



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp

29 December – 09 January 2017

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:	Jaanus Hannes	[Estonia]
2nd Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Clarence Pamine	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	Teunis van't Verlaat	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Bobby Manevski	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Lars Prater	[Germany]
Ship's Physician:	Eva-Maria Kifmann	[Switzerland]
Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada/Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Yolly Bosiger	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Snowshoe Guide	Nacho Marino	[Argentina]
Kayak Guide:	Fran Potheary	[Great Britain]
Mountain Leader:	Tamsin Gay	[Great Britain]
Mountain Guide:	Michael Madden	[New Zealand]
Camping Guide:	Gracie Bodo	[USA]
Camping Guide:	Benjamin Giunchi	[Argentina]
Photo Guide:	Esther Kokmeijer	[Netherlands]

Day 1 –Saturday December 29th 2017

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

0800 GPS Position: Ushuaia Port

Wind: NE -4 Sea State: Port Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 10°C Sea Temp: 10°C

So finally, the much-awaited departure day was upon us! We woke up in Ushuaia to glorious blue skies and sunshine, full of excitement and anticipation at the thought of boarding the MV Plancius for our forthcoming adventure - for many of us today signified the culmination of a lifelong dream!



We spent the morning exploring this lovely Patagonian city, soaking up the local flavours and enjoying the sights.

Ushuaia marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but also the beginning – the beginning of 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 which stands for “*bay that penetrates to the west*” in the indigenous Yaghan tongue, clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote setting.

It was a sunny afternoon as we made our way along the pier to the boat at 16:00, ready to board our new floating home for the next 12 days. We were greeted by members of our expedition staff who directed us to the reception to meet the hotel manager, Zsuzsanna, and her team who showed us to our rooms. There we found our luggage and in no time at all we settled in and started to explore our new surroundings.



At 17:00 we convened in the lounge on deck five to meet expedition leader Lynn Woodworth, who welcomed us on board the ship. Chief Officer, Jaanus Hannes then acquainted us with the safety features of the vessel and with the essential do's and don'ts on board. Soon afterwards it was time for the mandatory safety drill and we gathered in the bar, donned our big orange lifejackets and went through the roll call to make sure everybody was there. We were then escorted outside to take a look at the lifeboats, but were left confident that we would have no reason to do this again in the next 12 days!



Many of us then headed out on deck with cameras in hand as we pulled away from the pier and started to navigate the Beagle Channel.

At 18:45 we met in the bar again, this time for a welcome cocktail with our Captain, Alexey Nazarov. He spoke a few words and explained that we were 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. Zsuzsanna then briefly explained what could be found on each of the decks, on board amenities and generally how life on the Southern Ocean would work over the course of this trip. Expedition leader, Lynn told us a little about the forthcoming voyage and introduced her team of guides and what each of their roles would be during the voyage.

Shortly afterwards we were invited to the dining room to enjoy the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by head chef Ralf and his team. There was a real buzz in the dining room, as we got to know each other and talked about our hopes and aspirations for this voyage.

Our first evening was occupied with more exploration of the ship, adjusting to her movements and settling into our cabins before retiring for the night.



In the early hours of the morning we reached the entrance of the Beagle Channel and headed out into the open waters of the Drake Passage- our Antarctic adventure was now fully underway!!!!



Day 2 –Saturday December 30th 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 56° 27' 4 S / 065° 48' 9 W

Wind: WSW -7/8 **Sea State:** Very Rough **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 5°C **Sea Temp:** 7°C

We woke up to what felt like a real Drake crossing. Not a very wild one, but certainly no Drake lake. You have to earn your passage to Antarctica. The waves were moving the ship from side to side and unprotected baggage and equipment shifted in the cabins from corner to corner. The seasickness bags provided in the corridors, had to be replaced once in a while.



But that is how a voyage to Antarctica is supposed to be, a bit of effort and discomfort for sailing to the far South of the World - to this 'awe inspiring and thought-provoking' place. Our bodies were tested this day in a mild and harmless way. But still many passengers managed to come out of their cabins to see what was going on in the ship.



The first sea day is also the time to prepare for the landings and going through many briefings. In between we got an introduction to the polar environment by watching the first episode of the amazing Frozen Planet film with Sir David Attenborough. Yolly introduced the film as she works as a researcher and director at the BBC Natural History Unit.

In the afternoon Katja gave a great introduction to Antarctica, the continent with so many extremes, with historically, interesting, funny and peculiar facts. We learned for example that the largest land animal is only a few millimetres long.

During the day we were accompanied by some Wandering albatrosses and even had the luxury of having the Southern giant petrel and the Northern giant petrel flying around the ship. They both look almost identical but can be identified by the more whitish head and neck of the southern as well as the difference in bill-tip colour. The northern has a red tip and the southern, a more greenish one.



The daily recap gave us some more insights about what to expect during this voyage with a general briefing by Lynn. As she spoke about albatrosses she saw a Wandering albatross flying just next to the window, as if it was ordered to come out exactly at that time. Katja provided information about the Antarctic convergence, Esther launched the onboard photo competition and Sara explained the wildlife list.

It was a long sea day, but surprisingly, many passengers were spending a lively evening in the bar. While sailing over the convergence the fog came in. Around midnight most of us were rocked to sleep.



Day 3 – Sunday 31st December 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60° 56' 1 S / 064° 05' 1 W

Wind: SSW -3 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog patches Air Temp: 3°C SeaTemp: 2°C



During the night we crossed the Antarctic Convergence, a biological boundary where warmer subpolar waters meet cold Antarctic waters. Within a few kilometres the sea water temperature dropped by several degrees. Officially we were now in Antarctica! In the morning we also encountered the fog that is typical for the area. Just after breakfast our first iceberg was spotted and Captain Alexey took Plangius on a circumnavigation of the berg. Waves were crashing over its smooth bottom half and a lone giant petrel glided past.

In order to prepare us for the many great photo opportunities during the coming days Esther talked in the restaurant about polar photography. She gave tips for photo composition and how to best document a subject. All this was explained with her wonderful photos.



Afterwards it was time to talk about camping. Ben and Gracie set up one camping kit in the lounge and explained what to expect and how to prepare for a night in Antarctica. Talking about toilet procedures created some laughs especially as it was close to lunchtime.

After we filled our bellies Zsuzsanna and Bobby opened the ship shop at reception. Here we could indulge in some retail therapy - maps, books, t-shirts, jackets and other items were all on sale.



In preparation for Antarctica we filed into the lounge in the afternoon. Lynn gave a briefing about environmental awareness and correct behaviour in Antarctica - no food ashore, clean your boots, and keep your distance from the penguins. The theory was followed by practice as we had to vacuum our outer clothes, backpacks and camera bags. Expedition staff members were on hand to help and advice how to rid our gear from seeds and dirt. With

seven vacuum cleaners going at once in the lounge it was noisy but fast. We also were issued with a pair of rubber boots. Everybody went to the boot room and tried and tested which pair fitted best. Clearly these boots were made for adventure.

During the day we could watch numerous Cape petrels, some Black-browed albatrosses and even a Light mantled sooty albatross. Just before the recap we also saw a Humpback whale that was showing its fluke several times. At the recap Lynn told us about the plans for tomorrow and all the activities that

would be on offer, snowshoeing, photography, kayaking, mountaineering and penguin watching. After the recap the kayakers and mountaineers were kitted out with their gear and everybody went to the special New Year's Eve dinner in a lovely decorated dining room.

Afterwards we all met in the bar where the expedition team had prepared a quiz and game to bring us into the New Year. At midnight we toasted with sparkling wine.



Katja Riedel - Snowmad Photography

Day 4 –Monday January 1st 2018

Cuverville Island and Danco Island

0800 GPS Position: 64° 40' 35 S / 062° 37' 7 W

Wind: Calm **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Snowing **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Our New Year began at 6:00 when Lynn announced that there were Humpback whales bubble net feeding just off the bow of the MV Plancius. It was an incredible way to begin 2018 and it was only getting better. We had a delicious breakfast and then prepared our equipment for our very first landing in Antarctica at Cuverville Island. The excitement was palpable as we waited to board the gangway to visit the site. Cuverville is regarded as having one of the largest rookeries of Gentoo penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula. The island was named after Admiral Cuverville, who helped finance Gerlache's expeditions.



Conditions in the bay were smooth and the landing was easy, helped by the fact that the bay was full of icebergs, thus protecting our landing site from any swell. We spent the morning exploring the shore of the island between the various colonies, taking time to savor the feeling of being amongst so many thousands of relatively tame birds. The penguins at Cuverville were still sitting on eggs although many now had two cute chicks. Numerous Brown skuas were circling looking for an easy lunch of an unguarded egg or chick. For those wanting to stretch their legs there was also the chance to walk up to a view point where you gained a magnificent vantage point overlooking the bay.

As we had time on our side we took the scenic route back to the ship, with a short cruise to take a closer look at the icebergs. As always in good light, the kaleidoscope of blues in the ice did not fail to astound, coupled with a myriad of different shapes and sizes. It was undeniably a visual smorgasbord for the lover of ice! Those lucky passengers who got into the zodiacs early were also treated to an amazing sighting of Humpback whales.



Back on board we had a delicious buffet lunch and then it was time to get ready for the afternoon landing at Danco Island. Here the expedition team had brought snowshoes ashore for us. For people keen to hike, the snowshoes made the walk a bit easier through the soft snow. Nacho led the hike round the island and up to the summit. Surprisingly there were even more Gentoo penguins right at the top. The views from the plateau were stunning looking up and down the Ererra Channel in both directions and across to the Antarctic Peninsula. With such calm, pleasant weather it was good to be able to stay a while and take in the surroundings.



For those who didn't want to walk to the top, there was enough to see on shore. Antarctic terns, Snowy sheathbills, Kelp gulls and Brown skuas were busy trying to source their next meal, while the Gentoo penguins were constantly traversing up and down the penguin highways from the water's edge up to the colonies.

Once the group was gathered back at shore, it was time for the infamous 'Polar Plunge'. So those mad enough to brave the icy water got changed. Unbelievably, around fifty brave souls stripped off and took the plunge, for some this was a quick in and out (after a few choice words!), while others seemed to quite enjoy the experience and happily posed for photos. Respect and congratulations to you all!



