



South Spitsbergen - Bear Island - Norway

7th – 12th September 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 42 sailors

Chief Officer:	Elizbar Kadaria	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Giovanie Simene	[Phillipines]
Third Officer:	Oleksandr Domashov	[Ukraine]
Hotel Manager:	Marleen Van Moorsel	[Netherlands]
Receptionist:	Judel Paguntalan	[Phillipines]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Donald Cielo	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	Floris Oskam	[Netherlands]
Bosun:	Eli Serra	[Phillipines]
Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	[United Kingdom]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Chloe Marechal	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Michelle Van Dijk	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Charlotte Taplin	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Mark Whiffin	[United Kingdom]
Ships doctor:	Anna Bujize	[Netherlands]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Monday 7th September - Embarkation Day - Longyearbyen

18h00 GPS Position: 78°13.23.4'N / 015°37.36.2'E

Wind: SE 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 8°C



Today is the day for us to embark upon our Arctic adventure! In the late afternoon we arrived at our ship Plancius, our new home for the next 5 days. With the snow covered Hiorthfjellet as backdrop, she was moored at Bykaia, as we climbed the gangway onto the decks. After experiencing the city life of Longyearbyen, we were warm and

comfortable aboard. We all checked in and the 22 newcomers were quickly escorted to their cabins and excitedly began to explore the ship and wandering the decks, meeting those 40 people who stayed on after last cruise.

Once we were all aboard, we were invited to the lounge to take part in a mandatory briefing and an abandon ship drill. During the drill we cast off and were on our way out of the harbour. Whilst the crew made sure we left the harbour soundly, our expedition leader, Pippa, invited us back to the lounge for the Captain's Cocktails, hosted by our captain Christopher Colaris, and the expedition team. We celebrated our expedition with some bubbles and canapes. Our day was not done yet, before dinner the newcomers located the Boot Room and collected their rubber boots. We were another step closer to being able to start our off-ship activities. We all filed down to the restaurant for a delicious buffet and an opportunity to meet some of our fellow travellers. The rest of the evening was spent enjoying our first evening cruising in Isfjorden, before returning to our cabins to prepare for tomorrow's adventure!

Day 2 – Tuesday 8th September – Borebukta and Alkehornet

12h00 GPS Position: 78°24.0'N / 014°13.5'E

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



A thin blanket of clouds covered the sky as we approached Borebukta on our first day of activity in Svalbard. MV Plancius dropped anchor a couple of nautical miles southeast of Boreholmen, a former small island of Quaternary debris that has now been completely covered by the advancing glacier

snout. After breakfast, we gathered in the Observation Lounge for briefings on Zodiac operations, AECO guidelines, and safety in polar bear territory. Soon after, we lined up at the gangway and boarded the Zodiacs for our morning excursion to Borebreen.

Just before embarkation, Mark spotted a polar bear walking along the glacier moraine on the western side of the glacier front. The bear soon entered the water and swam east across the fjord as we set out. Our expedition guides took us closer to the glacier, weaving between small icebergs while



explaining its formation, dynamics, and importance to recent glaciological studies. Borebreen, a tidewater glacier approximately 3.5 km wide and 20 km long, has attracted considerable scientific attention in recent years. It is a surging glacier, a type that accounts for roughly 20–25% of Svalbard's glaciers. After a long quiescent period, a surge can increase the



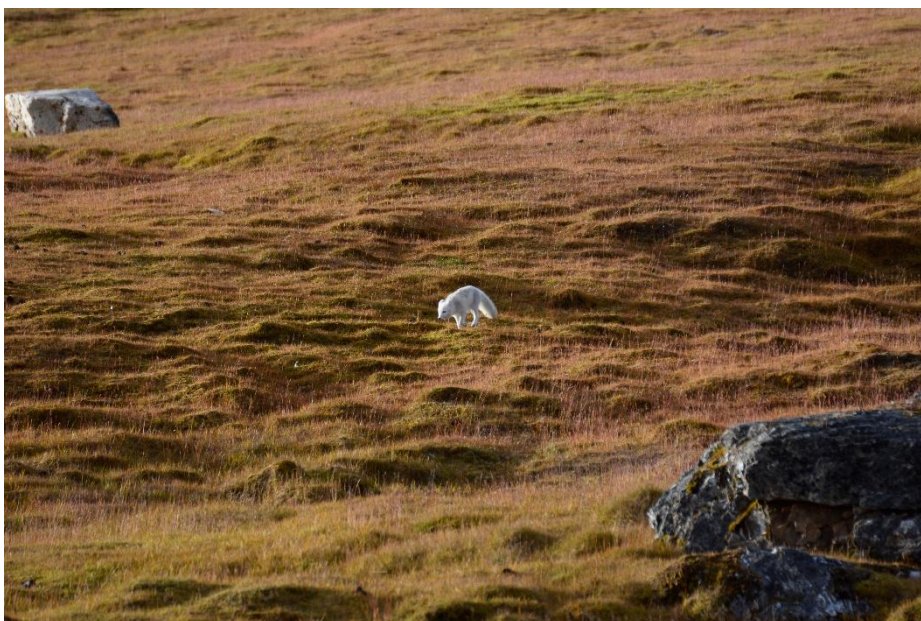
glacier's flow speed by five to ten times. Borebreen has advanced almost 2 km since August 2024, completely burying Boreholmen beneath its ice. As we cruised safely along the glacier front, admiring the colours and textures of the ice, the polar bear appeared again—this time on the eastern

moraine. From the water, we watched it move effortlessly through the hummocky terrain, covering remarkable distances both in the water and on land. It was an extraordinary start to our visit to southern Spitsbergen.

