

# Spitsbergen, Northeast Greenland

02 – 10 September 2023

*m/v Plancius*



*Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was originally named "Hr. Ms. Tydeman." The vessel was rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) regulations. She is 89m long, 14.5m wide, and has a maximum draft of 5m. Her ice class is 1D and she averages a cruising speed of 10,5 knots using three diesel-electric engines.*

## **Captain Artur Lakovlev**

And his international crew of 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	<b>Nino Cizmic</b>	[Croatia]
Third Officer:	<b>Eline Schuurman</b>	[The Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Ingrid Van de Loo</b>	[The Netherlands]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	<b>Karolina Guziejko</b>	[Poland]
Head Chef:	<b>Khabir Moraes</b>	[India]
Sous Chef:	<b>Sachin Anant</b>	[India]
Ships doctor:	<b>Veronique Verhoeven</b>	[Belgium]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Rinie van Meurs</b>	[The Netherlands]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	<b>Michelle van Dijk</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Chloe Marechal</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Irene Kastner</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Martin Anstee</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Frigga Kruse</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Ross Wheeler</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Pierre Gallego</b>	[Luxembourg]

**We welcome you on board!**

## Day 1 – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, Akureyri, Embarkation Day

**17h00 GPS Position:** 65°41.1'N / 018°04.4E

**Wind:** SSE6 • **Sea:** Moderate • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** +16°C • **Sea temperature:** +8°C

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We began our expedition in Akureyri, having travelled from all over the world to reach the spectacularly scenic island of Iceland. Once safely on board MV Plancius, our new home for the next week, we familiarised ourselves with our new surroundings and undertook all the required mandatory safety briefings. As our mooring lines were let go and we said goodbye to a blustery Akureyri, we toasted our forthcoming adventure with Captain Artur, Expedition Leader Rinie, and the rest of the expedition team in the observation lounge. We then set off to the restaurant for a relaxed first buffet dinner amongst new friends. Our first evening onboard was spent relaxing and socialising in the lounge or on the open decks as we sailed north through Akureyri Fjord and into the open waters of the Denmark Strait.



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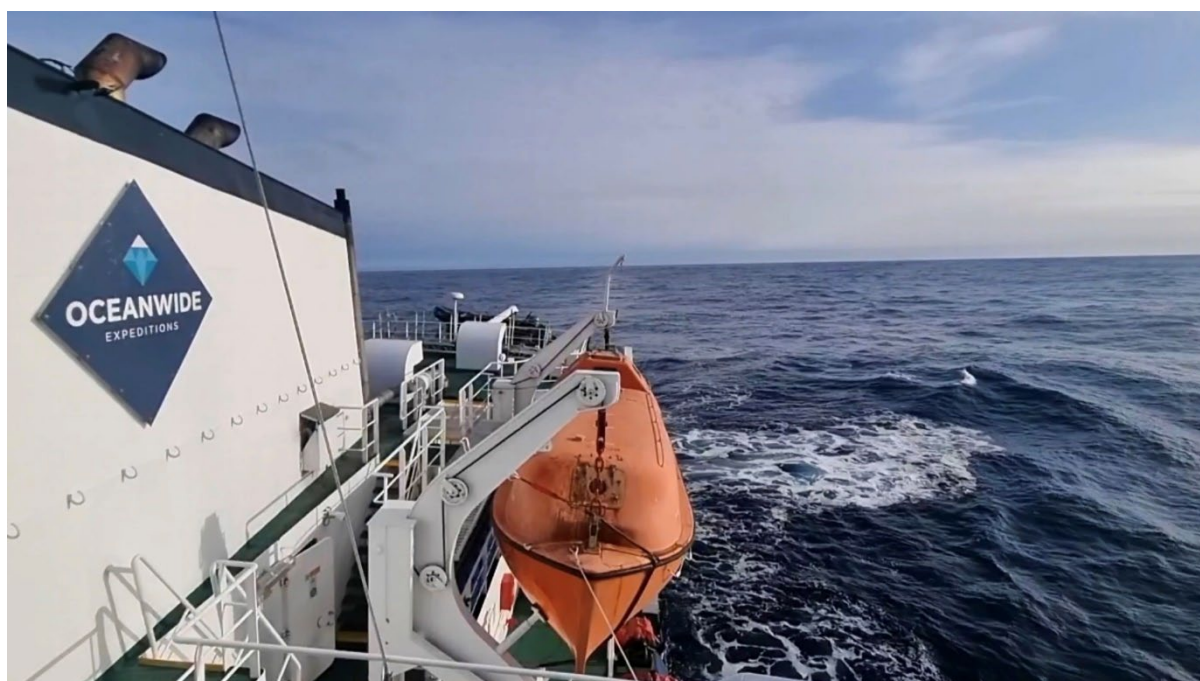
## Day 2 – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, at sea towards Greenland

**12h00 GPS Position:** 68°40.5'N / 020°32.0E

**Wind:** SE4 • **Sea:** Moderate • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** +6°C • **Sea temperature:** +7°C

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As the distance from Akureyri in Iceland to the mouth of Scoresby Sund in Greenland is approximately 300 nautical miles (ca. 560 km), a whole day at sea was inevitable. The ship had already started to move significantly during the night. By morning, most of us had reached for our seasickness pills or plasters. We did not actually experience a storm; there was in fact hardly any wind. Instead we were feeling the effects of an old storm that blew south of Iceland that had whipped up the sea into three-metre-high swell. Nonetheless, the educational program would proceed as planned for those who still wished to attend it.



