



**Around Spitzbergen,
in the realm of Polar Bear and Ice**

16 July-25 July, 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 Christophe Colaris

and his international crew of 49 sailors

Chief Officer:	Elizbar Kadaria	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Aleksandrs Spiridonovs	[Lettland]
Third Officer:	Oleksander Domashov	[Ukraine]
Hotel Manager:	Marleen van Moorsel	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Gaurav Bawa	[India]
Sous Chef:	Donal Cielo	[Phillipines]
Ships doctor:	Nick Brinkman	[Netherland]
Expedition Leader:	Philipp Schaudy	[Austria]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherland]
Expedition Guide:	Nathalie Ansel	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Helene de Meringo	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Katrin Frosin	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Regis Perdriat	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Isabelle Schulz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Karin Amby Daniels	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tschерter	[Switzerland]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Thursday 16 July, Longyearbyen, embarkation day

08h00 GPS Position: 78°14.1'N / 015°37.1'E

Wind: NW4 • Sea: calm • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C



Many of the guest arrived at Longyearbyen on the day of embarkation. Throughout the afternoon the luggage was shuttled from the key out to *MV 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 Christophe Colaris. Philipp our expedition leader presented us the trip and the team of guides.

After a first lovely first dinner, we had the Distribution of boots for next days.



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 – Friday 17 July Lilliehöök glacier & Ny Alesund

08h00 GPS Position: 79°12.2'N / 011°42.1'E

Wind: NNE 4 • Sea: calm • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

The day began with an early wake-up call at 07:15 am, followed by breakfast before guests gathered in the lounge for a mandatory AECO briefing. Philipp, our expedition leader introduced everyone to the principles of travelling safely in polar bear country and explained the procedures to Zodiac operations ahead of our first excursion.

After the briefing, we put the theory into practice and boarded the Zodiacs to explore the magnificent front of Lilliehöökreen, one of the most impressive tidewater glaciers in northwestern Spitsbergen. Cruising

through the calm, ice-filled waters provided spectacular views of the glacier and its towering ice cliffs. The

glacier was particularly active, and we were able to observe frequent calving events, with large blocks of ice breaking away from the glacier front and crashing into the sea. A variety of Arctic birdlife accompanied us throughout the excursion, adding even more life to the dramatic glacier landscape.



As we returned to MV Plancius, we were rewarded with the sight of a beluga whale swimming gracefully through the brash ice. Back on board, a delicious lunch and a hot cup of tea provided a welcome opportunity to warm up after our

memorable Zodiac cruise.

As we sailed from Krossfjorden into Kongsfjorden en route to Ny-Ålesund, the expedition team spotted a polar bear near Kapp Guisnez and quickly announced the sighting over the PA system. Guests and staff enjoyed watching the bear through their binoculars as it moved along the coastline. As the bear slowly disappeared from view, we continued our journey towards Ny-Ålesund.

At 3:45 p.m., it was time to disembark from the ship and explore Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost permanent settlement and an international centre for Arctic research. Guests had time to explore the historic village, visit the museum, while respecting the strict radio silence regulations that protect the sensitive scientific instruments operating in the area. One of the highlights ashore were some Arctic foxes wandering around town. Later in the afternoon we gathered around the historic mooring mast of the airship Norge, where we learned about one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of Arctic exploration.



Back on board, we met in the lounge for the daily recap and briefing for tomorrow's adventures before gathering once again in the dining room for an enjoyable dinner. During the recap,

Nathalie shared fascinating insights into the history of Ny-Ålesund, while Isabelle introduced us to some of the recent scientific research being carried out there, with a particular focus on the French-German research station called AWIPEV. It had been an outstanding start to our voyage, filled with spectacular glacier scenery, memorable wildlife encounters, and fascinating Arctic history. With sightings of three iconic Arctic mammals: a beluga whale, Arctic foxes, and a polar bear, the day offered everything that makes a voyage through Svalbard so special.

Day 3 – Saturday 18 July Jacobsdbucta & Texas Bar & Monacobreen

08h00 GPS Position: 79°43.1'N / 014°03.0E

Wind: NE 4 • Sea: calm • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C

The MV Plancius has been sailing north throughout the night, and we wake to find ourselves at the entrance to Woodfjorden. Our Zodiacs are already waiting alongside the gangway, ready to take us ashore for our first landing of the voyage.

Jakobshamna is a sheltered bay, making for a calm Zodiac ride and a gentle landing on a pebble beach. Just beyond the shore lies a tranquil lagoon, perfectly reflecting the nearby mountains. Before setting off, Philipp, our Expedition Leader, offers three excursion options: a leisurely walk, a medium hike combining scenic viewpoints with plenty of time for photography and explanations, and a longer hike for those eager for a more energetic outing.

The pace is soon set as all three groups begin climbing the surrounding hills in search of the best viewpoints. Excitement briefly turns to tension when we come across an impressive polar bear footprint. Fortunately, Philipp reassures us that it is not fresh, and we can safely continue our hike.



The weather is glorious, and the tundra is surprisingly lush for such a high latitude. We discover a remarkable variety of Arctic plants, with colourful patches of mountain avens, several species of saxifrage, moss campion, and an abundance of mosses and lichens carpeting the ground.



At the end of the Zodiac cruise, we were lucky enough to spot a few belugas nearby as we made our way back to the Plancius.

Back on board, a well-earned lunch buffet awaits us. There is barely time to review the morning's photographs—or enjoy a quick nap—before Philipp's voice echoes

through the ship once again, inviting us to prepare for an afternoon landing in Liefdefjorden, the "Fjord of Love."