With the bear eventually disappearing from view, we continued exploring the glacier's surroundings. We cruised through beautiful brash ice, spotting Eider ducks and a curious Ringed Seal, while the glacier reflected and shimmered in the water. Towards the end of the excursion, several large calvings reminded us of the immense power of the



Arctic landscape. During the noon transit, lunch was served, followed by another wildlife encounter. Officers spotted a large pod of White-beaked Dolphins, surrounded by a feeding frenzy of Northern Fulmars, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Arctic Skuas. In the early afternoon, we anchored near Alkhornet and went ashore. Named after the auks ("alk") and the distinctive horn-shaped mountain, Alkhornet marks the northern entrance to Isfjorden. Divided into three groups, we hiked through the lush tundra along the southern and eastern slopes. Svalbard Reindeer were grazing peacefully across the landscape. We encountered impressive males with well-developed summer antlers, as well as females with young calves. Some animals allowed us to approach surprisingly closely, seemingly unconcerned by our presence.



Later, several Arctic Foxes appeared. An adult in almost-winter fur searched the grassy slopes for food before settling near a boulder field, giving us excellent photographic opportunities.

Then a young cub

emerged nearby, stealing the show. As the light faded and kittiwakes called overhead, we made our way back to the landing site and returned to the ship for the daily recap and briefing on the following day's plans.

Day 3 – Wednesday 9th September – Gashamna and Burgerbukta

12h00 GPS Position: 76°56.4'N / 015°50.1'E

Wind: W1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 6°C



Bright sunshine and clear skies welcomed us to another day in the High Arctic. Although the 20-knot wind reminded us that Svalbard's weather can be as challenging as its landscapes are spectacular, the day ahead promised a combination of history, tundra, wildlife, glaciers, and the icy waters of Burgerbukta.

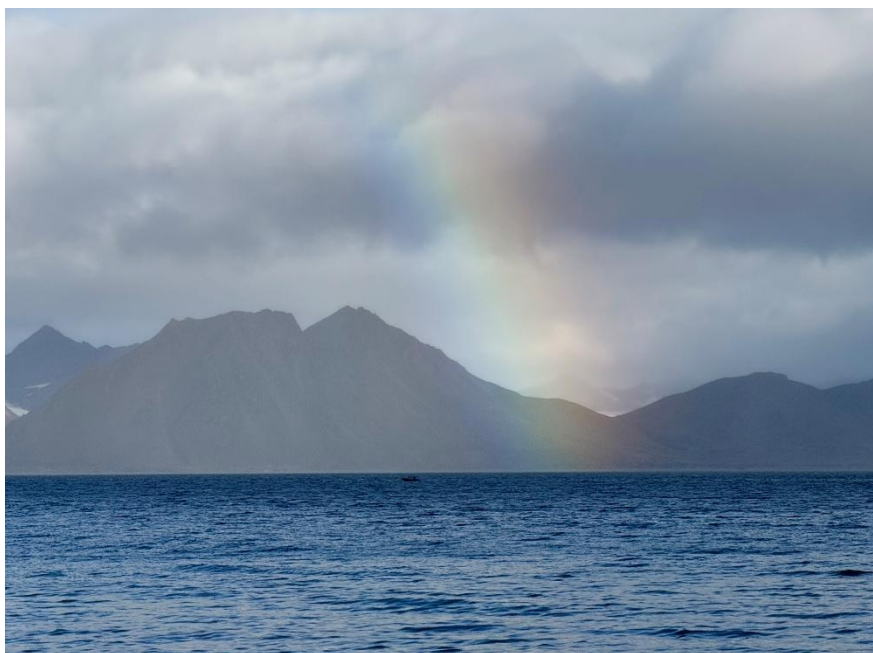
Our morning began with a landing at Gåshamna, where Svalbard's natural environment is closely intertwined with its scientific and industrial past. The site was one of the locations used during the Swedish-Russian Arc of Meridian Expedition (1899–1902), an ambitious international effort to precisely measure the Earth's meridian and improve understanding of the planet's size and shape. The expedition



remains an important example of scientific cooperation in the Arctic. Along the shore, remains of Svalbard's whaling history could still be seen, including whale bones and the ruins of blubber ovens. These remnants offered a tangible connection to the industry that once operated here and an opportunity to learn about the methods used to process

whales and the lasting impact of whaling on the region. Guests could choose between long, medium, and short walks, each offering a different perspective on the landscape. Reindeer were encountered along the routes, while the medium group was rewarded with a particularly exciting sighting of an Arctic Fox. Polar Bear tracks were also found, providing evidence that one of the High Arctic's most iconic predators had recently passed through the area, even though the animal itself remained unseen. For the adventurous, the morning ended with a polar plunge—a particularly chilly experience despite the sunshine.

As we sailed towards Burgerbukta, the transit became another wildlife encounter. Two Humpback Whales and a Minke Whale were spotted, highlighting the productivity of Svalbard's waters during the summer months. The whales were a reminder that wildlife encounters can happen at any moment, making time



spent on deck during a transit just as rewarding as an excursion ashore. In the afternoon, we launched the Zodiacs



for an exploration of Burgerbukta. Waterfalls streamed down the steep mountainsides, carrying summer meltwater from the snow and ice above, while exposed rock revealed layers of geological history stretching back millions of years. Wildlife once again featured prominently. Ringed Seals surfaced around the Zodiacs, while Black-legged Kittiwakes rested on ice floes and gathered near the glacier front to feed. The glacier-influenced waters can be particularly productive, concentrating nutrients that support fish and invertebrates and, in turn, attract seabirds and marine mammals. Here, the glacier was not simply a dramatic backdrop but an active part of the Arctic ecosystem. As the afternoon excursion came to an end, we returned to the ship for the evening programme. Pippa presented the plans for the following day, followed by a recap of recent highlights. Charlotte spoke about Svalbard Reindeer, Koen presented on White-beaked Dolphins, and Chloe concluded the programme with a look at plankton collected from Burgerbukta that afternoon.

Day 4 –Thursday 10th September – Bjørnøya (Bear Island)

12h00 GPS Position: 74°30.6'N / 019°00.0'E

Wind: E-2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: 6°C



After two fabulous days in Svalbard, we had started our journey south towards Bjørnøya last evening. Bjørnøya is the southernmost island of the Svalbard archipelago and we were scheduled to arrive in the morning. When we woke up, we could indeed already

see the contours of this small island on the horizon.

