

Expedition Log

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA – TO THE POLAR CIRCLE & BACK

Ushuaia – Antarctic Peninsula - Ushuaia

17th – 28th March 2017

On board the

M/V Ortelius



M/V Ortelius was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV Ortelius was built in 1989 in

Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was reflagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 125-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17,6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 13 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.

With:

Bridge Crew:

Captain: Mika Appel (Finland) Chief Mate: Sam Cook (Great Britain) Second Mate: Laimonas Choroscia (Lithuania) Third Mate: John Williams (Great Britain)

Deck crew:

Bosun: Eli Serra (Philipines) and Andy, Edgar, Jayson, Jaylor, Philip and Bardino

Engine room crew:

Chief Engineer: Aleksandr Bondarev (Lithuania) 2nd engineer: Valeri Paramonov (Estonia) 3rd engineer: Andrej Abakumov (Lithuania) 3rd engineer: Joey James Seguro (Philipines) Chief electrician: Michael Mahiya (Philipines) Assistant electrician: Harold Mina (Philipines) and Jess, Efren, Rogie, Janusz and Volodymyr

Hotel Staff:

Hotel Manager: Dejan Nikolic (Serbia) Assistant Hotel Manager: Sava Savov (Bulgaria) Head Chef: Heinz Hacker (Austria) Sous Chef: Khabir Moraes (India) Baker: Roger Nopre (Philipines) and John, Rolando, Alfred, Alice, Charlotte, Ian, Noelle, Charlemagne, Maricel, Raquel, Marvin, Joana, Kim and Pamela

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Rolf Stange (Germany) Assistant Expedition Leader: Lynn Woodworth (Canada) Dive Guide: Michael Green (Great Britain) Guide & Lecturer: Dmitri Banin (United States) Guide & Lecturer: Victoria Salem (Great Britain) Dive Guide: Catherine Buckland (Great Britain) Guide & Lecturer: Arjen Drost (Netherlands) Guide & Lecturer: Johan Petersson (Sweden) Guide & Lecturer: Bismarck Sommerfelt (Argentina) Dive Guide: Jerry Sutton (Great Britain) Kayak Guide: Frances Pothecary (Great Britain)

Ship's Physicians: Remco Kuipers & Martine Luxwolda (Netherlands)

Day 1 – Friday March 17th, Ushuaia, Argentina.

GPS noon position: 54°49'S / 068°18'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +15°C, Calm **Weather conditions:** Mainly sunny **Barometric pressure:** 1003 **Sea temperature & condition:** +6°C

After a sunny day spent looking around Ushuaia, we boarded *Ortelius* between 16.00 and 17.00 and set about exploring our new floating home. There was time to unpack our bags and find our way to the bar (the location of the all-important coffee machine) as well as visit the outer decks before being summoned to a mandatory meeting in the Lecture room at 17.15.



Here we were welcomed by Hotel Manager Dejan (DJ), who gave us a virtual



tour of the ship and filled us in on how shipboard life on the Southern Ocean works. This information was followed with a Ship Safety Briefing and instructions on the lifeboat drill to come. When the sevenshort-and-one-long-blast signal was heard,

we put on our large orange life-jackets and made our way to the Muster Station (aka: bar) on Deck 6. A roll call was taken and we followed Sava and DJ respectively out to lifeboats 1 and 2. We are hopeful that we will not need to do this again in the next 10 days...

Most of us gathered out on deck to witness our departure from Ushuaia at around 18.15, shortly after the drill. As we headed into the Beagle Channel there was a sense of excitement and anticipation as to what lay ahead. Antarctica here we come!



At 19.15 we met again in the bar, this time for a welcome cocktail with Captain Mika, the most important man on the ship. He spoke a few words and explained that we are welcome on the bridge during daylight hours, which is a great viewing platform for bird-watching and

also the place to find out from officers on watch what life is like at sea. Expedition leader Rolf then welcomed us and told us a little about the coming voyage over a toast in sparkling wine and canapés; he has a large team of expedition guides working with him to make our trip a success, and they introduced themselves and their roles on board. There is a diving and kayaking programme running this trip, so there will be plenty going on.



By now it was nearly dinner time and there was a real buzz in the dining room, as we got to know each other and talked about our expectations of Antarctica. The bar was quiet after dinner – most people were tired from their long journey and ready for bed. Now we are underway and will wake up tomorrow at sea!

Day 2 – Saturday March 18th, Drake Passage en route to South Shetland Islands.

GPS noon position: 55°24'S / 066°44'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +12°C, W5 **Weather conditions:** Partly sunny, partly overcast **Barometric pressure:** 1000 **Sea temperature & condition:** +8°C, Beaufort 5



Rocking and rolling started in the small hours and by breakfast time (sausage, scrambled egg and beans) we were well into the Drake Passage. The weather was fine, so walking the outside decks was one option to keep seasickness at bay, always with one hand for the ship; Sooty shearwaters and a Wandering albatross were already to be seen before the first lecture of the voyage at 10.30, which was Arjen with tips and ideas on 'Photography', especially with regard to taking good photos in snow and ice conditions.

Not everyone made it to the talk – some people kept to their cabins in order to get gradually used to the ship's motion. Sea legs will be acquired soon, we hope!

Lunch was at 12.30 and was buffet-style. Captain Mika and his officers kindly changed course slightly so that we could walk to and fro carrying loaded plates without incident. By early afternoon our doctor had handed out a fair number of patches and pills and we were all getting our sea legs; being out and about on deck or on the bridge helps with this

siesta...





Victoria woke us from our slumbers by announcing her 15.00 lecture: 'A selected Antarctic Peninsula

history, 1897 – 1937'. This covered three Heroic Era expeditions (Gerlache - Belgian, Nordenskjöld - Swedish and Charcot -French) plus Rymill's British Graham Land expedition (UK) from the later, technological era of charting and science. Some of these expeditions went horribly wrong, though all achieved pioneering work on the Great Southern Continent at a time when it was almost unknown and largely unexplored.

16.00 was tea-and-cake time in the bar and since we had time between lectures, this was also a good opportunity to head for the bridge, meet some of the people on watch there, gaze out at the Southern Ocean and enjoy any passing bird life. Talking of sea birds, that's just what Dmitri was doing at 17.00 in the Lecture

process, and so does lying down for a

room, in a presentation entitled 'Birds of the Wind'. His talk covered identification of the main species we expect to see on the Drake Passage, their biology and adaptation to the

sub-Antarctic environment. More reason to spend time out on deck observing the dynamic soaring of a variety of sea birds as we sail.

Our second evening on board *Ortelius* began with Recap & Briefing at 18.30. Rolf gave us an update on our progress south and the

weather forecast (improving all the time!), followed by Victoria on Sir Francis Drake (we are sailing in the Drake Passage right now) and Arjen on crossing the Antarctic Convergence (Antarctica's biological boundary) and the 60th parallel south (Antarctica's political







boundary). By the time we wake up tomorrow morning we will be in Antarctica in every sense...

Dinner followed and at 20.30 the first episode of 'Frozen Planet' was screened in the Lecture room to help get us in the mood. A few people gathered in the bar to get to know Charlotte and each other, but most of us went to bed fairly early. We have a lot of mandatory briefings and activities tomorrow and need to be alert.

Day 3 – Sunday March 19th, Drake Passage en route to South Shetland Islands.

GPS noon position: 60°36′S / 061°05′W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +9°C, NW3 **Weather conditions:** Overcast with some fog **Barometric pressure:** 1001 **Sea temperature & condition:** +2°C, Beaufort 3

Today was our second day in the Drake Passage and our crossing turned out to be most pleasant. The wind had gone down quite a bit during the night, to a bearable 12 knots - a level of wind speed that satisfied most of our passengers. There were (almost) no empty seats in the dining room.



Not only had the wind gone down, but the temperature had dropped four degrees centigrade during the night. We were in the middle of crossing the convergence, the area where the warmer and saltier sea water from the northern oceans mixes with the cooler



and less salty water from the south. During the day we also crossed the 60 degree latitude line, so now we are in Antarctica both biologically and politically.

The day was full of mandatory activities. In the morning we learned about Antarctica and biosecurity how to follow IAATO's guidelines so as to make as little impact as possible on

the environment during our stay. We also learned how to stay safe during our landings and when using zodiacs.

An important part of the IAATO guidelines is to have everyone vacuum and clean their clothes and equipment. We took turns in doing that during the earlier part of the



afternoon. In the latter part of the afternoon we were issued with important



pieces of gear: rubber boots and zodiac life jackets.

