

Expedition Log

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula

16 December, 2016 – 03 January, 2017

On board the
M/V *Ortelius*



MV *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 125-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17,6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 13 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.

Captain Ernesto Barría, his international crew of 50

including

Hotel Manager – Michael Frauendorfer (Austria)

Chief Steward – Dejan Nikolic (Serbia)

Head Chef – Gabor Kiss (Hungary)

Assistant Chef – Richard Arokiasamy (Malaysia)

Ship's Physician – Veronique Verhoeven (Belgium)

and

Expedition Leader – Cheryl Randall (Great Britain)

Assistant Expedition Leader – Kurtis Oman (Canada)

Guide & Lecturer – Mick Brown (Ireland/Wales)

Guide & Lecturer – Sandra Petrowitz (Germany)

Guide & Lecturer – John Yeh (Australia/Taiwan)

Guide & Lecturer – Daniela Abras (Brasil)

Guide & Lecturer – Lydie Lescarmontier (France)

Guide & Lecturer – Pete Gwatkin (Great Britain)

welcome you all on board

the *Ortelius*!

Day 1 – December 16th

Ushuaia

1600 GPS position: 54°48.6' S / 068°17.9' W

Weather: 15°C, cloudy; wind: light air



On a pleasant afternoon in Ushuaia, from the end of the world (“Fin del Mundo”) we were about to embark on a special journey. At the pier of America’s southernmost city, our new home was waiting: *Ortelius*, the blue-and-white ship that would take us on our big voyage to the Falkland Island, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula – 19 days filled with nature’s wonders, awe, and adventure. For the first time we made our way up the gangway and at reception were welcomed by the hotel team who showed us to our cabins. There we found our luggage and soon we settled in and started to explore our new surroundings.



As soon as everybody was on board, our Expedition Leader Cheryl called us to the lecture room on deck 3 for both the mandatory safety briefing by Third Officer Warren and the introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager Michael. The latter explained about decks and amenities, providing vital orientation

whereas Warren acquainted us with the safety features of the vessel and with the essential do's and don'ts on board. Soon afterwards it was time for the safety drill and we gathered in the bar, donned our big orange lifejackets and went through the roll call to make sure everybody was there. Then we had a look at the lifeboats while *Ortelius* was leaving the pier.

With the landscape of the Beagle Channel gliding by, we made our way out towards the open sea. Birdwatching had already begun with Black-browed albatrosses sailing past, and there were even a few Magellanic penguins porpoising! At 19:15 we gathered in the bar again – it was time to meet Captain Ernesto Barría and the expedition team for a toast to our voyage. Afterwards we enjoyed the first of many delicious meals on board. The ship's movements were very gentle, and the subtle rocking combined with the information and sensory overload we had received today made some of us soon feel quite sleeeeeeeeeeeepy ...



Day 2 – December 17th

At sea towards the Falkland Islands

0800 GPS position: 54°05.7' S / 064°11.9' W

Weather: 10°C, partly cloudy; wind: WNW 6

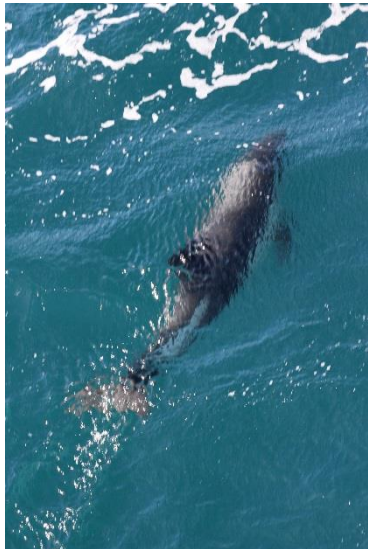


We awoke to a wonderful Southern Ocean morning. Sunshine was streaming onto the upper decks, birds were circling and a moderate sea gently rolling the *Ortelius* along her way to the west side of the Falkland Islands. A little before 08.00 Michael our Hotel Manager called us for the breakfast buffet and for the majority of us who made it we enjoyed the fine selection of food choices wonderfully laid out for us. A short time back out on deck for more pictures of the Petrels and Albatrosses following the ship before we were all called deck by deck to pick up our rubber boots and lifejackets. Fair to say many of us were not feeling all that well with the sea conditions as they were ... However, we did our best and the staff supplied us with our gear as quickly as possible.

The lecture series was opened later on in the morning by Mick who gave us a wonderful introduction to the Falkland Islands and their ecology. He stunned us with some incredible pictures he had taken over the many years he has visited



and guided on the Falkland Islands. During his 45-minute presentation we gained a fabulous insight into many of the wonderful sites and animals we could expect to see during our time on and around the archipelago.



More time on deck for some and an opportunity to lay down and close one's eyes for others (not feeling so well) took us through to lunchtime. A fabulous buffet had been laid out by our dedicated hotel staff many of whom had spent much of the morning cooking and baking, slicing and chopping down below whilst we relaxed in the sunshine above. Not long after lunch we encountered a number of mammal sightings that included both Humpback and Fin whale. The light had been superb for taking pictures for most of the day and by mid-afternoon

many of us who had already taken hundreds of images decided to go and pay close attention to what Sandra had to teach us about taking better pictures during our voyage. Sandra was just superb and gave us loads of top-tips and handy hints, her emphasis on different shooting angles and composition were particularly useful. Only a short time back out on deck



to try out some of her ideas before we were called in once more for the mandatory zodiac briefing led by Cheryl. This was a must-do session that focussed on keeping us safe during zodiac operations.

Recap starting at 18.30 allowed us all to meet in the bar and relax before dinner and enjoy Cheryl's very thorough presentation of tomorrow's activities covering both morning and

afternoon landings. Directly after recap dinner was called by our hotel manager and we able to enjoy an amazing meal in the restaurant before once more dashing out on deck to see if we could get a glimpse of the southern Right whale passing only 50 meters from the starboard side of the ship. The evening sunshine highlighted the well-developed callosities raised upon the head of this magnificent and rarely sighted creature. The Southern right was a great experience for those lucky few happening upon the 'right' place at the 'right' time. Time now for a quick drink to end a very exciting day packed with wildlife and get a good night's sleep setting us up for our next adventure!



Day 3 – December 18th

Falkland Islands: Carcass Island & Saunders Island

0800 GPS position: 51°18.2' S / 060°33.2' W

Weather: 14°C, partly cloudy; wind: NW 5



There was relief for many of us as we sailed into the relative shelter of Carcass Island's Port Pattison. A wake-up call at 06.45, breakfast at 07.00 and by 09.00 the zodiac fleet was taking us ashore to our landing at Dyke Bay. Magellanic penguins, Oystercatchers, Turkey vultures, and Tussockbirds were abundant around the beach as we came ashore. Warm sunshine and a stiff breeze made for a good start on our hike across the island. We crossed through the sand dunes over to Leopard beach and spent some time there with the Magellanic and

Gentoo penguins. Gulls, ducks and geese were spread out across the beautiful fine-grained white sand. Some folks opted to stay in the beach and dune area and the rest of us hiked across to the settlement.





Throughout the hike we encountered a delightful array of birds which nest in the Poa grass and Marram grass habitat. The breeze was strong and steady but we reached the farmhouse by 11.00. As promised, a superb range of homemade cakes awaited us along with tea, coffee, and a warm welcome from the proprietor and his staff. There was time to enjoy the surrounding area and its wildlife before returning to the ship for lunch.



We quickly crossed over to Saunders Island for our afternoon landing. The wind speed increased and shortly after launching the first two zodiacs the operation was suspended as the wind speed increased even further. However, a bit later we got started again and soon enough we all set out on a bumpy ride to the beach landing.



A walk across the narrow neck of the island took us past nesting King, Magellanic and Gentoo penguins. Up and onward to yet another wildlife spectacle: nesting Rockhopper penguins, King cormorants and Black-browed albatrosses. A strong breeze combined with heavy surf created a truly wild atmosphere and the animals too were extremely active given that it is the peak of their breeding season. Turkey vultures, Striated caracaras and gulls patrolled overhead on the lookout for feeding opportunities. Rockhopper penguins delighted us with their ability to surf and survive the crashing seas, leap onto the rocks and climb up high to their nest locations. There was time to see it all, take too many pictures and then return to the zodiacs and the mothership. We sailed away in the warm evening sunlight past many more islands on our way to our next port of call, Port Stanley.



Day 4 – December 19th Falkland Islands: Stanley

0800 GPS position: 57°41.2' S / 057°51.6' W
Weather: 17°C, partly cloudy; wind: NW 5



Stanley, Capital of the Falkland Islands! A uniquely British settlement here in the Falkland Islands, more British than the Brits themselves some may say ... The town was established in 1849 as a site chosen by Governor Moody to replace the original capital at Port Jackson. Stanley was preferred as capital given its excellent shelter in the bay as well as having deeper waters in its port. Of course not everyone was happy with the move, notably one JW Whittington is quoted saying that “of all the miserable bog holes, I believe that Mr Moody has



selected one of the worst for the site of his town”. Today Stanley happily inhabits around 2000 people living mostly on tourism, fisheries licensing and oil exploration.



This morning we had government officers come on board to officially stamp us into the Falkland Islands and clear us for our landing. About half of us caught the first few zodiacs to take a bus to just outside of town, to Gypsy Cove where they saw tantalizing white sandy beaches that they couldn't walk on, sad remnants of land-mine laying during the Falkland Islands war, especially on this sunniest of summer days. Around however was a variety of birds including Black-crowned night-heron, Rock shag and Magellanic penguin in addition to the stunning views! After returning from Gypsy Cove, they joined the other half of the group wandering around the eclectic assortment of buildings and shops that comprise 'Stanley downtown'. Some of the highlights were the historical museum and post office, as well as a souvenir shop or two along the way.



Back on board for lunch (or second lunch for some of us) we set sail, passing through “The Narrows”, the beginnings of our crossing to the fabled island of South Georgia! The afternoon spent on the bow deck in glorious sunshine, warm breeze, seabirds and an occasional dolphin. The perfect afternoon to top off the perfect visit to the Falkland Islands, followed by a “Happy Hour” in the bar, and a Falklands-specific recap!



Day 5 – December 20th At sea towards South Georgia

0800 GPS position: 52°19.4' S / 051°58.2' W
Weather: 10°C, clear skies; wind: NE 5



After two days of landings in the Falkland Islands and a night of much-needed sleep, the sea day started with wonderfully calm conditions. A great place to be was the bridge, warmer than outside but with the same fantastic views. The members of our enthusiastic birding group woke up early this morning to look for some of the most beautiful seabirds of the Southern Ocean, and they were presented with the unique opportunity to spot Fin, Humpback and Right whales in the wee hours of the day. What a start!

During the morning, our specialist Lydie gave her lecture about Oceanography of the Southern Ocean. She introduced us to the main oceanographic characteristics of this ocean, the



creation of ice, the main currents and parameters that may affect the forming of ice. Afterwards, everybody joined Cheryl in the lecture room for the mandatory IAATO briefing (IAATO as in “International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators”). We learned about the importance of following all procedures and guidelines when going ashore in order to

minimize our impact and protect the beautiful and stunning ecosystem of South Georgia and its wildlife. In addition, in the afternoon we were called by decks to come to the bar with our outer gear. The staff team had installed vacuuming stations where we could clean jackets and pants, hats and gloves, backpacks and the such in order not to introduce foreign species to the pristine South Georgia ecosystem. It was a big vacuuming party indeed!



During lunchtime, Mick had made a very interesting and important observation: He had watched a Humpback whale fluking and obtained a picture of the fluke. Our Brazilian whale specialist Daniela got really excited when she compared

this picture with the Brazilian whale catalog and got a match! The results of her comparison were presented during our daily recap: She found that this particular whale, having been numbered #2273AB, was seen in Brazilian waters in 2006 – a full decade ago. Unfortunately, this was the only record of this whale to be found but Mick still had the honour to baptize the whale. He chose to name the Humpback “Imaqqa”, meaning “maybe” in Greenlandic, the word being a symbol of wisdom and a philosophical way to describe our (expedition) life.