The island is located at the limits of the Norwegian and Barents seas, approximately halfway between Spitsbergen and the North Cape. Bear Island was discovered by Dutch explorers Willem Barentsz and Jacob van Heemskerck on 10 June 1596. It was named after a polar bear that was seen swimming nearby.



Our plan was to visit the weather station on the north part of the island which is also called *Radio Bjørnøya*. The conditions looked favorable with little wind, and more importantly an acceptable swell. While our beautiful little blue M/V Plancius slowly approached closer, we enjoyed our breakfast in the restaurant.



The expedition team went ashore first to assess conditions and to meet the station commander. They were welcoming us and they would even open up a small souvenir shop. At the landing site conditions were also good, so

around 09:10 we boarded our familiar Zodiacs and headed towards the beach.



As the shop wouldn't be open all morning, we were divided into three groups so we could *manage* the stream of interested *buyers*. However, this was the sole purpose of having three groups, today we didn't have our

classical variety of hikes.

The station looked well maintained and despite its remoteness it looked like a cozy and warm place. It had a museum and we could still see remains from earlier times when commercial activities such as coal mining, fishing and whaling. However, these activities were never successful and lasted often less than a year.

Our guides showed us around and took us for a walk along the bird cliffs as well. Bjornøya is home to many breeding sea bird species such as the Northern Gannet, Puffins, various species of Guillemots and Kittiwakes to name just a few. Despite the drizzle we enjoyed our unique visit a lot as not many tourists get to land here.



During lunch we were sailing further south. Bjornøya has some of the most spectacular bird cliffs that in some places are more than 400 meters high. We were

keeping our fingers crossed to see what would happen, however the ships cruise itself was already spectacular. Such a rugged coastline while birds flew all around.

Then expedition leader Pippa came onto the intercom.

Good news! The team had assessed the conditions to be OK to go and as such they had started preparing for a Zodiac cruise along the impressive cliffs. The Zodiac cruise felt like proper expedition as we faced swell, wind and drizzle. Fantastic!



The first boats set course towards the southernmost tip of the island before turning around and starting the cruise back closely along the spectacular and surreal coastline. Once again

conditions needed to be assessed as this coastline offered huge arches, tunnels and caves and the guides were keen on doing some proper exploration ;). Koen took the lead and decided conditions were OK to drive underneath the first arch.

The lush vegetation on the rocks, the turquoise color of the water added to the wonderful and once in a lifetime experience. To make sure that what we did was in fact real, we decided we had to do it again! Then we moved along the



coast line while enjoying the steep cliffs and the sounds of the birds that were all around. Not too long after we found ourselves at the entrance of a tunnel that seemed to lead us to paradise ;). Earlier, conditions seemed too challenging to make it through, but now it looked OK. So, what to do other than to enter and see if we could make it to the other side?



Koen voluntarily pioneered and made it through and the experience was incredibly cool. The tunnel was probably more than a hundred meters long and we couldn't imagine another place on the planet where we could do the same. What an incredible last activity of this fantastic trip. We tried out some other caves and observed a ship wreck that stranded here in 2009. On our way back everybody was smiling, it had been the perfect ending of our adventurous journey. Although our cake was already full with icing, Mother Nature decided to add another layer; Northern Lights! What already had been a fantastic day had just gotten even better.

Good night everyone!

Day 5 – Friday 11th September – At Sea towards Tromsø

12h00 GPS Position: 71°59.3'N / 019°43.6'E

Wind: S-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air temperature: 10°C



We had our morning breakfast in the dining room at 08:00 as the vessel continued her journey towards Tromsø, Norway. It was a relaxed start to what would become a very memorable final day at sea. At 10:00, we returned our expedition boots to the boot room, with each deck being called individually to

avoid congestion. Once all the boots had been collected, the expedition staff set about the impressive task of scrubbing every single pair by hand. Their hard work ensured that all the boots were thoroughly cleaned and ready for the next expedition.

At 11:00, we met Charlotte in the Observation Lounge for an interesting and informative lecture about polar bears. We learned more about these magnificent Arctic animals, their behaviour, habitat, and the challenges they face in the changing polar environment. We had lunch in the dining room at 12:30 before



enjoying some time to relax and take in our final hours at sea. At 15:00, we met Sven in the Observation Lounge for his lecture on Northern Norway and Tromsø. He gave us a fascinating insight into the region, its landscapes, history, culture, and its unique connection to the Arctic. The afternoon brought us an unexpected and truly spectacular wildlife encounter.

From the bridge, Koen spotted orcas, and it soon became clear that we were in for something very special. Amongst them, we also spotted a blue whale, making the sighting even more extraordinary. We had two large groups of at least ten orcas around the ship, giving us incredible views as they travelled through the water. As the evening progressed, the setting sun created the most beautiful backdrop. Every time the orcas surfaced and blew, their spray caught the sunlight and glowed a stunning reflective orange. It was an unforgettable sight, with the whales, orcas, sea, and sunset all coming together in one spectacular scene. We were very reluctantly dragged inside for our Captain's Farewell at 18:00, leaving behind one of the most beautiful wildlife encounters of the voyage. We joined the expedition team in the Observation Lounge for a toast with the Captain, celebrating what had been an incredible journey.

The farewell was followed by Marco's fantastic slideshow, which brought together so many of the highlights and memorable moments from our expedition. It was wonderful to look back on the experiences we had shared, the places we had visited, and the incredible wildlife we had encountered along the way. We finished the day with dinner in the dining room at 19:00. As we reflected on the day, it was hard to believe that our final hours at sea had delivered such an extraordinary finale.

Day 6 – Saturday 12th September – Tromso, Disembarkation

08h00 GPS Position: 69°64.92'N / 018°95.53'E

Wind: SSE-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 8°C

Today as we sailed into Tromso we all felt a bitter sweet feeling –excitement for getting off the ship in Norway – another beautiful country to explore, but also a pang of sadness for having to leave after such an incredible journey. Even though it was short it was oh so sweet. We were so lucky with everything we saw, even with three operation days we saw so much.

