



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula

17th February – 8th March 2018

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

Including:

Chief Officer:	Jaanus Hannes	[Estonia]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vičas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastien Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Sebastian Duma	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Sean Steele	[Canada]
Ship's Physician:	Tanja Bayer	[Germany]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Andrew Bishop	[Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Liz Pope	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Beau Pruneau	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Mick Brown	[Ireland]
Expedition Guide:	Nina Gallo	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Silke Hoof	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Bruce Robinson	[U.S.A.]
Expedition Guide:	Phil Norris	[U.S.A.]
Dive Master:	Catherine Buckland	[England]
Dive Guide:	Chris Booker	[England]
Dive Guide:	André Fahrni	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Danny Copeland	[Wales]

Day 1 – Saturday 17th February 2018

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 042°45'S / 065°01'W



So here we are at last in Tierra del Fuego, at the bottom of the world. Well, from Ushuaia we'll be going *south* of south...a long way south. But for today, we ambled about this lovely Patagonian city, savouring 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. The rugged spine of the South American Andes ends here, where two oceans meet. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing on a whim. However, temperatures during the long days of the austral summer are relatively mild, providing a final blanket of warmth before heading off on our adventures.

For many of us this is the start of a lifelong dream. The excitement comes in different forms for each unique person, but even the most experienced of us feels genuine excitement to depart on a journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica. Most passengers were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, ready to board our ship MV *Plancius*, home for the next 19 days.

We were greeted at the gangway by members of our expedition staff, having just returned from Antarctica that morning. Our luggage was already on board so after a short wait on the wharf we made our way up the gangway and onto the good ship *Plancius*. We were met at reception by Sebastian and Michael, our hotel and restaurant managers. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of our fabulous Filipino crew.



A little while after boarding we convened in the lounge on deck five to meet First Officer Jaanus, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the crew and staff. On hearing the alarm we reconvened at the 'muster station', the lounge, for the mandatory safety briefing and abandon ship drill donning our huge orange life jackets that will keep us safe should the need arise. After this lifeboat drill we returned to the outer decks to watch our departure from the jetty of Ushuaia and the last of city life for a while. We entered the Beagle Channel with an escort of black browed albatross. Once we were on our way into the channel we were invited once again to the

lounge to meet our expedition leader, Andrew Bishop and hotel manager Sebastian who gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel which will be our home for the next few weeks. We then met the rest of the expedition team, an international bunch who will guide during our voyage, driving us ashore, giving lectures and ensuring we get the best possible experience during our trip.

This was also a chance to meet our Captain, Alexey Nazarov, and toast our voyage with a glass of prosecco. At 19:30 we sampled the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by Chef Heinz and Sean and their galley staff. In the early hours of the morning we would be out into open waters and heading north-eastwards towards the Falkland Islands.

Day 2 – Sunday 18th February 2018

At Sea Sailing to the Falkland Islands

08:00 GPS Position: 054°32' S / 064°42' W

Wind: E 10 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +9° C.



This morning was our first wake-up call of the voyage and Andrew woke us up with news of wind and weather. There was around 10 knots of wind blowing with overcast skies overhead. For some of us the smell of food was a perfect start to the day but for others it was all a bit too much for the seasick body and escaping back to the cabin was the best option.

After breakfast some of us headed out on deck for some fresh air, and enjoy the birds that were flying around the ship and gathering in large numbers behind the ship as we sailed towards the Falkland Islands. The

most common species was the giant petrel, both southern and northern subspecies but there were also black browed albatross, royal albatross, and several South American sea lions put on an appearance. Birds habitually follow ships at sea looking for food brought up to the surface by the wake but also to enjoy the uplift created by our passing. Traditionally they would follow fishing vessels for discarded food but that is not on offer from *Plancius* of course!

At 09.45 we were invited to the lounge for the mandatory Zodiac briefing from Andrew, which gave an overview of our Zodiac operations and how we should embark and disembark the small rubber boats both at the ship and shore. At 10:30 we were then invited to the boot room deck by deck to collect our rubber boots ready for the wet landings on shore. The staff were on hand to ensure that the system ran with the utmost efficiency with boots of all sizes being passed along the line to ensure everyone got the correct size ready to go ashore in the morning.

Lunch was served at 12.30 and there were a few more takers in the dining room than there had been for breakfast despite the slightly increased rolling of the ship as we headed for lunch. As the afternoon wore on some fog sprung up but we did not let that dampen our spirits!



At 15:30 Silke gave a talk in the dining room about the different whale species we could see on our voyage southwards. Just afterwards a lovely tea with cake was served in the lounge for all to enjoy. Then again at 17:00 we were invited back down to the dining room where Mick talked about the wildlife and landscapes of the Falkland Islands. This was incredibly informative for those of us with little to no knowledge of the island archipelago.

By this time it was early evening and some of us took a pre-dinner drink at the bar while others chatted amongst themselves.

At 18:30 we were invited to the lounge for the first of many daily briefings where Andrew explained our plan B for tomorrow, having already abandoned plan A, landing at West Point Island & possibly somewhere else. Bruce showed us via pre-set lengths of string how large the various birds were that we had seen throughout the day, and would see further along during the voyage. With excitement we headed down to dinner, wondering about our first landing in the Falklands on the following morn.

Day 3 – Monday 19th February 2018

West Point Island & Grave Cove

Falkland Islands



08:00 GPS Position: 051°20' S / 060°40' W

Wind: W 15 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +12°C.



Many were up bright and early to witness the captain's navigation of Woolly Gut, a narrow passage through the small islands en-route to our morning's destination. It was a drizzly day, but with a very fresh and squally breeze, that particularly gathered strength around the island headlands. The first Gentoo penguins were sighted in a small rookery as we cruised by a low peninsula and then a few South American sea lions made a brief appearance as well—what a nice welcome to the Falklands! But more was waiting for us onshore at West Point Island.

