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Please note: I am travelling a lot so it may be difficult to get hold of me (this is where there is no phone number here). E-mail is my preferred channel if you want to get in touch – I will reply as soon as I can. Which may sometimes take a few days or even weeks. Thank you for your understanding!

Longyearbyen, April 2019

Rolf Stange – Biography (short version)

Rolf Stange (born 1973 in Unna, Germany) studied Geography. Spitsbergen has been a regular part of his life since 1997. He has written several guidebooks, photo books and other books about polar areas and works as Expedition Leader in the Arctic and Antarctic, mostly on sailing ships. Rolf lives in Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen) and Dresden (Germany).

Rolf Stange – Biography (more detailed)

Born in 1973 in Unna (Germany), I discovered my love for nature, outdoor life and fresh (preferably cold) air at an early age. Starting with family holidays in Denmark, but even back then I felt a thrill when we had a holiday home a beach further north than the previous year on the Danish Baltic Sea coast. „North“ has always been the main direction on my inner compass.

My first independent travels took me to wilderness areas of Norway and Sweden. While studying geography, geology and meteorology in Münster and Bonn – I finished with a degree (diploma) in 2001 – Spitsbergen became my second home in 1997 and following years. In 2000, I received a phone call that changed my life when I got the offer to work as a guide and lecturer on small, ice-strengthened expedition ships. I did not waste a second before saying „yes, of course“, thinking that later would be early enough to get a proper job. I kept thinking that for many years and by now I know that this – a „proper“ job – will not happen anymore for me. With almost 200 ship-based voyages in the Arctic and Antarctic, I am a well established Expedition Leader, but whereas I used to do a lot of trips as a freelancer over many years, I am now focussing on my own charter trips on sailing ships in Spitsbergen, but I am still doing some trips on contract whenever an interesting opportunity arises.

To my own surprise, I discovered a passion and even love for writing, initially as a desire to put on paper what I would have liked to buy as a book, but could not as the book that I wanted did not exist. This way, the very first early version of „Steine und Eis“ came into existence in 2001, giving arctic travellers a solid and detailed, but comprehensible introduction in the natural history of the arctic landscapes that kept fascinating me from the first moment I saw them, outlining landscape development (geomorphology), earth history (geology), permafrost and glaciers (physical geography).

In 2007, the first edition my Spitsbergen-guidebook „Spitsbergen – Svalbard“ came out. By now (April 2019), this book is available in shape of the 6th updated German edition and the 4th updated English edition as well as in Norwegian and soon also in Dutch. Since the first edition, this book has developed not only into my most important project as an author and publisher, but it has become a work of life, together with my websites, which are independent information platforms for anyone interested in Spitsbergen, Jan Mayen and Antarctica. In addition come a number of books about travelling in the Arctic, photo books and books specially dedicated to islands such as Bear Island (Bjørnøya, belongs to Spitsbergen) and Jan Mayen.

Public presentations are another, though less prominent, part of my professional activities.