Recap & briefing turned out to be more of a 'precap' for tomorrow than a recap of today. After Rolf had told us about our planned landings, Johan gave us the history of Deception Island and Catherine told us all about the Chinstrap penguins we hope to see shortly. After that it was time for dinner and perhaps a nightcap in the bar before bed.

Meanwhile, throughout the day our ship was accompanied by a lot of different sea birds, including albatrosses, petrels and prions.

Day 4 – Monday March 20th, Half Moon Island & Deception Island, South Shetland Islands.

GPS noon position: 62°35′S / 059°48′W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +5°C, NW3 **Weather conditions:** Overcast with some fog **Barometric pressure:** 1003 **Sea temperature & condition:** +1°C, Beaufort 3

We woke to our first morning in Antarctica in fog - there was nothing to see! Occasionally a narrow sliver of ice, rock or snow showed through the low cloud, but mostly it was only the dark water around the ship. The wind was about 25 knots, and air temperature was quite warm (for Antarctica) - four degrees C. As we went to breakfast, sunrise was outlining the



cloud in pink and a little more land was coming into sight.

We finished our breakfast in record time, and quickly dressed so we could head outside to watch as we approached our landing for the morning, Half Moon Island. We came in with the island on our left, its dark, steep, rocky sides covered in orange and yellow lichens. Our first time down the gangway was not too bad, and

the ride ashore was exciting. Getting our feet onto Antarctic rocks was definitely a highlight,

especially as there were penguins right there! Rolf briefed us, and we set off to explore the island. Many of us took some time to get past those first penguins, which were Chinstraps. They were down near the water, some using their beaks to clean their feathers, and others simply standing, or lying down, not doing much at all. Nearby fur seals slept, chased each

other, and occasionally came to look at us. Once we got past the beach, we climbed up to a flat ridge with more rocky outcrops and lots of penguins resting on the higher points. Cutting through a rocky saddle to the other side of the island we found more penguins, more seals, and great views of Livingston Island. This large island is covered in glaciers, and the icy blue cliff faces were showing below the slowly rising cloud.





Back on board, we changed out of our heavy clothes and went to lunch, where we all talked about - and shared photos of - our time on shore. Meanwhile, we were getting closer to our afternoon landing spot, at Whalers' Bay inside Deception Island. As we approached, the island looked solid and round, with the small opening of Neptune's Bellows only becoming visible just before the Captain took the ship in. It was an exciting

passage, with the ship sailing hard against one cliff in order to avoid Raven Rock, which sits in the middle of the channel. As we came through into Port Foster, Whalers' Bay was visible

on the right, all the old buildings, oil tanks and huge fuel tanks standing out on the sheltered flat behind the beach. We put our zodiacs in the water with a light wind blowing, but by the time we had only two boats full of people ashore, conditions had changed so much we had to cancel the landing. After we got everybody back on board, we took the opportunity to sail the ship all the way into Port Foster, and see Telefon Bay and Pendulum Cove, as



well as the Argentine base Decepcion and Spanish base Gabriel de Castilla. Sailing back out through the Bellows, conditions were a bit rougher outside the island as well, and the

Bransfield Strait, which separates the South Shetland Islands from the Antarctic Peninsula, was a little less smooth than some people would have preferred. But things were not too bad, or at least not bad enough to keep us from dinner, and for many of us, spending some time in the bar afterwards before bed.

Day 5 – Tuesday March 21st, Cuverville Island & Neko Harbour.

GPS noon position: 64°40'S / 062°37'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +6°C, SE2 **Weather conditions:** Overcast in morning; sunny in afternoon **Barometric pressure:** 993 **Sea temperature & condition:** 0°C, Beaufort 1



What an exciting day! From early morning as soon as we started operations we knew there was an extremely difficult task ahead...to move in any direction without disturbing the Humpback whales! All of us were stunned by the high number of individuals in

the water. The divers had a family of Humpbacks playing with them, kayakers could not

paddle more than 50m. in a row because there was always a whale in their way, and even zodiacs taking people to shore for a landing had to be driven circumspectly, with as little wake as possible, so as to respect the IAATO guidelines.

Some of the whales were sleeping, while others were being



really curious and spy-hopping near us or in the vicinity of the surrounding icebergs; anyhow, what a blessing to see so many whales on our first day in Antarctica proper!

Just to join the party, many Crabeater seals were having a nap on the ice and at the same time a Leopard seal was eating breakfast, which consisted of fresh, tasty Gentoo penguin – which was, incidentally, our second penguin species to date. In addition to all of this, a couple of Orcas passed by to say 'hello' right at the end of the morning's operation, just to show us that in Antarctica, the magic is just around the iceberg...

After a great lunch prepared by our galley team, we visited one of the most scenic places around, which was for many passengers the first Antarctic continental landing of their lives; I'm referring of course to



Neko Harbour, with its splendid glacier views and many active Gentoo penguins. Here we could see chicks being fed and even chasing after their parents to demand more food because they were still hungry!

Meanwhile, the divers spent some time watching icebergs from a different perspective as they melted and the sunlight

played with their shapes and shadows. It was a flat calm afternoon and the sun showed its face from time to time just to make everything perfect.

But wait, there was still some more to come; the chef and his outstanding team prepared a BBQ for us so, as soon as we returned from the landing site, tables were placed on Deck 6, next to the heli-hangar, on a beautiful Antarctic evening. Everyone was there to enjoy a terrific dinner outside, accompanied by drinks such as mulled wine and beer. Afterwards we adjourned to the bar to celebrate all we have seen and done today. As I overheard someone say:-"Just a perfect day!"



Day 6 – Wednesday March 22nd, Lemaire Channel, Vernadsky station & Wordie House, Argentine Islands.

GPS noon position: 65°14'S / 064°15'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +1°C, SW4 **Weather conditions:** Overcast with sleet & snow in afternoon **Barometric pressure:** 984 **Sea temperature & condition:** 0°C, Beaufort 3



This morning we woke up before 7 am to be ready to go through the scenic Lemaire Channel. The weather, however, was against us. It was foggy, with minimal visibility. In front of us was Oceanwide's other ship, M/V *Plancius*, which reported a big iceberg partially blocking the exit from the Lemaire

Channel at its southern end. Our Expedition Leader and Captain decided to attempt a passage through the channel anyway! The water was calm; low clouds covered the mountain slopes, and we could see steep glaciers close on both sides of the ship. We also had a chance to watch Orcas passing through the channel northwards.

On the southern side of the Lemaire Channel as expected, a giant iceberg was blocking the exit. However Captain Mika decided that we could pass through between the iceberg and the shore. It was very tight and exciting, but we did it!

Next in our plans was a morning landing at Port Charcot on Booth Island. When we moved closer to our destination, we were able to see that the whole area between Pléneau and Booth Islands was blocked by big icebergs. It was still foggy with some snow, and time was running out. As a result, this morning's landing was cancelled.



Instead, Dmitri gave an interesting and well-illustrated presentation about penguins in the Lecture room on Deck 3.

After lunch we planned to visit the Ukrainian Vernadsky station. The weather improved, and the fog all but disappeared. This time we carried out all of the activities as planned in our





daily programme. The station's locals showed us the base facilities and of course we visited the famous bar and souvenir shop. This is a great station to visit – doing serious science, but also welcoming tourists and happy to show us around. And Vernadsky has an interesting history; it used



to be the British Faraday base (where the ozone hole was discovered), but was sold to the Ukraine for £1 in 1996. You can still see this famous pound coin set into the Faraday Bar counter.



After the station visit we took a zodiac ride through the narrow channels to Wordie House, the original British base in the Argentine Islands – a time capsule from the 1950s and the days of dog-sledging. We also had a zodiac cruise around the islands and among beautiful icebergs grounded between

them. On the way back to the ship there was a heavy snowfall and both scenery and zodiac were coated in white.

We returned just before Recap & Briefing, during which Expedition Leader Rolf informed us about the plans for tomorrow. We will continue further south and will cross the Antarctic

Circle tomorrow morning. If we are lucky with the weather, we plan to land on Detaille Island.

After dinner we watched Part III of the "Frozen Planet" series, by the end of which we were ready for bed.

Day 7 – Thursday March 23rd, Antarctic Circle & zodiac cruise near Detaille Island.

GPS noon position: 66°49'S / 066°48'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +3°C, NNE4 **Weather conditions:** Overcast with some fog & snow **Barometric pressure:** 992 **Sea temperature & condition:** 0°C, Beaufort 3

FURTHEST SOUTH: 66° 52' S/ 066° 48'W



Overnight our captain brought the ship a lot further south. After breakfast most of us went outside to enjoy the scenery of Crystal Sound as we headed even further south towards the Antarctic Circle. Icebergs surrounded us and some pieces of sea ice as well. Many seals were seen swimming or hauling out on ice floes -

mainly Antarctic fur seals and Crabeater seals.

