

ANTARCTICA MAR2024

WHALE WATCHING



ΤΑΞΙΔΕΥΟΥΜΕ!

18 χρόνια τώρα
ταξιδεύουμε στους
κορυφαίους
προορισμούς του
πλανήτη.

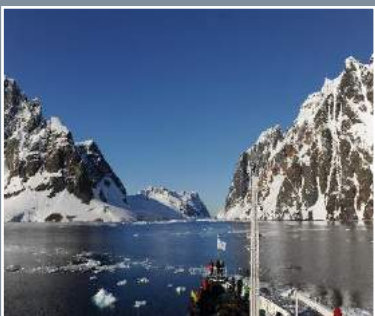
Η ΠΑΡΕΑ ΣΟΥ!

Δημιουργούμε
παρέες που
λατρεύουν το βουνό,
τη θάλασσα, την
περιπέτεια!

Η ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΑ!

Κορυφαίες
ταξιδιωτικές
υπηρεσίες γιατί
είμαστε ταξιδιώτες,
όπως Εσείς!

ANTARCTICA!



Antarctica, the final frontier!

18 Mar – 04 Apr 2024

Ονειρεύεσαι αυτό το ταξίδι από εκείνη την στιγμή που αντίκρυσες την πρώτη φωτογραφία ενός παγόβουνου.

Ονειρεύεσαι αυτό το ταξίδι από εκείνη την στιγμή που είδες το πρώτο σου ντοκιμαντέρ με πιγκουίνους, φάλαινες και όρκες.

Ονειρεύεσαι αυτό το ταξίδι από όταν θυμάσαι τον εαυτό σου.

Και ήρθε η ώρα να το ζήσεις.

Ταξιδεύουμε στο τελευταίο σύνορο αυτού του πλανήτη, στην Ανταρκτική, στην απεραντοσύνη όπου η φύση οργιάζει και μας καλεί να εξερευνήσουμε την αγριότητα της.

Αλλά πριν μαγευτούμε από την κατάλευκη ήπειρο, θα πάρουμε πρώτα μια γεύση από το σαγηνευτικό Μπουένος Άιρες, πίνοντας κορυφαία κρασιά της Αργεντινής, συνοδεύοντας ζουμερά φιλέτα.

Και μετά θα πετάξουμε για το νότο, και αφού φτάσουμε στη νοτιότερη πόλη του κόσμου, την Ushuaia, θα πάρουμε μια μικρή γεύση από την Γη του Πυρός,

Οι πτήσεις μας :

- 1 LH1283 18MAR ATHFRA 1750 1950
- 2 LH0510 19MAR FRAEZE 2205 0755+1
- 3 AR*** 20MAR EZEUSH ****
- 4 AR*** 01APR USHEZE ****
- 5 LH1645 03APR EZEFRA 1650 1100 +1
- 6 LH1283 04APR FRAATH 1350 1730

ΤΙΜΗ:

9940 ευρώ κατ' άτομο σε δίκλινο δωμάτιο με φινιστρίνι (8 διαθέσιμες θέσεις)

10320 ευρώ κατ' άτομο σε δίκλινο δωμάτιο με παράθυρο (8 διαθέσιμες θέσεις)

(υπολογισμένη για 16 συμμετέχοντες, ελάχιστη συμμετοχή για πραγματοποίηση του ταξιδιού 11 άτομα).

ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΗ: Οι καταδύσεις στην Ανταρκτική είναι δύσκολες, διαβάστε στην περιγραφή τις απαιτήσεις. Στην τιμή δεν συμπεριλαμβάνονται καθότι το ταξίδι απευθύνεται και σε μη δύτες χωρίς να χάνει την ομορφιά του.

Στην τιμή συμπεριλαμβάνονται:

- Τα διεθνή αεροπορικά εισιτήρια μετ' επιστροφής (τα εσωτερικά στην Αργεντινή, θα κοστολογηθούν στην έκδοσή τους, αυτή τη στιγμή η τιμή τους είναι περί τα 400 ευρώ και τα χρήματα αυτά **ΔΕΝ** έχουν συμπεριληφθεί στην παραπάνω συνολική τιμή)
- όλες οι μεταφορές από και προς ξενοδοχεία και αεροδρόμια.
- Οι φόροι αεροδρομίων.
- Η κρουαζιέρα στην Ανταρκτική
- Ξενοδοχείο 4* στο Μπουένος Άιρες και 3* στην Ουσουάγια. Πρωινό στα ξενοδοχεία.

Δεν συμπεριλαμβάνονται:

-Οι καταδύσεις (600 ευρώ). 9 διαθέσιμες θέσεις.

