



# Basecamp Antarctica

6th March – 17th March 2017

On board the

***M/V Plancius***



MV *Plancius* was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and vicar Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named *Hr. Ms. Tydeman*. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.

# Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew of 48

## Including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Artur Iakovlev</b>	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	<b>Gavin Cunningham</b>	[Britain]
3rd Officer:	<b>Luis Oroceo</b>	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b>	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Katrin Völker</b>	[Germany]
Head Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Annelot Ochtman</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Beau Pruneau</b>	[Canada/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Katja Riedel</b>	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Fran Pothecary</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gérard Bodineau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Céline Clément-Chastel</b>	[France]
Camping Guide:	<b>Ignacio Marino</b>	[Argentina]
Camping Guide:	<b>Chris Booker</b>	[UK]
Photo Guide:	<b>Bruce Robinson</b>	[USA]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Paul Donovan</b>	[Wales]
Mountaineering Lead Guide:	<b>Massimo Candolini</b>	[Italy]
Mountaineering Guide:	<b>Mal Haskins</b>	[New Zealand]
Dive Master:	<b>Henrik Enkell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Catherine Buckland</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Michael Green</b>	[UK]

## Welcome you on board!

# Day 1 – Monday 6th March 2017

## Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 54°48'S / 068°18'W

Ushuaia marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but also the start of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. During the summer this rapidly growing frontier town of 55,000 bustles with adventurous travellers. The duty-free port flourishes with tourism but also thrives on a sizeable crab fishery and a burgeoning electronics industry. Ushuaia (lit. *“bay that penetrates to the west”* in the indigenous Yaghan tongue) clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote setting. The rugged spine of the South American Andes ends here, where two oceans meet. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing on a whim.

For many of us this is the start of a lifelong dream. The excitement comes in different forms for each person, but even the most experienced of us felt genuine excitement to depart on a journey to the Great White Continent of Antarctica. At the gangway we were greeted by members of our Expedition staff who sorted our luggage and sent us on board to meet Hotel Managers Zsuzsanna and Katrin. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of the fabulous Filipino crew.



A short while after boarding we convened in the lounge on deck five to meet First Officer Artur, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the crew and staff. On hearing the alarm we reconvened at the 'muster station', the lounge, for the mandatory safety briefing and abandon ship drill donning our huge orange life jackets that will keep us safe should the need arise. After this lifeboat drill we returned to the outer decks to watch our departure from Ushuaia.



Once we were under way we got an introduction by Hotel Manager Zsuzsanna to the ship and by Expedition Leader Beau to the expedition team who will guide us in Antarctica in order for us to enjoy the various Basecamp activities that are on offer: kayaking, mountaineering and camping amongst others.



This was also a chance to meet our Captain, Evgeny Levakov and toast our voyage with a glass of Prosecco. The rest of the evening was occupied with dining in the restaurant, exploring the ship and settling into our cabins. In the early hours of the morning we would be out into the open waters of the Drake Passage and heading South towards Antarctica.



Katja Riedel - Snæmúnd Photography



## Day 2 – Tuesday 7th March 2017

### At Sea in the Drake Passage

**08:00 GPS Position:** 56°36' S / 065°39' W

Wind: WSW 4 Temp: + 4 Vis: Good

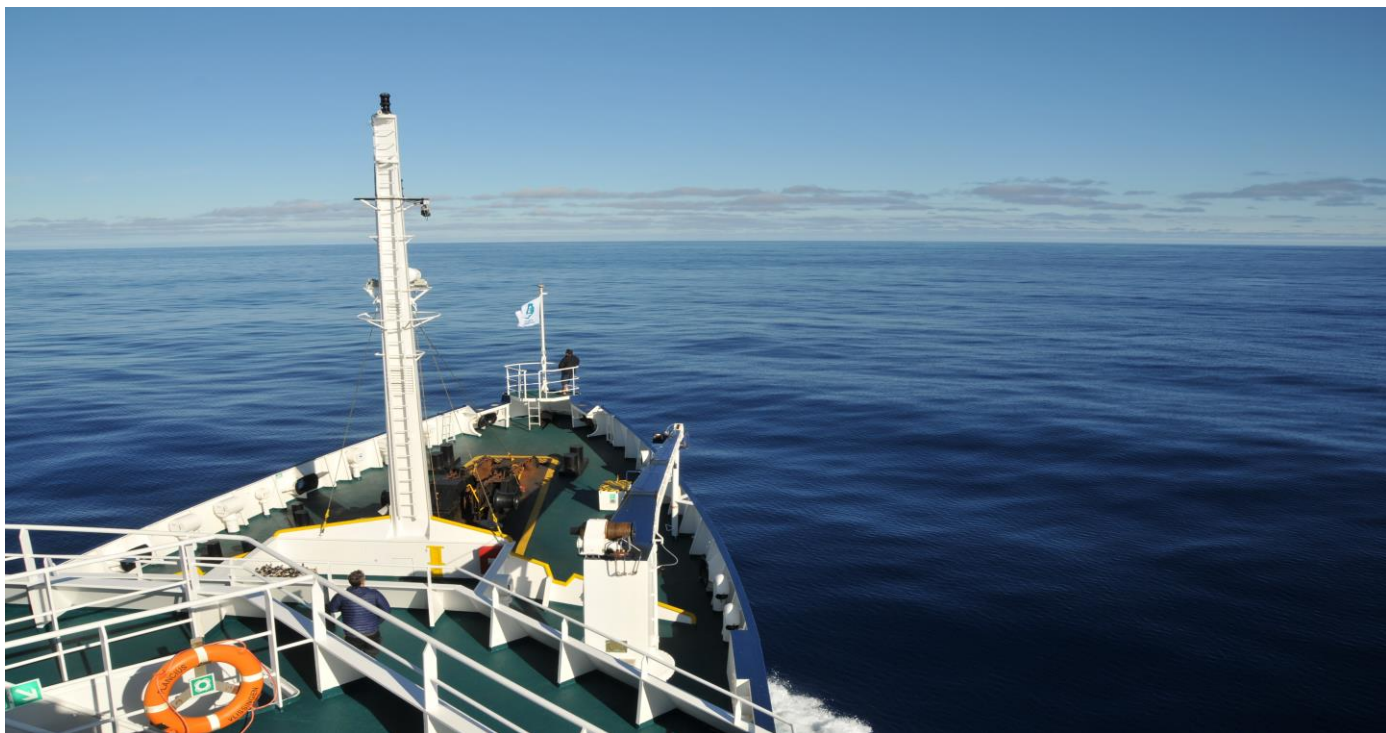
Today we woke up under grey skies but the sea was calm and the dulcet tones of Beau, our expedition leader promised us an interesting day: lots of briefings to prepare us for our numerous activities over the next few days. After our first generous breakfast on board, the Expedition Team called us deck by deck to hand out our rubber boots. At 11.00 am, our photo guide Bruce made his famous “Introduction to Photography” to help people to take the best pictures possible. During lunch, the weather changed. After an hour of wind, it stopped totally and the sun shone. So far, the infamous Drake Passage had treated us more gently than we could ever have imagined. No swell, instead sun and deep blue sky! Only a few birds were flying around - the bigger ones much prefer windier weather – but we saw some albatrosses, petrels and prions.

The afternoon was dedicated to introduce the various Basecamp activities: hiking and camping, kayaking, mountaineering and diving! One after the other, our specialized guides (Gérard, Nacho, Chris, Paul, Massimo, Mal and Henrik) explained all the ins and outs of each activity including a safety briefing. They also checked our own equipment.



After so much information, it was time for us to spend time on deck appreciating how exceptional this flat calm sea was! At Recap, Beau told us about the plans for tomorrow. Recap is also usually the moment to expand on Antarctic topics of interest. Today was a good time to talk about the Antarctic convergence, the “border” in the sea where the temperature changes and marks the boundaries of Sub-Antarctica & Antarctica waters from the rest of the oceans. Bruce also did a talk on sea bird wingspans, showing with visual aid just how small and how large some of the birds can really be, such as the tiny Wilson’s Storm Petrel with a wingspan of just 40cm and the Wandering Albatross with a wingspan reaching over 3.5 meters.

Slowly the day came to an end, and after a wonderful dinner under the stunning light of the sunset, photographers were out to immortalize these colors and to discover a nice moon rise. Everyone then made their way to their cabins ready to dream about the promise of the days ahead.



Unusual flat calm Drake (Celine Clement-Chastel)

# Day 3 – Wednesday 8th March 2017

## At Sea in the Drake Passage

**0800 GPS Position:** 61°15' S / 063°19' W

Wind: WSW 5 Temp: +4 Vis: Moderate

Whereas yesterday we awoke with clear skies and the sun shining, today we were met with fog and twenty knots of cold wind. The 5°C drop in temperature since yesterday can be attributed to Plancius crossing the Antarctic Convergence: the biological boundary of the Antarctic where the warmer waters of the South Pacific and the South Atlantic meet the frigid waters of the Southern Ocean. Our vessel also crossed 60° south overnight, which is the geopolitical boundary of Antarctica as defined by the Antarctic Treaty. It was safe to say that we had made it to the Antarctic!

Our plan for the day was simple – full steam south until we arrived at the continent! Another day at sea meant more presentations from the Expedition Team. Today there were mandatory briefings to attend before we are allowed to disembark the ship for landings tomorrow. In the morning, Beau briefed us on the IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) guidelines when visiting the region, as well as some do's and don'ts on land and how to safely use the Zodiacs. After the briefing we started "The Vacuum Party": a biosecurity measure to remove any invasive species from our clothing and equipment that we might bring to the White Continent.



After a delicious lunch, we resumed vacuuming our clothing and equipment until all passengers and staff had completed the required biosecurity controls. Now it was time for more lectures. Katja gave us a lecture "Introduction to Antarctica", explaining the characteristics of the continent; the surrounding Southern Ocean, the infamous katabatic winds, the Ice Sheet and what there is below the ice, like Lake Vostok.

The visibility improved during the afternoon and we spotted a mountain between two clouds: LAND. It was Smith Island, with a mountain spine of about 2000 m elevation, covered by lots of

glaciers. As we arrived on the continental shelf, some passengers saw whale blows and a small group of Fin Whales was briefly spotted in the mist. Later in the afternoon, Mal talked about glaciers, giving some information on how glaciers are formed, and their action on the landscape. He finished by talking about impacts of human activities on glaciers and how the ice ages occurred on Earth due to astronomic parameters. Before dinner, we all met in the Lounge. For many of us, it was the moment to share a drink or to watch some black browed albatross flying around the ship. Our Expedition Leader Beau interrupted those intense talks to give us the program for tomorrow, containing several activities: kayaking, mountaineering, diving, hiking, watching wildlife and also camping overnight. During dinner Plancius approached the Antarctic Peninsula, with a very colourful sunset. Several islands were visible just before dark, so giving us the feeling of actually arriving in Antarctica.