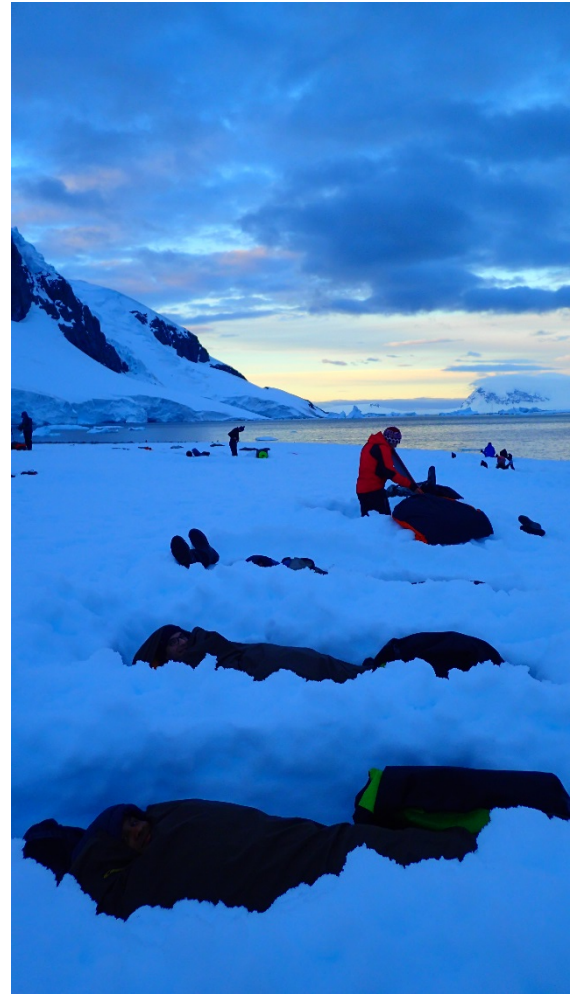
Back on board it was time for our daily recap, in which Katja spoke about the Gentoo penguins we had seen and Lynn briefed us on the plans for tomorrow.



Dinner was a scrumptious BBQ put on by the hotel staff and we enjoyed a drink and a spot of dancing with the rest of the staff and crew. After dinner, it was time for the campers to get ready for a night at Kerr Point. The staff went ashore first to prepare the site and by 21:30 all passengers were on shore and ready for a true Antarctic adventure!

Camping

A beautiful day merged into a beautiful night, it stayed calm, great conditions for camping. Campers went first to dinner and began layering up for the night. Camping bags were handed out and we made our way into the zodiacs. We had to navigate a bit of ice and rocks to get to our campsite but with our excellent drivers we made it to a place where we could climb ashore. Our camping site for the night was Kerr Point. As we clambered up we had Gentoo penguins to the left and almost a dozen Weddell seals to our right. Everyone set to digging their pits, sharing the shovels and working together. Once everyone was set up for the night we scrambled around working out how to spell Antarctica with our bodies, implementing our new design with 3 people for the letter 'N' and two people for 'C'. By this time it was already 22:30 and as we had to wake up in a few short hours, everyone headed to the warmth of their bivies. Some of us slept like babies while others stayed up most of the night listening to the sounds of falling ice and avalanches from the mountain. Puffy snowflakes fell on and off throughout the night. Very early in the morning the wake-up call was sounded. We woke to the cold and packed our gear, refilled the holes and donned our life vests. We also woke up to not one but two birthdays! Sebastian and Darlene both slept into their birthdays in Antarctica. We sung a round of 'Happy birthday to you'. By this time our lovely drivers had arrived to bring us back home.



Getting back on-board *Plancius* was a welcome relief as we enjoyed our warm showers and hearty breakfasts.



Kayaking

Well what a cracking start to the year for both kayaking groups today. The morning group had the advantage of getting ready the night before so by the time we dropped anchor at Cuverville, we were on the aft deck and ready to go. The bosun showed us another way to offload the kayaks to the waiting zodiac which saved time. Incredibly, we were all on the water by 09:30 which gave us the whole morning to play with. So we headed off along the steep side of Cuverville Island, aiming to get in close and look



at the birds, BUT whales in the Errera Channel proved too much of a distraction so we went to have a closer look. And did we strike lucky! One Humpback decided to investigate us further, coming close to us and even diving directly under two of the kayaks. As if this wasn't enough, a large whale further across the channel put up an incredible display of breaching, four times in a row. We were all secretly glad it wasn't closer as there was a lot of water displaced. In windless conditions we made good progress and managed to get comfortably around Cuverville Island, surprising a couple of crabeater seals on the far side and spotting a yacht, the Kotick that had come in to the sheltered harbour.

The afternoon kayaking group, Sierra Club members, also had an incredible day. They watched a Storm petrel fluttering over the water just in front of the kayaks for a few minutes. They also spent 3-4 minutes in total silence, listening to the sounds of Antarctica. We then headed towards Danco Island, again kayaking back and forth across the Channel in a zigzag pattern as we followed whales that were diving and coming up for air. These whales were a little more elusive than the ones in the morning but it was fantastic to see them. The sun came out in the afternoon, and a slight wind picked up which made for cold hands and faces. We found shelter behind a rock islet then headed closer to shore for a seal spot, two Weddell seals were hauled up there. It was really difficult to spot them as they did a very good impression of a rock – that is, until they idly raised their flippers in the air.

Mountaineering

Today we made two trips of 180 m up a satellite peak which lies at the bottom of Mt Tennant. The excursion required that we wore crampons for the last 25 m scrambling to the summit which involved a tricky rock step and a short icy slope. From the summit we were rewarded with views of the Gerlache Strait and beyond to Anvers Island.



Day 5 – Tuesday January 2nd 2018

Neko Harbour, Port Lockroy and Jougla Point

0800 GPS Position: 64° 50' 4 S / 062° 32' 3 W

Wind: Var 2 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Drizzle **Air Temp:** 3°C **Sea Temp:** 1°C

For some of us the day started really early. At 04:30 the campers were woken by their guides (obviously only those that actually managed to get to sleep) as it was time to get up and clear the camp. After everybody was back on board, Plancius heaved anchor and proceeded south to Neko Harbour which is an inlet in Andvord Bay and our first landing site for the day. On route, we passed some spectacular icebergs that were bathed in beautiful morning light. A few lucky passengers spotted the first Antarctic minke whale of the voyage.



Neko Harbour was discovered by Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache during his 1897–99 expedition and was named after a whaling boat, the Neko, which operated in the area between 1911 and 1924. The glacier behind Neko Harbour is extremely active, frequently calving large chunks of ice that splash thunderously into the bay. Hence the expedition team stressed the importance of staying off the beach and keeping on higher ground. Esther led a short hike up to a vantage point to a small colony of Gentoo penguins.

Several birds were nursing small chicks or sitting on eggs. As always with these colonies, several skuas were eagerly waiting, hoping to snatch an unguarded egg or chick. However, we could not condemn them for their opportunistic actions as we could see the skuas also had their own young hidden up in the rock face, so they had hungry mouths to feed, too. The views over the ice filled bay were spectacular, truly picture-postcard worthy. From the vantage point we could also see the two Humpback whales that seemed to be intent on giving our kayak group a real display.



We were shuttled back to the ship a little earlier than normal as we had a big afternoon ahead with a split landing between Port Lockroy on Goudier Island and Jougla Point. Over lunch we cruised through the Neumayer Channel which was named after Georg von Neumayer by the Belgian Antarctic Expedition under de Gerlache who sailed through the channel. The channel is said to be like a maze with no visible exits



because of its inverted S-shape. Often it can be blocked off by gigantic icebergs during the Antarctic winter. However, at the height of summer we had no problem traversing it today and we arrived on schedule for our afternoon's activity.

Before going ashore, one of the ladies that help run Port Lockroy came aboard and gave us a short talk about the history of the base and what we could expect. Afterwards we split in two groups, which rotated between the two landing

sites. Those that went to Port Lockroy were able to visit the famous Penguin Post Office and send postcards back to their friends and family. There was also time to visit the museum and learn a little about the history of the area. Port Lockroy was used as an anchorage for whalers and established as a Base by the British Government in 1944 as part of a secret wartime initiative called "operation Tabarin" to monitor German ship movements. Moving through the museum and post office also gave us the opportunity to speak to the incredible women who spend four months looking after Port Lockroy. At Jougla Point we headed up the ridge to take in the amazing scenery and photograph the colonies of nesting Gentoo penguins. Many of them had chicks peeping out from under their fluffy chests. There were also several Weddell seals hauled out on the ice.



They seemed quite content with us taking their pictures as they rested. We could also see several large groups of Imperial cormorants (also called Blue eyed shags) on the other side of the island, nesting on the rocky outcrops. Between, the two different landing sites there was really something for everyone to enjoy.

Once back on board, Lynn did a recap of the day and gave us an overview of the plans for tomorrow. This was followed by Yolly who gave us an insight to the history

of the region which is closely connected with Adrian de Gerlache's expedition.

Dinner was a buffet so that the campers could get ready for a night ashore at Damoy Point. Following protocol, the staff went ashore first to prepare the site, but it was no time at all before Sara and Nacho were dropping the happy campers off for their Antarctic camping experience.

Camping

Another beautiful evening with very little wind made for a calm and amazing camping experience. Surrounded by stunning mountains, glaciers and icebergs, we were greeted by a friendly and curious Adelie penguin upon arriving to our campsite - the first Adelie sighting for many of us. We set to work digging our holes and setting up our cameras. The same Adelie penguin was making his way around the campsite, visiting many of us and putting on quite a hilarious show sliding around on his belly. Once the camps were all set up we gathered and made a beautiful 'Antarctica' photo. We did the first two rounds and then a special one, just for the Sierra Club as this was their camp night. Grace headed off up the hill with Sander and Mandy to help them set-up a time lapse video. But as everyone else soon found out this was a cover for something much more special. Getting up to a spot overlooking the camp and glaciers, with the mountains in the



background Sander pointed out something behind Mandy, she turned to look and saw nothing (beside the gorgeous views) but upon turning back found Sander down on one knee. An Antarctic proposal!!! She said 'Yes' to this beautiful surprise that he had been planning for two months. Many cheers erupted from the camp site below. And seeming in perfect harmony with the romance of the evening an hour long sunset played out for us all to enjoy. It was difficult to pull ourselves away from the beauty to go to bed, but eventually we all made our ways to our bivies for a few hours of either sleeping or just laying there listening. Early in the morning we headed back for a hot shower and to our comfortable beds.