Day 6 – December 21st At sea towards South Georgia

0800 GPS position: 53°09.1' S / 044°54.6' W
Weather: 5°C, fog; wind: N 6



Gentle waves were waking us up this morning on our way to South Georgia. The wind was quite present and the birds played at the back of the ship for the birders' pleasure. We had passed the convergence in the night, and the water temperature had dropped from 9 °C down to 4 °C. Now we were in the middle of the kingdom of petrels and prions, and we started seeing Antarctic prions, Thin-billed prions, and Cape petrels.



Kicking off today's lecture program, Kurtis magically managed to wrap up 400 million years of geology in his talk which introduced us to the formation of the Scotia Arc from the supercontinent Gondwana to the opening of the Drake Passage. From the mineral life we proceeded to the wildlife of South Georgia with Mick telling us everything about the encounters to come (hopefully, that is). A few minutes

later, our first iceberg of the cruise appeared in front of us. Everyone dashed outside to enjoy the view – and possibly also get a photo – of the albatrosses playing in the swell with an iceberg in the background. Some Humpback whales decided to participate to the show and started playing around us. Suddenly we had a running game going with people rushing from

one side of the ship to the other chasing the moment. To conclude on our whale sighting, Daniela offered her talk on the whaling history.



In the late afternoon we arrived at Shag Rocks – land in sight! This small array of pointed peaks appeared out of nowhere in the middle of the ocean, much like the Loch Ness monster emerging. It was named after the shags (cormorants) nesting there, and sure enough the namesake birds were around, adding a different flight pattern to our birding of today. Wildlife was showing off indeed, and with Cheryl’s briefing about the upcoming excursions we got even more excited about our journey!



Day 7 – December 22nd

South Georgia: The Bay of Isles

0800 GPS position: 53°57.2' S / 037°25.0' W

Weather: 5°C, fog; wind: NE 3



The early morning found us approaching South Georgia, during breakfast coming into the Bay of Isles. At least that's what the nautical chart said and the radar reinforced – there was nothing to be seen outside *Ortelius* due to heavy fog. Upon drawing closer towards Salisbury Plain however, we could make out the coastline and some of the islands, and with binoculars or a tele lens we could even see tiny white dots along the shoreline and into the hills: some of the 250,000 King penguins in their colony! In addition, the shoreline was littered with brownish-blackish Fur seals and fringed with the treacherous white lace of big swell coming in from the Southern Ocean.

Our plan was to go ashore at Salisbury Plain so after breakfast, we donned our warm and waterproof clothing and eagerly lined up near the gangway. The zodiacs were launched, and off the first one went carrying the staff team ashore. Some more followed with guests but we soon found ourselves facing the unpredictable, wild conditions of South Georgia proper: The swell let



the boats dance at the gangway, spray washed over us on our way to shore, and the landing proved to be too dangerous to continue with the heavy surf. Captain Barría put the operations on hold, and as the conditions did not improve, the landing unfortunately had to be cancelled. It was adventurous (and wet) enough for those already out to make their way back to the ship, including a very thoroughly soaked, washed and tumbled staff team ...

After this exciting start into the day *Ortelius* snuck around the corner into Rosita Harbour, the team hoping to find a bit of shelter there. But it was still very windy, and we ship's cruised the bay. At Camp Bay a bit further south we finally found a sheltered enough spot to anchor, and



after lunch had been brought forward by half an hour, we soon hopped into the zodiacs and set out to explore. There was so much to see: shags nesting on rocky cliffs, Giant petrels resting or cleaning themselves or fighting over a good meal, a Light-mantled sooty albatross flying overhead, Wilson's storm-petrels dancing on the water surface almost like butterflies, the odd King penguin statue in the middle of mayhem, and then the Fur seals – big males and tiny pups, even a blondie as the rare pale variety is called. Fur seals chasing each other, sparring, showing off, dozing, posing, even sliding down what passengers in one zodiac dubbed the “St. Moritz of the Southern Ocean ski slope”. It was highly

entertaining to watch and listen and sniff and enjoy and take it all in! After 90 minutes we were happy to return to the ship though – where magically enough, the hotel team was waiting with hot chocolate and rum!

While we were slowly warming up, *Ortelius* made her way back towards Salisbury Plain. The staff set out again to assess conditions at the gangway and on shore. The wind had come down but the big swell was still present at the landing site, and there was no way to ensure safe operations. After carefully double checking the options, the final decision was made to abandon activities for today but stay in the Bay of Islands overnight – maybe the conditions would improve enough for an early-morning zodiac cruise tomorrow?

Day 8 – December 23rd
South Georgia: Stromness & Grytviken

0800 GPS position: 54°08.2' S / 036°36.5' W
Weather: 3°C, cloudy, rain, fog; wind: NW 5



It was an early start to the morning with the staff on the bridge a little after 04.00 assessing if the conditions outside were suitable to venture off the ship. Unfortunately, even after the third time of asking, the conditions at Salisbury Plain simply would not allow us to get off the ship. With rain, low visibility and winds approaching 40 kn our Expedition Leader once more



had to call off the landing for safety reasons. After the decision had been made many of us decided to share a coffee and pastry in the bar that Michael our Hotel Manager had kindly prepared for us. A number of us then decided to grab a couple of hours sleep before breakfast would be called at 08.00. Sure enough regular

as clockwork Michael called us for our wonderful breakfast that set us up for our morning excursion in Stromness Harbour.

Stromness Harbour provided us with some much needed shelter, and before long the guides and crew were shuttling us to shore in the zodiacs as fast as possible to enjoy what had turned into a fabulous day. Fur seals greeted us at the landing site where the expedition staff had established a beach head some 300 m from the old whaling station. Once we had removed our lifejackets we were able to follow the red marker poles the staff had placed in an effort to keep us in the best position to make our way through the colonies minimising disturbance and respecting the animals' space.



We had been advised to buddy up during our visit and keep a 360-degree watchful eye out for the regular charges made by the Fur seals. Most of us did a great job looking out for one another and making ourselves big and clicking stones together when required to do so in order to prevent the possibility of what could be a very nasty bite. The Elephant seals on the far side of the landing site were all together more docile and appeared to be extremely happy lying in the sunshine on top of each other producing a range of quite spectacular noises and rather a pungent smell at times! A little before 12.00 we saw the hikers returning from their excursion that retraced the last leg of the Shackleton walk



from the waterfall to the landing site. This is the walk over the mountains of South Georgia from the SW to NE coast that Ernest Shackleton and some of his men completed after their epic voyage from Elephant Island in their tiny boat (the *James Caird*). The hikers had a great time and reported sightings of both South Georgia pintail and South Georgia pipit! Just a bit of time to take some last-minute pictures of the King penguins on the way back to the beach before donning lifejackets once more and returning to *Ortelius*.

Shortly after lunch a Government Officer came on board to clear the ship for us all to land at Grytviken. Accompanying him were a number of personnel working on the Island including Sarah Lurcock who had come on board to tell us about the highly successful (thus far) rat eradication project. We said cheerio to Sarah and after a short delay (to allow the wind to lower slightly) we were once more being transferred to shore and the prospect of an afternoon visit to Grytviken. A number of us took the opportunity of making our way up to the church in order to hear some of the crew sing some Christmas carols and a traditional song from the Philippines.



There was much to see and do that included the museum and post office as well as looking around the old whaling station infrastructure and machinery that has long since fallen onto disrepair (but had been preserved). In amongst the machines and sheets of iron were Fur and Elephant seals protecting themselves from the elements. These two species were particularly targeted by the sealers shortly after South Georgia was discovered. Large restored pots outside the museum bear witness to how many thousands of these wonderful animals would have been processed prior to their valuable oil being shipped back to the likes of the UK and other sealing nations at that time.





No landing at Grytviken would ever be fully complete without making the short walk out to the white picket fence surrounding the graveyard in order to pay one's respects to 'The Boss' – a moment of reflection for all of us back to a 'Heroic age' down in the Southern Ocean where many 'endured' but many also perished. 18.30 was last zodiac back to the ship, clear tagboard, mulled wine, fabulous BBQ dinner, after-dinner drink, bed, sleep, dream, what a day ...



Day 9 – December 24th

South Georgia: St. Andrews Bay, Ocean Harbour & Royal Bay

0800 GPS position: 54°26.1' S / 036°10.1' W

Weather: 6°C, cloudy, snow; wind: NW 3



Overnight *Ortelius* had sailed quietly from Grytviken to St. Andrews Bay. There the weather looked good and the gangway started at 09.00. Snow was falling fresh on the hills and it being Christmas Eve it looked very 'seasonal'. We landed on the surf shore amid yet another great wildlife spectacle: many thousands of penguins, seals, Giant petrels and chicks and pups. This beach holds the largest colony of King penguins on South Georgia with over 150.000 pairs. Many of the birds were moulting and a whole variety of different age group birds were to be seen throughout the colony.

One group set out on a zodiac cruise. Cruising beneath the cliffs we saw our first Leopard seal which



was patrolling the shoreline and making the King penguins very nervous. Young Elephant seals (only a few weeks old) played around in the rock pools and Fur seals grunted and squealed as they too seemed to be enjoying being away from the main colony. Then the call came from the bridge: 'wind speed increasing', all guests please prepare to return to the ship. The wind was gusting at 50 knots. This is often the way it goes here in South Georgia. The wind took the tops off the waves, which is known as spindrift, and though it looks good and spectacular it means it is time to get back on board the ship. This presents no such problems for the



animals and we marvelled at their ability to carry on swimming, traveling and generally playing around regardless of the change in conditions. The beach operation was slow due to the breaking surf and it took a lot of strong arms to position and load the zodiacs on the sand. But in time, we returned safely to *Ortelius* and back on board with a warm drink and a story to tell all was well.

Repositioning to Ocean Harbour after lunch we stood by and kept watch on the wind speed. Following the now familiar briefing, we assembled dressed and ready to go but once again the strong wind prevented any operation. After watching the steady gusts continue for some time, it was decided to relocate and sail onward to Royal Bay. Once again we were prevented by strong winds gusting at over 40 knots. Disappointing yes, but the light was good, the land and seascapes were spectacular, so we spent the time, some folks on deck, others inboard, in awe of South Georgia where nature governs our every move.



Day 10 – December 25th

South Georgia: Gold Harbour, Cooper Bay & Drygalski Fjord

0800 GPS position: 54°37.5' S / 035°55.8' W

Weather: 6°C, partly cloudy; wind: NE 3



Christmas Day – and what a wonderful Christmas it was! Like a bunch of giddy children, we woke early to see what weather was delivered for us in the night. To our jubilation it was a dusting of snow on the peaks, sunshine and very gentle wind! An absolutely idyllic South Georgia morning to be heading out before breakfast to visit arguably the prettiest King penguin colony on the entire island with its stunning backdrop; the Bertrab Glacier hanging off the cliffs above.

A short zodiac ride took us to the beach where we met many very curious Elephant seal pups who were intent on blending in with our pile of gear. The patient among us had them sniffing at their feet and looking up at us with their beautiful eyes. Not far away the older ellies, with the serious part of the breeding season being over, were wallowing, practicing their fighting, and moulting. Not long after we arrived, Mick rounded up some of the keen birders to walk up into the hills behind the beach looking for Light-mantled sooty albatross nests which they found along with many South Georgia pipits. Back down on the beach, we walked a short way along the top of the crowded beach to the edge of the King penguin colony where the chicks



were congregating in crèches waiting for their parents to return with food. In the creek behind, many of the adult penguins rested as they replaced their plumage getting ready for another season at sea. The odd Gentoo penguin wandered by on the way to their nests in the tussock grass beyond the beach.



On the ride back to the ship, smiling faces abound – South Georgia’s Christmas present to us will be unforgettable.