Lectures are offered that fit the situation the best, so it was Ross who kicked off, with an introduction to polar photography and how to make the most of the sights and sightings that we were likely to encounter on our voyage. As visibility was good throughout the day, we then kept a lookout for whales and seabirds on the open ocean, and some of us put into practice what we had just learned about image composition. With seabirds gracefully gliding around the ship the whole morning, it seemed fitting that Chloe's plankton lecture would be postponed in favour of Martin speaking about the birds of Greenland (well, a common fraction of them as we would by no means see all 55 to 60 annually breeding species!). Afterwards, we were better able to appreciate the company which the Great Shearwaters and Sooty Shearwaters had given us until about dinner time – these birds nest in the Falkland Islands in the southern hemisphere before migrating to their North Atlantic feeding grounds in winter.

They usually stick to the latitudes of France, but the same storm that caused the swell seemed to have blown them in the Arctic, where we were now able to marvel at them. The mandatory briefings and the collection of the rubber boots bore no surprises – how well we all listened would show during our first disembarkation on the following day (but I can write with hindsight that the group did exceedingly well getting out of the Zodiacs, dividing into hiking groups, getting back into the Zodiacs... and turning *all* the cards on the tag board back to green on the first attempt.

During the first daily recap of several to come the topics covered were a short biography of Petrus Plancius by Michelle and an overview of fin whales and a comparison to blue whales by Pierre. We were happy to note that around midnight, we reached the mouth of Scoresby Sund and the swell was finally losing its grip on the ship.





## Day 3 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of September, Hurry Inlet

**12h00 GPS Position:** 70°41.2'N / 22°34.6E

**Wind:** NE2 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** +6°C • **Sea temperature:** +6°C

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Today we kicked off our adventure in Greenland, right in the heart of the stunning Hurry Inlet. This fjord earned its name back in 1822 when William Scoresby Jr. paid tribute to Mr. Nicholas Hurry, the managing-owner of their vessel, the BAFFIN.

In the morning, our expedition set foot on the eastern shores of the inlet. The hikers embarked on a journey to appreciate the breathtaking views of the lagoon. Meanwhile, those opting for a medium-level hike ascended slightly to enjoy panoramic scenes. The leisurely group, in contrast, delighted in the picturesque scenery from the comfort of a Zodiac.

Upon reaching the afternoon, our destination was Dumbrava, an area nestled on the eastern coastline of Hurry Inlet. Here, in 1930, Constantin Dumbrava, a Romanian scientist, audaciously erected a dwelling with the ambition of engaging in trade with the locals. However, his ambitions were short-lived, as he was apprehended and returned to Europe in 1931. Subsequently, the house fell under the purview of the Scoresby Sund municipality, where it served as a base for hunting expeditions. Our journey took us on a walk through the tundra, affording us panoramic views of a valley and its receding glacier. During this exploration, both the medium and long-hike groups had an enchanting encounter with a blue morph Arctic fox. These rare creatures exhibit dark blue, brown, or grey fur year-round, comprising just 1% of the total Arctic fox population. Meanwhile, the leisurely group enjoyed the opportunity to observe ringed plovers, which were easily recognizable by their distinctive broad black breast bands. Furthermore, they conducted observations of lichens, plants, and microscopic life aided by handheld magnifiers.



## Day 4 – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of September, Sydkap & Rypefjord

**11h00 GPS Position:** 71°17.6'N / 25°00.9E

**Wind:** ENE2 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Fog • **Air temperature:** +4°C • **Sea temperature:** +5°C

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We awoke at 0745 to our wakeup call from Rinie and to a thick blanket of fog. Overnight we had sailed to Sydkap, an area used by hunters since 1934. The anchor was dropped, and we went to breakfast to wait for the fog to clear.

Following another fine breakfast, we ventured out on deck to take in the morning air and wait for the fog to clear. We had tantalizing views of the mountains around us as the fog cleared for a minute and then rolled back in. Icebergs loomed out of the fog and then were enveloped once again by a thick blanket.



At 1030 Frygga entertained and educated us with a lecture on Arctic archeological cultures. During the lecture the fog cleared once again to give us another tantalizing view of the landing site only for the fog to roll in once again. Chloe ventured out into the fog to fish for plankton and came back with some fascinating examples of copepods, which we were lucky enough to view through a microscope.

It then became too late to land at Sydkap, and with the afternoons ships cruise to look forward to, it was time to heave anchor and make our way towards Øfjord, a 60-mile-long ships cruise through one of the most spectacular stretches of scenery in Greenland.

We enjoyed another wonderful lunch as we travelled towards the start of the fjord and as lunch finished, we entered the mouth of the fjord. Øfjord lies between Milne Land and Renland with stunning peaks of up to almost 2,900 meters.



Part way into the journey we travelled past a spectacular mountain that resembles a cathedral. The mountain is called Grundtvigskirken and was named after one of the most famous churches in Copenhagen.

The ship was steered around the many impressive icebergs, giving us a truly memorable afternoon, towards Rypefjord, a 30-Kilometre-long beautiful fjord with the Eielson Glacier at its head.