Both Andrew, our EL and Mick, one of our guides had prepared us to be flexible in the Falklands: with expedition cruising, every plan is prefaced with 'we hope' or 'maybe'. So we were excited to hear that our planned landing at West Point Island that morning would go ahead.

We met at the Zodiac boarding area for our first Zodiac trip of the voyage and made for a small cove, where there was evidence of human presence: a couple of small sheds and a charming old brick building.

Some of us jumped in a 4x4 vehicle and were driven to the other side of the island to visit a Black Browed Albatross colony. The rest of us followed a trail across open, grassy country in the same direction. Rolling green hills with beautiful views over the water and back to the ship made for a lovely stroll, despite the occasional gusts and rain showers that passed overhead.



Unsure of what to expect when we arrived at the end point of the walk, we followed a winding trail through tall tufts of tussock to a nesting site overlooking the ocean. Large, downy chicks sat perched on their nests, ruffling their feathers, apparently unperturbed by the stiff sea breeze. Adult Black-Browed Albatrosses soared overhead, occasionally landing to feed their offspring. In the distance we could also see a small colony of Rockhopper penguins. We stood behind a screen of tussock, amazed at the grace of these majestic seabirds and the beauty of their home. West Point would be a hard act to follow.

We returned to the ship for a quick lunch while *Plancius* sailed to our next landing site at Grave Cove.



Commerson's dolphins came alongside the ship and frolicked in the waves by the gangway as we ate.

After a short Zodiac ride we arrived at Grave Cove, where small colonies of Gentoo penguins and a couple of Magellanic penguins were waiting for us on the beach. After a wet landing in crystal clear water we met Marie-Paul, a Falklands resident who, with her partner, owns Grave Cove and the surrounding area.

Marie-Paul kindly led us on a short walk across open grassy fields to a large Gentoo penguin colony on the other side of the island - the largest Gentoo colony in the Falkland Islands. The colony extended all the way to the beach, and this is where most of us spent the rest of the afternoon. The beach was incredibly exposed and atmospheric, with sea salt in the air and a breeze whipping whitecaps off the swell. Here we each found a spot to be still and watch or photograph the penguins' antics: feeding, preening, waddling into the surf, paddling out past the break and surfing the breakers with Commerson's Dolphins.



As we know, all good things must come to an end, and around 16:30 we returned to *Plancius*, where our cozy home away from home was waiting for us. After some time to warm up and look through our photos from the day we met in the lounge for our recap. We learned about the Falklands geology from Andrew, and Commerson's dolphins from Silke, and are looking forward to a day in Stanley tomorrow - maybe, we hope!



Day 4 – Tuesday 20th February 2018

Stanley, Falkland Islands

0800 GPS Position: 051°41' S / 057°51' W

Wind: WNW 4 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Partially clear. **Air Temp:** +10°C.



As Andrew made the wake-up call this morning we found ourselves entering the outer harbour of Port William on our way towards Stanley. We could see the black and white lighthouse on the end of Cape Pembroke to our port side and the long white sandy beaches of Yorke Bay, beaches that were sadly turned into mine fields by the Argentinean military during the Falklands war in 1982. Before too long we found ourselves approaching The Narrows, the narrow entrance to the inner harbour and we could see the brightly coloured roofs of Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands ahead of us.



Shortly after breakfast, the Zodiacs were lowered and we were soon heading ashore to land on the floating pontoons at the Jetty Centre and to explore the town. The ride was easy on the windless sunny morning!

Many of us headed to the museum to take a look at the historical side of the Falkland Islands while the attraction of pints at the various pubs, cake or Wi-Fi was irresistible for some others. Whatever the choice it was awesome fun to



be on shore and to have the time to take a walk around the main parts of town as well as some of the back roads where treasures could be found. A number of penguin souvenirs were purchased, postcards and greetings cards were sent around the world. Before too long it was time to make our way back to the jetty for the ride back to *Plancius* and get ready to set sail on the next part of our voyage towards South Georgia.

At 16:00, the Oceanwide photographer Andrew Peacock gave his talk about photography in Antarctica and threw out some tips for how to better captures images in this fascinating part of

the world.

At 17:00, Mick gave a talk about seabirds of the southern ocean and Antarctica, explaining in detail about all the different features found on the many species possible to see.

After the daily briefing by Andrew, our fearless Expedition Leader, we heard a fascinating lecture by Mick about the great birds of the southern ocean that captured the hearts and minds of birders and non birders alike. Certainly we needed these tips ahead of the coming sightings that were destined for our adventure down South.

Our two days in the Falklands were fantastic with lots of sun and only a few bits of wind and rain at times. The first day's beach strolls on the sandy white, nearly tropical yet rugged beaches of Saunders Island, full of penguins and surfing dolphins, won't be forgotten by any who saw with their waking eyes a long harboured dream of something so exotic, beautiful, and rare at the very edges of the world.

As we battened up the hatches for the ride to South Georgia, we prepared for whatever may come, knowing our adventure upon the high seas to the legendary South Georgia Island would be worth it, skimming through the wake of Shackleton and history on our journey south.



Day 5 – Wednesday 21st February 2018

At Sea Sailing to South Georgia

0800 GPS Position: 052°23'S / 051°48'W

Wind: N 20 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Sunshine. **Air Temp:** +9°C.

After such busy days around the Falkland Islands it was almost nice to have a day at sea to recover, download the many photographs and recharge our own batteries, never mind the camera batteries in preparation for the coming days on South Georgia. However when Andrew made the wake-up call there were plenty of people heading to eat, as the night had been quite calm and relaxing, with relatively little wind and swell.