Ortelius heaved up anchor and we set sail for the southern tip of the island towards Cooper Bay where we hoped to see Macaroni penguin colonies from the zodiacs. The menacing wall of clouds on the horizon made us question what conditions we might find there. Lo and behold the wind was blowing but the sun was still shining above a wall of clouds bearing down on us. Obvious that a zodiac cruise was out of the question, we started looking for whales, as this area is traditionally a good place to find them, and we were soon rewarded with blows in the distance, then Humpbacks nearer the ship, and before we knew it the ship was slowed



right down, the Captain's instincts kicking in – all of a sudden we found a Southern Right whale less than a hundred meters off the starboard side of the ship! Very gently the captain steered the ship and just beneath us only meters from the ship, the curious whale surfaced giving amazing and unforgettable views of the callosities and bow-shaped mouth of this rare whale.

Obviously the weather was continuing to pick up, the cloud bank further bearing down on us. The Captain agreed to press on around the tip of the island, leaving Cooper Bay and steering



the ship into the entrance of Drygalski Fjord where the full force of the storm was felt, strong wind and driving snow gave dramatic views of the fjord with Snow petrels coming close to the ship. As the fjord began to narrow, we turned the ship around and set our course south-west in the direction of the South Orkney Islands, our next destination 480 nautical miles away. A Christmas that we all will remember!



Day 11 – December 26th At sea towards the South Orkney Islands

0800 GPS position: 57°50.7' S / 039°57.2' W
Weather: 1°C, snow; wind: E 4



Merry Boxing Day! After four days of intense South Georgia landings (and after Christmas), today there was time to rest, sort out photos, read and relax. In addition, the expedition team had put together a lecture program for the day. Mick started off with his funny talk about penguins, full of fun and facts. He focused on the species that we may encounter on our visit to Antarctica. How do the Adélies climb up to 300 meters above sea level? How do Penguin highways work? Why do Chinstrap and Adélie collect stones (and steal them from each

07.45	Wake up call
08.00	Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room.
10.00	As we make our way towards Antarctica, please join Mick in the lecture room for his talk on " Birds of the Southern Ocean " – an overview of the sea birds we have been seeing and will see throughout the rest of our journey. PENGUIN SUMMER – IF YOU LIKE PENGUINS? – :-)
12.30	Lunch is served in the dining room
14.00	Vacuum Time! As required by IAATO, please come to the bar to vacuum camera TROWITZ

other)? What does a penguin egg look like on a closer look? How do the little chicks get fed by their parents? And how they do fall prey to other animals like skuas, Leopard seals and Orcas, and the Storm petrel which takes advantage of the Leopard hunting remains.



In the afternoon we had our second “vacuum party” to make sure all our outer gear that we plan to take on shore in Antarctica is as clean as possible, free of seeds, organic material, and dirt – by now we were experienced vacuumers!

Afterwards Lydie gave her lecture about Antarctic Glaciology where she explained the most important features of ice and the glaciology vocabulary. She touched on many interesting topics such as how to calculate the weight of Antarctic ice, and which are the consequences of global warming for the Antarctic Peninsula (and the future of the planet for that matter)? As Antarctic Ambassadors, we found it really important to have such an informative lecture on what threatens this beautiful, pristine and peaceful environment.

Thanks to the time change back to Ushuaia time, we gained one more hour of sleep at night – or one more hour in the bar ...

Day 12 – December 27th

South Orkney Islands: Base Orcadas

0800 GPS position: 60°44.0' S / 044°43.4' W
Weather: 2°C, cloudy, snow; wind: S 4



The wind gods had been clement with us last night, and they continued to be extraordinarily friendly during the morning as we were approaching the Argentinian Base Orcadas in the South Orkney Islands, on Laurie Island. Usually, this place is rather challenging with regards to wind and ice conditions but we experienced the exposed archipelago in a calm, monochrome beauty.



The scientific station, established more than a century ago, is enclosed on a neck between two mountains with impressive glaciers flowing towards the coast. The first group landed just

before 9:00 and was warmly welcomed by the Argentinians. We got to discover their home, shared with them their everyday life and alfajores and tea or coffee. The second group followed as well as a few Adelie penguins landing on the beach (where their Chinstrap relatives were already present, much to the delight of the photographers).



After lunch, Sandra offered us an introduction to Antarctica improving our understanding of the southernmost, coldest and windiest continent as we were approaching our destination.

Later in the afternoon, a special event took place in the bar. We gathered for our South Georgia Heritage Trust charity auction! In total, 12 lots were on offer ranging from postcards, a South Georgia calendar and a book, a mug, t-shirts with colourful drawings by Mick, Sandra's photography book, a bronze Elephant seal weaner ... Soon Pete was incredibly busy auctioning off unique souvenirs with Lydie presenting the items, the crowd cheering, applauding, and bursting with laughter. There was some fierce bidding going on! The *Ortelius* flag signed by the crew was thrown in as an extra, and thanks to the passengers' generosity (and to Pete's and Lydie's talents), a total amount of 1.137 US-Dollars for the SGHT was raised – the icing on the cake of a big fun time!





We hadn't noticed how time had been flying, and at the end of the auction there were just a couple of minutes left for a quick outlook towards tomorrow with Cheryl. Most of us went to see the second part of the BBC "Planet Earth II" movie in the lecture room after dinner – after all, a sea day ahead means sleeping in!

Day 13 – December 28th At sea towards Antarctica

0800 GPS position: 61°22.2' S / 052°13.5' W
Weather: 1°C, cloudy; wind: S 4



After yesterday's exciting events a long night of sleep with little movement of the ship was most welcome. In the morning *Ortelius* had made considerable progress towards the Antarctic Peninsula. However, with the prevailing southerly winds the ice had moved further north, and we passed by bigger and smaller floes, bergs, and bergy bits of various shapes. Some resembled a crown, others looked like a miniature version of Nessie, like a dinosaur, a swan or a castle.



Shortly after breakfast Lydie started today's lecture session with her talk about sea ice – with all the ice around, the timing could not have been any better! While staff kept a lookout on the bridge, Daniela then introduced us to the wanderings of whales – why they migrate, and why they do it the way they do. Equipped with a whole lot of new knowledge we made our way back to the outer

decks or to the bridge to maybe spot a blow or two – the more eyes the better. We got rewarded with a great sighting of Fin whales and some Minke whales passing the ship, and the ice itself in flat calm conditions was quite a treat as well. Clarence Island and later also Elephant Island could be seen in the distance.



After lunch (and after a little nap or some basking in the sun), Pete told the fascinating story of Nordenskjöld's expedition – a journey back in time to a world prior to Gore-Tex and 24-hour coffee stations on board expedition cruise ships. At 17:00 we had to face a difficult decision: going inside for Sandra's Lightroom talk (and photography Q&A) or staying out enjoying the gorgeous sunshine and vista? In any case, we all gathered again in the bar for our daily recap with Cheryl laying out the plans for tomorrow. The idea was to head through Antarctic Sound and towards Paulet Island for the morning activity; however, timings were still to be confirmed as we did not yet know how much ice would await us in Antarctic Sound. In any case, the spectacular clouds and flat calm seas looked promising for some great photos later tonight – we wondered if some of our fellow passengers would get any sleep at all?

Day 14 – December 29th

Antarctic Peninsula: Paulet Island & Brown Bluff

0800 GPS position: 63°36.3' S / 056°03.2' W

Weather: 3°C, cloudy, fog, snow; wind: SE 2



Many of us were awoken from our Antarctic dreams by the gentle tones of Cheryl announcing the morning weather and warning us of the rapidly approaching breakfast buffet. Outside on decks the birders had started their morning vigil many hours earlier. As we cruised deeper into the Weddell Sea the weather and light appeared to be changing almost by the minute. The scenery was truly amazing, thick sea ice as far as the eye could see and the volcanic cone



of Paulet Island (our intended landing for the morning) not yet in sight. The officers and crew were all hard at work on the bridge navigating the heavy ice, our progress being slowed somewhat by the conditions. As a result, we all enjoyed an incredible ship's cruise out on deck amidst clear blue skies, penguins and seals on ice with occasional snow showers that disappeared as fast as they arrived.

Ortelius pushed her way as close to Paulet island as the Captain felt appropriate for the conditions and once we realised that reaching the landing site was impossible, we launched zodiacs and enjoyed a zodiac cruise amongst the fast moving ice of the Weddell sea. We all had a fantastic time and really appreciated how quickly the ice could close in and trap a fast and nimble zodiac let alone an old wooden sailing ship of the 17th century.



We were all back on the ship just in time for lunch and *Ortelius* was soon underway, destination Brown Bluff and our evening landing. The weather and changing light en-route was once again astounding as we enjoyed another stunning ship's cruise into position.



The hotel team had kindly put dinner forward to allow us all to spend the full evening at the landing area enjoying the amazing landscape, geology, penguins and Snow petrel. The short zodiac ride to the landing site was thankfully free of ice and only took a matter of minutes. Once on shore some of us were able to celebrate the number 7 as this was the first and only continental landing of our expedition

that completed the set for those that stood previously on 6 others. The walk along the beach to reach the Adélie and Gentoo penguins was fun, seeing them arriving and departing the beach often in less than elegant style. At the rookeries, it was possible to see the chicks of both species actively feeding from parent birds, all the time remaining watchful for opportunist attacks from Antarctic skua. A short walk up the hill allowed us to view a Snow petrel nesting deep within a crack between two boulders; it was difficult to view the chick but seeing the parent bird on the nest was great. The final excitement of the landing came when a leucistic Adélie penguin arrived in the rookery – a rare sighting even for the guides. A fun and unexpected end to a truly wonderful day in Antarctica.



Day 15 – December 30th

Antarctic Peninsula: Mikkelsen Harbour & Cierva Cove

0800 GPS position: 63°22.3' S / 059°56.4' W

Weather: 2°C, partly cloudy; wind: NE 3



Our overnight passage from Brown Bluff to Mikkelsen Harbour was slowed down by ice en route but overall the weather remained good, calm that is! It was foggy at times, it cleared away and by late morning we were back in the sunshine and spectacular Antarctic scenery. Mick gave a presentation entitled 'Birds of a Feather'. It looked at the evolution and development of feathers from dinosaurs to our present-day avifauna, at the wide variety of feathers, and how birds and people use them for many purposes.

After lunch it was time to set off for a landing and zodiac cruise to Mikkelsen Harbour, a small island in shallow water but the site of former whaling activities and an Argentinian refuge hut. Nesting Gentoo penguins, whalebones, the remains of a water boat and several Weddell seals lying on the snow awaited us. There was also time for leisurely walks on the beach and





relaxation in the warm sunshine! With glaciers on one side and the Antarctic continent on the other the experience was like a dream, almost unreal, enchanting.

An early dinner at 18.30 and then it was time once again for another adventure. This time the adventure was way beyond any we had expected. We set off to cruise in Cierva Cove but en route we encountered feeding Humpback whales. For the next two hours we were among these magnificent animals as they bubble netted, lunged, dived, flipped and fed all around us in the zodiacs and beside the ship. The sight, sound and smell was truly awesome. The 50 ton whales were unconcerned with our presence and the experience was thrilling, beyond words really. Some of them fed beside and underneath *Ortelius*. All of this took place in bright sunlight and no wind. Perfect conditions





for photography and, more importantly, the sheer enjoyment of the privilege of being with such mighty and beautiful creatures. Back on board, experiences were recounted, thoughts and feelings were exchanged, especially in the bar, and we went to bed very tired but very happy to have been so fortunate.