- Η ενοίκιαση καταδυτικού εξοπλισμού.
- Η χρέωση για έξτρα βαλίτσα για όσους πάρουν καταδυτικό εξοπλισμό.
- Τα φιλοδωρήματα
- Τα γεύματα που δεν αναφέρονται στο πρόγραμμα
- Προαιρετικές εκδρομές, (πχ. δραστηριότητες στο Buenos Aires, ή στη Γη του Πυρός)
- Είσοδοι στα εθνικά πάρκα
- Η επιβάρυνση μονόκλινου.
- Ταξιδιωτική ασφάλεια υγείας

Πληροφορίες-Κρατήσεις

Geo@aqualized.com

6932482779

Αντίξοες καιρικές συνθήκες προφανώς ενδέχεται να αλλάξουν τις δραστηριότητες που επηρεάζονται από αυτές!

Τα ξενοδοχεία και οι καμπίνες είναι διαθέσιμα αυτή τη στιγμή, γεγονός που πάντα ενδέχεται να αλλάξει!

Η τιμή είναι υπολογισμένη στη σημερινή ισοτιμία ευρώ-δολαρίου και ενδέχεται να αλλάξει εάν αλλάξει δραστικά η ισοτιμία.

Το ταξίδι διοργανώνεται υπό την αιγίδα του Aktina Travel Group, Φιλελλήνων 26, Σύνταγμα, 2104221800





Diving

PLA32-24

Antarctica - Polar Circle - Whale watching

This Polar Circle and Antarctic Peninsula cruise passes through waters travelled by Humpback, Minke and Fin whales. Anchoring in various spots around the region, the expedition offers the chance to dive in the iceberg-heavy waters.





m/v Plancius

Length : 89 meters (293 feet)

Breadth : 14,5 meters (47 feet)

Draft : 5 meters (16 feet)

Ice class : 1D (Plancius has a Lloyds class notation 100A1 Passenger ship, Ice Class 1D at a draught of 5 meters)

Displacement : 3211 tonnes

Propulsion : 3x Diesel-Electric

Speed : 10.5 knots average cruising speed

Passengers : 108 passengers in 50 cabins

Staff & crew : Crew 40 | Guides 8 | Doctor 1



CONTACT INFORMATION

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E-mail : geo@aqualized.com

LET'S GO EXPLORING!

Antarctica - Polar Circle - Whale watching

Crossing the Polar Circle



Title:	Antarctica - Polar Circle - Whale watching
Dates:	21 Mar - 1 Apr, 2024
Tripcode:	PLA32-24
Duration:	11 nights
Ship:	m/v Plancius
Embarkation:	Ushuaia
Disembarkation:	Ushuaia
Language:	German language assistance, English speaking voyage
Important:	Diving is an optional activity. Experience with cold-water diving and dry-suit dives (at least 30) is a must!

ITINERARY

PLEASE NOTE:

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per IAATO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with IAATO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots.

This Polar Circle and Antarctic Peninsula cruise passes through waters travelled by Humpback, Minke and Fin whales. Anchoring in various spots around the region, the expedition offers the chance to dive in the iceberg-heavy waters.

Day 1: End of the world, start of a journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed "The End of the World," and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

Day 2 - 3: Path of the polar explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

Day 4 - 9: Sights of late summer Antarctica

Options for Antarctic Peninsula activities are many, and no less great during the late summer. Humpback whales are prolific in this region, gorging themselves on krill before their migration north. The penguin chicks are also fledging, stirring up activity on the beaches while sleek leopard seals lie in wait, poised to attack the less fortunate ones.

Sites for your Antarctic adventures may include:

Livingston Island – Here you find a wide variety of gentoo and chinstrap penguins on Hannah Point, as well as southern giant petrels and elephant seals hauling out onto the beach.

Deception Island – Actually a subducted crater, this island opens into the sea and creates a natural harbor for the ship. An abandoned whaling station, and multiple bird species – cape petrels, kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns – can be seen here. Wilson’s storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

Cuerville Island – A small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Rongé Island, Cuerville houses a large colony of gentoo penguins and breeding pairs of brown skuas.

Neko Harbour – An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow, Neko Harbour offers opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks. You might also be able to set foot on the continent here.

Paradise Bay – You could take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where you have a good chance of seeing humpback and minke whales.

Pléneau & Petermann Islands – If the ice allows it, you may sail through the Lemaire Channel in search of Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags. There’s also a good chance you’ll encounter humpback and minke whales as well as leopard seals.

Crystal Sound – Your journey takes you south along the Argentine Islands to this ice-packed body of water, and from here across the Polar Circle in the morning.

Detaille Island – You may make a landing at an abandoned British research station here, taking in the island’s lofty mountains and imposing glaciers.