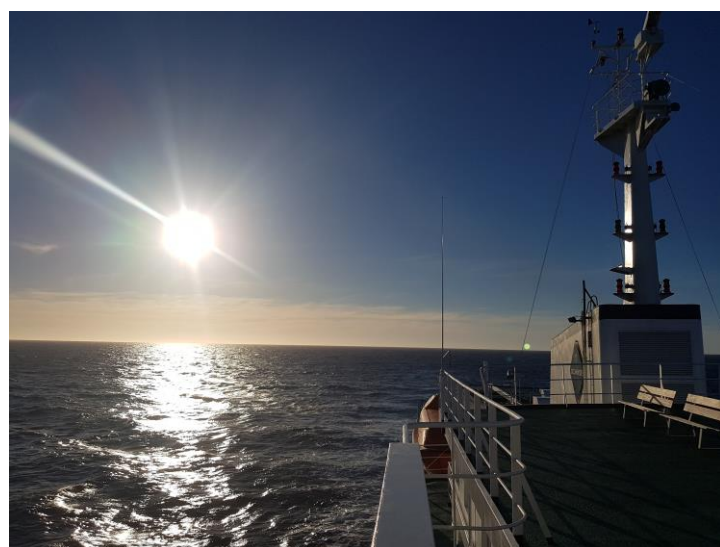
At 10:30 Mick gave the first of his two part lecture on penguins, fascinating birds of the sea. Perhaps not able to fly through the air, they are magnificent at flying through the water!

Lunchtime! Shouted the head chef Heinz the Hacker. More food? Yes indeed, although as it was in the morning, the dining room was quite full. Such cooperation from the weather gods...

Out on deck many of the birders, along with Bruce, were having a wonderful time with their binoculars and cameras. *Plancius* was followed all day by several Southern Royal Albatrosses and Wandering Albatrosses. That provided the photographers on-board great opportunities to photograph these majestic birds.

By 15:30 Beau was ready to deliver his talk on polar pinnipeds; various seal species we hoped to see during our time around South Georgia and Antarctica. Having had just a taste of sea lions around the Beagle Channel and the Falklands, it was time for some serious flipping out about fur seals and elephant seals!

After everyone had sampled the fabulous tea served up as always by the ever present Raquel, it was time to once again head down to the dining room for no, not more food but another lecture! This time Mick talked about the wildlife and landscapes of South Georgia, a fantastically wild island with so much to offer.



Dinner was punctual as always, but wait! Afterwards Phil arranged some shenanigans in the form of a polar quiz evening in the bar, good fun for everyone.

During the evening the wind picked up as *Plancius* crossed the Antarctic Convergence. Both the sea temperature and the air is getting lower! We are moving nearer to Antarctica. In the night the ships time was adjusted with +1 hour to be on the same time zone as South Georgia.



Day 6 – Thursday 22nd February 2018

At Sea Sailing to South Georgia

0800 GPS Position: 053°20' S / 043°38' W

Wind: NW 15 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Sunshine. **Air Temp:** +8°C.



From the early hours of the morning there had been a number of seabirds following the ship and the wandering albatross were definitely the stars of the show today. A number of individuals flew circuits around the ship flying right over the heads of passengers on the top of the bridge deck almost as if they were having a look at us as much as we were looking at them. Very beautiful indeed. There were increasing numbers of White-chinned petrels and of course Black browed albatross that we had been seeing every day since leaving Ushuaia. Also interesting were the few Grey-headed albatross, with their lovely-coloured yellow beaks and notably darker-shaded heads.

The morning of scheduled activities began in earnest with learning about how to be a responsible visitor to South Georgia and Antarctica. The non-profit group IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) developed the briefing so that everyone wanting to experience this special place will understand how to do their part to keep it as special and pristine as we can—including how to behave around the animals we will see, and that we should follow the old maxim: “take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints”... and even those we should fill in if our boot prints end up being too deep in the snow so that penguins don’t get trapped in the hole by accident! Then the real fun began—the vacuum party. We need to make sure we do not unwittingly transfer non-native material between places we visit, as new introductions could lead to invasive plants changing the native ecosystem-- or even spreading a virus between animal colonies. The first step was to go through all of our outer clothing and vacuum the Velcro, cuffs, backpacks—any areas that could trap seeds. Everyone was very diligent in their cleaning activities and everyone had completed the task by lunch time!

By mid-afternoon some tiny pinnacles of land were seen sticking up out of the sea ahead of us. These were Shag Rocks and they rise straight up from the sea bed looking very strange in the vast expanse of Blue Ocean. These areas with steep, underwater mountain slopes are often good for marine mammals as there are upwelling of water and nutrients so all the staff were out on deck to see what could be spotted. Sea conditions were still very calm and visibility was great so we all kept our fingers crossed for something. Groups of South Georgia shags kept flying past the vessel in aerial formation which was great for everyone, but especially for the keen bird watchers.



Everyone was out on deck to watch as we sailed past and Captain Alexey did a great job of taking us so close to the rocks. We could see the fringe of kelp around each little island and the white of the cormorant guano stained the 70 meter high rocks white. Occasional big swells created huge waves on the rocks which everyone tried hard to capture with their cameras. After a few turns beside the rocks we then resumed our course towards South Georgia.

At 18:30 we had our daily briefing, a daily ritual that would become the norm. As evening closed in everyone headed down for dinner, perhaps catching some last bits of fresh air outside just before ducking in again for more food.

Day 7 – Friday 23rd February 2018

Salisbury Plain & Prion Island, South Georgia

0800 GPS Position: 054°03' S / 037°19' W

Wind: NW 10 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Sunshine. **Air Temp:** +8°C.

Today the early birds were rewarded with a beautiful passage into the Bay of Isles.

For the sleepy heads Andrew gave his morning wake-up call at 07:00 and our day started with the first Zodiac launching at 08:30 for our landing at Salisbury plain. Approaching the beach, from far away you could see the hundreds of fur seals playing in the water and spread out along the beach, mixed with hundreds of king penguins. Some of them already started jumping through the water left and right of our Zodiacs.

