



Antarctic Peninsula

17th– 26th 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 Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 45

Including:

Chief Officer:	Artur Iakovlev	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	Mocanu Matei	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Katrin Völker	[Germany]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Annelot Ochtman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Beau Pruneau	[Canada/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Gérard Bodineau	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Céline Clément-Chastel	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Bruce Robinson	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Chris Booker	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Sonja Heinrich	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Christopher Croxson	[UK]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Friday 17th March 2017

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 16.00 Position: 54°48'S / 068°18'W

Wind: NE 5. **Sea State:** moderate. **Weather:** Overcast. **Temperature:** +10°C.

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. This was also a chance to meet our Russian Captain Alexey Nazarov and toast our voyage with a glass of Prosecco. While still in the Beagle Channel we spotted the first wildlife, Magellanic Penguins, Blackbrowed Albatrosses and Cormorants.

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.



Day 2 – Saturday 18th March 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

08:00 GPS Position: 056°38' S / 062°23' W

Wind: WNW 5-6. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Cloudy. **Temperature:** +7°C.

Our day began with the now familiar morning wakeup call from Beau followed by a fantastic buffet breakfast. The Drake Passage was a bit rough causing discomfort to many but those hardy souls who ventured from their cabins and made it up to the bridge and top deck were treated to an impressive number and variety of seabirds.



King among the skies of the Southern Ocean were the several Wandering Albatrosses that followed the ship throughout the day wheeling above the waves, long wings outstretched in the strong WNW wind. Other sightings included: Black-browed Albatrosses, Giant Petrels, Sooty Shearwaters, White-chinned and Blue Petrels, Prions and Storm-Petrels and several other species.

We were also privileged to make our first Cetacean sighting: Two Hourglass Dolphins made a brief appearance near the ship and were quickly identified by our onboard University of St Andrews students who were on watch on the bridge, much to the delight of all on board.



Today was filled with informative lectures. At 10:00 the English speakers joined Katja in the lounge while the French speakers joined Gérard in the dining room for respective lectures giving us an introduction to Antarctica filled with fascinating facts and giving us a little bit of an idea of what to expect in the coming days. At 15:30 Sonja and Gérard regaled us with their knowledge and passion for the whales of the Southern Ocean and wet our appetites for possible sightings to come. Bruce met us at 17:00 in the lounge for a talk about photographing Antarctica, giving us hints, tips, and tricks of the trade to help us to get pleasing photographs of the Southern Continent.

During the daily briefing we learned more about some of the things we had seen earlier as well as plans for the future. After a wonderful dinner, most headed off to bed in an attempt to be rocked to sleep by the not so gentle rolling of the ship.

Day 3 – Sunday 19th March 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 061°13' S / 062°53' W

Wind: NW3-4. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Fog. **Temperature:** +3°C.



07:45 and Expedition Leader Beau was back on the air with our daily wake-up call informing us that despite the grey and misty morning we were well on track, having passed the Antarctic convergence during the night. The now calmer seas ensured most of us had managed to get some rest overnight and everyone was eager to get some breakfast and start our second day at sea.

Today there were several important briefings from the team but before we could begin, the keen eyed Marine Biology students on the bridge were off to a great start already spotting a pod of hourglass dolphins and some porpoising chinstrap penguins close by – obviously no one had told them about our strict itinerary!

Once the excitement of our surprise visitors had died down, Beau (who gave the English version) and Gerard (who gave the French edition) were ready to start the first briefing of the day- the IAATO lecture. Full of useful information to allow us to enjoy Antarctica whilst minimizing our impact on the pristine environment and flora and fauna present, this briefing was mandatory for everyone who wants to go ashore in Antarctica.

With our IAATO instructions now memorized and with fresh coffees in our hands we went to the second lecture of the day – the Zodiac briefing where lifejackets and the correct procedure for boarding and disembarking the zodiacs was explained – this was vital as we will use the Zodiacs for going ashore.



With no time to rest we were then up to our elbows in jackets, trousers and bags in the observation lounge which could only mean one thing.....Vacuum Party! All outer clothing and equipment was thoroughly cleaned, especially pockets, seams and Velcro to ensure no seeds or plant material foreign to Antarctica would be brought with us on land. Once done, we signed the biosecurity declaration and we were then good to go ashore when we would arrive tomorrow – great news although equally good news right now was that after such a busy morning it was lunchtime!

Shortly after lunch the fog lifted and we were treated to another surprise visit, this time from several fin whales accompanied by more chinstrap penguins who altered course towards us to say hello, allowing some great photo opportunities much to the appreciation of all on board. Then, however it was down to the boot room to kit everyone out with their Arctic Muck boots. Now suitably equipped we are all excited and ready for our expedition trips ashore.



With no time to waste (but just enough to grab another coffee) it was back into the observation lounge for a great lecture from Katja about 'Ice in Antarctica' while Gerard spoke about 'Glaciers and ice caps' to our French passengers in the restaurant.

After such a busy day there was just time for a quick recap in the observation lounge before dinner and a well-earned early night filled with anticipation for our arrival at Cuverville and Antarctica tomorrow!

Day 4 – Monday 20th March 2017

Cuverville Island & Foyn Harbour

GPS 08.00 Position: 064°38' S / 062°36' W

Wind: N/E 3-4. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** cloudy. **Temperature:** +1°C.



Today we awoke in Antarctica proper surrounded by majestic mountains and small icebergs floating near shore as we sailed South in the Gerlache Strait. And then, there they were: Blows! Not one or two, but whale blows appeared all around the Plancius as we approached our first landing site, Cuverville Island. This morning had so many firsts! First humpback whales, first penguins, first landing, first time getting into the zodiacs.....Half the group went ashore for our first encounter with Gentoo penguins, while the others went zodiac cruising, and we swapped groups on shore, so everyone got to experience the splendour of the scenery and the wildlife spectacles both in the water and on land. Most of

the humpback whales were rather docile, and we got to drift next to them in our zodiacs and listen to them sleep and snore. Some whales made very loud trumpeting/ snorting noises which our resident whale biologist explained as some form of communication sounds. Some whales were more active and we were incredibly lucky to be treated to some very close encounters, with several whales passing right under the zodiacs letting us appreciate their huge size and long white pectoral flippers. Some whales even popped their heads above water to take a good look at us which we learnt was called 'spy-hopping' in scientific terms. In the distance some whales were seen lob tailing (beating their tails on the water surface).



To round things up, there were docile

Crabeater seals and Antarctic

fur seals on ice floes affording us close looks and great photographic opportunities. Meanwhile on shore, passengers were being inspected by young and curious Gentoo penguins. The young of this year came right up to us pecking our boots and trousers, and begging us to regurgitate some krill for them (an offer, that we kindly declined). So much for the 5 m distance rule. We obeyed but the penguins clearly did not. Some adult penguins were still busy feeding their fully grown young, while others had already started their annual moult. The moulting penguins looked a miserable bunch, surrounded by piles of white feathers, with their backs hunched and their heads drawn in. Moulting penguins are not waterproof so they have to simply sit and wait and fast until all their new feathers have come through. Several skuas were patrolling the beach, always

on the lookout for food (usually a dead or weak penguin). We also stumbled across whale backbones and ribs which were stark reminders of the whaling period less than 100 years ago when the humpback whales



Sonja Heinrich

just off the shore would not have had such a peaceful existence.