Our destination is the historic Texas Bar, a small cabin built by the legendary Norwegian trapper Hilmar Nøis. Inside, shelves are lined with bottles of spirits, left behind by generations of visitors in keeping with a long-standing tradition. After exploring the cabin, each hiking group heads off in a



different direction. The surrounding viewpoints reveal magnificent panoramas over the fjord: emerald-green waters, rocky islets, glacial valleys, scattered erratic boulders, and, in the distance, the spectacular Monaco Glacier. Nathalie entertains the leisurely walkers with stories of the trappers who once lived in these remote landscapes, while

Karin and Philipp delight the long hikers by discovering a ptarmigan nest, complete with tiny chicks.

All too soon, it is time to return to the ship. During the daily recap, Philipp outlines the plans for tomorrow, Ursula introduces us to the fascinating world of belugas, and Karin helps us identify many of the Arctic flowers we admired during the day's walks.



After dinner, the Captain treats us to a memorable cruise along the face of the Monaco Glacier. Beneath a brilliant blue sky and the lingering Arctic sunshine, the glacier glows in all its splendour—a perfect end to a wonderful day. As evening settles over Svalbard, the Plancius quietly resumes her course northward.

Day 4 – Sunday 19 July Wednesday, Chermisdeoya and Pack Ice Day

08h00 GPS Position: 80°32.2'N / 020°09.5'E

Wind: NW5 • Sea: moderate • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

Good morning, everyone. Today we woke up to true Arctic conditions. The wind was blowing up to 40 knots, it was cold, it was snowing and our gracious M/V Plancius moved slowly with the motion of the ocean. It didn't look too friendly out there so as soon as breakfast was announced we made our way to the warm restaurant for a tasty start of the day.



The expedition team had planned two landings today, one on the beaches of Chermisdeøya and later in the day a visit to Phippsøya was scheduled. During breakfast the expedition team were on

the bridge assessing the situation and they decided the landing would be shortened,

but we would go ahead. We could see the team members geared up and ready to go. However, the wind had picked up even more and it became clear that we would have very little protection from it. On top of that the visibility decreased and that made it significantly more challenging to scout for bears. Considering all these elements, the team cancelled the landing and it was decided to immediately head towards our second destination to see what it looked like there.

We enjoyed the navigation in these challenging conditions while we served ourselves a warm beverage in the warm and cosy in the lounge.

At 1100 Koen invited us to the lounge for a presentation on polar bears. We had already spotted one of these magnificent animals and it was interesting to hear more about their habitat, diet and mating behavior among other characteristics. After Koen's lecture we definitely were motivated to find more polar bears!

Shortly after the lecture we arrived at Phippsøya, one of the main islands of the Seven Islands group. It became clear quite quickly that weather conditions had not improved.



With very limited visibility, strong winds and no shelter the expedition team also had to cancel our afternoon plans. However, when plan A gets cancelled there is always a plan B. And plan B was to head straight towards the edge of the pack ice to allow ourselves extra time in the ice and increase our chances of finding more polar bears.

The sea state was slightly uncomfortable, but it added to the feeling of being on a true expedition.

Karin is a biologist and botanist and she invited us to the lounge at 1500 for a lecture on plants and flowers that we can see in Svalbard. The extensive variation of vegetation in Svalbard is quite astonishing and it is fascinating how each species manages to survive the cold and dark winters and then flourish in such a short and still fairly cold summer.

We arrived at the pack ice at the end of the afternoon and seeing the ice floes of frozen seawater was just mesmerizing. We were well above 80°N and we continued further north. It was quite surreal to realize how relatively close we were to the north pole. We didn't



find a bear just yet, but we had a whole day in the ice ahead and we were all stoked and excited about what we would find the next day.



After dinner many of us went to bed early, whereas other played games in the lounge or watched the World Cup Final in the library. Good night everyone!

Day 5 – Monday 20 July, Wildlife at the edge of the pack ice

08h00 GPS Position: 81°04.0'N / 016°27.4'E

Wind: NW5 • Sea: calm • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

Most of us enjoyed the “Arctic sleep-in” while some needed a bit more time in bed as they stayed up until midnight to watch the World Championship final. Eventually however, it was time to get up, open the hatches or the curtains to take a first look out of the window. It offered a view onto open and calm water with large ice flows floating below a layer of fog. Fortunately, the visibility was good enough for the guides to start their one-hour long bridge watch rota to scout for wildlife throughout the day.



Meanwhile and more slowly than usual, the dining room started to fill with energetic guests all eager to the unfolding events of the new day.

After breakfast, a migration of well insulated guests started, heading to the outer decks, the bow and the bridge, considerably increasing the number of eyes scouting for



wildlife. But throughout the morning, the fog covered the wider area around us, reducing the distance to detect a bear. Here and there a seal's head popped out of the water and a Northern fulmar or two briefly visited the ship. It was quiet. However, neither the captain, the officers, the amble seaman

nor the guides gave up scanning the surface with full concentration.

Our spirits were still high and positive when we went to lunch. Then, out of the blue, the bing-bong of the speakers sounded. A polar bear was sighted. It was Karin who had watched the icy surface towards the aft of the ship, when a small yellowish difference in the icy colours caught her eyes. A big thanks to her as we now got to see what we were all longing for: The King of the Arctic.

The big and well fed male polar bear was not too far away sniffing the air in search for food. He did know something already, we much later understood; there was the smell of a seal in the air. Needless to say, that the bear was not at all interested in this floating subject, the Plancius. Instead, he went into the water, swam slow but



steady and diving below ice floes just to surface some moments later in the open water behind. Gradually it dawned on us and we got the feeling that he was on a mission. Finally, we discovered the resting bearded seal on the ice the bear had detected long before us. It seemed to be quite relaxed. Not aware that a predator was close.