Kayaking

The weather had apparently settled a bit since we were blessed with another calm day on the water. We arrived in Neko Harbour and had an early start. The team was very organised and quick to change into kayaking gear and by 9:10 we were away from the ship and on the water. We paddled further into Andvord Bay, not too close to the ice cliffs. Though we did hear and see a small calving. We turned to see if we could



find the Humpback whales that were earlier close to the ship but Tamsin called on the radio and told us that there were whales right behind us. She had a good overview from her lofty position up the hill with the mountaineers. Unfortunately the whales were rather elusive and not really interested in us. They were feeding and stayed under water for several minutes at a time. Soon it was time to return to the ship. We had a last look but couldn't see the whales so headed back to the Plancius. It wasn't our last sighting of the whales though – Nico was following us with the kayak zodiac and the whales came up right next to him.

The afternoon kayaking was different again, no whale performance but we got close to some remaining fast ice between Goudier and Wiencke Island. A couple of Crabeater seals were resting on the ice. We paddled close to a rocky island and into the small bay at Jougla Point, where we saw polished rocks. At the end of the paddle we quickly transferred by zodiac back to the ship then changed into landing gear and went to Port Lockroy where we spent lots of hard earned money, supporting the cultural heritage of British bases in Antarctica.

Mountaineering

We spent the morning at Neko Harbour and made a gentle ascent to around 150 m above sea level on the steep slope that lies on the south side of the harbour. Here we watched the kayakers watching the Humpback whales in Andvord Bay below.



In the afternoon we travelled south to Doumer Island. With a keen group of mountaineers we set off for Doumer Hill but were stopped by the serious nature of the final summit ridge which was heavily corniced and steep in places. We made our high point around 300 m and then, short on time, we turned around and sped back to the landing site on the north of the island. Just above the landing site where two barrels have been left to rust in the snow, we encountered some crevasses. Two of the party went in knee deep at one point.

Day 6 – Wednesday January 3rd 2018

Damoy Point and Base Brown

0800 GPS Position: 64° 48' 5 S / 063° 29' 7 W

Wind: SE -3 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Snow Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 0°C



After breakfast landed in Dorian Bay. The first zodiac with the expedition team on board went scouting for a good landing side. The bay was very shallow which made for some challenging driving. In the middle of the bay the small sailing yacht 'Icebird' was anchored with mooring lines attached to the shore which created an even more challenging landing operation. All zodiacs had to go under the bow mooring line and over a second line to get to the beach where boulders covered by snow formed a natural staircase up onto the land. At the landing site was a small hut which was used to enable personnel and stores arriving by ship to be flown into Rothera Research

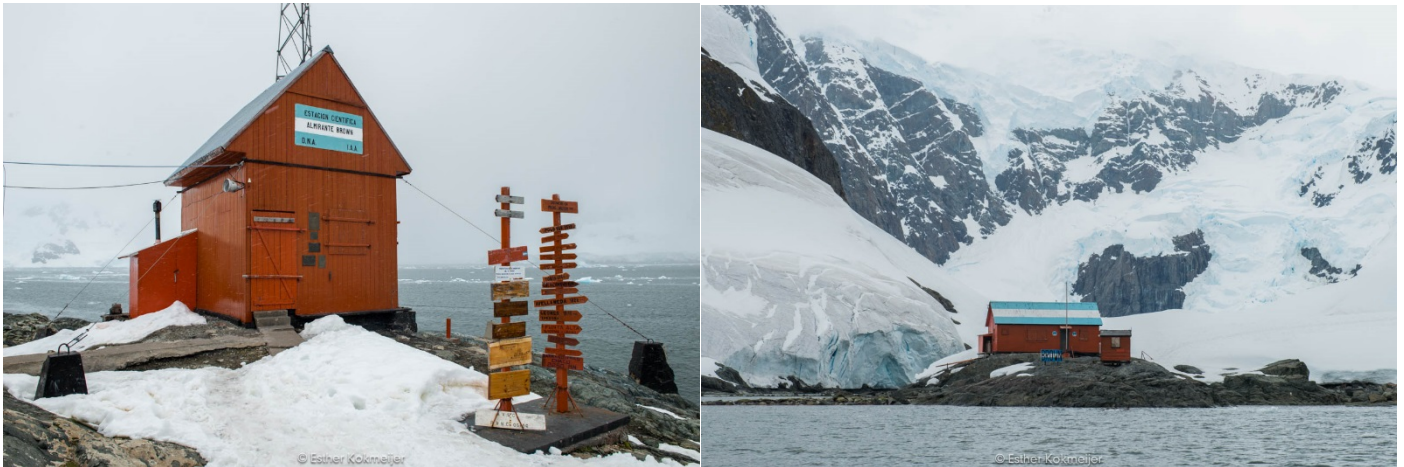
Station. It was last occupied in 1993 and now contains well preserved scientific equipment and other artefacts.

Nacho headed with snowshoes to the top of the ridge and everybody could follow him on a big circle around the island. Although the fog was closing in, we could still see Port Lockroy from the top. The wind blew snow around and we felt like we were really in Antarctica. During the walk we came across



some Gentoo penguin colonies and a penguin highway where penguins were making their way back and forth to the water. We also found two young Elephant seals hauled out on the rocks. Going back to the ship we had to repeat the same procedure going under and over the mooring lines with the zodiacs. Only now we had an outgoing tide. It was extremely shallow and the zodiacs couldn't come directly to the beach. Courageous Lynn was standing up to her waist in the water catching the zodiacs.

For the second landing we sailed to Paradise Harbour to visit Base Brown. Half of the group went ashore, stepping for the second time on the Antarctic continent. A flagged route took us to the remains of the base that was set aflame by the station doctor in 1984 because he didn't want to spend another winter there. Luckily nobody was hurt, but the Base was unoccupied for many years. Nowadays it is a summer only base



and the Argentinians are due to arrive by mid-January. At the time we visited it was still in the hands - or flippers - of the Gentoo penguins. Esther was situated near the base to help out with all kinds of camera settings and composition ideas. One of the passengers was an insect photographer and found two different kinds of insects for some macro photography. During our visit a penguin couple began to construct a new nest. It was extremely interesting to see how the nest was made by first scratching a hole in the ground and filling it with pebbles. It looked as if the female was close to laying eggs making all kinds of strange moves and behaviour. From the base we climbed up to a lookout, offering splendid views of the bay which was littered with icebergs.

The other half of the group went zodiac cruising. On the cruise we saw Blue eyed shags that nested high in the cliffs above us, green copper deposits, good examples of sedimentary folded rocks and of course glaciers.



Once back on the ship, Lynn told us about the plans for tomorrow, Sarah provided us with information about Elephant seals and Gracie prepared us for a special event tomorrow - two passengers would have their wedding ceremony.

Camping

This night was the windiest and most uncertain one of the camping nights, but luck was with us and it was not too windy for camping. Around eight o'clock everyone began layering up for the night ahead. Camping bags were handed out and everyone got into the zodiacs. Navigating the ice to get to our camping site, Leith Cove, was a mission, but with our excellent drivers we made



it to a place where we could climb ashore. Our camp site for the night had a 360 view of stunning icebergs, massive mountains and glaciers reaching out into the sea. Wind gusts made for a chilly yet adventurous night. Everyone set to digging their pits, sharing the shovels and working together. The snow was very hard and we used hard chunks of snow to build our camp shelter walls. There was some drama as humans turned penguin and started to steal pebble (snow chunks) from other camp sites. By the time we finished our photo shoot a quite few of us were chilled by the wind and headed for the protection of the bivy bags. Some slept well while others stayed awake, listening to the sound of falling ice, the gusting wind and avalanches from the mountains. The snow was still quite hard in the morning and after refilling the holes we happily headed home. Many of us saw our first Chinstrap penguins during this camping night!



Kayaking

We woke to a cold and snowy day, much greyer than the previous days. We came to Dorian Bay and proceeded to kit up and fit out boats as usual. However, the wind wasn't really cooperating, and blew at a steady 13-17 knots with some slightly stronger gusts coming through. It was hard to see where we would get some shelter as the bay itself was occupied by a yacht and the tide was receding making zodiac support difficult. We decided not to proceed and instead the team got a chance to go ashore and see the small hut at Damoy and the penguin colony. The decision was vindicated as later on the wind sprung up to around 20-25 knots which nobody wanted to be paddling in!

The afternoon was a different matter although it was still snowy and windy at the beginning. By the time we got to Base Brown and got the kayaks and kayakers ready, the wind had dropped and it had started to clear. There were a lot of small ice pieces in the water – growlers, bergy bits and brash ice– but we found a clear patch to launch the kayaks and paddled over to the base and then along the



steep cliffs of Skontorp Cove. At the glacier it was really still and calm and we could hear the sounds of cracking and groaning ice, accompanied by a couple of ice cliffs calving. We listened from a safe distance! It was a really beautiful, quiet experience and even though we missed the Minke whale that briefly surfaced, we had a fabulous afternoon.

Mountaineering

An alpine start saw us leaving Plancius at 5:30 with the aim of climbing Jabet Peak before lunch. Poor visibility ultimately prevented an ascent of Jabet, so after arriving at the West col below the main summit we changed plans and traversed left along the sharp ridge that leads to ‘Little Jabet.’ From here we lowered and abseiled to the slopes that face west above Dorian Bay,



taking great care not to knock down any loose rock. We were back on board Plancius by noon and thankfully in time for lunch.

