



North Spitsbergen Explorer
Into the Pack Ice – Polar Bear & Whale

21st June – 28th 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	[India]
Sous Chef:	Donal Cielo	[Phillipines]
Ships doctor:	Susan Eckhardt	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Jan Belgers	[Netherlands]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Chloé Marechal	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Jongerling	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Esther Josten	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Michelle Van Dijk	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Daniels Karin Amby	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tscherter	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	[United Kindom]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Sunday 21st of June, Longyearbyen, embarkation day

16h00 GPS Position: 78°14.1'N / 015°37.1'E

Wind: Wnw-3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +7.5°C



Many of the guest arrived at Longyearbyen on the day of embarkation. Throughout the afternoon the luggage was shuffled from the key out to Plancius on anchor in the bay. By 4pm there was an eager line of guests waiting to embark on the Zodiac journey! Our luck with the weather meant that we could save our wet zodiac journeys for later in the trip.

Once on board the evening went by quickly as we were busy with familiarisations, safety briefings, cocktails with Captain Matei Mocanu and of course a lovely first dinner. As we set off out of Isfjord in the evening, and northward towards our first scheduled activity of the trip, there was time to enjoy the views of the flat table-topped mountains in the late evening light.

Day 2 – Monday 22th of June, Smeerenburg glacier and Fuglefjorden zodiac cruise

09h00 GPS Position: 79°38.0'N / 011°30.8'E

Wind: S-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C

What an incredible start to our tour!

After a calm night aboard Plancius, we sailed into the beautiful Smeerenburgfjord, named after the legendary 17th century Dutch whaling town, that was located on the nearby Amsterdamøya. In the early morning, we could already see the mountain panorama that gave this archipelago its Dutch name: Spitsbergen, the “pointy mountains”.



After breakfast we were all invited to the lounge for our mandatory zodiac and polar bear safety briefing. Right after that meeting, we heard an announcement over the PA system: a minke whale had been spotted swimming in the bay in front of the glacier –

a great reason to dress up warm, getting your camera and binoculars and head outside. Only half an hour later, Steve, a passionate birder and wildlife observer from the UK rushed to the expedition team. “I think I found a bear!” And indeed, he had spotted a polar bear swimming in the water in front of the glacier – almost impossible to see! Most of us only discovered the animal when it shortly climbed up onto an ice floe. And back into the water it went. Swam a bit further, investigating another ice floe, an iceberg, trying to climb up, sinking back into the water, swimming a bit further... many of us could still not see the distant bear in the water. Eventually it swam to shore and climbed out onto the rocks. It shook its wet pelt and rolled around in the snow to dry off after swimming. What an amazing sight to see this majestic predator roll in the snow like a puppy. The bear continued along the coast in search of food. Some barnacle geese flew off when it approached. We had a lot of time to peacefully follow the polar bear with our binoculars and camera lenses until it vanished into the next bay and out of sight.



We could not believe our luck of seeing a polar bear on the first expedition day of our voyage to the Arctic!

The ship continued its route towards the glacier and finally onwards towards Fuglefjord, the “bird fjord”, named after the many different birds, that breed and live along its shores. After lunch, we got ready to go on a zodiac cruise. The weather was beautiful with sunshine and a mild breeze; however, we were happy that we dressed up warm since cold fall winds drop down the glacier arms and speed up due to the funnel effect of the valleys – these winds are also known as “katabatic winds”.

Right in the beginning of the zodiac tour, we saw our first puffins, Brünnichs and black guillemots. We cruised on enjoying the spectacular panorama around us. Getting closer to the glacier front, we could hear some rumbles and every now and then a piece broke off, the glacier was calving. We made sure to keep our safety distance of 400m and had a great time observing the towering glacier front, waiting for the next calving. The whole bay was covered in icebergs, pieces that had come off Svitjodreen. It was fascinating to drive through the crushed ice, listening to the sound when the air bubbles escape and looking at the fantastic colours and shapes the ice creates. We made our way through the ice slowly back to the ship, observing kittiwakes, Arctic terns, and eider ducks along the shores. We eventually returned to the ship, happy about this great day in Svalbard!

During the evening, we joined the recap in the lounge, where Jan told us more about the plans for tomorrow, Karine explained how to identify whether a polar bear is fat and

healthy and Michelle told us about the species list where we'll gather all the animal and plant species we find along this journey.

After dinner, we enjoyed a scenic ship cruise along the islands of Indre and Ytre Norskøya, a glimpse onto the open ocean beyond makes us realize that there is only water between us and the North Pole now. We can't wait to go further north.

Day 3 – Tuesday 23th of June, Jotunkjeldene Landing and Mushamna Landing

09h00 GPS Position: 79°27.3'N / 013°22.8'E

Wind: SW-5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +13°C

In the morning we sailed into Bockfjorden for our very first landing. We visited Jotunkjeldene, Svalbard's "hot" springs. Already from the landing site we could see the yellowish cone that has been created where the "hot" spring is. On the beach we divided into three hiking groups, the sportive group who went for a longer walk on the slopes of the mountain



Smørstabben. From the highest point of their hike they had a beautiful view of the glacier Friedrichbreen and on the way down they also saw a Svalbard rock ptarmigan. The medium groups explored the lowland around Jotunkjeldene and got to see lots of interesting plants for example the Mountain avens (*dryas octopetala*) and saw some reindeer in the distance. The leisurely group also conquered the difficult terrain and managed to get up to Jotunkjeldene and could admire the beautiful sinter terraces and see the water slowly flowing out of the wells. The temperature in Jotunkjeldene is approximately 24 degrees, and they are not only warming up the area around they are also home to one of Chloes favourite creatures, the water bear. This is a tiny organism

that can withstand a large range of temperatures and can live in very many different habitats.



Back at the ship we had a wonderful lunch before Jan asked us to meet him in the lounge to get to know more about our afternoon landing at Mushamna.