Back aboard there was much noisy chatter in the lounge during lunch, for many the first proper meal they got and kept down after the Drake Passage. But no rest for the wicked.... Our eagle-eyed observers spotted large fins ahead of the ship. Orcas! And a large group of 18-20 individuals, in two subgroups, and with several young calves and four big males (easily recognisable by their huge dorsal fins). Everyone rushed out onto the decks, camera at the ready. A few of us wished they had taken the time to add

a few extra layers of clothing, but who feels the cold when an amazing spectacle unfolds right in front of you? The orcas (or killer whales) were travelling, and made several close passes of the Plancius bow, greeted by loud cheers. We got great looks of their identifying features, and our whale biologist later explained that these were Type B killer whales which are known seal and penguin hunters. But something seemed strange, and our on-board biologists scratched their heads.... There were Antarctic fur seals mixed in with the killer whales. At first we thought the killer whales were hunting the seals, but it soon became clear that this was not the case. Instead, the fur seals were actively seeking out the killer whales, leaping right next to and swirling all around them. It was a melange of flippers and fins, with the occasional big splash. Later during recap Sonja recounted this amazing encounter and explained that this was definitely not a predatory attack as the fur seals seemed to be following the travelling killer whales and actively sought to interact with them. Why fur seals do this is not known, so to witness this unusual behaviour was quite a special experience for everyone!

Soon we were in the zodiacs again for our afternoon cruise in Foyr Harbour. Several resting and snorting humpback whales provided a welcome distraction *en-route* to the wreck of the whaling cargo ship *Governøren* which was in 1915 deliberately run aground in one of the harbours after a fire broke out on board and threatened to destroy all the valuable cargo of whale oil. The wreck is only partially submerged and is located in a stunning amphitheatre of ice walls. Two wooden lifeboats could be seen around the corner, and several fur seals and a lone chinstrap penguin in the Cormorant colony provided additional entertainment. It was a slightly damp and wet outing so we were happy to head back to the ship for a brief recap and briefing, and a hearty dinner after this action-packed first day in Antarctica.



Vicky Balfour

Day 5 – Tuesday 21st March 2017

Neko Harbour & Base Brown/Skontorp Cove

0800 GPS Position: 064°59'S / 063°44'W

Wind: LT Air. **Sea State:** Smooth. **Weather:** Overcast. **Temperature:** +1°C.



Waking this second day to brilliant blue skies and very light winds bode well for our morning excursion to the remaining Gentoo population at Neko Harbour. This harbour was named after the Norwegian whaling ship “Neko” that used to frequent this harbour. Our landing proceeded to plan despite the abundant floating ice floes our zodiac drivers had to skilfully navigate. Soon the first guests carefully scaled the rocks and icy slopes towards a look out near the area where the penguins had by now finished nesting. The roar and occasional sighting of the nearby glacier carving provided an exciting interlude to the vista and surrounding atmosphere.

Fantastic views of the harbour greeted us and it was interesting to watch the other guests go about their zodiac cruise, visiting seal covered icebergs and spotting at least one humpback whale in the distance but too far to access with the zodiacs. Changeover occurred effortlessly with those on shore swapping with those in the zodiacs allowing all the guests to enjoy the experience of landing and cruising in this beautiful area.

Before heading back to the Plancius there was still one important task however..... The Polar Plunge! 30 or so hardy expeditioners gathered anxiously at the water's edge before stripping off and making their way over the rocks like overgrown penguins into the water. Some lasted longer than others but everyone emerged invigorated and in high spirits as we quickly dressed and made our way back to the ship for another fantastic lunch. It was only later when our resident scientists had checked their data that we realised a new record had been set..... The water temperature was -0.3°C - the lowest ever recorded temperature for one of our polar plunges!





During a sumptuous and warming lunch our “home from home” transported us to Base Brown Station in Paradise Bay where we once again had the opportunity to gain some elevation for a spectacular view of the surrounding glaciers and mountains. Base Brown was stark reminder of human habitation in this icy wilderness.



The Zodiac cruisers gained a close up view of the Blue-eyed Shag nesting area in the cliffs. One Weddell and several Crabeater Seals were also encountered. Skontorp Cove did not disappoint with its towering active glacier front, often calving large pieces of ice into the bay. The sun remained brilliant throughout the afternoon and the almost tropical conditions provided us with a very satisfying afternoon.

After our daily recap guests once again enjoyed the gastronomic delights of head chef Ralf and his team. The bar was sparsely populated owing to most guests opting for the comfort of their cabin for a well-deserved rest before our next busy day began the next morning.

Day 6 – Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Lemaire Channel & Port Charcot

0800 GPS Position: 065°06' S / 063°59' W

Wind: Light Air. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Temperature:** +1°C.

The wakeup call came at 7 am, a quarter of an hour later than anticipated, because it was dark, foggy and drizzly with fresh snow covering the outer decks. Nevertheless, many were up to watch our entrance into the Lemaire Channel. This 11 km long channel cuts a narrow path between the Antarctic mainland on the East and Booth Island on the West. Near-vertical peaks rise on both sides to almost 1000 m. However, today these impressive peaks were shrouded with clouds.



As we got closer to the narrowest part of the Lemaire Channel, less than 1600 m wide, we saw that it was blocked by several huge icebergs. There was no way through. Captain Alexey performed an amazing U-turn between these icebergs. Whoever looked out of the lounge windows saw icebergs to both sides. They were very close, it felt like we could touch them. Rafts of Gentoo penguins floated on the calm water. As we sailed back we spotted a pod of Killer whales. Some of us saw them spy hopping just outside the dining room windows during breakfast. They came very close to the ship. One male with a huge fin stood especially out.



As we watched the Killer whales the Orteliuss, Plancius' sister ship, passed us. We gave them a wave and wished them bon voyage for their attempt to go through the Lemaire Channel, while we decided on a ship cruise in Deloncle Bay, a small bay on the eastern side of the channel. It started to snow and on the calm water we could see freshly formed sea-ice. Winter is certainly on its way and we really felt like Antarctic expeditioners.

Also our second attempt to go through the Lemaire Channel was thwarted, the currents were too strong, the gap between the icebergs and the land too small. But on the way out we saw two adult humpback whales with a very small calf.



We continued on our way north, rounded Booth Island on the eastern side and sailed into Port Charcot from the North. Here Jean-Baptiste Charcot the French Antarctic explorer spent the winter of 1904 with his men onboard their ship Français. On the top of the hill we could see the commemorative cairn. The bay below was filled with an impressive collection of icebergs that unfortunately blocked the usual landing site. So only the nimble footed hopped ashore on some dark granite boulders and attempted to hike to the cairn. Due to the late season the snow was very icy and at the steep slope leading up to the cairn we had to call a stop. It was too slippery to continue, especially with icy cliffs looming below us. But on our way back we saw several Adélie and Chinstrap penguins. Seeing two new penguin species made certainly up for our efforts. For the people that could not master the difficult landing a zodiac cruise with Céline and Sonja was on offer. They saw thirteen Crabeater seals hauled out on an ice floe, an Adélie and two Chinstrap penguins and the historic "F"-mark in the rocks which stands for Français.



As we returned to the ship it snowed heavily which prompted some, to spontaneously break into Christmas Carols, the Happy hour in the bar adding to the cheerful mood. At the daily briefing Beau spoke about the plans for tomorrow, Sonja explained what happened during our whale encounters, Gérard talked about the origin of the naughty icebergs that blocked our way and Katja enlightened us why the Lemaire Channel is named after an explorer of Central Africa.