As the ship came to a halt inside the fjord we settled down to another great dinner, as dinner came to an end the sun set and with that the light on the surrounding mountains was sublime. What an end to a wonderful day, full of memories (and lots of photos) of spectacular scenery.



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## Day 5 – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of September, Rypefjord and Harefjord

**12h00 GPS Position:** 70°59.6'N / 27°43.3W

**Wind:** Light air • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Clear sky • **Air temperature:** +8°C • **Sea temperature:** +5°C

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In the morning, we touched down in Rypefjord, a place where the name itself, "Rype," pays homage to the Ptarmigan, a common bird in the region. This fjord was given its name by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition, led by Carl Ryder, who stumbled upon it during a sled journey in April 1892. The Greenlandic name for this location has also been recorded as Aqissit Kangersuat.

The day welcomed us with abundant sunshine and warmth. During the morning, we embarked on a hike through the red and orange tundra. Here, we were fortunate to spot snow buntings, the northernmost breeders of any land-based bird. These "snowflakes" inhabit pockets of tundra not cloaked in ice. Additionally, we had the privilege of encountering some shy muskoxen.



Later in the day, we made landfall in Harefjord, another place named by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition, led by Carl Ryder, in honor of the Arctic hares that inhabit the area. The Greenlandic version of the name is Ukattit Kangersuat.



During our exploration, hikers conquered a hill to enjoy a breathtaking view of the fjord, which was packed with icebergs. They also had the privilege of spotting an Arctic hare, a creature known for its remarkable speed, capable of reaching up to 64 km/h (40 mph) to evade predators like Arctic wolves, Arctic foxes, Gyrfalcons, and Snowy owls. The medium hiking group had an awe-inspiring encounter with a herd of eight muskoxen. These herds typically consist of females and young, led by one dominant mature bull. Instead of hiking extensively, the group chose to sit in silence, observing this remarkable spectacle without disturbing the animals.

Meanwhile, the leisurely group embarked on a Zodiac cruise to observe the muskoxen. Along the way, they also had the chance to encounter seals and get up close to icebergs.

To wrap up the day, the galley and the hotel department arranged a BBQ on the deck. We delighted in delectable food, warm glühwein, and outdoor dancing, all while savoring the picturesque Greenlandic landscapes.



## Day 6 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of September, Røde fjord and Røde O

**12h00 GPS Position:** 70°30.5'N / 28°07.1W

**Wind:** W4 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** +3°C • **Sea temperature:** +4°C

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After a calm night in Rypefjord, we did not linger there but lifted the anchor to leave for a ship's cruise through the long Røde fjord, the red fjord. The name was given by Carl Ryder's East Greenland Expedition in 1891-92 and calls attention to the red rocks that make up the mountains on the west side of the fjord. The red rocks are so-called Old Red Sandstone of Devonian age. Sand and conglomerate layers as thick as 8 km were deposited in large, submerged basins over a time span of no less than 30 million years. The deposits were lithified and later uplifted to form the scenery surrounding us.



© Martin Anstee

Geology, however, was not the main attraction of Røde fjord. Most of us took innumerable photos of the huge icebergs all around the ship. Most of these were derived from the enormous Daugaard Jensen Gletscher a far distance away. While this glacier's iceberg mostly drift into the open sea, some get caught in Øfjord and Røde fjord, where they get stuck behind Rødeö and slowly melt away.

Just as we reached the small Rødeö, also named after the geology, the sun broke through. It got unexpectedly warm on the zodiac cruise around the island, and the ice shone in a marvellous array of blue hues. The layers of the large red cliff on the back of the island were disrupted by a conspicuous dyke. A dyke is a geological formation, whereby molten rock (magma) from deep within the Earth's crust rise into cracks in the already existent sandstone and later harden to the grey basalt sheet we observed. The basalt is very hard, so when the sandstone erodes away, the dyke remains behind.



We were also able to land in a small bay of Rødeö, from where we walked up the side of the island to look down on the “iceberg graveyard”. On several occasions, there was a loud noise like rumbling thunder when a nearby iceberg would begin to partly collapse.

In bright sunshine, we went back to the Plancius and continued our journey through the Fönfjord. Unfortunately, the clouds soon closed in on us and we were again not able to see any northern lights.



## Day 7 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of September, Ittoqqortoormiit

**12h00 GPS Position:** 70°28.5'N / 21°50.2W

**Wind:** NE5 • **Sea:** Smooth • **Weather:** Overcast

**Air temperature:** +3°C • **Sea temperature:** +2°C

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After so many days of exploring wilderness and remote areas, we would need to carefully adapt to civilisation again. A visit to Ittoqqortoormiit, a little village of roughly 350 souls at the entrance of Scoresby Sound and one of the world's most isolated settlements served that purpose well. After breakfast, we boarded the Zodiacs for our last landing and spent the morning walking streets again! Ittoqqortoormiit was founded only roughly 100 years ago in 1925, when a group of settlers set out from Tasiilaq further south to look for new hunting grounds. The fjords of Scoresby Sound were rich in seals, polar bears and narwhals, and the ned wettlement project was actively supported by colonial Denmark as supportive of the Danish sovereignty.