## Day 4 – Thursday 9th March 2017

### Cuerverville Island & Danco Island

**GPS 08.00 Position:** 64°43' S / 062°36' W

**Weather:** Temp: -1 Wind: WSW4 Visibility: Good

We awoke this morning to the spectacular beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula and the Gerlache Strait. We were blessed with blue skies and calm seas. Upon arrival at Cuerverville Island, it seemed that the entire ship was surrounded by Humpback Whales. They were actively feeding and spy-hopping so it was decided to do a split landing and Zodiac cruise. Many of us had amazingly close encounters from the Zodiacs as some of the whales were curious and approached the Zodiacs, spy-hopping to check us out and providing us with unforgettable memories of our first morning in Antarctica. Ashore on Cuerverville Island we had the opportunity to experience our first colony of Gentoo Penguins. The sights, sounds and smells of thousands of penguins proved that we were finally in Antarctica. As it was very late in the season, the penguin chicks were nearly fully grown and were in the process of moulting their down feathers and preparing to leave the rookery for a life at sea. Some of us were lucky enough to witness a Leopard Seal that had captured a penguin and proceeded to tear it into bite-sized pieces. It is not easy being a penguin!



After a very satisfying lunch, the Zodiacs were launched and we headed to Danco Island. Many went on a longer walk to the summit of a hill and enjoyed panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. Others took a leisurely stroll along the beach with more Gentoo Penguins and stunning views. Our first day in Antarctica was a stunning one indeed!

## Mountaineering

### Georges Point

The first mountaineering landing was at Georges Point. There is a large Penguin Colony here and the shoreline was dotted with large numbers of fur Seals. We spent some time being careful to not disturb the Gentoo Penguins and seals as we made our way to the start of the glacier.



From the glacier, we roped up for glacier travel and after 20 minutes of easy travel we began our climb the saddle beneath a short steep climb. Along the way we encountered a number of large crevasses – open and with safe edges so we were able to look inside them – we were surprised at just how deep and wide these hidden dangers are! From the saddle a rocky ridge was a little bit more challenging: simple climbing moves on the rock and more demanding steps with the crampons on the hard ice and we gained a summit, with satisfaction of everyone!

### **Kerr Point**

During the afternoon we had a nice surprise to see large numbers of large whale bones on the shore, exceptionally sun bleached. Our climb here was a nice easy slope where we were able to gain an impressive view point overlooking the calving glacier beneath us and impressive seracs above. From here, as the afternoons team was moving without crampons, we did a series of sessions to give the team the skills and confidence to negotiate the slopes back to shore – glissading and self-arresting with an ice axe were mastered by all!



## **Kayaking**

Team E were all very excited as we made our way from the ship to a safe location to get ourselves into the kayaks. This was done with great ease and once everybody was on the water we made our way to Cuverville. En route we were met two very inquisitive humpback whales who decided to get very close and check us out before continuing on their way. Once at the island, we were greeted by Fur seals and Gentoo penguins. As we passed by the divers we had word of a leopard seal in the vicinity but didn't see it. Further along the shoreline yet more Gentoos beyond which we headed out to a few icebergs where five Crabeater seals were relaxing in the sunshine. Our journey finished with making our way around some of the many icebergs before heading back to ship for a well-earned lunch. What a great start to our trip!



The afternoon saw Team C venturing out at Danco Island in marginal conditions, with wind speeds at 15 knots. That said, once in the lee of the island and close to shore, the wind speed dropped considerably to around 5 knots. Great conditions for us, as long as we stayed close to shore. During our journey we caught sight of a Minke whale, the first of our voyage and as we kayaked along the shoreline, we saw an abundance of Gentoo penguins before being turned back by strong winds. So we backtracked to our starting point, only to be forced back by Force 4 winds. It was time to jump into our Zodiac and head back to the ship. All seemed to enjoy their good workout in the strong winds!



## Camping – Kerr Point



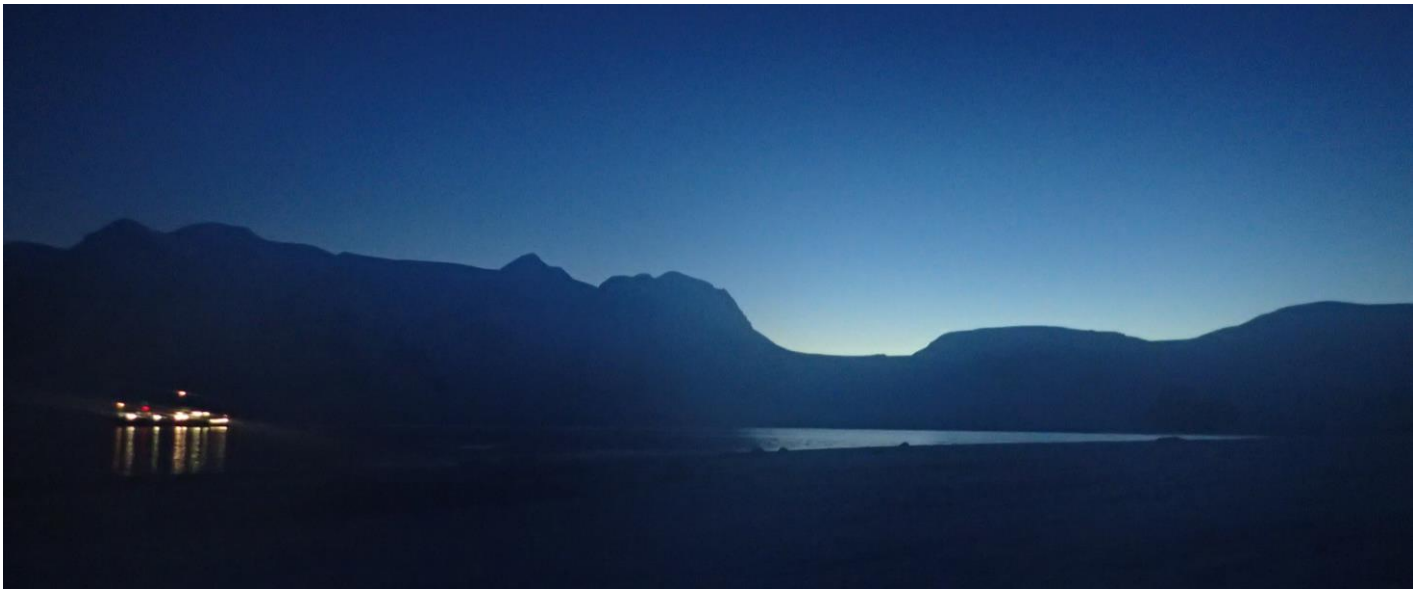
Basecamp on the Ice (Owen Kam)

After an early dinner at 19:00 the first team of stalwart campers made their way to their cabins for a final preparation of gear for the much awaited night ashore on Antarctica. Reassembling at the gangway they received their 5 star accommodation in the form of sleeping bags, bivi bag and a shovel before being transported ashore by Expedition Leader Beau and the ever cheerful Bruce in the Zodiacs. Conditions on the shore were perfect – light winds, clear skies and, for Antarctica, pretty mild conditions with the temperature not dipping much below freezing all night. Under the watchful eyes of Nacho and Chris the



campers were soon enthusiastically flinging snow in all directions with the shovels as they each sought to out-do their neighbors efforts at making a home in the snow – resulting in some pretty impressive snow structures more fitting of a week ashore, not just a night!

Soon enough though the work was completed and everyone settled down, just in time to see the moon rising as Plancius raised anchor and steamed away, leaving us on our own tiny part of the vastness of Antarctica with only the sighing of the whales and the snoring seals for company. Wrapped up in our bivi bags watching the sky it seemed incredible to think that the satellites passing overhead were actually closer than the nearest town.... And so, pondering our remoteness, the camp fell asleep. The night passed without incident and morning (OK – 5AM) came quickly and a happy Nacho roused the camp from its slumbers as Plancius had returned and the still cheerful Bruce was on his way to take us back to our cabins showers and breakfast before another incredible day in Antarctica!



# Day 5 – Friday 10th March 2017

## Stony Point & Almirante Brown Station

**0800 GPS Position:** 64°49'S / 063°02'W

Weather: Overcast Temp: +2 Wind: SSE3 Visibility: Good

We woke again to calm conditions and good visibility, although a little overcast in places. The campers were lifted at “silly o’clock”- that is about 05:30 hours but were in fine spirits having enjoyed a clear night, a nearly full moon and a sky full of stars. We sailed into Paradise Harbour and believe me by the end of the day, we were convinced! Throughout the day the cloud lifted from the high tops leaving them intermittently clear, occasionally wreathed in beautiful atmospheric clouds and the sun cast light and shadow over all. The passengers split between Zodiac cruising and snow shoeing at Stony Point. As the advance guard of the snow hiking team neared Stony Point, a Minke whale rose and dived again a hundred metres or so from the Zodiac. Stony Point was to be the first continental landing on this trip – the chance to stand on the great white continent of Antarctica. The beach was pretty clear of wild life apart from the odd fur seal – and as a result the snow was remarkably pure and white. We donned snowshoes and followed Gérard onto a small summit of snow from where we had all round views of the bay. The summit overlooked the face of an ice cliff which was very active – we spent five minutes in almost total silence broken only by bird call, the pops and groaning of fracturing ice and the movement of ice at sea. Everybody loved that opportunity to just be at complete peace with nature and sit and think about what we had seen and heard and felt over the past few days.

The afternoon saw the passengers split between Zodiac cruising and Base Brown – as the 1 metre high sign welcomed us. There is a Gentoo penguin colony here and the base buildings are of interest although we didn’t go too close, Brown is a working station though in summer only. However we did have the opportunity to get high’, which we did by climbing the small peak behind Brown from where we had superb views over to Mt Français on Anvers Island, the highest peak at 2,825m. And closer to home we had an overview of the kayaking and diving trips from our lofty perch. We all got back to the ship eventually – despite one broken down Zodiac – and at Recap Beau told us of our plans for tomorrow and Gérard talked to us about the 4 different seal species we had encountered – the Crab Eater; the Weddell; the Leopard and the Fur seal. He then showed a short piece of footage taken by one of the diving team showing a leopard seal eating a penguin, taken that day. And on that note we all went for our own dinner!

# Mountaineering

**Almirante Brown** and the short steep peak behind the base was our morning destination. We landed at the base which was actually closed for the season and the Gentoo Penguins have taken over! We climbed



up behind the base and began our approach to the peak beyond - however the team encountered a fair bit of difficulty with very steep and icy slopes. Mal and Massimo went on ahead to prepare the route for the team and did a series of steep pitches to the shoulder above. As always the mountain conditions dictated our summit success and with time

running out we only went to the first short shoulder beneath the summit before beginning the return to shore. From the top of the icy section it was a simple 50 m lower to the easy terrain below. Mal lowered each client one at a time down to Massimo before down-climbing the route himself as Massimo and the rest of team made good time back toward the shore in time to reach Plancius before we moved to the afternoon's destination.

## Conesa Point

The afternoon was again a trip designed for the team whose boots and footwear could not take crampons. The afternoon's sun had warmed and softened the slopes allowing us to make our way safely to the top. However at this time of the day, with softening snow bridges we again encountered some crevassing with a few guests placing their legs into small unexpected holes! Roping up whilst travelling on glaciated terrain is crucial! The large rounded summit at Conesa point gave us amazing views of Paradise Bay and with the sun setting in the west it was a magical moment to be walking back down towards the glowing ocean.





## Kayaking

Conditions for Team J this morning were idyllic – sunshine and calm waters. What more could you ask for? Once in our kayaks, we headed to Stoney Point before venturing into the cove behind to take in the sheer vastness of our location – steep ice cliffs with heavily crevassed glaciers behind displaying their wonderful colours. From the back of the bay we headed towards Skontorp Cove squeezing ourselves between two rather large icebergs. All we could hear was the ‘cracking’ of the glacier behind us, followed by a rather large ‘crack’ from one of the icebergs we had passed earlier. It was time to head back to Stony Point where we got back on our Zodiac and headed to the ship. A truly wonderful morning was had by all!

