



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp

18 December – 29 December 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:	Annemarie Wuister	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada/Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Yolly Bosiger	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Daniel Höhne	[Germany]
Snowshoe Guide	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
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 – Monday December 18th 2017

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

0800 GPS Position: Ushuaia Port

Wind: NE -4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** 12°C **Sea Temp:** 12°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 a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. During the summer this rapidly growing frontier town of 55,000 bustles with adventurous travellers. The duty-free port flourishes with tourism but also thrives on a sizeable crab fishery and a burgeoning electronics industry. Ushuaia (lit. *“bay that penetrates to the west”* in the indigenous Yaghan tongue) clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote setting.

It was a sunny afternoon but very breezy 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 sorted our luggage and directed us to 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 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!

At 18:30 we met again in the bar, 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. Expedition leader Lynn then told us a little about the forthcoming voyage and introduced her team of guides who explained a little about their backgrounds and their roles on board. This was followed by a Zsuzsanna briefly explaining about decks and amenities and general life on board in the Southern Ocean.



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 end of the Beagle Channel and headed out into the open waters of the Drake Passage- our Antarctic adventure was now fully underway!!!!

Day 2 – Tuesday December 19th 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 56° 30' 0 S / 066° 14' 4 W

Wind: WNW -4 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 10°C **Sea Temp:** 6°C

The first moment we entered the Drake Passage was in the middle of the night. The waves became bigger and unprotected stuff in the room rolled from corner to corner. It was very obvious to all, we had reached the Drake. 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. Or as the Ship Doctor Annemarie said during her introduction, the good thing about seasickness is that it will not kill you. No 'Drake Lake' this voyage, but also definitely not a challenging one.



During the morning we were accompanied by some Wandering Albatrosses and even had the luck of having the Southern Giant Petrel and the Northern Giant Petrel flying around the ship. They 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 Southern has a green tip and the Northern a more reddish one.

The first sea day is also a time to prepare for the landings by getting everyone set up with gear, one of the most important items are the boots. Passengers were called deck by deck to come to the boot room to choose and try a suitable boot. Ben, the Argentinian expedition guide set the atmosphere by putting on some Argentinian Reggae. It was a bit rough and rolling but everyone managed to get themselves some boots, some who were not feeling well were lucky to have a friend or family member to pick theirs up for them.



Katja gave a very nice introduction about Antarctica, with historical, interesting, funny and peculiar facts. We learned for example that the largest land animal is only a few millimetres long. A very nice way to spend our time sailing towards this amazing content of extremes.

The daily recap gave us some more insights about what to expect during this voyage with some info about snow shoeing from Sara, a general briefing by Lynn and some insights about bird photography from Esther.

For some it was a difficult day at sea and most of us headed for our cabins early to get rocked to sleep by the Drake.

Day 3 – Wednesday December 20th 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60° 48' 7 S / 066° 05' 6 W

Wind: NNE -4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 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 temperatures dropped by several degrees. Officially we were now in Antarctica! We also encountered in the morning the fog that is typical for the area.

After breakfast Esther talked in the restaurant about polar photography. She gave aesthetic 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 Grace 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 produced 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 retail therapy. Items like maps, books, t-shirts, jackets and others were for 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 six vacuum cleaners at once going in the lounge it was noisy but fast.



Meanwhile rain pelted on the windows and the sea was lead grey. Some Cape petrels flitted around the ship. They were easy to recognize with their speckled black and white wings. Out of the mist an iceberg materialized with waves crashing around its edges. 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 just plain penguin watching. Katja also explained that the summer solstice will be tomorrow, that means that we will arrive in Antarctica on the longest day of the year.



After the recap the kayakers and mountaineers were kitted out with their gear and the campers received their camping kits. So we were ready now for our adventures in Antarctica.



Day 4 – Thursday December 21st 2017

Dorian Bay, Port Lockroy and Jougla Point

0800 GPS Position: 64° 46' 4 S / 063° 28' 7 W

Wind: NE -8 Sea State: Slight Weather: Drizzle Air Temp:0 Sea Temp: 1°C

Lynn made the wake-up call at 7:45am and we caught the first glimpse of the Antarctic continent. As we sailed through the Neumayer Channel we got our first look at towering glaciers, icebergs and snow. Unfortunately large waves and 40 knot winds meant that we couldn't do the landing so instead continued to cruise through the Neumayer Channel and enjoyed a delicious breakfast. About an hour later our luck changed and the wind started to die down. Our Captain gave us the okay to land and we got ourselves ready in warm and waterproof clothing to make our first landing. It was also time for the kayakers to meet up with Fran and for the mountaineers to get their harnesses and ice axes ready to head up the mountain for some glacial trekking.



Our first landing was at Damoy Point which. The base here was established by the British Antarctic Survey as a summer transit station to supply the airstrip. We took the zodiacs ashore and were able to visit the 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. After touring the hut, it was time to investigate some of the Gentoo penguin colonies and the penguin highway where



Gentoo's were making their way back and forth to the water. Sara led the long walk past the Gentoo colonies and up to a point called Tombstone Hill where we got a great view of the bay. Ester took the photographers to see the penguins and helped her group to take some beautiful pictures. A couple of hours went by in a flash and before we knew it, it was time to head back to the ship for a delicious lunch prepared by the hotel staff.



Our second landing of the day was a split landing between Port Lockroy on Goudier Island and Jougla Point. Those that arrived at Port Lockroy were able to visit the famous Penguin Post Office and send postcards back to their friends and family. It was also a time to visit the museum and learn 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 was also an opportunity to speak to the incredible women who spend four months looking after Port Lockroy. Once outside again we were able to watch Gentoo penguins nesting and some lucky ones were able to see their first Gentoo chicks only a few days old peeping out from under the fluffy chests of the adults. At Jougla Point we headed up the ridge to take in the amazing scenery and photograph the colonies of nesting Gentoo penguins. Ester's photography group once again spent time honing their penguin photography skills and managed to photograph an adult with a new chick.



Once back on the ship, Lynn did a recap of the day and gave us an overview of the next day's events. Sarah provided us with information about how to identify whales and right in the middle of her talk we were greeted by two passing whales and so were able to put our skills to the test. After some debate they were identified as Minke Whales, a small baleen whale which feeds on krill and fish. Their small and more manoeuvrable body shape allows them to spend a lot of their time swimming in and around the ice, better than larger species like Humpback Whales.



Dinner was another great buffet and then it was time for the first group of campers to get themselves ready for a night ashore. Unfortunately the wind picked up right at the last minute and plans for camping had to be abandoned but luckily there would be more opportunities later in the trip.

Kayaking (Fran)

After a stormy night we woke to a rather wild sea, and fog. We cruised slowly into Neumayer Channel and weighed anchor off Dorian Bay. The kayakers were all ready to go having been issued their kit the night before, and the crew had unloaded the kayaks onto Aft Deck 3. After a bit of 'housekeeping' of the kayaks – this was to be their first outings for this season – the team chose their kayaks and adjusted them to fit. In the meantime the wind had dropped a little but was still blowing 20+ knots and gusting stronger than that. Having taken the decision to abandon kayaking early it gave the team a chance to go ashore at Damoy Point, so the morning was salvaged.