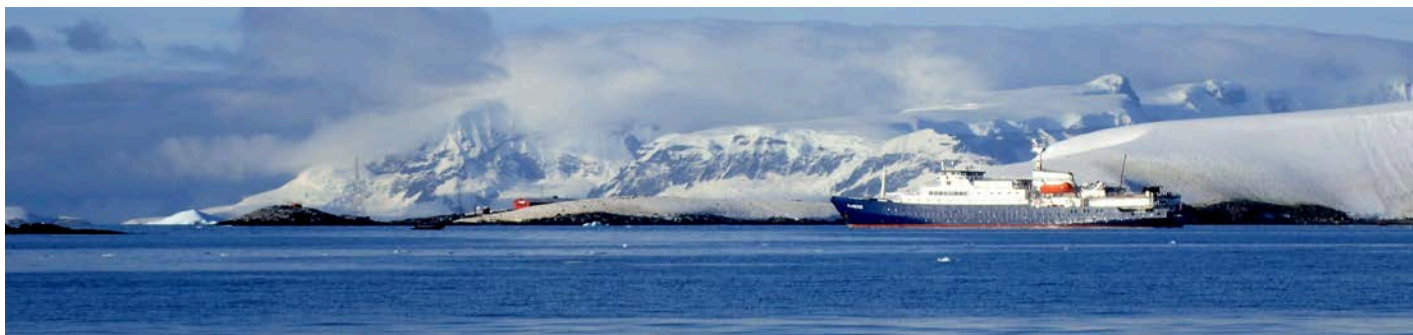


Day 7 – Thursday 23rd March 2017

Melchior Islands

0800 GPS Position: 64°19' S / 62°58' W

Wind: Light Air. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Clear. **Temperature:** +4°C.



Having sailed north during the night, we awoke amidst of the spectacular Melchior Islands. The sunrise was beautiful with warm pink hues illuminating distant clouds and mountain peaks. After breakfast we set out in the zodiacs to explore the labyrinth of channels and islands that make up this wildly stunning archipelago located between Anvers and Brabant Island to the Northwest of the Peninsula.



Cruising around the Argentinean base we enjoyed close up views of massive glaciers and jagged icebergs under the watchful eyes of the local Antarctic fur seals perched high on the rocks or swimming near the zodiacs. Fur seals were not the only wildlife though, a few of us were lucky enough to encounter a mother and calf Humpback whale, whilst others spotted Weddell seals and even a lone Elephant seal was seen amongst the rocks on the shoreline along with the ubiquitous Antarctic shags.

Returning to the ship we were treated to hot chocolate on the top deck in the warm sunlight by a fourth species of penguin, Katie, who arrived on deck just in time for a farewell to Antarctica Expedition Team photo!

Standing on the deck we had some final time to soak up a few more moments of the amazing view all around us and to reflect on the magic that is Antarctica before heading out to sea once again.



All too soon however we were heaving the anchor and setting our course to the North and Ushuaia, leaving the peninsula behind us as we passed Roca Williams to our starboard side and the rolling seas of the Drake Passage came back to greet us.

In the afternoon Chris gave a very informative presentation on the biology and adaptations of penguins in English and Celine gave a similar lecture in French, both of which were enthusiastically received by both groups despite the pitching of the ship. After the daily recap another fine dinner was served as Plancius continued to sail North into the Drake Passage as the seas began to abate, much to the delight of the less stalwart sailors amongst us anxiously hoping for a good night's sleep.



Day 8 – Friday 24th March 2017

At sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 060°26' S / 064°17' W

Wind: NW 3-4. **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast. **Temperature:** +5°C.



After a rather gentle night of rolling, the morning broke beautifully calm but cloudy. The Plancius bow was firmly pointed northward, and the large aggregations of Pintados (Cape petrels) and Southern fulmars started to disappear. A slightly disgruntled looking Wandering albatross had to beat its wings to stay airborne as there was not enough wind to help it soar. We learned more about these amazing birds in Sonja's lecture on sea bird ecology while our French speaking guests enjoyed a talk by Gérard on the Southern Ocean. At lunch time the visibility worsened and the wind picked up, making both sea bird and mammal watching rather more challenging for the dedicated student observers maintaining constant watches on the bridge wings.

Then second officer Matei had a surprise for us: He intended to deploy an Argos float (an oceanographic buoy that floats at depth, rises to the surface every 10 days and relays information on water temperature and salinity via satellite link) for the Dutch Hydrographic Office.

We gathered at the back decks to watch the action with oceanographer Lars briefly explaining what the instrument does. While the float was being readied

an excited Sonja shouted “Hourglass dolphins”. Two dolphins made several close but rather quick passes of the *Plancius* revealing the beautiful black and white pattern on their sides that has given them the name Hourglass dolphins.

The afternoon continued with good weather and more Hourglass dolphin sightings as we made good progress towards South America. We were kept busy with lectures from Gérard about the Southern Ocean, this time in English, its currents and foodweb components, many of which we had seen for ourselves only a few days ago. Chris (CC) also gave a talk on whaling in the Southern Ocean. The evening recap saw the brief appearance of a life-sized whales in the lounge, an Hourglass dolphin and a Minke whale which filled up the entire width of the lounge. The St Andrews student team then gave a short summary presentation of what they had been up to during their daily wildlife watches and what they had observed during our trip.



Day 9 – Saturday 25th March 2017

The Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 056°14' S / 067°04' W

Wind: W 6-7. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Overcast. **Temperature:** +7°C.

Closing in on Patagonia during the night the seas calmed and the rolling of the ship eased despite the freshening wind from the West allowing us to make good time – so much so that Captain Alexey decided to give us one more special experience before heading into the Beagle Channel... a rare close approach to Cape Horn.



Naomi Tuhuteru

Sonja called up the Chilean Naval Base on the radio and used her best Chilean Spanish and feminine charm to persuade them to let us within 2 nautical miles of the Cape, much closer than would usually be granted as the Horn is in Chilean national waters.

And so it was, with a vanguard of Black-browed Albatrosses and Giant Petrels swooping overhead and an escort of Peale's Dolphins playing under our bow that we arrived at Cape Horn as the skies broke and the sun shone through.



In the distance, standing proudly atop the Cape Horn rock itself we could just make out the Albatross sculpture there, inscribed with the following poem dedicated to sailors long since passed:

"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 on my wings to an eternity in the last trough of the Antarctic wind"

A touching reminder of the voyage we had just made and how hard things were in the not too distant past.

Along with our visit to Cape Horn, we also managed another milestone in our voyage – owing to the generosity of the Chilean authorities allowing such close access to Cape Horn itself, we had also managed to cross over into the Pacific Ocean!

After this excitement it was nice to head back inside out of the freshening wind just in time for oceanographer Lars from St Andrews University to deliver his lecture entitled "Seals for Science" where we learnt how seals equipped with scientific data recorders are helping to increase our knowledge of ocean currents.

After another fantastic lunch events took a rather more sombre note – it was time to return our now beloved trusty muck boots. Having taken us on many adventures, these boots had kept us warm and dry and safe, however, it was now time to say goodbye (although more than one person vowed to buy some when they got back home!) Even more gut-wrenching, at least for some, was the settlement of the on-board accounts with Zsuzsanna and Katrin in reception. Very nice was on the other hand an encounter with several Sei whales in the Beagle Channel in glorious sunshine.