Day 7 – Thursday January 4th 2017

Pleneau and Petermann

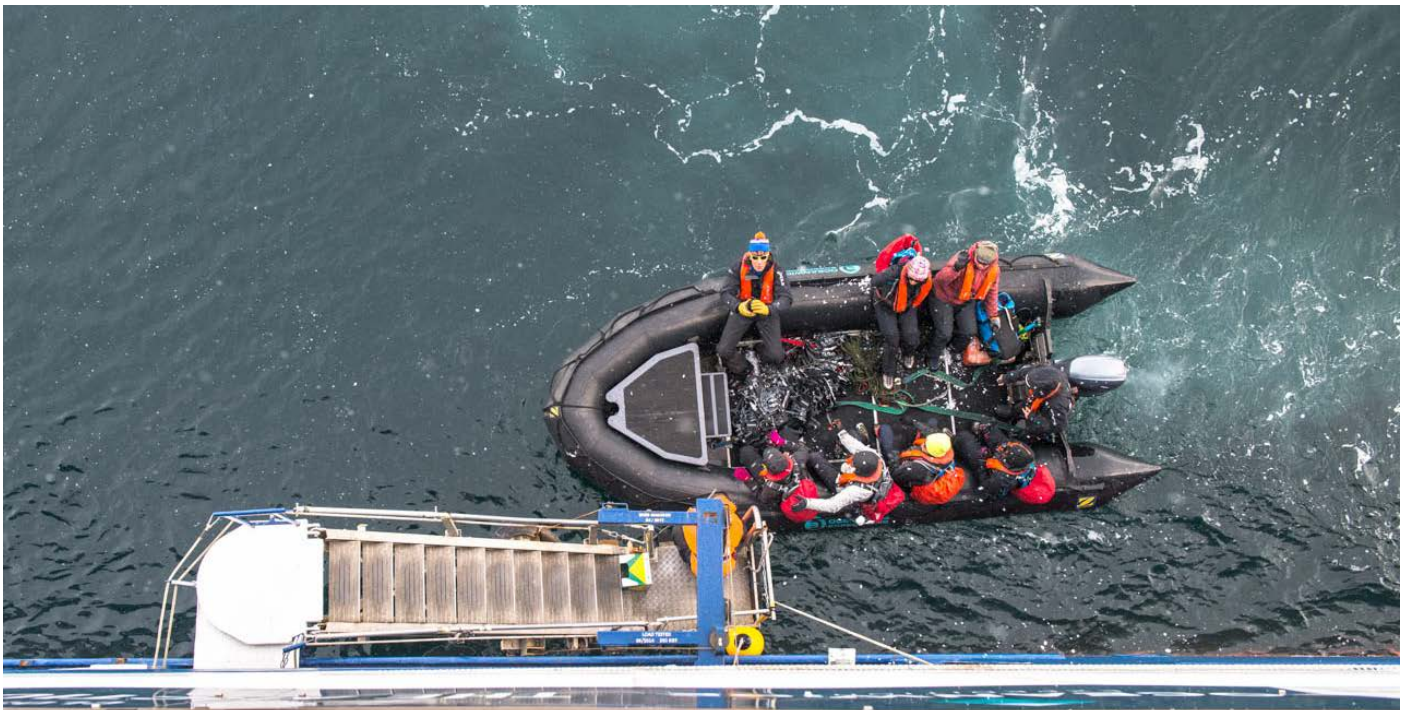
0800 GPS Position: 65° 02' 25 S / 063° 53' 4 W

Wind: E -4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Snow **Air Temp:** 1°C **Sea Temp:** 1°C

After we picked up the campers bright and early we sailed to the south. The day started with Lynn's wakeup call and a cruise through the Lemaire Channel. The narrow passage between Booth Island and the mainland is known as the most scenic place in Antarctica. It is also called Kodak Gap, because of the many photos that are taken here. With strong tidal currents it is never certain that the channel can be navigated, since ice can block it any time. However, we were lucky. Though there was some ice it wasn't blocking our way and with Captain Alexey at the helm we enjoyed the views of glaciated sheer cliff faces.



At the southern end of the Lemaire Channel we dropped the mountaineers at Hovgaard Island and continued to Pléneau Island. The area is known as iceberg alley or iceberg graveyard due to the many stranded icebergs that get trapped in the shallow waters. The light was perfect for the first round of zodiac cruising. We saw an ice floe with twelve crabeater seals and many, many icebergs. They came in all forms and shapes, sculpted by waves and the sea. One had an amazing arch, one was nearly clear and deep blue. During the second round of zodiac cruising it snowed heavily, the world around us disappeared and soon we all looked like snowmen. Some were lucky to see some Minke whales. But even with the snow the icebergs were impressive. It was very atmospheric.



While we warmed up over lunch the ship relocated to Peterman Island, named after a German cartographer. Since the usual landing site inside a rocky cove was blocked by ice we had to scramble over some big boulders to avoid the nesting Gentoo penguins. The orange hut close to the landing site was another Argentine refuge hut built in 1955. Many penguins used it as shelter and even a young elephant seal had chosen it for a nap. Through the snow we took a hike to a small hill where we could see Adelic penguins on their nests. Their chicks were dark grey and much bigger than their neighbours, the Gentoos. This was not really a surprise because Adélies, living normally further south, breed roughly three weeks earlier than Gentoo penguins. Apart from the wildlife there was one more point of interest: The wedding. In a ceremony led by Gracie, Nick and Brittany said yes to each other and a snowman bared witness. Many joined in and celebrated joyfully with them.



Just as we left Peterman Island it started to clear up and as we sailed through Penola Strait the sun poked through the clouds. The water was dead calm and every iceberg was mirrored in the water. As we sailed into the Lemaire Channel small snowflakes started to fall again. This time through the Lemaire our experience was totally different— ethereal and calm. While some enjoyed the meditative mood other partied on the deck behind the bridge where the hotel team had set up a mulled wine station. Pouring the drinks was penguin Bobby.

During recap we heard from Lynn about tomorrow's plans, from Yolly about different seals and from Katja about who Lemaire, Pléneau and Petermann were. After dinner the campers were dropped off at Stoney Point, a snow covered dome

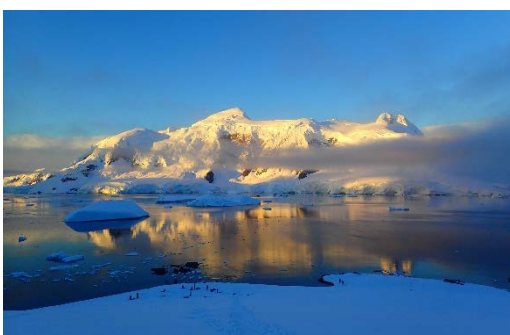




shaped island in Paradise Bay. The calm conditions continued. The bay was littered with ice, lit up by the low standing sun. Wispy clouds adorned the mountains and added to the mystery. It was such a magic evening. While we continued to cruise in Paradise Bay, many came out on deck. Two Minke whales surfaced repeatedly to loud cheers. Later the light turned from golden to pink then grey as the clouds lowered. The show was over.

Camping

Hard to believe that camping conditions could get even better than the previous nights, but they did! We had calm conditions with barely any wind, blue skies and a sunset to warm our souls, if not our feet. There was quite a thick layer of nice fluffy snow that was perfect for snowballs. Our camp site for the night, Stony Point, had amazing mountains in front and glaciers all around. It also had a big hill behind to walk up to for even more views. Setting up camp was a breeze and we had a lot of time to walk around and throw a few snowballs. It was impossible to take our eyes off the amazing sunset playing off the mountains in front of us - the lighting was fantastic and between us probably well over a thousand photos were taken throughout the evening. Out in the glossy calm waters a Minke whale was spotted - really it couldn't have been a more perfect evening. Everyone was woken up early with a lovely 'good morning' and after packing up and heading down to our landing site we got the pleasure of two Weddell seals that had come up on shore during the night. Saying goodbye to our campsite we headed back to the ship for either a hot drink in the lounge or a quick nap in our warm beds.



Kayaking

Some of the kayakers missed a bit of the Lemaire Channel as we were getting organised with clothing and kayaks. However, everybody was keen for a morning on the water and knew that we would be returning the same way. It was an extremely atmospheric day, lots of snow fell, visibility was poor, and the snow dampened all sounds. We paddled among some beautiful shaped icebergs on our way to Hovgaard Island which offered a little bit more shelter than Pléneau Island, and also plenty of wildlife in the shape of Gentoo penguins and Crabeater seals snoozing on ice floes. As the morning progressed the snow fell thicker and heavier and it felt more like a Northern European winter's day than a summer's day in Antarctica! In fact it was so thick we couldn't even see the ship on return and had to team up with the other zodiacs until the shape of the ship loomed out of the water. We didn't have enough time to kayak in the afternoon but everybody who had been on the water so far loved the experience!



Mountaineering

Logistically this was a tricky day as we traversed Hovgaard first from North to South with 14 mountaineers before traversing back South to North with a group of 12. The morning traverse was filled with excitement because we had very poor visibility and heavy snow plus we were unfamiliar with the slopes that lead from the Summit Southward. The whole trip felt adventurous and arriving at the remote South end seemed particularly special. The afternoon traverse was quite different with long stretches of blue sky and stunning views across the sea in every direction. A quartet of penguins greeted us with an impressive underwater display, and a slightly less impressive land based display, when we arrived at the North end. As we headed back to Plancius in the sunshine we were treated to an up close view of a Crabeater seal basking on an iceberg.



Day 8 –Friday January 5th 2017

Stony Point/ Enterprise & Foyn

0800 GPS Position: 61° 37' 9 S / 062° 38' 6 W

Wind: SW -3 Sea State: Slight Weather: P. cloudy Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 0°C



We awoke to a very atmospheric foggy day in Antarctica, but roughly half hour later the fog cleared leaving us with an absolutely stunning crisp blue day. First off the ship were the mountaineers who were dropped at Spigot Peak by Sara and Katia. After a delicious breakfast we donned our warm clothing and got ready to get into the zodiacs for a short ride to the Orne Islands. These

low-lying islands are found at the entrance to the Errera Channel and the largest of the islands rises to around 75 metres. Once ashore we got our first glimpse of Chinstrap penguins which were interspersed with other groups of Gentoo penguins. We could clearly see why they are called 'Chinstrap penguins' as they have a very obvious dark line around their chin. The snow was quite hard ashore and so we were able to walk easily up the hill without any snowshoes. As we climbed we were able to see some small colonies of Chinstraps, Kelp gulls, Skuas and Humpback whales in the distance. At the top of the hill we were greeted with a spectacular view of the Antarctic continent. Happily we snapped many beautiful pictures. There was so much to take in and in no time at all it was time to go back to the ship. We did a quick iceberg cruise on our way back and marvelled at the incredible shapes and patterns of the icebergs that were glistening in the sun.



After lunch, the ship started to make its way north to Enterprise Island and Føyn Harbour. While we were on our way Lynn announced that there were Orcas approaching the ship. It was quite a large group of approximately 15-20 Orcas. The Orcas were hunting and at one point came really close to the ship, allowing us to get some great photos. When we analysed our pictures later we came to the conclusion that they were Gerlache Type B Orcas.



The Orcas had a yellow colouration, a characteristic that is a product of the diatoms that live in Antarctic waters and a good hint that they were Type B's. These Orcas eat a variety of food including fish and penguins in comparison to the Type A orcas who specialise in hunting Minke whales. We stayed with the Orcas for approximately half an hour before continuing on our journey to Enterprise Island.