Then suddenly the ship's horn sounded, which meant that we had crossed the Antarctic Circle! This is the line where on December 21st the sun doesn't set for one whole day (and doesn't rise on June 21st) and this is our final Antarctic boundary. And in local folklore we are now all allowed to





have at least one foot on the kitchen table (or two for those of us who have also crossed the Arctic Circle). Many pictures were taken here, proving that we really WERE here. Meanwhile some Snow petrels were seen, a true Antarctic bird

species and one of the furthest south breeding birds in the world.



Slowly we made our way to our destination for today: Detaille Island. On this island an abandoned British research base was stationed from 1956 – 59 and our original intention was to visit it. However, after lunch, a quick scout by our expedition team showed it would be impossible to land on the small, exposed

island due to several large

icebergs and bergy bits near the landing site. Instead we went for a zodiac cruise around the island. From the zodiac we could still see the hut from the outside and enjoy the many Antarctic fur seals and Adelie penguins on land and on the icebergs. After an hour it was time to swap over and give the second group the opportunity to have the same experience.



After this cruise we headed north again. As the visibility wasn't really what we wanted, it didn't make too much sense to hang around here longer as we wouldn't be able to see



much anyway. On our way north we had to cross back through the same belt of ice, which again drew many people to the outside decks.

In the evening Johan told us a story about one of the dogs (called 'Steve') of Detaille Island, who got lost and was found again

at another station many kilometres away after several months, presumably surviving on fresh penguin... After this Arjen explained a little about the significance of the Antarctic Circle and how special it was to cross it. Now it was time for dinner and then to head either to the bar or to bed; another spectacular day will be waiting for us tomorrow!

Day 8 – Friday March 24th, Lemaire Channel, Paradise Harbour & Skontorp Cove.

GPS noon position: 65°03'S / 063°55'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +5°C, Light Airs **Weather conditions:** Good visibility, hazy sunshine **Barometric pressure:** 999 **Sea temperature & condition:** 0°C, Beaufort 1 We woke up to beautiful weather and stunning scenery, approaching the classic Lemaire



Channel once again. Since the southern entrance still had a lot of ice, we entered from the north in virtually no wind and with beautiful sunshine. We took our time in the Lemaire, taking it all in - the high mountains descending into the water, the glaciers and the ocean. A leopard seal gazed at us as we went past.

At noon we headed north again, still surrounded by great scenery, towards Paradise Harbour. There we enjoyed а long afternoon, taking turns going ashore and doing a long zodiac cruise. We had great luck with whales and everyone





around and with the zodiac engine turned off for a short period, we could absorb Antarctica in all its pristine glory. And on our way back to *Ortelius*, we saw a Weddell seal – the only one missing from our list of 'seals we are likely to see'.

came close to 100 metres from a Humpback whale (the closest IAATOpermitted distance, though the Humpbacks don't know that!). Further into the bay, in Skontorp Cove, we were out of sight of the ship and could no longer hear its engines. With glaciers all





On land we could take a good look at the rather tatty Argentinian base (Almirante) Brown and its (also rather tatty, because moulting!) Gentoo



penguins. Some climbed up the hill to a view point above, others settling for a halfway

stroll to some rocks in order to get some elevation above the ocean. And those who did not wish to climb were able to walk on a level across to a small hut and pier a few



hundred metres away, for different views. As the sun was setting we felt the temperature dropping, but it didn't



By the time we got back to the ship it was dinner time and spirits were high. Rolf gathered us for a short briefing in the bar afterwards, to let us know about tomorrow morning's zodiac cruise here on the Antarctic Peninsula; it is important to make the most of it as after that we will be heading into the Bransfield Strait and on our way back to Ushuaia.

Day 9 – Saturday March 25th, Foyn Harbour & Bransfield Strait.

GPS noon position: 64°33'S / 061°58'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +3°C, Light Airs **Weather conditions:** Cloudy with some lighter spells



Barometric pressure: 992 Sea temperature & condition: +2°C, Beaufort 1



Our last day of adventure commenced early with a 06.30 wake-up call, followed by the usual great breakfast, lovingly prepared by our galley team.

As soon as that was finished we started the last operation of the trip - a zodiac cruise in the vicinity of Enterprise Island (Foyn

Harbour), whose highlight was the shipwreck of the steam whaler *Guverneren*. The divers managed to get an extraordinary and unique view of the wreck from under the water, afterwards kindly sharing some images with the rest of the passengers and staff, and the

kayakers also had the chance to paddle around it and get their own perspective.

Meanwhile, the rest of us were enjoying our zodiac cruise, also seeing the wooden water boats which the crew from the *Guverneren* used to abandon ship just around the corner - providing a



great opportunity for photos, posed as they are, like silent witnesses to the passing of time.

And there was more to make this last day in Antarctica memorable; the clouds parted for a while, letting the Antarctic sun shine through, kissing our faces for the very last time. Then a



large number of Humpback whales approached us, come to say goodbye, showing their flukes and some of them even breaching.

Some guests had the chance to put their feet

on land for the very last time on a little island next to a wonderful glacier and throw snowballs at each other, made with fresh snow from the night before.

During lunch time the captain set our course to the north and we began the long voyage back to the southernmost city in the world, our beloved Ushuaia.

During the afternoon we had a drill involving all the crew and the staff team, but not disturbing our guests at all...



Later on, a recap was conducted to talk about the day just gone and tell us what will be happening tomorrow. And so to dinner and to an evening in the bar, then bed. It was a glorious last day on a glorious trip to the Antarctic Circle and beyond, aboard the M/V *Ortelius*.

Day 10 – Sunday March 26th, Drake Passage, en route to Ushuaia.

GPS noon position: 60°33'S / 064°16'W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +6°C, NW4 **Weather conditions:** Cloudy with some fog **Barometric pressure:** 1012 **Sea temperature & condition:** +2°C, Beaufort 4



We were woken up by the harmonious sound of the waltz "Over the waves" on the PA system - this morning it was Dmitri who made the wakeup call!

We are on the way home, in the middle of the Drake Passage, which is in its usual, natural state. The water is grey. The sky is cloudy. The wind

speed is around 25 knots, and waves are rolling the ship from one side to the other. There are still 455 nautical miles left before we arrive in Ushuaia.

There is surprisingly little wildlife outside. Three Cape petrels appeared for a short time in front of the ship and a couple of Northern fulmars were flying in the distance. Later, a Black-browed albatross crossed our path without even turning its head in our direction.

After breakfast Arjen presented his talk about 'Climate Change'. It was a good lecture, in which he presented and analysed facts that support the latest trends of warming in the polar regions of the earth. And he managed to end on a positive note for the future!

After lunch it was time for a nap for some of us, and later at 15.00 Johan gave his lecture about 'Sealers and Whalers in Antarctica'; from the time of Captain Cook (late eighteenth century) man has exploited the oceans of this world for his own gain, and the Southern Ocean has been no different. This exploitation only drew towards an end with the signing of the Antarctic Treaty, though some whaling continues to this day.





It was nice to have tea time before the final lecture of the trip. By now, too, there were more birds around the ship – Light- mantled Sooty albatross, White-chinned and Giant petrels, Blue petrels and according to Arjen's identification, even a Magellanic Diving petrel.

At 17.00 Victoria made a very

interesting presentation entitled 'Ernest Shackleton and the Greatest Expedition of the Antarctic Heroic Age'. In it she gave us details and anecdotes about the *Endurance*, or the Imperial Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1917. This is a dramatic and gripping tale, which lost nothing in the recounting.





During recap Rolf and DJ

described our activities for tomorrow, Dmitri gave a short analysis of wind (surface currents and gyres of the ocean originally based on Nansen's observations), and Victoria talked about the establishment and functioning of the

Antarctic Treaty (1959, ratified in 1961), including various later agreements on the environmental protection of the Antarctic continent and its surrounding ocean.

During dinner we had our final birthday celebration of the trip, with a chorus of 'Happy Birthday', cake and candles.



After dinner in the lecture room we watched Part IV of "Frozen Planet" and after that the bar was buzzing with life until late!

Day 11 – Monday March 27th, Drake Passage, en route to Ushuaia.