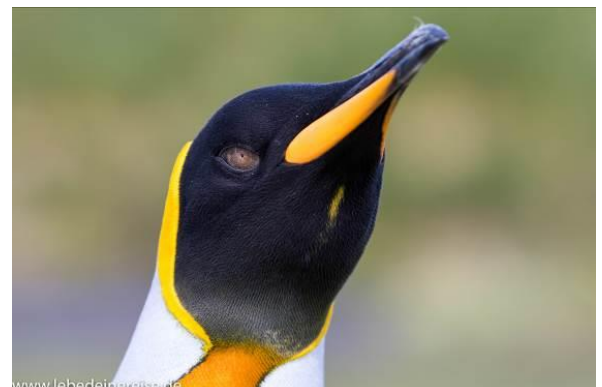
After a wet landing we stood immediately in the middle of hundreds of penguins and fur seal pups, staring at us with their dark big eyes curious at such a sight. We were impressed by the strong smell of penguin poo combined with a concert of different animal sounds. Among all the animals were some big elephant seals taking a nap while sunbathing on the beach.



It was a beautiful morning with sunshine and a warm breeze, probably almost too hot for the penguins. Mick started the walk towards the right and after about 1km we approached the astonishing large king penguin colony of circa 10,000 penguin pairs. We were lucky to get very close to the colony and could even climb a little bit on the tussock grass to have a higher overview.

Several skuas were also sitting in the middle of the way next to an empty egg and several penguins were crossing our way. Some even discovered a golden fur seal.

Coming back onboard we had to do the biosecurity boot wash with Silke, checking our boots for any seeds and grass.





After a delicious lunch we headed off for Prion Island. We signed up into three different groups, as visitors on land are limited to 50 people at a time. So, some guests enjoyed Zodiac cruising



along the shore with fur seal pups, Wilson's storm petrels, South Georgia pipits, cormorants, albatrosses, & various other birds and sea life. The other group went

directly to the beach and was again welcomed by the perfume of penguin poo and the combined sound of fur seals and king penguins. This time it was a short path on a boardwalk that snaked its way up the hill through the tussock grass. We had fur seals all over the place: left and right or just in front of us, all the time curiously observing our movements, making strange noises, following and chasing us or even blocking our way. Some seals simply laid in the grass, enjoying some sun or suckling in peace. At the top of the hill, we had a good view to some nesting wandering albatrosses and giant petrels. All afternoon we were accompanied by a beautiful rainbow spread out across the bay. At the end of the day, Beau gave a nice overview of the birds we saw during the day during recap.

And then it was time for dinner and more food...



Day 8 – Saturday 24th February 2018

Godthul & Grytviken, South Georgia

0800 GPS Position: 054°17' S / 036°17' W

Wind: SW 10 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Part Cloud. **Air Temp:** +10°C.



Our second day in South Georgia offered us another opportunity to marvel in her beguiling landscapes, seascapes and cloudscapes. Those who were up early witnessed a deep yellow-orange sun rising from an infinite watery horizon, and a brilliant rainbow shining upon our bow as we sailed towards the “unfortunately-too-windy-to-land” expanse of St Andrews Bay.

And so “Plan B” was executed, and shortly after

breakfast *Plancius* motored into the sheltered bay of Godthul. We were treated to an impressive mountainous amphitheatre backdrop, and gangs of romping fur seal pups greeting us at the beach. After winding our way up a steep, tangled maze of head-height tussock grass, we soon reached an expansive plateau and its vibrant and cushiony carpet of mosses, grasses and flowers. While some of us took a more leisurely stroll to the lake, the ‘mountain goats’ among us headed for the rocky heights above. Brilliant views were on offer to all, as well as a continually evolving cloudscape in the skies high above us.



The morning also provided us with good sighting of two of South Georgia’s endemic species. Pipits flitted about, announcing their presence with their high, twittering calls; and flotillas of South Georgia Pintails cruised about on the lakes and ponds. Groups of moulting Gentoo penguins also stood about (in seemingly inaccessibly mountainous places for such a small bird!), patiently waiting for their annual “catastrophic” moults to finish.



After lunch we gathered in the lounge for a briefing from Andrew on the afternoon's activities at Grytviken. We also had the opportunity to learn more about the various habitat restoration projects on the island from a special guest, Sarah Lurcock, Director of the South Georgia Heritage Trust. Of particular success has been the large-scale rodent eradication project, which has already seen a noticeable return of the South Georgia pipit to areas of the island it had not been seen in the years since rodents were first inadvertently introduced to the island by early explorers and sealers.

The skies outside continued to host an extraordinary display of enormous lenticular clouds, which we enthusiastically captured with our cameras as they, simultaneously, captured our imaginations. Although seen relatively frequently in South Georgia, those that call the island home declared that this grand display of cloud, wind and light was the best they had seen all summer.



Once on shore, many of us took part in a traditional toast of whiskey to the famed explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, at his graveside before proceeding to the restored remains of the old whaling station of Grytviken. Some of us joined a walking tour of the station, while others took in



the historical significance of the site at their own pace. The museum also provided a plethora of information – from the challenges and trials of a whaler's life; to South Georgia's early and modern-day explorers; as well as the natural history of the island's flora and fauna. Some retail therapy was enjoyed in the museum shop, and stacks of postcards began their long journey to their recipients in various corners of the world from the Post Office.

A dramatic seascape was the final act for the day. Once safely back on board, we proved a captive audience for the gusting winds that whipped up the surface of the water into twisted, spinning frenzies around us. It was indeed, another fantastic South Georgian day.



Day 9 – Sunday 25th February 2018

Fortuna Bay & Stromness Harbour, South Georgia

0800 GPS Position: 054°07' S / 036°49' W

Wind: W 20 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +10°C.