The afternoon team got a bit further – we even dropped kayaks into the water! The wind was a balmy 11 knots when we were first up on the Aft Deck 3 and we were all getting excited about kayaking around Port Lockroy and Jougla Point. However just as the third boat was being lifted overboard, the bridge called to say that the wind had risen again to 24+ knots gusting 30+ and after a moment thought, we decided to abandon and give the team a chance to go and play with penguins and visit Port Lockroy. The rest of the afternoon the wind rose and fell so overall we felt happy that the right decision had been taken.

Mountaineering

AM. After a delayed start due to rough weather two teams of 6 headed to Dorian Bay/Damoy Point to make an ascent of Jabet Ridge. After donning snow shoes the two mountaineering teams forged upwards as the last of the morning fog gave way to sunshine. The two teams parted ways after an hour of walking, one team heading forward toward Port Lockroy where they could take in the stunning ice cliffs below them and Weddell seals in the bay beyond. The other team circled below Jabet Peak where they could look down on Plancius and the striking peaks in the distance before looping back to re-join the other team above the landing/departure point.



PM. After a filling lunch 17 intrepid mountaineers headed to Doumer Island to see the Peltier Channel that splits Doumer Island from Wiencke Island. The weather had become slightly foreboding after the morning sunshine. One group continued up towards Mt Doumer and the other turned around so they could visit Lockroy for a souvenir session.



Day 5 – Friday December 22nd 2017

Cuverville Island and Danco Island

0800 GPS Position: 64° 40' 4 S / 062° 37' 7 W

Wind: NE -2 Sea State: Slight Weather: Snowing Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 2°C



Overnight, we traversed the Errera Channel so by the time Lynn woke us at 7:15 we were already positioned opposite Cuverville Island, which was to be the location of our morning activity. Cuverville is regarded as having one of the largest rookeries of Gentoo penguins in all of Antarctica. 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 in the beginning stages of nesting, most still sitting on eggs and putting the final touches to their pebble nests. Numerous brown skuas were circling looking for an easy lunch of an unguarded egg. 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!

Back on board we were again treated to a delicious buffet lunch, but no sooner had we finished was it time to get ready for the afternoons landing at Danco Island. Here the expedition team had brought snowshoes ashore for us. For the people keen to hike, the snowshoes made the walk a bit easier through the soft snow. Sara led the hike around 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 Errera Channel in both directions and across to the Antarctic continent. With such calm, pleasant weather it was good to be able to stay a while and take in the picturesque surroundings.





For those who didn't want to walk that high, there was enough to see on the 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. Those who stayed on the beach were also treated to a brief sighting of a humpback whale that was feeding in the bay.

Once the group was gathered back at the shore, it was time for the infamous 'Polar Plunge' so those mad enough

to brave the icy water got themselves changed. Unbelievably, around forty 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 been seeing and Lynn briefed us on the plans for tomorrow.



Dinner was another great buffet and then it was time for the campers to get themselves ready for a night at Leith Cove. The staff went ashore first to start getting the site prepared and by 9:30pm all the passengers were on shore and ready for a true Antarctic adventure!



Katja Riedel - Snowmad Photography

Kayaking (Fran)

Today was the lucky day for the kayakers as both groups got on the water. Both the teams worked really well together to get the kayaks on and off the water, quite an involved process using an electric winch. The morning team dropped the kayaks into the water just off the landing site at Cuverville and we found some beautiful low icebergs to admire. We paddled out to the channel to the west of the island and could see a private yacht at a beautiful anchorage.

The afternoon team put in the water North of Danco Island, there were some really dramatic icebergs – one with a huge arch – that looked rather perilous so we didn't get too close but just admired from afar. Everybody was really stoked and took some time for peace and quiet. Three people opted for single kayaks and enjoyed the flexibility and speed that they offer. The others picked up the skills quickly of turning the double kayaks and weaving around on the water. It felt very 'Christmassy' as we had light snow falling all afternoon. All in all there were some happy faces in the bar that evening.



Mountaineering

AM. In the morning we landed at Georges Point on Ronge Island. We climbed to a col on ridge that could be seen above and to the lookers right. The ridge was gained on snow shoes. From here we crossed an exposed ridge to a great view point that we named Tamsin Peak. Everyone was stoked at the exciting ridge crossing and epic views.

PM. We ascended Cuverville Island on snow shoes gaining the summit at 4.15pm just as it was starting to snow. It was great to gain a summit and we sighted a whale in the sheltered ice filled bay below.



Camping

As usual the weather was uncertain and it wasn't until last minute that we knew we would be able to camp. Luck was with us and the wind stayed just calm enough for camping to be a go. At 9pm it was announced and everyone began layering themselves for the night ahead. Camping bags were handed out and everyone made their way 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 up ashore. Our camp site for the night had a 360° view of stunning icebergs, massive mountains and glaciers coming out into the sea. Gusting winds made for a chilly yet adventurous feel. 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', we were quite happy with the new design. By this time it was already 11pm and we had



to wake up in 5 short hours, everyone headed to the warmth of their bivvies. Some of us slept like babies while others stayed up most of the night listening to the sound of cracking icebergs and avalanches from the mountains. Puffy snowflakes fell on and off throughout the night. At 4:30 our lovely drivers came to bring us back home. Getting back on-board *Plancius* was a welcome relief as we enjoyed our warm showers and hearty breakfasts.



Day 6 – Saturday December 23rd 2017

Lemaire Channel, Pléneau Island and Port Charcot

0800 GPS Position: 68° 00' 7 S / 063° 45' 4 W

Wind: NE -3 Sea State: Slight Weather: Snowing Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 1°C



When the campers were back on board in the early morning we continued the voyage. The day started very special with a cruise through the Lemaire Channel. Lemaire is known as the most scenic channel Antarctica has to offer. It's also known as the Kodak Gap, because of the many photos that are taken here. It is still



early in the season and so there was a good chance that the Lemaire would be in accessible, but with the excellent navigation skills of the Captain we were able to enjoy the fabulous views that the narrow Channel has to offer.

When the ship went on anchor off Booth Island, we started to run an ice cruise with the zodiacs. This whole area is known as Iceberg Alley or an iceberg graveyard due the shallow nature of the area and the huge icebergs that get stranded here during the season. So it is often difficult to get the ship very far into the bay area. The light was perfect. The icebergs were sticking out in front of the dark sky. The icebergs were truly amazing especially when coming closer they appeared in all kind of forms and shapes



that wind and water had sculpted them. The wind speed increased during the first cruise and it could not be avoided to get spray in the boats and we all got wet. But isn't that part of the adventure? The second cruise group went first to a Gentoo penguin colony that was walking on a slope towards the water to jump in. It was an amazing scene with all the penguins in line on the plateau. The penguins were diving in the water and swimming around the zodiacs.