Team F were in for a real treat - no wind, calm waters with great reflections throughout the afternoon. We got into our kayaks and headed into the cove behind Base Almirante Brown. The water was shallow and still, with just the odd ‘shag’ to take pictures of so we moved out of the cove to take in the Gentoo penguins around the Base. From here we continued passed the steep cliff and into Skontorp Cove where we maneuvered around the small icebergs that were sitting on the mirrored surface of the water. After taking it all in we retraced our steps back to Base Brown then on towards the ship where our Zodiac picked us up and took us back to our ship. What a great afternoon!

## Camping – Leith Cove

20:30 After another early dinner the second group of 30 intrepid campers assembled on Deck 3 to receive their dry bags of camping equipment and a quick final briefing from Nacho before boarding the Zodiacs to begin our adventure. Landing at Leith Cove is not an easy affair – it requires a certain degree of agility to negotiate the jagged rocks on the shore and the steep icy incline that follows but this was no challenge for the hardy group and we were soon on top of our own private island surrounded on three sides by steep glacier walls. Digging into the snow was a different matter altogether though as the surface snow was only a light cover sitting on top of compacted snow and ice so most dwellings were constructed by scraping the surrounding snow around the bivi bag to make a low wall which seemed to do the trick. Whilst the snow conditions were difficult, the weather was again fantastic with mostly clear skies, stars and no wind - and after a period of taking photographs everyone settled down for a quiet night, with only the frequent calvings from the surrounding glaciers breaking the peace. As always happens, 04:30 came around quickly and soon the camp was being dismantled and everyone headed back to Plancius courtesy of Katja who was driving the Zodiac. All in all another successful camping expedition!



## Day 6 – Saturday 11th March 2017

### Neko Harbour & Foyn Harbour

**0800 GPS Position:** 64°50' S / 062°32' W

**Weather:** Clear **Temp:** -1 **Wind:** light air **Visibility:** Good



This morning started in Andvord Bay: Plancius was sailing through the glassy calm waters when the top of the mountains caught the first sunlight. Glowing red like fire at first the colours changed quickly from orange to golden. On the water lay a thin layer of ice that had formed overnight. With the sound of breaking glass Plancius pushed her way towards Neko Harbour, a tiny rocky promontory which is the only break in a coastline of sheer ice cliffs. It was named after the whaling factory ship “Neko” that operated in the bay between 1911 and 1924. The bare ground here is occupied by a Gentoo Penguin rookery. Disembarkation proved difficult because huge chunks of ice threatened the gangway and hindered the progress of the Zodiacs.

As soon as we approached the shoreline we could smell the stench of hundreds of penguins. Close to the water's edge adolescent Gentoo Penguins entertained us with their antics, shaking their lanky flippers, exploring our boots with their beaks or toppling on top of each other in their eagerness to snatch another free meal from their parents before being booted out of the colony. Stepping carefully around the chicks we passed the foundations of an old Argentine refuge hut and soon reached the top of the colony. Here a wonderful view of Andvord Bay opened up. Icebergs littered the deep blue still glassy calm waters. On our left and right bedraggled penguins stood in drifts of feathers and down, going through their catastrophic moult.





Back at the landing site, many guests took the opportunity for a Polar Plunge. A lot of laughter and screaming accompanied the dive into the icy cold water. A small iceberg was conveniently located to pose for some 'hero' pictures. But with the sun and the blue sky, Neko felt more like the sunny Riviera than Antarctica. During lunch the captain took us on a scenic ship cruise, out of Andvord Bay and into the

Errera Channel. Soon Danco and Cuverville Island came into view and as on our first day at Cuverville we were treated to fantastic whale sightings. Several whales were spy hopping, i.e. raising their heads vertically out of the water as we passed by.

The destination for the afternoon was Enterprise Island in Foyen Harbour. As we were Zodiac cruising it started to snow slightly and for the first time it felt like real Antarctica. There was so much to see: Not far from the ship 5 Humpback whales were lunge feeding. Alternately their huge jaws and tails appeared at the water surface: They were taking in big gulps of water in order to filter out the krill. A little bit further we could view the wreck of the Governoren. She was a whaling ship that was deliberately beached here by her crew in 1915 in order to save her valuable cargo of whale oil after she caught fire. On another island the remains of two wooden water boats could be seen. These boats were once used to carry precious fresh water for drinking. Along the coastline many Fur Seals were hauled out and King Cormorants and Antarctic terns circled overhead.



You can always tell how good a day it was by the noise level in the lounge and today it was difficult for expedition leader to Beau to make himself heard over the excited hum. So it must have been a good day!



# Mountaineering

## Neko Harbour

Today we had a very early start at **Neko Harbour** to give us the time to try and explore a new mountaineering objective. The Zodiac journey in the fjord was hampered a little by ice which slowed us down - however as the air temperature was below zero it was good not to be moving so fast and with utterly calm conditions and a brilliant sunrise we were not in any hurry!

Again the mountain conditions dictated our climbing objective – with a late season snowpack giving very hard ice underfoot and steep climbing, combined with the amount of ice in the bay we made the choice to head back to the point of Neko Harbour and go ice climbing on a 40 m section of stable seracs. The ice climbing wasn't for everybody so Massimo took a few guests for a glacier walk whilst Mal organised the ropes for rope roped ice climbing. In the cold calm conditions it was a very nice morning's activity.



## Foyn Harbour

The afternoon was an ice climbing opportunity for everyone. Just in front of the wreck of the Governoren we climbed a short icy wall where Mal and Massimo had set top anchors to allow the guests to be lowered down towards the water below and then to climb back up.

Massimo gave a good demonstration of how to be lowered and climb back up – showing the correct technique on how to use crampons and ice axes in the vertical world of ice! People were excited, someone said “I am terrified!”, but in the end everybody had an amazing afternoons climbing experience in this magical place. And from our lofty perch we were able to throw snowballs at the kayaking team in the harbour below!



# Kayaking

This weather just kept getting better. Team B had a real treat this morning at Neko – mirror conditions on the water and lots of bergy bits to negotiate. Once in our kayaks, we headed towards the shore before turning to take in the many Gentoo penguins taking their polar plunge off the beach. It was great to see them interacting with each other as we photographed them both above & below the surface. Moving on past the penguins, we headed to find out what our ice climbers and divers were up to. They looked to be enjoying the conditions too. With our polar plunge in mind, we made our way back towards the ship, breaking trail through the surface as we went. Yet another wonderful Antarctic kayaking experience not to be forgotten!

It was time for the Rookies to take to the water in Foyen. Conditions were perfect yet again. The sunshine may have gone for the afternoon but we still had calm waters. Once in our kayaks, we hugged the shoreline and made our way around the cove, taking photos of the Chinstrap penguins, shags and fur seal, some of whom were very inquisitive. We stopped at the wreck for some pictures and to check out what the divers were up to before continuing on our way. Once out of the cove, we headed towards the ship, passing by a few rather large icebergs en route. The team were no longer Rookies as the session came to a close. What a great afternoon was had by all!



## Day 7 – Sunday 12th March 2017

### Pléneau Island and Penola Strait

**0800 GPS Position:** 65°05' S / 064°02' W

**Weather:** partly cloudy **Wind:** light airs **Temp:** - 1 degrees **Visibility:** Good

The early wakeup call this morning was at 6.15 am! It was worthwhile as we entered the Lemaire Channel just before sunrise. The channel cuts a narrow path between the mainland on the east and Booth Island in the west. This 11 km long channel is impressive because of the near-vertical peaks rising close on the both sides to nearly 1000m. We arrived at Pléneau Island which gave us the opportunity to walk up onto a small rocky hill and to get an awesome view of the well-known icebergs “cemetery”. All around us, we watched all the amusing antics of the teenage Gentoo penguins, waiting to be fed by their harried parents.



Gentoos teenagers at Pléneau (Celine Clement-Chastel)

We also got the chance to see two young elephant seals (“weaners”) lying in the water nearby the shore and looking very much like smooth rocks. We had to cut our landing short due to the increasing force of a katabatic wind. The return Zodiac ride was quite wet but everybody got back on board in time without any trouble. Unfortunately our landing at Port Charcot had to be cancelled due to the strong wind. But our brilliant Expedition Leader Beau proposed an excellent Plan B, and instead we got a wonderful ship cruise around the icebergs in Penola Strait that made people really happy.



Captain Evgeny agreed to bring us as far south as possible without compromising the other scheduled operations. We reached this southern most point of our trip at 15:44 - **65°17.7'S 064 18.3'W**.



Thanks to the kindness and skills of the Captain, we had a great time, even making innumerable detours to observe the large numbers of crab-eating seals, fur seals and a few Adélie penguins on the ice floes. Then we came back up through the Lemaire channel in order to reach Jougla Point where the next group of campers was going to stay the night. Unfortunately due to the wind this had to be cancelled the camping night but overall everybody was delighted with this beautiful day.



# Mountaineering

## Hovegaard Island



Today we had a very gentle and beautiful walk up to near the summit of Hovegaard Island. This small peak is heavily glaciated and as we arrived at the shore we could see the super smooth bedrock, exposed in the late season snow melt, showing evidence of glacial erosion and 'rounding'.

Whilst the wind was affecting the rest of the teams we had very calm and warm conditions on our approach to the shoulder of Hovegaard and amazing views of "Iceberg Alley".



Hovegaard is home to a large number of nesting skuas - so our initial approach to the peak needed a slight bit of change so we did not disturb these nesting birds and our return to shore was via a different route – picking our way amongst the boulders next to the ocean to avoid disturbing them - and of course to avoid having a large skua try to dive bomb us! We had great views from the top over the Lemaire Channel, with its towering ridges, rock walls, ice falls and glaciers.

Due to the wind and ice conditions in the afternoon we had to cancel the plans for climbing near to Port Charcot.

## Kayaking

Team G were all geared up for kayaking this morning with all the kayaks on the water when the wind picked up to 25 knots. As a result kayaking operations were cancelled for the morning. The conditions didn't change for this afternoon so kayaking was again put on hold until tomorrow.

## Camping

Unfortunately camping didn't happen on this night. The winds stayed strong and we watched Nacho and Catherine heading out on the zodiac to check the possibilities for landing at Damoy Point. The sea was rough with a big swell and they came back very wet just from a five minute outing!



## Day 8 – Monday 13th March 2017

### Port Lockroy & Dorian Bay

**0800 GPS Position:** 064°49' S / 063°30' W

**Weather:** overcast **Wind:** NE3 **Temp:** +4 **Visibility:** Good

During the night Plancius navigated in the Bismarck Strait and Neumayer Channel before coming back again to Port Lockroy. The weather had improved just enough by the time we arrived at this famous station – the home of Base A, the 'Penguin Post Office'. We were divided into two groups, the first was shuttled to Port Lockroy, and the second to Jougla Point. The first group was able to look around the Port Lockroy museum and we gave our postcards to Gérard, our temporary postmaster. These will be picked up next season by the Port Lockroy staff and posted on to our friends and families. The rest of us spent time amongst a large colony of Gentoo penguins and taking photos of a large whale skeleton that had been reassembled on the beach in 1974. After an hour it was time to swap landings, a very short ride of a few minutes. We also had the second sighting of a leopard seal eating a penguin only a couple of hundred metres off shore. As the weather improved a bit, our return to Plancius was completed without the drenching of the day before.