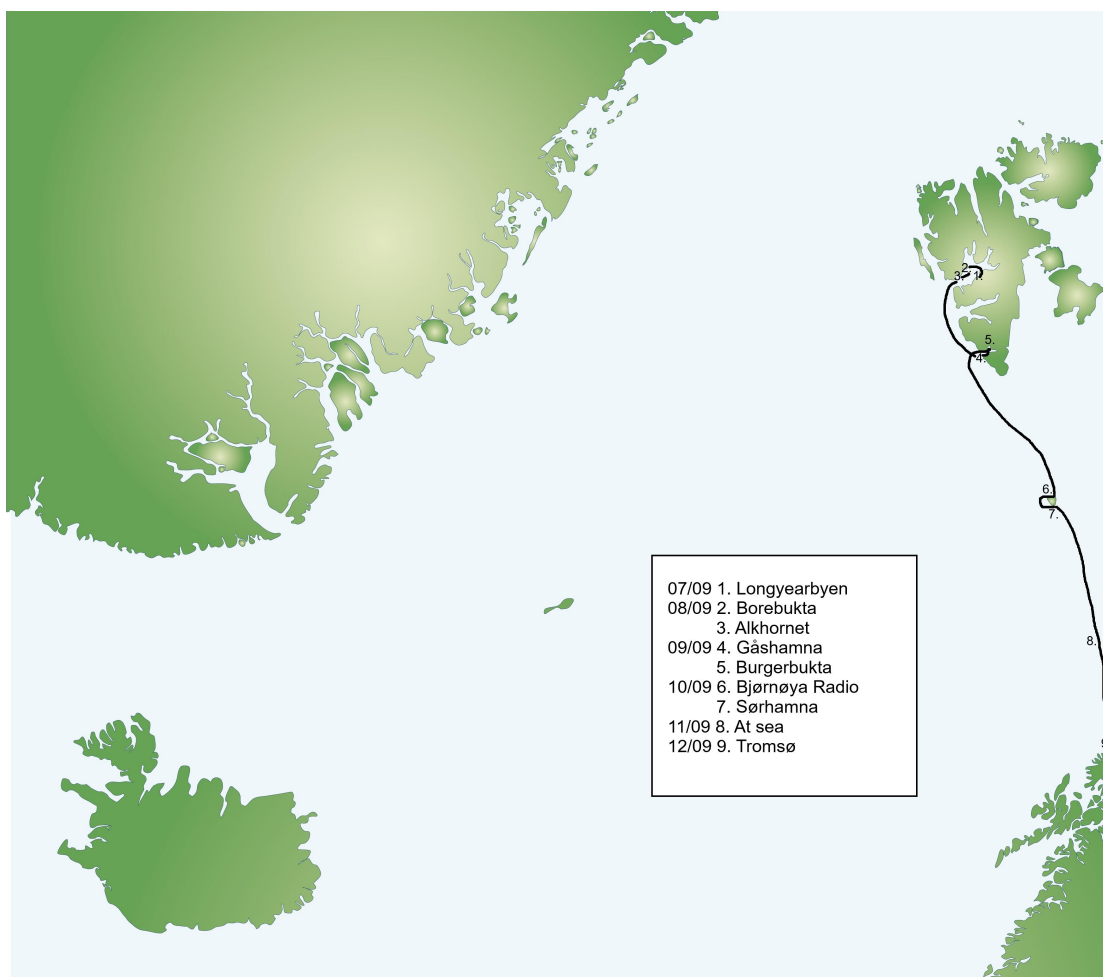
After our last wake-up call from Pippa we had our last delicious breakfast and shortly after at 0830 we disembarked the ship. The staff had already taken our luggage to the dock for us where we would then collect it. The staff said goodbye to all of us and we entered the buses or got in our taxis to head to the airport or to go to our hotel. What a special time, we will remember this trip forever.



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Christophe Colaris , Expedition Leader Pippa Low, Hotel Manager Marleen Van Moorsel and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

Total Length of the Trip: 672 nautical miles

Northernmost position: 78° 40.143'N; 014° 22.318' E



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land

English Name	Latin	German	Dutch	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternaucher	Roodkeelduiker		X	X	X	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Noordse stormvogel	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstöpel	Jan-van-gent				X	
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Kleine rietgans				X	
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Rotgans	X				
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eidereend		X	X	X	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Konings eider		X			
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Paarse strandloper	X	X		X	
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Middelste jager				X	
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Kleine jager	X	X	X	X	
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Grote Burgemeester	X	X	X	X	
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Kleine mantelmeeuw					X
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Grote mantelmeeuw				X	X
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Drieteenmeeuw	X	X	X	X	X
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Noordse stern	X			X	
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Zwarte zeekoet	X	X	X		
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Papegaaiduiker		X	X	X	
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	Tapuit				X	
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Sneeuwgor				X	

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	Dutch	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Baardrob		X			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Ringelrob		X	X		
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Dwergvinvis		X	X		

Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Blauwe vinvis					X
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Gewone vinvis					X
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Bultrug			X		
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orka					X
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Witsnuitdolfijn		X			X
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ijsbeer		X			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Poolvos		X	X		
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Rendier		X	X		

Pippa Low – Exp. Leader



Pippa is a skilled expedition leader, naturalist, lecturer, photographer, diver, and skipper with over 18 years of global guiding experience. Originating from the Scottish Highlands, she specializes in marine mammal science, including a Masters in Humpback Whale physiology.

Her extensive travels as a guide have taken her from Scotland to Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, and predominantly to the polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. A skilled skipper and powerboat instructor, Pippa excels in navigating the world's most rugged environments, ensuring both adventure and safety for her guests.

Pippa has also worked as a field guide and skipper for natural history productions, facilitating immersive experiences that highlight the beauty and complexity of these ecosystems while sharing her knowledge and passion for storytelling.

Pippa is dedicated to sharing her passion for wildlife and wild spaces, whether on a ship, zodiac, ashore, or underwater. As a passionate photographer, Pippa is dedicated to helping guests capture stunning moments of wildlife and landscapes. She revels in the unpredictability of nature, making every expedition a unique experience.

Chloé Maréchal – Expedition Leader



Chloé 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.

