



OCEANWIDE
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen Explorer
Versatile landscapes, sea ice & wildlife
27th June – 4th July 2024



M/V Plancius

MV Plancius was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geographer, and minister Petrus Plancius (1552 - 1622). Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named Hr. Ms. Tydeman. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. Plancius is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Elizbar Kadaria**

2nd Officer: **Don Buren**

3rd Officer: **Anar Babaiev**

Chief Engineer: **Sebastian Alexandru**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Bogdan Manevski**

Head Chef: **Ivan Yuriychuk**

Ships Doctor: **Jon Messing**

Expedition Leader: **Phillipp Schaudy**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Michelle van Dijk**

Expedition Guide: **Alexander Romanovskiy**

Beth Hitchcock

John Rogers

Paolo Bellezze

Ross Wheeler

Tiphanie May

Day 1 – 27th June

Longyearbyen - Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°15.3'N / 015°06.3'E

Wind: NE 6, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Today is the day! It is finally time for us to embark upon our Arctic adventure! In the late afternoon we arrived at our ship Plancius, our new home for the next 8 days. She rocked gently against the pier as we climbed the gangway onto the decks. The day was suitably Arctic with clouds and chilly wind – but we were warm and comfortable aboard. We all checked in and were quickly escorted to our respective cabins. We excitedly started exploring the ship and wandering the decks enjoying the views of Longyearbyen.



Once we were all aboard, we were invited to the lounge to take part in a mandatory briefing and 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, Phillip, invited us back to the lounge for the Captain's Cocktails, where we met our captain Ernesto Barria, and the expedition team. We celebrated our expedition with some bubbles and

canapes before we were called for the final activity of the day: dinner!

We all filed down to the restaurant for a delicious buffet and an opportunity to meet all our fellow travellers. Our day was not done yet as after dinner we located the Boot Room and collected our rubber boots. We were another step closer to being able to start our off-ship activities.

We spent the rest of the evening enjoying our first evening cruise and the never-ending daylight before returning to our cabins to prepare for tomorrow's adventure!



Day 2 – 28th June

Smeerenburgfjorden & Alicehamna

12:00 GPS Position: 79°45.3'N / 010°57.1'E

Wind: W 4, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

It was a restless night's sleep for many, due to the motion of Plancius in the swell off the west coast of Prince Karls Foreland. We headed north throughout the night, aiming to make good progress to our first planned destination in Raudfjord.

However, not long after our walk-up call, our expedition leader came over the PA system informing us of a polar bear on our port side! We have never jumped out of our beds so quickly after a bad sleep. With layers piled on, we rushed to the outer decks to see the charismatic wildlife that brings so many visitors to these cold, high latitudes.

We watched the bear move across the shores, casually swaying as it strode along the beach. Although the movement seemed slow, the progress was so rapid that we had to adjust our description to newly appearing guests on the deck. The rain did not bother us as we stood, gleefully watching the polar bear before breakfast on the first full day of our expedition!

After we had some time observing the bear, we moved on, heading north. Where we had seen our polar bear, at Sørgattet south of Danskøya, was still a few hours from our planned morning landing site. Therefore, we adjusted our plans in true expedition style and headed towards the plan B option for the morning.

Just as the mandatory briefings were about to begin, not one, but two bears were spotted on Amsterdamøya, a small island still not where we had planned to go. Major adjustments were made again. A short compulsory briefing was given by Phillip in the lounge before we rushed into our layers and headed for the gangway. We piled into the Zodiacs, eager to get out on the water in the low cloud to search for the polar bears. By this stage we had our eyes on 4 bears! (and 2 puffins)



Two of the bears were playing at the shore when we arrived. As we watched we could see that it was a mother with a cub, probably just over 2 years old, nearly ready to leave his mother. He was being taught how to hunt harbour seals, a useful skill when there is a resident harbour seal colony in the next bay over.

A mother with a younger cub appeared over the low-lying rocks, highlighting to us how hard it can be to spot a polar bear in what appears at first to be flat ground. The mother and younger cub began to approach the

two playing on the shore. Their vulnerability was clear with such a youngster and the older cub came from the water, to state his claim. After some exchange of glances and altering course, the older cub and mother headed towards the carcass which lay along the beach.

It was an incredible series of behaviours which we were able to observe. Everyone returned to Plancius with beaming smiles, discussing the activities we had witnessed and the other significant wildlife and history of this area on the east side of Amsterdamøya called Smeerenburg.

After a quick stopover on board for briefings and lunch, it was time to head off again. Eventually making it to our planned morning landing site – not that we would have changed a thing from our rescheduled morning!