Fish Islands – Further north you encounter one of the southernmost Adélie penguin and blue-eyed shag colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Melchior Islands – These islands offer a beautiful landscape rich with icebergs. Leopard seals, crabeater seals, and whales are found here, and there are excellent opportunities for kayaking and diving.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

Day 10 - 11: Familiar seas, familiar friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you’re again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

Day 12: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It’s now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.



POLAR DIVING

SCUBA DIVING TRIPS IN ANTARCTICA AND THE ARCTIC

All of our polar voyages provide you maximum firsthand contact with local wildlife and terrain, but it is our intimate knowledge of the seas that allows us to also give you an unparalleled adventure below the waves.

Join us on one of our Arctic or Antarctic diving cruises, true expeditions in every sense of the word, during which you will have access to some of the most scenic dive sites in the polar regions.

With this exciting activity, you can explore the underbellies of icebergs, encounter exotic marine life, and enjoy the beautiful interplay of ice, light, and water in a rarely seen world.

The details of our dives and itineraries are based on the extensive experience of our international guides, all of whom have worked in the polar regions for many years in various capacities.

When you dive with us, you get the best polar adventure in the most capable hands.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON OUR DIVING ACTIVITY

- Divers must be experienced with cold-water, dry-suit diving.
- We aim for one to two dives per day (one in the morning, one in the afternoon).
- Our ability to dive depends on local ice and weather conditions.
- All dive guides are certified and experienced experts in their field.
- We offer basic equipment on board (e.g., tanks, compressors, and weights), but divers must bring their own personal gear.
- We make dives from our Zodiac boats.
- Our maximum dive depth is around 20 meters / 65 feet.
- In both Antarctica and the Arctic, we may observe sea squirts, squat lobsters, spider crabs, soft

corals, anemones, peacock worms, dogfish, sea snails, crabs, sea butterflies, shrubby horsetails, jellyfish, sea hedgehogs, kelp walls, and several species of starfish.

- Details on booking this activity can be found on our Dates & Rates webpage.

ARCTIC DIVE PROGRAM (Spitsbergen & Greenland)

The farthest reaches of the far north are home to some of the world's most iconic wildlife, of which polar bears and Arctic foxes are just a part. On our Arctic dive program, you can encounter not only wondrous sea life but beautiful ice formations that truly distinguish this region from Antarctica.

We make shallow dives that explore near or under ice floes (about nine meters, or 30 feet deep) as well as deeper shoreline dives (nine to 18 meters, or 30 to 60 feet deep).

In the Arctic, we may also encounter seals, sea lions, and walruses. When these beloved animals are close to the Zodiacs, we may try to observe them underwater using snorkels and masks. But because of the possible danger, we cannot dive with walruses.

ANTARCTIC DIVE PROGRAM (Antarctic Peninsula, Falkland Islands, & South Georgia)

Antarctica's dazzling icecaps, colossal glaciers, and towering mountains are rivaled only by the white-sand beaches and lush flora of the sub-Antarctic islands. Both areas host a large variety of penguins, whales, seals, and seabirds.

Our Antarctic dive program is similar to our Arctic program. We dive from our Zodiacs, exploring ice walls, marine life, and sometimes shipwrecks at shallow depths (around 20 meters / 65 feet).

During these dives, you may observe penguins, fur seals, and perhaps even leopard seals. Many of the sub-Antarctic islands are also rich with krill, one of the prime food sources for many marine species and therefore highly useful in locating wildlife.