Mushamna is an relatively young trapper station that was

built by the trapper Kjell Reidar Hovelsrud in 1987. He was first denied building it but with help of the Svalbard treaty he managed to get permission. The hut is built out of driftwood and is one of the most impressive trapper hut. At the hut Kat told us about her fieldwork in the lagoon in Mushamna. During that time, she was allowed to live in the cabin for a week in February. It was very interesting to hear her stories. The sportive group went for a longer walk inland to a viewpoint where they could see the beautiful landscape in Tårndalen. The leisurely and the medium groups stayed closer to shore and where lucky to see a pod of Belugas. However, there was an imposter in the beluga pod, a walrus was swimming together with them! Later we all gathered on the landing site for a wet ride back in the waves.

Day 4 – Wednesday 24th of June, Landing at Torellneset and zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet

09h00 GPS Position: 79°22.4'N / 020°40.4'E

Wind: S-5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +9°C

Already at 7 o'clock we were woken up by the voice of Jan, who planned to start early, to be able to take the max out of the day. After an hour of breakfast we were expected at the gangway at 9AM to land at Torellneset at the southwestern point of Gustav Adolf Land, Nordaustlandet. In 1898, it was named after professor Otto Martin Torell, a pioneering Swedish geologist. He was also a zoologist, botanist, glaciologist, and polar explorer. For us today was the day to explore the High Arctic desert, where at first sight, there is hardly anything else to find than a stony ground, which once was a seafloor, being lift up by the isostatic rebound. At second sight there appeared much more to it. In small ditches, where snow had been accumulated and molten, little



oasis with little plants were to be found. Polar-mouse-ear chickweed (*Cerastium regelii*), Purple saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*) and even the national flower, the Svalbard poppy (*Papaver dahlianum*) and some mosses are able to grow in this desert. The sportive group made it all the way to the icecap and came across reindeer.

The other groups had fun with the snow, and in one of the groups a snowball fight was started – Switzerland against the rest. The fun ended when a Polar bear was sighted in the distance. Without any break, all groups returned to the landing site and from there all made it safe back on board.



Our afternoon outing was a zodiac cruise along Alkefjellet in Hinlopen Strait. A bird cliff which is the nesting location for over 60,000 breeding pairs of Brünnich's guillemots (*Uria lomvia*). The cliffs are made of basalt columns up to a 100 m high, interspersed with a dark layer – a dolerite intrusion in the older Permian limestone. We

will never forget the view, the sound and the smell of these impressive cliffs and the amount of birds filling the sky like mosquitos on a summer day. Hardly knowing were to look with so much action, it was easy to miss the Great skua and Glaucous gulls feeding on guillemots, the egg that fell down the cliff or the kittiwakes nesting in between. Luckily nobody missed out on the two Arctic foxes (*Vulpus lagopus*) patrolling at bottom of the cliffs, looking for food.

After dinner we were treated at a ships cruise in Wahlenbergfjord, with still some pieces of fjord ice drifting. Shortly before midnight a Polarbear with two playful cubs were to be seen.

Tired of so much beautiful impressions we went to bed, to be fit for another day to come.

Day 5 – Thursday 25th of June, Sorgfjord and Wildlife at the edge of the pack ice

09h00 GPS Position: 79°56.2'N / 016°44.9'E

Wind: Lt Air • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1,5°C

This morning we had another early breakfast to fuel ourselves for the morning landing at Eolusneset in Sorgfjord. We were excited to learn that there were three adult male walrus resting on the beach. We split into our usual four walking groups and took it in turns to visit the walrus. We moved very slowly as a group along the beach to see these enormous marine



mammals lying in the sand. They were scratching themselves and stretching in a comical way and one even rolled down the beach into the water.

The walking groups then took different routes around the landscape. One of the key areas to look at were the graves of whalers marked with piles of large rocks. The burial ground at Eolusneset has 30 graves dating from the western European whaling activities in the 1600s and 1700s. The number of graves grew over the years as it was the same few selected places that were in use as burial grounds during the whaling era. The Eolus cross on top of the hill was erected by Skipper C. Holmgren from the schooner Eolus of Bergen, which was trapped by ice in Sorgfjorden in 1855. He intended to commemorate the diseased from the battle in Sorgfjorden in 1693 as the casualties were believed to have been buried at Eolusneset. This turned out to be a myth. The graves at Eolusneset lie as silent monuments to the international whaling that took place in Svalbard 300-400 years ago. They tell a story of a risky workplace from a time when the whalers mastered the arctic sea and coast. Prepared for death they stocked their ships with materials for coffins on their northbound journeys.

Many of us also had excellent views of Rock Ptarmigan whilst looking at the graves. We watched a male still in his white winter plumage foraging on the ground with a beautifully camouflaged female with feathers that made her disappear in the moss and rocks.

The landing took a little longer than we expected because we had to make a detour around some arctic terns who were fiercely defending their nest sites. But we could



take a rest in the afternoon as we were at sea sailing towards to pack ice. After lunch many of us had a nap to recover our energy. Koen gave us a lecture all about sea ice. It was fascinating to learn about this unique habitat and very concerning to see how it has disappeared and continues to disappear each year due to climate change. At the same time one of our

passengers Kat gave a talk about her work with sea ice in the dining room for our German speaking guests.

We had some nice sightings of a fin whale and some minke whales in the afternoon as we sailed out into open water. We gathered for an early recap in the afternoon where Jan told us the plans for our day in the ice. Jess gave us some more information about the amazing Brunnich's Guillemots that we had seen at the cliffs of Alkefjellet. Michelle then told us about the Arctic fox and impressed us by showing the distances that they can travel. Chloe showed us a glimpse into the tiny and beautiful world of lichen. And Ursula finished off by telling us about her life-sized animals that she makes to inspire and educate people about the natural world.

We were very excited to arrive in the ice and spent lots of time outside taking in this new atmospheric icy world we had found ourselves in. We even had the chance to have dinner outside as the hotel department had arranged a BBQ for us on the back deck. We were enjoying dancing, exchanging stories and the amazing chocolate sponge pudding when a call came to tell us a distant bowhead whale had been spotted. Sadly, it was a fleeting view and only a handful of passengers saw it, but then remarkably some blue whales were spotted, the biggest animals in the world.