Day 16 – December 31st

South Shetland Islands: Deception Island – Whalers Bay

0800 GPS position: 62°59.6' S / 060°30.1' W

Weather: 4°C, partly cloudy; wind: WSW 4



Last day of the year – and yes, we did say good-bye to 2016 in style! After breakfast our guides launched the zodiacs to land inside of an active volcano: Deception Island. After having passed through Neptune’s Bellows, a beautiful opening in the caldera rim, we found ourselves surrounded by an impressive landscape: dark mountains covered by volcanic ashes and ice surrounding us. We landed in Whalers Bay, close to the remains of a Norwegian whaling station which operated from 1911

to 1931. Wandering in between the buildings we thought of this era of commercial exploitation which almost crashed the majority of the whales’ populations. On the beach we could see the pressure boilers which were used to cook bones, meat and entrails to extract as much oil as possible. After this, the



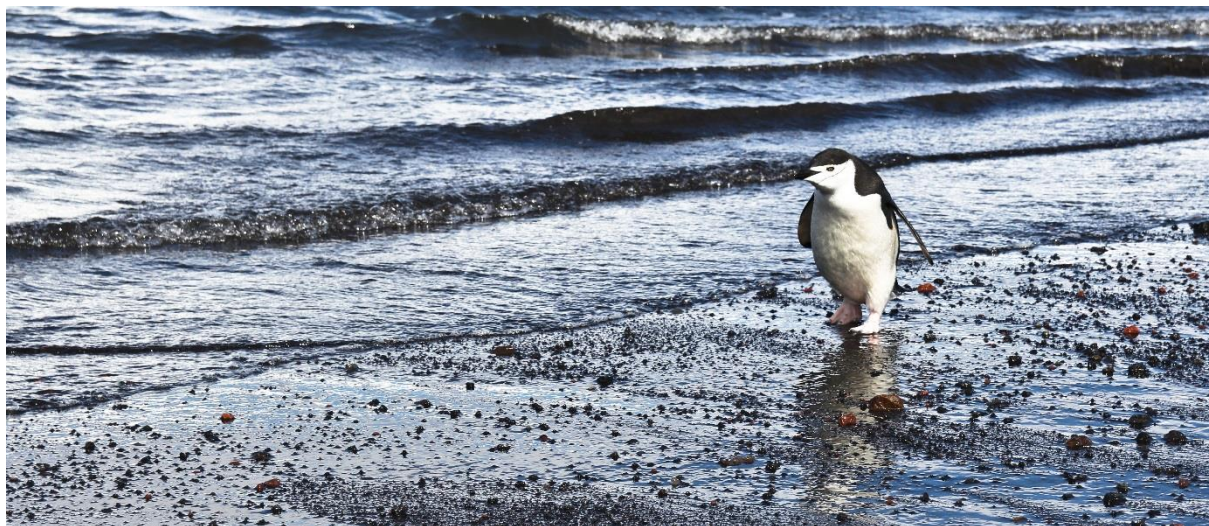
remaining bones were crushed down for fertilizer. A bit further away from the landing site we could see the hangar used by Sir Hubert Wilkins, an Australian making history in Deception by becoming the first person to fly an aeroplane in Antarctica in 1928.

Other buildings in the area are the remains of the British Antarctic Survey “Base B”, a scientific base established in 1943 as part of Operation Tabarin, conducting scientific research and reinforcing British territorial claims in Antarctica. This base operated between 1944 and 1969, and was destroyed by the 1969 eruption of the Deception volcano. The collapsed roofs of the construction were an impressive reminder of the forces of nature.

Once on shore, we could walk along the beach and up to Neptune’s Window offering magnificent views. This big gap in the rock wall of the Deception caldera is a perfect lookout over the Southern Ocean and towards Antarctica, but the views of the island itself were stunning as well. A group led by Mick made its way towards Ronald Hill, a longer and partly steep uphill hike to a 103 m high cliff west of Whalers Bay. The effort earned us absolutely stunning views over most of the caldera – we could not quite decide whether our being breathless resulted from the effort or the panorama (or both)!



Walking along the beach, we could see a few pairs of Chinstrap penguins and the old water boats from the whaling era. In the old boilers there were Kelp gulls with their fluffy chicks, and the birders were delighted by the presence of quite a number of skuas.



After our walks and exploration, we gathered on the beach to participate in one of the most eagerly awaited activity on Deception Island: swimming in the Antarctic waters also known as “Polar Plunge”! A few brave people were preparing for this once-in-a-life-time experience, and our ice swimmers from Germany were the first to enter the water – and what a sight they were in their old-fashioned swimsuits with stripes of red and white!



After lunch, the staff on the bridge announced the presence of some Humpback whales near Livingston Island. Various groups could be observed and some calves as well, playing and having some fun near the mother. In two of these groups there were Fin whales together with the Humpbacks!

Leaving the South Shetland Islands, we were ready to fight the infamous Drake Passage. But magically, the last day of the year was a special gift to us – the flat-calm ocean appeared like a mirror, with stunning light and colours all the way through to sunset. What a wonderful way to say farewell to 2016! Near midnight, we got together on the top deck where champagne served in special *Ortelius* flutes was waiting for us. The countdown was cheerful, and the ship's horn announced the arrival of 2017. A perfect sunset with various shades of pink, purple and orange reflected by a glassy Drake was a very special moment indeed, one to remember for a long time. Happy New Year everyone!



Day 17 – January 1st

At sea towards Ushuaia: The Drake Passage

0800 GPS position: 59°48.0' S / 061°55.5' W

Weather: 3°C, partly cloudy; wind: NE 6

Happy New Year! After an incredible new year's eve sunset and toast on the top deck, we woke to the dulcet tones of Cheryl and Michael and found ourselves in slightly windier seas now well into our crossing from Antarctica back to South America.

The Drake Passage is, named after Sir Francis Drake who, blown off course in a storm in the 16th century after coming through the Straits of Magellan, concluded that a connection between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans must exist. The first passage through the strait was made by Dutch Captain Willem Schouten onboard the *Eendracht* in the early 17th century, naming Cape Horn during this voyage for his hometown of Hoorn.

For us in the 21st century, the passage remains one of the most notorious stretches of oceans anywhere in the world, with the lack of any significant land mass around the Southern Ocean at this latitude meaning that storms have an infinite fetch to gather strength. Fortunately for us the worst storms happen in winter time and our crossing so far had been only a taste of what it can sometimes be like. A gentle rocking accompanied us all day as we reflected on the experiences we had had, sifted through our hundreds (or rather, thousands) of pictures, caught a talk or two in the lecture room from Daniela about Humpback whales, Kurtis about Global Change or Mick with some history of time and navigation but otherwise watched the waves drift past as the ship as we digested the sights and experiences we had had throughout this fabulous voyage.



Day 18 – January 2nd

At sea towards Ushuaia: The Drake Passage

0800 GPS position: 56°09.2' S / 065°25.1' W

Weather: 10°C, partly cloudy; wind: SW 2



The drake gods had quite clearly forgotten about our presence since we had left Antarctica. Gentle wind and waves following us were making our crossing a quiet one. We enjoyed a lazy morning and everyone took some time to pack suitcases and share photos and contacts.

In addition, we were preparing for our next polar destination: Mick gave a complete talk about Greenland's landscape and culture and answered everyone's questions about the future of the population.

As we made our way to the Beagle Channel we enjoyed a nice afternoon under the Patagonian sun, and tee-shirts, shorts and sunglasses appeared on the bridge. Some dolphins came closer to check us out while Shags and Cormorants made their way in the channel.

In the late afternoon the bar got crowded again as everyone made their way to enjoy Sandra's final slideshow. More than 200 pictures summing up our trip, we returned to some of the great moments we had! The feelings were strong and we were all a bit nostalgic thinking about our last day. But the smiles came back on the faces thanks to Captain Ernesto Barría as he offered us the Captain's Farewell and thanked his crew and the passengers. Time to say goodbye – but before that, there was another delicious dinner in the restaurant to be had during which we all got to know the galley team!

Day 19 – January 3rd

Ushuaia

0800 GPS position: 54°48.6' S / 068°17.8' W


The last morning! – Returning from our almost three weeks of Antarctic adventure with time flying by, we had arrived back to the pier in Ushuaia around midnight. After our final breakfast on board *Ortelius*, in glorious sunshine we bid farewell to the ship and her crew, to the expedition team and the hotel team and, of course, also to our newly-found friends. We stepped down the gangway one last time and took the last photo – and then another one, and yet one more, adding to our individual treasure vaults of moments to be cherished. The wonders of the Subantarctic and Antarctica had gotten hold on us, and by the time we were disembarking, quite a few of us had already made plans to return to this magnificent place ...



Total distance sailed on this voyage:
3.418 nautical miles / 6.330 kilometers

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions,
Captain Ernesto Barría and the Officers,
all Crew, Expedition Team and Hotel Team,
it has been a pleasure travelling with you!
Have a safe return to home – we hope
to welcome you on board again soon.

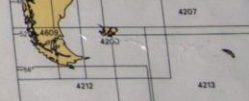
www.oceanwide-expeditions.com



A detailed nautical chart of the South Atlantic and Antarctic region. The chart shows the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula. A black line traces an expedition route starting from the Falkland Islands, heading south to South Georgia, then west along the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, and finally east along the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula towards the South Orkney Islands. The chart includes depth soundings, contour lines, and various geographical labels.

**Falkland Islands,
South Georgia and the
Antarctic Peninsula
with Oceanwide Expeditions
16 December, 2016 – 3 January, 2017**

INDEX OF 1:350000 ADMIRALTY CHARTS



Falkland Islands



Day 3 • December 18
A – Carcass Island
B – Saunders Island
Day 4 • December 19
C – Stanley

South Georgia

Day 7 • December 22

- D – Salisbury Plain
- E – Rosita Bay
- F – Camp Bay

Day 8 • December 23

- G – Salisbury Plain
- H – Stromness Harbour
- I – Grytviken

Day 9 • December 24

- J – St Andrews Bay
- K – Ocean Harbour
- L – Royal Bay

Day 10 • December 25

- M – Gold Harbour
- N – Cooper Bay
- O – Drygalski Fjord

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
SOUTH GEORGIA
DEPTHS in FATHOMS
(Unless Shown in Fathoms and Feet)
SCALE 1:250,000 at lat 54°30'

Depths are in fathoms and are indicated in Chart Datum, which is approximately the level of Lowest Astronomical Tide.
Sightings are in feet above Mean High Water Springs.
Projections: Mercator.

Remarks: The origin, scale, date, and limits of the hydrographic surveys used in compiling this chart are shown in the Sounding Sheet Diagram. Depths in single figures are from sounder scale surveys.

HEMISPHERE DATA
Magnetic Variation
1985-1990 120.000-120.000 17.000 2.000 14.000
1990-95 120.000-120.000 17.000 2.000 14.000
1995-00 120.000-120.000 17.000 2.000 14.000

WATERSIDE OBSERVATIONS
Positions obtained from satellite navigation systems are indicated by the word "Satellite" followed by the system used. Positions obtained from other sources are indicated by the word "Other" followed by the source used. Positions obtained from other sources are indicated by the word "Other" followed by the source used.

INADEQUATE SURVEYS
Notations on this chart indicate areas where the hydrographic survey is considered to be inadequate. These areas are indicated by the word "Inadequate" followed by the date of the survey.