During lunch, the captain moved Plancius to Dorian Bay, but he was not able to drop anchor at this small cove as a few icebergs straddled the exact spot he wanted to be. He quickly found another location as the wind had reduced to a breeze. For the afternoon, Beau proposed a long walk on Damoy Point. This area holds a group of small rocky outcrops with large snow patches between. We followed Gérard to the summit of Tombstone Hill, the highest point. Most of the penguins nesting up there had dispersed so we were able to stand very close to the top and we were also surprised and delighted to see three Chinstrap Penguins moulting amongst the Gentoos. After enjoying the scenery for a moment, we continued our walk to the small hut called Damoy close to the shores of Dorian Bay. This former British refuge was used in



connection with Base A Port Lockroy, with the nearby snowy ridge serving as a landing strip for small airplanes. The hut is still maintained by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust as a site of historical importance. On the way to the hut we passed a small outcrop from which we could see the heads of two skua chicks peeking out. We gave them a wide berth as the adult was flying low over our heads to scare us away! After some time spent along the shore, with a lot of brash ice left in this cove, we resumed our walk passing some big icebergs grounded in the bay. We went back to our landing spot while the wind was picking up to 30 knots. The return to Plancius was "wet" as the sea was quite rough.



At 18:00, we were all back on board. Dinner was a special affair: a BBQ on the aft deck. The crew had prepared salads and grilled meat and served it outside. Some benches and tables had also been set up for the ones who wanted to have a real Antarctic dinner. After the meal, the crew played music and started to dance, inviting us to do the same. The evening lasted long in a warm atmosphere even when the actual temperature was close to zero.

# Mountaineering

## Jabet Peak

Standing over Port Lockroy and Dorian Bay is the beautiful peak of Mt Jabet. This is an often sought after peak – however not that often summited! The late season snow conditions were very good for this climb, which meant that the snow and ice conditions were firm and fast – meaning good crampon conditions – which also meant less room for error. In these conditions Jabet Peak is a true mountaineering objective with everything from pitching on steep ice, glacier travel, crossing bergschrunds, traversing steep exposed ridges and climbing to a definitive summit. Given the nature of the climb it was unfortunate that we were only able to take a very small team given the nature of the climbing conditions



Right from the start it was a challenging climb. As soon as we were ashore it was necessary to climb the shoulder of the glacier on hard blue ice! We did two pitches with crampons and axe using a climbing style known as multi-pitch climbing – mountaineering directly from the sea to the true toe of the glacier!



After this we had a long gentle walk along the glacier ridge, with the saddle to the left of Jabet as our first objective. The view from the saddle was amazing, but the team wanted to go higher, so Massimo and Mal led 3 1/2 pitches across a steep slope to the upper shoulder, using snow stakes and ice screws to make belays. The last section was climbing was on mixed terrain, (over snow, ice and rock). An icy couloir, loose rocks, and a short ridge led to the final steep wall and the summit.



We greeted each other with the word “Bergheil”- this German word, meaning *good summit*, is the traditional way to say “Congratulations”. We were delighted to have climbed the route as a team, sharing the difficulties together and as we looked out from our lofty height, we could see Plancius, looking very small in the corner of the bay. We returned by another route which was quite easy but a large crevasse needed to be negotiated with care.

Our last steps on Antarctica were across to Damoy Hut, where we visited the simple shelter where British scientists used to stay whilst studying the penguin colony. Finally a short Zodiac cruise brought us back to the ship, and we were sad to say goodbye to the incredible mountains of this almost untouched land!

## **Kayaking**

Once again the team prepared for kayaking but again it was not to be. The wind was not decreasing as hoped and the gusts were too strong. So sadly they had to hand their kayaking equipment back, however, instead of kayaking they had the opportunity to visit Port Lockroy in the morning and Dorian Bay in the afternoon.

## **Camping**

Although we had been hoping to camp tonight, once again the weather gods were not on our side with strong winds, cloudy conditions and even some light rain falling. However, this did mean that everyone was able to participate fully in the barbeque and dancing!



# Day 9 – Tuesday 14th March 2017

## Melchior Islands and Drake Passage

**0800 GPS Position:** 64.19 S / 62.58 W

**Weather:** overcast **Wind:** Easterly F2 **Temp:** +2 **Visibility:** Good

Having sailed north during the night, we awoke amidst of the spectacular Melchior Islands. After breakfast we set out in the Zodiacs to explore the labyrinth of channels and islands that make up this wildly stunning archipelago. We cruised around the Argentinean base, Melchior, and enjoyed close up views of massive glaciers and jagged icebergs. Many Antarctic fur seals were seen on the rocks and swimming sometimes near the Zodiacs. A few of us were lucky enough to see a Chinstrap Penguin! We returned to the ship and were treated to hot chocolate on the top deck by a fourth species of penguin – the human penguin! We had some time to soak up a few more moments of the amazing view and to reflect on the magic that is Antarctica before heading out to sea once again. In the afternoon Céline gave a very informative presentation on the evolution and biology of penguins. After the daily briefing another fine dinner was served as Plancius continued to sail north into the Drake Passage.



# Day 10 – Wednesday 15th March 2017

## The Drake Passage

**0800 GPS Position:** 60.43 S /64.10 W

**Weather:** Cloudy **Wind:** E2-3 **Temp:** +3 **Visibility:** Good

A lazy swell rolled Plancius and its precious cargo from side to side this morning. It was overcast but not very windy. The day at sea started with a relative sleep-in, Beau afforded us 45 minutes longer than on activity days.

After breakfast Katja spoke about her overwintering at the German Antarctic Base Neumayer and other scientific expeditions that brought her to Antarctica. She recalled good and bad moments and shared some of the impressions of her time on the ice with us.

The lecture program continued after lunch with Gérard speaking about whales in the Southern Ocean. After our close encounters with the Humpbacks at Cuverville Island we were keen to learn more about whale biology and their behaviour.

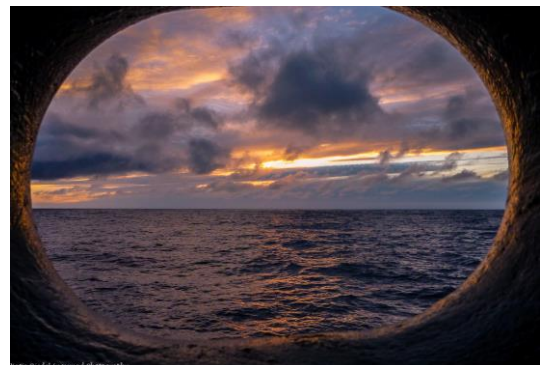


Though Michael was on board as a dive guide one of his interests is history. His presentation about the Australian Antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson in 1912 was very informative. Mawson's fight for survival after his two companions Merz and Ninnis died blew us away.

While Plancius steadily ploughed North through the Drake Passage there was time to relax, sort through some of the thousands of photos, catch up on reading, get fresh air on deck or visit the friendly officers on the bridge, including, Alexey the bridge duck.



After the daily briefing where Zsuzsanna talked about the disembarkation we sat down in the dining room for another great dinner prepared by our Chefs Ralf and Ivan. Just before the desert was served the whole hotel crew made an appearance. Finally we got to see all the faces from behind the scenes that were looking after us in the kitchen, laundry and hotel department. Thank you guys, you rock!





## Day 11 – Thursday 16th March 2017

### The Drake Passage and Cape Horn

**0800 GPS Position:** 56.29.2 S / 66.45.5 W

**Weather:** Cloudy **Wind:** WSW 5-6 **Temp:** +5 **Visibility:** Good

There had been a little more swell overnight and the rocking of the boat was more pronounced. However as we continued north it died down and continued through the morning as we reflected on the experiences we had had, sifted through our hundreds of pictures or started to gather our belongings. After breakfast, Fran invited us to the lounge, where she talked about the use of husky dogs on British bases from 1944 to 1994. When she finished, we noticed that land was in sight. With the permission of the Chilean authorities, PLANCIUS was allowed to approach Cape Horn as close as 3 nautical miles. At 11:22 PLANCIUS was in position with sight on this mythical cape. Through binoculars we could see the monument at the Cape. While adding some more photographs to our memory cards, the sea became even calmer and all expedition members were able to enjoy the sight of the southernmost point of the Americas on the outer decks.



After lunch, the Expedition Team was waiting for us in the boot room to hand back our rubber boots. Everybody had done a good job of cleaning them. Later in the afternoon, Zsuzsanna and Katie called us by deck to come to reception and to settle our ship's accounts – some of the regulars at the ship's bar found their wallets to be much lighter after settling up! At around 18:00, we all gathered again in the bar, where Beau and Zsuzsanna explained the process of disembarkation the following day. This was followed by a presentation by the divers and a slide show of the trip prepared by Bruce. He put together photos into a fascinating compilation. All the moments and memories kept coming back. We then welcomed Captain Evgeny Levakov for his farewell speech and clinked glasses to our successful voyage. One more dinner on board was ready for us. While PLANCIUS made her way towards the coast and into the Beagle Channel, we celebrated our last evening and prepared ourselves for a return into our busy lives.



## Day 12 – Friday 17th March 2017

### Disembarkation in Ushuaia

**0800 GPS Position:** 54°48'S / 068°18'W

Today was disembarkation day in Ushuaia. Coming alongside, PLANCIUS was boarded by Argentine officials who cleared our vessel and allowed us to disembark. On the pier we bade farewell to many of the friends we made over the past days, and had one last look at the PLANCIUS, the ship that took us safely on such an incredible voyage from Ushuaia to Antarctica and back again. We did so much, and it was lovely to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of this very special part of our world. It was a privilege to visit. This trip will endure a lifetime – in our memories, our imaginations, and in our dreams.

*Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!*

**Total distance sailed on our voyage:**

**Nautical miles: 1838 nm**

**Kilometres: 3404 km**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Levakov, Expedition Leader Beau Pruneau and all the staff and crew, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**



# PLA30 Dive Log MV Plancius Sailing 5<sup>th</sup> March and returning on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

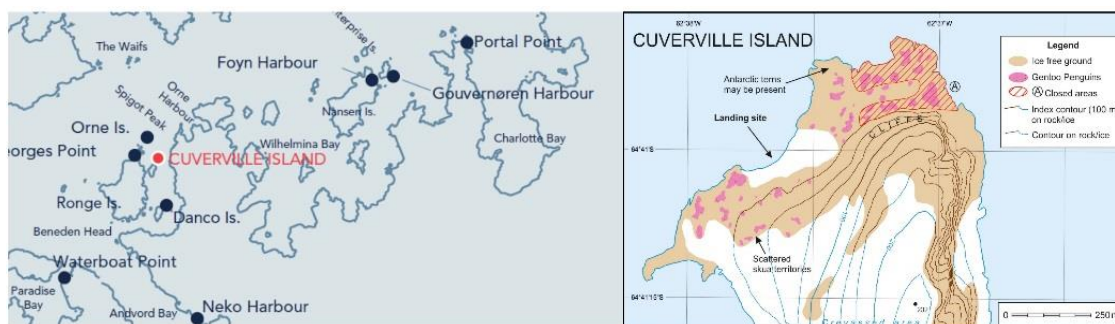
## Dive Team

Henrik Enckell (Dive Leader), Catherine Buckland (Dive Guide), Michael Green (Dive Guide), Simon Gregory, Julie Gregory, Arjan Dreumel, Erika Berzins, Renata Kraszewska, Ivo Maddar, Jenny De Bruin, Iwan Dauginet, Dominique Vleeschouwers, Loic Van Doom, Michael Petrani, Katarzyna Cuesuawsja-Baginska, Agnieszka Ostrowska, Jaroslaw Golembewski, Dorota Cymerys, Stanislaw Danielak, Eugenisz Buchczyk, Kazimierz Kozera and Krzysztof Urbanski.