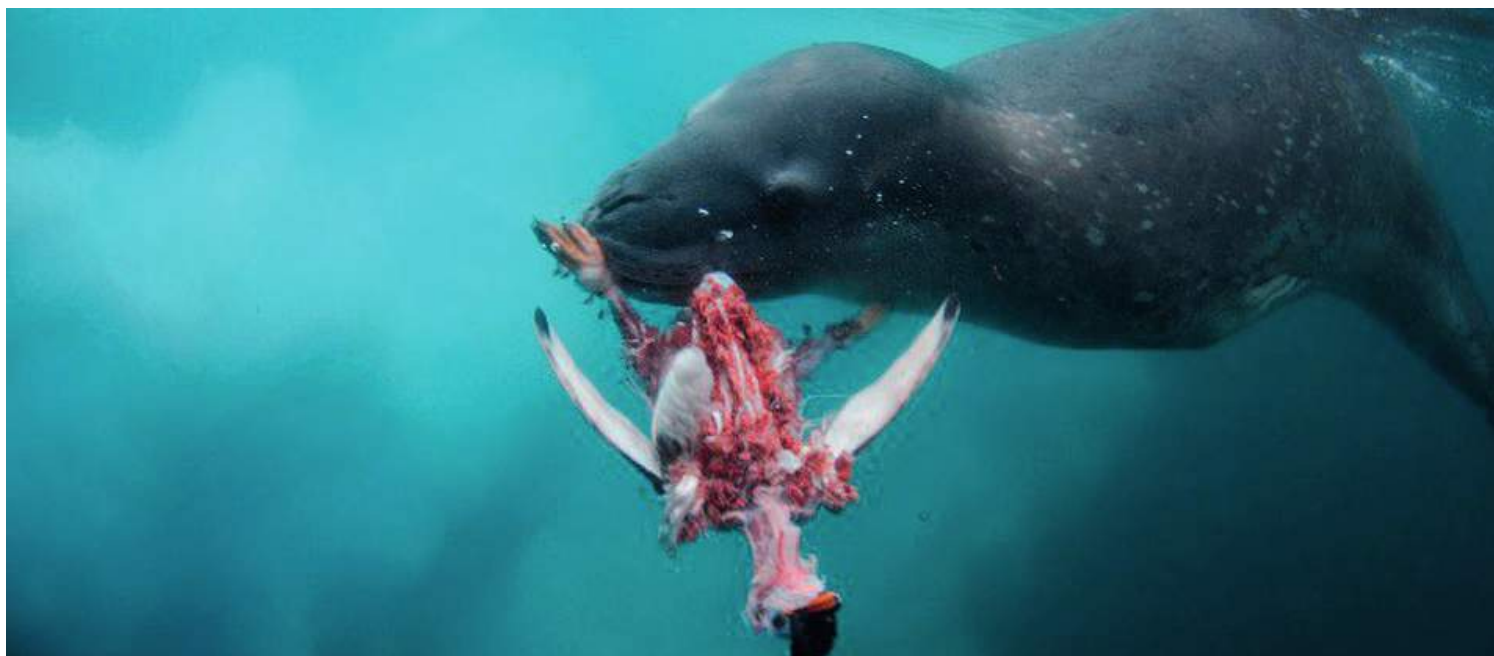


Weather in the polar regions

Arctic voyages are organized during the Northern Hemisphere summer (May to September), when the weather is milder. During this period, the sun shines 24 hours per day and temperatures often range between 5 to 15°C (41 to 59°F).

In Antarctica's Southern Hemisphere summer (December to February), temperatures are generally close to freezing, varying between -5 to 8°C (23 to 46°F). Combined with the strong katabatic winds of this area, the cold can often feel even colder.

Warm and waterproof clothing (and a flexible attitude) is required for both regions, especially Antarctica. Severe weather may lead to the cancellation of landings and dives, as excursions can only take place in safe conditions.



Program changes due to weather and ice

We know our dive destinations in great detail and are always exploring new sites, but every dive can encounter surprises. It is important to remember that nature calls the shots in the polar regions. Personal expectations that are not met are not grounds for reimbursement.

Please note that our itinerary is always subject to safe local conditions. It is always possible that ice, weather, or wildlife will force us to change our sailing schedule. It is also possible that certain bays or fjords will be closed because of ice.

In such cases, we always have planned alternatives. But again, these alternatives are not grounds for reimbursement. When changing the itinerary, we assure you that the captain, expedition leader, and dive leader will do their utmost to provide you an equally good replacement program.

Dive experience and qualifications

Our polar dive voyages are not for beginners. They are meant for experienced divers who are familiar with cold-water, dry-suit diving. You must have logged at least 30 dry-suit dives to participate.

Before departure, please present an internationally accepted diving certificate and logbook. Also, we ask that you include copies when completing your diver personal information form.

The first dive of our voyage will be a "check dive" to try out your gear and assure our dive leader that you have enough experience to participate. This is for your safety and that of our guides.

If our dive leaders feel that any diver does not meet the necessary experience, they can exclude that diver from the dive program. In this event, Oceanwide Expeditions cannot be held responsible and will grant no claims for reimbursement.

All divers are required to follow the instructions of dive leaders and guides at all times. All divers are participating 100% at their own risk, which is also the case during land excursions.

Expedition team, excursions, & dive leaders

Our expedition team consists of one expedition leader and multiple guide-lecturers. All members of the team are extensively experienced in working in the polar wilderness.

Every morning after breakfast, you will be informed of the day's program (position of the vessel, general information about the area, itinerary, and expected wildlife during the excursions). The excursions will then be evaluated in the afternoon and after dinner.

Occasionally, the expedition team will organize lectures, sometimes supported with slide shows, to inform the passengers about various features of the polar environment.

Our dive leaders are highly experienced instructors assisted by one or two dive guides. The main language of all guides and dive operations is English unless otherwise stated.