Total levels referred to Datum of Soundings

Mean	Low	High	Mean	Low	High
Mean	Low	High	Mean	Low	High
Mean	Low	High	Mean	Low	High

Antarctic Peninsula

Day 12 • December 27

P – Orcadas, Laurie Island

Day 14 • December 29

Q – Paulet Island

R – Brown Bluff

Continental Landing

Day 15 • December 30

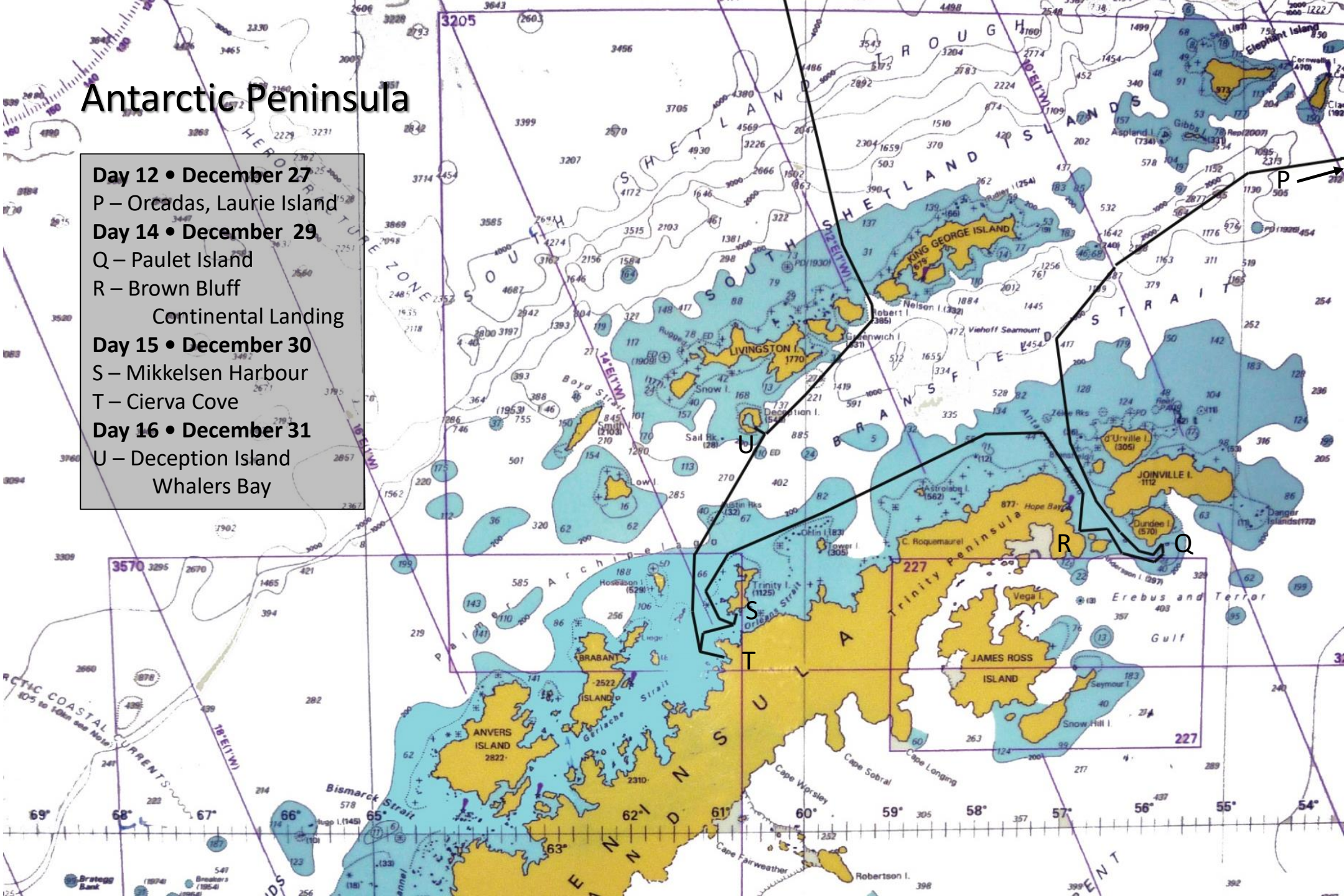
S – Mikkelsen Harbour

T – Cierva Cove

Day 16 • December 31

U – Deception Island

Whalers Bay





PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2017

**Your chance to win a € 1000 gift
voucher for your next polar adventure.**

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS,
BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE
WORTH A **€ 1000 GIFT VOUCHER**?

Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



PRIZES



€ 1000

GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher

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UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2018.

Read the terms and conditions of the contest on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms



Kayaking the Waters of Antarctica The weather changes so dramatically down here that you simply cannot say, "this looks like a great day" if it is one – rather you must live in the moment and perhaps a more appropriate phrase might be, "this looks like a great moment"! After enduring Force 8 winds on the Beaufort Wind Scale the Ortelius (our home during this Antarctica cruise) pulled into calm waters at Georges Point affording us our first close look at the breathtaking scenery (icebergs, glaciers and mountains)

TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2017

Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

FANCY YOURSELF AS A TRAVEL WRITER? ENTER OUR ANNUAL TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION AND YOU JUST MIGHT WIN YOURSELF A € 1000 GIFT VOUCHER FOR YOUR NEXT POLAR ADVENTURE.

Write about your experience!

What was it like to camp out under the Antarctic sky? Was it scary when you encountered a polar bear? Was this your first cruise and were you nervous about crossing open waters?

After all, how your expedition made you feel is what you're going to carry with you for the rest of your life. If you share your experience you just might win yourself a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

Here's what you need to do:

1. Write a post (600 – 1200 words) in Dutch, English, or German about what excited you the most on your Oceanwide Expeditions cruise. The topic is entirely up to you.
2. Make sure you add titles and subtitles to the story.
3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post that links back to the particular trip you took as found on our website. The link could connect to the ship's page, the trip itinerary, the particular destination's page, or perhaps a page related to one of the activities you enjoyed.
4. Add 3 to 5 pictures (they should be 2 MB minimum in size, in landscape format and attached separately when you decide to send your entry to us).
5. Post it online and send us the URL where your story is published. **OR** send your post to us at marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com. Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
6. Spread the word!



PRIZES



€ 1000

GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**ENTRIES CLOSE
DECEMBER 31**

Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2018

Read the full terms and conditions on oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms

Cheryl Randall – Expedition Leader



An Oxford law graduate, Cheryl worked as a corporate lawyer at a leading London law firm for four years, before leaving England in pursuit of a more active, outdoor lifestyle. She then spent sixteen months driving around Australia in a Toyota Landcruiser; the perfect segway for a change of career on life's magical journey!

Cheryl decided to turn her passion for adventure to a career at sea. As a professional sailor, Cheryl sailed over 20,000nm on some of the world's most beautiful superyachts, seeking her endless summer in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, traversing the huge locks of the Panama Canal en route to the blissful isolation of a Pacific crossing. Cheryl loves all watersports; her ultimate diving highlight as a Rescue Diver has been swimming with hammerhead sharks off the Costa Rican Cocos Islands.

Always captivated by Antarctica's rich history, ancient landscapes and abundant wildlife, Cheryl has now crossed the Drake Passage sixty times to reach the great white south. Cheryl's search for sunlight takes her to the Arctic in the boreal summers, whether guiding intimate groups across the vast Canadian wilderness by canoe or sea-kayak or enjoying wildlife interactions in Svalbard, Norway. Fantastic Arctic wildlife experiences include wolves strolling in to camp, sea-kayaking with narwhal, and having a polar bear lick the bow of the ship whilst in the pack ice! In 2014, Cheryl was privileged to be part of the Victoria Strait Expedition which located Sir John Franklin's HMS Erebus (last seen in 1845), in the Canadian Arctic, earning the Erebus Medal recognising her contribution to the discovery.

Always looking for new ways to view the world, Cheryl holds her Private Pilots Licence and this summer gained her float plane rating, flying amongst the stunning 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay, Ontario.

An avid explorer, Cheryl most recently travelled through the colours, smells and sounds of Rajasthan, India, after having fulfilled her lifelong dream of crossing Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Among her solo travels, Cheryl includes as highlights hiking up Kota Kinabalu in magical Borneo, ballooning over the Serengeti at dawn and being lucky enough to meet Lonesome George in the Galapagos Islands.

Kurtis Oman – Assistant Expedition Leader, Geologist



Hi there, I am excited to be one of your guides onboard! I am from a small town outside of Ottawa, Canada. Most of my time growing up was spent paddling and hiking on the lakes, rivers and forests of beautiful shield country in Ontario.

I have been working in the outdoor tourism industry as a guide for over a decade, spending my summers in the Canadian arctic and sub-arctic leading multi-week canoe and sea kayak expeditions and my winters here, in the south playing around the ice.

As well as being a guide and adventurer I have training as a geologist, I have a passion for rocks and landscapes with particular interests in earth systems and mineralogy. I am happy to talk and share some knowledge over a cup of tea or glass of whiskey in the lounge, not only on geology but on all things natural science. Above all, my biggest passion is living and playing in the outdoors and sharing those experiences with you.

Daniela Abras – Expedition Guide & Lecturer



Since I was 8 years old, I had a great interest in whales and dolphins, and this passion led me to have a degree in Marine Biology and a Master's degree in Biological Oceanography.

Today, I'm a whale researcher in Brazil, dedicating my life to the study of Humpback Whales, and especially their migratory dynamics between Antarctica and Brazil. Since 2012, I have been coordinating land-based and cruise-based research, writing scientific articles, reports and book chapters.

I also offer training to whale watching operators, and lectures about the behavior and ecology of whales and dolphins for tourists from around the world, focusing on responsible and sustainable activity.

My years of field experience made me a naturalist, with an increased passion for birds and other animals. And, because of the interest of capturing whales and wildlife with the lens of a camera, I developed a new hobby, and started to study photography.

I live in Brazil, and speak Portuguese, Spanish and English.

John Yeh - Guide & lecturer



I was born on 1958 in Taiwan and lives in Sydney, Australia since 1991. I joined “Chinese Boy Scouts” from Junior High to college. During in Boy Scouts those years I learned a lot from the team work, camping skill, tracking skill, wildlife, plants etc. I was in the army service for 2 year as a Lieutenant. I have taken up orienteering in Gobi desert, China twice on 2013. I really enjoy traveling and outdoor challenging.

I had EE bachelor degree and was R/D engineer for 7 years before work as a regional Sales manager in South Europe and GM for Australia/New Zealand. I have traveled 27 countries and covered 6 continentals during my working carrier. I changed my working carrier into tourism industry since 2013 and work as “Senior International Business Consultant” & “Expedition Guide”. I have been to Antarctica 7 times and twice for Arctic till Dec/2015 and really enjoy dealing with people.

Due to more Chinese travelers visiting Antarctica & Arctic as me work as a expedition guide I can deliver more conservation education to those travelers. Hope our future generation can see the last piece of wild land in the earth. This is my passion and willing to do more in the near future.

我于1958年出在台湾, 1991 年移居澳洲雪梨. 初中到专校我参加”中国童子军”, 在这期间我学会了团队合作的重要性, 露营技巧, 野外求生及追踪技巧, 野生动植物的辨识及应用. 服过两年兵役, 任职少尉分队长. 2013 参与两项戈壁徒步赛事及高中拓展训练. 我喜爱旅行及户外挑战运动.

我已取得电机工程学士学位, 有7年电子线路研发经历, 也担任过南欧区域业务经理及澳洲/新西兰公司总经理. 在这些年工作期间走访过27个国家及6大洲. 2013转换职场到旅行业, 担任公司资深国际业务顾问及荷兰南北极探险旅行探险队员. 截至 2015年12月, 已去过南极7次, 北极2次, 享受跟旅客对话及互动的过程.

鉴于南北极旅行中国旅客数量逐年增加, 做为探险队员可以有很好的机会传递生态保育教育, 好让我们后代子孙可以欣赏到地球上最后一块野生净土. 这是我热衷的事, 希望未来能做得更多.

Lydie Lescarmontier – Guide & Lecturer



I'm passionate about the environment and the polar regions !

I started my studies focusing on the environment, and the impact of humans on its quality. And I actually figured out that the most impacted part of the earth are the polar regions. That's why I decided to work on the evolution of glaciers in Antarctica. I followed a master degree in oceanography and climatology and started a Doctorate degree in glaciology. I worked with the french national research center on the interaction between the Antarctic ice-sheet and the ocean, using the example of the Mertz Glacier in Adelie Land (East Antarctica) I participated to four seasons in Antarctica with the french polar institute onboard the Astrolabe, a french ice breaker, to put in place a network of GPS stations on the glacier and follow its evolution.

After my doctorate, I spent 3 years in Australia to work at the Australian National University of the mass balance of East Antarctica. A part of my job in collaboration with the Australian Antarctic Division was to set up a network of autonomous GPS beacons in different part of the continent to get accurate estimates of the quantity of ice in that region.

My work in the Arctic is more recent as I started in 2014 working as a guide in Svalbard and Greenland. And because I think that the best way to protect polar regions is to talk about them, I'm also involved in an association promoting polar sciences and networking young french polar researchers.

Mick Brown –Guide & Lecturer



A native of Dublin, Mick has lived in Pembrokeshire, West Wales for over forty years. Many years of experience as a guide, naturalist, and also with the RSPCA, have given him a depth of understanding based on hands-on experience, in particular with seals and seabirds. As an educationalist, he has also worked locally with Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks and also at a children's outdoor education centre.