There was a real reluctance to go to bed that night as the evening light and silky calm sea created such a beautiful ice landscape and perfect conditions for watching large groups of harp seals swimming by and bearded seals resting on ice flows.

Day 6 – Friday 26th of June, Ice day and Polar bear sightings

09h00 GPS Position: 80°47.8'N / 013°45.9'E

Wind: SE-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +8°C

After the past days of getting up early we got to sleep in for 30 minutes. Many of us enjoyed this while others got out as early as usual to be out on deck. Either way the view out of the window was a surprise and breathtaking as we were surrounded by ice! What a different place we have reached!

After breakfast the Plancius started to slowly plough through the dense ice floes pushing them to the left and right. The sound created was rather unique. Everybody was standing at the railing to scan the ice. It stretched all the way to the horizon. Looking down from high one could enjoy the various shapes, subtle colours and surface structures of the ice floes. We were in awe of this exceptionally and unique beauty only nature can create.



Soon after breakfast the first exciting call over the PA system announced a rather unique and rare bird; a ivory gull circling around the ship. To scout for wildlife, we then moved slowly out of the pack ice and turned westwards to sail slowly and quite close along the pack ice edge. For the next hours numerous binoculars, scopes and cameras were raised and many more naked eyes started to scan the water surface and icy landscape for wildlife. Various flocks of Brünnich's guillemots and their smaller relatives, the tiny little auks offered exciting breaks from our focused scouting. In the water the small heads of a single seal appeared for a few seconds while other times a dozen harp seals swam together in tight groups.

We all felt what the early whalers were going through. Scouting, waiting, searching and hoping to discover something. Then, finally, the long-awaited bing-bong rang out: A polar bear walking in the distance. All guides on deck immediately started to walk from guest to guest to make sure that they all can see it. The bear was walking fast, zigzagging the area in its typical search mode. We followed slowly enjoying the King of the Arctic in its true habitat. Finally, we had to let it go as it was not possible to get closer. Not giving up yet we continued to follow the pack ice edge and enjoyed the seals in the water and the birds in the air.



After lunch the search continued in the hope to discover a Greenland whale or even a narwhal. But our luck was only able to offer us another very distant bear. Finally, we had to leave the area heading south. Our plan was to follow the continental shelf west of Svalbard. Here the sea floor rises from the deep ocean creating a steep

wall. Here the cold water layers are redirected vertically bringing nutrients to the surface, creating an area of higher productivity. We hoped for the best to discover some whales feeding along the slope.

While sailing it was an ideal time to offer another lecture. In the morning Michelle and Karin gave a presentation on the polar bear. They opened a window into their fascinating lives, their role in the polar ecosystem and the threats they are facing nowadays. In the afternoon, Chloé and Ursula offered a lecture on cetaceans so that we were well prepared in case we will encounter some of the ocean giants.

Sure enough, the lectures had just finished, when the by now well-known bing-bong rang again. Fin whales are seen. The excitement on board increased immediately and everybody walked fast to the window our out on deck. One of the fin whales surfaced just 15 m beside the ship, slowly swimming and breathing eight times! We all could take in its beauty, discover its typical light-coloured right jaw as well as a beautiful pigmentation pattern, called chevron, in various shades of grey. What a gift we received at that moment.

Then it was time for our daily recap. Just as Jan started to explain the plans for our last day a group of white-beaked dolphins passed the portside of the ship. What a cool sight. Then Jess offered a little quiz of animal sounds. The first were the low calls of a humpback whale. Strangely, Jesse said out loud, *"I believe I can hear a singing whale in the back."* Sure enough, a life-sized juvenile humpback whale, made by Ursula, walked up on stage giving us all a better idea of the whales' size. As it swam away we all were cheering and tried to imagine an adult of double size. Visit www.121withanimals.ch to see more of Ursula's life-sized mock-ups of many different species.

After diner some blue and fin whales were spotted confirming that the idea of spending time along the continental shelf was right.

Day 7 – Saturday 27th of June, morning landing at Poolepynten and afternoon landing at Dahlbreen

09h00 GPS Position: 78°26.8'N / 011°56.6'E

Wind: NW-4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6,3°C

This was our last day of activities but luckily there was still so much to see and experience. We started our day with a landing at Poolepynten. Here we hoped for Walrus and luckily, they were there. The landing was a



sand beach landing, and the terrain was quite open and flat. The long hikers got in first as they had missed the walrus previously so now, they got the first chance to see them. The rest of the groups were created on land and sent scattered over the Svalbard tundra. There were many things to see beyond the Walrus. There were many flowering plants like the purple Oyster plant and the Tufted Saxifrage. You just had to take a good look in between all the wooden logs filling up the higher part of the beach. Out of the tundra there were many whale bones sticking out with each one having its own little micro garden around itself. With lichens and mosses making a colorful area and Drooping saxifrage sticking out next to the bones. There were many birds nesting around and the guides had to be careful where to take their group to avoid disturbing the nesting Ringed Plovers and Purple Sandpipers or getting attacked by vicious Arctic Terns. There were also peaceful reindeer grazing around in the distance which most groups have been able to approach. The male with large antlers was not bothered by our presence and even approached us as we were observing him. There were quite



some Red Throated divers around and the occasional Great and Arctic Skua flew by. The highlight for many were the 4 Walrus lying on the beach of course. The four males were sleeping most of the time and were not bothered by the groups getting

closer and closer. The 30 m distance was easily taken, and we could take many photos and videos of these majestic animals. They did wake up a couple of times looking over and seeing what we were doing but quickly went back to sleep afterwards unbothered. With great weather and enough time to wander around everybody went happily back to the ship for lunch.