Chloé ist eine engagierte Taucherin mit einer unstillbaren Leidenschaft für das Meeresleben und die Erforschung des Meeres. Sie hat einen europäischen Master-Abschluss in Meeresbiologie und Naturschutz. Sie liebt es ihr Fachwissen zu teilen und fuer den Schutz der Meere zu werben.

Während charismatische Großtiere wie Delfine und Wale zu Recht unsere Fantasie beflügeln, gehört Chloés Herz den unbeachteten Helden des Ozeans: der oft unterschätzten Welt des Planktons und den Geheimnissen unsichtbarer Mikroben. Sie möchte zeigen, dass selbst die kleinsten Organismen große Persönlichkeiten haben können!

2013 wurde ihr Fachwissen und Potenzial auf höchster Ebene anerkannt, als sie als renommierte European Rolex Our World-Underwater Scholar 2013–14 ausgewählt wurde — eine Ehre, die sie neben führende Persönlichkeiten der Meereswissenschaft und der Tauchbranche stellte. Dieses prägende Jahr brachte ihr auch die erste Begegnung mit der Antarktis, ein Erlebnis, das eine lebenslange Leidenschaft für polare Umgebungen und abgelegene Wildnis entfachte.

Chloés Karriere hat sie auf jeden Kontinent geführt, sowohl über als auch unter der Oberfläche. Sie verbrachte neun Jahre in Bodø, Norwegen, knapp über dem Polarkreis, bevor sie kürzlich in den Süden Frankreichs zog.

Neben ihrer Arbeit als Expeditionsleiterin geht sie weiterhin der Unterwasserforschung nach. Sie taucht an vergessenen Schiffswracks, kartiert unerforschte Unterwasserhöhlen und segelt ueber die Meere.

Egal, ob du ein erfahrener Naturfreund bist oder das erste Mal mit dem Ozean in Berührung kommst, Chloés Begeisterung, ihr fundiertes Wissen und ihr Abenteuergeist werden dich das Meer in einem völlig neuen Licht sehen lassen.

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.

Sven Joest – Expedition guide



Sven is an arctic enthusiast from Bonn, Germany, with a passion and expertise in the area of geomorphology. During his undergraduate study in geography at the University of Bonn, his semester abroad in Joensuu, Finland, sparked his interest in the wilderness of the north and the arctic.

Since then, he has pursued his enthusiasm for adventure through several trips to northern Norway, which eventually led him to move to Tromsø in the Norwegian Arctic. There he finished at the Arctic University of Norway his master's degree specialising in Peace and Conflict Transformation. From Tromsø he is able to pursue his passion for the outdoors and the cold by skiing, hiking, and exploring these vast and remote environments the Norwegian Arctic has to offer.

As an enthusiastic hobby photographer, and an increasingly keen birder since volunteering at a bird

nature reserve on the island of Fehmarn, you'll most likely find him out on deck taking snaps of the landscapes and the wildlife in his spare time during the voyage.

Excited to continue expanding his knowledge and experience in all aspects of the polar expanses, he welcomes you to chat during the adventure about any questions you may have or your own polar interests and stories.

Deutsch

Sven ist ein Arktis-Enthusiast aus Bonn, Deutschland, mit einer Leidenschaft und Expertise im Bereich der Geomorphologie. Während seines Grundstudiums der Geographie an der Universität Bonn war es sein Auslandssemester in Joensuu, Finnland, das sein Interesse an der Wildnis des Nordens und der Arktis weckte.

Seitdem hat er seine Begeisterung für Abenteuer durch mehrere Reisen nach Nordnorwegen weiterverfolgt, was schließlich dazu führte, dass er in die norwegische Arktis nach Tromsø zog. Dort hat er an der Arktischen Universität Norwegens seinen Master-Abschluss mit dem Schwerpunkt „Frieden und Konflikttransformation“ abgeschlossen. Von Tromsø aus kann er seiner Leidenschaft für die Natur und die Kälte nachgehen, indem er Ski fährt, wandert und die weiten, abgelegenen Landschaften erkundet, die die norwegische Arktis zu bieten hat.

Als begeisterter Hobbyfotograf und zunehmend begeisterter Vogelbeobachter, seitdem er ein Praktikum in einem Vogelschutzgebiet auf der Insel Fehmarn absolviert hat, werden Sie ihn in seiner Freizeit während der Reise höchstwahrscheinlich an Deck finden, um Fotos von der Landschaft und der Tierwelt zu machen.

Er freut sich darauf, sein Wissen und seine Erfahrung in allen Aspekten der polaren Weiten zu erweitern und lädt Sie ein, während der Reise mit ihm über Ihre Fragen oder Ihre eigenen polaren Interessen und Geschichten zu sprechen.

Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



Marco was born in the region of Prosecco & Tiramisù in Northern Italy.

He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

Currently he is studying Earth Science at Stockholm University, Sweden.

After a few years working in the automotive industry, he decided to embark himself on a new quest. For two years he backpacked from the tropical forests of Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Andean Cordillera, rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore

decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfying his innate curiosity, thereby started to study Earth Science.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natales, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leader in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia and for four years has started to join expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic on board of Oceanwide vessels.

Deutsch

Marco wurde in der Region von Prosecco und Tiramisù in Norditalien geboren.

Er schloss sein Studium im Maschinenbau an der Universität Padua, seiner Heimatstadt, ab und erwarb anschließend einen Masterabschluss in „Turbomaschinen und Strömungsdynamik“ am Von-Karman-Institut in Brüssel, Belgien. Derzeit studiert er Geowissenschaften an der Universität Stockholm in Schweden.

Nach einigen Jahren in der Automobilindustrie entschied er sich, zu neuen Ufern aufzubrechen. Zwei Jahre lang reiste er als Backpacker von den tropischen Wäldern Mittelamerikas über die schneebedeckten Gipfel der Andenkordillere bis hinunter an die Südspitze Südamerikas.

Die raue und kraftvolle Schönheit Patagoniens überzeugte ihn schließlich, menschengemachte Strukturen gegen die Wunder der Natur einzutauschen. Fasziniert von angewandter Geophysik beschloss er, sein umfangreiches Wissen in Thermodynamik und Strömungsmechanik zu nutzen, um seine angeborene Neugier zu stillen, und begann daher ein Studium der Geowissenschaften.