Enterprise Island was charted by de Gerlache during the Belgian Antarctic Expedition in 1898 and was known to whalers who operated in this region since the early 1900's. The ship arrived at Enterprise Island after approximately four hours steaming from the Orne Islands. The mountaineers were dropped off on the opposite side of Enterprise Island at what looked like a spectacular climb. Soon after, five more zodiacs were lowered into the water and we prepared for our zodiac cruise. The weather was calm, clear and beautiful and we put on lots of sunscreen to avoid getting sunburnt. Our first stop on the cruise was the wreck of the *Guvernøren*, a 3433 ton ship that was built as a cargo carrier in the UK in 1891. She was bought by a Norwegian whaling company and worked briefly as a whaling vessel in Antarctic until she unfortunately caught fire on January 27, 1915. The ship was then grounded at Enterprise Island in order to rescue men and supplies. As we got closer we could see Antarctic terns nesting and Kelp gulls flying around the ship. Some of us were also lucky to see a large piece of ice give way and come crashing down behind the wreck – a small wake up call to remind us how unstable the ice cliffs can be. As we left the wreck and rounded the corner we came across two wooden boats as well as metal anchoring points attached to rocks - all artefacts leftover



from the whaling period. Further on we were greeted with the most extraordinary ice sculpture display – there was everything from great ice castles to shallow icy swimming pools to dramatic ice arches all with exquisite patterns formed when the ice was once underwater. Many of us were fortunate to spot Weddell seals, King cormorants, Kelp gulls and even Chinstrap penguins. Humpback whales were sighted briefly during the first cruises.

Back on board, we were treated to an exceptional dinner as always and then it was time for our daily recap. Lynn briefed us on tomorrow's plans while Sarah gave us a great recap on Orcas and the different types that occur in and around Antarctic waters. Katja provided a brief but very informative background on Deception Island and the volcanic activity in the region leaving us all hungry to experience this dramatic and unique landing site tomorrow. For those that still had the energy, the bar was open and time was spent happily recounting the day's events.

Kayaking

We were now into a continuing spell of good weather. The sea around Orne Islands was calm. A little breeze meant that we had to use our paddling skills to hold position when we regrouped. There was a wonderful rocky shore with some shallow sections than we avoided. Just off shore some great icebergs bobbed in the sea like spectacular castles. We dodge the bergs and were able to see the Chinstrap penguin colonies and an elephant seal weaner from the water before returning to the ship.



The afternoon group was also lucky, if anything it was even calmer and everyone was on a high after the first sighting of Orcas on the voyage – about 15 or so of them feeding around the ship on our journey north. We paddled over to the Guvernøren wreck, but looked from a sensible distance as there was evidence of recently collapsed ice cliffs. We weren't going to tempt fate on such a warm day. We could see the mountaineers steadily ascending the ridge above the wreck site and soon everyone was paddling hatless and gloveless on this sunny calm day. We went to look at the remains of some old water boats on an islet nearby and then paddled south following the rocky shores populated by a shag colony. We came to impressive ice cliffs and could hear creaks and groans of the ice. Under a beautiful blue sky and exceptionally flat waters we gathered and headed back to the ship.

Mountaineering

Our ascent of Spigot Peak was completed in near perfect weather with an audience of Chinstrap penguins observing our progress. Although a relatively short outing Spigot is still an interesting mountaineering challenge with steep and exposed terrain demanding the use of crampons and axes. It seems that Chinstraps make surprisingly good mountaineers as we came across them negotiating steep snow slopes with ease up to 200m above sea level. One breeding pair had even hatched chicks just below the summit, a good spot to avoid leopard seals but a long trek



to feed your chicks. In the afternoon we had a blissful stroll, East to West across Enterprise Island in the sun. Not much height gain or distance but a beautiful walk with outstanding photo opportunities.

Day 9 – Saturday January 6th 2017

Yankee Harbour, Deception and Whalers Bay

0800 GPS Position: 62° 31' 4 S / 059° 48' 4 W

Wind: Var 1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Clean **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 2°C

With the weather forecast looking promising for the Drake Passage, Lynn and Captain Alexey (who was celebrating his 40th birthday!) decided to give us one last action-packed day before heading North. It was an early wakeup call in an effort to maximize time, but with it came good news, as there were several Humpbacks to be seen feeding for those that could drag themselves from their slumber and head out on deck before breakfast.

Overnight we had made good progress up the Bransfield Strait and were in position by 7am for our landing at Yankee Harbour, located on the southwest end of Greenwich Island in the South Shetlands. Just as we were about to board the zodiacs a curious Leopard seal decided to approach the gangway to take a closer look at the Plancius and its passengers. For many on board this was their first Leopard seal sighting of the trip so understandably it caused plenty of excitement. As time was of the essence today, the expedition team continued with zodiac operations



and shuttled us ashore. Yankee Harbour is a small glacial-edged harbour, enclosed by a curved gravel spit. Along the shoreline we could see lots of artefacts from early sealing activities, including a trypot which was used to boil the blubber of the seals they caught. The gravel beach and scree slopes were a hive of activity for wildlife, with lots of Gentoo penguins feeding chicks, a small gathering of Chinstrap penguins and even a solitary Adelie penguin looking slightly confused to his neighbours. There was also a couple of juvenile Elephant seals hauled out on the beach who seemed happy to pose for our photos. They would even let out the occasional belch and snort for our amusement. Towards the far end of the spit, a Leopard seal was enjoying a morning snooze in the sun on the shoreline, it was fantastic to see this incredible predator up

close. As always with landings like this, time was our greatest enemy and before we knew it, it was time to head back to the ship, but what a morning it had been!

Back on board most of us gathered in the lounge for hot chocolate, tea or coffee whilst Plancius lifted anchor and set sail to Deception Island. The visibility was great and we could see whale blows all around, most likely those of Humpbacks, which encouraged people back out on to deck to enjoy the wonderful weather.



We had an early buffet lunch and by about 1 pm we could see Deception Island ahead of us. The island is named because it conceals an inner harbour within a flooded volcanic caldera. The captain carefully directed Plancius through the narrow entrance known as Neptune's Bellows, avoiding the treacherous Ravn Rock which lurks beneath the surface waiting to founder ships. Once safely inside we anchored in Whalers Bay, the site of a former whaling station from the early part of the twentieth century.



The whaling station then became a British Research Station but after the famous volcanic eruption all stations on the island had to be abandoned.

We landed by an old dry dock structure amidst the steam of the thermally heated waters and sulphur smells all around and soon stood on the black volcanic sandy beach.



We explored the outside of the abandoned buildings, the airplane hangar and grave sites. Katja led a walk along the shore line towards Neptune's Window, passing the old water boats and a resting Leopard seal along the way. Most of us continued up to the viewpoint with her where there was a wonderful view across the Bransfield Strait, in fact if we looked intently we could see the Antarctic Peninsula over 40 miles away. For those feeling brave, a second polar plunge was offered, which of course provided entertainment for those choosing to stay dry on land.



Back on board there was time for a hot shower and warming drink before Katja's lecture on the effects of climate change on Antarctica. Just before dinner, the expedition team invited us to the daily recap. The plans for the following day were quite simple: We would be sailing the Drake Passage. Nacho gave us a brief run down on Antarctica's vital statistics and Sara explained some of the most common seafaring superstitions which left us hoping good fortune might be on our side and we would get a calm and safe crossing back to Ushuaia.

Kayaking

Our 7 AM start went really smoothly despite the early hour as everybody had been issued clothing and sorted their kayaks the night before. So accompanied by a Leopard seal, a small team of 8 plus Fran in one zodiac driven by Nico headed across the glassy smooth waters of Yankee Harbour and put in by the spit. For the first time in this trip we heard the sound of wavelets breaking on a shingle and cobble shore – rather than rock and snow. Welcome to the South Shetlands! The Leopard seal dropped back to check out the zodiacs which was a mixed blessing but we spotted one on the shore so paddled in for a closer look. It had a very pale coat and was lying in a slight dip resting idly in the sun so wasn't immediately identifiable as a leopard – until it raised its head! We rafted up for a 'cuddle' over the other side of the bay and sat for a few minutes listening to the gentoos, some arguing gulls and the ice cracking. Beautiful peace!



Day 10 – Sunday January 7th, 2018

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60° 31' 3 S / 063° 49' 7 W

Wind: NE -3 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 1°C

No wakeup call this morning! 😊

After a beautiful last day in the Antarctic we were heading back North. During the whole night and most of the day the Drake Passage was more a big “Drake Lake”. Calm winds and small waves made the ship movements hardly noticeable.

After 7 days of action, landings, zodiac cruises and all different daily activities this day on Drake was for many a day of recharging - long sleep, several naps and relaxing in the lounge. Perfect time to reflect on these last amazing days.

In between naps and resting we could attend four interesting lectures - a firework of knowledge from the experts: Lynn’s lecture about different kinds of Penguins, their different reproduction cycle, feeding, etc. Yolly’s presentation of life in the deep Antarctic ocean with its amazing and giant creatures and a little glimpse into Blue Planet II, Katja’s lecture on ice, the Antarctic icecap, icebergs and last but not least Chef Ralph’s lecture about food and cooking on board.



After a last briefing by Hotel Manager Zsuzsanna about disembarkation, everyone could vote for his/her favorite photo in the passengers’ photo competition in four categories: Wildlife, Landscape, Ice(berg) and Emotions. The slideshow of the amazing photos brought back many unforgettable impressions we had during the last days.



Later in the evening while heading up North with full speed “Camp Plancius” was born. Lots of us stayed in the lounge playing music and games in romantic sunset light.

The winners of the photo competition are:

Wildlife



Landscape



Ice(berg)



Emotions



Day 11 – Monday January 8th 2018

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 56° 03' 9 S / 067° 14' 5 W

Wind: NE -7 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 9°C Sea Temp: 8°C



Overnight we made good progress towards South America and just before breakfast Lynn announced that we would be close to Cape Horn in a few minutes. It was windy and sometimes spray came over the bow, but nobody wanted to miss out on seeing Cape Horn. We approached to 3 nautical miles, the closest the Chilean officials would allow us. Through binoculars we could see the albatross monument at the cape. Katja read out a wonderful poem that is inscribed on the monument. *"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 eternity in the last trough of the Antarctic wind."

Some real life black-browed albatrosses and giant petrels greeted us gliding over the crests of the waves. The sun came out and several Peal's dolphins appeared. They played around the bow sometimes jumping clear out of the water. It was wonderful.

At 9:30 Fran invited us to the lounge for a presentation about a bygone era when there were sledge dogs in Antarctica. It started with the historic expeditions of Scott and Amundsen, but continued into modern times until 1994 when dogs had to be removed due to the Madrid Protocol, which does not allow "foreign organisms" in Antarctica. The dogs were often the best friends for the over-winterers and they showered them with affection, especially when there were puppies around.

Next in line was Yolly's talk about film making. When not on the ship Yolly works for the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol as a researcher. Together with Sir David Attenborough she worked on the series Blue Planet II. In her talk she provided a good insight into how much



work is necessary to make movies like Frozen Planet that we all so enjoy.