The bear slowly and invisibly approached its head below the ice edge. It was less than 15 meters from the seal. We all felt the excitement of witnessing a truly special event in nature. A hunter using its skills to surprise its prey for a successful catch. Who do we care for? The life of the seal or the full belly of the bear? But no luck for the latter this time. The seal sensed its presence escaping into the depth of the ocean. The bear climbed out of the water without obvious signs of frustration. No drama, no growl. It

resumed its pace heading into the vast icy world in search for another potential catch. Only we know that one out of 20 attempts of a hunting polar bear is successful making sure that enough seals will survive to sustain the population.

We continued our explorative tour through the pack ice sometimes surrounded by dense one year old ice floes with much fewer multiyear ice floes in between. At one point we reached our furthest most Northern position some 973 Kilometres from the North pole. Not that we felt a difference but it surely is a nice aspect of our journey to tell at home. Beside the encounter with the polar bear of course.



Later in the afternoon we were called up to the top deck where Marlen and her team surprised us with a hot chocolate. With or without rum. It is these little things which make the voyage so enjoyable to us. For the rest of the afternoon, we took in the magic world of the High Arctic with all our senses. The silence, the special light, the fresh

air, the vastness, the peace.

During recap Regis and H  l  ne gave us interesting insights into the world of sea birds like little auks and Br  nnich's and black guillemots flying above the pack ice far from land. And of course the Northern fulmars, who we watched repetitively gliding past us standing on the upper deck. Their beauty is not obvious at first sight but close-ups views through binoculars reveal their unique subtle elegance and colouration. Belonging to the tube-noses, they carry a tube on top of the beaks to extract salt and detect odours in the air.

At one point in the early evening, we changed course and started heading south. Taking back unique memories and stories from a very unique place of the planet. The world of the true polar animals. Of course we will remember the beautiful polar bear who we have observed in its true habitat, the pack ice and exhibiting various behaviours including a hunt.

Day 6 – Tuesday 21 July, Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet, Torellneset ship's cruise Br  svellbreen

08h00 GPS Position: 79  56.5'N / 017  57.8'E

Wind: NW4 • Sea: moderate • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +3  C

Today's wake up call came earlier than expected. And it was not just a wakeup call. Fin whales had been spotted not far from us and we were heading closer to see them. As we came closer we could see a lot of birds picking food in the water surface. The fin whales were feeding and gave us a real show. Several of them surfacing really

close to the ship. We also saw them catching food in the surface and some even swam sideways so that we could see half the fluke.



After this amazing experience we had breakfast. After breakfast our actual morning activity, a zodiac cruise by the big birdcliff Alkefjellet started. At first it was a bit windy but as we came closer to the cliff we got into shelter. All over the basaltic



rocks there where birds nesting. The Brunichs guillemots sitting straight on the rocks



with their little chicks. Some of us were lucky to actually see a chick. On some places Kittiwakes had built their nests and we also saw Glaucous gulls with their chicks.

As we had passed the steep cliffs and drove by some green slopes Philipp called out that he had

seen a fox. And we all went to the spot where he was and could see a fox eating a dead bird. As the fox went up the hill we continued. But it did not take long until we had our next wildlife encounter. Two polarbears, a mother and a cub where sleeping in the grass below a cliff. We observed them for a while before we had a look at the little glacier in the bay and headed back to the ship. On board we had lunch and rested a bit before we once more could here Phillips voice on the PA system. Another Polarbear had been spotted on a little island. As we came closer we could see that it was not only one, but two bears! As we left the bears to head to our next destination Torellneset, Ursula put on a slideshow on the screens in the lounge with arctic plants. As we approached Torellneset we got to know that it was not possible for us to land, since there was two polarbears on shore not far from the landing site.

We went closer with the ship and could see the two bears in the distance as we came closer to the walrus. There was a big group in shore with males, females and young ones. With binoculars we where able to observe them nicely from the ship. After a while the ship turned, on the island oposit of Torellneset there was three other polarbears, a mother with two cubs. We went closer with the ship and stayed for quite a long time to observe them sleeping on the rocks of Perthesøya. But this day was not over yet.



After dinner we ship cruised along beautiful Bråsvellbreen with its stunning ice wall and many beautiful waterfalls.



Day 7 – Wednesday 22 July, Newtonvika, Zodiac cruise: Negribreen

08h00 GPS Position: 78°40.7'N / 021°24.7'E

Wind: W2 • Sea: calm • Weather: cloudy and foggy • Air temperature: +4°C

The morning finds most of us on the bridge or out on deck at 8:00 a.m sharp. During yesterday's briefing, Philipp announced that Plancius would attempt the challenging passage through Heleysundet, a narrow and dramatic strait separating the eastern coast of Spitsbergen from the northern tip of Barentsøya. Few captains choose to navigate this channel, as its powerful tidal currents can make the passage particularly demanding.

Fortunately, our captain is more than up to the task, and we eagerly await the crossing. The expedition team has described the strait as spectacular, framed by towering basalt cliffs and rugged rocky outcrops. Unfortunately, we must take their word for it. A dense blanket of fog hides everything from view. No cliffs, no coastline, nothing but swirling grey. Even to our inexperienced eyes, however, the strength of the current is unmistakable as it ripples and churns around the ship. With calm precision, the captain guides Plancius safely through the narrow passage, and before long we emerge into quieter waters.

With visibility still so poor, we begin to wonder whether a landing will even be possible this morning. Then welcome news arrives from the expedition team: they have found a fog-free landing site—and, even better, a walrus haul-out awaits us there. After yesterday, when polar bears prevented us from landing at every planned site, we are eager to stretch our legs.