He has travelled widely (and wildly!) specialising for 15 years in the Arctic and

Antarctica. A zodiac driver and lecturer, he views his role as that of an interpreter, 'translating' the natural world and the animal kingdom. Wherever there is a bear or a badger, a penguin or a gannet to be found, whether in the remote Polar regions or on the Pembrokeshire Islands, Mick is equally at home.

An all round naturalist and a photographer since his teens, his passion for the natural world is truly inspiring. He has recently published a book of his early days in Dublin as a street photographer which has achieved high critical acclaim.

Pete Gwatkin – Expedition Guide



Pete originally trained as an engineer but has made a number of career changes over his working life that have included... sports development work, community education, social work, university lecturing as well as running his own bespoke mountaineering and kayaking business.

Pete lives in the highlands of Scotland close to the National Training Centre for Outdoor Adventurous Activities where he is employed as a kayaking guide. Pete has attained the highest UK kayaking and mountaineering qualifications and is now a technical advisor to educational authorities. Pete is a qualified first aid trainer and also lecturers at The University of Edinburgh on the postgraduate MSc programme in outdoor education.

Pete started kayaking as a boy of 15 in a wooden framed canvas kayak. These first tentative kayak strokes in a craft that he built with his father were to provide the inspiration for a lifetime of adventure in the outdoors. During this time Pete has kayaked in many places throughout the world on both rivers and on the sea.

Sandra Petrowitz – Guide & Lecturer



From early on, Sandra has been a dedicated naturalist, traveler and photographer. Fueled by curiosity and a deep passion for being out and about, her extensive journeys have led her (and her camera) across the globe. When visiting the polar regions for the first time she immediately fell for the high latitudes' nature and light. So besides stories and photos, she brought home the polar bug, and has been returning frequently to the Arctic and Antarctica ever since.

Holding a degree in journalism, Sandra has a background in working as an editor, free-lance journalist and writer. An avid photographer, she has a wide interest in all kinds of nature and wildlife observations. Sandra frequently leads specialized photo trips to the polar regions but also to places like Botswana and Jordan, and has published two books on travel photography.

Veronique Verhoeven – Doctor



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.

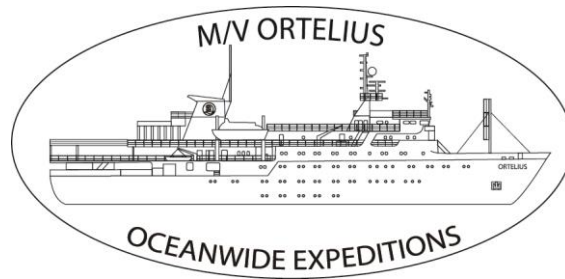
For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

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.



Captain Ernesto Barria, his International Crew of 50

including

Hotel Manager – Michael Frauendorfer (Austria)

Chief Steward – Dejan Nikolic (Serbia)

Head Chef – Gabor Kiss (Hungary)

Assistant Chef – Richard Arokiasamy (Malaysia)

Ship's Physician – Veronique Verhoeven (Belgium)

and

Expedition Leader – Cheryl Randall (Great Britain)

Assistant Expedition Leader – Kurtis Oman (Canada)

Guide & Lecturer – Mick Brown (Ireland/Wales)

Guide & Lecturer – Sandra Petrowitz (Germany)

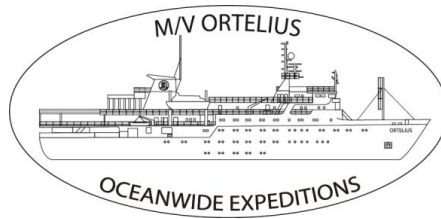
Guide & Lecturer – John Yeh (Australia / China-Taiwan)

Guide & Lecturer – Daniela Abras (Brasil)

Guide & Lecturer – Lydie Lescarmontier (France)

Guide & Lecturer – Pete Gwatkin (Great Britan)

Welcome you all on board the *Ortelius*!



Friday 16 December, 2016

Welcome on board!

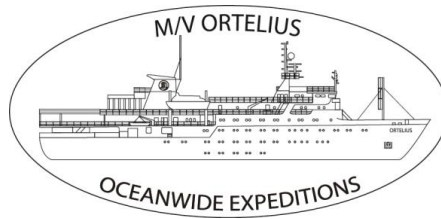
Ushuaia, Argentina

- 16.00 **Boarding begins!** Once you are on board, please do not leave the ship anymore! We will move your luggage from the pier to your cabin.
- 17.00 Please meet in the lecture room (Deck 3) for a **mandatory briefing** on safety onboard and lifeboat procedures. Your hotel manager Michael Frauendorfer will also tell you all about life on board your new home!
- 19.15 **Welcome cocktail!** Please join Captain Ernesto Barría, Expedition Leader Cheryl Randall and her team in the bar for a toast to our forthcoming Antarctic adventures!
- 20.00 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 4, both sides by reception) – enjoy your meal!

This evening we will sail in the open sea. If you feel you are likely to become seasick, please take your medication straight after dinner!

Be aware of the potential risks of a moving vessel:

- Hold on to the handrails – one hand for the ship, one for yourself.
- Be aware of slamming doors – never hold on to doorframes.
- Keep the portholes closed. Do not store any items under the portholes, as some drops of seawater may seep through.
- Store your breakable valuables away safely, preferably in the drawers. And make sure your cupboards and drawers are tightly closed.
- The outside decks and stairs can be very slippery if raining.
- Be careful with hot liquids.



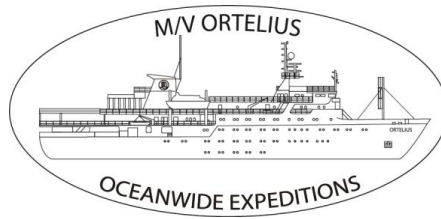
Saturday 17 December, 2016

At sea towards the Falkland Islands

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 Breakfast time! Breakfast is a buffet, available for one hour in the dining room on deck 4.
- Today is a chance for you to find your sea legs. It is a good idea to wrap up and take a walk out on deck! According to the forecast we can expect moderate wind on the port beam so expect the ship to roll throughout the day. Please note that locations for presentations may change depending on the sea state so listen out for announcements.
- 09.30 We will call you by deck to come to the lecture room to get a pair of rubber boots as well as your expedition lifejacket.
- 11.00 In anticipation of our next two days of adventuring, join Mick in the lecture room for an introduction to **the Wildlife of the Falkland Islands**.
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room.
- 15.00 Sandra will talk in the lecture room about cameras and capturing the world around us in her talk **Photography: Towards Better Images**.
- 17.00 Join Cheryl in the lecture room for a mandatory briefing on **Zodiac Operations**. Everyone needs to attend.
- 18.30 Join the expedition team in the bar for our daily re-cap. An opportunity to share some insight of some of the wildlife sightings and exciting moments of the day. Cheryl will also give us an overview of our plans for the Falkland Islands!
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

A reminder for your bridge visits:

- *Please visit the bridge and look out for wildlife!*
- *Please do not take food or drinks on to the bridge.*
- *Refrain from touching anything.*
- *Keep voices down.*



Sunday 18 December, 2016

Welcome to the West Falklands Islands!

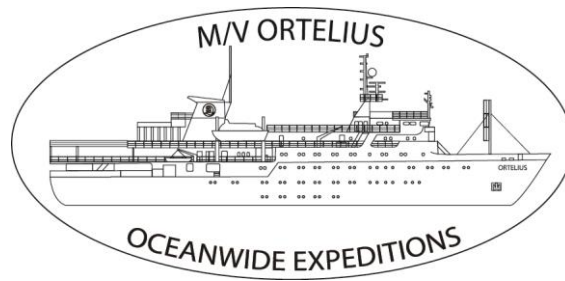
Today we are aiming to visit Carcass Island and Saunders Island. Our ability to land at either island will be dictated by the weather.

At Carcass Island, we are welcomed by owner Bob McGill to enjoy the island! There are many shorebirds and passerines near their homestead as well as the endemic Cobb's wren. You can walk as much of the 4km path between the homestead and the southern beaches as you like!

Saunders Island is a paradise of long white sand beaches, with Gentoo, King and Magellanic penguins all breeding on the island. It is also the only location on our voyage where we can see Rockhopper penguins! A little walk up the hill also takes you to nesting Black Browed albatross.

- 06.45 Wake-up call
- 07.00 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the Dining Room.
- 08.30 Excursion at **Carcass Island**. As with all shore landings, please **wear your rubber boots and be prepared for all weather**. Please make sure you have your camera in a waterproof bag for the zodiac ride; salt water and electronic equipment are not friends!
- 12.30 Lunch buffet is available in the Dining Room.
- 14.30 Excursion at **Saunders Island**.
- 19.00 Daily Recap. Join the expedition team in the bar for tomorrow's plans and a recap of today.
- 19.30 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

REMEMBER to **give way to wildlife** – it is their home and we are just visiting. Watch where you are walking and keep your distance; be careful not to trample on Magellanic penguin burrows. Please don't use flash photography in or near the burrows.



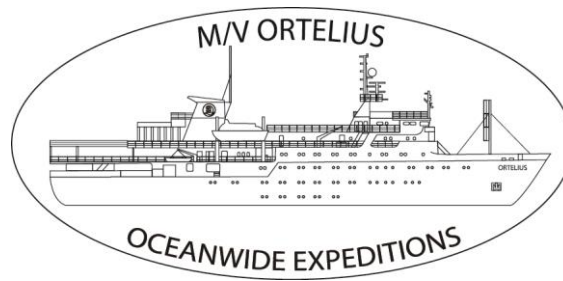
Monday 19 December, 2016

Welcome to Stanley, Capital of the Falkland Islands!

- 06.45 Wake-up call
- 07.00 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the Dining Room. If you plan to wear a sea sickness patch, now is the time to apply.
- 08.30 **Excursion in Stanley.** Landing is by zodiac but onto the pier at the Jetty Visitor Centre so you do not have to wear rubber boots. Having some waterproofs (pants and jacket) on is a good idea! Those signed up for the trip to Gypsy Cove, please come in the first few zodiacs and have your fare ready (£15/20USD/€20).
- 10.00 First zodiac from the jetty back to the ship
- 11.00 Second zodiac from the jetty back to the ship
- 12.00 Zodiacs will shuttle from the jetty back to the ship continuously
- 12.30 **Last zodiac back to the ship**
- 13.00 Lunch buffet is available in the Dining Room. If you plan to take sea sickness tablets, now is the time.
- 16.00 Join our Humpback whale researcher Daniela in the lecture room for her talk: **Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean**
- 18.45 Please join Cheryl and her team in the bar for our Falkland Islands recap
- 19.30 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon Appetit!

There are many places to see and visit in Stanley:

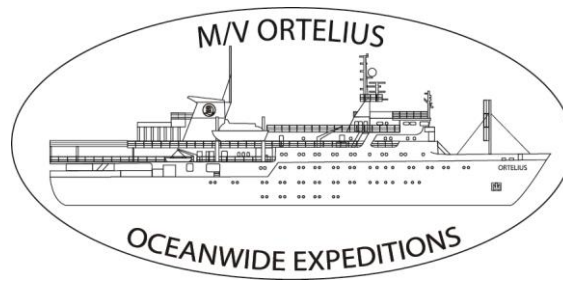
- West Store (supermarket), Post office (Philatelic bureau), Museum, Souvenirs shops (Capstan Gift Shop, The Pod Gift Shop, Falklands Conservation, Harbour View Gift Shop) and the Church will be open at 09.00
- There are several cafes and pubs available and most will open from 10.00
- There are NO ATMs in the Falkland Islands. Most outlets will accept cards but it is worth carrying some cash too. Standard Chartered Bank Approximate Exchange Rates: US Dollars: \$1 =75p, Euro 1 =80p (these rates are for your guidance only and are subject to change)



Tuesday 20 December, 2016

At Sea towards South Georgia

- 08.00 Breakfast buffet is available in the dining room
- 09.30 Join Lydie in the lecture room for her talk on the **Oceanography of the Southern Ocean**, where she will share all there is to know about the fourth largest ocean.
- 11.00 Please meet in the lecture room for the mandatory **International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) briefing**. Cheryl will describe the procedures that we will use ashore to keep everyone safe, to minimize our impact and to protect the wildlife we are hoping to enjoy. Everyone must attend.
- 12.30 Lunch buffet is available in the dining room
- 14.30 We will play a **short mandatory film** in the lecture room produced by the Government of South Georgia especially for visitors to the island. It includes guidelines for our behavior onshore. Everyone must attend.
- 15.30 **Vacuum Time!** As required by the Government of South Georgia, please come to the bar to vacuum camera bags, backpacks, pockets and velcro of pants and outer jackets that you plan to take ashore. We'll call you deck-by-deck to avoid queues. Staff will be here to help you.
- Once you've completed your vacuuming please sign the declaration and collect a free book about South Georgia!
- 18.30 Daily Recap. A daily review and a look ahead to tomorrow's plans.
- 19.00 Dinner is served. Bon appetit!
- 00.00 Tonight we are changing time: move your clocks forward one hour.