GPS noon position: 56°13′S / 065°59′W **Air temperature & wind speed:** +11°C, NNW4 **Weather conditions:** Blue skies & sunshine **Barometric pressure:** 1019 **Sea temperature & condition:** +8°C, Beaufort 4

And so our last full day on board M/V Ortelius has arrived. Our penultimate breakfast experience included black pudding (yippee!) as well as fried eggs and the usual trimmings of yoghurt, cereal and toast, fresh fruit, coffee, tea and orange juice. Going home is going to be TOUGH!



most of us returned to the Lecture room at 11.30 to watch 'Around Cape Horn'; this is old footage of an original clipper sailing ship *Peking*, narrated many years later by Captain Irving Johnson. So THIS is what it was like to round Cape Horn in the olden days, in much danger, but with real style.



But at least the sun was shining from a blue, blue sky and the latter stages of the Drake Passage were providing us with calm seas - so that we could comfortably do all the last-minute things necessary to tie up the loose ends of our trip.

The first activity of the day was a sad one – at 10.00 we returned our boots and life jackets, bringing home to us that we truly were drawing near the end of the trip of a lifetime. Some people just didn't want to part with them...

After hanging out near the coffee station in the bar,





The rest of the afternoon was taken up with packing. How we got everything into our luggage before was a mystery – the extra items must have come from Vernadsky and *Ortelius*' shop and must be shoved into the suitcase/backpack somehow.

And so, having partaken of afternoon tea, it was time to meet again in the bar for our final Recap & Briefing. Arjen has been busy making a slide show for us of what was happening ABOVE the ocean's surface, which we enjoyed watching together with some diving footage from Jerry and team, of what was happening BENEATH the

Soon it was lunch time; the well-organised amongst us pre-bought some drinks for later today, after our accounts have been closed...

We were to be deprived of our afternoon nap today because DJ and Sava (most unreasonably!) wanted us to settle said accounts; HOW many glasses of red wine/G & Ts was that?!



surface; and we can take a copy home with us from the passenger computer in the bar, which will be a great souvenir of our trip.

The man who has made all of this possible was present after the slide show – Captain Mika Appel raised a glass of sparkling wine with us to toast the success of the trip, followed by a bitter-sweet Farewell Dinner in the dining room - during which there was a crew parade, so that we could say a big 'thank you' to nearly everyone who works on the ship, both known and unknown.

The evening was devoted to last-minute swapping of photos and email addresses if we wanted to keep in touch; and the cash bar was busy as ever as we shared our last evening on board with the only other people in the world who can truly understand what the last 11 days have meant to us all. Then to bed, as we need to be up betimes, ready for a day of travel – wherever life takes us next...

Day 12 – Tuesday March 28th, Ushuaia, Argentina.

GPS 07.00 position: 54°49'S / 068°18'W

We picked up a pilot in the wee small hours and came into Ushuaia about 07.00. The ship was all a-bustle, dealing with luggage and handing back people's passports...After breakfast we filed sadly down the gangway for the last time (no need to don rubber boots or turn our tags) and bade farewell to all our new friends. Some of us headed into town to see the sights, whilst others got on the bus going straight to the airport. Maybe we will meet again somewhere in high latitudes, on an Oceanwide ship!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1965 nautical miles.

Thank you all for such a great voyage, for your excellent company, good humour and enthusiasm!

We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be.

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Mika Appel, Expedition Leader Rolf Stange, Hotel Manager Dejan Nikolic and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



Kayak Log Ortelius 29

March 17-28th 2017 Polar Circle – Antarctic Peninsula

<u>Kayakers</u>

Dan Monteith, Cameron Young, Peter Gutierrez, Belinda Loh, Carson Gutierrez, Devin Gutierrez, Marion Macaulay, James Thomson, Luke Pickering, Laura Chambers, Justin Massoni, Ruobing Yang, Petra Duineveld, Baoru Yie

Kayak guide – Fran Pothecary (Scotland)

Monday 20th March

Half Moon Bay

Today was the first opportunity to put on the water and get paddling. Luckily with calm weather, we had spent half a day on a "Drake Lake" crossing getting ready in the heli-hangar and heli-deck, equipping ourselves with wetsuits, cagoules, booties, spray skirts and buoyancy aids. We also pulled out the kayaks and fitted them out so we would be comfortable. Although some people with very long legs felt a bit cramped.

So we met at 08:30 ready and kitted up to go on the water. The wind had been quite high over 20 knots but was due to drop as we got into the Half Moon Bay. We watched it drop a bit but then the fog came in so that the shore wasn't even visible from a couple of hundred metres out. With the wind hovering at around 16 knots and blowing onshore, it was decided to cancel the kayaking and the kayakers quickly changed and leapt into Zodiacs to enjoy a wonderful morning in the company of boisterous fur seals and a colony of chinstrap penguins!

Whalers Bay

In the afternoon, we sailed down the Bransfield Strait in ever improving weather, the cloud lifted and the sun shone weakly. We watched Livingstone Island retreat and Deception Island came into view and the wind dropped. It was looking good and as we dropped anchor in Whalers Bay, it was almost calm. The kayakers were ready to go and were all geared up but as we put the final touches to our gear the wind sprung up again, first 24 knots then 33 knots and finally over 40knots, swinging all the way round 180 degrees. Oh dear, there was no choice but to cancel again and in view of the conditions, the Zodiacs were also re-called and we spent the rest of the afternoon cruising round Port Foster.

Tuesday 21st March

Cuverville



Today we made it onto the water for the first time. And what a day it was! As we approached Cuverville Island, the water teamed with humpbacks. Some feeding but many of them resting - or "logging" - in the water after a night of heavy krill fishing. There were probably at least 2 dozen that we saw. The conditions were perfect for kayaking and after a bit of time getting all nine the kayaks off the deck, we pulled away from the Ortelius and started unloading kayaks and people on the water. It was really still and quiet away from the chug-chug of engine noise. We stopped for a couple of minutes just to listen to the silence. Then we turned out attention to the plentiful wildlife. There were crab eater seals snoozing by bergy bits: Gentoos penguins leaping in team formation in the water and every turn we took we seemed to meet humpback whales – some coming within 20-30m of our kayaks. We also heard the noises they make, a long drawn out foghorn sound. Majestic. We paddled alongside the beach of Cuverville and witnessed a leopard seal disembowelling a penguin. On well I suppose we all need dinner!



Neko Harbour

We didn't paddle in the afternoon as the team wanted to experience their first continental landing at Neko Harbour. It was a beautiful afternoon with brash ice and bergy bits peppering the water and the combination of paddling and landing had worked well today. Later on, at the BBQ on the helideck, Dan showed us his penguin walk and won a bottle of wine for his skills!

Wednesday 22nd March

It was a challenge getting through the Lemaire Channel with a super tight squeeze between a sheer sided shore and a sheer sided iceberg, but the Ortelius managed it. Exciting to witness such a skilled ship manoeuvre. Ice still blocked our way round to Booth Island so we headed a bit further south and the EL checked out Petermann Island but reported that all the wildlife had upped sticks and gone on holiday. So we headed down to the Argentine Islands where we were promised a warm welcome at the Ukrainian Base, Vernadsky on Galindez Island and a chance to look around Wordie Hut on Winter Island, the original Base F which was occupied until 1954. The team opted for a shore landing but we all wished we could have done it ALL the activities as the water was very calm indeed and would have been lovely for kayaking. We need more hours in the day!

Thursday 23rd March

Detaille Island

Today it was a small but intrepid crew who made their way onto the water. Just after noon, the ship reached Detaille Island after negotiating a band of beautiful icebergs peppered with crab eater and fur seals, many of whom opted to move only in the last minute in the face of the big blue bow of Ortelius bearing down on them. James and Marion, Luke and Laura decided they wanted to paddle; the others decided to try and get ashore to see the Detaille Hut. It was a tough choice as usual, as there was also the chance of a polar plunge. The weather was grey and overcast – superb for photographing icebergs – and the wind between 10-15 knots. A gentle snow was falling and as we put on the water the wind pushed us towards Detaille. Kayaking at Detaille is a bit of a different experience – the island sits in a more isolated position in Crystal Sound and is prone to swell, but we

were lucky. We could get close up and personal with the Adelie penguins and 'furries' on the shore. We headed down the east side of the island, bumping into the Zodiac cruises every now and again and entered the inlets of Detaille Island. A tight squeeze out the other side and with snow driving in our faces by now, we decided to take the taxi back to the Ortelius, thanks to Bardo's skill we were soon zipping over the waves to hot chocolate and rum back on board!