The Zodiacs glide gently onto a pebble beach, and our group sets off on a slow, silent approach to the walrus. A gathering of large males lies sprawled across the shore, seemingly oblivious to our presence. For long moments, the only sounds are the clicking of camera shutters, punctuated by the walrus' grunts, groans and snorts. They appear to be posing for us as they scratch themselves, yawn, or lazily shift position. A few are missing a tusk, perhaps the result of battles fought long ago.



Afterwards, we enjoy a stroll across the beautiful tundra, bordered by glacial moraines. The landscape is painted in delicate, muted colours: soft yellow mosses, scattered patches of wildflowers, and the blue waters of the bay completing the scene.



During lunch, Plancius sails towards the impressive and highly active ice front of Negribreen. Along the way we pass several magnificent icebergs, including a striking tabular iceberg that reminds many of Antarctica.

In the afternoon, we set out on a Zodiac cruise through an eerie world of blue and white ice. Icebergs of every imaginable shape and size drift silently around us as the boats



weave carefully through fields of brash ice. The immense glacier front seems endless. Every now and then, a seal surfaces briefly before disappearing beneath the water once more, and we are delighted by the graceful appearance of the elusive ivory gull.

The day concludes with our customary recap. Philipp announces that Plancius is now heading south, leaving behind the rounded, weathered landscapes of eastern Svalbard in favour of the dramatic alpine peaks awaiting us in the southwest. Nathalie ensures that we can now confidently



distinguish salty sea ice from freshwater icebergs, and Ursula rounds off the evening with an engaging presentation on walruses.

As Plancius continues her voyage south, another memorable day in the Arctic comes to an end, with new adventures already waiting beyond the horizon.

Day 8 – Thursday 23 July, Treskelen, Hornsund, Landing: Gåshamna, Hornsund

08h00 GPS Position: 76°52.9'N / 015°12.4'E

Wind: SW3 • Sea: calm • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +6°C

After yesterday's zodiac cruise along the majestic Negribreen, Plancius started the longest leg of our voyage. Overnight we sailed 194 nautical miles (360 km) heading South through the Storfjorden along the east side and finally around the Southern tip of Spitsbergen. As the sea was very calm, unusually calm in fact, we had made good progress arriving before breakfast in the Southernmost Fjordsystem of the west coast, named Hornsund. After half an hour of extra sleep, Phillip called it "sleep-in", we were all well rested and ready for a walk or hike at Treskelen. The landscape surrounding

the fjord was quite different to the east coast with high mountain peaks and vertical rock faces.

As usual the guides disappeared half an hour before we were supposed to go to the gangway. They were just in the process of preparing rifles, barrels and other equipment when Phillip was called up to the bridge. Turned out that the officers had discovered two bears near the landing site. Maybe some of us had a quick thought of “Not again...”. But the news to see polar bears # 11 and # 12 was too exciting to get sad about the missed landing.



At first sight they looked the same size. But when standing side by side the difference in height and mass became obvious. Turned out to be a female and her last years cub. Both looked rather healthy although the mum could gain some more weight before winter

arrives. For some time, we observed them from the ship as they walked along the slope and even down to the water line. The mother took the lead and the young followed behind, discovering and learning at its own pace. We were so, so lucky as they could have easily gotten out of sight behind the rocky ridge, but they remained visible instead.

We were all standing out on deck, with binoculars raised, cameras clicking and mobile phones held in front of the eyes. Soon we discovered that the female wore a white collar around her neck with a satellite tag recording her spatial movement patterns. The highlight was them walking right on top of the ridge with the spectacular mountains in the background. Eventually they disappeared leaving a hundred happy guests, guides and crew behind.



As we had gained extra time due to cancelled landing, Plancius sailed into Samarinvågen for a scenic cruise until the bing-bong announced today's lunch during which the ship turned and headed slowly over to the afternoon's landing site.

Despite many eyes scouting, no polar bear was discovered this time so that plan A took place. The guides once again got the rifles, barrels and equipment ready and soon after we were shuttled over to the landing site at Gåshamna. Standing close to the ancient whale bones, covered by moss and plants, Nathalie and Ursula gave us a short

introduction to the extensive whaling during the 17th and 18th century. The countless large bones, mandibles and skulls of large whales were piled up in-between the remains of the blubber ovens. The oil stored in the bones slowly leaked out over time releasing nutrients in the surrounding soil nurturing pioneering plants like mosses and lichens. It was a truly special place and a reminder that the over-exploitation of whales from the past has damaged the marine ecosystem of Svalbard to date.



After the short journey into the past, we started our discovery walks. Soon after the fast hikers were seen hiking up an extremely steep ridge gaining height for a spectacular view over the various fjords in the Hornsund. The leisurely group explored the area slowly taking extra time to discover the beauties usually

overlooked. The medium walkers took it slower, walking over rather barren ground to finally reach a nice lookout. Near the water line remains of houses were well visible. Curious as we are we headed down to take a closer look. Luckily for us, Nathalie appeared and gave us some interesting insights into the people who have lived here most probably before the Vikings had arrived. The explorative people of the Pomors travelled from Russia to hunt seals and walrus in far Svalbard.

Finally, it was time to gather at the landing site where dozens bravely jumped, ran or walked into the freezing water. Well done to all who successfully did the Polar Plunge entertaining the rest of us who applauded and cheered in support.

Back on board Nathalie shared her knowledge on the times of past whalers and Isabelle gave us interesting insights into another important player of the oceans' ecosystems; the seaweed. But the day was not over yet. By far not as Plancius sailed deep into the Eastern fjord of Burgerbukta. Surrounded by amazing mountains and another glacier front we all met at the aft deck to enjoy a tasty outdoor barbecue followed by a long-lasting party. Rumour has it that there were lots of highly active and expressive dancers on stage.