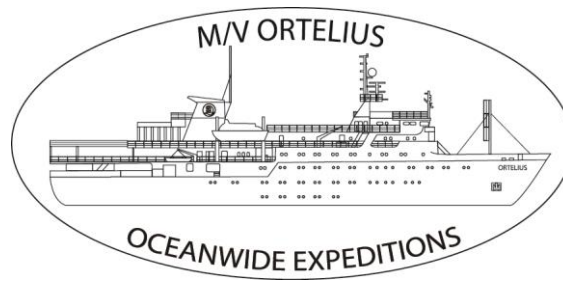


Wednesday 21 December, 2016

At Sea towards South Georgia

- 08.00 Breakfast buffet is available in the dining room
- 10.30 Kurtis will be in the lecture room discussing the Geology of the Scotia Arc in his talk: **A Brief 400 Million Year History of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.**
- 12.30 Lunch is available in the dining room
- 14.30 On to South Georgia! Mick will be preparing us for the inhabitants of the island in his talk: **Wildlife & Landscapes of South Georgia**; join him in the lecture room.
- 16.30 Join Daniela in the lecture room to talk about the history of whaling around the world as well as some of the ongoing issues in her talk: **Whaling, Present and Future Problems**
- 18.30 Daily Recap. A daily review and a look ahead to tomorrow's plans.
- 19.00 Dinner is served. Bon appetit!

Note: talks may change locations depending on the sea state so listen for announcements.



Thursday 22 December, 2016

The Bay of Isles & Possession Bay

Today we are aiming to visit Salisbury Plain and Prince Olav Harbour on the Northern coast of South Georgia. Please keep in mind that all landings in South Georgia are very much dependant on the weather as almost all shoreline is exposed to ocean swell and strong winds! Please stand-by for announcements regarding disembarkation.

When landing onshore, most of us will disembark together, with one zodiac groups meeting 30 minutes later at gangway for a zodiac cruise before going ashore. For our first landing, zodiac group K will zodiac cruise before coming ashore. On our second landing, those cruising first will be zodiac group A, and so on throughout our journey.

07.15 Wake up call.

07.30 Breakfast buffet is now available for one hour in the dining room.

09.00 **Excursion at Salisbury Plain.** We hope to take you ashore at this very scenic site, hosting as many as 250 000 King penguins! This will be our best opportunity to see the endemic South Georgia Pipit! Please remember to dress warmly and dry and to stay with a buddy to keep a watch out for Fur seals. If approached, stand your ground, stand tall and make some noise, for example by tapping rocks together.

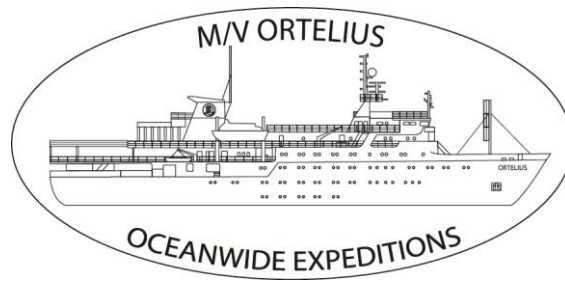
09.30 **Zodiac group K** meet at gangway for a zodiac cruise before going ashore.

13.00 Lunch buffet is available in the dining room.

15.00 **Excursion at Prince Olav Harbour.** Possession Bay, in which Prince Olav harbour is located, was first explored by Captain James Cook when he discovered the island and landed here on 17 January 1775. The harbour became well known to sealers and then whalers.

19.00 Daily recap. A daily review and a look ahead to tomorrow's plans.

19.30 Dinner is served in the dining room.

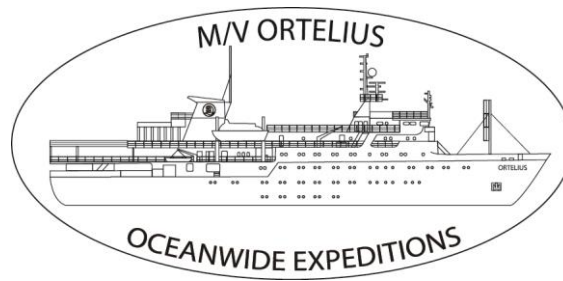


Friday 23 December, 2016

Salisbury Plain, Stromness Harbour and Grytviken

They say that the third time is the charm, so we will try once more in the early morning to have an excursion at Salisbury Plain. Afterwards, for the rest of our morning, we will visit Stromness Harbour, the location of the whaling station where Sir Ernest Shackleton finally reached help after his notorious journey. We will offer a walk up the valley to the Shackleton waterfall retracing his historic footsteps one hundred years ago. For those interested, please come in the first few zodiacs. In the afternoon we will visit Grytviken, a restored whaling station where we will meet some of the “South Georgia Locals” who spend part of their year here.

- 04.30 Staff will be on the bridge assessing conditions.
- 05.00 Wake up call if the excursion is possible, pastries will be available in the bar.
- 05.30 **Zodiac cruise at Salisbury Plain.**
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet is now available for one hour in the dining room.
- 10.30 **Excursion in Stromness Harbour.** Those wanting to go on the hike can take the first zodiacs.
- 11.00 **Group A will Zodiac cruise** before coming ashore.
- 13.00 Lunch buffet is available in the dining room.
- 14.30 Her Majesty’s Government Officer will come on-board and clear the ship before we are allowed ashore in Grytviken. Meanwhile there will be a presentation in the lecture room by Sarah Lurcock, from the South Georgia Heritage Trust, about the rat eradication project.
- 15.00 Shortly afterwards we will have an **excursion in Grytviken.** In the spirit of the holidays and Christmas, we would like to take the opportunity to have a small non-religious ceremony onshore in the century old Norwegian church for those who would like to participate. Afterwards, there will be walks offered to give some insight into the whaling station and Shackleton’s time on South Georgia. Remember to bring your postcards & money!
- 19.00 BBQ dinner is served on the stern deck (weather permitting)!



Saturday 24 December, 2016

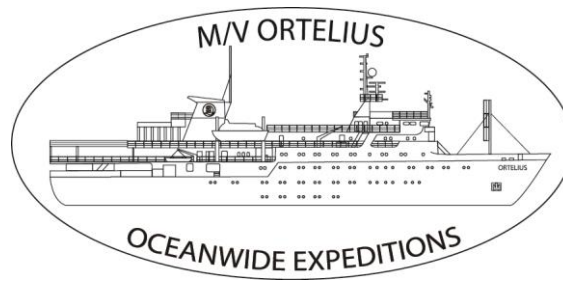
St Andrews Bay and Ocean Harbour

Today we hope to go ashore at picturesque St Andrews Bay. The most protected part of this exposed shoreline is populated with elephant seals. The walk from the beach back towards the glacier has many fur seals, and king penguins are often along the route.

In the afternoon we will head towards Ocean Harbour. Those wishing to take an extended hike inland into the hills should be in the first few zodiacs. There will also be a shorter walking option around the beach with elephant seals, viewing the only steam locomotive on South Georgia and the oldest known sealers' graves on the island. Zodiac cruisers will have photographic opportunities in the scenic bay of the shipwreck of the Bayard, complete with pairs of Shags nesting among the tussac grass growing on the deck of the wreck.

We have seen that landings in South Georgia are highly weather dependant; with tomorrow's forecast high winds, do listen out for announcements.

- 07.15 Wake up call.
- 07.30 Breakfast buffet is now available for one hour in the dining room.
- 09.00 **Excursion at St Andrews Bay.**
- 09.30 **Zodiac group B** zodiac cruise before going ashore.
- 13.00 Lunch buffet is available in the dining room.
- 15.00 **Excursion at Ocean Harbour**
- 15.30 **Zodiac group C** zodiac cruise before going ashore.
- 19.00 Daily Recap. Join us in the bar to hear tomorrow's plans.
- 19.30 Dinner is served in the dining room.



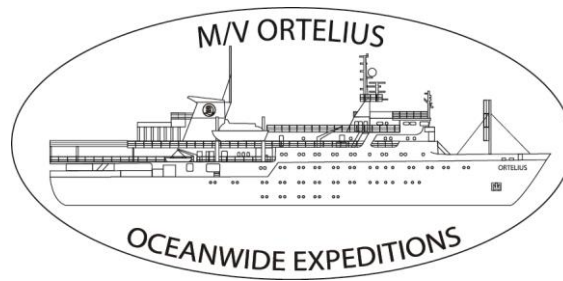
Sunday 25 December, 2016
Merry Christmas!

Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay

Today we hope to come ashore at Gold Harbour before breakfast and go for a zodiac cruise in Cooper Bay before lunch. You are well experienced in the changeability of South Georgia weather by now, so do listen out for announcements!

- 05.00 Wake up call, pastries will be available in the bar.
- 05.30 **Excursion at Gold Harbour**, one of the most beautiful bays in South Georgia where the Bertrab hanging glacier overlooks a king penguin colony. You can find a lot of wildlife at this very scenic site: king penguins, Gentoo Penguins, elephant seals and possibly light mantled albatross to name a few.
Group B please come to the front of gangway for the first zodiac.
- 06.00 **Group C** please come to the gangway for a zodiac cruise before coming to shore.
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet is now available for one hour in the dining room.
- 10.00 We hope to take you on a **zodiac cruise in Cooper Bay**. The vast bay has a large Macaroni penguin colony as well as other penguins and seabirds.
- 13.00 Lunch buffet is available in the dining room.
- Once we have left Cooper Bay, we set course for Antarctica!
- 18.00 Join us in the bar to celebrate our South Georgia adventure and prepare for another sea passage!
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room.

*As we head to sea in the afternoon, remember to
take your preventative sea sickness medications:
Patches at breakfast time and pills at lunch.*

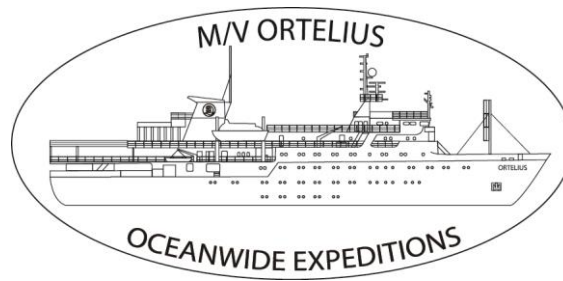


Monday 26 December, 2016

At Sea towards the South Orkney Islands

Today we will spend the day at sea, enjoy the gentle movement of the ship as you digest the sights, sounds and smells of South Georgia.