All too soon it was time for the last briefing and a look back at everything we had experienced over the last 9 days accompanied by a fantastic slide presentation from Bruce, a google-earth fly-by from Gérard and a farewell cocktail drink toasted by the Captain as he said a few words about the voyage. Everyone toasted to the trip with raised glasses and smiling faces, realizing that all good things must come to an end. At long last it was time to head off to bed and try to catch a little bit of sleep before disembarkation began the very next morning bright and early. A fine end to a fine trip.

Day 10 – Sunday 26th March 2017

Disembarkation in Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: 54°48'S / 068°18'W

Wind: LT Air. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Temperature:** +10°C.

Today marks the last day of our amazing voyage as the Plancius, our home for the last 9 days pulls back in to port in Ushuaia at 0700. Coming alongside, we were boarded by the Argentine officials who cleared our vessel and allowed us to disembark. After making sure we were all packed and ready to go we made our

way down the gangway and bade farewell to all of the friends we have come to know over the past 10 days. Once back on land, we turned to look one last time at the *Plancius*, the ship that took us safely on such an incredible voyage from Ushuaia, across the infamous Drake Passage to Antarctica and back again. We saw more whales, penguins and seals than we could have hoped for, experienced all kinds of Antarctic weather from warm sun to gales and snow and simply enjoyed the wildlife and scenery of this very special continent and are privileged that we were able to do so. 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: 1638 nm

Kilometres: 3034 km

Fuel consumption: 45 metric tons of low-sulphur diesel

Furthest South on 22 March 2017: 65°06'S / 063°60'W

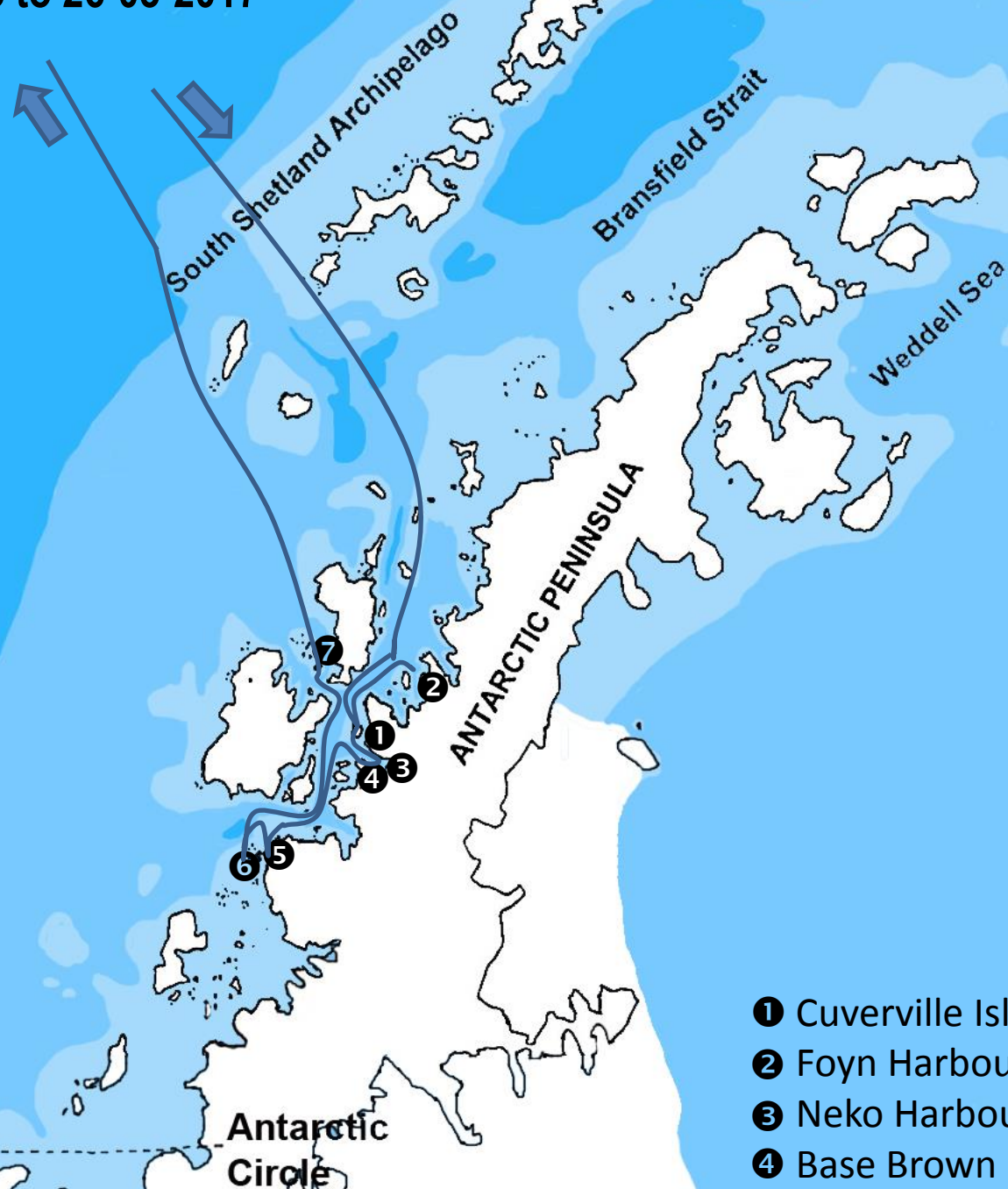
On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Nazarov, Expedition Leader Beau Pruneau and all the staff and crew, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

Whale Watching Voyage

Voyage en Péninsule Antarctique

M/V PLANCIUS

17-03 to 26-03-2017



- ❶ Cuverville Island
- ❷ Foyen Harbour
- ❸ Neko Harbour
- ❹ Base Brown
- ❺ Lemaire Channel
- ❻ Port Charcot
- ❼ Melchior Islands