A little museum displayed a few historic photographs, the little but very beautiful church was open for us to visit, and we could buy traditional handicraft souvenirs at the workshop by the harbor and in the tourist information. A few puppies were roaming the streets and willing to be cuddled and soon, loud howling and barking announced the breakfast for the grown up four-legged workers by the river. Ittoqqortoormiit has its own weather station. We were able so observe the preparations and launch of the 11 o'clock release to collect data for the regional forecast. Walking gravel streets in our own tempo and desired direction was quite nice, although we had to be careful, as the locals were driving quite fast on their ATVs. On the way up the hill we passed a bright green soccer field and the local helipad. The harbour of Ittoqqortoormiit is blocked by ice mot of the year and the flight connections via Constable Point Airfield in Hurry Inlet provide the only reliable connection to the rest of the world.

By lunchtime it was time for us to return to our ship. A last zodiac ride later, everyone was back on board in time for lunch as the ship set course for the Denmark Strait. For the afternoon, Cloé had prepared a lecture on plankton, and of course she had not missed the opportunity to take some samples from the Scoresby Sound! Through the microscope, we were able to take a good look at the copepods, whereas the sea butterflies were big enough to be admired by the eye as they were flapping their wings. Alas, also this evening was cloudy and we were not able to search the skies for northern lights. Maybe, maybe...tomorrow?





## Day 8 – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of September, At sea towards Iceland

**12h00 GPS Position:** 67°21.1'N / 19°25.1W

**Wind:** NNE6 • **Sea:** Moderate • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** +4°C •

**Sea temperature:** +6°C

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Today Rinie woke us up to a sea that was still a little rough. The crossing overnight had been a little bit shaky as well. A lot of fulmars were flying around the ship, and we even saw a couple of gannets. After a hearty breakfast, the bridge spotted killer whales in the rough sea. After hearing the announcement on the PA system, we all ran to the outer decks to get a glimpse of these magnificent animals. It was very difficult to spot them as they were surfacing only once and spending five minutes under water. The large waves did not make things easier. After about one hour of the captain's efforts to follow the killer whales, Plancius eventually went back to its course towards Iceland. Ross then gave us another workshop on photography where he taught us how to edit pictures.

Right after lunch, we could still not see Iceland. In the afternoon, Irene gave us a lecture on her activities in Longyearbyen, where she looks after dogs for her dog sledging activities. It was very interesting to learn about her experiences and how she works with these kinds of dogs. At 4:30 PM the time arrived to say goodbye to our rubber boots, and we brought them back to the boot room.

We were then all called deck by deck to go to reception to settle our bar bills. Some of us had quite a surprise. At 6 PM. It was time to go to the observation lounge for the captain's cocktail, where our captain addressed us for the last time. Rinie also thanked us all for choosing Oceanwide Expeditions, thanked the entire staff and crew for this incredible voyage, and took us through all the memories of the different steps of this expedition. Ross then showed us the slideshow of the trip, with all the beauties that we had experience during these past days. But then a sperm whale appeared right next to the ship, and we could all observe it until it fluked up and disappeared.



It was then time to go for our last plated dinner in the dining room, where our chef Kabir spoiled us again with his delicious creations. At the end of the dinner, the entire crew from the kitchen, hotel department, and laundry came through the dining room to say goodbye, and it was wonderful to be able to see all the faces again. We then all gathered at the bar for a couple of drinks. We all could not believe that our fantastic trip had come to an end.



## Day 9 – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of September, Arrived in Akureyri

**09h00 GPS Position:** 65°41.1'N / 18°04.4E

**Wind:** SSE2 • **Sea:** Calm • **Weather:** Overcast • **Air temperature:** +14°C • **Sea temperature:** +6°C

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

Our wildlife encounters and the landscapes we saw on this trip were truly spectacular. For the most part, the weather was fantastic, and we loved sharing our passion for the Arctic with you.