Friday 24th March

Almirante Brown and Skonthorp Cove

After a morning cruising in the Lemaire Channel we set our course for Paradise Harbour. And Paradise it was. The wind was negligible when 10 kayakers got on the water at 1600. The reflections from the mountain around were spectacular and the lack of swell meant that we were able to paddle right into Skonthorp Cove and very close to the shore along from Almirante Brown station. The silence was remarkable in Skonthorp; we were even out of hearing of Ortelius. As a result, most of us were very quiet and just enjoyed some moments of 'being' in this unique environment. After exploring small ice floes for seals – they had all slid into the water when the first Zodiac cruise went by – we hugged the shore under some steep and overhanging cliffs, speckled with Antarctic shags. Their nests seem to be created from mud and guano and we even espied a piece of rope that had been brought into service as nesting material! The rocks were dappled with colour, rufous red of iron oxide; brilliant Verdigris stripes of copper; the orange of lichen and fat green mosses. More colour that we had seen for days. We also had time to watch the crazy folk taking to the water for their Antarctic polar plunge. Some people were actually swimming, not just dipping in!



Saturday 25th March

Foyn Harbour



Today we paddled around the wreck of the Guvernoren, a ship carrying whale oil which was allegedly deliberately run aground last century. The wreck is á diver's heaven but as the water is so clear the kayakers also get to see the remaining wooden decking underwater and the bow and foredecks which are sticking out of the water. Again very calm conditions but we had to scrape snow off the seats of the kayaks before we got in! It is easy to tell that we are getting closer to winter. We had a bit of time in hand which was incredibly lucky because as we approached the ship on our return journey - some people in the Zodiacs, some still in kayaks - we had the company of two curious humpback whales, approaching us, looking at the kayaks strung out behind us. At one point one turned and dived underneath a Zodiac and we could feel either the water it was displacing or the body of the whale itself. Don't they read the IAATO guidelines about keeping their distance?! It could not have been a better end to the trip.



Ortelius 29 Dive Log March 17th to March 28th 2017.

Dive Team Leader Jerry Sutton, Dive Guide Catherine Buckland, Dive Guide Michael Green, Allan Keller, Erica Berzins, Marc Clement, Fulco Houkes, Igor Raizin, Ellen Royer, Gil Domingo Salvador Castanares, Brooke Morton.

We enjoyed a fairly smooth passage across the Drake and used the time to get our kit ready and loaded onto the Zodiacs the night before arriving at Half Moon Island. The ship had been surrounded by seabirds most of the way across with some Fin Whale sightings. We sailed the last few miles in a fog shrouded sea.



The divers entered the water in a sheltered bay near the landing site. They soon had the checks done and were joined by penguins who swam around them. The penguins gained confidence and approached the divers to about 1.5m. The forty minutes soon passed and the divers surfaced ready for the next adventure. At the landing saw Chinstrap penguins and Fur Seals. A great start.





After enjoying a beautiful passage from Half Moon Island watching Whales and Penguins around the ship, we kitted up and got ready for diving in the beautiful blue of Neptune's Bellows. However, the captain decided all operations must stop so we had to return to the ship for a 40 knot recovery after being recalled.

Cuverville Island Tuesday 21st March 2017.



Wow! Humpbacks, Seals, Penguins, Leopard Seals and Ice. What a perfect start to the day. We woke surrounded by whales on the ship and it continued under the sea. The visibility was very good and the animals didn't disappoint either. It is amazing when you see something as special as this, that you just don't feel the cold as much. After the dive we made a landing on the island to see Gentoo penguins and scattered whale bones.

Neko Harbour Tuesday 21st March 2017.



The afternoon dive was made on an Iceberg. The blue was stunning from the surface but from in the water it took on new colour and structure. It was marvellous to see the shapes formed by years of melting and refreezing under the surface. One of the team remarked it looked like a cathedral in the light. The team were cold after about half an hour and returned to the boat to enjoy an Antarctic Peninsula landing watching Gentoo penguins on the beach. Back on the ship a BBQ had been prepared making a great end to a perfect day.

Vernadsky Station Wednesday 22nd March 2017.



After a morning where the crew showed superb navigation skills through the Lemaire Channel and its ice we are arrived at this very interesting station for the afternoon dive. After positioning ourselves away from some sensitive equipment the divers entered the water. They swam along a wall by the station to 20m. Lots of penguins were around plus nudibranchs and a flying angel (a type

of mollusc). On surfacing the team enjoyed a visit to the base and to Wordie House even though it was snowing.



Detaille Island (South of the Polar Circle) Thursday 23rd March 2017.

The divers made a dive along the east side of the island on a wall. Cold conditions with blustery snow added to the atmosphere of this remote site as we kitted up. The dive site was amazing! A wall in the polar circle. The topography fell off sharply to 20m keeping the wall on our right shoulder we saw nudibranch, worms and limpets in amongst the encrusting life. The visibility whilst dark was very good. On our return to the surface we watched Adele Penguin and Shags on the rocks of the island. A wonderful below the Polar Circle experience.



This base is very scenic with a glacier on one side and Copper coloured cliffs at the other with a beautiful bay to its front. The divers dived on a wall to the right of the base under 'Shag Wall'. Keeping the wall to the left shoulder they went for a rummage amongst the rocks. Isopods of various sizes, star fish, worms, krill and limpets were all found. The underwater topography was beautiful with coloured Kelp and Ice scraped cliffs. Then on shore for a short landing to look at the base with its penguins, the only real residents of this now largely abandoned base.





This is a beautiful location, with the wreck being quite well hidden in the ice. The ship was originally transporting whale oil when it caught fire. To quench the fire and save the cargo the ship was wrecked in Foyne. 1/3 of the wreck is above sea level so it is easy to find. We had a tour around the metal structure then made a dive to see what is left under the water. The underwater scenery was amazing with lots of the structure being intact. The stern is particularly beautiful with brightly coloured algae covering the overhanging structure . We came back to the surface and finished our Antarctic adventures with a zodiac cruise around the bay past barrels and the ship's lifeboats on the shore. Some Humpback Whales put on a show on the way back to Ortelius to round off the day.



Logged Dives

	Half Moon 20/03/2017		Neptu 20/03/		Cuver 21/03/		Neko Harbour 21/03/2017		
	Depth	Time	Depth	Time	Depth	Time	Depth	Time	
Allan Keller	13	37	5.3	11	10	28	13	24	
Erica Berzins	13	33	х	х	х	х	12	26	
Marc Clement	13	36	5.3	7	18.8	40	12.5	24	
Fulco Houkes	13	36	х	х	18.5	40	12	25	
Igor Raizin	13	36	х	х	18.5	35	13.4	26	
Ellen Royer	13	36	х	х	18	35	13.2	26	
Gil Domingo Salvador Castanares	13	35	5.3	11	10	28	13.3	26	
Brooke Morton (Snorkeller)	0	30	0	20	0	55	0	24	

	Vernadsky Station		Detaille Island		Base B	rown	Governoron		
	22/03/2017		23/03/2017		24/03/2017		25/03/	2017	
	Depth	Time	Depth	Time	Depth	Time	Depth	Time	
Allan Keller	18.7m	32	11m	32	17m	29	15m	35	
Erica Berzins	18.5m	32	11m	32	17m	29	15.1m	33	
Marc Clement	18.9m	31	15m	35	17m	34	14.6m	35	
Fulco Houkes	18.6m	31	15m	35	16.8m	34	15.3m	32	
Igor Raizin	18.6m	31	15m	35	17m	34	15.1`m	35	
Ellen Royer	18.5m	31	15m	35	17.2m	33	14.6m	35	
Gil Domingo Salvador Castanares	18.7m	32	11m	32	17m 29		15.4m	35	
Brooke Morton (Snorkeller)	х	х	х	х	0	25	0	31	

Total dive time, 29.4 hours



11 - Foyn Harbour & Enterprise Island

Wildlife List – Crossing Antarctic Circle aboard M/V ORTELIUS / March 17-28 , 2017

AVES	mrt-17	mrt-18	mrt-19	mrt-20	-21	22	23	24	25	26	5	~
		L	Е	mr	mrt-21	mrt-22	mrt-23	mrt-24	mrt-25	mrt-26	mrt-27	mrt-28
Pygoscelis papua				Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ			
Pygoscelis adeliae							Χ					
Pygoscelis antarctica			Χ	Х								
Eudyptes chrysolophus				Х								
Spheniscus magellanicus												
Diomedea exulans		Χ	Χ								Χ	
Phoebetria palpebrata										Χ		
Diomedea chrysostoma		Χ	Χ									
Diomedea melanophris	Х	Χ		Χ						Χ	Χ	
Macronectes giganteus	Х	Χ	Х	Х	Χ		Χ		Χ	Χ	Χ	
Macronectes halli		Χ			Χ							
Fulmarus glacialoides				Х					Χ	Χ		
Procellaria aequinoctialis		Χ	Х				Х			Χ	Χ	
Daption capense			Х				Х			Χ		
Thalassoica antarctica										Χ		
Pagodroma nivea							Х					
Pterodroma mollis		Х	Х									
Lugensa brevirostris			Х									
Halobaena caerulea										Χ		
Pachyptila desolata			Х									
Pachyptila belchery			Х									
Puffinus griseus		Χ	Χ									
Fregetta tropica			Х							Χ		
Pelecanoides sp.										Χ		
Oceanites oceanicus		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Χ		
Catharacta maccormicki			Х	Х	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Χ			
Catharacta antarctica											Χ	
Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Phalacrocorax albiventer	Х											
Larus dominicanus	Х		1	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Sterna vittata			Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х			
Chionis alba				Х	Х	Х		Х				
MAMMALIA												
Lobodon carcinophagus					Х		Х	Х				
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Hydrurga leptonyx					х		-	X				
Arctocephalus gazella				х	X		x		Х			
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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



€ 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.