	BIRD AND MAMMAL LIST – M/V Plancius 17.03 to 26.03.2017														
	BIRDS171819202122232425														
Français	THE FUNKY SWIMMING/WALKING/SLIDING ONES										Scientific	Castellano	Deutsch	Nederlands	
Manchot papou	Gentoo Penguin			x	x	x	x				<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Pinguino de vincha	Eselspinguin	Ezelspinguïn	
Manchot Adélie	Adelie Penguin							x	x		<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Pinguino de Adelia	Adeliepinguin	Adélie-pinguïn	
Manchot à jugulaire	Chinstrap Penguin			x	x	x	x	x	x		<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>	Pinguino de barbijo	Kehlstreifpinguin	Kinbandpinguïn	
Manchot de Magellan	Magellanic Penguin	x									<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Pinguino patagonico	Magellanpinguin	Magelhaenpinguïn	
	THE CURIOUS AND THE ELUSIVE FLYING ONES														
Albatros à tête grise	Grey-headed Albatross		x	x					x	x	x	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Albatros cabeza gris	Graukopfalbatros	Grijskopalbatros
Albatros à sourcils noirs	Black-browed Albatross	x	x	x						x	x	<i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>	Albatros ceja negra	Schwarzbrauenalbatros	Wenkbrauwalbatros
Albatros fuligineux	Light-mantled Albatross			x								<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Albatros manto claro	Rußalbatros	Roetkopalbatros
Albatros hurleur	Austral Wandering Albatross		x							x		<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Albatros errante austral	Wanderalbatros	Grote albatros
Albatros royal du Nord	Northern Royal Albatross											<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Albatros real chico	Nördlicher Königsalbatros	Zuidelijke koningsalbatros
Albatros royal du Sud	Southern Royal Albatross		x							x	x	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Albatros real grande	Königsalbatros	Noordelijke koningsalbatros
Pétrel géant	Southern Giant Petrel	x	x	x	x	x	x					<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Petrel gigante comun	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	Zuidelijke reuzenstormvogel
Pétrel de Hall	Northern Giant Petrel											<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Petrel gigante subantartico	Nördlicher Riesensturmvogel	Noordelijke reuzenstormvogel
Fulmar argenté	Southern Fulmar		x	x	x	x		x	x			<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Petrel plateado	Südlicher Eissturmvogel	Zuidelijke stormvogel
Pétrel des neiges	Snow Petrel				x				x			<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	Petrel de las nieves	Schneesturmvogel	Sneeuwstormvogel
Damier du Cap	Cape/Pintado Petrel		x	x				x	x			<i>Daption capensis</i>	Petrel damero	Kapsturmvogel	Kaapse duif
Pétrel soyeux	Soft-plumaged petrel		x	x								<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Petrel suave	Weißfedernsturmvogel	Donsstormvogel
Puffin gris	Grey Petrel											<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Petrel gris	Grausturmvogel	Bruine Stormvogel
Prion de la désolation	Antarctic Prion			x								<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Prion antarctico	Taubensturmvogel	Antarctische prion
Puffin à menton blanc	White-chinned Petrel		x	x						x		<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Petrel barba blanca	Weißkinnsturmvogel	Witkinstormvogel; Witkeelstormvogel
Puffin fuligineux	Sooty Shearwater	x	x									<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Pardela oscura	Dunkelsturmtaucher	Grauwe pijlstormvogel
Pétrel bleu	Blue petrel		x	x								<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		Blausturmvogel	Blauwe stormvogel
Océanite de Wilson	Wilson's Storm-Petrel		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Paino comun	Buntfußsturmschwalbe	Wilson stormvogeltje
Océanite à ventre noir	Black-bellied Storm-Petrel		x	x								<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	Paino vientre negro	Schwarzbauchmeerläufer	Zwartbuikstormvogeltje
Cormoran impérial	Imperial (Blue-eyed) Shag									x		<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	Cormoran imperial	Blauaugenscharbe	Keizeraalscholver; Blauwoogaalscholver
Cormoran (impérial) antarctique	Antarctic (Blue-eyed) Shag	x			x	x	x	x				<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>	Cormoran antartico	Antarktikscharbe	Keizeraalscholver; Blauwoogaalscholver
Chionis blanc	Snowy Sheathbill					x		x				<i>Chionis alba</i>	Paloma austral	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	Poolkip
Labbe du Chili	Chilean Skua	x									x	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	Skua patagonica	Chileskua	Chileense skua
Labbe de Mac Cormick	South Polar Skua											<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>	Skua polar	Antarktikskua	Zuidpooljager
Labbe brun	Brown Skua				x	x	x	x				<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>	Skua subantartica	Subantarktikskua	Subantarctische Grote Jager
Goéland de Scoresby	Dolphin Gull											<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	Gaviota austral	Blutschnabelmöwe	Dolfijnmeeuw
Goéland dominicain	Kelp Gull	x			x	x	x	x				<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Gaviota cocinera	Dominikanermöwe	Kelpmeeuw
Sterne couronnée	Antarctic Tern			x	x	x	x					<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Gaviotin antartico	Antipodenseeschwalbe	Zuidpoolstern
Sterne hirundinacée	South American Tern	x										<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	Gaviotin sudamericano	Falklandseeschwalbe	Zuid-Amerikaanse visdief
	MAMMALS171819202122232425														
	THE FURRY ONES WITH WHISKERS														
Lion de mer d’Amérique du Sud	South American Sea Lion	x									x	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	Lobo = leon marino de 1 pelo	Mähnenrobbe	Patagonische zeeleeuw
Otarie à fourrure antarctique	Antarctic Fur Seal				x	x	x	x				<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Lobo marino de 2 pelos antartico	Antarktischer Seebär	Antarctische pelsrob
Eléphant de mer austral	Southern Elephant Seal				x		x	x				<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	elefante marino del Sur	Südlicher See-Elefant	Zuidelijke zeeolifant
Phoque crabier	Crabeater Seal				x	x	x	x				<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	Foca cangrejera	Krabbenfresserrobbe	Krabbeneter
Phoque de Weddell	Weddell Seal						x					<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>	Foca de Weddell	Weddellrobbe	Weddell-zeehond
Léopard de mer	Leopard Seal				x	x	x					<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	Foca leopardo	Seeleopard	Zeeluipaard
	THE BIG AND GENERALLY FLOATING ONES														
Lagénorhynque à menton noir	Peale's Dolphin										x	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Delfin austral	Peale-Delfin	Dolfijn van Peale
Lagénorhynque obscur	Dusky Dolphin											<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	Delfin oscuro = de Fitzroy	Schwarzdelfin	Schwarzdolfijn
Lagénorhynque sablier	Hourglass Dolphin		x	x						x		<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Delfin cruciger	Stundenglasdelfin	Zandloperdolfijn
Orque épaulard	Killer whale				x	B		X	B			<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orca	Schwertwal	Orka
Rorqual commun	Fin Whale			x					x			<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Ballena fin o de aleta	Finnwal	Gewone vinvis
Petit rorqual antarctique	Antarctic Minke Whale							x				<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Ballena minke antartica	Zwergwal	Antarctische dwergvinvis
Mégaptère (Baleine à bosse)	Humpback Whale				x	x	x	x				<i>Megaptera novaengliae</i>	Ballena jorobada	Buckelwal	Bultrug; Bultrugwalvis

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.

Beau est né en Californie, près de Los Angeles et a déménagé au Canada à l'âge d'un an. Il a grandi dans les étendues sauvages du nord de l'Ontario, appréciant dès son plus jeune âge les activités de plein air et développant des compétences en camping, techniques de survie, navigation et suivi d'animaux.

Après son diplôme en « Gestion durable des activités de plein air », il est parti travailler en Colombie-Britannique dans des stations de ski où il a appris à conduire tous types de véhicules y compris des dameuses. En parallèle, il a exploré les montagnes alentour en snowboard, vélo, randonnée, hélicoptère... C'est également là qu'il a rencontré son épouse ! Il est revenu ensuite en Ontario travailler dans une autre station près des grands lacs.

En 2011, il a migré en Allemagne définitivement. Il s'y est essayé à faire du vin et construire des vélos tout en continuant à visiter le monde, avec son épouse, sur quasiment tous les continents. Il apprécie particulièrement la savane africaine et la cuisine italienne.

Jamais plus heureux que dans une jeep pour un safari ou sur le pont d'un navire à la recherche d'ours polaires, il a ainsi commencé à travailler sur des croisières expédition dans les régions polaires comme guide, conférencier puis comme assistant de chef d'expédition, armurier, expert en ours, photographe, responsable camping, officier de sûreté, pilote de zodiac ainsi qu'assistant des opérations en hélicoptère.

Il vit actuellement à Dresde avec sa merveilleuse épouse.