Im letzten Jahrzehnt lebte er in Puerto Natales in Chile, wo er als Trekkingguide und Reiseleiter Gruppen auf einigen der schönsten und anspruchsvollsten Routen Patagoniens führte. Seit vier Jahren nimmt er zudem an Expeditionen in die Arktis und Antarktis an Bord von Schiffen von Oceanwide teil.

Koen Hoekemeijer– Expedition Guide



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife. Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

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

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

Deutsch

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

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

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

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

Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide



Charlotte grew up along the rugged coastline of Cornwall, United Kingdom, where her fascination with wildlife and the ocean began at an early age. Inspired by the natural world around her, she went on to study Wildlife Conservation at University, laying the foundation for a life devoted to research, adventure, and the protection of marine ecosystems.

Her love for ships and life at sea began in 2013, when she worked aboard Research and Dive vessels exploring the remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. During her time in Australia and New Zealand, Charlotte's passion for Marine Biology deepened as she studied Humpback Whales, Minke Whales, and Sperm Whales. Between 2020 and 2022, Charlotte joined the Superyacht and Explorer vessel industry, working as a Deckhand and Divemaster in remote and challenging regions. These experiences further honed her seamanship and deepened her appreciation for the ocean environment. A keen traveller, Charlotte has been exploring the world since the age of 18, backpacking across Asia, Australasia, and South America. In 2015, she undertook an overland journey from South Africa to

Jordan in a Land Rover before settling in Mozambique in 2018. There, she founded her own backpacker hostel - combining her entrepreneurial spirit with her love of travel. Alongside managing the hostel, she worked as a Researcher studying Whale Sharks and Manta Rays along the Mozambican coast. Most recently, she completed a 7,000 km journey in a 4x4 across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. When she's not at sea Charlotte loves scuba diving, surfing, freediving, and hiking, but she also enjoys life's simple pleasures - drinking tea and walking her dog. She feels very fortunate to call Oceanwide her second home and looks forward to continuing to combine her love of the sea, wildlife, and adventure in a career dedicated to exploration and the frozen wilderness.

Deutsch

Charlotte wuchs an der zerklüfteten Küste von Cornwall, Großbritannien, auf, wo ihre Faszination für Wildtiere und den Ozean schon in jungen Jahren begann. Inspiriert von der natürlichen Welt um sie herum, studierte sie Wildtier- und Naturschutz an der Universität und legte somit den Grundstein für ein Leben, das der Forschung, dem Abenteuer und dem Schutz der marinen Ökosysteme gewidmet ist. Ihre Liebe zu Schiffen und dem Leben auf See begann 2013, als sie auf Forschungs- und Tauchschiffen arbeitete, die abgelegenen Regionen des Great Barrier Reef erkundeten. Während ihres Aufenthalts in Australien und Neuseeland vertiefte sich Charlottes Leidenschaft für Meeresbiologie, mit dem Schwerpunkt Ihres Studiums für Buckelwale, Zwergwale und Pottwale. Zwischen 2020 und 2022 arbeitete Charlotte in der Superyacht- und Explorer-Schiffindustrie als Deck Hand und Dive Master in abgelegenen und herausfordernden Regionen. Diese Erfahrungen verfeinerten ihre nautischen Fähigkeiten und verstärkten ihre Wertschätzung für die Meeresumwelt. Als begeisterte Reisende hat Charlotte die Welt seit ihrem 18. Lebensjahr erkundet, indem sie durch Asien, Australasien und Südamerika reiste. 2015 unternahm sie eine Überlandreise von Südafrika nach Jordanien in einem Land Rover, bevor sie 2018 in Mosambik sesshaft wurde. Dort gründete sie ihr eigenes Hostel für Rucksacktouristen und kombinierte ihren Unternehmergeist mit ihrer Liebe zum Reisen. Neben der Leitung des Hostels arbeitete sie als Forscherin und studierte Walhaie und Mantarochen entlang der Küste Mosambiks. Zuletzt absolvierte sie eine 7.000 km lange Reise in einem 4x4 durch Kasachstan, Kirgisistan, Usbekistan und Tadschikistan. Wenn sie nicht auf See ist, liebt Charlotte es, tauchen, surfen, freitauchen und wandern zu gehen. Aber auch die einfachen Freuden des Lebens genießt sie – Tee trinken und mit ihrem Hund spazieren gehen. Sie fühlt sich sehr glücklich, Oceanwide als ihr zweites Zuhause zu bezeichnen und freut sich darauf, ihre Liebe zum Meer, zu Wildtieren und zum Abenteuer in einer Karriere zu vereinen, die der Erkundung und der gefrorenen Wildnis gewidmet ist.

Mark Whiffin – Expedition Guide



Mark holds a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology and is an ornithologist and birder with extensive field experience. His passion for birds and travelling started from a very young age in East Sussex, England and expanded from there.

While at university studying Biochemistry and Molecular Plant Biology, he participated in an ornithological expedition to Indonesia. This experience led to a Masters degree in Conservation Biology and he subsequently led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to remote tropical areas of the world in search of birds with a particular emphasis on threatened and endemic species.

Mark first visited Antarctica in 2018 employed by the British Antarctic Survey, and subsequently spent five years living and working on Bird Island, South Georgia as a Zoological Field Assistant working primarily with the penguins and petrels that breed on the island. During this time he developed a deep love for the Southern Ocean, its scenery and the birds that call it home, "seeing the

first Cape Petrels on any trip always gives a feeling of arriving home".

In his free time Mark enjoys trekking, running or cycling. He is also a keen photographer and videographer who enjoys documenting and sharing his passion for birds, travel and wild places, his images have been used by Birdlife International, newspapers and online. He looks forward to sharing the birds of the southern ocean with you.

Deutsch

Mark hat einen Masterabschluss in Naturschutzbiologie und ist Ornithologe sowie begeisterter Vogelbeobachter mit umfangreicher Felderfahrung. Seine Leidenschaft für Vögel und das Reisen begann schon in jungen Jahren in East Sussex, England, und entwickelte sich von dort aus weiter.