Finally, midnight was not far anymore, the life on board quiet down as everybody fell asleep. Probably dreaming of the mother bear and her cub. A sighting most probably being one of the special highlights of our journey.

Day 9 – Friday 24 6 July, Gipsvika, Sassenfjord, Skansbukta, Billefjord

08h00 GPS Position: 78°23.5'N / 015°19.2'E

Wind: NE2 • Sea: calm • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C

Our final full day in Svalbard was a wonderful combination of exploration, wildlife, history, and celebration.

After enjoying another delicious breakfast on board, we made our first landing at Gipsvika, in Sassenfjord. As usual, guests were divided into three hiking groups, allowing everyone to explore the area at their own pace. Gipsdalen is a broad valley framed by steep slopes, offering



spectacular views and fascinating geology. Walking across this vast, barren landscape almost felt like stepping onto the Moon, with its striking colors, sparse vegetation, and dramatic rock formations creating an otherworldly atmosphere. Along the way, we were

fortunate to spot several Svalbard reindeer peacefully grazing across the valley. During our hikes, we also observed the remarkable geological formations that tell the story of Svalbard's ancient past, while discovering the remains of coal mining activities that began here in 1921. The contrast between the rugged

Arctic wilderness and the traces of human history made this a particularly memorable morning. In the afternoon, we headed to Skansbukta, at the entrance of Billefjord, for our final landing of the voyage. Like Gipsvika, Skansbukta bears the marks of another unsuccessful mining venture from the early twentieth century, surrounded by dramatic cliffs and beautifully sloping hillsides. We were all delighted to get close views of Atlantic puffins, whose colorful beaks and lively behavior never fail to bring smiles. Another highlight was finding the beautiful Boreal Jacob's-ladder (*Polemonium boreale*) in full bloom—a rare Arctic flower that adds a splash of color to this spectacular landscape. As if perfectly timed for our



farewell landing, the sun finally appeared, bathing the bay in warm light and creating a wonderfully relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Back on board, we gathered for the Captain's Cocktail, one of the most emotional moments of the voyage. During the expedition recap, we looked back on the many unforgettable experiences we had shared over the past days before raising a toast to our Captain and the entire Expedition Crew and Expedition Team, whose dedication made this adventure possible.

The emotions continued as we watched the traditional slideshow, reliving our incredible journey through images that captured so many special moments and memories.

But the day still had one last surprise in store. After a delicious final dinner, the Captain treated us to an evening cruise past the iconic abandoned settlement of Pyramiden. Seeing this fascinating ghost town in the soft Arctic light was the perfect ending to an unforgettable expedition.

Now, with hearts full of memories, there is only one thing left to do—pack our bags and prepare to say farewell to the High Arctic. Thank you for sharing this extraordinary adventure with us, and we hope to welcome you back aboard another expedition one day.

Day 10 – Saturday 25 July,

08h00 GPS Position: 78°15.9' N, 015°17.5'E

Wind: NE2 • Sea: calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C

This morning we arrive in Longyearbyen, where our journey comes to an end. As we enjoy one final breakfast on board, our luggage is already being transferred ashore from *MV Plancius*. Before long, it is time to say goodbye to the ship that has been our comfortable home in the Arctic over the past days.

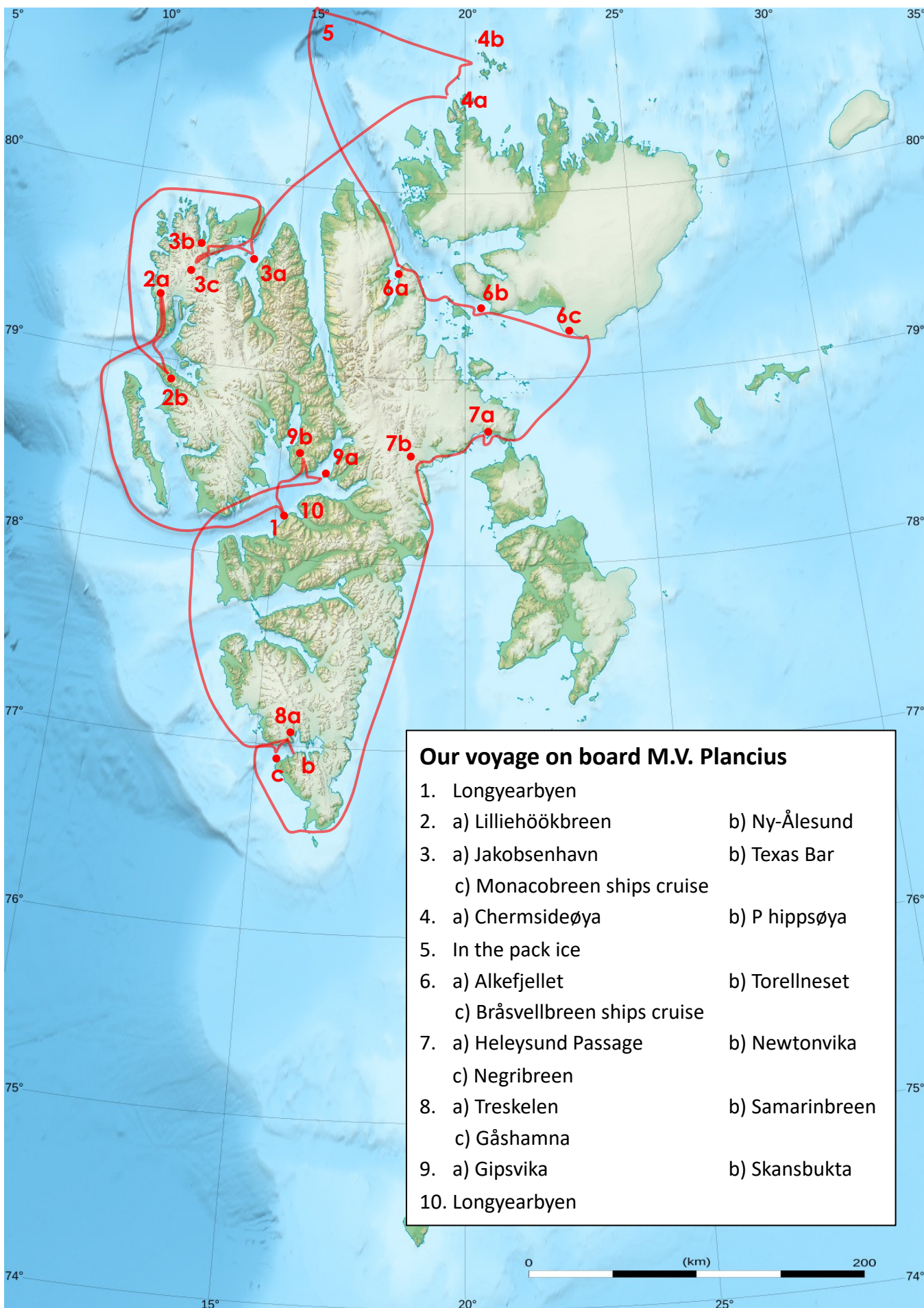
With countless unforgettable memories to take home, we look back on an extraordinary expedition. Together, we have explored spectacular landscapes, encountered remarkable Arctic wildlife, experienced the pack ice, and shared many special moments along the way. Now it is time to bid farewell to *MV Plancius*, to the wonderful crew who looked after us each day, to the Expedition Team who shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and of course, to one another.