After a quick lunch the afternoon activity was already around the corner. Actually, just across the fjord as we could see it from Poolepynten. The fjord was called DahlbreBukta with the beautiful Dahl Glacier at the back of the fjord. The idea of this landing was more focused on learning more about the amazing geology, geography and glaciology of the west spitsbergen mountain range. The groups were divided at

the landing site however everybody got explained that the objective was to climb up the hill between the landing site and the glacier to get exaptational views of the glacier Dahl. The terrain was not easy to walk over as there were many loose rocks, but



everybody took a lot of care and were by now used to the large rubber boots. On top of the hill all groups took time to take a moment of peace and quiet. This real Arctic silence was many times interrupted by calvings from Dahlbreen but most people only could listen to it with amazement. Seeing such raw nature right in front of you and hearing the calvings thunder and rumble makes many people think about the future of these arctic regions. It was a moment to reflect and brought happiness to having seen it with our own eyes. At the end of the landing there was a last activity that some people were anxiously waiting for. The Polar Plunge! People eagerly took off their clothes to jump in the frigid arctic waters that were surrounded by icebergs. A memory for life, however good or bad it felt.

In the evening we had our last dinner on board. During this dinner many of the crew got introduced by the Hotel Manager Jeroen and were given a huge applause for all their efforts to make this journey so successful and comfortable. After dinner we had the goodbye captain's cocktail in the Lounge. Here the EL Jan gave his thank you's and the man of the evening, Captain Matei gave his speech. At last, we got to see the slideshow from Jess that again took us through our magnificent journey that we have had through photos and videos. A successful and adventures trip with many highlights. Many could enjoy another drink after that to celebrate this experience that we had together.

Day 8 – Sunday 28th of June, Longyearbyen, Disembarkation Day

09h00 GPS Position: 78°14.5' N, 015°32.6'E

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

On Sunday early we arrived in Longyearbyen where we set anchor. While we enjoyed a last breakfast on board, the guides and crew hieved our suitcases onto the zodiacs to bring them ashore. It was a sad moment to disembark from the ship but we got to enjoy one last zodiac ride.

Plancius had 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, 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: 1,043 nm

Northernmost position: 80°50.1'N, 014°23.7'E

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.





Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

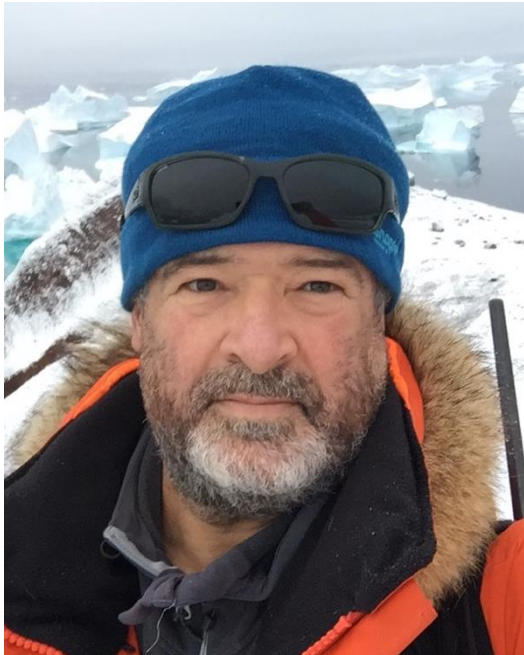
English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	21-Jun	22-Jun	23-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	IJsduiker	V	X						
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B			X		X		X
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnebelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B				X			
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B	X	X		X			
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B			X	X			
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	T							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	Wintertaling	B							
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
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Koningseider	B					X		
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	IJseend	B					X		
Black Sooter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwhoen	B			X		X		
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B							
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B			X	X	X		X
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B							
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper	B							
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B							
Whimbrel	<i>Numerius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu	Regenwulp	T							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepiere à collier	Steenloper	B							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B							
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot	B							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B			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			
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B		X	X	X			
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T							
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw	V							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V							
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	B							
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw	T							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	B				X		X	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B	X	X	X	X	X		X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet	B							
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Kortbekzeekoet	B	X	X		X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	B	X	X	X	X		X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	B	X	X				X	
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaaiduiker	B		X				X	
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	Traquet moteux	Tapuit	B							
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgor	B	X		X	X	X		