Während seines Studiums der Biochemie und Molekularen Pflanzenbiologie an der Universität nahm er an einer ornithologischen Expedition nach Indonesien teil. Diese Erfahrung führte zu einem Masterabschluss in Naturschutzbiologie, und anschließend leitete er zahlreiche Expeditionen und wissenschaftliche Forschungsprojekte in abgelegene tropische Regionen der Welt auf der Suche nach Vögeln – mit besonderem Schwerpunkt auf bedrohte und endemische Arten.

Mark besuchte die Antarktis erstmals im Jahr 2018, als er beim British Antarctic Survey beschäftigt war. Danach verbrachte er fünf Jahre auf Bird Island, Südgeorgien, wo er als Zoologischer Feldassistent hauptsächlich mit den Pinguinen und Sturmvögeln arbeitete, die auf der Insel brüten. In dieser Zeit entwickelte er eine tiefe Liebe zum Südlichen Ozean, seiner Landschaft und den Vögeln, die dort leben – „die ersten Kapsturmvögel auf einer Reise zu sehen, fühlt sich immer an, als käme man nach Hause“. In seiner Freizeit wandert, läuft oder radelt Mark gerne. Außerdem ist er ein leidenschaftlicher Fotograf und Videofilmer, der seine Begeisterung für Vögel, Reisen und wilde Orte gerne dokumentiert und teilt. Seine Aufnahmen wurden bereits von BirdLife International, in Zeitungen und online verwendet. Er freut sich darauf, die Vogelwelt des Südlichen Ozeans mit Ihnen zu teilen

Anna Buijze – Ships doctor



Anna Buijze is a skilled doctor from The Netherlands with years of experience in Emergency Medicine. At the moment she is in training for becoming an Emergency Medicine specialist. She works both at the University Medical Centre of Groningen (UMCG) and the Medical Centre of Leeuwarden (MCL). She also has a degree as a medical examiner of divers.

She has a lot of diverse interests, enthusiasm and passion to diligent work.

She enthusiastically welcomes new opportunities to explore the world and widen her knowledge in expedition medicine.

Deutsch

Anna Buijze ist eine erfahrene Ärztin aus den Niederlanden mit langjähriger Erfahrung in der Notfallmedizin. Derzeit befindet sie sich in der Weiterbildung zur Fachärztin für Notfallmedizin. Sie arbeitet sowohl im Universitätsklinikum Groningen (UMCG) als auch im Medizinischen Zentrum Leeuwarden (MCL). Außerdem verfügt sie über eine Qualifikation als Tauchtauglichkeitsärztin.

Sie hat vielfältige Interessen sowie große Begeisterung und Leidenschaft für sorgfältiges Arbeiten. Mit großer Motivation begrüßt sie neue Möglichkeiten, die Welt zu erkunden und ihr Wissen in der Expeditionsmedizin zu erweitern.

NEW EMBARKING GUESTS

WELCOME ABOARD!

Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member.



deck 5

Tea and coffee are always available in the Observation Lounge or



±1700

Welcome & Safety briefing - Please join us in the **Observation Lounge** (deck 5, forward) for a welcome briefing and **mandatory** safety & lifeboat drill. You will also be given a welcome to your new home from the hotel manager and get to meet your expedition team. After the briefing, there will be a drill.

Lifeboat Drill

Following the safety briefing, you will be asked to return to your cabin. When the alarm sounds, **all guests** should proceed to the MUSTER STATION located **Observation Lounge** on **deck 5**. Be sure to bring your orange life jacket and warm clothing, and check your lifeboat number, which is listed on your cabin card. Do not put on your life jacket, before you are in the lounge.

±1800

Departure from Longyearbyen
The bridge will be closed during these operations.

±1830

Expedition introduction & Captain's welcome – Please join us in **Observation Lounge** (deck 5, forward) for an introduction to the expedition and a toast from the Captain.

1930

Buffer dinner is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

2045

Boots: We will call you to collect your Muck boots from the **boot room** on Deck 3, forward. ***Please listen for announcements.***



**South Spitsbergen –
Bear Island - Norway**

Tuesday 8th September 2026

Borebukta and Alkhornet

Sunrise: 0434 Sunset: 2118

0700 **Wake up call.** Good morning!

0715 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

0815 **New embarking guests only:**
AECO, Bear safety and Zodiac briefing
Please join us in the **observation lounge** for a **mandatory** briefing.

This morning, we hope to take you on a Zodiac cruise at Borebukta. We aim to cruise along a glacier front with beautiful panoramic views of the Svalbard mountains. We'll also be on the lookout for walrus. These impressive marine mammals can be spotted on the ice in front of the glacier, in the water, and on land.

+/-0930 **Zodiac cruise in Borebukta.** Please listen for announcements.

1230 **Lunch buffet** in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon, we aim to land at Alkhornet, at the northern entrance to Isfjorden. Towering above the landing site is a dramatic cliff face, alive in summer with thousands of nesting kittiwakes. The cliff at Alkhornet chiefly consists of metamorphosed carbonate rocks, old bedrock more than one billion years old! Keep your eyes as we explore: this rugged landscape is prime territory for reindeer grazing and the elusive Arctic Fox.

+/-1500 **Long Hikers** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

+/-1515 **Medium & Short Hikers** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

1845 **Daily Recap** - please join your expedition team in the observation lounge.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

*"The only thing we are sure to fail is that which we do not attempt"
Paul-Emile Victor, French Polar explorer.*

Tuesday 9th September 2026

Gåshamna and Burgerbukta

Sunrise: 0441 Sunset: 2103

0715 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

In the morning, we aim to land at Gåshamna, a bay to the south of Hornsund fjord. The site saw whaling activity from the 1600s to the 1700s. During this period, bowhead and right whales were the target species, being slow swimmers, they were relatively easy to catch, and yielded large quantities of oil and whalebone (baleen).

For the bravest among you, we'll offer a polar plunge!