On behalf of the entire Oceanwide crew and Expedition Team, we would like to thank you all for joining us on this journey. Thank you for your enthusiasm, your curiosity, your flexibility, and for the many wonderful moments we have shared. It has been a true pleasure to travel with you.

We wish you a safe journey home and hope to welcome you aboard again on another expedition someday, perhaps back in the Arctic, perhaps in Antarctica, or at another fascinating destination somewhere in the world. Until then, we wish you all the very best and many more unforgettable adventures.



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,285nm
Northernmost position: 81°14.013'N, 017°05.450'W



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul	20-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon imbrin	Ijsduiker	V										
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B		X				X			X	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstöpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	T										
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	T										
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	Taigrietgans	V										
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B						X	X		X	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B	X	X	X			X	X		X	
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Saatgans	Oie Rieuse	Kolgans	V										
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Gaugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	V										
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B										
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans	V										
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pleifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	T										
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	Wintertaling	B										
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Canard colvert	Wilde eend	T										
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Canard pilet	Pijstaart	B										
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Fuligule morillon	Kulfeend	T										
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eidereend	B	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider	B										
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	V										
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Hareïde boréale	Ilseend	B		X								
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T										
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schellente	Garrot à oeil d'or	Brilduiker	V				X						
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Alpensneeuwhoen	B										
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Hultrier Pie	Scholekster	V										
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenfleffer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B										X
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenfleffer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B										
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drietenstrandloper	B			X							X
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Bécasseau tacheté	Wierneke strandloper	V										
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B			X	X			X	X		X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper	B										
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B			X				X			X
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu	Regenruip	T										
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette	Tureluur	V										
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepierre à collier	Steenloper	B										X
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorsühnnchen	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>	Späteraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T										
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B										
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B							X			
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	V										
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse	Kokmeeuw	B										
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Goéland cendré	Stormmeeuw	V										
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Island gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T										
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw	V										
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V										
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw	B										X
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Drietenmeeuw	B	X	X	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>	Eifenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	Ivoormeeuw	B							X			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern	B	X	X	X	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	Dikbekzeekoet	B	X	X	X	X	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	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabben-taucher	Mergule nain	Kleine aik	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageil-taucher	Macareux moine	Papageaïduiker	B		X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe	Hirondelle rustique	Boerenzwaluw	V										
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze	Bergeronnette grise	Witte Kwikstaart	V										
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Pipit farlouise	Vieseniepieper	Graspieper	V										
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	Traquet moteux	Tapuit	B										
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel	Merle noir	Merel	V										
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	Sneeuwgors	B	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Birkenzeisig	Sizerin flammé	Barmsijs	V										
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Spomammer	Bruant lapon	Ijsgors	V										
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wacholderdrossel	Grive litorne	Kramsvogel	V										
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rotdrossel	Grive mauvis	Kopenwiek	V										
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Bergfink	Pinson du Nord	Keep	V										
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalke	Faucon Gerfaut	Giervalk	V										

MAMMALS

[illegible]

[illegible]

Philipp Schaudy – Expedition Leader



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

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

adventures.

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

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

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

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

Koen Hoekemeijer – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Nathalie Ansel – Expedition Guide



Nathalie is a historian and art historian by training. She quickly realizes that her passion for history and culture must be experienced and shared in the field. So, she sets off and crosses the oceans to follow in the footsteps of the great explorers. Her life is transformed the first time she sets foot on the Arctic ice. This majestic, ever-changing, and challenging environment overwhelms her.

Her particular interest lies in Svalbard and Greenland, where she explores Inuit culture and how indigenous peoples adapt to this extreme environment. She is also interested in

all the men and women who have shaped the history of the polar regions, such as trappers, whalers, and explorers. Her curiosity goes beyond human boundaries and extends to other creatures inhabiting the Arctic, from seabirds to cetaceans, studying their ability to adapt to this unique ecosystem.

With a wealth of experience in sharing knowledge, Nathalie conveys her passion through lectures, where she enthusiastically addresses topics ranging from history to ethology.