After yesterday's amazing display of lenticular clouds we awoke to another morning of superb mountain clouds over Fortuna Bay, our planned morning landing.



Zodiacs dropped us on a beach pulsing with life - King penguins and fur seal pups were all around, as well as an Elephant seal, mainly concealed in the tussock above the beach.

From the landing site we walked long the beach and up across gravel outwash plains, crossing small meltwater streams and enjoying the carpet of native grasses on our way to visit a King penguin colony of about 7000 pairs. When we reached the colony we made our way onto a small knoll where we could relax and take in the spectacular view and sound of the penguins, with the Breakwind Ridge behind us, the Konig glacier in front and the ship in the bay in the distance.

After a short time Mick and the expedition staff organized four small groups of us to approach the colony for a closer look and to take some photographs. There were several chicks in their fluffy brown coats, otherwise known as 'Oakem Boys', chicks molting and several penguins with eggs. It was fascinating to see these various stages of life occurring at the same time.

Our visit was punctuated by occasional strong gusts of wind coming down off the glacier, which eased throughout the morning.

The walk back to the beach was relaxed as we headed back in our own time, following the marked trail and weaving between fur seal pups on the grassy plains. We saw a couple of fur seals nursing, and made sure to give these a much wider berth.

There was still some time before the last Zodiac, so many of us congregated around the beach for a while, watching as fur seal pups frolicked on the shoreline and in a nearby lagoon, and King penguins waddled with their trademark dignity and nonchalance up the beach.





After lunch we prepared for our second landing at Stromness, an abandoned whaling station where Shackleton finally made contact with civilization after his adventure on the Endurance. As we walked away from the seal-covered beach we left the seals behind and entered a broad, U shaped glacial valley. Mick blazed a trail up the lovely, grassy valley past beautiful glacial scenery with braided streams, moraine ridges and rounded hummocks (roches moutonnes). The weather was warm, calm, and sunny, so by the time we arrived at the waterfall at the head of the valley, many of us were contemplating a swim! Only a few braved the cold water, but the waterfall was a lovely area to sit, enjoy the warmth and good company and

take some time to reflect on our three incredible days in South Georgia so far.

At the evening briefing and recap, Andrew outlined the program for tomorrow. We hoped to Zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay, where we might be able to see Macaroni Penguins (or nudelkopf, as he calls them), as well as Chinstrap penguins, Gentoo penguins and some interesting geology. Mick also made a presentation on King penguin behavior and their complex breeding cycles, which answered some of the questions raised by our visit to the colony at Fortuna Bay this morning.



Day 10 – Monday 26th February 2018

Cooper Bay & Drygalski Fjord, South Georgia

0800 GPS Position: 054°43' S / 035°44' W

Wind: NE 4 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Part Cloud. **Air Temp:** +8°C.

Today was a day full of 'at sea' adventure! We started the misty morning in Cooper Bay, home of nearly every species we've seen so far along with a few new friends. Chinstrap penguins peppered in with the rocky neighbourhood's macaroni's made for a new penguin dynamic that was foreign for most of us. We saw the hazy fog and drizzle slowly lift as we explored the bay along with the crew of guides who drove us around the all manner of beautiful, rugged, and exotic coastline on the very edge of South Georgia Island. Bigger fur seals, King penguins and an elusive leopard seal showed themselves as well, along with a few soaring light mantled sooty albatross and giant petrels of all sorts. As the coastline's contours cleared, the vibrant green popped out above the striated rock faces that hid a few alpine glaciers above.



As we finished up operations with Zodiac cruising in the morning, coffee tanks filled and ready to go, we found ourselves overwhelmed by the immensity of ice and a very cool blue taste of what is to come once we make it on to Antarctica. Our last afternoon around South Georgia didn't disappoint, as the full ship's cruise into Drygalski Fjord enlivened even the most reluctant and weary of travellers among us. We saw massive glacial calving off the main tidewater resting glacier, and a few hanging glaciers peered down upon us from the cliffs above. The sheer magnitude of the fjord awoke within the ice loving traveller the call of the wild, to the south, that soon awaited us.



Afterwards we heard Mick's "Birds of a Feather" lecture while we started to feel the roll of the open sea once more. South is the course now and very soon, the small icebergs and bits of ice that we leave behind will pale in comparison to the ultimate, longed for dream of the Antarctic ice sheet ahead.

Forward to the South!

Day 11 – Tuesday 27th February 2018

At Sea to the South Orkney Islands.

0800 GPS Position: 057°57' S / 040°07' W

Wind: W 40 knots. **Sea State:** Rough. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +1°C.

We had a leisurely start today because we dropped our clocks back one hour from South Georgia time to return to Argentina time. Overnight the wind speed had increased and by breakfast time we were rolling heavily in seas of five to six metres. All access to the outside decks was closed for our safety. Ropes were placed between the pillars in the lounge to prevent folks from capsizing.



Biosecurity vacuuming had been planned for 10:30 but this was postponed and instead Bruce brought his lecture 'An Introduction to Photography forward. In his presentation Bruce recommended various ways of maximising the



quality and content of our Antarctic photographs. Using different angles, camera settings and the placement of people, animals and the landscape we learned the value of taking this approach and improving our photographic skills.

Lunch was served at 12:30 though there were a few empty places in the dining room! Regardless of the weather the hotel staff always provide a wonderful service both in terms of food and service. The wind speed averaged 42 and at times increased to over 60 knots. But by mid afternoon the wind decreased and the vacuum party got under way at 15:00. The earlier experience on our voyage helped to speed up the operation and we were able to move quickly on to the next

afternoon event; an auction at 16.30. As a means of raising funds for conservation projects on South Georgia, these on board ship auctions have raised thousands of dollars over the years. Several items were auctioned in two lots and they included, amongst other things; a whale carving, a penguin clock, artwork and hand painted t-shirts. It was great fun as the bidding was encouraged with humour and professionalism by our auctioneer Andrew. Over \$1,500 was raised for monitoring the success of the rat eradication programme on the island. It was held during 'happy hour' in the bar, this may well have influenced some of the bids!