After lunch the Plancius cinema opened its doors and we watched a film called "Around Cape Horn" which was filmed in the 1920's by Irving Johnson. He was a young man on the ship who then went on to become a well-known and experienced Captain, sailing multiple times around the world. It was an entertaining narration of some incredible footage of the days of sailing in these southern waters. It also made us realise that we travelled so much more comfortably, having a reliable engine, warm and dry cabins and three nice meals each day.



After the movie Katja invited us to the dining room for a presentation about the time she spent with the German Antarctic Programme at Neumayer Base. She also worked with the Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Programs studying ozone and drilling ice cores. She gave us a fabulous insight into her work but also into day-to-day life down on the Ice.

The last household chore of the afternoon, other than packing, was to return our rubber boots to the boot room. These sturdy 'Muck Boots' had kept our feet warm and dry during the voyage and we were grateful to have had them for our adventures in Antarctica.



In the evening we met in the lounge for Captain's Cocktails. Together with Lynn and Captain Alexey we toasted to a wonderful voyage. Captain Alexey did some amazing navigation with Plancius, taking us close to whales and icebergs. Esther had put together a slide show of the trip together with some fitting music. It was lovely to look back over the last 11 days on board Plancius and to remember the places we had visited and the wonderful things we had seen.

Day 12 – Tuesday January 9th 2018

Disembarkation Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: Ushuaia Port

Wind: NE -5 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 12°C Sea Temp: 12°C

We were woken by the last wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Lynn and got ready to disembark for the final time. We didn't have to turn our tags, there was no zodiac ride ashore and it was a dry landing. The last 12 days have taken us on a remarkable journey into Antarctica and allowed us a glimpse of life in these remote and sometimes inhospitable places. We will all have different memories of our trip but whatever the memories, whether it was the penguins on their nests, the new-born chicks, the exciting rides in the zodiac or the sight of the icebergs in Antarctica for the first, they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.



Total distance sailed on our voyage:

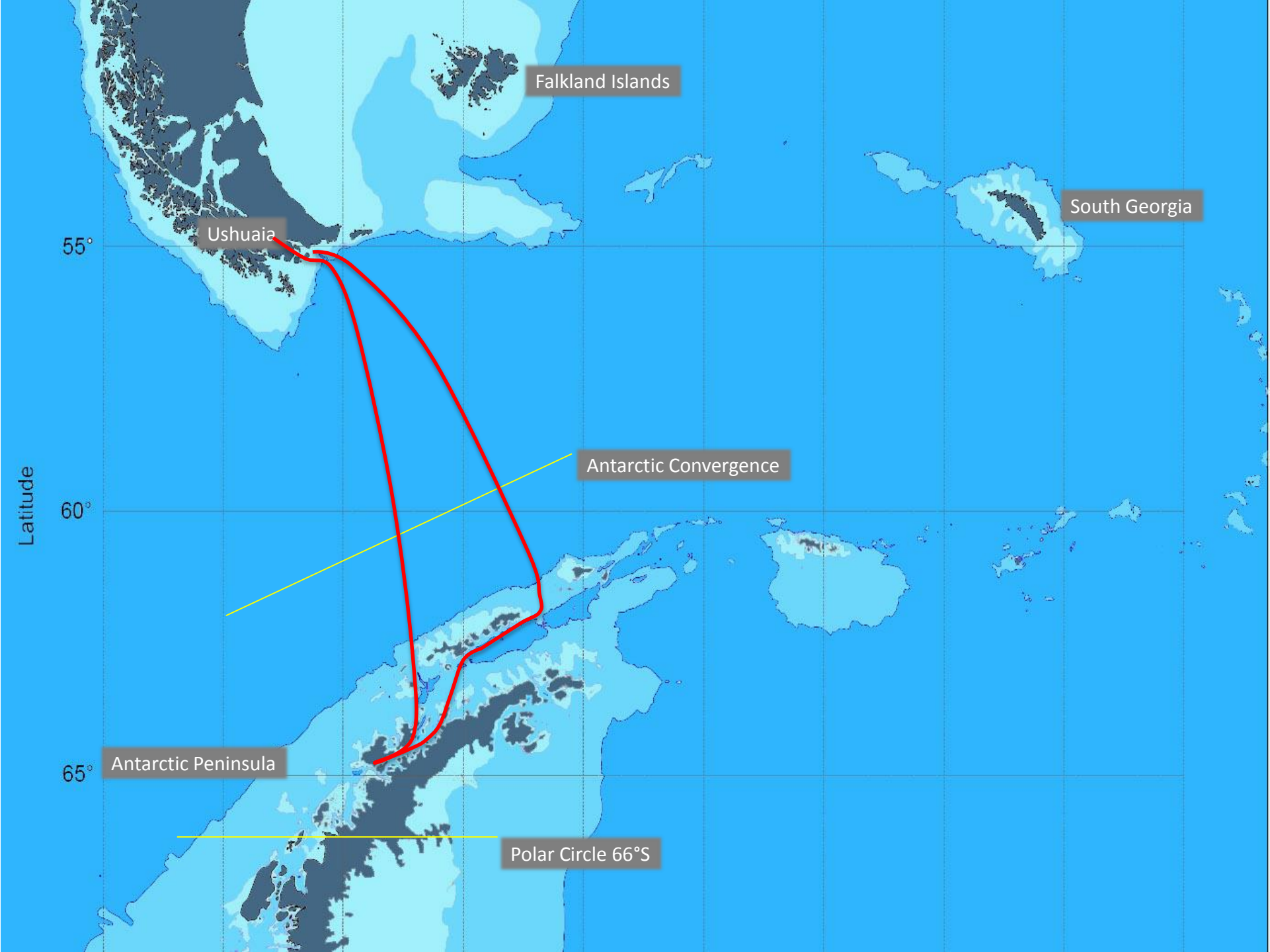
Nautical miles: 1,917

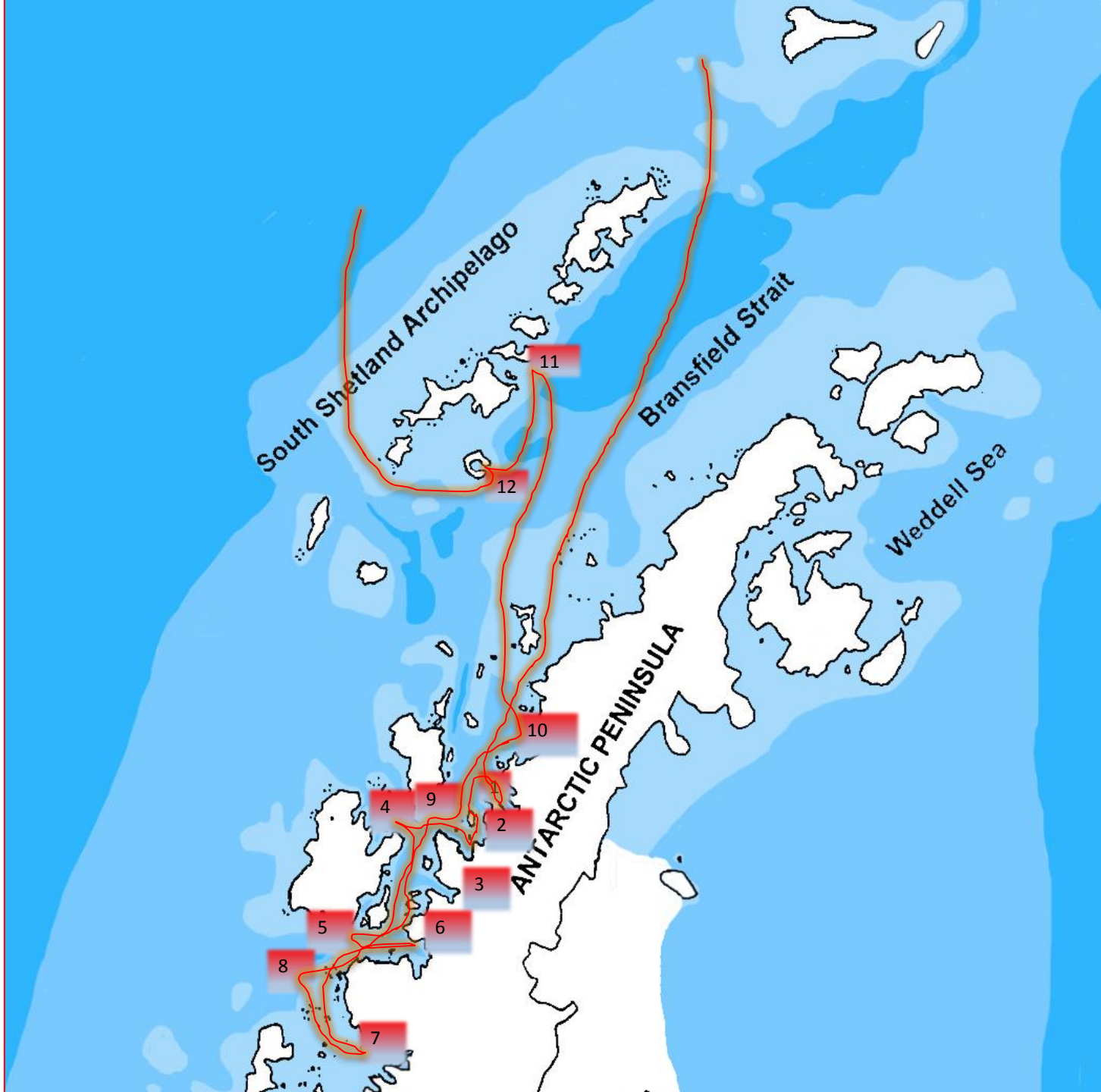
Kilometres: 3,365



And behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Alexey Nazarov, Expedition Leader Lynn Woodworth and all the crew and staff, we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.







- 1- Cuverville Island
- 2- Danco Island
- 3- Neko Harbour
- 4- Port Lockroy / Jougla Point
- 5- Damoy Point
- 6- Paradise Bay
- 7- Peterman Island
- 8- Pleneau Island
- 9- Orne Island
- 10- Føyn Harbour/Enterprise
- 11- Yankee Harbour
- 12- Deception Island

Dr. Lynn Woodworth – Expedition Leader



Lynn comes from the mountains and lakes of western Canada, where she found her love for wilderness and cold water. She started travelling at 17 and eventually settled in Australia, where she completed two biology degrees, including a PhD in Conservation Genetics, which examined minimum viable population size in wildlife.