Alicehamna is a beautiful site on the east side of Raudfjord. This fjord has spectacular dramatic scenery on the west coast and conveniently accessible rolling mountains on the eastern side. We landed near a small hut from the late 1920's built by Stockholm-Sven, as he is locally known. The more recent renovations have left the hut in good condition for visitors like us and those seeking an emergency shelter (not us).



We divided into groups to satisfy our interests; whether that be to have a good hike with superb views, a shorter hike with fascinating talks or a short stroll with plenty of information and discussions around what we could see.



Back at the landing site we readjusted lifejackets and headed back to Plancius. Before a delicious plated dinner, we had a final recap to round up this unbeatable first day in Spitsbergen!

Day 3 – 29th June

Chermsideøya and Sjuøyane

12:00 GPS Position: 80°32.9'N / 019°41.1'E

Wind: Nil, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

We awoke to our expedition leader Phillipp telling us over the PA that we had arrived at our first destination and that the weather was beautiful outside. Our first landing would be at the island of Chermsideøya, a beautiful Arctic island with an interesting history.



After a hearty breakfast we dressed in our outdoor clothing and waited for our chance to board the Zodiacs. The expedition team went ahead and prepared the site for us. We shortly followed and arrived quickly at the beach. The landscape is very rocky with lots of boulders everywhere. We dropped our lifejackets and made our way up to Paolo and Beth at the top of the rise where they told us the significance of some rock graffiti made of small stones set into the hillside. There were several names and some years laid out. These stones were placed by old expeditions. On the right-

hand side there were names and the date 1898 which was created by the Swedish section of the Arc-de-meridian expedition, then next to that a swastika created by some young Germans during WWII in 1939 and finally some ship's names and dates related to the search for the Nobile in 1928. Very interesting history in the middle of nowhere.

After we learnt the significance of these markings we were divided into hiking groups; fast, medium and leisurely. We set out on our respective hikes with the fast hikers racing to the top of the hill on the island. The mediums took the low ground and hiked around the base of the hill. The leisurely enjoyed the area close to the landing site and assisted with some clean-up of the plastic on the beaches. The medium hike also assisted and helped arrange the collection of a fishing net found on the shore. After some good hikes across some tricky ground, it was time to head back for a great lunch.



Whilst we enjoyed our meals, the ship repositioned to our next destination which would be Parryøya an island in the Seven Islands. The way to the landing was very shallow so our zodiac drivers had to drive us quite a long way to get us to the landing, but it was so worth it. When we arrived at the beach the sun was shining, the sand was yellow and the water a beautiful turquoise. It was like we had arrived in the Mediterranean and not the Arctic! We landed all on the beautiful sandy beaches and split into our preferred hiking groups. The fast hikers set off at a blistering pace in an attempt to summit the nearest hill, followed by the mediums to hiked up over the saddle to the lakes on the other side of the island. The leisurely group enjoyed exploring the hillside above the landing site and made good progress up to the saddle.



It was a beautiful day, but it wasn't over. We all headed back to the landing site as it was time for a special event for some of us. The polar plunge! Our expedition leader Phillip had surprised us with the news at lunch seems we had the perfect beach and perfect weather. This was an opportunity that could not be missed. As we reached the beach, the hardy swimmers quickly made preparations to enter the water. Squeals could be heard across the bay as they ran into the icy waters and then ran much faster on the way out. Once everyone who wanted to swim had done so we all headed back to the ship in time for a wonderful plated dinner by the

hotel team. It was truly a perfect Arctic day!

Day 4 – 30th June

Cruising the Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 81°19.3'N / 022°28.6'E

Wind: W 3, **Sea State:** Choppy, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

After heading in a northeasterly direction overnight, we were greeted with a beautiful blue-sky morning

within the pristine Arctic pack ice. As Plancius was carefully being maneuvered through the expanse of ice surrounding us, Phillipp provided a slightly later wakeup call at 07:45 which was soon followed by breakfast in the restaurant.

With all eyes scanning the horizon from both the bridge and bow, the morning was spent eagerly searching for any wildlife that calls this inhospitable landscape home. We were not disappointed as a beautiful adult bearded seal was sighted close to Plancius on the port side. This seal was accompanied by several sightings of harp seals both on the ice and in the water as well as many species of birds including Brünnich's Guillemots, Puffins, Kittiwakes and Fulmars. As the morning progressed, the sky became more overcast with a slight increase in wind, however, we had luck on our side as walrus were sighted ahead of us swimming in and around the ice flow.



After lunch, we briefly exited the pack ice and picked up some speed in order to seek out a new area to continue our experience in the ice. Whilst we were transiting through the open water the wind increased, peaking at 25 knots from a westerly direction. This caused the pack ice to compact together making it difficult to find a navigable way, we therefore skirted the ice on our port side whilst continuing our search for wildlife.