Special note: Safety first

Diving in the remote polar regions is no more dangerous than normal scuba diving as long as you follow one important rule: safety first.

All divers looking for dangerous stunts or deep dives are asked to refrain from this activity. There are no decompression chambers in Antarctica or the Arctic, medical care is almost non-existent, and there is hardly any infrastructure. Although we have a doctor on board the vessel for first-aid assistance, we cannot accept risky ventures from any divers.

DIVE PROCEDURES

Approach to dive site

In normal circumstances, the number of divers per Zodiac is six passengers as well as one driver-guide. Always watch your valuable gear when embarking and disembarking the Zodiacs. Oceanwide is not liable for the loss of individual equipment.

Check dive

The voyage starts with a check dive so that all divers can get used to the cold water, try out their equipment, and determine the weights they need. Before each dive, there will be a briefing about the dive site, weather and ice conditions, and the procedure of the dive.

Currents

Water currents can be present anywhere and at any time. The dive guides will select a dive spot that is safe and also give information about returning to the Zodiacs if needed. Normally there is very little current where we dive, if any.

Dive buddy

Dives will be made using the buddy system. The dive guide will not be in the water to accompany and lead divers. Rather, dive guides stay on the surface for the divers' safety. Divers are expected to be experienced enough to read their compasses and depth gauges and look after each other. Buddy teams are important, so we let our divers match themselves as much as possible. In cases where divers have not paired up or are in doubt, dive guides sit with divers to discuss their expectations and experience. We try to pair people of similar interests and experience. If there is an uneven number of divers and three-person groups are not feasible, dive guides will accompany divers.



Dive guide-to-diver ratio

Our programs allow for six divers per dive guide, with a preferred maximum of 24 diving passengers per voyage. Groups larger than 24 will need to split dive activities, and we also may reduce the number of dives so that we can safely manage activities.

Drifting pack ice

This is a real hazard. If pack ice approaches while divers are underwater, it can be hard to see people if they surface in the middle of it. For this reason, it is important to only dive around icebergs that are hard aground or floating in water clear of brash or pack ice. Many of the dive sites have slopes or faces that go deeper than the 20 meters (65 feet) maximum limit for our dives. Divers must act responsibly and show self-discipline.

Equipment

Once you have settled into your cabin, you will be given an area to store and hang your equipment. Every diver is expected to prepare their own equipment in advance of each dive. Bring your own spare parts for regulators and dry suits in case of leaks or damage. Divers are expected to set up and carry their own equipment in and out of the Zodiac as well as up and down the gangway.



Number of dives

We plan for one to two dives per day, but an exact number of dives cannot be given due to the possibility of variable ice and weather conditions.

Visibility

Ample pack ice often means flat water with clear visibility. Little pack ice can mean plankton blooms, because there is more daylight and possibility of swells. But the ice and weather conditions are different every year, so there is no way to predict them.

DIVE EQUIPMENT

Please bring the following equipment yourself:

- Dry suit with hood
- Two sets of warm underwater garments
- Dry gloves or wet gloves/mitts adequate for sub-zero waters
- Two freeze-protected regulators. (We dive with special bottles that have two separate outlets, and we use 12L steel tanks fitted with a Y or H valve configuration and DIN or Yoke (INT) adaptable connections.)
- Stabilizing jacket or BC with quick-release capability and sufficient lift capacity
- Pressure gauge
- Compass watch
- Knife and torch
- Mask, fins, and snorkel

Dry suits

These are the only adequate protection in Arctic and Antarctic waters, which can be as cold as -1°C (30°F). The type of dry suit you use is not important so long as it fits you, is waterproof, and you are comfortable using it.

Neoprene dry suits have the benefit of good stretch and extra insulation. Shell suits provide no extra insulation but are lighter and dry quicker. They serve only to keep you dry and require extra layers of garments under the suit. If possible, bring a small dry suit repair kit.

Dry suit accessories

If a hood is not attached to your dry suit, you will need to bring one. A 7mm neoprene hood with face and neck seal is recommended.

Regular 7mm neoprene semi-dry gloves or mitts may also be used with any dry suit and are relatively easy to use. Three-finger mitts are warmer than five-finger gloves. You can also use special dry gloves that seal against rings on the arm of the dry suit.

To prevent glove squeeze and promote warmth, short pieces of surgical tubing or straws can be inserted under your wrist seals to allow air exchange between your suit and gloves. This type of glove requires additional practice, as they can fall off if not used correctly.

Face masks

We recommend a standard mask, but the type of mask you use is not critical. You may use a full-face mask if you are experienced with them. Commercial defogging agents work well for polar diving.