Resuming travel after academia, she abandoned her motorcycle in Argentina to sail to the Antarctic Peninsula. Hooked! She has been working in the Polar Regions ever since. Up north, she has taken ships to arctic Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Russia, and the North Pole. Down south, she is well-familiar with the Falklands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula but will swap for the remote Ross Sea any time.

Lynn stopped counting polar trips at somewhere over 135 voyages and 17 different vessels. She has held most ship-based roles including lecturer, guide, zodiac driver, Assistant Expedition Leader, and Expedition Leader, and she has also worked on shore as Operations Manager.

She has co-authored two books on Antarctica: "Antarctica - The Complete Story", published on three continents, and "The Blue Continent" in 17 languages and counting. Lynn has recently moved to Tasmania, where she is as close to Antarctica as she can get and still be in Australia.

Dr Katja Riedel – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

The Polar Regions have always fascinated Katja. On private adventures she skied over 220 km through Svalbard, sailed on 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 24-hour sundial, watching emperor penguin chicks 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.

Yolly Bosiger – Expedition Guide



Yoland grew up on a sailing boat and circumnavigating the world until she was eight years old. When her parents settled in North Queensland Australia, Yoland quickly learned to dive and spent her later school years working as a PADI Dive Master and underwater photographer. Yoland completed a combined Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) – Bachelor of Laws degree at James Cook University in Australia and worked as Dive Officer of her University Dive Club. During her degree, she worked with

White Sharks at the South African Marine Predator Lab and conducted independent research at the National Institute for Research in Manaus, Brazil. Following her undergraduate degree, Yoland completed her Honours investigating the temporal foraging behaviour of coral reef fish. Yoland then worked as a research assistant at the Lizard Island Research Station in Australia and has extensive experience running and conducting marine biology experiments.

In 2012, Yoland received the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society Rolex Scholarship and was given the opportunity to travel the world gaining more experience with marine related industries. Through the Scholarship, Yoland trained on the Evolution Rebreather, completed her Introduction to Cave Course and dived in over 16 different countries around the world including two Antarctic trips with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Following her Scholarship, Yoland moved to the United Kingdom where she has been working in Natural History TV for the last three and a half years. Yoland completed her HSC Scuba Diving Certificate and is responsible for setting up, supervising and directing dive shoots. Over the last two years she has spent time filming everything from intimate new coral reef behaviour to incredible aggregations of whales to the weirdest of deep sea creatures.

Sara Jenner – Expedition Guide



For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth. Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and every Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point,

the travel addiction was born.

Sara is a keen photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the Polar Regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River, so really has a life of two halves.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents and she has travelled extensively in the Polar Regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug again hit and Sara decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and has just enjoyed her first Arctic season as part of an expedition team.

Nacho Marino – Snowshoe Guide



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

From the age of 14 he has spent many seasons working in tourism, at first taking care of Huskies who pulled sledges in winter. Then over the years he worked with many different hiking and trekking companies. He has taken tourists to hidden lagoons, glaciers and different viewpoints in the mountains surrounding Ushuaia.

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

He is also an active circus clown using this as a job when he is traveling around the world and he always carries juggling toys with him. In his first season in Antarctica he had the chance to marry a couple at the polar circle in Detalle Island, since then some of the crew call him "The Minister". Ignacio is also a zodiac driver for all weather conditions.

Fran Pothecary – Kayak Guide



Though originally from the flatlands of east England, Fran has lived in the Highlands of Scotland for the past 27 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, climbing, 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.

Tamsin Gay – Mountaineering Leader



Tamsin Gay is a mountaineering instructor and guide. She has worked all over the world taking parties on major summits, rock climbs, ski journeys and ice climbs in challenging and remote locations. She is an aspirant IFMGA mountain guide, the highest qualification in the world for leading people in the mountains.

Something of a vagrant, she lives largely in her van in laybys across Europe but she is originally from Edinburgh in Scotland, U.K.

Her personal mountaineering achievements include a ski ascent and descent of Mt Elbrus as part of the first British team to do so and approximately 40 Alpine 4000 m summits.

Her greatest successes, however, are goals she has attained with clients where she continually finds motivation in the many layers of satisfaction that comes from helping others realise their ambitions in the mountains. She guided for example on Mera Peak and Island Peak in Nepal, Killimanjaro in Tanzania and Mt Blanc, Matterhorn, and Grand Paradiso in Europe.

Mike Madden – Mountain Guide



Mike learned mountaineering skills while studying outdoor education and after several years working as an outdoor instructor moved to Mt Cook village to pursue his climbing passion full time. Mike is now a professionally qualified IFMGA mountain and ski guide based in Queenstown New Zealand and owner of his own Queenstown based mountain & ski guiding company.

Over the winter season Mike guides backcountry ski touring trips and teaches avalanche courses as well as working as a lead heli-skiing guide and avalanche forecaster. In the summer season Mike guides ascents of the high peaks of New Zealand's Southern Alps. Mike has worked as a professional climbing, skiing, and expedition guide throughout the world including Mt Everest in 2014 & 2015.

Mike is a passionate climbing and ski photographer and enjoys capturing the incredible landscapes and unique experiences in the mountain environment. The challenge of matching different skill levels, locations, and mountain activities keeps Mike motivated to continue this lifestyle.

In his spare time you will see Mike kitesurfing in the Southern Lakes area, New Zealand's south coast, or travelling with his kite and surf board.

Grace Bodo – Camping Guide



Grace grew up in the United States and since completing her studies has spent the last 6 years exploring the globe. Her biggest passion is travel and she loves exploring all the different aspects, cultures and natures of our world.

In her traveling life Grace has worked in many adventurous roles. A few of her favorites include living in the most remote parts of New Zealand wilderness for months on end hunting possums, commercial salmon fishing in Alaska, sailing through the Arctic, working on a Russian ship in the Sub-Antarctic down towards the Ross

sea and most recently sailing around to all the small islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean where she was giving lifesaving medical training to small villages on small, beautiful islands. In 2015 Grace sailed on a 47 foot sail boat of 5 people from New York, up to Greenland and across the top of North America to Alaska, being the 127th sail boat to ever successfully sail the North West Passage. Grace is very experienced leading in the outdoors and maintaining morale while sea sick. She is the type who knows a little bit of a lot of different things and loves picking up new skills and random bits of knowledge.

As a traveler when she is not guiding she spends a lot of her time volunteering, enjoys sleeping in her tent or hammock and her favorite mode of transportation is hitch hiking, meeting amazing people from all walks of life. She has lived in the Netherlands, Israel, New York, Mexico, Turkey, New Zealand, Indonesia and Tonga. She has spent time in over 70 countries and plans to continue traveling for many more years.

Her future plans include continuing as a guide with Oceanwide on their various and amazing expeditions around the globe. Also she is considering this 2018 to join a 124 foot sail boat of dysfunctional but lovely crew who are attempting to not only sail the North West Passage but to get as close to the North Pole as any sail boat has in history.

Grace has years of experience looking after people and keeping everything running smoothly. She works well with people because she is thoughtful, helpful and genuinely cares that you are happy, safe and enjoying yourself as much as possible. You will likely always see Grace smiling during the voyage, she is living the life of her dreams as a guide and is always thrilled to be anywhere in the Antarctic. What makes this adventure to Antarctica extra special for Grace is being able to share it with everyone on board and she is really looking forward to meeting you!

Benjamin Giunchi – Camping Guide



Ben comes from the country side of Argentina, known as “The Pampas”. Since young age he enjoyed nature. Having travelled around Argentina for a few years he discovered his passion for Patagonia and the mountains. This also piqued a curiosity about glaciers and wildlife. In consequence he became a guide in the area around El Calafate and El Chaltén.

Having had the chance to share time in the outdoors with people around the world, he became a tour leader. He expanded his knowledge about South America culture and took courses to get closer to his dream... Antarctica!!!

I invite you to share all the good vibes and enjoy a unique place in the world and your life... WELCOME TO YOUR ADVENTURE!!

Esther Kokmeijer – Photo Guide



Esther Kokmeijer was born in Dokkum in the Netherlands. She is an artist, explorer, designer and photo-grapher, currently residing in Rotterdam and working around the globe. She studied graphic design at the ArtEZ Institute of the Arts and later managed her own design studio, besides working as a travel photographer for magazines and newspapers.

Since 2008 she works as an independent artist. Her work has been exhibited and published worldwide. For various projects, she visited 83 countries.

Furthermore, she participated in art residency programs in the Netherlands, Indonesia, South Korea, Greenland, Antarctica, Spitsbergen, Germany, France, Mongolia, and China.

In 2013 she studied Arctic and Antarctic Science at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. Since 2013 she seasonally works as an expedition photographer in the Arctic and Antarctic. She is also on the board of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists in the Netherlands.

Esther is interested in how art and science can reinforce each other. For various artistic research projects she collaborates with scientists and other professionals. With these collaborative projects she is trying to open up alternative routes to lucid and 'visual comprehension' of scientific research. For one of the projects she is collaborating with the scientist Maarten Loonen (Station manager of the Dutch Arctic Station on Spitsbergen; affiliated to the University of Groningen), to depict the tremendous migration route of the Arctic tern. Every year this bird flies from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back. A journey that can entail

more than 90.000 kilometers annually. For another project she collaborates with oceanologist Gerbrant van Vledder on a project about wave navigation on the Marshall Islands. Navigating through reading the waves and finding the path between the waves. The world at large and the connections and movements within it are the main focus of Esther's work as an artist and photographer. This stems from an urge to discover, order and represent the world's (natural) phenomena on the macro and micro level. At the moment Esther is working on publishing the first international magazine which is entirely dedicated to Antarctica. It will bring together artistic and scientific exploration within the context of an 'awe inspiring and thought-provoking' place; Antarctica.



Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 45 including:

Chief Officer:	Jaanus Hannes	[Estonia]
2nd Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Clarence Pamine	[Phillipines]
Chief Engineer:	Teunis van't Verlaat	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Bobby Manevski	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Lars Prater	[Germany]
Ship's Physician:	Eva-Maria Kifmann	[Switzerland]
Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada/Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Yolly Bosiger	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Snowshoe Guide	Nacho Marino	[Argentina]
Kayak Guide:	Fran Potheary	[Great Britain]
Mountain Leader:	Tamsin Gay	[Great Britain]
Mountain Guide:	Michael Madden	[New Zealand]
Camping Guide:	Grace Bodo	[USA]
Camping Guide:	Benjamin Giunchi	[Argentina]
Photo Guide:	Ester Kokmeijer	[Netherlands]

Welcome you on board!



Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

Embarkation in Ushuaia

Friday 29th December 2017

Welcome on board! Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. *After we are all on board*, please check your luggage and notify Reception if you are missing anything or have the wrong luggage.