At 15:30 our Assistant Expedition Leader Michelle provided a very insightful lecture on the life of Polar Bears before we re-entered the pack ice at approximately 17:00. At 18:15 we all gathered in the lounge for an extended series of recap presentations which included a briefing from Phillipp on our plans for the next day, as well as a talk from Tiphonie on sea ice and a summary of the birds seen so far during our expedition from Ross.

Our day finished as it started, surrounded by pack ice with beautiful blue sky and sunshine; however, the day was not over as we all headed outside onto the open decks for a barbecue dinner and drinks as Plancius slowly started to make its way south towards the Hinlopen Strait for our next day of exploration.

The highest latitude reached throughout our day in the ice was 81°20.5' North.

Day 5 – 1st July

Hinlopen Strait - Alkefjellet and Torellneset

12:00 GPS Position: 80°35.7'N / 018°30.2'E

Wind: W 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Stepping out on deck brought a smile to our faces this morning as the warmth of the sun glistened off the mirror like water. Rafts of Brünnich's Guillemots could be seen as we neared their nesting cliffs, Alkefjellet, in Hinlopenstretet. Large flocks flew by, some in 'V' formation and others in a perfect line as they travelled to and from the feeding grounds. The keen photographers among us were out on deck tracking the flight path of passing birds.

After a leisurely start to the day, we headed out in the Zodiacs and towards the towering cliffs of Alkefjellet. This site is famous for the incredible numbers of Guillemots that nest on the ledges of these cliffs. In addition, the cliffs are made of an interesting geological formation where lava intruded into limestone. The cooled magma forms impressive towers, much some standing proud from the cliffs behind. The echo of Guillemots, Kittiwakes and watchful Glaucus Gulls surrounds us as we get up close in the small boats. Looking up into the blue sky, we see black swarms all around the cliffs as thousands of birds arrive and depart from the cliffs.

There are an estimated 65,000 breeding pairs here at Alkefjellet making perfect feeding grounds for those who enjoy a taste of fallen eggs, chicks or unwell adults. We caught a good sighting of a Glaucous Gull dissecting a Brünnich's Guillemot providing a feast. Later we spotted some small grey and fluff Glaucous Gull chicks, perched on a ledge. The Guillemots were still incubating their eggs at this time of year.

Those in the first two Zodiacs were lucky enough to spot an Arctic Fox. These animals are territorial and in the productive areas underneath the cliffs of Alkefjellet, there is plenty of food for a healthy population of foxes as long as they make the most of the summer activity!



The Zodiac cruise ended at a glacier front where Odinjøkulen falls from the side of the cliffs into a small bay filled with brash ice. The blues and layers of black sediment made beautiful artwork out of the glacier front.

After a nice lunch on board, sharing our stories from the morning, we headed out on deck and enjoy the sights of

Hinlopenstretet. To our port side were the flat topped, sandy yellow mountains of Nordaustland. The small islands occupying the sound are low lying dark islands. The strong currents that run through Hinlopenstretet bring productive waters which can be a good place for spotting whales. With many binoculars in use on deck, we were able to spot walrus playing in the water as we neared Torellneset: our next landing site.



It was only a short Zodiac ride to get from Plancius to the shingly beach of Torellneset. We split into 2 groups so we could each approach the walrus and have a walk in the high arctic tundra. The walk was very interesting as the landscape differed significantly from what we have seen in Svalbard so far. The flowers were mainly the Svalbard Poppy (*Papaver cornwallisense*) which is typical for the high arctic tundra. There were also plenty buttercups, drooping saxifrage, and scurvy grass. The landscape also showed clear raised beaches - a feature that forms when you have a changing sea level over 100's of years. With the sun shining and no wind, it was the perfect time to investigate and chat about all the features that we could see from plants to landscape to ice.



The haul out of walrus on the beach was impressive with over 60 of them all grunting and making entertaining noises. We had to keep a good distance (>150m) from the walrus as we were lucky enough to have a group that had mothers and pups. These are easy to spot as the young pups don't have fully developed tusks yet. We looked down the beach at the walrus with an incredible backdrop of the mountains of

east Spitsbergen. Occasional groups of water passed by the landing site, inquisitively moving along the coast.

Back on board we had our evening recap and a delicious dinner before settling down in the lounge to watch the beautiful midnight sun and the calm waters of Hinlopenstretet. Another spectacular day of glorious sun for wildlife watching in Svalbard!

Day 6 – 2nd July

Bockfjorden and Liefdefjorden

12:00 GPS Position: 79°27.9'N / 013°18.7'E

Wind: W 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 11°C

Today we awoke as usual to our expedition leader Phillipp calling us to seize the day. We all readied ourselves for breakfast and headed to the dining room for a good start to the day. A glance outside showed that the weather was not quite what we had become used to over the last few days. It was quite overcast and dark in Bockfjord where we would make our first landing of the day, but we were not to be deterred.