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

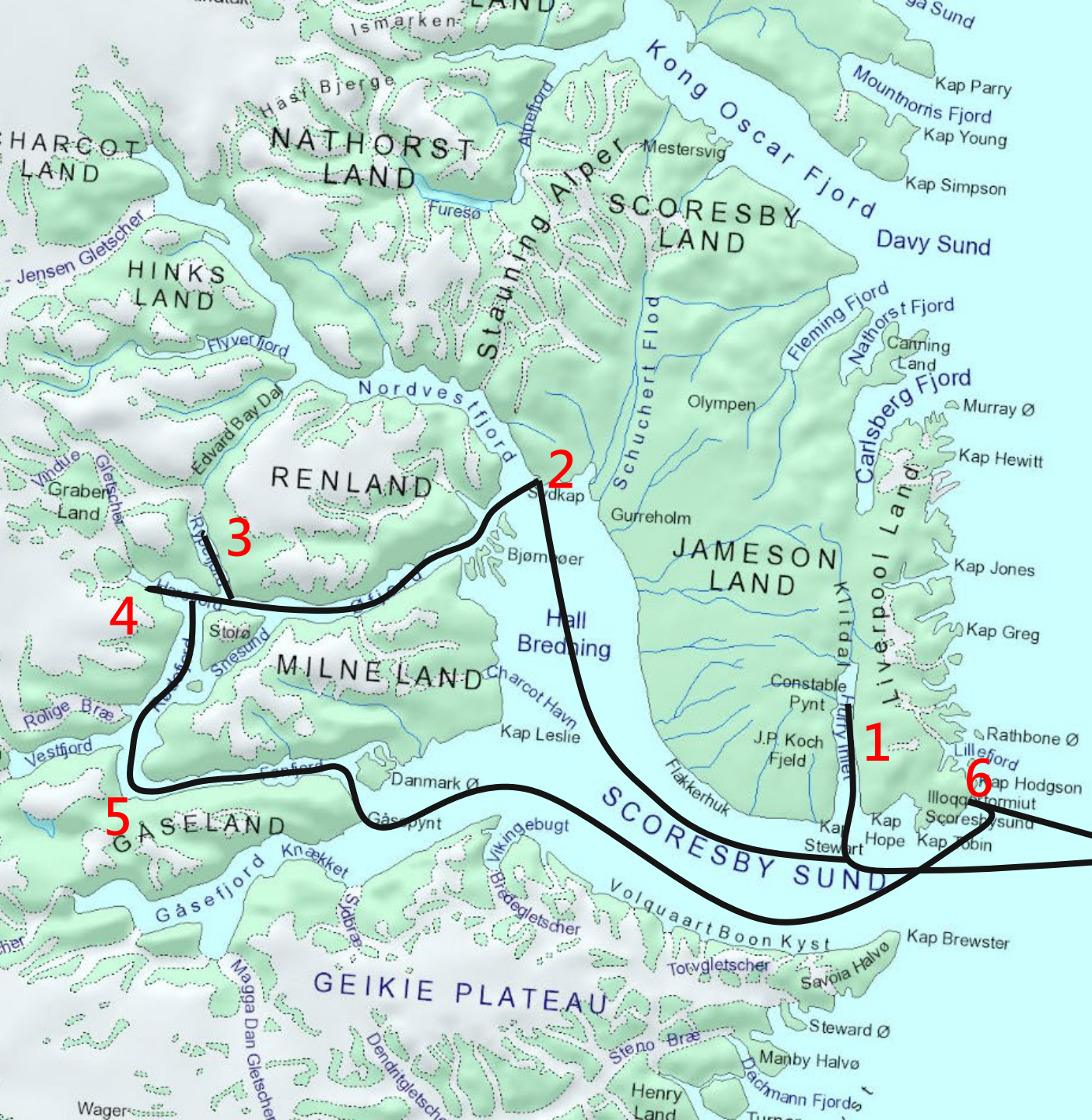
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Thank you from  
your expedition  
team



**Total distance sailed: 1049 nautical miles**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Artur Iakovlev, Expedition Leader Rinie van Meurs, Hotel Manager Ingrid Van de Loo, and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



## Scoresby sund

- 1- Hurry Inlet
- 2- Sydkap
- 3- Rypefjord
- 4- Harefjord
- 5- Rød ø
- 6- Ittoqqortoormiit

# Chart Title

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1





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# Rinie van Meurs - Expedition Leader

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After a formal education in Forestry and Nature Conservation, Rinie started to travel around the world in search of wildlife and in particularly birds.

However, he was already attracted by the polar regions since he was a boy. After he finished his study, he went in the early eighties on private trips to Iceland and Northern Scandinavia; this was as Arctic as he could afford. However, he knew, further north the pack ice in the high Arctic Ocean that was his goal. To explore one day the sea ice, as the early explorers did, that was something he could only dream of. Until 1989, he managed to find a job on board of the "old" Plancius as a potato peeler for his first season in Spitsbergen. After he came back, he knew he was definitely hooked on the high latitudes. Rinie became one of the industry's first expedition leaders and a pioneer in exploring new landing sites in Spitsbergen and the Antarctic. Only around Spitsbergen he has made more than 200 expedition cruises. He knows Spitsbergen better than his own backyard! Since '89 then he has logged in his seaman's book more than of 300 expedition cruises

including; East- and West Greenland, the Canadian high Arctic, Franz Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya, Geographical North Pole, Antarctica, South Georgia, the Falklands, the sub Antarctic Islands of New Zealand, and many islands along the Atlantic Ridge. During these years, spending so much time exploring the Arctic and having the opportunity to encounter so many Polar Bears in the ice, he has become absolutely passionate about these magnificent animals. Give him a ship with the right ice class and Rinie will take you to the Polar Bears. He has become an expert in leading Polar Bear trips. He is also leading every fall Polar Bear trips on the Hudson Bay. He has published four photo books on the Polar Regions of which one was about the Polar Bears of Spitsbergen.

## Deutsch

Nach einer formalen Ausbildung in einem Forst- und Naturschutz begab Rinie sich auf die Suche nach Wildtieren und vor allem Vögeln während er um die Welt reiste.