MAMMALS

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

Scientific	English	Deutsch	Nederlands	22/06	23/06	24/06	25/06	26/06	27/06
<i>Arenaria pseudofrigida</i>	Fringed Sandwort	Kalksandkraut	Gewimperde Zandmuur						
<i>Arnica alpina</i>	Alpine Arnica	Alpen-Arnika	Bergvalkruid						
<i>Betula nana</i>	Dwarf Birch	Zwerg Birke	Dwergberk						
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	Alpine Bistort / Knotweed	Knöllchen-Knöterich	Levendbarend duizendknoop		X				
<i>Braya glabella</i> spp. <i>Purpurascens</i>	Purple Rockcress	Purpurkresse							
<i>Campanula uniflora</i>	High Alpine Hairbell	Einblütige Glockenblume	Enkelbloemig klokje						
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Polar Cress	Polar-schaumkraut	Pinksterbloem						
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	Arctic Bell-heather	Vierkantiges Heiderkraut	Kantheide		X				
<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	Arctic Mouse-ear chickweed	Arktisches Hornkraut	Arctische hoornbloem		X		X		X
<i>Cerastium regelii</i>	Polar Mouse-ear chickweed	Polar Hornkraut	Poolhoornbloem		X	X	X		X
<i>Cherleria biflora</i>	Mountain Sandwort	Zweblütiche Miere	Bergveldmuur						
<i>Chrysosplenium tetrandrum</i>	Dwarf Golden-saxifraga	Nördliches Milzkraut	Dwerggoudveil						
<i>Cochlearia groenlandica</i>	Polar Schurvygrass	Gebräuchliches Löffelkraut	Lepelblad		X	X	X		X
<i>Deschampsia alpina</i>	Alpine Haigrass	Alpenschmiele	Bergsmele						
<i>Draba lactea</i>	Lapland Whitlow-grass	Lappländisches Felsenblümchen	Lapland hongerbloempje						X
<i>Draba spec.</i>	Whitlow-grasses	Felsenblümchen	Hongerbloempje		X		X		X
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain Avens	Silberwurz	Achtster		X				
<i>Equisetum spec.</i>	Horsetail	Ackerschachtelheim	Paardestaart						
<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	Black Fleabane	Schwarzes Berufskraut	Kleine fijnstraal						
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>	Arctic Cottongrass	Scheuchzers Wollgras	Scheuchzers wollegras						
<i>Huperzia arctica</i>	Arctic Firmoss	Arktischer Bärlapp	Poolwolfsklauw		X				
<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	Oystersplant	Mertensie	Oesterkruid		X		X		X
<i>Micranthes (Saxifraga) hieracifolia</i>	Hawkweed Saxifrage	Habichtskrautsteinbrech	Havikskruidsteenbreek						
<i>Micranthes (Saxifraga) nivalis</i>	Alpine Saxifrage	Schneesteinbrech	Sneeuwsteenbreek						
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	Alpensäuerling	Bergzuring		X		X		
<i>Papaver cornwallisense</i>	Arctic Poppy	Arktischer Mohn	Poolpapaver		X		X		
<i>Papaver dahlianum</i>	Svalbard Poppy	Spitzbergenmohn	Spitsbergenpapaver			X			
<i>Pedicularis dasyantha</i>	Woolly Lousewort	Wolliges Läusekraut	Wollig kartelblad						
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Lousewort	Rauhes Läusekraut	Harig kartelblad						
<i>Petasites frigidus</i>	Lapland Butterbur	Nördliche Pestwurz	Poolhoeftblad						
<i>Poa alpina</i>	Alpine Meadow-grass	Alpen Rispengras	Alpenbeemdgras						
<i>Polemonium boreale</i>	Boreal Jacob's-ladder	Nördliche Himmelsleiter	Noordelijke jakobsladder						
<i>Potentilla arenosa</i> spp. <i>Chamissonis</i>	Bluff Cinquefoil	Chamisso's Fingerkraut	Zandganzerik						
<i>Potentilla hyparctica</i>	Arctic Cinquefoil	Polar-fingerkraut	Arctische ganzerik						
<i>Potentilla pulchella</i>	Tufted Cinquefoil	Schönes Fingerkraut	Fraaie ganzerik						
<i>Ranunculus arcticus</i>	Lobe-leafed Buttercup	Gelappter Hanhnenfuss	Geschubde boterbloem						
<i>Ranunculus hyperboreus</i>	Tundra Buttercup	Nordischer Hahnenfuss	Arctische boterbloem						

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.

Deutsch

Jan Belgers wurde 1965 in Holland geboren und lebt in Rotterdam. Er hat für viele Jahre als professioneller Outdoor Guide und Expeditionsleiter gearbeitet. Reisen und Leiten in der Wildnis durch die ganze Welt sind seine Leidenschaften.

Seine Arbeit als Reiseleiter hat ihn von den hohen Gebirge der Himalayas und der Anden zu den extremen Breitenkreise von Spitsbergen und der Antarktis gebracht.

Seine ersten Schritte in den Polarregionen machte er 1992 als Student, als er in eine internationale Winterexpedition zum Weddell Meer in der Antarktis machte.

Seitdem hat er an mehreren wissenschaftlichen Expeditionen nach zurückgelegenen Plätze der nördlichen und südlichen Ozeane teilgenommen. Jan fühlt sich auf dem Meer zu Hause Dank seinem Hintergrundes in Meeresbiologie, und ist einer der Expeditionsleiter auf unserem Segelschiff, die Noorderlicht. Er hält Vorträge über Geschichte, Biologie und Polargeschichte und ist ein Fanatiker von Polarliteratur.

Chloé Maréchal – Assistant Expedition Leader



Chloe is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Holding 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.

While charismatic megafauna like dolphins and whales rightfully capture our imagination, 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 2013, her expertise and potential were recognized at the highest level when she was selected as the prestigious 2013–14 European Rolex Our World-Underwater Scholar — an honour that placed her alongside world-leading figures in marine science and the diving industry. That formative year also brought her first encounter with Antarctica, an experience that sparked a lifelong passion for polar environments and remote wilderness.

Chloé's career has taken her to every continent, both above and below the surface. She spent nine years living in Bodø, Norway, just above the Arctic Circle, before recently relocating to southern France. Beyond guiding, she continues to pursue underwater exploration — diving forgotten shipwrecks, mapping uncharted underwater caves, and sailing open waters.

Whether you're a seasoned naturalist or encountering the ocean for the first time, Chloé's enthusiasm, depth of knowledge, and spirit of adventure will leave you seeing the sea in an entirely new light.

Deutsch

Chloé ist eine leidenschaftliche Taucherin, die von der Unterwasserwelt und ihrer Erforschung fasziniert ist. Sie hat einen europäischen Masterabschluss in Meeresbiodiversität und -erhaltung erworben und liebt es, ihr Fachwissen über die Meeresumwelt weiterzugeben.

Im April 2013 wurde sie als europäische Rolex Our World Unterwasser-Stipendiatin 2013-14 ausgewählt. Sie arbeitete ein Jahr lang Seite an Seite mit führenden Unterwasserforschern und sammelte dabei ganz unterschiedliche Erfahrungen in der Meereswissenschaft und der Tauchbranche. Tauchen und Wissenschaft sind nicht ihre einzige Leidenschaft; sie erkundet gerne neue Länder und entdeckt neue Kulturen. Sie hat bereits auf allen Kontinenten getaucht und in mehr als 20 Ländern gelebt.

Wenn sie nicht an Bord ist, kann man sie unter Wasser antreffen: Sie beobachtet die Meeresbewohner, sucht nach vergessenen Wracks oder kartiert und erforscht unentdeckte Unterwasser-Höhlengänge

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 travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

Deutsch

Koen wuchs in den Niederlanden auf und wusste schon immer, dass er in einer raueren Landschaft leben wollte als den eher flachen Ebenen, die ihn umgaben. Deshalb entschied er sich nach Abschluss seiner Ausbildung im Outdoor-Bereich im Jahr 2011, in die Patagonische Region in Chile zu ziehen, um die Berge zu finden, von denen er träumte.