After breakfast we put on our expedition gear whilst the expedition team went ashore to scout before us. As soon as all clear was given we loaded into our Zodiacs and headed for the shoreline. The landing beach was covered in large pebbles and boulders but as we looked up towards the hillside, we could see it was covered in thousands of little flowers.



We split into our usual three hiking groups and set off. The long hikers going straight for the high ground, the mediums taking the hillside and the leisurely group following the lower levels of the hills. All groups got to enjoy the beautiful flowers and managed to reach the sinter terraces; large deposits of minerals left by the thermal springs flowing through some of the area. The weather improved as the morning went on and soon it was time to return to ship to relocate to the location of our next activity.

As we enjoyed our lunch in the dining room the ship relocated to our next site called Monacobreen - a huge glacier over 5 km wide! We cruised the glacier with the ship for about an hour enjoying fantastic views. Then we were off again for our third and final destination for the day.



In the afternoon the ship arrived at Texas Bar, the site for our last landing of the day. Plancius anchored nearby a small sailing ship called the “Rembrandt van Rijn” also a member of the Oceanwide family. Our guides quickly lowered the Zodiacs and went to the landing to prepare it for us. As soon as it was ready, we headed to the shore. Texas Bar is a lovely bay containing a small hunting cabin with the name Texas Bar written on the side. Inside it looked like a bar with many empty liquor bottles inside but it was very cozy. We split into our usual hiking groups and set off towards the hillside. The long hikers heading for the elevation gain whilst the medium hikers made the waterfall the goal. The

leisurely group enjoyed the stunning views from the lower hillsides.

As we started hiking, the sun came out and the bright sunshine brought out all the wonderful colors of Monacobreen in the distance and all the beautiful flowers. Those that made it to the waterfall spent some time enjoying the ambiance of fast water. All too soon it was time to return home. We wandered back down the hillside to the beach. Before we knew it, we were back on the ship, and it was time for recap. We had a wonderful array of recaps but the one we enjoyed the most was Paolos explanation of the seasons using an orange, a melon, and a load of volunteers. The results were hilarious, and we came away with knowledge of the midnight sun. After recap it was time for dinner. We headed back to the dining room to enjoy a good meal and conversation before bed. Tomorrow will be our last expedition day. What will it bring?



Day 7 – 3rd July

Lilliehöökreen and Signehamna

12:00 GPS Position: 79°20,3'N / 011°38.3'E

Wind: E 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C



After a long overnight sail, we arrived this morning to our destination in Lilliehöökfjorden and its 10km+ long glacier front. Around 6 glaciers converge in this end of the fjord to give us two hours of slow and gentle Zodiac cruising. We could see waterfalls coming from the glacier front, sediments, moraines, different types of ice and along the glacier front we saw some very high ice walls. It was interesting hearing the glacier thunder and grunt. The hollow and dry sound of breaking ice blocks, cracking somewhere in the distance but loudly. We also

got to witness a few calving events, the glacier slowly but constantly moving forward, breaking in giant pieces as if crumbling against the water.

Black legged Kittiwakes were not far behind each calving and made their way to the waters that had been stirred by falling ice. There was a lot of life around the glacier front and birds helped providing scale. Those walls really were enormous. It was a slow and gentle Zodiac cruise, peaceful and very rich in colours and textures from the ice.

In the afternoon on the other hand, we moved back towards the fjord's mouth and landed in Signehamna. This site was not only beautiful, but it had a lot of history too.

In the autumn of 1941 during WWII the Germans decided to set a network of hidden weather stations in Svalbard that will eventually provide hourly, coded reports that were essential for the weather forecasting in the North Atlantic and



Arctic, as well as North and Central Europe and consequently essential for shipping and flying operations. It was the 'Weather Wars'.

In the walks we had stunning views towards the fjord and glacier as well as an Arctic Fox, Arctic Skua and a few herds of Reindeer. To wrap up our day we had a lovely sendoff toast by the Captain, the Expedition Leader, and a guest. Last as a very fitting grand finale, Sasha shared his masterpiece, a slideshow that showcased all highlights of our trip and condensed in 20 minutes a week that will stay in our memory for ever.

Day 8 – 4th July

Disembarkation

12:00 GPS Position: 78°13.8'N / 015°36.1'E

Wind: ENE 2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

All too soon we arrived back in Longyearbyen and it was time to say our goodbyes. The staff and crew took care of our luggage, placing it carefully on the dock. We had our last breakfast aboard Plancius then gathered the last of our things and headed for the gangway. We said goodbye to the whole team onboard and alighted the bus waiting for us to start the long journey home or to our next adventure.



Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this exploratory North Atlantic voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 1041.25 nautical miles.