Allerdings war er schon seit seiner Kindheit von den Polarregionen fasziniert. Nach Abschluss seines Studiums unternahm er Anfang der achtziger Jahre private Reisen nach Island und Nordskandinavien. das war so weit in die Arktis wie es sich finanziell leisten konnte. Er wusste jedoch das weiter nördlich das Packeis im hohen Arktischen Ozean war und das war sein Ziel. Um eines Tages das Meereis zu erkunden, wie es die frühen Entdecker taten, hiervon konnte er nur träumen. 1989 bekam er seinen ersten Job in Spitzbergen einen Job an Bord der "alten" Plancius als Kartoffelschäler. Rinie wurde einer der ersten Expeditionsleiter der Branche und ein Pionier bei der Erkundung neuer Landeplätze in Spitzbergen und der Antarktis. Alleine rund um Spitzbergen hat er mehr als 200 Expeditionskreuzfahrten unternommen. Er kennt Spitzbergen besser als seinen eigenen Hinterhof! Seit '89 hat er in seinem Seemannsbuch mehr als 300 Expeditionskreuzfahrten eingetragte, einschließlich Ost- und Westgrönland, die kanadische Hocharktis, Franz-Josef-Land, Novaya-Zemlya, der geografische Nordpol, Antarktis, Südgeorgien, die Falklandinseln, die subantarktischen Inseln Neuseelands und viele Inseln entlang des Atlantischen Rückens. Er hat in diesen Jahren so viel Zeit damit verbracht die Arktis zu erkunden und vor allem die Möglichkeit um viele Eisbären im Eis zu begegnen, das wurde für ihn die größte Leidenschaftlich geworden. Gib ihm ein Schiff mit der richtigen Eisklasse und Rinie bringt dich zu den Eisbären. Er ist ein Experte für die Führung von Eisbären-Reisen geworden. Er leitet auch jeden Herbst Eisbären-Reisen auf der Hudson Bay. Er hat vier Fotobücher über die Polarregionen veröffentlicht, von denen eines von den Eisbären Spitzbergen handelte.

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## Michelle van Dijk – Assistant Expedition Leader

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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 homebase since 2004.

Living in a tent, she spends three months a year on Spitsbergen guiding day trips, trekking & 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 whereafter she published a book about Sjeff van Dongen, who took part in the rescue operation after Nobile's airship crashed in 1928. Her second book was a Dutch Spitsbergen guidebook, in collaboration with Rolf Stange.

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

### Deutsch

Michelle besitzt Longyearbyen Camping, den nördlichsten Campingplatz der Welt. Als sie 2001 zum ersten Mal die Arktis besuchte, verliebte sie sich in diese karge, minimalistische Landschaft. Sie arbeitete anschließend als Naturführerin auf Tages- und Trekkingtouren sowie Expeditionskreuzfahrten.

Sie lebte in Schweden und Island und arbeitete dort, denn sie glaubt, dass man einem Land am besten nahe kommt, wenn man dort auch zur Arbeit geht.

Michelle hat an der Universität Groningen einen Kurs in Arktischen und Antarktischen Studien belegt. Sie hat in der Antarktis, auf den Falklands, Faröer-Inseln, Grönland, Island, Jan Mayen, in Schweden, auf Spitzbergen und Südgeorgien gearbeitet.

Sie können Michelle in verschiedenen Sprachen ansprechen, aber sie wird nur in Holländisch, Englisch, Deutsch oder Schwedisch antworten.



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# Chloé Maréchal – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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



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# Irene Kastner - Expedition Guide

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In her ordinary life, Irene was working as an accountant for a major Norwegian company in Tromsø. However, she has a hard time sitting still for long periods and has a strong urge to explore the outdoors. Luckily for her, she lived in Longyearbyen, Svalbard with access to both fibre cable internet providing her with the chance to attend to her customers online, and impressive wildlife right outside her bedroom.

She first came to Longyearbyen in 1999 to help her best friend move back to the mainland after a year at the local university. They could have saved themselves the effort, since they both were back on the archipelago the year after. Several years of commuting back and forth followed and eventually, Irene surrendered to the Polar Bug and moved to Longyearbyen for good.

Irene's special interest is sled dogs. She has been working with Alaskan Huskies for over ten years, both at racing kennels and with tour operators. Her own team of eager huskies is taken care of by fellow mushers while she joins us on our expeditions to areas where sled dogs have been the main form of transport during winter for centuries.

## Deutsch

Irene Kastner arbeitet eigentlich als Buchhalter für einen größeren Konzern in Tromsø. Aber das länger Stillsitzen war noch nie ihre Stärke, und sie hat einen unwiderstehlichen Drang, ihre Umgebung zu erkunden.

Glücklicherweise wohnt sie in Longyearbyen auf Spitzbergen. Hier hat man nicht nur eine sehr schnelle Internet-Verbindung, die einem die Kundenbetreuung online ermöglicht, auch liegt die faszinierende und vielfältige Natur hier gleich vor dem Schlafzimmer.

Glücklicherweise wohnt sie in Longyearbyen auf Spitzbergen, wo sie nicht nur eine sehr schnelle Internet-Verbindung hat, die ihr das Fernstudium im Fach Buchhaltung und Rechnungswesen ermöglichte, sondern auch die faszinierende und vielfältige Natur gleich vor der Tür.

Irene kam 1999 zum ersten Mal nach Spitzbergen, um einer Freundin beim Umzug zu helfen. Die Mühe hätten beide sich sparen können, denn noch nicht mal ein Jahr später waren beide zurück auf der Insel. Nach mehreren Jahren hat sich Irene dem Polarvirus letztendlich ergeben. Irenes Spezialgebiet sind Schlittenhunde. Sie arbeitet seit mehr als fünfzehn Jahren mit Alaskan Huskys, sowohl im Rennsport als auch im Tourismus, und hat acht eigene Hunde

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# Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide

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Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has just spent a month in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day.

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# Frigga Kruse - Expedition Guide

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Frigga comes from the beautiful county of Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany. She makes her living as an archaeologist, geologist, and guide.

When she travelled to the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula in 1999, there was nothing to suggest that the polar regions would become her place of work. In 2008, she first visited Svalbard to carry out archaeological fieldwork as part of her PhD research on the British mining history of the Arctic Archipelago, which resulted in the book *Frozen Assets* (2013).