*At the end of the landing, you'll have the chance to get in the water from the beach. We advise you to wear whatever you like for swimming underneath your hiking clothes. We will provide towels, please **do not** take the one from your cabin.*

+/-0845 **Long Hikers** - please come to the zodiac boarding area.
+/-0900 **Medium & Short Hikers** - please come to the zodiac boarding area.

1230 **Lunch** in the dining room.

In the afternoon we aim to zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta. The bay is located on the northern side of Hornsund. The beauty of this landscape in terms of colours and structures is deeply rooted in its geology. The colouration is due to the layers: from brownish-red Old Red at the bottom (Devonian/lower Carboniferous) through yellowish-brown upper Carboniferous/Permian to dark-brown Triassic at the top. And the deformation related to the opening of the north Atlantic is responsible for the beautiful folds and bends.

+/-1415 **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the zodiac boarding area.

1815 **Daily Recap** - please join your expedition team in the observation lounge.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.



“No, the Arctic does not yield its secret for the price of a ship's ticket. You must live through the long night, the storms, and the destruction of human pride. You must have gazed on the deadness of all things to grasp their livingness. In the return of light, in the magic of the ice, in the life-rhythm of the animals observed in the wilderness, in the natural laws of all being, revealed here in their completeness, lies the secret of the Arctic and the overpowering beauty of its lands.”

— Christiane Ritter, *A Woman in the Polar Night*



**South Spitsbergen –
Bear Island - Norway**

**Wednesday 10th September
2026**

**Bear Island: Bjørnøya Radio, Herwighamna
& Expedition Afternoon**
Sunrise: 0451 Sunset: 2052

Today we aim to land at Bear Island, called Bjørnøya in Norwegian. This remote island sits in the Barents Sea, roughly 450 km (280 miles) north of mainland Norway and 225 km (140 miles) south of Spitsbergen, making it the southernmost island in the Svalbard archipelago. Despite its isolation, the island has a history of commercial activity, including coal mining, fishing, and whaling. Yet no settlement here ever took hold for long, and today the island is uninhabited apart from the staff running its meteorological station, Bjørnøya Radio. In 2002, the island and its surrounding waters were designated a nature reserve, protecting this wild corner of the Arctic for the future.

0715 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

In the morning, we aim to land at the weather station, Bjørnøya Radio. The station is in Herwighamna, on the north coast of Bear Island. It used to also serve as a coastal radio station, established in 1919 and closed in 1996; it's now operated via satellite. We hope to visit the station, the museum and a small shop and post office. Please do not walk around alone and do not enter inside the buildings. Hiking is restricted in the area, though for those that wish a slightly longer walk, please come to the gangway first.

+/-0900 **Bjørnøya Radio Landing** - please come to the zodiac boarding area. *Hiking is restricted in the area, though for those that wish a slightly longer walk, please come to the gangway first.*

1230 **Lunch** in the **dining room**.

EXPEDITION AFTERNOON

After lunch, we'll cruise along the west coast of the island to view the cliffs at its southern tip. We hope to offer a Zodiac cruise somewhere along the east coast, though the exact location will depend on weather and swell conditions, as we'll need to find a sheltered spot to operate safely.

+/-1500 **Zodiac cruise** - *please listen for announcements.*

1815 **Daily Recap** - please join your expedition team in the observation lounge.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

No Wake up call – Enjoy!

0800 **Breakfast** will be served in the **dining room**.

This morning we will be at sea on our way toward Tromsø, Norway.

1000 **Boots:** Please **return your boots to the boot room**. They need to be clean. We will call you deck by deck to avoid congestion, so please listen for announcements. Thank you.

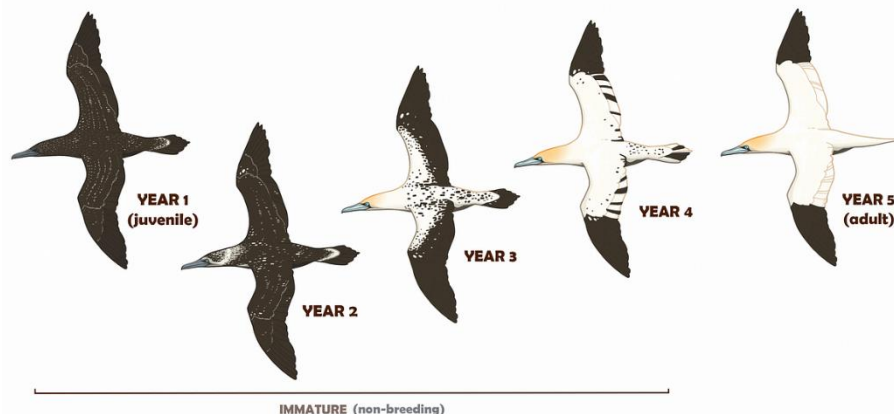
1100 Please meet **Charlotte** in the **observation Lounge** for a lecture about **Polar bear**.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

1500 Please meet **Sven** in the **observation Lounge** for a lecture about **Northern Norway and Tromsø**.

1800 **Captain's Farewell:** Please join the expedition team in the observation lounge, for a toast to the voyage with the captain. Marco will also present you the slideshow, which he has put together for you.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.



"Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving." - Terry Pratchett, A Hat Full of Sky



**South Spitsbergen –
Bear Island - Norway**

**Saturday 12th September
2026**

Disembarkation

Port Day, Tromsø

Sunrise: 0545 Sunset: 1943

0715 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** will be served in the **dining room**.

*Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than **0730**.
During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where
you will collect it.*

±0830 **Disembarkation** - *Please listen for announcements.* We will invite
you to the gangway to disembark Plancius.
Please return your keycard holders to reception.

Upon disembarkation, please **identify and collect your luggage** from the pier
and proceed to immigration.

Taxis

Prebook - Tromsø Taxi +47 77603000
Address: Quay 21 in Breivika
5.3km North of Tromsø town centre.
Bus stop to Town centre – 6 minute walk.

***On behalf of the entire crew and staff of Plancius, we thank you for a
truly incredible expedition. It has been our pleasure to have you on
board...***

***We wish you a safe journey home.
Farewell and safe sailing!***