Farthest north: 81°20.5'N / 022°35.6'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Phillipp Schaudy, Hotel Manager Oleksandr Lyebydyev, and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!

Trip Map PLA04 – 24

No.	Time	Location	Activity
1		Longyearbyen	Boarding
2	AM	Sørgattet	Ships cruise
3	AM	Smeerenburg	Zodiac cruise
4	PM	Alicehamna	Landing
5	AM	Chermsidøya	Landing
6	PM	Parryøya	Landing
7	AM/PM	Sea Ice (80°20.5'N)	Ships cruise
8	AM	Alkefjellet	Zodiac cruise
9	PM	Torellneset	Landing
10	AM	Bockfjorden	Landing
11	PM	Monacobreen	Ships cruise
11	PM	Texas Bar	Landing
12	AM	Lilliehöökbrean	Zodiac cruise
12	PM	Signehamna	Landing



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Joseph Land

English Name	Latin	German	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	27-jun	28-jun	29-jun	30-jun	1-jul	2-jul	3-jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Ijsduiker	V							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Roodkeelduiker	B		✓				✓	✓
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Noordse stormvogel	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstöpel	Jan-van-gent	T							
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Wilde zwaan	T							
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Taigarietgans	V							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Kleine rietgans	B						✓	✓
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Brandgans	B							✓
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blässgans	Kolgans	V							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Grauwe gans	V							
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Rotgans	B							
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Sneeuwgans	V							
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Smient	T							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Wintertaling	B							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Wilde eend	T							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Pijstaart	B							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Kuifeend	T							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eidereend	B	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Konings eider	B							
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Stellers eider	V							
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Ilseend	B							
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T							
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schellente	Brilduiker	V							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpensneehuhn	Alpensneeuwhoen	B			✓			✓	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Scholekster	V							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Bontbekplevier	B							
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Goudplevier	B							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B							
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Gestreepte strandloper	V							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Paarse strandloper	B		✓	✓				

Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Kanoetstrandloper	B							
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bonte strandloper	B							
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Regenwulp	T							
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Tureluur	V							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwälzer	Steenloper	B							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Rosse franjepoot	B							
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Grauwe franjepoot	B							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Middelste jager	T				✓			
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Kleine jager	B		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Kleinste jager	B							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grote jager	B					✓		
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B							
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Kokmeeuw	V							
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Stormmeeuw	V							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Grote Burgemeester	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	Polarmöwe	Kleine burgemeester	T							
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Zilvermeeuw	V							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Kleine mantelmeeuw	V							
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Grote mantelmeeuw	B							
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Drieteenmeeuw	B		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmöwe	Rossmeeuw	T							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Ivoormeeuw	B			✓	✓			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Noordse stern	B	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Zeekoet	B							
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Dikbekzeekoet	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Grylste	Zwarte zeekoet	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Kleine alk	B	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Papegaaiduiker	B	✓	✓		✓			✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe	Boerenzwaluw	V							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Bachstelze	Witte Kwikstaart	V							
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Wiesenieper	Grasnieper	V							
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Steinschmätzer	Tapuit	B							
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel	Merel	V							
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Sneeuwgor	B		✓	✓			✓	✓
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Birkenzeisig	Barmsijs	V							
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Spornammer	Ijsgors	V							

Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wacholderdrossel	Kramsvogel	V							
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rotdrossel	Kopenwiek	V							
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Bergfink	Keep	V							
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gerfalke	Giervalk	V							

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	27-jun	28-jun	29-jun	30-jun	1-jul	2-jul	3-jul
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Walrus	B			✓	✓	✓		
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Baardrob	B				✓			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Ringelrob	B							
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Zadelrob	T				✓			
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Klapmuts	V							
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Gewone zeehond	B							✓
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Dwergvinvis	T						✓	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	Noordse vinvis	V							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Blauwe vinvis	T							
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Gewone vinvis	T							
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Bultrug	T							
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	Groenlandse walvis	T							
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Pottwal	Potvis	V							
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narwal	V							
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Entenwal (Dögling)	Butskop	V							
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orka	V							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Weisschnauzendelphin	Witsnuitdolfijn	V							
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Beloega	B							
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ijsbeer	B		✓					
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Poolvos	B					✓		✓
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Rendier	B			✓			✓	✓
Sibling vole	<i>Microtus rossiaemeridionalis</i>	Südfeldmaus	Oostelijke veldmuis	B							
Short tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Erdmaus	Aardmuis	B							



DAILY PROGRAM

Welcome aboard!

Day 1 / Thursday 27th June 2024

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

When all are on board, we are ready to cast off.