Dr Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader



Katja Riedel grew up in Germany where completed a Phd in Atmospheric Chemistry. For her research she over-wintered 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, 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 in 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 220km through Svalbard, sailed in a small yacht to Antarctica, kayaked icy waters and worked as a science assistance in Western Greenland. Her fondest memories of Antarctica are building a 24h 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.

Katia a grandi en Allemagne où elle a passé son doctorat en chimie atmosphérique. Pour mener ses recherches, elle a hiverné en 1997 sur la base allemande Neumayer en Antarctique où elle était responsable de l'observatoire atmosphérique.

Elle a, par la suite, pris part à plusieurs expéditions scientifiques, pour mesurer l'ozone à la base Scott, pour faire des carottages à Law Dome et pour récolter des échantillons de glace vieille de 120 000 ans dans les vallées sèches du glacier Taylor. Elle a complété son cursus en études sur l'Antarctique à Wellington, en Nouvelle Zélande, où elle a ensuite travaillé pendant douze ans comme chercheuse. Elle s'est spécialisée dans l'étude des gaz à effet de serre dans l'atmosphère et dans les carottes de glace. Depuis 2011, elle travaille comme guide conférencière lors de croisières d'expédition en Arctique et en Antarctique.

Les régions polaires ont toujours fasciné Katia. Sur un plan plus personnel, elle a aussi vécu des aventures exceptionnelles : raid à ski de 220 km au Spitzberg, navigation sur un petit voilier en Antarctique, kayak en eaux glacées et assistante de terrain lors d'une expédition au Groenland-ouest. Ses plus beaux souvenirs d'Antarctique sont la construction d'un cadran solaire en glace et un raid en traineau entre Hut Point et le glacier Erebus, dans la mer de Ross.

La vie est une aventure pour Katia et dès qu'elle le peut, elle voyage, randonne, ski, fait du vélo ou du kayak dans les coins reculés les plus merveilleux de la terre. Et quand elle ne voyage pas, elle vit en Nouvelle-Zélande où elle travaille dans la communication scientifique et comme photographe en indépendante. Elle parle couramment l'anglais et l'allemand.

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.

FRANÇAIS: Né en 1960 dans l'ouest de la France, Gérard a commencé à randonner et à camper en toutes saisons à 13 ans. Après avoir fait de la haute montagne pendant plusieurs années dans les Alpes, il a découvert sa passion pour l'Arctique en 1986. Il a tellement aimé cette région, qu'il y a fait plusieurs expéditions à ski nordique, en 3 ans, au Groenland, au Nunavut et au Spitzberg. Les plus exigeantes étant une expédition solitaire d'un mois au printemps au Spitzberg, une au pôle Nord magnétique et une au pôle Nord géographique. Une navigation de quatre semaines à la voile en péninsule Antarctique l'a mis en contact avec le Sud polaire.

Pendant 15 ans, il a partagé son temps de travail entre l'informatique et la conduite d'expéditions dans l'Arctique, surtout pour GNGL. Il a réalisé plus de 60 voyages et expéditions en régions polaires.

Depuis 2004, il a travaillé comme guide ou chef d'expédition dans différentes régions : Spitzberg, Groenland, Nunavut, Géorgie du Sud et péninsule Antarctique, en continuant à partager son temps entre l'informatique et les voyages. En 2009, année où il a décidé de se consacrer uniquement à l'activité de guide conférencier. Quand il ne voyage pas, il s'occupe de sa maison et de son jardin sous le climat ensoleillé de la Provence.

Son intérêt principal est la glaciologie, les autres sciences de la Terre et aussi l'ornithologie. Gérard parle français et anglais.

Céline Clément-Chastel – Expedition guide



Celine was born in the south west of France, in the vineyard region of Bordeaux. She grew up with a passion for travel, the natural world especially ocean wildlife... and wine!

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.

Céline est née dans le sud-ouest de la France, dans les vignobles du bordelais. En grandissant elle a développé sa passion pour les voyages, la nature, le monde marin en particulier... et le vin !

Elle a d'abord été chargée d'étude à l'Institut de géographie de Bergen en Norvège sur des questions de gestion des pêches en mer de Barents. Depuis 1998, divers contrats au CNRS ont mené cette ingénieure cartographe à participer à une quinzaine de missions scientifiques en Arctique (Norvège du nord, Ile aux ours, Spitzberg) et en Péninsule antarctique. Ces travaux se sont principalement déroulés dans le cadre de programmes de recherche de l'Institut Polaire Français (IPEV) et axés sur les adaptations des oiseaux marins polaires aux variations de leur environnement. Capture, baguage, mesure biométrique, prise de sang, pose d'enregistreurs d'activité sur différentes espèces n'ont plus de secrets pour elle.

Dans la même période, Céline a été guide de randonnée au Spitzberg et a régulièrement accompagné des croisières dans les régions polaires, ce qui lui a donné le goût de la vulgarisation scientifique.

Elle travaille actuellement comme chargée de médiation scientifique et assure la coordination et la réalisation d'actions de communication et de culture scientifique. Présidente d'APECS France, le comité national français de l'Association of polar Early Career Scientists (association des jeunes chercheurs et éducateurs des régions polaires), elle y contribue à la communication sur les dernières découvertes scientifiques dans le monde polaire (Semaine polaire, Jour de l'Antarctique, colloques).

Bruce Robinson – Expedition 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.

Bruce a grandi dans l'ouest de l'état de New York aux États-Unis, où, très jeune, il a développé une grande curiosité et une fascination pour la nature.

Son intérêt pour la photographie a commencé dès l'âge de 15 ans et s'est très vite transformé en passion pour saisir et documenter en images toute l'incroyable diversité de la nature. Ces deux passions ont conduit Bruce à mener une vie de découvertes et d'aventures. Ses voyages l'ont mené dans les endroits les plus reculés de la terre à la recherche d'espèces en danger et si possible les plus difficiles à approcher. Il est allé à la rencontre de la plupart des sites et espèces remarquables dans plus de 65 pays sur les sept continents. Bruce a travaillé comme naturaliste et guide photographe dans des régions aussi diverses que la forêt pluviale amazonienne ou le désert intérieur australien. Bien que les splendeurs de l'Antarctique soient relativement nouvelles pour lui, son insatiable quête de découvertes pousse Bruce à partager avec les autres ses connaissances et son enthousiasme pour les espèces et les mondes sauvages.

Chris Booker – Expedition 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.

Chris est né sur l'île d'Anglesey au Royaume-Uni et a toujours été fasciné par tout ce qui touchait de près ou de loin les océans.

Il est biologiste marin et travaille depuis plus de 20 ans dans différents secteurs du domaine maritime : des suivis biologiques de récifs de coraux dans les Caraïbes aux plongées d'inspection sur des gazoducs sous-marin comme plongeur professionnel en mer du Nord en passant par bien d'autres activités. Durant cette période il a aussi fait de la logistique pour diverses expéditions et a aussi des qualifications comme instructeur de plongée, pilote de bateau ainsi qu'en techniques de survie et secours en mer.

Chris a également vécu et voyagé dans toute l'Amérique latine pendant huit ans et parle donc aussi couramment l'espagnol.



Sonja Heinrich — Guide and Lecturer

Sonja's passion are the furry and blubbery ocean creatures (marine mammals). She has been working in and around the polar regions since 1998.