Then all zodiacs headed to some very big arches. While on route the wind came in and nobody was spared. Big sprays of salty sea water gave us all a shower. There was a whale around, but the waves didn't make it easy to spot the blows. It was cold, windy and wet but still an amazing and exciting cruise. It was a relief to get back on board to warm showers and lunch.



In the afternoon we made a landing on Pleneau Island which is around 1.2 km long. From the cobbled beach on the eastern coast, smooth rock terraces slope gently upwards towards a large crevassed ice-cap, which



covers the western two-thirds of the island. At the landing site a colony of Gentoo penguins welcomed us. The walk over the ice cap led us towards the northern end of the island where Blue-eyed shags were nesting. Half way along the walk was a small colony of Gentoo penguins and we discovered one Adélie penguin hanging out with them. Walking over the icecap felt like going through a big white desert and was especially nice when some gust came in and blew fresh snow over the plateau.

The night promised to be special. It was BBQ night and because of that the Recap was short and everyone went to the kayak and zodiac loading deck to have an outside BBQ with delicious food and free drinks. The meat was on the BBQ one deck higher and our party had a view over a field of icebergs. It didn't take long to change the BBQ into a dancing party and even the Captain did a little bit of dancing.



The campers headed back to Pleneau Island for the night, the same landing we had been to that afternoon, and were giving a beautiful wave off from the parties still drinking on the back deck.

Kayaking

Sadly the positive vibes coming from passengers calling for good weather didn't stop the wind from a-blowing! The wind was decidedly 'tricksy' all day, sometimes dropping to a manageable 11-12 knots or below, but the two minute wind gusts were often 20-23 knots and more. In the wide open water between Pleneau Island and Port Charcot on Booth Island, you could see the wind gusts coming, sending dark ripples over the sea and patterning the water with whitecaps. Easily strong enough to flip the kayaks. The afternoon team even got kayaks on the water and we were sitting in the Zodiac ready to go to Pleneau when, BAM, that wind got up again and it was with quite a bit of relief that we made the decision to cancel and go ashore.



Mountaineering

Today we made two very windy ascents of Hovgaard Island, 377m. On the way up the wind was assisting from behind but on the descent we had to lean into the wind, which was by now blowing 30 knots!. By the time we got to the ship there were some very wind scoured faces.



Camping

Group 3 was delighted to hear we would be able to camp, our site for the night was the same as our landing site that day, Pleneau Island. It would make for an easy set up as the trail was already made, no wading through thigh deep snow this time. It was however a 5-10 minute hike up hill after landing to get up to our camp spot. We were nestled in between Gentoo penguin colonies, while the smell wasn't fantastic it was soon forgotten and very special to be camping with the penguins for the night. Wind was blowing from all directions, one minute from the North then the next minute from the South. Most campers built their shelter facing the water and the amazing views of icebergs and mountains. There were many double shelters dug and even one triple, a bit of home decorating with stairs in one hole and a snowman in another. Once everyone was set up for the night we had quite a bit of fun at our photo shoot. There was also the penguin hat photo shoot, very adorable. With only a few short hours before wake-up call and the chilly breeze coming through everyone headed for the shelter of their bivvies. As everyone got settled many curious penguins made their way past us, wondering what we were up to.





The main sound of the night was the noise from the penguins, but there were no complaints from anyone for being kept up by them. What a delight to spend the night like the penguins, what we lacked in feathers to keep us warm, we made up for in layers of sleeping bags. At 4am the wake-up call went around and everyone packed up and filled in their holes. Waking up on the snow in Antarctica on Christmas Eve, what an excellent start to the holiday.



Natja Riedel - Survival Photography

Day 7 – Sunday December 24th 2017

Base Brown and Stony Point

0800 GPS Position: 64° 57' 7 S / 063° 23' 5 W

Wind: SW -4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 0°C

The campers spent the night on Pleneau Island. Though it was very gusty early on, the wind died down during the night and all the majestic mountains and glaciers were in full view. During the night the smell and noise from hundreds of Gentoo penguins wafted over the camp site. After everybody was back on board, Plancius heaved anchor and proceeded north through the Lemaire Channel. The second time was not less spectacular with the high dark cliffs on both sides of the channel.



After breakfast another narrow passage beckoned, the Ferguson Channel. Flanked by icebergs to both sides, Plancius inched her way through the channel. Crabeater seals were hauled out on some ice floes. These seals got their name incorrectly, because they solely feed on krill. As a special adaptation they have teeth that act like a sieve, filtering the krill out of the water.

When we finally reached Paradise Harbour we found that it truly lived up to its name. For once it was totally calm and the glaciers and ice peaks were mirrored in the flat water. At Base Brown we went ashore, stepping for the first time on the Antarctic continent proper. 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 were due to arrive in a week. At the moment we were there it was still in the hands - or flippers - of the Gentoo penguins.



From the base we climbed up to a lookout, offering splendid views of the bay which was littered with icebergs. After some time ashore we went Zodiac cruising. Some humpback whales were spotted and some Zodiacs even got close to them. 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. At the end of the landing there was the opportunity for another Polar Plunge. Under wild shrieks people flung themselves into the water. Two Gentoo penguins close by seemed to be very astonished about this behaviour and probably wondered what all the fuss was about.





Over lunch the ship relocated to Stony Point, snow covered and dome shaped. From the landing site everybody could pick up a pair of snowshoes and climb to the top. The views were stunning. All around glaciated peaks loomed and the bay was littered with icebergs. It was again calm and the sea was so still that icebergs and cliffs were mirrored in the water. High above us on the slopes the mountaineers worked their way up over some ice fields. From the distance they looked small like ants. At the end of the landing everybody had the chance to make a Zodiac cruise on the

way back to the ship and we admired more icebergs in wonderful blue colours and twisted shapes. On the far side of the bay was a small Gentoo penguin colony that we visited. A Weddell seal was hauled out on the snow. He was sleeping and his breath hung like an icy cloud over his snout. A bit further on an ice floe two Crabeater seals dozed in the sun; their fur gleamed golden in the sunlight.



Back on the ship we had an early dinner. Dessert and cheese was this time served in the bar. As a change from normal routine the recap was supposed to be held after dinner, but the appearance of three or more Humpback whales changed all plans. We watched the whales from the windows of the lounge. The show was really good and each time when a fluke was shown applause and loud cheers rose in the lounge rounding up a fantastic day in Antarctica.



Kayaking

At last it looked like the luck of the kayakers was changing. We sailed into the beautiful calm waters of the aptly named Paradise and anchored off Base Brown. The wind speeds were marginal and the bay dotted with small pieces of ice that were going to present no problems for kayaking operations. The team quickly kitted up and by the time the ship came to a stop, we were ready to go. We lowered the kayaks to the water and then Nico and Fran took the passengers a short way



off and started to get them into the kayaks. We headed alongside the beautiful cliffs of sedimentary rocks, home to tens of nesting Antarctica shags, spotting the occasional sheathbill and skua amongst them. We saw the bright green Verdigris of copper looking almost like spilled paint and we were heading round to the glacier when Christi heard and spotted the plume and dorsal fin of a humpback whale. So we turned into the bay and paddled across for 15-20 minutes occasionally seeing 3-4 whales surface and dive again. We didn't get too close as they were moving steadily away from us and we eventually moved back towards the Base, past Gentoo penguin nests and worked our way back to the ship. A happy team with big smiles went for lunch.



