30 Lunch buffet
- 14.30 Lecture by Chloe: Killer Whales
- 16.00 Lecture by Tiphany: History of Jan Mayen
- 18.15 Recap in the bar with information on our landing on Jan Mayen.
Please all attend this meeting!
- 19.00 Dinner

Today we will be for another whole day on the open ocean. It is about 700 nautical miles, or 1300 kilometres to Jan Mayen and it will take us two and a half days to reach this remote island. We expect to arrive there tomorrow, Tuesday morning, June 16.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 7, Tuesday, June 16

Jan Mayen

- 06.00 – 07.00 Arrival in interesting wildlife area, close to Jan Mayen
- 07.00 Wake-up call
- 07.30 – 08.30 Breakfast
- +/-11.30 TBA Landing by zodiac in Kvalrossbukta
- 17.00 Last zodiac back to the ship
- 18.30 Recap
- 19.00 Dinner

Today we expect to reach Jan Mayen. In the early morning, we sail through an area where we often find whales, as the topography of the sea bottom allows biological up-welling, providing nutrients for phytoplankton. Be on the lookout!

We expect to arrive at the southwest side of Jan Mayen around 07.00. The ship will then sail along the spectacular west coast of the island to Kvalrossbukta. We plan to land there by Zodiac before noon.

The landing can only be carried out under favourable conditions. In case of too much wind or waves on the gangway or beach, the landing will be cancelled. Cancellation can happen at the last moment, or even during the landing operations!

TBA = To Be Announced



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 8, Wednesday, June 17

At sea, to the pack ice

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast
10.00	Lecture by Koen: The importance of sea ice.
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Lecture by Tiphany: Whale adaptations – Arctic whales
16.00	Lecture by Chloé: Drifting life: An introduction to the planktonic world
18.30	Recap
19.00	Dinner

Today we will be on the open ocean. It is about 300 nautical miles, or 555 kilometres to the pack-ice edge. But bear in mind, the pack-ice is not stationary, and its limits change all the time.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 9, Thursday, June 18

The Pack Ice

07.30 Wake-up call

08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast

12.30 Lunch

18.30 Recap

19.00 Arctic Dinner

Today we plan to stay in and around the pack-ice for the whole day and part of the evening.

Life on the pack-ice has an uneven distribution, it is very patchy. Sometimes there is little life, and then suddenly a lot. We therefore will be flexible in our approach. We might go out of the ice again to find a different spot where we hope to find more animals.

Be on the lookout, the more we all look, the more we will see. Whales are often swimming along the pack ice edge, and seals might be resting on ice flows. With some luck we might even meet the King of the Arctic, the Polar Bear.

We have not planned any lectures but could announce one if there is a good reason, such as the occurrence of fog.

Sometime during the evening, we will leave the pack ice and set course to Spitsbergen, where we plan to arrive on Saturday morning, June 20.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 10, Friday, June 19 **At Sea towards Spitsbergen**

- 07.30 Wake-up call
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast
- 10.00 AECO and polar bear safety briefing.
The briefing will be followed by a lecture by Esther: A general introduction to Svalbard
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Lecture by Michelle: Discovery of Spitsbergen and the geopolitical status today
- 16.30 Lecture by Daan: Climate Change, a shifting baseline.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar.
- 19.00 Dinner.

Unfortunately, we had to leave the ice during the evening and started sailing towards Spitsbergen. It is still more than 250 nautical miles to Poolepynten, near the entrance of Isfjorden. We plan to arrive there on Saturday morning, June 20.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 11, Saturday, June 20

Spitsbergen

07.00 Wake-up call

07.30 – 08.30 Breakfast

Today you need to settle your account. You can do this at the reception from breakfast time until, at the latest 15.00.

+/- 09.00 Landing by zodiac at Poolepynten.

11.00 Last zodiac back

12.30 Lunch.

14.00 Short meeting in the lounge, with information on the zodiac cruise.

+/-15.00 Zodiac cruise in Ymerbukta

18.00 Last zodiac back

+/- 18.30 Please bring back your rubber boots and waterproof bag back to the boot room. You will be called deck by deck.

19.00 Dinner. We have a plated service for the last dinner. Please be on time!

+/- 20.30 Farewell meeting in the lounge

Today will be our last expedition day. In the morning, we will land at Poolepynten, which is located on the large island of Prins Karls Forland. We hope to see Walruses here, that often haul out on the beach.

In the afternoon, we plan to make a zodiac cruise near the glacier front of Esmarkbreen, in Ymerbukta. In this beautiful bay often, interesting birds are seen.

After dinner we would like to invite you all for a farewell drink in the lounge.

The ship will proceed towards Longyearbyen, where we plan to arrive during the night.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 12, Sunday, June 21 **Disembarkation Longyearbyen**

07.00 Wake-up call
07.30 Breakfast

For passengers that leave the ship, please put your heavy luggage in the corridor near your cabin before breakfast, at the latest at 7.30. The crew and staff will transport the luggage to the pier.

Passengers who stay on board, please keep your luggage in your cabin, do not put it in the corridor.

We will be using coloured labels for the luggage, to indicate the two different flights today.

- 21JUN SK4491 LYR – OSL 10.45: attach the **BLUE label**
- 21JUN SK4493 LYR – OSL 13.30: attach the **RED label**
- When going to a hotel in Longyearbyen, no tag is needed. Pick up your luggage from the pier and bring it to the bus that goes to town.

We will be at anchor today, and all passengers and luggage will be transported to the pier by zodiac. Please wear your waterproof clothing and life jacket in the zodiac. Please leave your keycard holder at reception.

09.00 Time to say goodbye! All passengers leave the ship by zodiac.

Buses have been arranged to take you to Longyearbyen or the airport.

- Passengers on other flights or a hotel in Longyearbyen, make sure you take your luggage from the pier and take it on the bus into town. You will be taken to the town center, near the Svalbard Butikken, from where you need to arrange your own transport to your hotel
- For passengers flying in the morning (SK4491 10.45), check that you have put the blue label on your luggage, before you put it in the corridor. Take your luggage on the pier and put it on the bus that takes you to the airport.
- Passengers on the afternoon flight (SK4493 13.30) put their luggage on the luggage truck for the airport. A bus will drive you to the town center, near the Svalbard Butikken. At 11.30, the bus will pick you up again at the Svalbard Butikken and take you to the airport. Here you need to pick up your luggage outside the building.

Dear passengers, we enjoyed having you on board. Have a nice and safe journey home. Hopefully we meet again somewhere, sometime, in the Polar regions!
All the best and farewell!