Please listen to announcements for timings:

Introduction to the ship by our hotel manager Aleks and **mandatory safety briefing and lifeboat drill** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

Thereafter we invite you to our Welcome Aboard Briefing in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

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

Robert Service, The Call Of The Wild



DAILY PROGRAM

RAUDFJORD

Day 2 | Friday 28th June 2024

- 07.00** **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** **Landing: Alicehamna.** Today we will be in the harsh northwest-corner of Spitzbergen. We will sail into Raudfjord, where our morning-landing will be close to an old trapper's cabin at Alicehamna. We plan to explore the area in different groups. The beach is easy, but besides that there will be also blocks and boulders on our hikes. (From both landings today, this is the easier one)
- 13.00** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Landing: Buchananhalvøya.** During lunch we are sailing deeper into Raudfjord, where we plan to get on shore on the peninsular Buchananhalvøya to get another impression of Spitsbergens wild northwest. As in the morning, the terrain is partly difficult and a mix of boulders, sand and tundra.
- 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)



DAILY PROGRAM

THE FAR NORTHEAST

Day 3 | Saturday 29th June 2024

- 07.15** **Wake up call.** A wonderful good morning!
- 07.30** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00** **Landing: Chermsideøya, Beverlysund.** Today's morning, we intend to land on the barren island of Chermsideøya, north of Spitzbergen. Close to our landing we find "stone-graffiti" from many years ago. Besides others from the Icebreaker Krassin, who rescued the survivors of the Nobile expedition in 1928. We also find a swastika, made by young Germans in 1939. In our three groups we will offer hikes to explore this remote polar desert.
- 12.30** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15.00** **Landing: Seven-islands.** The Seven-islands are the northernmost islands of the Svalbard archipelago and the northernmost islands of the European plate. Most time of the year they are locked in pack ice. If weather conditions are in our favour, we plan to land on Parryøya for some exploration in our three hiking groups.
- 18.30** **Today & tomorrow.** Recap & briefing in the lounge.
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served in the dining room. 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

A DAY IN THE PACK ICE

Day 4 | Sunday 30th June 2024

Expedition day in the pack ice! Northeast of the Seven Islands we will encounter the pack ice, a spectacular Arctic Wonderland. Please join us on deck in the search of wildlife – it is a brilliant experience unto itself to navigate in the polar pack.

If we have the luck to encounter wildlife, please **keep noise levels low** (voices down; close doors gently) for the best opportunities of finding and remaining with it.

- 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.
- 18.15** **Recap** of today and **briefing** for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00** **BBQ** on the back deck! Enjoy and bring your dancing rubber-boots 😊.

"We need the tonic of wildness... At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature."

Henry David Thoreau (Walden: Or, Life in the Woods)



DAILY PROGRAM

HINLOPENSTRETET

Day 5 | Sunday 01st July 2024

- 07.45** **Rise and shine.** Wake up call.
- 08.00** **Breakfast.** Let's get a bite.
- 09.30** **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.
- 12.30** **Lunch** is waiting for us.
- 15.00** **Landing: Torellneset.** In southern Hinlopen, Torellneset is a very good place to see walrus. If our friends are at home, we will visit the animals in two groups. **Both groups will get the same amount of time with the walrus.**
- 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** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.00** Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

*Men wanted for hazardous journey.
Small wages. Bitter cold.
Long months of complete darkness.
Constant danger.
Safe return doubtful.
Honour and recognition in case of success.*

*Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922) newspaper announcement before his
Endurance Expedition*



DAILY PROGRAM

Bockfjord / Liefdefjord

Day 6 | Tuesday 02nd July 2024

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Landing: Bockfjord.** Named after a German surveyor, Bockfjord is a smaller branch of Woodfjord. Here we find the only visible traces of volcanism in Spitsbergen, including the pyramidal volcanic ruin of Sverrefjellet and sinter terraces deposited from the warm mineral-rich waters. We plan on three hiking options for terrific views and exploration. Especially on the long walk the terrain is getting more difficult (blockfields), the further we hike. The “beach” is pebbly.
- 12.30 **Lunch** is waiting for us. Enjoy your meal.
- Monacobreen, Liefdefjorden.** We are in the inner part of Liefdefjorden (Lovefjord), where majestic Monacobreen spills into the sea. We are sailing into the fjord and are **at the glacier front** early afternoon, to enjoy great views from the ship.
- 16.00 Landing: Texas Bar, Liefdefjorden.** This afternoon we want to get ashore on the northern side of Liefdefjorden, at a small trapper’s cabin called “Texas Bar”. We will split into groups and explore the tundra in different walking groups. Except for the strenuous hike, walking here is easy.
- 19.00** Daily **recap & briefing** for tomorrow.
- 19.30 Enjoy your meal. **Dinner** is served!