She has since become a regular. Her current research focuses on 420 years of natural-resource exploitation (whaling, sealing, fur-hunting, and mining) in and around Svalbard and Jan Mayen and the lasting impact on Arctic marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Since 2015, she has been sharing her broad polar knowledge and a knack for story-telling as a guide and lecturer on Oceanwide's expedition cruises. You can approach her in German, English, and Dutch.

## Deutsch

Frigga stammt aus dem herrlichen Holsteinland in Norddeutschland. Sie verdingt sich als Archäologin, Geologin und Guide.

Als sie 1999 die Südshetlandinseln und die antarktische Halbinsel besuchte, ließ noch nichts vermuten, dass die Polarregionen später ihr Arbeitsplatz werden würden. 2008 reiste sie das erste Mal nach Spitzbergen, um archäologische Feldarbeiten für ihre Doktorarbeit in der britischen Bergbaugeschichte des Archipels auszuführen, was zu dem Buch *Frozen Assets* (2013) führte. Seitdem gehört sie zum arktischen Inventar.

Ihre derzeitigen Forschungen konzentrieren sich auf 420 Jahre Rohstoffausbeutung in Spitzbergen und Jan Mayen. Welchen bleibenden Umwelteinfluss hatten Wal- und Robbenfang, Pelzjagd und Bergbau? Seit 2015 teilt sie ihr breitgefächertes Wissen und ein Händchen zum Geschichtenerzählen als Guide und Lektorin auf Oceanwide's Expeditionskreuzfahrten. Ihr könnt sie auf Deutsch, Englisch und Niederländisch ansprechen.



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# Ross Wheeler - Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Pierre Gallego – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

## Deutsch

Pierre ist Tierarzt und hat sich auf Meeressäugetiere spezialisiert. Er arbeitet im Gebiet der Meeresbiologie seit 18 Jahre und organisiert Ausbildungen über Meeressäuger rundum die Welt seit 2004. Er vertritt die Regierung Luxemburgs an der Walfangkommission und CCAMLR, und arbeitet mit mehreren internationalen Umweltschutzorganisationen um die Erhaltung von Meeressäuger zu promovieren und deren Gefangenschaft zu bekämpfen.

Er macht gerade eine Doktorarbeit am Ozeanologie Lab der Universität Lüttich in Belgien. Seine Doktorarbeit beschäftigt sich mit stabile Isotopen und Schadstoffen in Buckelwalen aus Mosambik und Ecuador.

Er ist ein eifriger Vogelbeobachter und hat viel Spass an Fotografie. Das Meer ist seine Leidenschaft, und Wasser ist sein Element.

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# Veronique Verhoeven – Ship's doctor

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No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

....but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer too.

For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career.

That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.





## DAILY PROGRAM

# Welcome aboard!

Date: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Day 1

### Embarkation.

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

**When all are on board** we will cast off.

Please listen to announcements for the:

**Welcome Aboard Briefing** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

thereafter **mandatory safety and lifeboat drill** in the Lounge/Bar – Deck 5.

19:00 We like to invite you in the Lounge/Bar for a **toast to our voyage** and meet the **captain** and your **expedition staff**.

19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room – Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

*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

# Day at sea towards Greenland

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

Day 2

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**The distance from Iceland to Greenland is 304 NM (563 Km)**

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- 07.45**      **Wake up call.**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 10.00**      **Lecture** about **Photography**.  
This will be held in the Lounge (deck 5).
- 12.30**      **Lunch-Buffer** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 15:00**      **Lecture** about **Plankton**.  
This will be held in the Lounge (deck 5).
- 16.30**      **Mandatory briefing** in the lounge on Deck 5 about how to behave in **Polar Bear country** and on **Zodiac operations**.
- thereafter**      We will call you **deck by deck**, to collect your **rubber boots** in the boot-room (deck 3 forward).
- 18.30**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge on deck 5.
- 19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

*What is the secret of the Arctic?*

*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 the light, in the magic of the ice, in the life-truths of animals observed in the wilderness...*

*lies the secret of the Arctic and the overpowering beauty of its lands.*

*Christiane Ritter (1898-2000). A Woman in the Polar Night*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Hurry Inlet

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day 3

**07.45**      **Wake up call.**

**08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for one hour in the Dining Room.

**09:30**      We plan to do our first **landing** at the west side of **Hurry Inlet**.  
This long fjord was named by William Scoresby Jr. in 1822 as Hurry's Inlet out of respect to Mr Nicholas Hurry, managing-owner of his ship, the BAFFIN.

**13.00**      **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.

**t.b.a**      We plan to do a **landing** at **Dumbrava**, a locality on the east coast of Hurry Inlet where Constantin Dumbrava, a Rumanian scientist, built a house without permission in 1930, with the intention of trading with the Greenlanders. He was picked up and taken back to Europe in 1931, and the house was taken over by Scoresbysund municipality and used for hunting.