The conditions remained favourable for the afternoon and once the ship had relocated a short distance to Stony Point, it was time for Team B to get on the water. There was a lot of ice in the bay although it was calm and we had to negotiate our way through some brash and largish blocks. We headed to a small island which had a penguin colony on it and we stopped quietly on the water for ten minutes, Zodiac engines switched off and listened to the silent sounds of Antarctica. There was a couple of ice cliffs collapsing over on the shore, the drip of ice melting off bergs on the sea,

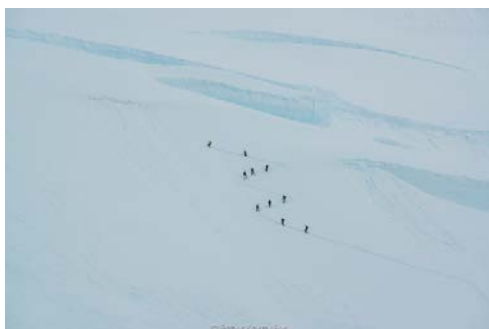
the calls of penguins and the high pitched scream of a pair of Arctic terns. The skies were amazing this afternoon, with some sunlight but dramatic grey, blue and pearlescent clouds. All in all a day that many of the kayakers will remember for a long time.

Mountaineering



AM. In the morning we landed at Brown Station. From the point we climbed up the glacier and onto a view point overlooking the area. The final exposed rock step to the summit of the view point was challenging to climb wearing snow shoes. From the view point we continued across the glacier and made a loop back to the landing site.

PM. In the afternoon we landed at the foot of an impressive glacier. To get to the landing site we had to navigate the zodiac through thick broken glacial ice. The conditions were challenging as the snow had not frozen and it required the guides to break trail through deep wet snow. Our goal was a sub peak coming off the ridge to the main summit - the high peak was over 2000m meters above sea



level an unfortunately not achievable in our time on the mountain. Just below the peak we were climbing towards we had to navigate our way between some huge crevasses. Eventually we came to an impassable crevasse just below our summit so this was our high point.



Camping

What perfect camping conditions, an early Christmas gift for the happy campers. Again our camping site was the same as the landing site from that day at Stony Point, making for an easier camp in familiar settings. Everyone was ready early at the gangway but we had a bit of a wait while the drivers found an ice free route to the camp site. This gave us time at the gangway to strategize for the coming photo shoot. Someone had the great idea to spell 'Merry Christmas'



as well as our usual 'Antarctica' and we worked out how many people would be needed. Finally arriving to the campsite, there was very little wind and we all had quite a fun time digging our bivvie holes. We really enjoyed our photo session and not only did we spell 'Merry Christmas' but we sang Christmas carols while in position and took a video. What a beautiful Christmas eve with our new friends. There were some Christmas decorations added to some camp spots, a small Christmas tree at one double hole and a star hung above another.

We were given another early Christmas gift, an extra hour of time in the morning and instead of leaving at 4:30 we would be staying until 5:30, this message was answered with cheers. Because the weather conditions were so nice we were able to stay out and enjoy the views a bit longer, but eventually we all headed to our bivvies. Everyone was woken up by Gracie on Christmas at 5am with a 'Good morning, Merry Christmas' and the sight of her in reindeer ears. What a beautiful Christmas morning!! We had to take a different route leaving than coming in so we had to carry our gear through the snow, also the wind was picking up so everyone was very happy to get back on the ship and have a quick rest and shower before Christmas breakfast.



Day 8 – Monday December 25th 2017

Orne Islands and Foyn Harbour

0800 GPS Position: 64° 45' 3 S / 062° 41' 0 W

Wind: SW -5 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 0°C



Christmas had finally arrived in Antarctica and after a wakeup call from Lynn, those who went outside were met with spectacular views of the Gerlache Strait, Errera Chanel and Cuverville Island. Feeling festive we headed down to the dining hall for a delicious Christmas breakfast and prepared for an action packed day ahead. The mountaineers got themselves ready first and were dropped onshore at Georges Point on Ronge Island by Katja and Yoli. The rest of us donned our warm clothing and got ready to get into the zodiacs for a short drive to the Orne Islands. These low-lying islands are found at the entrance to the Errera Channel and the largest of the islands rise to around 75 metres. Once ashore we got our first glimpse of Chinstrap penguins which were interspersed with other groups of



Some of us were even lucky enough to see Humpback whales feeding in the bay. While we were exploring the islands, Fran's kayakers conducted the coastal scenic tour of the islands and were able to see penguins and icebergs close to their kayaks. After a couple of hours ashore it was time to get back in our zodiacs and have a delicious Christmas lunch on board.



Gentoo

penguins. We could clearly see why they are called 'Chinstrap penguins' as they have a very obvious dark line around across 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 a couple of Crabeater seals lying on the rocks.



Whilst we were eating the ship steamed to Enterprise Island at the North of Wilhelmina Bay, where the wreck of the *Gouvernøren*, an old whaling ship, can be found. We planned to do a zodiac cruise around the wreck but unfortunately we experienced incredibly strong winds and were unable to safely transfer guests into the zodiacs. Instead our Captain decided to do a ship cruise of Wilhelmina Bay and we were entertained by three Humpback whales who put on quite a show for us - waving their pectoral fins, spy hopping and displaying their tails as they dived. The whales stayed close to the ship for over an hour and many of us were able to get lovely close up photographs of them as they were swimming. At 6:30pm our hotel staff gave everyone a complimentary drink and we were



wished Merry

Christmas by our lovely Captain Alexey. Our daily recap began with Lynn gave us an overview of tomorrow's activities including a visit to Deception Island and some information about what a Humpback whale looks like underwater. Gracie gave us some more information about Humpback whales and informed us of how pictures can be useful for identification purposes (see the Happy Whale website) while Yoli spoke about the seals that we commonly see on the Antarctic Peninsula.

It was then time for Christmas dinner and we were treated to an incredible three-course Christmas meal. Santa and his penguin helper arrived to the sound of the staff singing 'Feliz Navidad' and then it was time to get our stockings and presents. Those of us that still had room in our tummies treated ourselves to desert and followed up with drinks in the bar. All around it was a fantastic Christmas in Antarctica!