After two days crossing the Drake Passage from Ushuaia we were lucky to enjoy a calm passage. Surrounded by sea birds flying with grace they made for a calm introduction to Antarctica.

## Site Cuverville Date 9<sup>th</sup> March

The dive team did a check dive at this picturesque site. They enjoyed the underwater scenery and got their kit sorted out for the dives to come. After getting used to diving in the polar regions the team enjoyed a fantastic dive. Seeing a Leopard seal devour a penguin is upsetting but fascinating too. We were surrounded by glaciers which calved as we approached. Plus the bay was full of Humpback Whales sleeping.



## Site Danco Island Date 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

After lunch we got kitted up again and dived this site in great light. We dived on an island which was deep at one end and very shallow at the other. This made for a great dive with varied scenery and life. A crabeater seal appeared and had a look at some of the team. Starfish and limpets were another highlight. But too soon it was time to surface and go back to the ship. The light was fantastic in the harbour so good pictures could be taken. A fitting end to a good day.



### Stony Point Date 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

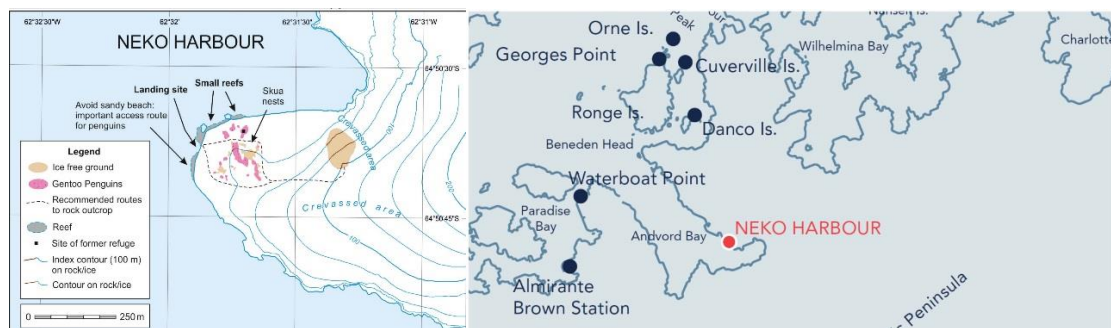
The divers kitted up really fast and we were soon on our way to dive around an island with an antennae, a crabbeater joined some of the guests curious about the bubbles. We saw some salp an individual jelly like creature that lives in colonies. Time goes fast and soon the 40 minute limit was reached so the divers surfaced so we had time for a shore landing.

### Base Brown Wall. 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Divers entered the water in fantastic light and made a dive on the wall beneath the colourful cliffs. It is different as a site as you can watch mountaineering from the surface of the dive. The team saw a white nudibranch and lots of alp in the water. After enjoying a great dive they surfaced amidst ice. The divers then went ashore at Base Brown to observe the penguins.

### Neko Harbour Date 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Today's divers dived near to a glacier at this beautiful site in the glorious sunshine. The mountaineers were climbing by the site and the kayakers were paddling around where we were. Lots of pancake ice covered the site and there were lots of Icebergs around. The dive started near the shore and the team headed out towards ice. They swam around the ice at 20 metres and the dive lasted 40 minutes in the frigid water before surfacing after another icy adventure.



### Governoren Wreck Foyen Harbour Date 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The team were excited at the prospect of diving a wreck in Antarctica and it didn't disappoint. The wreck is visible from the entrance to the bay. We kitted up in the bay and then entered the water.



This wreck is an old whaling support ship which was carrying whale oil when it caught fire. To save the valuable cargo they decided to sink the ship in shallow water. This quenched the fire but left the crew stranded for a while. They were rescued a few weeks later. On an islands at the mouth of the bay there are artefacts from the cargo. Whaling boats and the tines from the barrels of oil lay in piles. The divers had a great time on the wreck but soon it was time to surface. Seals and icebergs were the entertainment on the return journey to the ship.



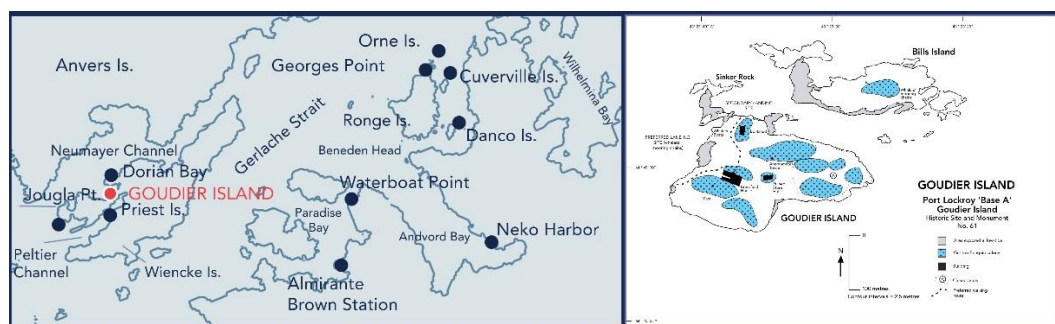
#### Pleneau Iceberg Dive Date 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The weather had picked up with higher winds and colder weather. We decided to give it a go and launched the Zodiacs for an adventure. A flat iceberg was decided on and we put the divers on the iceberg. After they went down the wind changed blowing ice over the site. So we recalled the divers and went back to the ship. The divers loved diving on the iceberg.



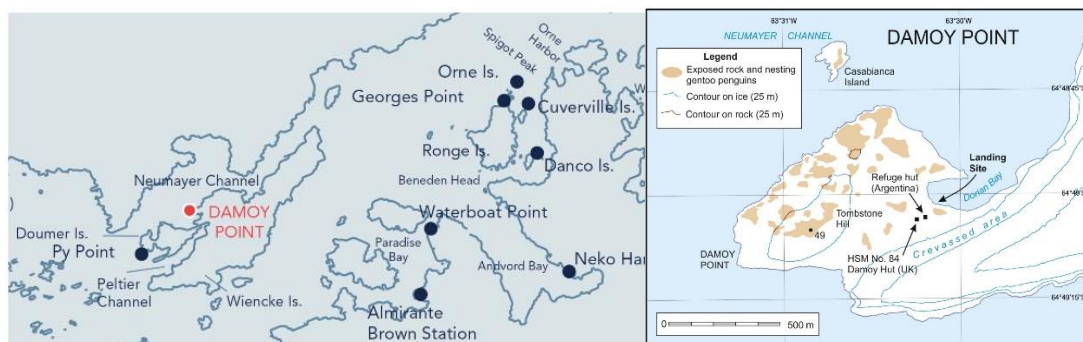
### Port Lockroy, Goudier Island Dive Date 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The dive team got kitted up in high winds which made it cold on the hands and the face. We motored into Port Lockroy harbour and made our way to the rocks. The plan was to find the whale bones on the seabed. The divers enjoyed seeing the bones and a large Isopod. The visibility was good. A large leopard seal joined the divers and played around them for a long time. It tested the team performing aquabatics showings its skills. It followed the divers up and continued to play with the boat, biting it. Then it caught a penguin and threw it around in the water. Too soon it was time to go back to the ship.



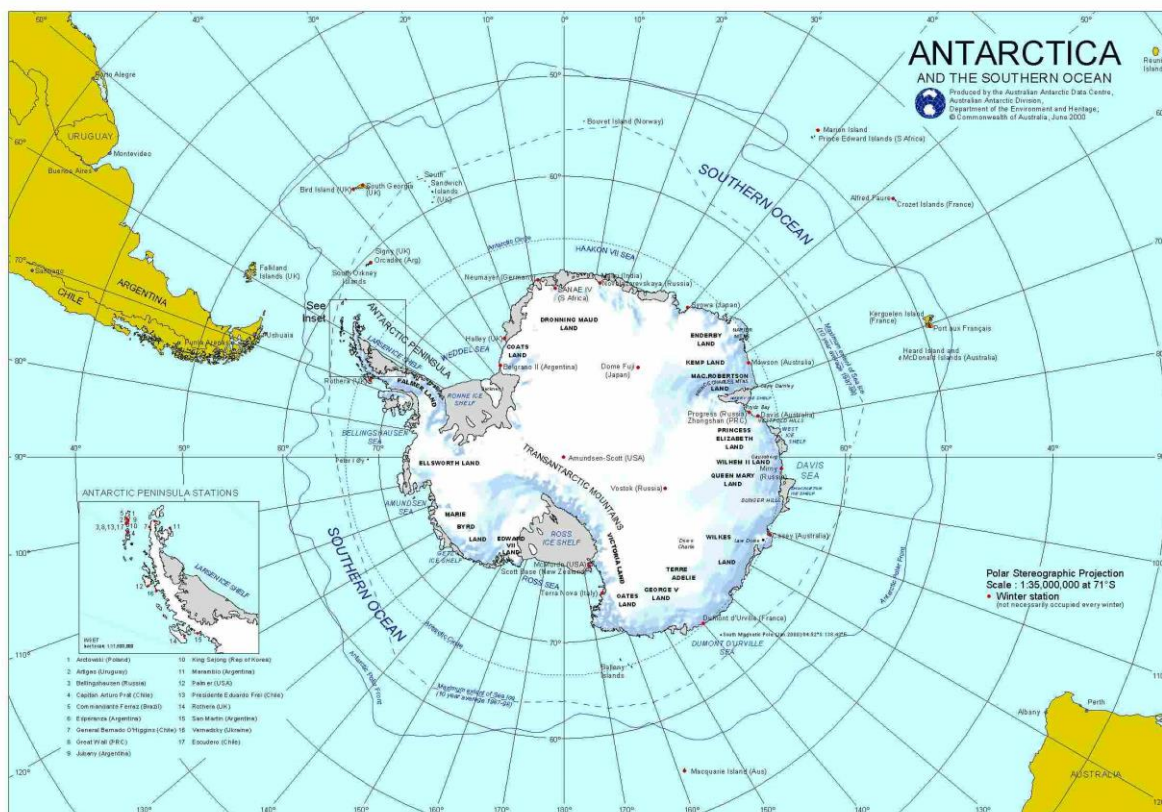
### Damoy Point Dive Date 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Once more we return to the deep! The wind was blowing at 20+ Knots so we had to find a sheltered spot to get in the water. The drop off here was dramatic it was 20m deep 20m from shore. The water was extremely blue and crystal clear the divers could see the boat at 15m. Creatures seen on the dive included sea spiders, isopod and sun star a type of starfish with 60 legs. Soon the 40 minute dive time was reached and we had to surface on the penultimate dive of the trip. On our return the wind had become even stronger making for an interesting return to the ship after some shore time.