**18.30**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.

**19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

**t.b.a = to be announced**

*"I must say that the charm of the Arctic, its infinite diversity, its aloofness from the rest of the world, made it a field which gives its own reward. Only those who have seen the magnificent sunsets over the ice, who have...been buffeted by storms... can appreciate the spell which always draws us back there."*

*Louise Arner Boyd (1887 - 1972)*





## DAILY PROGRAM

# Sydkap & Ø fjord

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day 4

- 07.45**      **Wake up call.**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 09:30**      We plan to do **Landing at Sydkap.**  
Hunters from Scoresbysund spent long periods here from about 1934, with great success, and the ruins of their houses are found west of the cape. A more substantial house and store-house were built at the cape in 1946 by a Danish telegraphist and his Greenlandic wife to fish for salmon and shrimps, a venture abandoned after a year. Some reports say his wife found it too lonely.
- 13.00**      **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- After lunch**      60 miles long **Ships cruise** through the spectacular Ø fjord.  
Long fjord between Renland and Milne Land. Discovered and named by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition led by Carl Ryder during the exploration of the Børneøer in September 1891.
- 18.30**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

*The greatest peril of life lies in the fact that human food consists entirely of souls. All the creatures that we to kill and eat, all those that we have to strike down and destroy to make clothes for ourselves, have souls, souls that do not perish with the body and which must therefore be pacified lest they revenge themselves on us for taking away their bodies.*

*Greenlander Knud Rasmussen (1879 - 1933)  
about Greenlandic shamanism*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Rypefjord & Harefjord

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day 5

**07.45**      **Wake up call.**

**08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for one hour in the Dining Room.

**09:30**      We plan to do our first **landing** at **Rypefjord**.  
Named by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition led by Carl Ryder, which discovered the fjord during a sledge journey in April 1892. Rype means Ptarmigan, which are common in the region. The Greenlandic name has also been recorded as Aqissit Kangersuat.

**13.00**      **Lunch** buffet for one hour in the Dining Room.

**t.b.a**      We plan to do a **landing** at **Harefjord**.  
Also named by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition led by Carl Ryder after the Arctic hares. The Greenlandic form Ukattit Kangersuat has been recorded.

**18.30**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.

**19.00**      **BBQ** at the aft deck. Dress warm, bring your dancing shoes and enjoy!

**t.b.a = to be announced**

*"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

# Rødefjord, Røde Ø & Føn fjord

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day 6

**07.45** Wake up call.

**08.00** **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.

**morning** **Ships cruise** through the spectacular **Rødefjord**, named by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition led by Carl Ryder. The west side of the fjord is largely formed by conspicuous cliffs of red conglomerate.

**12.30** **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.

**t.b.a.** **Zodiac cruise and landing at Røde Ø.**  
Named Røde Ø by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition led by Carl Ryder because it was composed of red conglomerate.

**18.30** **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.

**19.00** **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

After Dinner **Evening cruise** through the **Føn fjord**.  
Also named by the 1891-92 Den Østgrønlandske expedition led by Carl Ryder. Føn fjord because strong winds were encountered here on their first day of exploration in August 1891.

*Icebergs now came sailing out of the in a strong current, and with very frequent calving perhaps because of the warm temperature*

*Carl Hartvig Ryder  
(about naming Føn fjord in 1891)*





## DAILY PROGRAM

# Ittoqqortoormiit

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day 7

- 07.45**      **Wake up call.**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for **one hour** in the Dining Room.
- 09:30**      We plan to do a **landing** at **Ittoqqortoormiit**.  
This is your chance to send **postcards** and purchase local **souvenirs**, so don't forget your wallet – you can pay with card or cash in €, \$ & DKK.  
We also recommend visiting the local **museum & handicraft workshop**.  
The **dogs** will be fed at 10:00h.  
Please, **don't buy anything in the supermarket**, it is not stocked up very often and the local community is depending on it.
- 13.00**      **Lunch-Buffer** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- After lunch**      We make our way towards **Iceland**.
- 15:00**      **Lecture** about **Plankton**.  
This will be held in the Lounge.
- 18.15**      **Recap** of today and briefing for tomorrow in the lounge.
- 19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

*"And one can better understand figures in arctic exploration so obsessed with their own achievement that they found it irksome to acknowledge the Eskimos, unnamed companions, and indefatigable dogs who helped them."*

*Barry López, Arctic Dreams*



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Day at sea towards Iceland

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day 8

- 07.45**      **Wake up call.**
- 08.00**      **Breakfast** buffet for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 10.00**      **Lecture** about the **Photography**.  
This will be held in the Lounge.
- 12.30**      **Lunch-Bufferet** for one hour in the Dining Room.
- After lunch**      It time to **settle your account**, we will call you deck by deck.
- 15:00**      **Lecture** about **Sled dogs**.  
This will be held in the Lounge.
- 16.00**      **Muck Boot Retrieval** During the afternoon we will call deck by deck to bring back the Muck Boots to the Boot Room on Deck 3.
- 18.00**      **Farewell Cocktail** with the Captain & last official meeting.  
Please join us for a toast on our voyage!
- 19.00**      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy!

*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

## Akureyri

Date: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Day: 9

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

**Important:** Please put your check-in luggage into the corridors before 7:30!  
So that we can bring it on shore.

**07.30** **Breakfast** is available.

**08.30** **Last landing: Akureyri** disembarkation & goodbye

**09.00** Shuttle bus to Reykjavik is leaving from the parking place.

**Important:**

Group 1: Shuttle bus to Reykjavik – NO ribbon

Group 2: No shuttle bus to Reykjavik – WHITE ribbon

You can pick up white ribbon at the reception.

*We wish you a very good voyage home or to your further destination and hope to meet you again on another trip of Oceanwide Expeditions!*