Kayaking

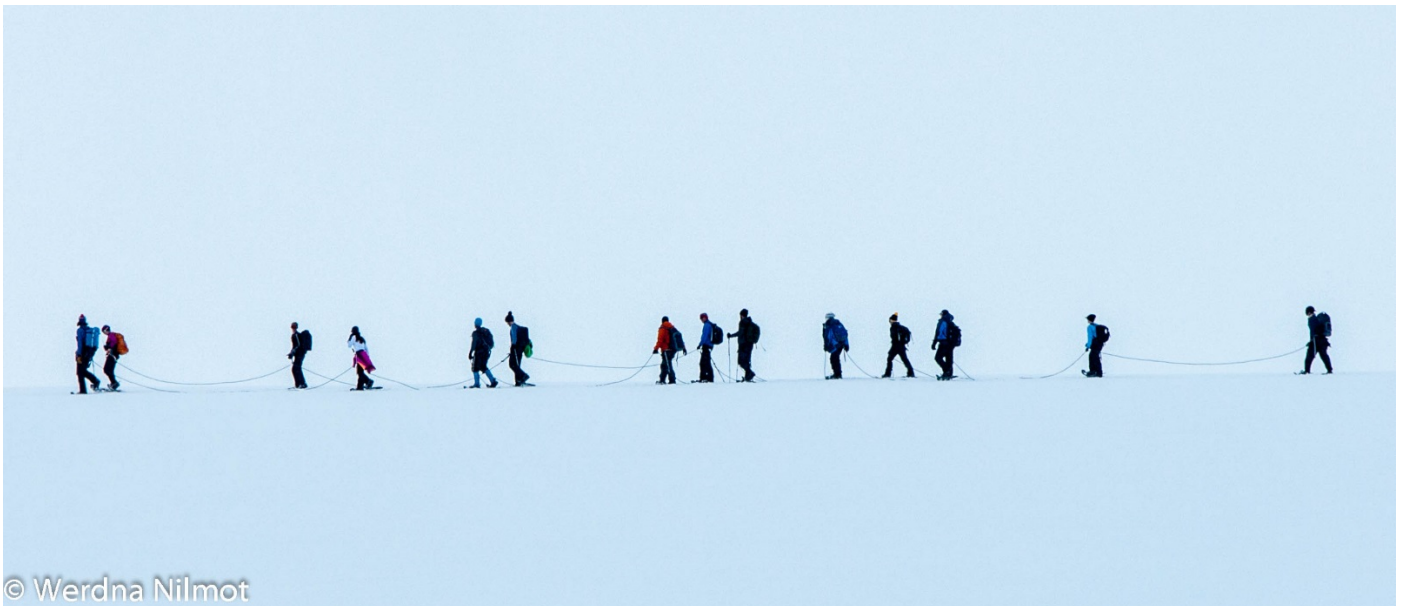
A happy Christmas day to this lucky bunch of paddlers! The wind was quite strong on the journey up to Orne Islands and for a short while it looked like we might be blown off the water – again! However it dropped sufficiently to allow us to launch 12 kayakers in 6 doubles and despite some trepidation, the whole team managed to find some shelter and paddle up and down the north shore of one of the islands, close to the penguin colony and the landing site. The wind did pick up again and was pushing us around a bit, threatening to send some people out into the Gerlache Strait, but we rounded up



the kayakers and set out back to the *Plancius*. The ship had moved due to wind and ice and we waited for a few minutes while it came back into position. The team worked hard to get all the kayaks back on deck and all in all we counted ourselves lucky to have grabbed that short spell on the water.

Mountaineering

This was our second landing at Georges Point on Ronge Island. We enjoyed a fantastic Christmas hike climbing between a series of wind scoops climbing up to a col where the wind picked up. With the wind came some serious spin drift which all but blinded us briefly on the main ridge. The afternoon group had gotten a short way before we had to turn around and head back to the ship due to the weather picking up and the possibility of not being able to zodiac back. We did at least enjoy a wild zodiac ride where as everyone else still on board didn't get the chance to get off the ship.



Day 9 – Tuesday December 26th 2017

Deception Island, Half Moon Island and Barrientos Island

0800 GPS Position: 62° 44' 3 S / 059° 57' 3 W

Wind: SWS -4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 0°C

During the night we made good progress, crossing the Bransfield Strait, so at 4:45am Lynn woke us to let us know we were just approaching Deception Island.

The island is named because it conceals an inner harbour within a flooded volcanic caldera. The Captain carefully manoeuvred the Plancius through the narrow entrance known as Neptune's Bellows, with Ravn Rock waiting just below the surface to founder another ship in the middle of the passage. Once safely inside we made our way into Whalers Bay, the site of a former whaling station from the early part of the twentieth century, as well as a British Antarctic research station. From the ship we could see the Norwegian whaling station which operated on shore from 1911 to 1931. During that time, whales were harpooned at sea, floated alongside ships into Whalers Bay, winched up the slipway and flensed. The



pressure cookers were used to boil the bones, meat and entrails to extract as much oil as possible, with waste bones crushed down for fertilizer. The sheer scale of the oil tanks added to the eerie atmosphere of the old whaling station, a sobering reminder of such a destructive era of exploitation.

For those that made the effort to drag themselves out of bed they were certainly rewarded with spectacular views of this volcanic island, bathed in beautiful morning light. We could even see and smell the sulphuric steam rising from the dark black beach.

From Deception Island, we continued northwards up to Half Moon Island which was our chosen spot for our morning landing. Half Moon Island lies north of Burgas Peninsula in the South Shetland Islands and is home to the Argentine Cámara Base. Some of the guests had noted that the only thing missing from the trip so far was blue skies, and we were in luck, it was a proper Antarctic summer day here. So much so that some of us stripped down to just a t-shirt!

The island was a hive of activity in terms of wildlife, it was difficult to know where to turn



your attention. It is thought that Half Moon is the home to about 2,000 pairs of chinstrap penguins, many of which were already caring for very small chicks, which of course made for wonderful photos.



The island is also identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International because it supports a breeding colony of about 100 pairs of south polar skuas along with an abundance of Antarctic terns, kelp gulls, Wilson's and black-bellied storm petrels, Cape petrels, brown skuas and snowy sheathbills, all of which were present today. For those wanting to stretch their legs, Katja and Dan led a walk to the other end of the island towards the base. The walking group saw several elephant seals and Weddell seals on route. However, what probably caused the most excitement was Lynn spotting the resident macaroni penguin, which has been observed here for the past few years. Unfortunately, it was well camouflaged amongst a colony of chinstraps, but with a bit of patience most of the guests managed to get a look, if only brief, at our fourth type of penguin species. 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!



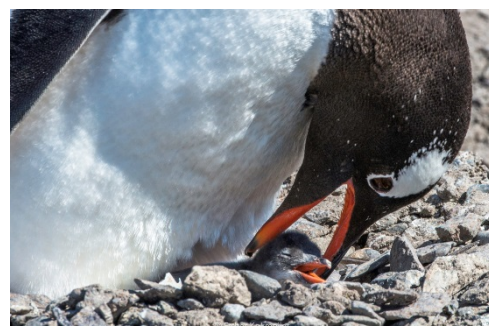
Whilst lunch was being served we cruised further north to Barrientos Island which was to be our last landing for the voyage. Barrientos Island is an ice-free island in the Aitcho group on the west side of English Strait, from there you have a direct line of sight out into the Drake Passage. As we approached the island by zodiac, the first thing we noticed was how different in appearance this island was to anything else we had come across in the past few days, it was green!!!