Sonja teaches marine biology at the University of St Andrews in Scotland (UK) where she also runs the Master in Marine Mammal Science programme. She is based at the renown Sea Mammal Research Unit which reflects her research interests in the furry (i.e. seals) and blubbery (i.e. whales) ocean predators. Sonja gained her PhD from St Andrews in 2006 for her work on sympatric ecology and conservation of coastal dolphins in southern Chile. She also

holds a Masters in Marine Science degree from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and a general biology degree from the University of Cologne in Germany. Her research activities and work as guide/lecturer aboard expedition-style cruise ships have taken her all around the globe, with a notable preference for remote cool-temperate and polar regions. A keen explorer of ocean and mountain realms alike, Sonja tends to mimic the migration of the Arctic tern, with northern summers spent in Scotland and the Arctic, and northern winters at least partially (teaching timetable permitting) in the southern hemisphere researching dolphins in Chile or looking for whales in the Antarctic. Sonja is passionate about nature and the outdoors, loves horse-riding when she is landlocked, enjoys scrambling up mountains, running in coastal forests and rowing coastal skiffs. She is well versed in English, German and Spanish. Sonja is looking forward to sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for these magical polar places with you.

La passion de Sonja est les créatures marines grasses ou à fourrure (les mammifères marins). Elle travaille dans les régions polaires depuis 1998.

Sonja enseigne la biologie marine à l'université de St-Andrews en Écosse, où elle dirige aussi le programme de maîtrise en science des mammifères marins. Elle est basée à l'unité de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, ce qui reflète aussi ses intérêts pour les prédateurs des « peluches » (phoques et otaries) et des « gras » (cétacés). Sonja a obtenu son doctorat à St-Andrews en 2006 pour son travail sur l'écologie et la conservation des dauphins côtiers dans le sud du Chili. Elle détient aussi une maîtrise en sciences marines de l'université d'Otago, en Nouvelle-Zélande, et un diplôme de biologie générale de l'université de Cologne en Allemagne. Ses activités de recherche et son travail de guide/conférencière à bord de bateaux de croisière-expédition l'ont conduit tout autour du globe, avec une préférence aux régions tempérées isolées et les régions polaires. En tant qu'exploratrice avisée des océans et montagnes, elle imite les migrations des sternes arctiques, passant les étés boréaux en Écosse et en Arctique et les hivers boréaux au moins partiellement (suivant son planning d'enseignement) en hémisphère sud, en recherchant des dauphins au Chili ou des baleines en Antarctique. Sonja est passionnée par la nature et les activités de plein air, adore faire de l'équitation lorsqu'elle est coincée à terre, escalader les montagnes, courir dans la forêt ou pagayer le long des côtes. Elle parle anglais, espagnol et allemand. Elle est impatiente de partager sa connaissance et son enthousiasme pour ces contrées polaires magiques.

Chris Croxen – Expedition Guide



Chris Croxson completed a distinguished business career with Unilever PLC and Bermuda-based Bacardi-Martini, Ltd. and then embarked on obtaining his Master's degree in Marine Biology at the National Oceanography Centre (Southampton University in the UK), graduating with first-class honours.

Chris is a very experienced cruise lecturer/guide on themes relating to the marine fauna of the areas being visited, along with associated ecosystems and oceanographic features. He has contributed to more than 120 voyages in the last 9 years around all seven continents and in particular, has had a great deal of

exposure to the Arctic and both the peninsula region of Antarctica and the Ross Sea region, having visited Scott's hut and Shackleton's hut many times.

His talks are primarily intended to enthrall and entertain, with the secondary aim of informing through science. Chris has the overriding objective to enhance expedition guests' enjoyment by creating a greater awareness and appreciation of the marine world that surrounds them.

Chris Croxson a réalisé une carrière distinguée chez Unilever et Bacardi-Martini basée aux Bermudes, puis s'est embarqué à obtenir une maîtrise en biologie marine au Centre National d'Océanographie (Université de Southampton, R-U), qu'il a obtenue avec une mention de première classe.

Chris est un guide/conférencier avec beaucoup d'expérience à propos de la faune marine des zones que nous visiterons, ainsi que des écosystèmes et des caractéristiques océanographiques. Il a participé à plus de 120 voyages durant les neuf dernières années, autour des sept continents et en particulier il a eu un faible pour l'Arctique, la Péninsule Antarctique et le mer de Ross, en visitant les cabanes de Ross et de Schackelton plusieurs fois.

Ses conférences sont destinées pour captiver et divertir, avec aussi le souhait d'informer par le biais de la science. Chris a l'objectif d'améliorer la satisfaction des passagers en créant une sensibilisation au et une appréciation du monde marin qui nous entoure.



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

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



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



PRIZES



€ 1000

GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher
for Oceanwide Expeditions

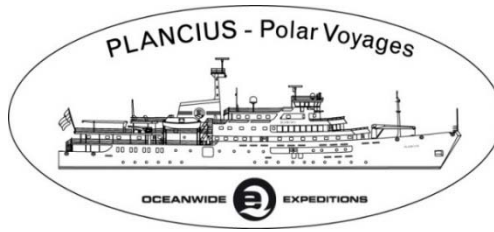


€ 250 gift voucher
for Oceanwide Expeditions

ENTRIES CLOSE DECEMBER 31

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

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



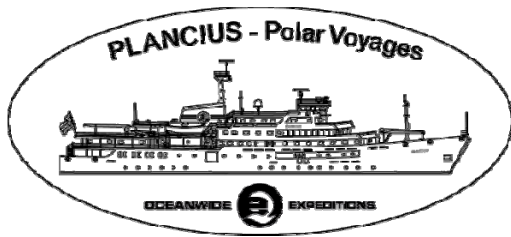
Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 48

Including:

Chief Officer:	Artur Iakovlev	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	Mocanu Matei	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Katrin Völker	[Germany]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Annelot Ochtman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Beau Pruneau	[Canada/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Gérard Bodineau	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Céline Clément-Chastel	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Bruce Robinson	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Chris Booker	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Sonja Heinrich	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Christopher Croxon	[UK]

Welcome you on board!



Antarctic Peninsula

Embarkation – Ushuaia

Friday 17th 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 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 Alexey Nazarov 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

Thank you.



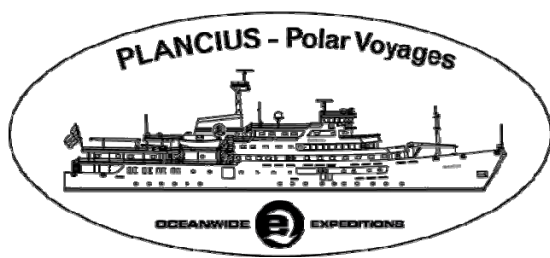
Antarctic Peninsula

At Sea towards Antarctica

Saturday 18th March 2017

- 0745 Wake Up call.
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.
Please wait until the doors are open before entering.
- 1000 Please join Katja in the **Lounge** for an Introduction to Antarctica in **English**.
- 1000 Please join Gerard in the **Dining Room** for an Introduction to Antarctica in **French**.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3).
- 1400 To protect your feet when we go ashore we will be distributing your **Rubber Boots**. We will call you by Deck number so please listen out for announcements. The boot room is located on **Deck 3 forward**.
- 1530 Please join Sonja in the **Lounge** for a lecture about Whales in **English**.
- 1530 Please join Gerard in the **Dining Room** for a lecture about Whales of the Southern Ocean in **French**.
- 1700 Please join Bruce in the Lounge for a talk about Photography. This will be in **English** but **translated to French**.
- 1830 Please join **Beau** and the Expedition team in the **Lounge** for the Daily Briefing where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3). Bon appétit.