~1700 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill in the Lounge.**

ALL passengers are required to attend this very important safety briefing!

~1800 Approximate sailing time. As we leave Ushuaia we recommend that you enjoy the views from the outside decks.

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

~1845 Soon after sailing we would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Lynn Woodworth** 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.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **Dining Room**, located on **Deck 3** behind Reception. Bon appétit!

This evening we will be sailing into the Drake Passage. Please secure all breakable items (cameras, computers, etc.), doors and drawers in your cabin, take sea-sickness medication if necessary and always keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship.



Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

At sea towards Antarctica
Saturday 30th December 2017

0745 Wake-up call.

0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Restaurant (Deck 3) for one hour.

1030 Please come to the Lounge (Deck 5) for a **kayaking briefing** with Fran. This is mandatory if you wish to kayak.

1130 Join us in the Lounge for Episode 1 of **Frozen Planet**, 'To the Ends of the Earth'. Now that we are on our way to Antarctica, come and watch some fantastic polar footage.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Restaurant.

1500 Please come to the Lounge (Deck 5) for a **mountaineering briefing** with Tamsin and Mike. This is mandatory if you wish to go mountaineering.

1630 Katja would like to share her passion and inside knowledge of the seventh continent. Come to the Restaurant for an **Introduction to Antarctica**.

1830 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap** where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Bon appétit.

We will be sailing in the Drake Passage.

Please secure all breakable items (cameras, computers, etc.), doors and drawers in your cabin, take sea-sickness medication if necessary and m always keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship.

- 0745 Wakeup call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1015 Please come to the Restaurant and join Esther for her talk on **Polar Photography**. She will also explain how you can join her on photo-workshops ashore.
- 1130 If you are interested to go **Camping in Antarctica** please join Ben and Grace in the Lounge for the camping briefing.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- After lunch the **ship shop** will be open at Reception for the first and only time during the voyage.
- 1430 Please come to the Lounge and join Lynn for the **mandatory IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing**. Everybody who wants to go ashore in Antarctica will have to come to this briefing!
- ~1530 **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.
- 1800 **Recap:** This is your opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forwards to tomorrow's plans.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!
- ~2130 Make your way to the bar and help bring in the New Year with quiz and fun!!

Please be careful on the stairs and with the heavy doors when the ship is moving.

0715 Wakeup call

0730 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.

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

0800 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).

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

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

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

This afternoon we plan to go ashore at Danco Island. Here we can offer time with Gentoo penguins and a hike to the top of the island. We hope to offer the Polar Plunge at the end of the landing! Please wear your swimming gear under everything, but DO NOT BRING YOUR TOWEL FROM YOUR CABIN. We will provide towels.

1330 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

1345 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).

1430 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1830 Please come to the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

1900 Please come to the back of Deck 3 (behind the Dining Room) for our **special Antarctic BBQ**. Dress warmly and bring your dancing shoes.

2030 **Camping Group 1 – Kerr Point, Ronge Island**

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

Antarctic Basecamp

Neko and
Port Lockroy & Jougla Point
Tuesday 2nd January 2018

0645 Wake-up call

0700 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

After breakfast we plan to go ashore at Neko Harbour. The nearby glacier is very scenic, but it can calve unexpectedly and cause a flood wave, please stay at least 15 m away from the shoreline! We can watch Gentoo penguins here and walk up to a view point.

0730 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

0745 **Kayakers** meet with Fran on the aft Deck 3

~0830 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

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

1400 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

1400 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

1430 Please join us in the Lounge for a **Briefing on Port Lockroy** by one of the staff from the base, who will outline the history and management of Goudier Island and the UKAHT.

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

1830 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

1900 Dinner buffet is available in the Dining Room. Campers please come early for dinner.

2030 **Camping Group 2 – Dorian Bay**

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



Antarctic Basecamp

**Damoy Point, Brown Station
and Skontorp Cove**

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

0445 Snacks in Lounge for Mountaineers

0515 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

0715 Wake-up call

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

We plan to go ashore at Damoy Point, which was used as a transit station for British Antarctic Survey staff and stores being flown south to Rothera Station. We will visit the hut and a Gentoo Penguin colony. Esther will offer a photo workshop on shore, and Nacho will take the snowshoe hikers for a good walk.

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

~0830 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

This afternoon we plan to go ashore at Base Brown. This will be another Continent landing, plus a Zodiac cruise in Skontorp Cove with spectacular glacier views and Antarctic Cormorants. The first 4 zodiacs will land while the rest cruise, then we will trade.

1400 Kayakers meet Fran in the Library.

1400 Mountaineers meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).

~1430 Everyone else going ashore please come to the gangway.

1830 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

1900 Dinner buffet is available in the Dining Room. Campers please come early for dinner.

2030 **Camping Group 3 – Leith Cove**

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



Antarctic Basecamp

Lemaire Channel, Pleneau Island
& Petermann Island

Thursday 4th January 2018

0715 Wake-up call

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

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

At the southern end of the Lemaire Channel lies Pléneau Island. Gentoo penguins, kelp gulls and south polar skuas are breeding here. We will offer an activity depending on conditions.

0900 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

0900 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

~1000 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

In the afternoon we hope to land at Petermann Island, where the French polar explorer Charcot overwintered in 1909 with his ship *Pourquoi-Pas?*. This is a chance to see an Adelie penguin colony. This will be our southernmost location.

1330 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

1345 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

~1400 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1830 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

1900 Dinner buffet available in the Dining Room. Campers please come in first.

2100 **Camping Group 4**

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



Antarctic Basecamp

Orne Island & Foyn Harbour

Friday 5th January 2018

0715 Wake-up call.

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

After breakfast we plan to go ashore on Orne Island. This island is one of the very few places we can find Chinstrap penguins (and Gentoos, of course)! On the edge of the Gerlache Strait, the views are impressive.

0745 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

0800 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

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

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

This afternoon we will be in the scenic 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. Humpback whales sometimes visit Enterprise Bay, 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

1400 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

1530 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

~1600 **Group 1** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway.

~1715 **Group 2** going zodiac cruising please come to the gangway.

1830 Join Lynn and the expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

1900 Dinner buffet available in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.



Antarctic Basecamp

Yankee Harbour &
Whalers Bay, Deception Island
Saturday 6th January 2018

0545 Wake-up call.

0600 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

Directly after breakfast we would like to take you ashore at **Yankee Harbour**, a small glacial edged harbour, well known to American and British sealers as early as 1820. There are Gentoo penguins nesting and seals can be usually seen on the beach. Beyond the beach, steep scree slopes rise to a rugged knife-edge summit.

0700 **Kayakers** meet with Fran in the Library.

~0730 **Everyone going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1200 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

Directly after lunch we will enter the flooded caldera of Deception Island through the narrow and spectacular passage called **Neptune's Bellows**. Since this is a difficult navigation please be quiet if you're on the bridge.

Afterwards we will go ashore at **Whalers Bay**. Here you can explore the remains of the old Norwegian whaling station Hector and the British Antarctic Survey base. Please do not touch or remove artefacts, stay on the shore-side of the buildings and do not walk beyond the hangar. We might offer a guided walk to **Neptune's Window**.

1330 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike outside near the boot room ready to go.

~1400 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

After the landing at Whalers Bay, we will be heading into the Drake Passage. Please secure you cabin, take sea-sickness medication and be careful when moving around.

1700 Join Katja in the Dining Room for her talk on **Climate Change and its effects on Antarctica**.

1830 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

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



Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

At Sea to Ushuaia
Sunday 7th January 2018

No wakeup call this morning! 😊

0800 Breakfast is served in the Restaurant for one hour.

0930 You've seen, heard, smelled and photographed thousands of them, now join Lynn in the **Lounge** for a presentation about **Penguins** - bring your questions.

1100 Yolly will be in the **Lounge** to talk about **What lies beneath** – a peek into the amazing diversity of life along the shoreline and underneath Antarctica's waters. Bring your snorkel, mermaid costume is optional.

1230 Lunch is served in the Restaurant.

1500 Have you ever wondered what it takes to make all these delicious meals on a two week journey? Join **Chef Ralf** as he tells us some of his secrets in the **Restaurant**.

1630 Katja would like to share her knowledge of and fascination for the **Ice in Antarctica**. This will be in the **Restaurant**.

1830 Join **Lynn** and the Expedition team in the **Lounge** for the daily Recap.

1900 Dinner is served in the Restaurant. Bon appétit.

As we are sailing in the Drake Passage, the ship might move. Please secure breakable items and always keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship.



Antarctic Peninsula – Basecamp

At Sea to Ushuaia

Monday 8th January 2018

No wakeup call this morning!

- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 Join Fran in the Lounge for her talk about **Dogs in Antarctica. Wuff!**
- 1100 Yolly has worked with Sir David Attenborough on Blue Plant 2. Join her for her presentation about **Making of wildlife films for the BBC**, in the Lounge.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 Plancius cinema in the Lounge: **Around Cape Horn**. This is a fascinating documentary filmed in the early 1900s by Irving Johnson, a boy determined to experience the full force of rounding 'The Horn'.
- 1530 **Katja** spent 15 months on the German Antarctic Base Neumayer and also worked for the Australian and New Zealand Antarctic programs. She will show you how it is to **Live and work on Antarctic Research Bases**. This will be in the Dining Room.

After the presentation we will ask you to return your clean **rubber boots** to the boot room. Please wait for the announcement.

- ~1700 Suzanna will call you to reception to settle your **on board accounts**. Please listen for announcements.
- 1800 Join Lynn and the expedition team in the Lounge for a **final briefing** and a **farewell toast** from your Captain.
- 1900 The last supper is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

After dinner: Payments will recommence at reception. Please listen for announcements.

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

0700 Wakeup Call.

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

Please place your large luggage outside your cabin when Zsuzsanna invites you to breakfast at 0730, and return your keys to reception when you go to breakfast.

0830 All passengers must depart the ship. Buses to the airport will be on the pier. Everybody must identify their own luggage and make sure it goes to the right location.

- You can have your luggage stored. Please take it to the truck on the pier and it will be taken to 'Il Gatto' at ***Avenida Maipú 1210***. This building has a green roof and is located past the service station and approximately 350 m to the left as you leave the pier. ***You will need to pick up your luggage before 1400.***
- You are free to leave the pier on foot with your luggage; taxis can be found opposite the entrance to the pier.

On behalf of Captain Nazarov, Lynn, and all the staff and crew onboard *M.V. Plancius*, we wish you all the best for your future journeys, and hope to see you again!

Fair Winds and Following Seas