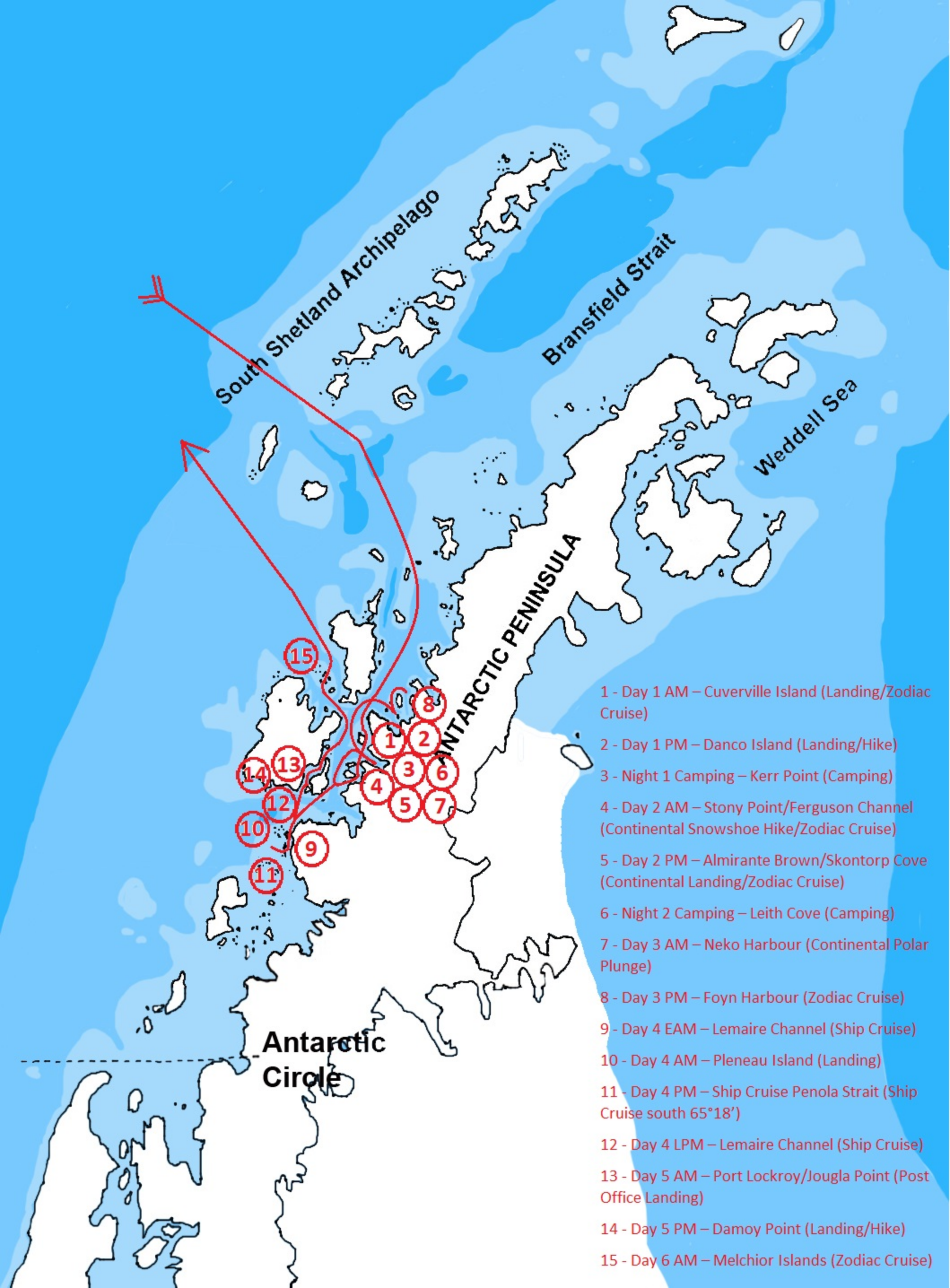


### Melchior Islands Dive Date 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The last day is here! We arrived at the Melchiors early and got suited ready to dive. Our divers had a choice of an iceberg or a seabed dive. The team spent 40 minutes exploring and saw salp, sea spiders and nudibranc. The water seemed colder or maybe we are more tired. The visibility was stunning and light on the ice was great. Soon it was time to return to the surface. We went for a zodiac cruise and enjoyed seeing the seals on the shore by the base. A great end to a great trip.







**Species list: Common birds and marine mammals from Beagle Channel to Antarctica**  
**PLANCIUS 6th to 16th of March**

English	Latin	06-03	07-03	08-03	09-03	10-03	11-03	12-03	13-03	14-03	15-03	16-03
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>							X				
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>				X	X			X	X		
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X										
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X									
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X				X				X	X
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X						X		X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X	X						X	X	X
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>											
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		X	X	X	X						X
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X		X				X	X	X	X	
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			X	X	X				X	X	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		X	X	X					X		X
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>											
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>			X	X							
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>										X	
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>										X	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X									
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>											X
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>										X	
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		X								X	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		X									
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta grallaria</i>			X								
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>										X	
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>											X
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X										X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X		X		

[illegible]



In 1839, Captain Robert FitzRoy published his narrative of the voyages of H.M.S. *Adventure* and *Beagle* between the years 1826-1836. For the first time, the world learned about the discovery of the Beagle Channel. The narrative described South America and the *Beagle*'s circumnavigating of the globe. On board was the young naturalist Charles Darwin, who went on to develop the theory of evolution based partially on observations he had made in South America.

***"I am the albatross that waits for you at the end of the earth. I am the forgotten soul of the dead sailors who crossed Cape Horn from all the seas of the world. But they did not die in the furious waves. Today they fly in my wings to eternity in the last trough of the Antarctic wind."***

**- Poem inscribed on albatross sculpture at Cape Horn**





# 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**

for Oceanwide Expeditions

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](http://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 mountainous*

# 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 tiles 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](mailto:marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com). Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
6. **Spread the word!**



## PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup>** **€ 1000**  
**GIFT VOUCHER**  
for Oceanwide Expeditions

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **€ 500 gift voucher**  
for Oceanwide Expeditions

**3<sup>rd</sup>** **€ 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](http://oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)



---

## **Beau Pruneau – Expedition Leader**

---



**Born in California near Los Angeles, Beau moved to Canada when he was one year old. Growing up in the Northern Ontario wilderness, he learned at an early age to appreciate the great outdoors while learning wilderness skills such as camping, survival, navigation, tracking. After graduating college with a diploma in Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Management including studies in Biology, Wilderness Guiding, Wilderness Survival, Canoe Guiding, Marketing, & Business Management, he headed west to**

**British Columbia to work at ski resorts where he learned to drive just about every kind of vehicle including tracked snow-cats, while exploring the mountains by snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking, & heli-boarding.**

**After meeting his German wife in B.C., he moved back to Ontario working at another ski resort near the great lakes. In 2011 he crossed over to Germany permanently, trying his hand at making wine & building bikes while travelling the world with his wife, having been to nearly every continent with a special appreciation for the African savannah & Italian cuisine. Happiest in a jeep out on safari or out on deck searching for polar bears, he started working on expedition ships in the Polar Regions as an assistant expedition leader, guide, lecturer, gun armorer, bear expert, photographer, camping leader, safety officer, zodiac & outboard engine mechanic, as well as assisting with helicopter operations. He currently resides in Dresden, Germany with his beautiful wife.**

---

## Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader

---



**Katja Riedel grew up in Germany where she studied and completed a Phd in Atmospheric Chemistry. For her research she overwintered 1997 at the German Antarctic Base Neumayer where she was responsible for the Atmospheric Observatory.**

Since then she has been on several scientific expeditions to Antarctica, for example measuring ozone at Scott Base, drilling ice cores at Law Dome and taking samples of 120,000 years old ice on Taylor Glacier in the Dry Valleys.

She completed a course in Antarctic studies and worked for more than 12 years as a research scientist in Wellington, New Zealand. Her research interests are greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and ice cores. Since 2011 she works as a guide and lecturer on expedition cruises in the Arctic and Antarctic.

The Polar Regions have always fascinated Katja. On private adventures she skied over 220 km through Svalbard, sailed in a small yacht to Antarctica, kayaked icy waters and worked as a science assistant in Western Greenland. Her fondest memories of Antarctica are building a 24 h sundial and sledging from Hut Point to the Erebus Ice Tongue.

Life is an adventure for Katja and whenever she can she travels, hikes, cycles, sea-kayaks and skis to the remote and beautiful places on earth.

When not traveling Katja lives in New Zealand and works as a freelance science communicator and photographer. She speaks fluently English and German.

---

## Fran Potheary – Expedition Guide

---



Though originally from the flatlands of east England, Fran has lived in the Highlands of Scotland for the past 25 years where she started her career in outdoor guiding and instruction. She loves the wild and remote places of the world – including her backyard – and is happiest walking, kayaking, biking and skiing in these places. She has a Diploma in Outdoor Education and an MSc in Sustainable Mountain Development.

In 2013 after 10 years working in recreation management for the Cairngorms National Park, she joined the British Antarctic Survey first as a General Assistant and then as a Field Guide, including a winter season at Rothera on Adelaide Island. After a brief spell working for the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust in Cambridge, she has moved back into guiding full time and relishes the opportunities to spend time on the Antarctic Peninsula again.



---

## Gérard Bodineau – Expedition Guide

---



Born in 1960, in Western France, Gérard started to hike and camp at any season by the age of 13. After some years of mountaineering in the Alps, he discovered his passion for the Arctic in 1986. He loved it so much that he did several cross country ski expeditions by himself, in Greenland, Nunavut and Spitsbergen. Among the most challenging ones, a one month solo expedition in Spitsbergen, one to the North Magnetic Pole, one to the

Geographic North Pole, and a four week yachting expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula.

For 15 years he shared his time between working as an IT specialist and guiding expeditions in the Arctic. He has been on over 60 expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. It is as Spitsbergen specialist that he joined Oceanwide Expeditions's team in 2004.

Since, he worked as guide and Expedition Leader in Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctica and South Georgia. He decided to do guiding as his main activity in 2009. When not travelling, he looks after his house and backyard in Provence (Southern France) under a sunny climate. He is most interested in glaciology and other Earth sciences as well as ornithology.

Gérard speaks English and French.

---

## Céline Clément-Chastel – Expedition Guide

---



**With a passion for travel, nature and marine animals, Celine was initially Research Manager at the Department of Geography of the University of Bergen, Norway, investigating fisheries management issues in the Barents Sea.**

Since 1998, various contracts for France's national scientific research center (CNRS) have led this cartographer to participate in fifteen scientific missions in the Arctic (Northern Norway, Bear Island, and Spitsbergen) and Antarctic Peninsula. This work was primarily conducted as part of research programs funded by the French Polar Institute (IPEV) and focused on the adaptations of polar seabirds to changes in their environment. She knows all the ins and outs of capturing, bird banding, biometric measurements, blood sampling, and activity recorders.

During the same period, Celine has been a hiking guide in Spitsbergen and has regularly accompanied cruises in the Polar Regions, which has given her a taste for science outreach programs. She currently works as Scientific Mediator and ensures the coordination and the carrying out of communication events in scientific culture. Member of the Board of APECS France, the national committee of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, she contributes to communicating the latest scientific discoveries in the polar world.

## Ignacio Marino – Camping Guide



Ignacio Marino was born in Ushuaia, the capital city of Tierra Del Fuego Antartida e Islas del Atlantico Sur, Argentina.

From the age of 14 he has spent many season working whit tourist, at first taking care of Huskies used to pull the sledges in winter time and then over the years working whit many different hiking and trekkingcompanies. He has taken tourist to hidden lagoons, glaciers and different view point in the mountain sourrounding Ushuaia.