*A lonely seagull flies the winds
Majestic... soaring...gliding wings
A single screech sounds from the sky
Come fly with me... come here and fly*

Author unknown



DAILY PROGRAM

Lilliehöökfjord

Day 7 | Wednesday 03rd July 2024

- 07.15 Good morning! **Wake up call.**
- 07.30 **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09.00 **Zodiac cruise: Lilliehöökbreen.** This morning we wake up in beautiful Krossfjorden in central-west Spitsbergen. Heading further inland, we get closer to the massive glacierfront Lilliehöökbreen. We intend to drop boats and invite you for a Zodiac cruise towards and along this beautiful glacier.
- 12.30 Our **lunch-buffet** is waiting for us in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal.
- 14.30 Landing: Signehamna.** After lunch, we plan to land at Signehamna on the west side of the fjord. In our hiking groups we invite you to explore the country. A bit inland are the remains of the German weather stations “Knospe” and “Nussbaum”, which was used in the years 1941 and 42. The topography is undulating but generally easy.
- 18.00 Farewell Cocktail with Captain & last official meeting.** Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.00 **The Last Supper.** Bon Appetite!

BE A SEAGULL
Take the breath
Of the wings of morning
Lift your eyes
To the canyons
Of the skies
And fly!

Richard Bach, 1970, Jonathan Livingston Seagull



DAILY PROGRAM

LONGYEARBYEN

Day 8 | Thursday 04th July 2024

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! The crew will bring it on shore.

Orange Tags: flight SK4425 at 14.30

Blue Tags: flight SK4491 at 16.25

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

from 08.45 **Last landing: Longyearbyen.** The busses will bring you to town and drop you in the centre at Svalbardbutikken.

Please **identify your luggage** on shore, to be sure it's off the vessel.

12.30 For all booked on the flight **SK4425 at 14.30:** The **bus** is leaving from **town to the airport**, from where it dropped you before.

14.45 For all booked on the flight **SK4491 at 16.25:** The **bus** is leaving from **town to the airport**, from where it dropped you before.

*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“*

On behalf of Captain, Crew and Staff, have a safe journey home!

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!

Michelle van Dijk

Assistant Expedition Leader



Is nearly a 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 spends four months a year on Spitsbergen guiding day trips, trekking tours & 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 also lived in Sweden & Iceland.

Her first visit of 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. Michelle published a book about Sjef van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928 and the Dutch Spitsbergen guidebook on which she worked together with Rolf Stange.

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 speak to her any language you like, but she will only reply in Dutch, English, German or Swedish.

Alexander Romanovskiy

Expedition Guide



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geoecological researches.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide



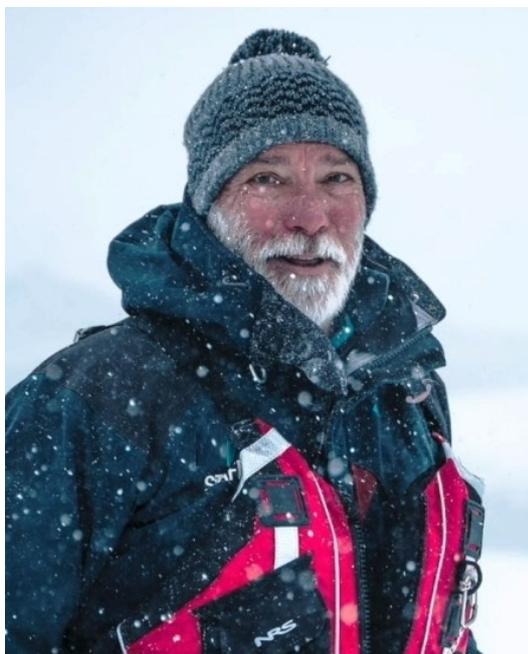
After graduating from her Geology honours degree in 2018 at Glasgow, Beth balanced two jobs until she succumbed to full time in the guiding world in 2021. Beth worked as a deckhand / guide on a tall ship and, when on the land, as an Engineering Geologist working mainly on Scotland's road and railway networks.

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These

are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

Beth also enjoys spending time in the mountains of Scotland where she works when she is not guiding on board ships. She grew up sailing around the islands of the west coast of Scotland - home to some fascinating geology where she spent many field trips during her undergraduate years. This sparked the desire to explore and embark on adventures to discover new landscapes and cultures around the world.

John Rogers - Expedition Guide



History came early to John as his home town of Concord, Massachusetts, is famous as the site of the first battle of the American Revolution and much early American literary culture. He learned to swim in Walden Pond, of Thoreau fame. His love of the outdoors started with family holidays to lakes and mountains.

His first career was in computer software development which allowed for numerous extended travelling holidays in the USA and then to New Zealand – where he still lives. The travelling continued with visits to every continent

– the final one being Antarctica in 2001 as a passenger and then for several seasons as a guide.