Much of the island was covered in moss, in fact this was the first real vegetation we had seen since leaving Ushuaia. In a similar



manor to Half Moon, the islands' wildlife was flourishing with an abundance of both chinstraps and Gentoo penguins with new born chicks, in fact a few lucky passengers even witnessed some eggs hatching. However, the circle of life can be somewhat brutal at times and for every chick that seemed to be born another was devoured by the hungry skuas that lurked all around, we witnessed them snatch both eggs and tiny chicks with no mercy. In fact, the interaction between the two types of penguins and the predatory birds was



some of the best we had experienced on the entire voyage, everyone was certainly getting very trigger happy with their cameras.

The afternoon came to an end far too soon and it was time for us to be shuttled back to the Plancius one last time. However, Antarctica had one last treat in store for us, a curious leopard seal that was intent on taking a closer look at each of the zodiacs as they approached the gangway.

Back on board, Zsuzsanna and her team were waiting to greet us with homemade hot chocolate (of course with an obligatory dash of rum in it), which really was the perfect way to end a very memorable day.

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. Katja spoke about the formation and history of Deception Island 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

As we approached Half Moon Island the wind in the Bransfield Strait was still quite strong but the closer we got the more it eased off. By the time we put the anchor down, the wind dropped below 10 knots and we were all ready to go on the back deck. We took the kayaks and paddlers round the corner and launched on the east side of the island then headed away from the main beach area for some solitude. There was plenty of wildlife and our first sightings of elephant seals on the beach, 3 adults and two wieners. There were also seals in the water around the kayakers coming up for a curious look at these strange imposters. The sun shone and the water was calm though with a slight swell off the south side, and everybody was paddling well having mastered the skills of paddling a double kayak. We had a leisurely cruise back to the ship too as Nico took the kayaks back to be lifted straight to the Zodiac deck where they would be tied down and readied for the journey back to Ushuaia. So we were able to relax a bit and go in close to the shore. I think we were all slightly relieved in retrospect that the curious leopard seal that circled the disembarking Zodiacs hadn't found us earlier!



Day 10 – Wednesday December 27th 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 59° 49' 3 S / 062° 11' 2 W

Wind: NW -4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 4°C



The night was calm and we woke up to a smooth Drake. Still the continuous movements of the ship makes made us drowsy. A perfect day to reflect on all the amazing parts of our journey in between lots of napping. With also had three lectures so we could soak up more of Antarctica on our way back.

Fran gave a talk about dogs in Antarctica who were brought over on past historical expeditions. Lynn told us about the different kind of Penguins in Antarctica, their reproduction cycle, feeding and lots of interesting facts. Katja gave a lecture about Ice, how the icecap of Antarctica has been created, why Icebergs are blue and about the archive that is stored in ice and how scientists research this.

In the late afternoon Suzanne and Bobby opened the bar with a happy hour. How much of the cozy atmosphere was from our bonding over this trip and how much was from the half price drinks is hard to say, but the lounge was a very nice place to be spending the evening. Sharing such a great voyage together makes us become some kind of traveling family.

Lynn gave a small briefing at the Recap and we ended the recap with the photo competition. Amazing photos were provided by many passengers. A great way to see what we all have seen on this voyage through so many different eyes. A passenger managed to take a photo with the Macaroni Penguin on Half Moon Island. Nice that we all got to see it now. Also there were very creative visions, like holding a penguin between your fingers and very special found treasures like the illuminating comb jelly, or salp. Everybody could give their vote for the three categories, Wildlife, Landscape and Ice-Special.

As we headed towards the North we slowly lost our 24 hours daylight and the sky grew dark for the first time in many days. Compared to just the previous day when the sun was coming up just after it had gone away, now looking out our windows before bed we had a few hours of darkness.



Day 11 – Thursday December 28th 2017

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 55° 48' 5 S / 065° 47' 7 W

Wind: NNE -5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Rain showers **Air Temp:** 7°C **Sea Temp:** 8°C



Overnight we made excellent progress towards South America and during breakfast we were just 50 nautical miles away from the coast. Soon we had the first sight of land. Outside temperatures were mild and we didn't need our warm jackets anymore. Blackbrowed albatrosses greeted us gliding over the crest of the waves.

At 10:30 we were invited to the dining room for a presentation from Yoli entitled 'What Lies Beneath'. She talked about the Southern Ocean

and what lies in under the water. Being a diver she had some great images of the marine life of Antarctica. The diversity of life in such a seemingly hostile environment is astounding but the creatures there enjoy a relatively stable temperature under the surface of the water and the ice and as a result are slow growing and long lived. It was a fascinating glimpse into a watery world that few of us will ever experience. We were lucky though to experience Dusky dolphins swimming alongside the ship later in the day.

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 became 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.

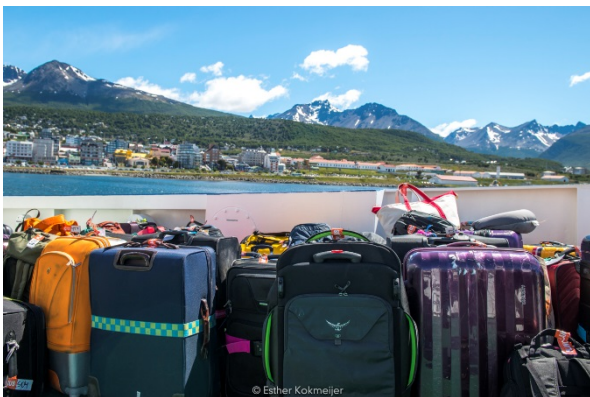
Day 12 – Friday December 29th 2017

Disembarkation Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: Ushuaia Port

Wind: NE -5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Rain showers **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, time they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.



Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical miles: 1,737

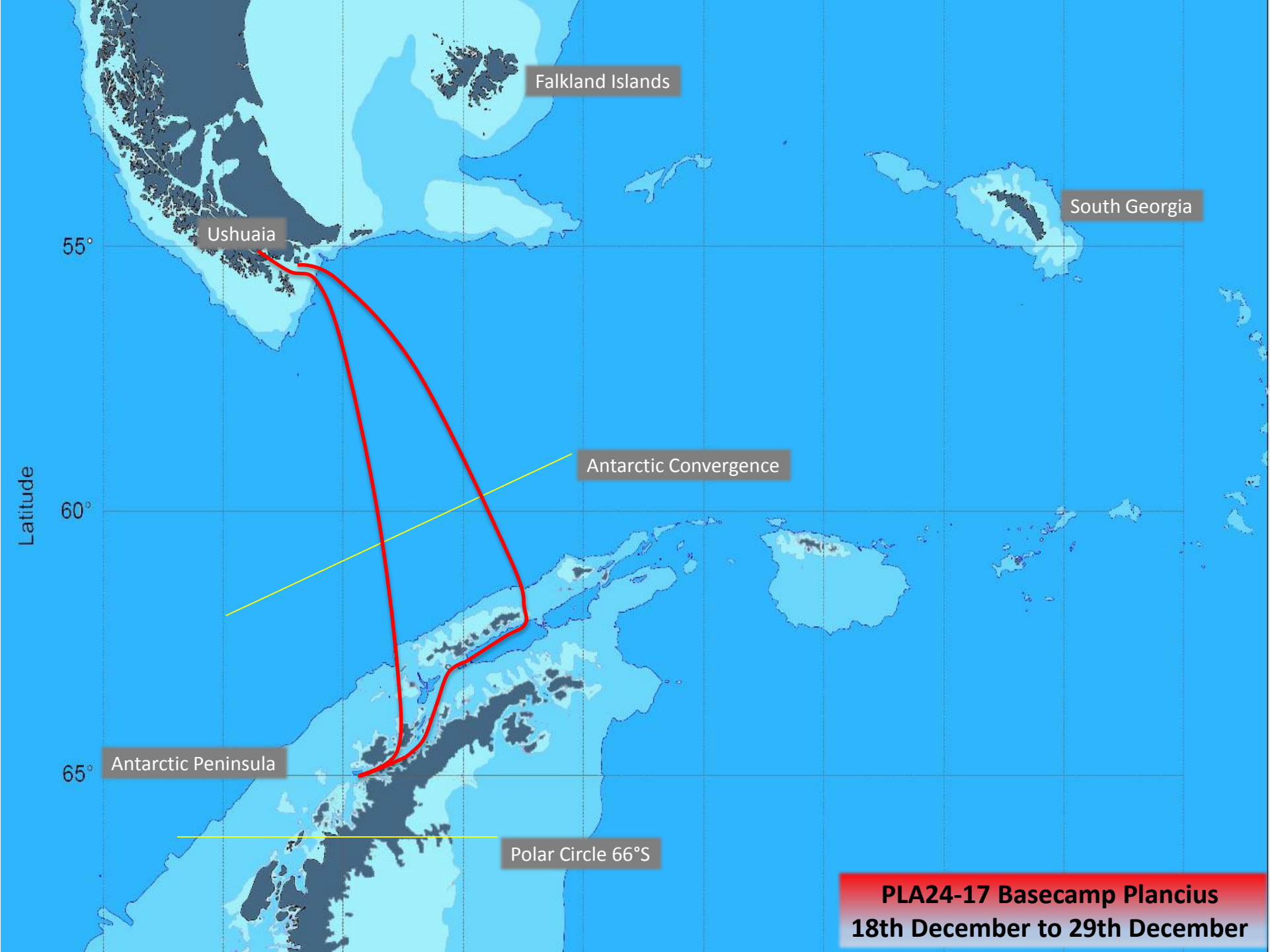
Kilometres: 3,216



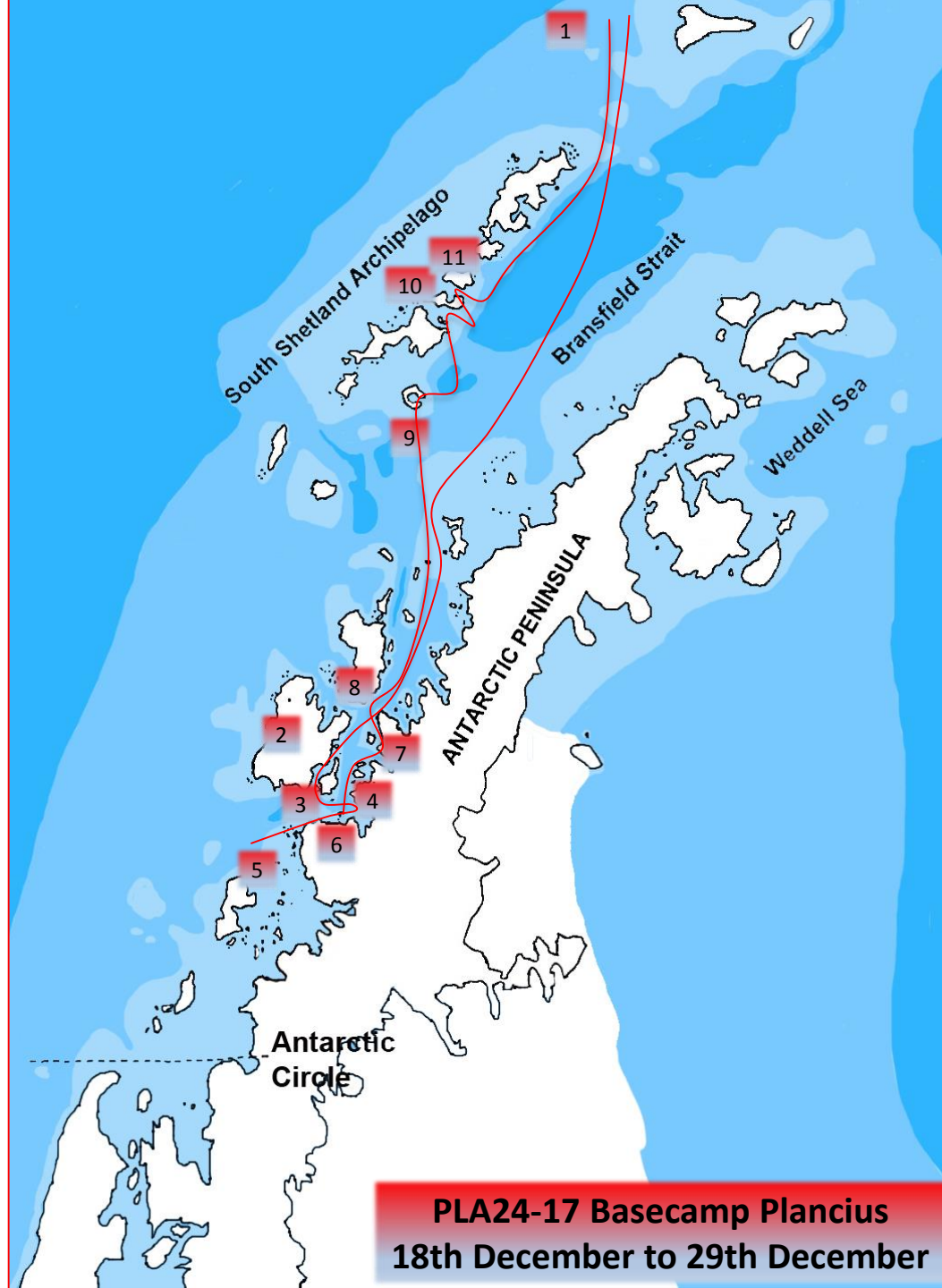
And behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Alexey Nazarov, Expedition Leader Lynn Woodworth and all the crew and staff, we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS



**PLA24-17 Basecamp Plancius
18th December to 29th December**



- 1) Ushuaia
- 2) Dorian Bay (Damoy Point)
- 3) Port Lockroy (Gift Shop)/ Jougla Point (Gentoo Colony)
- 4) Cuverville and Danco Island (first Polar Plunge)
- 5) Lemaire Channel and Booth Island (Zodiac Cruise)
- 6) Brown (Argentinian Base, Zodiac Cruise and second Polar Plunge)
- 7) Orne Islands
- 8) Gerlache Strait (Humpback Whales)
- 9) Deception Island (Ship Cruise)
- 10) Halfmoon Island (Chinstrap Penguins)
- 11) Aicho Islands / Barrientos (Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins / Leopard Seal at the Gangway)

PLA24-17 Basecamp Plancius
18th December to 29th December

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.