Please keep an extra face mask handy in case your regulator free flows. Straps can also become brittle in cold weather, so we highly recommend bringing a spare strap and mask.

Insulating undergarments

The colder the water, the more (and thicker) layers of undergarments are required. We recommend

you wear two or three layers, depending on your suit.

As the first layer, you should wear a set of polypropylene liners. This material helps absorb moisture from the body. As the second layer, wear thick insulating material like fleece, synthetic pile, Thinsulate, or similar. As the final outer layer, we suggest a windproof shell.

The one-piece jumpsuit style is the most common and comfortable configuration of dive wear. It is available in a variety of thicknesses, depending on your dry suit and the water temperature.

Post-dive clothing

It is important to bring a warm hat and warm waterproof gloves to wear before, and especially after, your dives.

Regulators

Normal regulators will not function where we dive, since both the first and second stage could freeze. You are therefore required to bring two sets of regulators (first and second stage) suitable for cold-water diving.

Some regulators can be fitted with an environmental seal kit, while others come environmentally sealed from the manufacturer. To avoid regulator malfunction, regulators must be cared for properly before, during, and after dives.

Avoid breathing from the regulator before submersion, except to briefly ensure it is functioning. When doing so, exhale after removing the regulator from your mouth to avoid freezing the second stage with moisture from your breath.

If your primary regulator freezes and causes a free-flow, switch to your back-up regulator and turn off the valve to the primary regulator. We avoid rinsing regulators with fresh water between dives to minimize the risk of freezing. We rinse all equipment at the end of the trip.

You will need the two sets of regulators described below:



First set, including:

- Freeze-protected first stage and second stage (including hose)
- Hose for BC
- Submersible pressure gauge (SPG)



Second set, including:

- Freeze-protected first stage and second stage (including hose)
- Hose for dry suit

Tips to keep regulators free of water

- Always open the cylinder valve briefly to blow out any moisture before mounting the regulator from the orifice.
- When purging the regulator for removal, hold the second stage lower than the first stage so that water cannot drip back to the first stage after the pressure has dropped.
- Remove the regulator carefully to keep ice and water from falling into the filter.
- Dry the dust cap thoroughly before attaching it to the regulator.
- Fit the dust cap snugly before rinsing the regulator.
- Do not press the purge button while rinsing the regulator.
- Shake excess water from the second stage before hanging the regulator to dry.

Equipment we provide on board

Tanks

On all diving vessels, we have a compressor and 35 steel tanks of 12 liters each (200 bar), with DIN and Yoke adaptable connections and two separate outlets.



Weights

You will be provided with hard lead weights and a belt, but there are no ankle weights available. You may bring and use your own weight harness.

Your voyage apart from diving

Diving in Antarctica and the Arctic is a fantastic adventure, but our usual land outings are also amazing. With the prior approval of your expedition leader, you can choose to participate in our thrilling shore excursions and Zodiac cruises instead of diving. This combination characterizes the uniqueness of our voyages, which will give you the ultimate polar experience.

Our Zodiacs can take you safely into beautiful fjords, among pack ice, and to shore sites. We usually organize one morning excursion and one after lunch. The duration of excursions may vary, but they

normally take three to four hours.

While you are on land, it is important to follow the instructions of our guides. It is not allowed to leave the group. In the Arctic, for example, we must take polar bear danger seriously. Polar bears are naturally camouflaged, so they can show up anywhere and attack without warning. We also cannot touch, remove, or take or anything else from the environment or its monuments. This includes plants, stones, feathers, or anything else.

Disturbing the animals is also highly forbidden. Some birds nest on the ground, so be careful where you walk, and do not approach nests. When a bird's nest is disturbed, it is extremely vulnerable to predators looking for eggs and chicks.



Diving FAQ & final notes

How deep do we dive?

Our maximum depth is 20 meters (65 feet). Many dive sites have slopes or faces that go deeper than this, so divers must act responsibly and show self-discipline.

What is the average visibility?

Ample pack ice often means flat water and clear visibility, while little pack ice can mean plankton blooms due to additional daylight and swells. But ice and weather conditions are different every year, making visibility unpredictable.

What about currents and drift dives?

Currents are specifically mentioned at some of the sites where they may pose a problem. Currents could be present anywhere, at any time. We always check the current before diving. We do not do drift dives. Drifting pack ice makes this too hazardous. If ice arrives while divers are underwater, it can be hard to see them if they surface among it. We only dive near icebergs that are hard aground or floating in water clear of brash ice or pack ice.

Do I need a full-face mask?

This is up to you and based on whether you are used to diving with a full mask.

What type of gloves should I bring?

Use a minimum of 7mm wetsuit gloves, otherwise we recommend dry suit gloves.