- 07.45 Wake up call
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room.
- 10.00 As we make our way towards Antarctica, please join Mick in the lecture room for his talk on **“Birds of the Southern Ocean”** – an overview of the sea birds we have been seeing and will see throughout the rest of our journey.
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room
- 14.00 **Vacuum Time!** As required by IAATO, please come to the bar to vacuum camera bags, backpacks, pockets and velcro of pants and outer jackets that you plan to take ashore. We'll call you deck-by-deck to avoid queues. Staff will be here to help you.
- Once you've completed your vacuuming please sign the declaration.
- 16.00 You are invited to join Lydie in the lecture room for the cold facts on ice: **Antarctic Glaciology.**
- 18.30 Today our recap will include a very short **mandatory video from IAATO.** Attendance at the beginning of the recap is compulsory.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room
- 00.00 We will be **moving clocks backwards one hour**

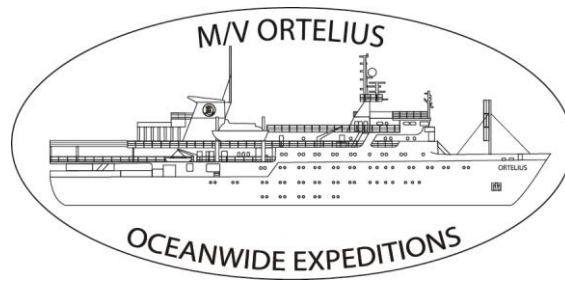


Tuesday 27 December, 2016

Orcadas Research Station, South Orkney Islands

Today we hope to visit Orcadas Station on Laurie Island in the South Orkney Islands. Weather conditions around South Orkney Islands can be challenging. Listen out for announcements as our timings will be flexible; the following is a guideline for the morning.

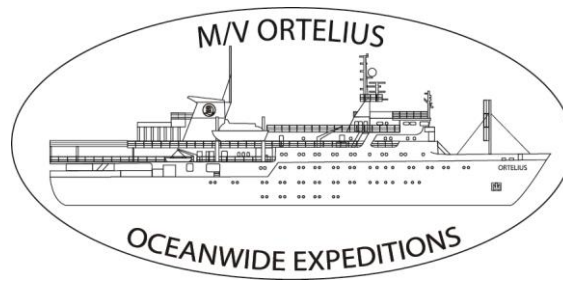
- 07.15 Wake-up call
- 07.30 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room
- 09.00 **Excursion on Laurie Island at Orcadas Station. Groups K, A, B, C, D, E.** Arguably the most difficult base to access in Antarctica, the station has been run by Argentinian scientists since it was acquired from the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition in 1904. The station is now the longest running meteorological station in Antarctica.
- 10.30 **Gangway for groups F, G, H, I, J.**
- 12.30 Lunch buffet is served in the dining room
- 15.00 Join Sandra in the presentation room for her presentation **Antarctica: an introduction to the White Continent.**
- 17.30 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction in the bar!** Your chance to own objects from the South Georgia Museum collection not normally available for sale! We'll be holding the auction in aid of the South Georgia Habitat Restoration Project.
- The lots will be on display in the bar during the afternoon
Payment by credit or debit card.
- 18.30 Daily recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room



Wednesday 28 December, 2016

At Sea towards Antarctica

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the dining room for one hour
- 09.30 As we approach the coldest place on the planet, come learn about **Sea Ice** with Lydie in the lecture room
- 11.00 Join Daniela in the lecture room to learn all about **Why Whales Migrate**
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room
- 15.00 Pete will tell the epic story of the **Nordenskjöld Expedition** in the lecture room
- 17.00 Join Sandra in the lecture room for a discussion on **Basic Editing in Lightroom**
- 18.30 Join the team for the daily recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room

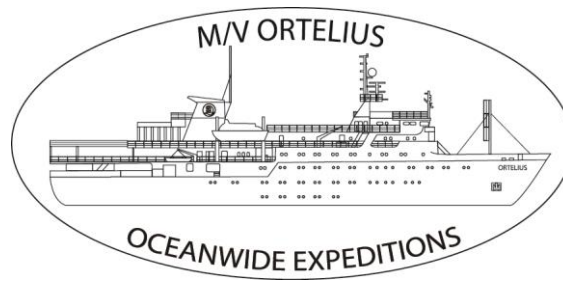


Thursday 29 December, 2016

Antarctic Sound

Today is an expedition day as Ortelius makes her way through the ice in Antarctic Sound. We hope to land at Paulet Island in the morning, unless the ice prevents us from reaching the area, in which case we will go to our Plan B and make an excursion around Joinville Island. In the afternoon we hope to make a continental landing at Brown Bluff. Our exact schedule will be determined by the sea ice conditions we encounter. Only one thing is certain – it will be exciting!

- 07.15 Wake-up call
- 07.30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the dining room for one hour
- 09.00 **Disembarkation at Paulet Island**
- 09.30 **Zodiac group D meet at gangway** to zodiac cruise before coming ashore
- 12.30 Buffet lunch is served in the dining room for one hour
- 15.00 **Disembarkation at Brown Bluff.** This is a landing on *continental* Antarctica! Enjoy the Adelie and Gentoo penguins coming and going along the shoreline. A steep but short walk up to see Snow Petrels nesting under the boulders may be possible if they are home.
- 15.30 **Zodiac group E meet at gangway** to zodiac cruise before coming ashore on the continent of Antarctica!
- 19.00 Join the team for our daily recap in the bar
- 19.30 Dinner is served in the dining room

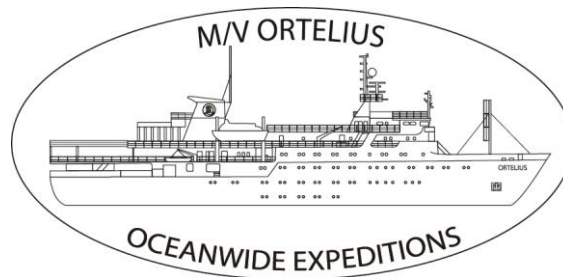


Friday 30 December, 2016

Mikkelsen Harbour, Cierva Cove

Today we will spend our day near Trinity island, the afternoon in Trinity island where we find Mikkelsen Harbour with tiny D'Hainault Island can be found where we plan to step off and visit a Gentoo penguin colony. After dinner we plan to zodiac cruise Cierva Cove, a spectacular bay on the Antarctic peninsula where icebergs abound and a few Chinstrap penguins call home.

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the dining room for one hour
- 10.30 Join Mick in the lecture room for his presentation **Birds of a Feather**
- 12.00 Join the team for our daily recap in the bar!
- 12.30 Buffet lunch is served in the dining room for one hour
- Approx 14.30 **Excursion on D'Hainault Island in Mikkelsen Harbour**
- 15:00 **Zodiac group F meet at gangway** to zodiac cruise before coming ashore
- 18.00 Dinner is served in the dining room
- Approx 19.30 **Zodiac cruise in Cierva Cove**
- 19.00 Join the team for our daily recap in the bar!



Saturday 31 December, 2016

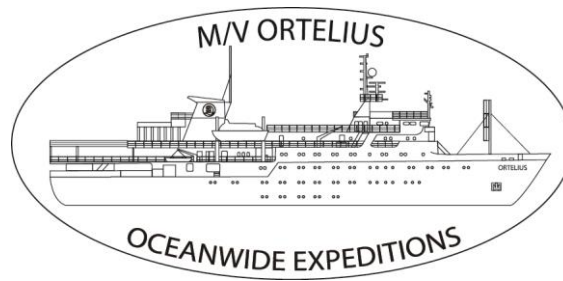
Happy New Years Eve!

Deception Island, South Shetland Islands

- 07.15 Wake up call
- 07.30 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour
- 08.30 **Neptune's Bellows!** A tricky and scenic navigation through Neptune's Bellows, not to be missed as we enter the flooded caldera of this active volcanic island.
- 09.00 **Excursion at Whalers Bay.** We will land in front of the old whaling station from where you can explore the rusting remains. Those wishing to take a longer walk should take one of the first zodiacs to join Mick to walk to the top of Ronald Hill for panoramic views of Port Foster.
- The more gentle walk along the beach to your right as you arrive will take you to Neptune's Window, with great views of the caldera rim on offer.
- At the end of the excursion you can all take a dip in the polar waters before heading back to the ship! We will provide towels; we suggest wearing your swimwear under your clothing.
- 09.30 **Zodiac Group G meet at gangway** for a zodiac cruise before coming ashore
- 13.00 Lunch buffet is available in the dining room for an hour
- In the afternoon we will pass along the south coast of many of the South Shetland Islands, including the beautiful and heavily glaciated Livingston Island. We encourage everyone to spend time enjoying our final views of Antarctica and searching for cetaceans!
- 19.00 Daily recap in the bar
- 19.30 Another delicious dinner is served in the dining room

We will be entering the Drake Passage around dinner time. Please make sure to take sea sickness medication at lunch if needed and secure all belongings in your cabins.

We will be hosting a New Years Eve Quiz in the bar after dinner and at midnight we will ring in 2017!

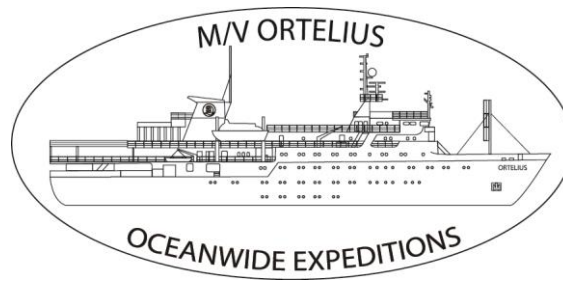


Sunday 1 January, 2017
Happy New Year!

The Drake Passage

Locations for lectures may change depending on sea conditions. As ever, it will be worthwhile keeping a good lookout outside for birds and mammals sharing our journey across the Southern Ocean.

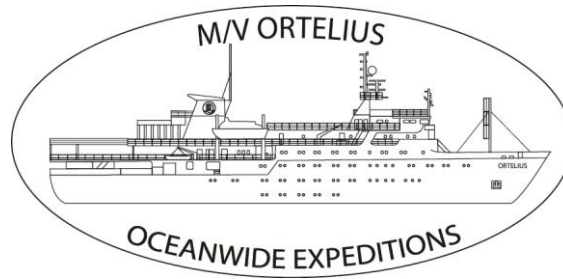
- 07.45 Wake up call
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet available in the dining room for one hour
- 10.30 After seeing so many whales during our trip, join Daniela in the lecture room to learn more about **Humpback Whales** and some of the behaviour we saw.
- 12.30 Lunch buffet is served in the dining room
- 14.30 Kurtis invites you to join him in the lecture room to discuss **Global Change from an Antarctic perspective.**
- 16.00 Join Mick in the lecture room where he will regale you with nautical stories in his lecture **Greenwich mean time, Navigating at sea.**
- 18.30 Daily recap in the bar
- 19.00 Another delicious dinner is served in the dining room!



Monday 2 January, 2017

Approaching the Beagle Channel

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 Breakfast buffet is available in the dining room for one hour.
- 10.30 Join Mick in the lecture room for a bipolar presentation on **Greenland; the World's Biggest Island.**
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the dining room.
- 14.00 Another adventure before reaching Ushuaia: **Settling Your Accounts** at reception! Please listen for announcements as Michael and DJ will call you deck by deck.
- At the same time, we will call alternate decks down to the lecture room to collect **rubber boots and lifejackets**. Please stand-by for your deck to be called, thank you!
- 17.45 A **super slide show** of the trip will be shown in the bar, followed by...
- ...Captain's Cocktails in the bar**
- 19.00 Farewell dinner is served!



Tuesday 2 January, 2017

Arrival in Ushuaia & Disembarkation

07.15 Wake up call

The bridge, bow and aft will be closed this morning

Please **put your check-in luggage in the corridor** outside your cabin **before breakfast**. It will be brought to the pier for you.

07.30 Breakfast buffet available for one hour in the dining room.

During breakfast the stewards will make a start changing the beds, but of course you are welcome to leave your hand luggage on the table, and to use the bathroom in your cabins after breakfast.

After breakfast, **please wait in the bar** until we announce that the ship has been cleared (by the Argentine Customs Officials). Please do not step ashore before you hear an announcement that the ship has been cleared!

It helps us a lot if you DO NOT wait in reception please.

Once the ship is clear, you'll be able to collect your passport, and head down to the pier to identify your luggage.

We anticipate that buses will be ready for disembarkation at around 08.30 if we have cleared Customs by that time. Do listen for announcements for disembarkation and bus timings

For those of you heading into town or to local hotels, taxis will be available from the end of the pier, a short walk from our berth

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria,
and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you and we hope to welcome you back on
board again soon!