Hélène de Méringo – Exp. Guide



Native from Brittany in France, Hélène quickly developed a passion for nature and wildlife.

After studying biology and ecology, she multiplied missions in various latitudes, working for conservation programs in Guinea, Quebec, and research programs in New Zealand and Indonesia.

In 2008, she winters in the Kerguelen Archipelago as a volunteer biologist for the French Polar Institute and develops a real interest for island ecosystems and the polar world. A grandiose and

decisive experience. She continues her experience in the Great South as an agent of the French Southern and Antarctic Natural Reserve. 8.64 cm

Since 2012, she works as an engineer in a research team focus in island ecology. This work leads her to regularly participate in on-board missions to study seabirds nesting in remote islands, particularly in the Pacific.

Since January 2019, she has been participating in cruises to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Arctic on expedition ships with Oceanwide Expedition.

Regis Perdriat – Expedition Guide



Regis has always been passionate about nature and wildlife conservation.

After a master's degree in Ecology, he first specialized in seabird rehabilitation after oil spills for BirdLife France. Then he joined the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, studying endangered species.

In Brittany he worked seven years for the Sept-Iles National Nature Reserve, driving zodiac, counting seabirds and seals in this wild and protected archipelago.

His polar experiences go as far back as 2007, when he spent 15 months working as a field researcher studying the seabirds and marine mammals of the remote Kerguelen Islands, a French subantarctic territory.

In love with those isolated environments he carried out several fieldwork missions in subantarctic islands. He finally joined the management team of French Southern and Antarctic Lands and became Head of the Southern Lands National Nature Reserve.

He now proposes his experience as a freelance biologist for scientific expeditions and share his passion for birds as often as he can. His last expeditions took him to North-East Greenland, Central Asia or Antarctic Peninsula.

Looking for him? Try outside, you should find him and his binoculars searching for birds or whales.

Isabelle Schulz – Expedition Guide



Isabelle Schulz is a marine biologist whose career has taken her from research expeditions in the Southern Ocean and Red Sea to leading research stations in the Arctic and Caribbean.

After studying Marine Biology in Germany, Isabelle completed her PhD in Marine Ecology at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), where she investigated the role of iron in regulating phytoplankton growth in the Southern Ocean.

She subsequently spent four years as a postdoctoral researcher at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia before moving to Brussels, where she worked in marine science policy, helping to strengthen collaboration in European marine research and ocean governance.

She later served as Station Leader of the French-German research station AWIPEV in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, where she spent 18 months coordinating logistics, supporting international research projects, ensuring safe field operations and contributing to long-term environmental monitoring programmes in the High Arctic.

After her time in the Arctic, Isabelle decided it was time to warm up and moved to the Caribbean. As Field Station Manager at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) on Little Cayman, she oversaw the operations of a remote marine research station supporting research, conservation, and education programmes.

Today, Isabelle has come full circle, returning to the polar regions as an expedition guide after a couple of years in the tropics. She enjoys sharing stories from life and work in remote environments and inspiring others to appreciate the fascinating wildlife and landscapes of the polar regions

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.

Ursula Tscherter - Expedition Guide



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

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

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



WELCOME ABOARD!

Day 1, Thursday 16th July 2026

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

When all are on board

Mandatory safety and lifeboat drill in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.
Please listen to announcements.

Thereafter We are ready to **cast off**. Plancius is leaving Longyearbyen.

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

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

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

*Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck betide us;
Let us journey to a lonely land I know.
There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star agleam to guide us,
And the wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.*

Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild



LILLIEHÖÖKBREEN & NY ÅLESUND

Day 2, Friday 17th July 2026

- 07.15** **Wake up call.** A wonderful good morning!
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 08.30** **Mandatory briefing** in the lounge on how to behave in **Polar Bear country** and how to get ashore (and back) safely with our **rubber boats** (Zodiacs).
- thereafter** **Zodiac cruise: Lilliehöökreen.** We are in the innermost area of Lilliehöökfjord, where magnificent Lilliehöökreen is spilling into the sea. We plan to go for a Zodiac cruise along the beautiful glacier front. Please **dress warm**, we are not getting ashore.
- 12.30** **Lunch** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.

IMPORTANT: Radio silence in Kongsfjord! For all transmitting devices in Kongsfjord and our visit in Ny Ålesund this afternoon (Mobile phone, cameras, laptops, ...),
TURN OFF BLUETOOTH AND WIFI

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

- Please stay on the **gravel roads** at all times.
- The souvenir shop will be open **until 16.00**.
- **17.30.** We meet at the **bust of Roald Amundsen** (in the middle of the village) to walk to the anchoring mast of the *Norge* to hear the history behind it.
- **18.30.** Please be back on board, we are casting off.

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

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

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward."
David Livingstone (1813-1873)



WOODFJORDEN & LIEFDEFJORDEN

Day 3, Saturday 18th July 2026

- 07.15** Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00** **Landing: Jakobsenbukta, Woodfjorden.** Today we will wake up in the very north of Spitsbergen. Jakobsenbukta is a small bay on the east side of Woodfjorden. It boasts a scenic setting that is ideal for our first steps in Spitsbergens beautiful landscapes. The landing is generally easy and we offer you different options to go for exploration on foot.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is awaiting us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14.30** **Landing: Texas Bar, Liefdefjorden.** This afternoon we intend to get ashore on the northern side of Liefdefjorden, at a small trapper's cabin called "Texas Bar". The place offers great views over Liefdefjorden. We will split into groups and explore the landscape in different walking groups. Except for the strenuous hike, walking here is easy.
- 18.30** **Recap of today and briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served. Bon Appetite!