Er kombinierte seine Liebe zur Natur mit dem Wunsch, mehr zu lernen, und begann, Expeditionen durch die Bergketten Patagoniens zu führen. Dabei reiste er regelmäßig nach Europa für zusätzliche Bergkurse und fühlte sich jedes Mal wohler in den schwierigen Bedingungen Patagoniens. Im Jahr 2017 gründete er sein eigenes Führungsunternehmen, um Reisenden die Schönheit des Südens von Chile näherzubringen.

Als Bewohner von Puerto Natales lernte er, die Kälte und die extremen Wetterbedingungen zu lieben. Nach Jahren der Arbeit in einer der südlichsten Bergketten der Welt konnte er nicht anders, als weiter nach Süden zu blicken, zum großen weißen Kontinent, der Antarktis.

Karin Amby Daniels – Exp. Guide



Karin was born and raised in Sweden where she lives with her family and her sled dogs.

In her childhood she spent a lot of time out in the forest with her sisters, trying how strong the ice on the stream was, or how high she could climb the trees. With her parents she would go fishing, picking berries and mushrooms. As she got older the weekends were spent in tents and wind shelters in nature together with her scout friends.

As a teenager she got interested in the polar regions and read every book she could find on the topic. In 2004 she had an internship as guiding student in Longyearbyen Svalbard and instantly knew she had found her place to be. In 2007 she packed her backpack skis and bicycle and moved to there permanently. During her time in Svalbard she studied Arctic Biology at the Universitycenter in Svalbard, got over her fear of dogs and fell totally in love with dogsledding and Arctic Botany. She also started her first guiding company offering fatbike trips around Longyearbyen. Nine years later she left Svalbard with her partner, 2 kids, 16 pieces

of luggage and one dog. Trying to have a “Normal” job in Sweden. She did however find out quite fast that sitting in an office was not for her.

Since 2018 she has worked as a expedition guide, mainly in the Arctic with Svalbard and Greenland as her main destinations. But she has also been guiding in Northern Norway, Antarctica, Scotland and the Faroe Islands. When she is not on a ship she swaps her amazing expedition team colleagues for four legged ones. Working with dog-sled assisted multi day ski trips in Sweden.

She has a big passion for botany and all living things that stay on land year round in the polar regions.

Deutsch

Karin ist in Dalarna, Schweden geboren und aufgewachsen. Schon früh erkundete sie die Wälder rundum ihres Zuhauses. Camping und Schneehöhlen sind seit ihrer Kindheit ein wichtiger Teil ihres Lebens. Als Teenager war sie fasziniert von den Polarregionen. Weiße weite, karge Landschaften zogen sie an und schliesslich in den Norden.

Von 2001 bis 2004 machte sie eine Ausbildung zum Expedition-Guide welches sie mit einem fünfwöchigen, lebensverändernden Praktikum in Spitzbergen beendete.

2007 zog sie aus, um das arktische Archipel zu ihrem neuen Zuhause zu machen, und blieb für die nächsten neun Jahre.

Während dieser Zeit studierte sie Biologie an der Universität in Spitzbergen, arbeitete als wissenschaftliche Feldassistentin, machte sich selbstständig und arbeitete nebenbei in der Touristen-Information sowie im Museum.

Sie ist eine engagierte Botanikerin mit einem breitem Wissen über arktische Pflanzen und einer Passion für alles, was unter extremen Bedingungen wächst.

Karin hat eine besondere Bindung zu Wasser. Wenn es nicht gefroren ist, ist es warm genug zum Schwimmen. Wenn es gefroren ist, kann eine Axt oder Kettensäge das Problem lösen!

2016 verließ sie Spitzbergen und kehrte zurück nach Schweden. Sie arbeitete dort in einem Flüchtlingslager. Als das Lager geschlossen wurde, setzte sie ihre “Schreibtischbasierte” - Karriere für einige Zeit fort, fand aber bald heraus, dass die Arbeit von Montag bis Freitag kein Leben für sie war.

Seit 2018 arbeitet sie nun als Guide für Oceanwide-Expeditionen. Wenn sie nicht auf einem unserer Schiffe ist, um die Polarregionen zu erkunden, findet man sie im schönen Dorf Älvdalen, in Schweden. Hier verbringt sie viel Zeit in der Natur, am liebsten auf dem Hundeschlitten oder auf Ski.

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.

.Deutsch

Michelle ist beinahe eine Einheimische der Arktis, denn sie ist Eigentümerin des Longyearbyen Camping, des nördlichsten Campingplatzes der Welt. Als Reiseleiterin arbeitet sie seit 2004 von diesem Campingplatz aus, der ihr als Basis dient. Drei Monate im Jahr lebt sie in einem Zelt auf Spitzbergen und begleitet Tagesausflüge, Trekkingtouren und Expeditionskreuzfahrten. Heute arbeitet sie hauptsächlich auf Schiffen – als Guide oder Expeditionsleiterin.

Michelle ist überzeugt, dass es keinen besseren Weg gibt, einen Ort wirklich kennenzulernen, als dort zu arbeiten. Sie hat außerdem in Schweden und Island gelebt. Ihren ersten Besuch auf Spitzbergen machte sie im Jahr 2001 und verliebte sich sofort in dieses abgelegene Archipel.

Obwohl Pflanzen ihr Spezialgebiet sind, versteht sich Michelle als Generalistin. Sie absolvierte den Studiengang „Arctic & Antarctic Studies“ an der Universität Groningen. Im Jahr 2015 veröffentlichte sie ein Buch über Sjef van Dongen, der an der Rettungsaktion nach dem Absturz von Nobiles Luftschiff im Jahr 1928 beteiligt war.

Gemeinsam mit Rolf Stange schrieb sie einen niederländischen Reiseführer über Spitzbergen/Svalbard. Die erste Ausgabe erschien 2020, eine überarbeitete Ausgabe wurde 2025 veröffentlicht.

Im vergangenen Winter arbeitete sie an einem neuen Buch mit dem Titel „50 Arctic Expeditions in a Modern Era“.

Dieses wird in Kürze erscheinen.