Dinner was served at 19:00 and with the reduction in the wind speed a more comfortable evening was enjoyed by us all. Several species of seabirds were seen today and whale blows too were observed. A tiring but good day was at an end and a quiet ship sailed onward towards our next adventure, this time in Antarctica.

Day 12 – Wednesday 28th February 2018

Orcadas Station, South Orkney Islands.

0800 GPS Position: 060°44' S / 044°43' W

Wind: WSW 17 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** -1°C.

We made good time during the night, arriving in the South Orkney Islands earlier than expected. Conditions were favorable and we began Zodiac operations after breakfast. This morning was a split landing, with half of the passengers visiting Orcadas Station while the other half went for a zodiac cruise around the bay and then swapping places.

Base Orcadas is an Argentinian scientific station that has been in operation since 1904, making it the oldest permanently populated base in Antarctica. Here we were greeted by the friendly personnel and given a tour of the station and learned about some of the projects here. We also had a chance visit the small museum and some rather interesting penguin taxidermy.



Zodiac cruising around the bay was a bit windy but filled with wildlife sightings and spectacular scenery. Large groups of adult Antarctic Fur Seals occupied some of the beaches as well as a few Elephant Seals. Chinstrap penguins were common amidst the rocks and ice along the shore. We also saw our first Antarctic Shags. The landscape of jagged mountains and rugged glaciers surrounding the bay was awe inspiring, and the large tabular icebergs in the distance set the stage for our first

true Antarctic experience.

Shortly after lunch an announcement was made that whales had been sighted in the distance. As we approached closer, we were treated to close encounters with three or four Fin Whales surfacing and feeding close to the ship.

Our afternoon was filled with informative lectures. Liz gave us an exciting introduction to Antarctica in her presentation, Destination Antarctica: an Introduction to the Icy South. We learned a bit about the physical, biological and political aspects of the great southern continent. Later, Phil gave a spirited and thought provoking talk about the Ice Monsters of Antarctica, reviewing the fossil record of Antarctica and discussing adaptations that some of these ancient creatures may have used to survive in this harsh and ever-changing environment.

A few more facts were learned at the Daily Briefing as well as the plan for the following day. Another fantastic dinner was enjoyed, followed by a relaxing evening as we continued steaming south toward the Antarctic Peninsula.



Day 13 – Thursday 1st March 2018

At Sea to Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 061°56' S / 051°23' W

Wind: N 7 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Fog. **Air Temp:** +1°C.

We had another full day at sea ahead of us and the day started as any other day with Andrew's morning call before breakfast. Many of us hit the snooze button for a while before getting up for a leisurely breakfast followed by an extra coffee. The sea was much calmer than predicted. It was supposed to be 30 knots of wind, but we had only 7 knots and a little bit of fog. Unfortunately not the best weather for spotting whales..... But this didn't matter too much. Many simply sat in the lounge, reading a book, working on their pictures or just chatting with one another.



The calm morning didn't last for long, the wind increased slowly. At 10:30 Liz started the daily lectures with a talk about ice and its forms: icebergs, brash, frazil and floe. Ice has many forms, can have different sizes and shapes and also interesting colors. Every single iceberg tells its own life story and Liz encouraged us to have a closer look at the next icebergs we see and try to read its life story and try to find out where the lines and holes come from or if it rolled over or not.

By lunch time it was beginning to feel decidedly Antarctic. Around noon the winds continued to increase a little bit up to 25 knots, but we had increasing swell of 4-5 m and the outside decks were closed off for our safety. But fortunately we had two more talks coming up in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, Nina gave her presentation, the "Discovery of Antarctica: 2000 years in the making". You could see that a lot of us were having trouble with the rough sea and sea sickness and preferred to stay in the cabin with a prolonged nap after lunch. But a few guests came to listen to the history of the Antarctic explorers reaching this incredible continent. With stormy seas on the screens and waves crashing on the windows outside it created a wonderful atmosphere in the dining room!

Later in the afternoon Andrew gave a presentation about the geology of Antarctica, how it was formed and the different rocks and volcanic areas that can be found.



At the daily briefing in the evening Andrew explained our plans for tomorrow when we would arrive at the Antarctic Peninsula. He explained about the geological formation of Brown Bluff, a volcanic feature where we hope to land in the afternoon. Liz then gave a short presentation about sea



sickness and its cause and some remedies. And finally Mick read a humorous story about physical fitness and motivation and lack thereof.

After dinner Phil started the second quiz of this trip, this time the South Georgia quiz with many interesting and challenging questions about the island. 9 groups were formed to compete in this quiz, eager to demonstrate their knowledge they gained from the lectures on South Georgia and to win the overall. It was a head to head battle royal. The second and third place groups had only one point in difference. The prize for the first place winner group was a bottle of white wine, the second group received playing cards from *Plancius* and the third winner pins from *Plancius*. After enjoying this entertaining game, everybody finished up the evening with a drink. Everyone was excited about the coming days on the Antarctic Peninsula!

Day 14 – Friday 2nd March 2018

Antarctic Sound and Brown Bluff, Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 063°36' S / 056°28' W

Wind: SSE 15 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** -8°C.

Today was the day of Antarctic adventure that our minds, hearts, and eyes could scarcely believe. We woke up to a frosty, bright day shrouded in a mystical ice fog seemingly from another age. Soon the titans of the Weddell Sea showed themselves. It soon was apparent we were not alone, but rather surrounded in a literal sea of ice, along with penguins of all sorts. We had whales arrive later in the day's journey.