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 \in 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

Here's what you need to do:

- 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@oceanwideexpeditions.com. Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
- 6. Spread the word!



PRIZES



€ 500 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions

ENTRIES CLOSE DECEMBER 31

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

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



2016: Consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty:

Argentina (1961) Australia (1961) Belgium (1961) Brazil (1975) Bulgaria (1978) Chile (1961) China (1983) Czech Republic (1962) Ecuador (1987) Finland (1984) France (1961) Germany (1979) India (1983) Italy (1981) Japan (1961) North Korea (1986) Netherlands (1967) New Zealand (1961) Norway (1961) Peru (1981) Poland (1961) Russian Federation (1961) South Africa (1961) Spain (1982) Sweden (1984) Ukraine (1992) UK (1961) US (1961) Uruguay (1980)

2016 Non-consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty:

Austria (1987) Belarus (2006) Canada (1988) Colombia (1989) Cuba (1984) Denmark (1965) Estonia (2001) Greece (1987) Guatemala (1991) Hungary (1984) Iceland (2015) Kazakhstan (2015) South Korea (1987) Malaysia (2011) Monaco (2008) Mongolia (2015) Pakistan (2012) Papua New Guinea (1981) Portugal (2010) Romania (1971) Slovak Republic (1993) Switzerland (1990) Turkey (1996) Venezuela (1999).

Recommended Antarctic History Reading:

Let Heroes Speak: Antarctic Explorers 1772 – 1922

By Michael H. Rosove (2000, Berkley Publishing, printed in the USA).

ISBN: 0-425-18330-0

Review: 'Rosove gives the reader a feeling for the explorers' motivations and the hardships they had to face by using their own words – the words of pioneers who were truly heroes. Highly recommended.'

Includes: James Cook, Bellingshausen, Biscoe, Balleny, D'Urville, Wilkes, James Clark Ross, Bull, Gerlache, Borchgrevink, Scott, Drygalski, Otto Nordenskjold, Bruce, Charcot, Shackleton, Amundsen, Filchner, Mawson & Cope.

SHACKLETON

Endurance and **Shackleton's Boat Journey by F A Worsley** – An easy and fascinating read by a great supporter of Shackleton.

Shackleton by Roland Huntford – Very detailed and well-researched account of Shackleton's life and expeditions. But bear in mind Huntford's obsessive debunking of the Scott myth when considering his objectivity over Shackleton.

Shackleton – A Life in Poetry by Jim Mayer – A recent publication by a personal friend (check for my name in the acknowledgements!). An interesting, new approach to Shackleton and his life via both the poetry he loved and the poetry he wrote. Sheds new light on Shackleton the man, the poet & the explorer.

SHACKLETON'S ROSS SEA PARTY

Shackleton's Forgotten Men by Lennard Bickel – A fascinating account of the fate of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party, who were laying supporting depots for his Antarctic crossing; he never came, but they completed their appointed task at great cost.

Also try:-

Polar Castaways: The Ross Sea Party of Sir Ernest Shackleton by Richard McElrea.

The Ross Sea Shore Party 1914 – 17 by Richard W. Richards.

The Lost Men: The Harrowing Saga of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party by Kelly Tyler-Lewis.

NOVELS ON ANTARCTICA

Antarctica by Kim Stanley-Robinson – a sci-fi, futuristic, political novel set against a backdrop of one version of a future Antarctica. Highly recommended.

Skating to Antarctica by Jenny Diski – a compelling account of a journey to Antarctica and an inner journey of the spirit.

Mrs Chippy's Last Expedition by Caroline Alexander – a cat's eye view of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition!

Rolf Stange (1973, Germany)

The far north has alway had a magical appeal to Rolf, since childhood days when he went as close to the north pole as Denmark together with his parents. In 1993, he went to Norway and Sweden for the first time, followed by Spitsbergen in 1997. Until today, he has never lost the desire go north again. While being at home, Rolf studied geography and geology in Münster and Bonn.

Three long summers of hiking and trekking in Spitsbergen as well as a first arctic winter were followed by the first Arctic season for Oceanwide Expeditions. More than 160 expedition cruises in the Arctic and the Antarctic have followed until now – and it is safe to assume that more are still to come ...

Somehow Rolf still finds some time for private travelling in the north, including long cross-country skiing expeditions in Spitsbergen and East Greenland. During the spring of 2006, Rolf spent three months in Ittoqqortoormiit (=Scoresbysund, East Greenland), taking care of and using his own sledge dog team.

Rolf enjoys photography as well as writing books about Arctic topics, including "Spitsbergen-Svalbard", a detailed guidebook about Spitsbergen.

Rolf is at home in Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen) and Dresden (Germany).



Lynn Woodworth – Assistant Expedition Leader



Lynn comes from the mountains and lakes of western Canada, where she first developed her love for remote wilderness and cold water. She started travelling at 17, and settled in Australia, where she completed two biology degrees, including a PhD in conservation genetics, examining minimum viable population size in wildlife. She first went to Antarctica by accident in 1996. Travelling again after her time in academia, Lynn left her motorcycle in Argentina to sail to the Antarctic Peninsula. She was hooked on Antarctica, and has been working in the polar regions ever since. She knows the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia better than some penguins, and has visited the Ross Sea region. In the northern summer, she has taken ships to arctic Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Russia and the North Pole. Lynn stopped counting at somewhere over 135 voyages, 17 different vessels, and more than two years of her life spent in the Drake Passage. She has held most ship-based roles including lecturer (wildlife and natural history), guide, zodiac driver, Assistant Expedition Leader and Expedition Leader, and has also worked on shore as Operations Manager. She has co-authored two books on Antarctica, 'Antarctica The Complete Story' and 'The Blue Continent', released in 17 languages at last count. Lynn still calls Australia home, and has recently moved to the south end of Tasmania, where she is as close to Antarctica as she can get and still be in Australia.

Michael Green— Dive Guide

Michael spent summers in Robin Hoods Bay with his Grandad who told him tales of the sea and of a land of ice. He also watched Jaques Cousteau who he shares his Birthday with. (Not the same year mind). This gave a love of the sea and an interest in travel and adventure



Michael worked in finance until last year when he started to study photography to degree level.

Michael took up sport diving in 1990 and has trained to British Sub Aqua Club Open Water Instructor and Advanced Diver. He is also trained in Drager and Inspiration rebreather use.

Michael has dived worldwide and has led trips to Scotland, Chuuk Lagoon and Palau, Bikini Atoll and Cuba and has dived in both polar regions. Michael has been Diving Officer at his local club for the last two years so he is used to overseeing safe diving practices. Although watching him kit up you may wonder!!

Michael met his wife Jane through diving and was her instructor. They celebrate their 20th year of marriage in June with a trip to the Solomon Islands diving of course. If Jane has forgiven him for leaving her at home.

Dmitri Banin



Born in Moscow, Russia, Dmitri studied biology at Moscow State University (MSU) where he completed his Ph.D. in Zoology and then continued his work in MSU's Laboratory of Ornithology. During his employment at MSU Dmitri conducted his research in the high mountains of Central Asia, including the Pamir, Alay, Tian-Shan, Kopet-Dag and Altay. He also worked in the Caucasus and Siberia, where he climbed the Sikhote-Alin mountains. His research expeditions have taken him to many remote areas and led to various

adventures, such as crossing the Kamchatka peninsula by foot and covering more than 1000 km by kayak along Siberia's Tunguska river. Dmitri also studied migratory birds in the White Sea, Sea of Japan, Sakhalin and Kuril Islands. Because of his achievements, Dmitri was invited to work for the USSR Ministry of Natural Resources as the Head of the Department of Science. There Dmitri established and developed research programs for all Natural Reserves of the former Soviet Union and represented the Ministry during workshops and negotiations abroad.