Michelle hat als Reiseleiterin in der Antarktis, auf den Falklandinseln, den Färöern, in Grönland, auf den Hebriden, in Island, auf Jan Mayen, in Norwegen, auf Südgeorgien, auf Spitzbergen und in Schweden gearbeitet.

Man kann sich mit ihr in verschiedenen Sprachen unterhalten, aber sie antwortet ausschließlich auf Niederländisch, Englisch, Deutsch oder Schwedisch.

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.

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.

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.

Deutsch

Jess kommt aus England und hat kürzlich auf der Isle of Skye in Schottland gelebt. Seit ihrem Abschluss in „Wildlife and Media“ (Wildtiere und Medien) arbeitet Jess in den Bereichen Umweltforschung und Bildung bei Naturschutzorganisationen im Vereinigten Königreich – mit einem besonderen Fokus auf Meeressäuger und Vögel. Jess ist eine leidenschaftliche Wissenschaftskommunikatorin, Wildtierführerin und Naturfreundin.

Sie hat Vorträge, Workshops, Führungen, Unterricht und Schulungen für ein breites Publikum gehalten – zu Themen wie Vögel, Insekten, Meeressäuger, Meeres- und Naturschutz an Land, Citizen Science sowie naturnahes Gärtnern. Besonders am Herzen liegt ihr die Citizen Science (und die Begeisterung von Menschen für die Natur und ihren Schutz).

Jess ist mittlerweile auf Wale, Delfine und Schweinswale spezialisiert und arbeitet seit 2015 als Meeressäuger Monitoring-Experte und Walbeobachtungs-Guide. Diese Arbeit führte sie bereits in die Biskaya, an die Westküste Schottlands, in den Südlichen Ozean, auf die Falklandinseln, nach Südgeorgien, Spitzbergen, Grönland und auf die Antarktische Halbinsel. Sie freut sich sehr darauf, für eine weitere Saison mit Oceanwide Expeditions in die Polarregionen zurückzukehren.

Wenn sie nicht gerade auf See ist, verbringt Jess ihre Zeit mit Gärtnern, Lesen, Filmemachen, Schnorcheln und Vogelbeobachtung. Sie liebt es, Zeit mit ihren Nichten und ihrem Neffen zu verbringen, und reist gerne mit ihrem geliebten Campervan.

Susan Eckhardt – Ship's doctor



Susan is a general Physician as well as a Paediatrician. She has over ten years experience travelling the Arctic and Antarctic.

She is an instructor for Advanced Life support for adults and children and teaches this throughout Europe. Susan did her initial medical studies in Germany, Austria and Scotland, where she later met her husband.

She has worked in several European countries, in big teaching hospitals as well remote places relying on limited resources.

Currently Susan is working in Switzerland in a hospital as well as a private clinic.

She has been passionate about conservation issues, Climate change and the effect this has on particularly remote fragile ecosystems is close to her heart.

The journeys to the polar regions are a stark reminder to her, how important it is for people to become more aware of the human impact affecting the planet, and how everyone can make some steps to limit this impact.

As well as joining Oceanwide journeys, she loves skiing and cycling, taking part in several Etap du tours, and other cycle marathons.

Susan is married with three children and her husband feels she has four!

Deutsch

Susan ist Allgemeinmedizinerin und Pädiaterin. Seit über 10 Jahren bereist sie die Polarregionen.

Sie unterrichtet Erste Hilfe bei Erwachsenen und Kindern und unterrichtet dies in ganz Europa.

Susan studierte Medizin in Deutschland, Österreich und Schottland.

Sie hat in verschiedenen europäischen Ländern gearbeitet, in großen Universitätskrankenhäusern, wie auch kleinen Krankenhäusern, die sehr abgelegen sind und man mit nur begrenzten medizinischen Möglichkeiten auskommen musste.

Derzeit arbeitet Susan in der Schweiz an einem Spital, sowie in einer privaten Praxis.

Umweltschutz war ihr schon immer sehr wichtig.

Der Klimawandel und die Auswirkungen auf im Besonderen empfindliche Ökosysteme liegt ihr sehr am Herzen.

Die Reisen in die Polargebiete hinterlässt für sie immer einen sehr deutlichen Eindruck, wie wichtig die Auswirkungen des durch die Menschheit verursachten Klimawandels zu sehen und etwas zu tun um die Auswirkungen zu begrenzen.

Die Expeditionsreisen von Oceanwide zu begleiten, sowie Skifahren und Fahrradfahren (Etap du tours und andere Radmarathone) sind ihre Hobbies.

Susan ist verheiratet und hat 3 Kinder, wobei ihr Mann sagt, sie habe daher vier!



DAILY PROGRAM

Welcome aboard!

Day 1, Sunday, June 21 Embarkation Longyearbyen

Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage!

*** Tea and coffee are always available in the observation lounge bar on deck 5 ***

- ±17.15 When all are on board, first meeting in the observation lounge on deck 5. Introduction to the ship & mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill.
- ±18.00 Departure. Please stay off the bridge during these operations.
- ±18.30 Welcome meeting in the observation lounge on deck 5. Have a toast with the captain, learn to know your expedition guides and hear about our plans.
- 19.30 Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 3).
- +/- 21.00 Handing out rubber boots in the boot room (deck 3). We will call you deck by deck.

The first part of the evening we will sail through the large Isfjord towards the open sea. Then we head north, along the outer coast of Spitsbergen, towards the far north-west. We stay on the outside of the long and narrow island of Prins Karls Forland, as the passage between this island and Spitsbergen is too shallow. The total distance will be around 150 nautical miles (1 nm. is around 1,9 kilometres so about 280 km) and it will take us approximately 13 hours to reach our destination: Smeerenburgfjorden.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really 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, Monday, June 22 Smeerenburgfjorden

07.00	Wake-up call.
07.30	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 3).
08.30	Mandatory meeting in the observation lounge: guidelines, zodiac operations and the plans for today!
09.30	Ships cruise in Smeerenburgfjorden.
12.30	Lunch buffet (deck 3).
14.30	Zodiac cruise in Fuglefjorden
18.30	Recap in the bar.
19.00	Dinner is served.