Why do I need two regulators?

We dive with two separate outlets (DIN and Yoke connection), so in case of a free flow (freezing) of one of your regulators, you have the second regulator as a back-up.

Can I have one regulator with DIN valves and the other with ISO?

Yes, we have adapters on board that we can put in the valve to connect with an ISO regulator. The DIN connection will fit without the adapter.

Do I need a waterproof bag to carry my smaller items?

It is good to bring a waterproof bag to use while preparing your dive equipment on deck. In the Zodiac, it is best not to bring more than your necessary dive equipment.

What is the water temperature in the polar regions?

Around freezing or slightly below.



Final notes

- Polar diving is an equipment-intensive activity, and ice diving in particular requires extensive equipment due to the cold and remote locations. Divers in cold water may have higher air consumption, expend more energy, and become fatigued easier. Cold water also decreases your ability to perform complex manual tasks.
- The snorkel is a vital part of your safety equipment and will often be used when diving with seals and other wildlife.
- Do not bring any new equipment you have not tested in the water. The polar regions are not the place to test new equipment. Please make sure you have done at least four or five dives with your equipment. This will allow you to fine-tune your buoyancy, trim characteristics, and take note of how much weight you need when diving.
- Contact your airline about luggage restrictions and request a special allowance for your dive equipment prior to departure. All excess baggage is at your own expense.
- Divers are expected to prepare their own equipment in advance of each dive and take care of it afterward. Bring spare parts for your regulators and dry suit in case of leaks or damage.
- We do not have rentals on board. Please make sure you check out all your dive gear before leaving. Bins are available for storage.
- Keep in mind while packing dive gear that you will need to carry your own equipment in and out of the Zodiac for filling and logistical changes.
- Please get travel insurance! Participation in an expedition cruise is 100% at your own risk. In our travel documentation (specifically our personal information form for scuba diving), all passengers need to sign a liability statement in which they agree that Oceanwide Expeditions and dive staff are exempt from responsibility for personal injury and property damage, including loss of items. Oceanwide cannot accept any liability claims.



SHIP DETAILS

M/V PLANCIUS



ABOUT THE SHIP

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 Dutch Navy until June 2004 when it was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions.

Plancius is a Dutch flagged completely rebuilt and converted passenger vessel complies with the latest SOLAS- regulations, classed by Lloyd's Register in London. The name Plancius is a tribute to the predecessor of Oceanwide Expeditions (Plancius Foundation, 1981-1996), the first cruise operator on a yearly base in Spitsbergen, offering voyages with a small cruise vessel named Plancius.

- Comfortable and nicely decorated, but not luxurious. It's made for explorers
- Spacious yet small ship character, comfort & style and modern technology
- Base camp for active, adventure and wild-life minded modern explorers
- Small ship operation: 108 passengers in 50 passenger cabins with private facilities (toilet, sink shower)
- 4 quadruple porthole cabins, 9 twin porthole cabins, 25 twin cabins with window and 2 twin deluxe cabins, - all (ca. 15 m2), and 10 superior cabins ca. 21 m2)
- All cabins offer lower berths (either two single beds or one queen-size bed), except for the 4 quadruple cabins (2 bunk beds),

- Restaurant/lecture room (deck 3) and a spacious observation lounge (with bar, deck 5) with large windows offer full panorama view
- Large open deck spaces (with full walk-around possibilities on deck 4), giving excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife
- Equipped with 10 Mark V inflatable zodiacs, including 40 HP 4-stroke outboard engines
- 2 gangways on starboard side, that guarantees a swift zodiac operation
- The ship is manned by 20 nautical crew, 20 hotel staff, 8 expedition staff (1 expedition leader and 7 guides/lecturers), and 1 doctor.

Plancius – the 'basecamp' for our activity program Oceanwide Expeditions offers an exploratory educational travel program in the polar regions spending as much time ashore as possible. Special interest activities are available on selected voyages: Kayaking, Hiking, Snowshoeing, Mountaineering, Field Camping, Ski Trekking, Polar Diving and Zodiac Cruising. Please check if they are offered on your voyage.