Since coming to the U.S.A. at the invitation of the University of Washington, Dmitri has been able to pursue a lifelong interest in comparing high mountain ecosystems with those of the Polar Regions. He has traveled throughout the North American and European Arctic, including Alaska, Chukotka, the North Pole, Franz Josef Land and Norway's Svalbard archipelago. He also many times visited Antarctica. There he was especially impressed by the richness and accessibility of Antarctic wildlife while sailing to numerous sites in Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands and South Georgia. Dmitri enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Polar Regions with adventure cruise passengers through his presentations on Ornithology and Marine Biology. With more than 30 years of travel experience around the globe, Dmitri has a great passion for travel and is always looking forward to his next adventure.



Victoria has always been fascinated by the colder places on our planet and has been travelling in Northern Europe, the Arctic and Antarctica regularly for the past 14 years. She has worked in expedition cruising for 20 seasons at both ends of the earth and some places in between, focusing on history, culture and exploration. She specialized in Old Norse literature and Viking history at undergraduate level and holds a Graduate Certificate in Antarctic studies from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Since graduating from Cambridge University with a degree in Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic/English literature, Victoria has lived and worked in seven different countries, though her home is now in London and Hastings, UK; when on shore, she enjoys working as a volunteer guide in art galleries, conservation centres and history museums. Her hobbies include travel (in all continents), choral singing, reading & theatre.

Catherine Buckland – Guide and Lecturer



Catherine Buckland is a Commercial Diving Instructor and spends six months of her time working 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 dive.

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!

Arjen Drost – Guide, lecturer



When Arjen arrived in Spitsbergen for the first time in 1999 as a biology student, he fell in love with the Arctic. After three summers of research on Barnacle Geese in Ny Ålesund, Spitsbergen he started guiding in small expedition cruise ships for Oceanwide Expeditions. Here he loves to share his passion for the Polar Regions with others.

Arjen was born in the Netherlands and soon started watching birds. Many hours were spent finding and watching birds in the local neighbourhood and enjoying nature. His choice to start studying biology came to no surprise for anybody. During this study he specialized in ecology, especially the interaction between herbivores and plants.

For 10 years Arjen has combined guiding in the Arctic with a full time teacher job at a secondary school in the Netherlands, where he taught biology. Now he has quit his job as a teacher to be a full time expedition guide for Oceanwide Expeditions which allows him to combine guiding in the Arctic with that other cold and white place: Antarctica.

In his spare time Arjen is a keen nature and wildlife photographer, giving photo workshops and lectures and is co-author of several Dutch books on nature photography.

Arjen speaks English, Dutch and German.

Johan Petersson - guide and lecturer



Johan works for Oceanwide Expeditions as a dive master but does the occasional trip as a guide and lecturer.

He has studied history and comparative religion at university and worked as a history teacher. He is a dive instructor and has worked with marine archaeologists mapping Viking Age harbours.

Johan has worked as a crewmember on a dive ship exploring the well preserved shipwrecks of the Baltic Sea. He has also mapped coral reefs in Queensland and in 2010 he started to work as a dive guide in the Polar Regions.

When not diving or messing about with boats, Johan works as a self-employed carpenter.

He lives in Lund in the south of Sweden with his wife and two daughters.

Bismarck Sommerfelt- Guide and Lecturer



Bismarck arrived to Ushuaia in summer 2004 on vacations and stayed there for 11 years! Now he lives with his wife and a little son only two hours away from the majestic "Iguazu Falls". This is his fourth season working in Antarctica.

Bismarck begun guiding as an off-road driver for several years, combined with kayaking and hiking. He then tried the office at a logistics company, but realized that his spirit was in the mountains, so he quit and came back to Mother Nature. He guides on and organizes hikes in the Andes of Tierra del Fuego and the Jungle of Misiones, going from the deepest cold and driest place on earth to high temperatures and rainy weathers.

When he is not onboard or guiding somewhere, he spends his time with his family as much as he can.

Fran Pothecary – Guide & Lecturer



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.



Captain Mika Appel and his International Crew of 53

including

Hotel Manager – Dejan Nikolic (Serbia) Assistant Hotel Manager – Sava Savov (Bulgaria) Head Chef – Heinz Hacker (Austria) Sous Chef – Khabir Moraes (India) Ship's Physicians – Remco Kuipers & Martine Luxwolda (Netherlands)

and

Expedition Leader – Rolf Stange (Germany) Assistant Expedition Leader – Lynn Woodworth (Canada) Guide & Lecturer – Dmitri Banin (United States) Guide & Lecturer – Victoria Salem (Great Britain) Guide & Lecturer – Arjen Drost (Netherlands) Guide & Lecturer – Catherine Buckland (Great Britain) Guide & Lecturer – Michael Green (Great Britain) Guide & Lecturer – Johan Petersson (Sweden) Kayak Guide & Lecturer – Frances Pothecary (Great Britain) Guide & Lecturer – Bismarck Sommerfelt (Argentina) Guide & Lecturer – Jerry Sutton (Great Britain)

Welcome you all on board the *Ortelius*



Friday 17 March, 2017

Welcome on board Ushuaia, Argentina

- 16.00 **Boarding**. Once you are on board, please do not leave the ship anymore! We will move your luggage from the pier to your cabin.
- 17.30 Please meet in the lecture room (Deck 3) for a **mandatory briefing** on safety on board and lifeboat procedures. Your hotel manager Dejan Nikolic will also tell you all about life on board your new home!
- 19.15 **Welcome cocktail**. Please join Captain Mika Appel, Expedition Leader Rolf Stange and his team in the bar for a toast to our forthcoming Antarctic adventures.
- 20.00 Welcome dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4, both sides by reception) enjoy your meal.

Overnight we will make our way towards the open sea. If you are likely to become seasick, please take your medication before you go to bed!

Be aware of the potential risks of a moving vessel:

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

"All I say is, if you wish to see Nature robed in her mantle of might, look at a storm at sea; If you want to see her robed in her mantle of glory,

look at a sunset at sea."

- Ernest Shackleton, aged 17



Saturday 18 March 2017 The Drake Passage

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.

- 10.30 Arjen will present his talk on **Photography**. Join him in the lecture room on deck 3 for tips and ideas to help you expand your photographic skills, and tricks for taking photos in snow and ice.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 15.00 Please join Victoria in the lecture room on deck 3 for "A selected Antarctic Peninsula history, 1897 – 1937". Adrien de Gerlache on *Belgica*, Otto Nordenskjöld's men were the first to overwinter in the Weddell Sea region, charming Jean-Baptiste Charcot spent his life savings on two scientific expeditions along the west coast of the peninsula, and John Rymill finally established that it WAS a peninsula and not an island. Come and share in their experiences!
- 17.00 **Birds of the Wind**. Dmitri will present his talk on *Procelariiformes* of the Drake Passage and Sub-Antarctic islands, including their taxonomy, identification, biology and unique ecological and behavioural adaptations to an unusual environment. Join him in the lecture room on deck 3.
- 18.30 Join the team in the bar for our daily recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

I now belong to a higher cult of mortals for I have seen the albatross. - Robert Cushman Murphy

Please remember when at sea - "One hand for the ship" - always hold on!



Monday 20 March 2017 Half Moon Island and Whalers Bay, Deception Island

- 07.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.
- 08.15 We plan to land on **Half Moon Island**, in the South Shetlands. This small, crescent shaped island has beautiful rocky slabs covered in colourful lichens and Chinstrap penguins living on the ridges above the beaches. Kayakers, please prepare for paddling and listen for announcements.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 15.00 As we approach Deception Island, the passage inside the volcano, called **Neptune's Bellows**, is spectacular and well worth being out on deck to watch. Listen for announcements, and keep your camera handy.
- 15.30 We plan to land at **Whalers Bay**, inside Deception Island. This sandy bay has been a very busy location over the years, and holds a lot of history. It started as a location for ship based whaling, became a shore based whaling station, then a British base. The remains are now dangerous, please keep a safe distance from the old buildings. The shoreline, at low tide, will sometimes have warm water seeping up from below. We can walk along the beach to a short climb to Neptune's Window, where on a good day, the views can include the Antarctic Peninsula.
- 18.30 Join the team in the bar for our daily recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

Some of us are over the seasick stage and no longer want to die. - Hartford, after 10 days aboard Nimrod, with Shackleton. (The role of Shackleton in this medical situation requires further investigation.) A reminder if you are visiting the bridge please to keep your voices quiet - remember it is a working place - and do leave your drinks in the bar. Thank you!