Since 2000 he has been regularly climbing around the whole of South America In 2010 he started to guide 4x4 excursions around the island of Tierra Del Fuego, never leaving the mountains far behind. During the climbing season he gives a hand at the climbing school of the CAMU ( Club Amigos de la Montana Ushuaia).

He is also a active circus clown using this as a job when is traveling around the world and he always carry juggling toys whit him, In his first season he has the chance to marry a couple in the polar circle in detalle island, since that and always in the funny size some of the crew call him “The Minister”.

He became recently a zodiac driver for all wheather conditions working down here in Antartida.

At the present he works as a freelance guide in ushuaia for many different conventional an unconventional tours.



---

## Chris Booker - Camping Guide

---



**Chris was born on the Island of Anglesey in the UK and grew up with a fascination for all things connected with the sea.**

He is a Marine Biologist who has spent over 20 years working in various aspects of the Marine Industry... from biological surveys of coral reefs in the Caribbean to diving inspections of oil rigs as an offshore commercial diver in the North Sea and most parts in between. During this time he has provided logistical support to various survey expeditions and is also qualified as an instructor of diving, powerboating, sea survival and first aid.

Chris lived and travelled extensively throughout South and Central America for 8 years and is also fluent in Spanish.

---

## Bruce Robinson — Photography Guide

---



**Bruce grew up in western New York where, at an early age, he developed a strong curiosity and fascination with the natural world.**

His interest in photography began at the age of 15, and quickly developed into a passion to capture and document the incredible diversity of nature on film. These passions have led Bruce to pursue a life discovery and adventure. His travels have taken him to some of the most remote corners of the globe in search of many of the worlds most endangered and elusive wildlife. He has experienced many of the wonders of over 65 countries on seven continents. Bruce has worked as a naturalist and photographic guide in regions as diverse the Amazon Rainforest to the Australian outback. Although relatively new to the splendor of Antarctica, Bruce's insatiable quest for discovery fuels his desire to share with others his knowledge and excitement about the world's wildlife and wild places.

---

## Paul Donovan — Kayak Guide

---



**Paul is a qualified and competent teacher, lecturer and Outdoor Activity Coach with more than 30 years experience in dealing with public, private and voluntary sector-organisations, providing safe and rewarding experiences and opportunities at the highest level, to enhance personal and social development of individuals and groups both in the UK and the rest of the world.**

Currently Paul is the director of a company, providing Outdoor Activity Coaching, Technical Consultancy and Worldwide Kayaking, Trekking & Mountaineering. Paul's expertise and competencies as a paddler and mountaineer have enabled him to explore the rivers, seas and mountains on all continents of the world, including making first ascents in the Greater Ranges.

Paul is also a Freelance Inspector for Health & Safety Accreditation schemes and in addition is also an Executive Director of the Canoe Wales Board, Chairing their National Coaching and Competitions Committee (NCCC) & Chair of the Wales Activity Tourism Organisation (WATO), which represents the majority of outdoor activity providers in Wales at national level.



---

## Massimo Candolini - Mountain Guide

---



**I went to the mountains since I was very young, doing a lot of climbing, mainly in the Alps with a preference for winter, climbing icefalls, winter lines and especially skiing, freeriding, ski touring and steep skiing.**

**In 2001 I left my previous job in programming and electronics and participated in the Italian National Course for Mountain Guides. Since 2003 I am a full-time professional Mountain Guide UIAGM/IFMGA.**

**My main activities are guiding (climbing, ski touring, high mountain), consultancy (relationships with Natural Park of Prealpi Giulie, snow and avalanche investigator) and writing and publishing (5 ski guide and 2 climbing books).**

**With two others colleagues I founded inMont a mountaineering school organization in 2010, which provides training for ski and mountaineering, guiding in the mountains for Italian clients and international agencies, travel planning for expeditions around the world (Peru, Nepal, Norway, California, Alaska and many more), professional services (ferrata and crag bolting, full-time cooperation with the avalanche office in order to collect data for the regional avalanche forecast bulletin).**

**Now I am fifty years old and return to my passion for skiing and snow. Having skied a lot in the Alps, Peru, Norway and Alaska, the desire for extreme snow where the natural environment is untouched and demanding is still stronger than ever!**

---

## Mal Haskins – Mountain Guide

---

Based in New Zealand's South Island township of  
**WANAKA**



I've been traveling, climbing and skiing around the world for the last 25 years – climbing and exploring is one of my driving passions and the high mountain ranges of the world have been my second home now for the last 15 years.

I am a fully qualified IFMGA Mountain and Ski guide under the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA).

This will be my second trip south working with Oceanwide Expeditions. I had the privilege of coming down for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in March 2016.

Looking forward to going for a wander up a hill with you.



---

## Henrik Enckell – Dive Team Leader

---



**Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first dive masters to bring tourists diving in Antarctica.**

Nationality: Swedish

Henrik has been diving for 25 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR. He runs the IART (**International Association of Rebreather Trainers**) Regional Office for Northern Europe and is a member of the IART Board of Advisors.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

His interest for both the ocean and space has engaged him in projects with the **European Space Agency** (Mars500 project) and the **SeaSpace Exploration and Research Society** (Project Poseidon) among other adventures.

He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions during 15 years and he was one of the first persons to take people diving on expedition vessels in these remote, challenging and many times undived waters.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and a long experience in software development with project and line management positions in global companies. He has lived and worked in Tokyo, Japan for two years.

He also has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He is living in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters aged 17, 13 and 12 and his two-year-old son.



---

## Catherine Buckland - Dive Guide

---



**Catherine Buckland is a Commercial Diving Instructor and spends six months of her time in the UK doing this. Able to teach a variety of marine based qualifications and a diver medic has meant she has worked on various different jobs.**

Predominantly based around the UK and Ireland, jobs have included safety diving for underwater cameramen and being part of a team supporting one diver who wished to break the world record for the longest cold water scuba diver.

For the other six months she freelances as an instructor or medic working on outdoor endurance events including things like 100km ultra treks where a love of the outdoors is a must!

---

## Michael Green - Dive Guide

---



**My diving started in 1990 with Bradford BSAC in Yorkshire. Our club has 300 members and I am the Diving officer. I came to Antarctica for the first time on board Plancius Fours years ago and have been lucky enough to come back a few times since. I enjoy joining you all on your adventures and if I can do anything to help you enjoy the experience you are on please just ask.**

**The most important thing I can suggest as we embark on this trip is to slow down and enjoy all this icy wilderness has to offer. Stop and Look, really look there is beauty all around. But also listen and take in the smell of the place.**

**Weeks after you return home it will all rush back and you will finally understand what you have just done.**

**Good luck and be safe.**



# Captain Evgeny Levakov

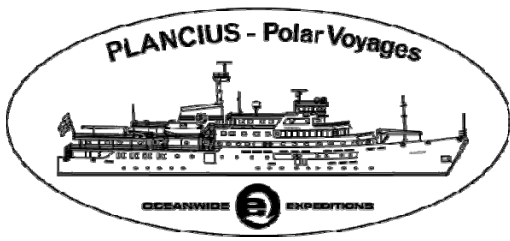
and his international crew of 48

Including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Artur Iakovlev</b>	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	<b>Gavin Cunningham</b>	[Britian]
3rd Officer:	<b>Luis Oroceo</b>	[Philiphines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b>	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Katrin Völker</b>	[Germany]
Head Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Annelot Ochtman</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Beau Pruneau</b>	[Canada/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Katja Riedel</b>	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Frances Pothecary</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gérard Bodineau</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Céline Clément-Chastel</b>	[France]
Camping Guide:	<b>Ignacio Marino</b>	[Argentina]
Camping Guide:	<b>Chris Booker</b>	[UK]
Photo Guide:	<b>Bruce Robinson</b>	[USA]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Paul Donovan</b>	[Wales]
Mountaineering Lead Guide:	<b>Massimo Candolino</b>	[Italy]
Mountaineering Guide:	<b>Mal Haskins</b>	[New Zealand]
Dive Master:	<b>Henrik Enkell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Catherine Buckland</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Michael Green</b>	[UK]

## Welcome you on board!





# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

Embarkation Ushuaia

Monday 6 March 2017

**Welcome on board!** Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. *After we are all onboard*, please check and notify Reception if you are missing anything or have the wrong luggage. While we are embarking please feel free to explore the ship. The lounge is located on Deck 5 forward.

~17.00 **Mandatory Safety Briefing in the Lounge. ALL PASSENGERS are required** to attend this very important safety briefing.

~18.00 Approximate sailing time. As we leave Ushuaia we recommend that you enjoy the views from the outside decks.

**Please Note: The Bridge and will be closed for departure while we navigate the Beagle Channel.**

**We will conduct the mandatory Lifeboat Drill once we have departed Ushuaia. Please listen for the Alarm.**

18.30 Soon after sailing we would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a **welcome briefing** by Expedition Leader Beau Pruneau and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager Zsuzsanna Varga.

Afterwards there will be Captain's Cocktails! Captain Evgeny Levakov invites you to join him for a welcome drink in the Lounge, where you will also meet the Expedition Team.

19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on **Deck 3** behind **Reception**. Bon appétit!

**Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open ocean so please secure your valuables and make sure your cupboard doors and drawers are tightly closed.**

**Remember: KEEP ONE HAND FOR THE SHIP AT ALL TIMES & BEWARE OF DOOR JAMS.**



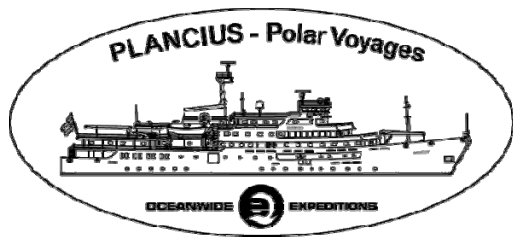
# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

At Sea towards Antarctica

Tuesday 7 March 2017

- 0745 Wakeup call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 We will be distributing your **Rubber Boots**. To ensure a smooth operation we will call you by Deck number so please listen out for announcements. The boot room is located on Deck 3 forward. Bring your thick socks!
- 1100 Please join photo guide Bruce in the **Lounge** for an **Introduction to Photography**.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1415 Join the **staff** in the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for introductory briefings on various Basecamp activities (the briefings are **mandatory** for those interested in doing the selected options):
- 1415 - 1445 Hiking and Camping.
- 1500 - 1545 Kayaking.
- 1600 - 1645 Mountaineering: **Please bring your mountaineering boots that you plan on using.**
- 1700 There will be a mandatory diving briefing in the **dining room** for divers only. This is mandatory for the divers intending on diving in Antarctica. **Please bring your diving regulators.**
- 1830 **Recap:** This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forwards to tomorrow's plans. Beau and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

**We will be sailing in the open ocean for the next two days. Please take appropriate precautions: Secure belongings, close drawers, take medication. And remember: KEEP ONE HAND FREE FOR HOLDING ONTO THE SHIP AT ALL TIMES!**



# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

At Sea towards Antarctica

Wednesday 8 March 2017

- 0745      Wakeup call
- 0800      **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1000      Please come to the Lounge and join Beau for the **mandatory IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing**. Everybody who wants to go ashore in Antarctica will have to come to this briefing!
- 1100      **Vacuuming time!** We will call you by deck to the Lounge to vacuum your outer clothes and the bags that you will be taking ashore. Please listen out for your turn and don't forget to sign the IAATO declaration.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- The **Vacuuming Party** continues in the lounge after lunch.
- 1500      Please join Katja in the lounge where she will give an **Introduction to Antarctica**.
- 1630      Mal will talk in the lounge about **Glaciers – Rivers of Ice**.
- 1830      **Recap:** This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forwards to tomorrow's plans. Beau and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Though we have encountered a Drake Lake so far, please still be still with stairways and doors and please secure expensive fragile items in your drawers.





# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

## Cuverville Island & Danco Island

Thursday 9 March 2017

- 0636 Sunrise
- 0700 Wakeup call
- 0730 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.

**After breakfast we plan to go ashore at Cuverville Island. Here we can offer time with Gentoo penguins and a walk along the shoreline.**

- 0815 **Divers** please meet with Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.
- 0815 **Kayakers Group 1** meet with Paul in the Library.
- 0815 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo & Mal at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).
- ~0900 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

**This afternoon we plan to go ashore at Danco Island. Here we can offer time with Gentoo penguins and a hike to the top of the island.**

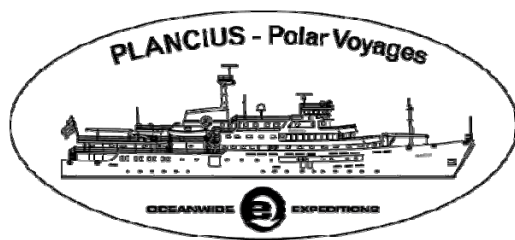
- 1330 **Divers** please meet with Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.
- 1330 **Kayakers Group 2** meet with Paul in the Library.
- 1330 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo & Mal at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).
- ~1415 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

- 1830 **Recap:** This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forwards to tomorrow's plans. Beau and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge.

- 1900 **Dinner Buffet** is available in the Dining Room. Please campers first.

- 2004 Sunset

- 2030 **Camping Group 1 – Kerr Point, Ronge Island**  
Please be ready to depart for your night ashore. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!



# Antarctic Basecamp

**Stony Point & Base Brown**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

0639 Sunrise

0700 Wake-up call.

0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

After breakfast we plan to go ashore & Zodiac cruise at **Stony Point**, in Paradise Bay. This will be a Continental Landing! First 4 zodiacs will land while the rest cruise, swapping halfway through.

0815 **Divers** please meet with Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.

0815 **Kayakers Group 3** meet with Paul in the Library.

0815 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).

~0900 **Everyone else going ashore and zodiac cruising** please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

After lunch we would like to open the Ship Shop! Please listen out for announcements.

We plan to go ashore at **Base Brown** (also a Continental Landing) & Zodiac cruise in Skontorp Cove with spectacular glacier views, King Cormorants and occasional seals. First 4 zodiacs will land while the rest cruise, swapping halfway through.

1415 **Divers** please meet with Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.

1415 **Kayakers Group 4** meet Paul in the Library.

1415 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).

~1500 **Everyone else going ashore and zodiac cruising** please come to the gangway.

1830 Come and join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for a quick Daily Recap.

1900 Buffet Dinner is available in the Dining Room. Please campers first.

2003 Sunset

2030 **Camping Group 2 – Leith Cove.**

Please be ready for your night ashore! Remember to pack your warm clothes and don't forget, the bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!



# Antarctic Basecamp

Neko Harbour & Foyen Harbour

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

- 0645 Sunrise
- 0630 Snacks for **the Mountaineers** will be available in the bar.
- 0700 General wake-up call.
- 0715 **Mountaineers** going ashore.
  
- 0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

**After breakfast we plan to go ashore at Neko Harbour. The nearby glacier is very scenic, but it can calve unexpectedly and cause a flood wave, please stay at least 15 m away from the shoreline!**

We would also like to offer a **Polar Plunge** for those brave (?) enough. This will be at the end of the landing, we will provide the towels.

- 0800 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.
- 0815 **Divers** meet with Henrik & dive team in the Bar.
- 0815 **Kayakers** meet with Paul in the Library.
- ~0900 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

**This afternoon we will be in the scenic area of Foyen Harbour. We plan to take a Zodiac cruise in the area, visiting the shipwreck of the Governøren, an old whaling vessel, and some of the small channels and bays. There are often humpback whales in Enterprise Bay so look out for their blows. We will split into 2 groups for this cruise:**

**Group 1: Cabins 401-429**

**Group 2: Decks 200's, 300's, 500's, & 600's**

- 1515 **Divers** please meet Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.
- 1515 **Kayakers** meet with Paul in the Library.
- 1515 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.
- ~1600 **Group 1** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway.
- ~1715 **Group 2** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway.
  
- 1900 Come and join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for a quick Daily Briefing.
  
- 1930 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
  
- 1959 Sunset
  
- 2015 Crampon fitting in the library for next day mountaineers.





# Antarctic Basecamp

Lemaire Channel, Pleneau Island  
& Port Charcot

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

0615 Wake-up call.

If ice conditions allow we will sail through the scenic **Lemaire Channel** early this morning. This famous channel is 7 miles long and less than a mile wide at its narrowest point.

~0650 Sunrise

0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

**At the southern end of the Lemaire Channel lies Pléneau Island. Gentoo penguins, kelp gulls and south polar skuas are breeding here. We will offer a landing at this southerly island.**

0815 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

0815 **Divers** meet with Henrik & dive team in the Bar.

0815 **Kayakers** meet with Paul in the Library.

~0900 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

**This afternoon we would like to ship cruise south and try to reach 65 degrees south. With plenty of ice and icebergs the scenery should be outstanding with fantastic views all around. Bundle up and head out on deck and enjoy the wonderful program called ANTARCTICA.**

~1815 We will head back north through the scenic **Lemaire Channel**.

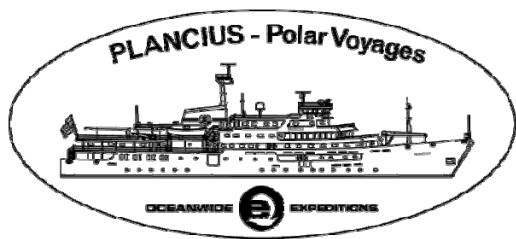
1845 Join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing**.

1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

~1956 Sunset

2030 **Camping Group 3 – Jougla Point.**

Ready for your night ashore? Remember to pack your warm clothes and don't forget, the bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!



# Antarctic Basecamp

Port Lockroy & Jougla Point &  
Damoy Point, Dorian Bay

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

~0651 Sunrise.

0700 Wake-up call

0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

This morning we hope to visit Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. Port Lockroy was used as an anchorage by whalers and established as Base A by the British government in 1944 as part of a secret wartime initiative called "Operation Tabarin" to monitor German ship movements. At Jougla Point a whale skeleton, Gentoo penguins and amazing scenery are awaiting us. As this is a split landing, we will swap at the halfway point.

0815 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

0815 **Divers** meet with Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.

0815 **Kayakers** meet with Paul in the Library.

~0900 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

We plan to go ashore at Damoy Point in Dorian Bay which was used as a transit station for the British Antarctic Survey staff and stores to be flown further south from the glacier ski-way above the hut to Rothera Station when sea ice prevented access by ship. Here we will offer a short hike up to a point called Tombstone Hill.

1415 **Divers** please meet Henrik & the dive team in the Bar.

1415 **Kayakers** meet with Paul in the Library.

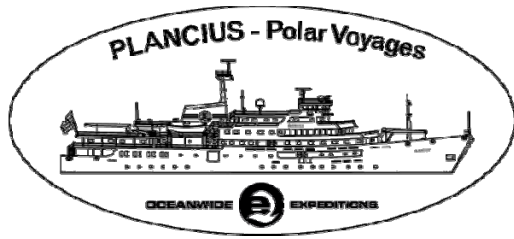
1415 **Mountaineers** meet Massimo and Mal at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

~1500 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1830 Join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing**.

1900 A very special dinner is waiting of you on the back of Deck 3 (behind the Dining room. Please dress warmly. Bon appétit!

~1953 Sunset



# Antarctic Basecamp

Melchior Islands

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

~0655 Sunrise.

0700 Wake-up call

0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

**We will be sailing to the Melchior Islands. Keep a lookout for interesting wildlife! Here we hope to offer a split Zodiac cruise. (Sorry no mountaineering on these flat islands!)**

**Group 1: Decks 200's, 300's, 500's, & 600's**

**Group 2: Cabins 401-429**

0800 **Divers** meet with Henrik & dive team in the Bar.

~0830 **Group 1** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway.

~0945 **Group 2** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

**In the afternoon we will be starting our sail north in the Drake Passage. Please secure belongings and take medication if necessary.**

1530 Celine would like to invite you to the **lounge** for her talk **Introduction to Penguins.**

1830 Join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing.**

1900 Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon appétit!

~1952 Sunset

Please be careful when you move around the ship. Always have one hand free to hold on. Be careful in the staircases and with the heavy doors.





# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

## At Sea towards Ushuaia

### Wednesday 15 March 2017

- 0745      Wakeup call
- 0800      **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1030      Please join Katja in the **Lounge** for her lecture titled **Life and Work on Antarctic Research Bases**.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500      Please join Gérard in the **Lounge** for his talk titled **Whales of the Southern Ocean**.
- 1630      Michael would like to invite you to the **Lounge** for a historical talk about **Mawson's 1912 Expedition**.
- 1830      Join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing**.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

**When the ship is moving, please be careful in the stairways and with the heavy doors and have always have one hand free to hold on.**



# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

At Sea towards Ushuaia  
Thursday 16 March 2017

- 0745      Wakeup call
- 0800      **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1000      Please join Fran in the **Lounge** for a talk about **Dogs and the British Antarctic Survey from 1944-1994**.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400      Time to **return your rubber boots**. We will call you by deck number to deliver your boots to the boot room on deck three forward. Please don't return any boots before we call you.
- ~1500      **Please settle your accounts with Zsuzsanna and Katy at Reception. We will call you by deck number, please wait till your deck is called to avoid queues. You can pay with Cash Euro, USD, Visa or MasterCard.**
- 1815      Please meet with Beau and the expedition staff in the **Lounge** for a quick briefing about plans for disembarkation tomorrow and afterwards a farewell toast from your Captain.
- 1900      Your **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

**When the ship is moving, please be careful in the stairways and with the heavy doors and have always have one hand free to hold on.**



# Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

## Disembarkation

Friday 17 March 2017

The pilot will come on board in the early morning and we then have around 5 hours sailing to Ushuaia. We plan to arrive there at approximately 7 o'clock in the morning.

0700 Wake Up Call.

***Although we will be alongside, you are not permitted to disembark until we have been cleared by the port authorities. Please wait for announcements.***

0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

- As you leave for breakfast please place your **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door and we will deliver it to the pier.
- Please leave your **keys** at Reception when you go to breakfast.

~0830 Time to say goodbye! All passengers leave the ship

- Buses have been arranged to take you to the airport for those who requested a seat. Please make sure that you take all your luggage from the pier and put it on the bus.
- If you would like to leave your luggage at the luggage storage please put it in the truck and make sure you collect it before 1400 from the green roofed building at **Avenida Maipú 1210** (about 400 metres to the left from the pier past the service station).

If you are staying in Ushuaia you are free to leave the pier on foot by the customs control entrance. Taxis can be found on the street at the end of the pier, just cross the road at the traffic lights that are to the left of the exit building.