We expect to arrive in Smeerenburgfjorden, in the northwest of Spitsbergen, in the morning. Here we plan to have a ships cruise in this magnificent fjord, in front of the large Smeerenburgreen (Smeerenburg glacier).

In the afternoon we have planned a zodiac cruise in Fuglefjorden. The area here is very scenic, with glaciers and steep mountains. Interesting wildlife is often seen here.

After dinner we planned another ships cruise in the area

Late in the evening we will sail towards Liefdefjorden.

TBA* is To Be Announced



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 3, Tuesday, June 23 Bockfjorden and Woodfjorden

07.00	Wake-up call.
07.30	Breakfast.
09.00	Landing at Jotunkjeldene in Bockfjorden
12.00	Last Zodiac back
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Landing at Mushamna in Woodfjorden
17.30	Last Zodiac back
18.30	Recap in the lounge
19.00	Dinner

Today we planned two landings.

In the morning we plan to land at Jotunkjeldene. Here we find a nice tundra, surrounded by beautiful red coloured rocks. Also, this is the only place where there is geothermal activity in Svalbard. Jotunkjeldene, the 'Jotun Springs', are small warm springs. We will be able to see them but are not allowed to get too close, as they are protected.

We will offer shorter and longer walks. For this, we split up into groups. The keen photographers will have more time in the medium and leisurely walking group.

In the afternoon, we plan to land at Mushamna. This area has beautiful landscape and a hut that was used by trappers that hunted for Polar Bears and foxes.

Please note, once the groups have started, you cannot change anymore!

In the evening, we head of again, towards the northeast of Spitsbergen.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 4, Wednesday, June 24 Torellneset and Alkefjellet

07.00	Wake-up call.
07.30	Breakfast.
08.30	Landing at Torellneset
11.30	Last zodiac back to the ship.
12.30	Lunch.
14.30	Zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet
18.00	Last Zodiac back to the ship
18.30	Recap in the bar
19.00	Dinner.

In the morning, we plan to land at Torellneset on Nordaustlandet, the second largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. At the beach of this polar desert often walrus haul-out.

In the afternoon we plan to cruise with the zodiacs along the spectacular bird cliff of Alkefjellet (Auk Mountain). Here thousands of Kittiwakes and Guillemot's breed on the steep ice-capped cliffs.

After the landing we will sail out of Hinlopen again, and head north, towards the Sjuøyane islands and the pack ice.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 5, Thursday, June 25

Sorgfjorden - pack ice

- 07.00 Wake-up call.
- 07.30 Breakfast.
- 08.30 We plan to go ashore Eolusneset in Sorgfjorden.
- 11.30 Last Zodiac back to the ship
- 12.30 Lunch.

In the afternoon we plan to sail towards the pack ice.

- 19.00 Arctic Dinner!

For the morning, we planned a landing in Sorgfjorden, a scenic bay in the northwest of Spitsbergen. Sorgfjorden, the “Bay of Worries”, is not only a very scenic bay, it is also of historic interest. In Sorgfjorden a naval battle took place in 1693, when 40 Dutch whalers were attacked by two French Frigates. A graveyard and large cross commemorating the battle can still be seen here.

After the landing, around noon, we will start sailing towards the pack ice, where we hope to arrive later in the afternoon.

During the afternoon we will offer two lectures, which will be announced.



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 6, Friday, June 26 Pack ice – the Continental Shelf

07.30 Wake-up call.

08.00 Breakfast.

We sail along the pack ice edge towards the west.

12.30 Lunch.

Sometime in the afternoon, we will leave the pack-ice and sail south, following the edge of the continental shelf of Spitsbergen.

18.30 Recap

19.00 Dinner.

During the morning and part of the afternoon, we plan to stay in and around the pack.

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, on which also Polar Bears roam, in search of seals.

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

Sometime in the afternoon we need to say goodbye to the pack ice and turn south. We will follow the edge of the continental shelf and hope to see more whales there. The edge of the shelf is an area where we often find whales. As the topography of the sea bottom allows biological up-welling, it provides nutrients for phytoplankton and so food for whales.

Be on the lookout!



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 7, Saturday, June 27 Poolepynten - Dahlbreen

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, 14.00.

+/- 09.00 Landing by zodiac at Poolepynten.

12.00 Last zodiac back

12.30 Lunch.

+/-14.00 Landing at Dahlbreen

17.30 Last zodiac back

+/- 18.30 Please bring back your (clean) rubber boots and waterproof bag back to the boot room. You will be called deck by deck. After the last landing, this afternoon, please clean your boots well at the boot wash station!

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

+/- 20.30 Farewell meeting and voyage slide show 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 Walrus here, that often haul out on the beach.

In the afternoon, we plan to do a landing near the Dahlbreen (Dahlgliacier).

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 8, Sunday, June 28 Disembarkation – Farewell

07.00 Wake-up call

07.30 Breakfast

All passengers, please put your heavy luggage in the corridor near your cabin before breakfast, at the latest at 7.30. The crew and staff will carry the luggage to the pier.

Please leave your keycard holder at reception.

As we will be at anchor, we will shuttle you by Zodiac to the pier. Keep your waterproof jacket and trousers out of the luggage, and wear this, with the inflatable life jacket, during the zodiac shuttle!

08.45 Time to say goodbye! All passengers leave the ship by Zodiac.

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

- For passengers on the morning flight (SK4491), check that you have put the **RED** label on your luggage before you put it in the corridor. On the pier, check that all your luggage is there and take it on the bus to the airport.
- Passengers on the afternoon flight (SK4493), put a **BLUE** label on your luggage. Check your luggage on the pier. The luggage will go into a luggage truck to the airport where you will pick it up before your flight. You will be taken to the town center, near the Svalbard Butikken. At 11.45, 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.
- Passengers who are going to a hotel in Longyearbyen put an **ORANGE** label on their luggage. Make sure you take your luggage from the pier and take it on the bus. You will be taken to the town center, near the Svalbard Butikken, from where you need to organize your own transport to your hotel.

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!

Farewell!