Our original plans had to be changed as the epic landscape of towering black rocks shooting up from the depths of the sea were given the blue backdrop of glacial ice in countless surreal sculptures that only the imagination's limitations were set upon. Even a seasoned sailor couldn't have claimed



to not be impressed by the misty magic that surrounded the good ship *Plancius*. As we ship cruising through Antarctic Sound and touched the entrance to the Weddell Sea, towering tabular icebergs cast their shadows upon us and we gazed in wonderment upon these massifs from another age.



After lunch, we geared up and had our first true taste of Antarctic adventure, landing upon the ice encrusted shores of Brown Bluff. Although up high the rocky castle glimmered in contrast to the ice strewn beach, it only took a slight hint of imagination to realize the other world of our dreams were not truly dreams any longer, but a sweet reality before our waking eyes. We explored the shoreline and saw some new friends, the Adélie penguin along with a few big Weddell seals. Leopard seals patrolled the coastline waiting for the chance at a penguin soufflé. The day's adventure continued through the snows and blasts of frigid wind that froze beards, eyebrows, cameras and toes among many other odd bits and

pieces. Undeterred, we continued back to the ship only when the tides forced us home to the warmth and good food of the ship. During recap we heard from Andrew the next day's plan of attack for the adventures ahead, Beau explained about the ghost of Antarctica; the snow petrel, and heard a bit of travel writing and poetry from Phil to inspire a little more for the contemplative, wondrous, and exciting journey ahead.

For many this day will stick in the minds of us travellers, as whether it was the 7th continent, our first kiss of a glacier, the first iceberg we ever saw rammed, or the simple enjoyment of a long journey, today's trip was exactly why we came down to the bottom on the world on the educational adventure we've been enjoying aboard the *Plancius*.

Day 15 – Saturday 3rd March 2018

Cierva Cove and Portal Point, Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 063°58' S / 060°52' W

Wind: ENE 14 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** -1°C.



Our morning excursion was a Zodiac cruise in Cierva Cove, a dramatic, glacier-rimmed cove, which is home to the Argentinian Primavera Station. There were several towering icebergs to explore in the area, brash ice to navigate and wildlife to discover. It was with

an air of anticipation that we prepared for our first Zodiac cruise in Antarctica.

Gentoo penguins were porpoising alongside the Zodiacs and many of us encountered whales resting (logging) or travelling in the cove. Some of us were fortunate to come across a leopard seal, or have whales approach us as we turned off the engine and enjoyed the deep silence among the ice.

Icebergs offered excellent examples of the processes of formation and erosion we had heard about in Liz's ice talk, with some spectacular caves and formations, and some of us returned to the ship with pieces of black ice to have with our drinks at night.



Our afternoon landing was at Portal Point, and after a tasty lunch we lowered anchor. A thick sea fog obscured the horizon and icebergs seemed to float impossibly on the velvety sea. The silence was occasionally interrupted by whale blows, and snow petrels soared about the ship. After navigating around some grounded icebergs to reach the shore at Portal Point, we prepared for what was intended to be a peaceful landing - an opportunity to meditate on the icebergs in the fog and quietly reflect on our time in Antarctica so far. However, it wasn't long before the landing unexpectedly evolved into an all out snowball fight with passengers and staff alike joining in the fun.

We returned to the ship somewhat soggy but exuberant. And today, for the first time this trip Silke informed us that we had a green 'Tag Board' when we returned back on board. This board indicates when we depart and return to the ship, and often there are a few of us who forget to turn our tags on return, but today we all remembered. Hooray!





As it turned out, this was only the beginning of the evening's festivities, as the dining room had organized a delicious BBQ on Deck 3, to be followed by a dance party complete with disco lighting. It was a very Antarctic BBQ, with misty mountains and snow falling as we tucked into our meal.

It might have been the combination of BBQ aromas and 1980s boogie tunes that attracted the whales, seals and birds to take part in the fun - we'll never know! Either way, it was a real treat to feast our eyes on this amazing Antarctic wildlife that gathered around the ship as night fell and the dance party began.

All in all, another unbeatable day in Antarctica!



Day 16 – Sunday 4th March 2018

Stony Point and Cuverville Island, Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 064°52' S / 063°11' W

Wind: SW 1 knot. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +2°C.



As always Andrew woke us up with his wake up call and some had a hard time getting up after the barbeque and the dancing from the night before. It was a cloudy morning, quite warm, but with good visibility. When we lowered the Zodiacs we had a minke whale close to the ship. As the number for visitors on land was limited, we split into two groups, one for Zodiac cruising and one for landing at Stony Point.

The group in the Zodiacs saw some crabeater seals, Antarctic terns on ice, juvenile kelp gulls, and plenty of penguins amongst other wildlife. Even a leopard seal and some humpback whales were seen in the area.

In the meantime, the group on shore enjoyed some Weddell seals laying in the snow, sleeping and lazily scratching themselves, and some Gentoo penguins were hanging out on the rocks next to the landing station. A path was laid out up the hill with the iconic red flags, a couple of exposed crevasses reminding us of the importance of sticking to the marked path and not deviating from it.

It was a beautiful quiet morning with a great view over the two bays, Fergusson Channel and Oscar Bay. At 10:15 Andrew gave the sign to swap the groups, so the hill climbers could spend some time on the water and the Zodiac cruisers had the chance to climb the hilltop. The weather was slowly deteriorating, some snow blew in, but spirits remained high throughout the morning. However there were more than a few happy smiles when it was time to board the ship and the lunch call was made.

After lunch we attempted to enter Andvord Bay to land at Neko Harbour, however the ice proved more than what *Plancius* could handle. So we headed for Cuverville Island as a happy alternative instead. On our way, around 14:00 we finally sighted some killer whales. So, the captain slowed down *Plancius* and for 20 minutes we had a wonderful time hanging out with several Orca around the ship, some of them very close, just underneath the bow even. As the call came quickly over the PA there was little time to dress up properly, some even venturing out on deck in board shorts and bare thermals.