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- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.
- 20.30 We will have a short briefing in the bar to give you information about tomorrow's plans.

I have often had the impression that to penguins, man is just another penguin different, less predictable, occasionally violent, but tolerable company when he sits still and minds his own business.

- Bernard Stonehouse in his book 'Penguins'



Tuesday 21 March 2017 Cuverville Island & Neko Harbour

- 07.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.
- 08.15 We plan to go ashore at **Cuverville Island**, home to the largest number of Gentoo penguins in the area. This beautiful island is at the North end of the Errera Channel, with great views out over the Gerlache Strait.
- 12.00 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 14.15 **Neko Harbour**, our proposed landing site for the afternoon, is deep in Andvord Bay, a long bay with many glaciers flowing into it. Again home to Gentoo penguins, you can (if you choose) do a very short climb for good views out over the bay – a good location to look for whales. This is a continental landing, and may be our only continent landing on this voyage.
- 18.00 **Dinner** is served.

Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun the land looks like a fairy tale. Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak, crevassed, wild as any land on our globe, it lies, unseen and untrodden.

- Roald Amundsen, about the Antarctic Peninsula



Wednesday 22 March 2017 Lemaire Channel Port Charcot & Vernadsky

- 07.15 We hope to navigate the **Lemaire Channel**, one of the most beautiful passages along the Peninsula, early in the morning. The Lemaire is 5 nm long, but only 600 metres wide at the narrowest point.
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.
- 09.15 This morning, we will circle around to the far side of Booth Island, that forms the western side of the Lemaire Channel. On the west of the island, we will land at **Port Charcot**, a small rocky outcrop where Jean-Baptiste Charcot overwintered the French Antarctic Expedition 1903-1905. There are a few historical remains and a large number of penguins, as well as skuas, gulls and fur seals, plus we expect seals in the water and on the ice around.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 14.30 Vernadsky station was originally a British base (Faraday), and is now Ukrainian. The locals usually provide a tour which includes seeing the equipment used to first record the ozone hole over Antarctica. We expect them to have a very small gift shop and stamps for your passports. We will also land on Winter island to visit Wordie House, the original British base in the Argentine Islands. We will divide everybody into two groups, so that everybody gets to visit both places, with only 50 people at each site.
- 18.30 Please join the expedition team in the bar for our nightly recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

Who would believe in penguins unless someone had seen them? - Connor O'Brien



Thursday 23 March 2017 Crossing the Antarctic Circle and Detaille Island

Today is an Expedition Day, please listen for announcements.

Having sailed South overnight, we hope to cross the **Antarctic Circle** at 66°33' sometime around breakfast time. We will be crossing the point where there is at least one day of midnight sun and one day without a sunrise, and we will be entering the realm of true exploration.

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.

We hope to make our way Southeast across Crystal Sound and land at **Detaille Island**. Detaille Island was a British base and is now an historic site. Built in 1956 and closed down in 1959, then reopened for only 6 months in 1965/66, but access was too difficult due to ice routinely blocking vessels from reaching the base. The old buildings are fragile, and only 50 people are allowed on shore at any time.

- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 18.30 Please join the expedition team in the bar for our nightly recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

Swans of weird shape pecked at our planks, a gondola steered by a giraffe ran foul of us, which much amused a duck sitting on a crocodile's head.... all the strange, fantastic shapes rose and fell in stately cadence with a rustling, whispering sound and hollow echoes to the thudding seas - Frank Worsley, Shackleton's navigator, describing icebergs.



Friday 24 March 2017 Paradise Harbour

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.

We will have sailed North overnight, and if ice and weather conditions are favourable, expect to be arriving in the Flandres Bay area this morning. Dress warmly and spend some time outside, as this is a very beautiful region of Antarctica and the ship cruising will be spectacular.

- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 14.15 This afternoon we plan to be in Paradise Harbour, where we hope to be able to offer both a zodiac cruise and a landing for everybody. This large bay has the reputation of being one of the most beautiful locations on the Peninsula, surrounded by impressive mountains with many glaciers running down to the sea. Our landing is likely to be at Almirante Brown station, a closed Argentine base. There are Gentoo penguins around the buildings, and skuas and sheathbills also present. If the ice conditions allow, the zodiac cruise will be along some impressive rock faces and around into Skontorp Cove, where a floating glacier tongue is always changing and always impressive.
- 18.30 Please join the expedition team in the bar for our nightly recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

There are many other beautiful sea-birds, but the most beautiful of all are the Snowy petrels, which approach nearer to the fairies than anything else on earth. - Aspley Cherry-Garrard.



Saturday 25 March 2017 Foyn Harbour

07.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.

We will zodiac cruise **Foyn Harbour**, on Enterprise Island and just off Nansen Island. This is a great location, with the wreck of the Governoren, a steel whaling vessel which caught fire and sank with no lives lost. The area is very scenic and there is usually a lot of wildlife around the islands.

- 08.15 We will divide the group into two, and start with people who live on the STARBOARD (right) side of the ship at 08.15.
- 09.45 PORT (left) side cabins will zodiac cruise Foyn Harbour.
- 12.00 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.

We will be sailing the northern section of the Gerlache Strait in the early afternoon, so dress warmly and head outside to look for whales and watch the scenery.

We will be going into the Drake Passage this afternoon, so please make sure your breakables are stowed away safely, and prepare yourself for open seas.

- 18.30 Please join the expedition team in the bar for our nightly recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

Strange: There is always sadness on departure. It is as if I cannot after all bear to leave this bleak waste of ice, glaciers, cold and toil. - Fridtjof Nansen



Sunday 26 March 2017 The Drake Passage

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.

- 10.30 Please join Arjen in the lecture room on deck 3 for his talk on **Climate Change**. We have all heard a lot about climate change; Arjen will present some information and discuss potential consequences.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.
- 15.00 Johan will be in the lecture room on deck 3 to tell you about the **Sealers and Whalers** of Antarctica. Come along and learn more about the extremely tough men who explored and exploited Antarctica long before the explorers of the Antarctic Heroic Age.
- 17.00 Please join Victoria in the lecture room on deck 3 for her talk **Ernest Shackleton and the Greatest Expedition of the Antarctic Heroic Age.** Ernest Shackleton is famous for his amazing leadership skills during the *Endurance* expedition of 1914-17. What made this brilliant failure of a man so admirable? Was he skilled or lucky? Come and find out more about him and his men in one of the greatest adventure tales of all time.
- 18.30 Join the team in the bar for our daily recap.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success.

Advertisement to recruit the crew for the Endurance.

Please remember when at sea - "One hand for the ship" - always hold on!



Monday 27 March 2017 Drake Passage

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is served in the dining room for one hour.

10.00 Boot and lifejacket return

Please listen for announcements, as we will be collecting boots and zodiac lifejackets by deck. Please check your boots carefully before returning them. If they need further cleaning, we will have a boot wash station set up outside near the starboard (right) gangway.

- 11.30 Please join us in the lecture room on deck 3 to watch the short film **"Around Cape Horn".** This is old footage of an original tea clipper sailing ship, the Peking, and narrated by Captain Irving Johnson. Come along and see what it was like to sail around Cape Horn.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be served in the dining room for one hour.

14.00 Account Settlement

Please listen for announcements, as Dejan and Sava will call you by deck to the Reception desk on deck 4 to settle your accounts.

18.00 Please join the expedition team in the bar for a slideshow voyage recap created by Arjen and some diving footage presented by Jerry. A copy of the slideshow will be available on the shared computer in the bar during the evening.

We will have **Captain's Cocktails** in the bar before going downstairs to dinner.

19.00 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the dining room.

The grand show is eternal. There is always a sunrise somewhere. The dew is never dried at once. A shower is forever falling. Vapour is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset. Eternal dawn and glowing, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn as the earth rolls. And for this I am forever grateful to be alive.

- John Muir



Tuesday 28 March, 2017

Arrival in Ushuaia & Disembarkation

The bridge, bow and aft decks will be closed.

Please **put your check-in luggage in the corridor** outside your cabin **before breakfast**. It will be brought to the pier for you. You are welcome to leave your hand luggage in your cabins, and to use the bathroom in your cabins after breakfast.

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

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

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

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

- If you are going on the bus to the airport, please make sure your luggage goes into the bus.
- If you are using our luggage storage facility, you need to ensure your luggage goes into the truck that will take it to Maipu 1214. Luggage must be collected by 14.00.

We anticipate that buses will be ready for disembarkation at around 08.30-09.00 if we have cleared Customs by that time. Please listen for announcements for disembarkation and bus timings.

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

Fair winds and following seas to all.