*A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike.
And all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after
years of struggle that we do not take a trip;
a trip takes us.*

John Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)



CHERMSIDEØYA & PHIPPSØYA

Day 4, Sunday 19th July 2026

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00** **Landing: Chermsideøya.** This morning we wake up the far north of the Svalbard archipelago. We have arrived in the polar desert and we intend to land on the barren island of Chermsideøya. Walking is generally easy and we will offer exploration on foot on this remote island.
- 12.30 **Lunch** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 15.00** **Landing: Phippsøya.** The Sjuøyane (Sevenislands) are the northernmost islands of the archipelago. These islands are locked in pack ice most of the year and often landings are not possible before the end of summer. We will land on an easy beach and invite you get a feeling of this far-off island in our walking groups.
- 18.30** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is waiting for you. Enjoy 😊

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

IN THE PACK ICE

Day 5 | Monday 20th July 2026

Expedition day in the pack ice! North of Spitsbergen we encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck in the search of wildlife – it is a brilliant experience unto itself to navigate along the ice edge and in the polar pack.

Important! If we have the luck to encounter polar bears or other marine wildlife, please **keep noise levels low** (voices down; close doors gently) – for the best opportunities of remaining with the wildlife.

- 07.45** **Pack-ice-sleep-in** 😊.
- 08.00** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 12.30** The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 18.30** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00** The **dinner-buffet** is ready for you! Enjoy 😊.

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

André Gide



HINLOPENSTRETET

Day 6, Tuesday 21st July 2026

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Zodiac cruise: Alkefjellet.** This morning, we would like to visit the “Auk Mountain”, so named due to the enormous number of Brünnich’s guillemots breeding along these 100m high basaltic cliffs. We intend to do a Zodiac cruise following the whole spectacular cliff. Please **dress warm**, we are not getting ashore. (The first two boats will have a German speaking driver)
- 12.30 **Lunch** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 15.00 **Landing: Torellneset.** In southern Hinlopen, Torellneset is a very good place to see walrus. If our friends are at home and wind & weather in our favour, we will visit the animals in two groups. **Both groups will get the same amount of time with the walrus.**
- The first 5 boats:** We are **going for a short stroll first.** After that we visit the walrus.
- The second 5 boats:** We are **going to the walrus first.** After that we go for a short stroll. There will be the possibility to get back to the ship right after the walrus visit.
- 18.30 **Recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is waiting for you. Enjoy ☺

If you have cold feet – cover your head.

Old Inuit saying



STORFJORDEN

Day 7, Wednesday 22th July 2026

- 07.15** **A wonderful good morning.** Wake up call.
- 07.30** Breakfast buffet for one hour.
- 08.00** **Heleysund.** We are passing the relatively narrow passage of Heleysund, where tides are strong as a river. The passage is taken only by a few very experienced captains.
- 09.00** **Landing: Newtonvika.** Today's morning we intend to land in the little bay of Newtonvika on the peninsular of Staumlandet. Tundra vegetation, small lakes and wetlands, basaltic rocks and an undulating landscape are awaiting us. We invite you, to stretch your legs in different hiking groups in this pretty area of Svalbard.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.00** **Zodiac cruise: Negribreen.** The glacier Negribreen has one of the longest glacier fronts of Spitsbergen and ice bergs are usually found nearby. If conditions are in our favour (wind and waves) we intend to do a Zodiac cruise at the glacier. Please dress warm, we are not getting ashore. (The first two boats have German speaking drivers)
- 18.30** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00** Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

*A ship, that lies in the harbour, is safe.
But therefore ships are not built.*

Saying from England



HORNSUND

Day 8, Thursday 23rd July 2026

07.45 **Sleep-in ☺. Good morning!**

08.00 **Breakfast** – enjoy!

10.00 **Landing: Treskelen, Hornsund.** Having sailed a long stretch overnight, passing the southern tip of Spitsbergen, we will be exploring Hornsund, Spitsbergen's most southerly and arguably one of the most beautiful fjords. We plan to get ashore on the north side of Hornsund on a land-spit called Treskelen. Interesting geological formations and great views of the mountainous scenery are waiting for us.

12.30 The **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.

15.00 **Landing: Gåshamna, Hornsund.** This afternoon we intend to land on the western side of Gåshamna, a wide bay that has been witness to different phases of Spitsbergen's history. Remains of a 17th century English whaling station and foundations of Pomor houses (Russian hunters) are found in the area. In different hiking groups we invite you to explore the area.

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

18.30 **Recap and briefing** for tomorrow.

19.00 **BBQ** on the back deck! Enjoy and bring your dancing rubber-boots ☺.

Please note: Today is the last day to buy ships-souvenirs at reception.

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

Robert Peary (1856 - 1920), polar explorer.



ISFJORD

Day 9, Friday 24th July 2026

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

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

Author Unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

LONGYEARBYEN

Day 10, Saturday 25th July 2026

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

Important: Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors **before** you go to breakfast – latest at 07.45. The crew will bring it on shore. Please **identify your luggage** on shore, to be sure it's off the vessel and bring it to your bus (if you stay overnight in town) or to the luggage truck (if you are booked on the evening flight).

BLUE tags: All booked on the evening flight at 19.45 – your luggage goes into a luggage truck. You get your luggage back at the airport.

ORANGE tags: All staying in hotels in Longyearbyen – your luggage goes with you on the bus.

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

Thereafter **Last landing: Longyearbyen.**

09.00 **The busses to Longyearbyen** (central parking lot) are leaving.

17.45 **The bus from Longyearbyen to the airport (for the evening flight at 19.45)** is leaving from the central parking lot. Your **luggage** will be delivered by the luggage truck.

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

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

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

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

Robert William Service „Call of the wild“