Along the way John has managed several trips north of the Arctic Circle backpacking, river rafting and exploring in Alaska, Norway and Iceland.

John's approach to the history is to concentrate on the stories of the places and people who inhabit and have explored to the extremes of the earth. Polar history is filled with remarkable stories of adventures, perseverance, triumph and defeat. He encourages anyone on this voyage with specialized knowledge, or with a family connection, to help him others share in this fantastic legacy.

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Born in Argentina (Dec 80') and raised in Italy, Paolo finally moved to Scotland where he settled in 2006. Nowadays, when not at sea, he splits his time between Argentina and Scotland.

Before expedition cruises Paolo spent 12 years working shoreside in merchant shipping. He was a Product Manager for a Norwegian company developing Voyage Planning and Marine Weather Forecasting Systems for merchant ships.

He also started Paragliding at the age of 14 and has been very involved in the sport as a school owner instructing both beginners and advanced courses for over 20 years. When not paragliding, Paolo likes to sea kayak and he mixes Field Guide with Kayak Guide roles onboard.

In 2021 he started working full time in expedition cruises, since then he has guide in several expeditions such as Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands, Greenland West coast, Greenland East coast, Iceland, Faroes Islands and British Isles.

Aside from sea kayaking and flying he is into hiking, motorbikes and spending time with friends. He is passionate about polar regions and sharing the experience with our guests.

“Happiness is only real when shared” (Chris McCandless)

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Ross Wheeler - Expedition Guide



Ross lives in a small town in Cornwall, which is located in the south western corner of the UK. As he grew up in a coastal town he has always been fascinated by marine wildlife and the marine environment.

Having completed an undergraduate degree and master's degree in environmental sciences / conservation biology at Plymouth University he then went on to use his passion and education to work as an environmental consultant and researcher in the coastal

and marine field.

This progressed into the offshore sector where he worked as a marine mammal observer and passive acoustic monitoring operator in the offshore seismic and renewable industry sectors. This role took him to a wide range of areas throughout the North Atlantic, Central Africa and Southern Africa where he conducted marine mammal and sea bird surveys aboard various survey vessels. After a few years in this industry he then moved into the environmental compliance side of the cruise ship industry where he continues to work for six months of the year today. Whether he is working on ships around the world, volunteering for conservation based organisations or travelling in his 'time off' he is constantly seeking opportunities to photograph wildlife in their natural environment.

Feel free to ask him any questions about marine mammals, seabirds or anything environmentally related with the shipping industry.

Tiphanie May - Expedition Guide



Tiphanie is an 8th generation Falkland Islander living in Stanley. She was raised on a small group of islands called Speedwell Island Group, owned and worked by her parents as a sheep farm and family crab business.

Tiph was raised surrounded by Falkland's wildlife with her family island boasting rookeries of Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins as well as several other breeding birds. The islands also include haul outs of South American sealions and elephant seals. Surrounded by all this wildlife it was of no surprise that she found nature

fascinating. From the penguin couple that lived under her house to the wonderful variety of creatures found in the crab pots, marine life was a theme. This led to her to travel to the UK at 16 to study to be a marine biologist.

Tiph spent 6 years in the UK studying to get her BSc (HONS) Marine Biology and MSc in Marine Biology. Using her holidays to volunteer in the Falklands for various conservation projects to gain experience. Upon completing her studies, she joined the Government Fisheries Department, spending 200 days per year at sea monitoring seabird activity and collecting research material. The sea has been a big part of her life, from a young age she worked to haul crab pots with her father's boat. Later she went on to work for an experimental sustainable fish farm which allowed her to get her RYA qualifications in Power Boat. Tiph currently works full time operating a small boat in the Falklands.

Tiphanie started working in the tourist industry at the age of 23. Having grown up with no roads her whole life, 4X4 tour driving just made sense. Tiph has worked to provide a variety of tours such as hiking, 4X4 and penguin colony visits. In 2018, Tiphanie was offered the amazing opportunity to go to Antarctica and South Georgia with Oceanwide as guide. She fell in love with the scale of the landscape and has never looked back.

Jon - Ships Doctor



Meet Jon, currently living in Birmingham, United Kingdom. With a background as an intensive care consultant, he brings a wealth of medical expertise to our expedition. Jon has volunteered his time on several similar expeditions to this, which has seen him contribute his work across five continents. He values global exploration and has an interest in understanding and embracing the local cultures on his travels.

Having lived in New Zealand for eight years, he can call himself a kiwi despite his persistent British accent. Outside of medicine, Jon enjoys road cycling, mountain biking, and snowboarding, but is willing to give anything adventurous a go! His remaining spare time is currently dedicated to a diploma in mountain medicine, showcasing his commitment to expanding his skills in challenging outdoor environments.