Daniel Höhne – Expedition Guide



I studied Geography and Geology in Tübingen in the south of Germany. Since then I have been fascinated by the vigour and sensitivity of our ecosystems.

Previously it was my hobby to go outside and take nature photos, but today it is my profession. I strongly believe that a well composed picture does more than just make you look at it again and again. It compels an emotional response. Most of us want to experience regions all over the world in the most natural and original way. Therefore it is necessary to protect the specific ecosystems. Goethe already said: “You can only see what you do understand”.

Taking people into the outdoors and teaching them to see and feel is one of the greatest things for me to do. To help them understand why things happen in nature and what our role is in different environments. It enables me to broaden my horizon every day. If we go out with an open mind we will appreciate nature as its best.

Presently I am self employed as a nature photographer and guide. My focus is in Iceland, where I spend 18 weeks a year guiding and taking my own pictures. I also guide in Svalbard/Spitsbergen, Finnish Lapland and northeastern parts of Germany as they are some of my favorite areas as well. This will be my first season in Antarctica. For me this life style means passion, personal development and freedom.

Sara Jenner – Snowshoe 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.

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:	Annemarie Wuister	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada/Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Yoli Bosinger	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Daniel Höhne	[Germany]
Snowshoe Guide	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Kayak Guide:	Fran Potheccary	[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
Monday 18th 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

Tuesday 19th December 2017

0745 Wake-up call.

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

1000 Please come to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a **kayaking briefing** with Fran.

1130 Depending on sea conditions we would like to hand out the rubber boots. Please come to the boot room (Deck 3 forward). We will **call you by deck**, please bring your thick socks if you have them and listen for announcements.

1230 Lunch is served in the Restaurant.

1500 Please come to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a **mountaineering briefing** with Tamsin and Mike.

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 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.
- 1400 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!

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

Antarctic Basecamp

**Damoy Point and
Port Lockroy & Jougla Point
Thursday 21st December 2017**

0715 Wake-up call

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

We plan to go ashore at Damoy Point and Dorian Bay 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 and Sara will take the snowshoe hikers up to a point called Tombstone Hill.

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

0815 **Kayakers** meet with Fran on the aft Deck 3

~0900 **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 Taberin" 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!

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

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

1400 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.

~1445 **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.

2100 **Camping Group 1 – 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!!

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.

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

0815 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).

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

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

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

1400 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike 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 **Dinner Buffet** is available in the Dining Room. Please campers first.

2100 **Camping Group 2 – 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

Lemaire Channel, Pleneau Island
& Port Charcot

Saturday 23rd December 2017

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.

0715 Wake-up call

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

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

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

0930 **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.

1300 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

In the afternoon we hope to offer a Zodiac cruise at Port Charcot. The French polar explorer Charcot wintered here in 1904 with his ship Le Français.

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

1430 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin & Mike at the outside area near the boot room ready to go.

~1445 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.

1845 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.

1900 Dress warmly, bring you dancing shoes and walk through the back of the dining room where a very special **Antarctic Dinner** awaits you on the back of Deck 3.

2100 **Camping Group 3 – Hovgaard.**

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

Stony Point & Base Brown
Sunday 24th December 2017

- ~0500 Transit of Lemaire Channel
- 0700 Wake-up call.
- 0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room

After breakfast we plan to go ashore at **Base Brown**. This will be a Continental Landing! & Zodiac cruise in Skontorp Cove with spectacular glacier views, Antarctic Cormorants and occasional seals. First 4 zodiacs will land while the rest cruise, swapping halfway through. We will offer the possibility to polar plunge at the end of the morning landing. We will supply towels.

- 0815 **Kayakers Group** meet with Fran in the Library.
- 0815 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).
- ~0900 **Everyone else going ashore and zodiac cruising** please come to the gangway.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

We plan to go ashore at **Stony Point**, in Paradise Bay. This will also be also a Continental Landing! For the keen explorers we hope to offer a snowshoe hike to the top of a snow dome.

- 1330 **Kayakers** meet Fran in the Library.
- 1330 **Mountaineers** meet Tamsin and Mike at the outside area near the Boot-Room (Deck 3).
- ~1400 **Everyone else going ashore** please come to the gangway.
- 1800 Join Lynn and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.
- 1830 Buffet Dinner is available in the Dining Room. Campers first please.
- 2030 **Camping Group 4 – Stony Point.**
Please be ready for your night ashore! Remember to pack your warm clothes and don't forget, the bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!



Antarctic Basecamp

Orne Islands & Foyn Harbour

Monday 25th December 2017

0715 Wake-up call.

~0700 We will be sailing through the beautiful Errera Channel.

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

After breakfast we plan to go ashore at the Orne Islands. These flat islands are home to a different kind of penguin species – Chinstrap penguins. We also hope to offer an easy snowshoe walk here.

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

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

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

Group 2: Cabins 401-429

1330 **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 Your Christmas Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.



Antarctic Basecamp

Deception, Half Moon & Barrientos Island
Tuesday 26th December 2017

0445 Wake-up call.

Early this morning 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.

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

After breakfast we plan to land at Half Moon Island in the South Shetlands, a well-known nesting site for Chinstrap Penguins. Seals often haul out on the beach and an old wooden boat can be seen next to the landing site.

0815 Kayakers meet with Fran in the Library.

~0930 Everyone going ashore please come to the gangway.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

In the afternoon we hope to visit Barrientos Island in the Aitcho Islands group. The island is inhabited by a wide variety of wildlife including Chinstrap penguins, Gentoo penguins, and Giant petrels. Elephant seals and Weddell seals may haul out on "Whale Bone Beach", which contains scattered whale bones.

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

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

Wednesday 27th December 2017

No wakeup call this morning!

0800 Breakfast is served in the **Restaurant** for one hour.

1030 Please come to the **Restaurant** for a presentation by Lynn about **Penguins**.

1230 Lunch is served in the Restaurant.

1500 Please come to the **Restaurant** for a talk by Fran about **Dogs in Antarctica. Wuff!**

1630 Katja would like to share her knowledge and fascination of **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

Thursday 28th December 2017

No wakeup call this morning!

0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

1030 **Yoli** will be in Dining room 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 Dining Room.

1500 **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.

At some stage this afternoon we will ask you to return your **rubber boots** to the boot room. This is depending on sea conditions, 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