

Expedition Ship Meander

Length over all: 30m

Draft: 2.85m

Sailing area: 400m²

Engine: MAK (300hp)



The expedition sailing ship Meander will start sailing in the Arctic waters around Norway and Svalbard (Spitsbergen) during the 2022 season.

Meander is a comfortable sailing vessel which can carry 12 passengers.

The Meander was built in 1946 at a German shipyard in Hamburg. At the time, this shipyard in Finkenwerder was famous for building strong ships, and built the Meander with an ice-strengthened hull. This means that the Meander is an ice-classed ship and can easily operate in the Arctic.

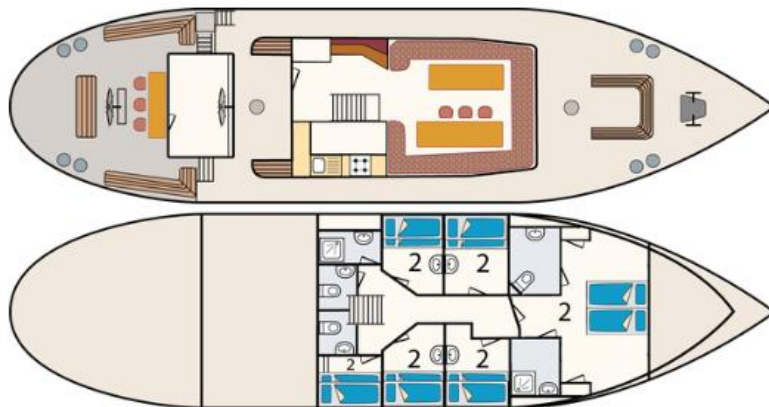
Meander was operated as a fishing vessel until the 90s. In 1995 she was transformed into a luxury sailing vessel with the purpose of carrying passengers. She was sailed in without restrictions in sailing area, went around Cape Horn, passed the Drake Passage to Antarctica and took quite violent seas, like any high sea vessel should be able to.

In 2016 she was bought by Heine van de Molen. He brought her back into charter and refitted her with a lot of love and passion. Today she can take 12 passengers and can carry up to 5 crew members.

The rigging allows an easy handling so even unexperienced travellers can handle Meander. She sails at a good speed and still delivers comfort and cosiness.

Meander is equipped according to the Dutch rules and regulations for the unlimited sailing area. Modern navigation equipment, generators and even solar panels allow the Meander to operate independently for ages. A heating system and our sauna will keep it nice and warm on board.

Below Deck



On the main deck, the saloon and the galley offer enough space to reflect on past experiences or to have a chat with fellow travellers. Here, the expedition leader and captain will give lectures and information about the upcoming voyage and updates throughout. Down in the ship, the comfortable 2-person cabins are located, which all have a sink. Two toilets and three separate showers are located next to the cabins.

Our Meander is a ship with a lot of opportunities for wonderful voyages in the Arctic.





We are interested in doing micro cruises with our expedition vessel Meander, far away from shore illnesses such as stress or rushing. The area around Svalbard gives us a perfect environment to discover the High Arctic in a smooth and unforgettable way. Loads of time to take hikes to the most beautiful and breath-taking spots, fair winds to sail to the next destination, a warm bed and shower after a full day of activities, that is what we stand for. The cruise ship industry is growing quickly, but we like to stay small and cosy. 12 passengers allow us to satisfy even special wishes individually. Our two daily Zodiacs landings will be performed in an easy-going way and there is enough space in our deck saloon for giving lectures.

After many years in the business, we take the next steps to sail up north. Mario and Heine will form a company together which owns Meander. Both will sail as captains in an on-off schedule. The one ashore runs the office and is reachable back in the Netherlands. Andrea will also be a permanent fixture on board, whenever she can.

All safety rules and regulations and certificates have been organised to finally arrive on the 8th of May in Longyearbyen for the start of the 2022 season. Meander is Dutch-flagged and certified for an unlimited sail area. All crew is certified according to STCW and flag state regulations.



Heine van de Molen owned his first sailing vessel when he was only 19 years old. He sailed mainly on the Dutch inshore waters. Over his many years of experience, he owned a couple of ships and built up a considerable amount of experience as captain. Heine loves sailing and being challenged. Operating expeditions in the High Arctic has been his dream for years. Since owning Meander, he has mainly sailed around the Baltic and North Sea. In the past, he joined an expedition in Antarctica and sailed on ships around the North Atlantic. At the start of 2020, he and Mario had some meetings about how to collaborate to bring Meander up north. www.sailing-expeditions.com had been Heine's idea already and now, after a couple of years, we will finally set course for Svalbard.



Mario Czok started his career on tall ships when he was 15 years old. He sailed as a deckhand around the Baltic area and North Sea at first. After a couple of years, he completed his captain tickets and took over as a master on tall ships. After several years on different ships operating in the Arctic, thousand-plus miles crossings, several years of wind-seeking between the Baltic, Caribbean, North Atlantic and the Arctic he decided to start his own expeditions with Heine. www.sailing-expeditions.com is the perfect way to operate voyages in the High Arctic. A smaller number of passengers, comfort on board, and smart technical solutions. That is what Mario was waiting for!



Andrea Böttinger has also been sailing on Dutch tall ships for years. After years of gaining experience sailing around the Netherlands, she also became a captain on flat-bottomed ships. Andrea and Heine found each other and became more than just friends. Two amazing kids and a house in Harlingen followed. Andrea has been working together with Heine for a long time already. She started up the Meander and is following the dream just as keenly as we do. Andrea will be arranging the office back home in Harlingen part-time, and will be part of our expedition crew as well.

Planning 2022

Meander's cabin plan will be changed over the 2021/2022 winter. The cabin in the front will be split into two 2-person cabins with bunk beds. We will prepare her for our Arctic operations in terms of infrastructure, shore operations (one more Zodiac), safety equipment and spare parts.

Our season will start with Ski & Sail trips in northern Norway in early 2022.
In late April, we will start with a 14-day voyage from Tromsø to Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen).
Planned arrival in Longyearbyen is on Sunday, the 8th of May.

Meander can be booked in a full charter for any desired period. We will also be offering our individually bookable trips, spread over several dates during the 2022 season.
Meander is intending to stay around Svalbard until the end of September every year, and will continue her season from October until January in the northern Norwegian waters around Tromsø. Snowshoe hiking trips and northern lights/whale watching voyages. Or other purposes, which we are happy to hear.

Meander is available for contracting or chartering from now on. Charters or options for voyages can be discussed, particularly regarding Covid-19.

We are already negotiating several charters for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. With this introduction, we hope to get in further contact with you, in order to create favourable collaborations not only for 2022, but beyond.



Meander

Scheepvaartbedrijf:
"De Aldebaran"
H.I van der Molen
Midlumerlaan 1
8861 JE Harlingen
Bank account: NL05ABNA0429862857

www.sailing-expeditions.com

Mail: sailing-expeditions@outlook.com
Phone Mario: +31 (0) 6 19211667
Phone Heine: +31 (0) 6 53209055