Please secure your valuables and make sure your cupboard doors and drawers are tightly closed while we are sailing. Remember: KEEP ONE HAND FOR THE SHIP AT ALL TIMES & BEWARE OF DOOR JAMS. Thank you.



Antarctic Peninsula

At Sea towards Antarctica

Sunday 19th March 2017

- 0745 Wake Up call.
- 0800 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3 behind reception) for one hour.
- 1015 Please come to the **Lounge** and join Beau and the team for a **mandatory IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing**. This will be in **English**.
- 1015 Please join Gerard in the **Dining Room** for a **mandatory IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing**. This will be in **French**.
- TBA* **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.
- TBA **Vacuuming time continues!**
- 1500 To protect your feet when we go ashore we will be distributing your **Rubber Boots**. We will call you by Deck number so please listen out for announcements. The boot room is located on **Deck 3 forward**.
- 1700 Please join Katja in the **Lounge** for a lecture about Ice in Antarctica. This will be in **English**.
- 1700 Please join Gerard in the **Dining Room** for a lecture about Glaciers and Ice Caps. This will be in **French**.
- 1830 Please join Beau and the Expedition team in the **Lounge** for the Daily Briefing where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

* TBA = To Be Announced via the PA system

As we expect continuous motion of the ship, please secure your belongings and always remember to have one hand for the ship!



Antarctic Peninsula

Cuverville Island & Foyn Harbour

Monday 20th March 2017

During parts of the night and early this morning we will be sailing through the Gerlache Strait. If conditions are favourable we recommend being out on deck to enjoy the spectacular scenery.

0700 Wake-up call.

0710 Sunrise

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

0900 This morning we plan to offer a split landing/zodiac cruise at **Cuverville Island**. Here we can offer time with the **Gentoo penguins** and a walk along the shoreline, along with a zodiac cruise nearby. The first 6 zodiacs will land, while the rest cruise, swapping halfway through the landing.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

This afternoon we will be in the scenic area of Foyn 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 this area 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

The first 2 Zodiacs in each group at the gangway will be Francophone boats. The rest will be English.

1515 **Group 1** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway, starting with Francophone guests.

1630 **Group 2** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway, starting with Francophone guests.

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

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

1921 Sunset

ALL ACTIVITIES DEPEND UPON WEATHER, ICE AND WILDLIFE CONDITIONS.



Antarctic Peninsula

Neko Harbour & Base Brown

Tuesday 21st March 2017

- 0700 Wake-up call.
- 0712 Sunrise
- 0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room.
- 0900 After breakfast we plan to offer a landing at **Neko Harbour**, which is a Continental Landing. 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.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 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 6 zodiacs will land while the rest cruise, swapping halfway through.
- 1830 Please join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for a **Daily Briefing**.
- 1900 A **special surprise dinner** is waiting for you just behind the Dining Room on Deck 3 outside. Dress warm!
- 1923 Sunset

ALL ACTIVITIES DEPEND UPON WEATHER, ICE AND WILDLIFE CONDITIONS.



Antarctic Peninsula

Ship Cruise South & Port Charcot

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

0645 Wake-up call.

~0700 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.

0721 Sunrise

0800 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room.

If ice conditions allow we will sail through the ice littered **Penola Strait** continuing south towards our goal of 65°S. Keep a watch out for Adélie penguins on ice floes!

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

We would like to land at **Port Charcot**, named after the French 'Gentleman Explorer' Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Here additional to a normal landing we would like to offer a longer hike up to a view point.

1430 Long hikers please come to the gangway.

1445 Everyone else please come to the gangway.

~1800 We will sail back north through the scenic **Lemaire Channel**.

1850 Join Beau and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing**.

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

1922 Sunset

ALL ACTIVITIES DEPEND UPON WEATHER, ICE AND WILDLIFE CONDITIONS.



Antarctic Peninsula

Melchior Islands

Thursday 23rd March 2017

- 0700 Wake-up call.
0720 Sunrise
0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room.

This morning we will be in the scenic area of the Melchior Islands. We plan to take a Zodiac cruise in the area, visiting some of the small channels and bays. There are sometimes humpback whales in the Melchior Islands so look out for their blows. We will split into 2 groups for this cruise:

Group 1: Cabins 200's, 300's, 500's, & 600's

Group 2: Cabins 401-429

First 2 Zodiacs in each group at the gangway will be Francophone boats. The rest will be English.

- 0845 **Group 1** going zodiac cruising, please come to the gangway.
1000 **Group 2** going zodiac cruising, please come to the gangway.
1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

After lunch we will be heading north back into open seas and the Drake Passage.

- 1500 Come and join Chris in the **Dining Room** for a talk about **The March of the Penguins**. This will be in English.
1630 Come and join Celine in the **Dining Room** for her **Introduction to Penguins**. This will be in French.
1830 Please join **Beau** and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the Daily Briefing.
1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
~1915 Sunset

Please note that we will be in the Drake Passage as soon as we leave the Melchior Islands. Please secure your belongings and take sea-sickness medication if necessary.



Antarctic Peninsula

At Sea towards Ushuaia

Friday 24th March 2017

- 0745 Wake Up call.
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
Please wait until the doors are open before entering.
- 1000 Sonja will tell you more about **Seabirds**. This presentation will be in **English in the Dining Room**.
- 1000 Gérard will talk about the **Southern Ocean**. This will be in **French in the Lounge**.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 In **French in the Lounge**: Céline talks about the **Effects of contaminants on Antarctic seabird: An invisible threat**.
- 1530 Gérard will talk about the **Southern Ocean**. This presentation will be in **English in the Dining Room**.
- 1700 Please join Chris in the Lounge for his talk about **Whaling in the Southern Ocean**. This will be in **English but translated to French**.
- 1830 Please join **Beau** and the Expedition team in the **Lounge** for the Daily Briefing.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

Please secure your valuables and make sure your cupboard doors and drawers are tightly closed while we are sailing. Remember: KEEP ONE HAND FOR THE SHIP AT ALL TIMES & BEWARE OF DOOR JAMS. Thank you.



Antarctic Peninsula

At Sea towards Ushuaia
Saturday 25th March 2017

- 0745 Wake Up call.
- 0800 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1000 Please join Lars, the tutor of the students, for his presentation about **Seals for Science**. This will be in the Lounge **in English with French translation**.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 It is 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.

We would like to invite you to Reception at the following times:

15.00-15.20 deck 6 and deck 5

15.20-15.40 cabins 401 to 415

15.40-16.00 cabins 416 to 429

16.00-16.30 deck 3 and deck 2

- 1815 Join Beau and the Expedition team in the **Lounge** for the Daily Briefing and a **Captain's farewell cocktail** to toast the end of our successful voyage.
- 1900 Your **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

As we expect continuous motion of the ship, please secure your belongings and always remember to have one hand for the ship!



Antarctic Peninsula

Arrival in Ushuaia

Sunday 26th 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 to the left of the exit building.

On behalf of Captain Nazarov, Beau, and all the staff and crew onboard *M.V. Plancius*, we wish you a safe and pleasant onward journey!