SPECIFICATIONS

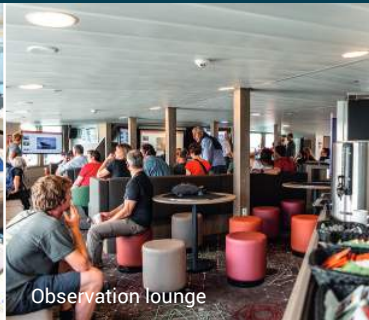
Registered: The Netherlands
Length: 89 meters
Breadth: 14.5 meters
Draft: 5 meters
Ice class: 1D
Displacement: 3,211 tons
Propulsion: 3x Diesel-Electric
Average cruising speed: 10,5 knots
Passengers: 108 in 50 cabins
Crew, guides, doctor: 40 / 8 / 1
Various decks refurbished 2009-2018-2019



FACILITIES & DECK PLAN SEE NEXT PAGE



Dining



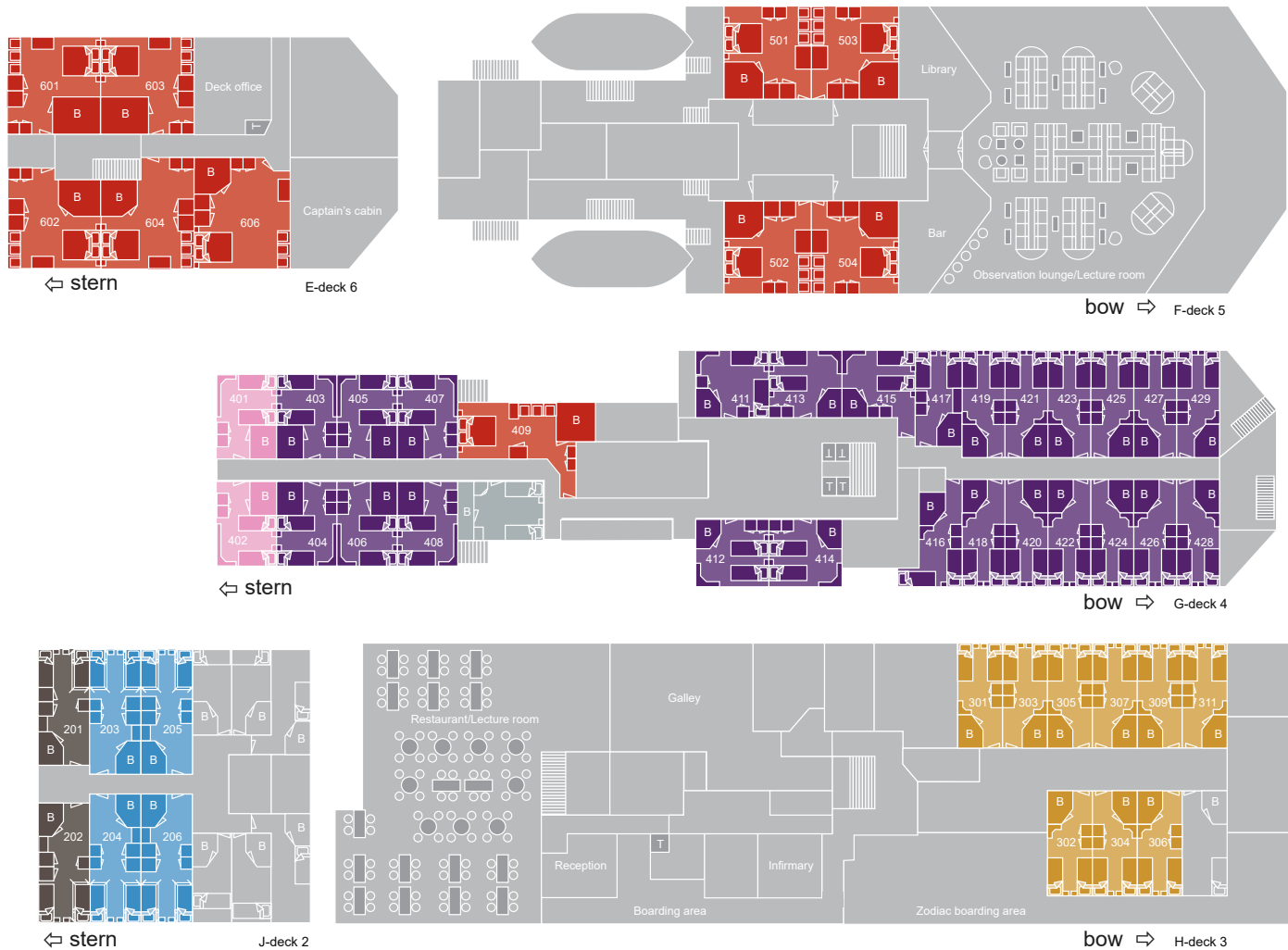
Observation lounge



Superior cabin



Twin private cabin



DECKPLAN

- Superior
- Twin Deluxe
- Twin Window
- Twin Porthole
- Twin Porthole plus additional third bed
- Quadruple Porthole



lower berth



upper and lower berth



double bed

T

Toilet

B

Bathroom



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

CONTACT & BOOKING INFORMATION