In the afternoon we landed on Cuverville Island. The weather was good and clear inviting us for a second adventure on shore. Immediately after landing hundreds of Gentoo penguin surrounded us, so that we really had to watch our steps. The penguins were cute, but also a bit saucy at the same time and curiously pecking at pants and boots. Funny looking moulting penguins with strange “haircuts” passed by waiting for their parents to return from the water to feed them. One penguin even laid down on our emergency bags for a short nap. Then it was time for the highlight of the day, our polar plunge. Surrounded by the penguins around 15 brave guests jumped into the icy water for a quick dive, one even completely naked. The beach was covered with ice which made it even more

challenging. What a great day!

During the short recap Andrew was interrupted by a special guest outside of the windows: a breaching humpback whale which made several appearances before disappearing back into the deep depths. Time for dinner!



Day 17 – Monday 5th March 2018

Telefon Bay (Deception Island), South Shetland Islands

0800 GPS Position: 063°07' S / 061°20' W

Wind: E 20 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** -1° C.

During the night we had sailed up the Gerlache Strait and across the Bransfield Strait towards the South Shetland Islands where we were planning to spend our last Antarctic day. At 06:00 Andrew woke us all up as *Plancius* was approaching Deception Island, thereafter passing through the infamous 'Neptune's Bellows'. On the cliffs surrounding 'Neptune's Bellows' the Cape Petrels can be seen breeding. The whole of Deception Island is classed as an active volcano and the entrance was where the rim of the volcano collapsed and allowed the water to flood in creating Port Foster.



While the wind howled outside the caldera, inside *Plancius* continued on through subdued conditions towards Telefon Bay, towards the back end of the island. A flat glacial outwash plain, leading up towards a small caldera and hill. As one by one the Zodiacs dropped everyone off on the beach, a lone fur seal and penguin to greet them, Liz headed off with the first explorers towards the far hillside for a viewpoint. As everyone headed up the slope, the more adventurous headed further up the hill and down a small ravine back towards the beach. As the wind picked up it was decided to head back to the ship, only slightly earlier than planned. Waves and wind alike crashed against the gangway making it decidedly expedition style, making good on the wishes of a few for some 'real' weather.



At 09:30 am everyone was back on board and *Plancius* steamed out of the caldera, chancing fate once again without any ill volcano consequences. As lunch was called the ship was slowly locked back down for the next days on the Drake, weather predicted to pick up and swell and wind alike vying for top honours of making things as miserable as possible. However this was only to be the beginning....

At 15:00 Around Cape Horn was shown in the lounge, a documentary from the early 1900's about a young sailor sailing on a 4 mast cargo ship from Hamburg down to Chile, rounding the horn from east to west.

After tea time with hazelnut cake, Nina invited us all down to the dining room for a thought provoking lecture about Antarctic politics. After our daily briefing it was again time for another dinner, although many decided to bypass food and head straight for bed....

Day 18 – Tuesday 6th March 2018

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 059°14'S / 062°47'W

Wind: WNW 38 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Partly Cloudy. **Air Temp:** +8°C.

The morning started off reasonable, considering the warnings we had heard about the storm that was rolling in. While it was rather unpleasant, most had expected far worse rolling and movement. However as always this rolling was also proving too much for some passengers who were susceptible to seasickness and there were a few spare seats at the breakfast buffet this morning.

During breakfast however a few pilot whales and hourglass dolphins made an appearance, swimming alongside the ship and even surfing the waves, putting on a show for the few who made it outside to see.

Thankfully the day was a quiet one, where we could relax and rest, out in mid ocean, and landfall in Ushuaia some way off yet.

To start the programme of presentations for the day Phil invited us all down to the dining room to talk about the race to the South Pole, the iconic competition between Scott and Amundsen.



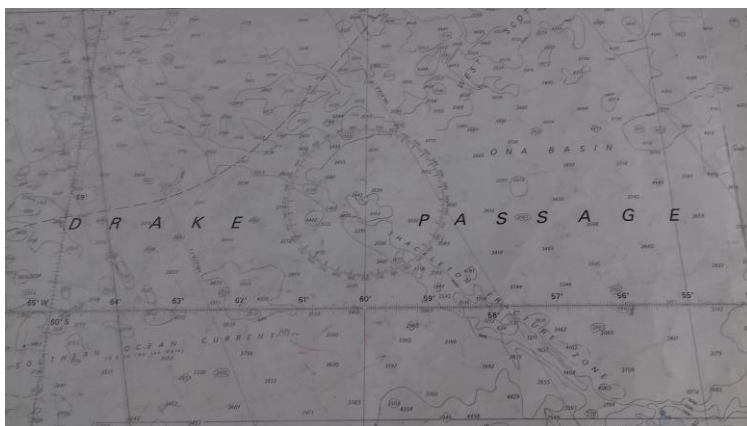
After the presentation many people got wrapped up and headed out onto the bridge wings for some fresh air and salt water spray. There weren't too many birds around the ship during the morning, an occasional Black browed albatross and a few Prions were seen drifting by.

As the storm increased in intensity, the wind picked to over 59 knots, water being churned by the enormous waves. We all held on for dear life as we understood the true meaning of the Drake Passage.

After lunch Doctor Tanja gave a very interesting talk about living with emperor penguins. Afterwards Mick then gave a lecture explaining about Greenwich Mean Time, and how it affects us down south.

Re-cap was the usual plans for tomorrow including paying bills and an interesting story about a Swedish expedition from Nina.

After dinner Phil invited us one last time up in the lounge for the very last *Plancius* Pub Quiz, this time revenge was the order of the game.



Day 19 – Wednesday 7th March 2018

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 055°59'S / 065°25'W

Wind: WSW 25 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Partly Cloudy. **Air Temp:** +8°C.

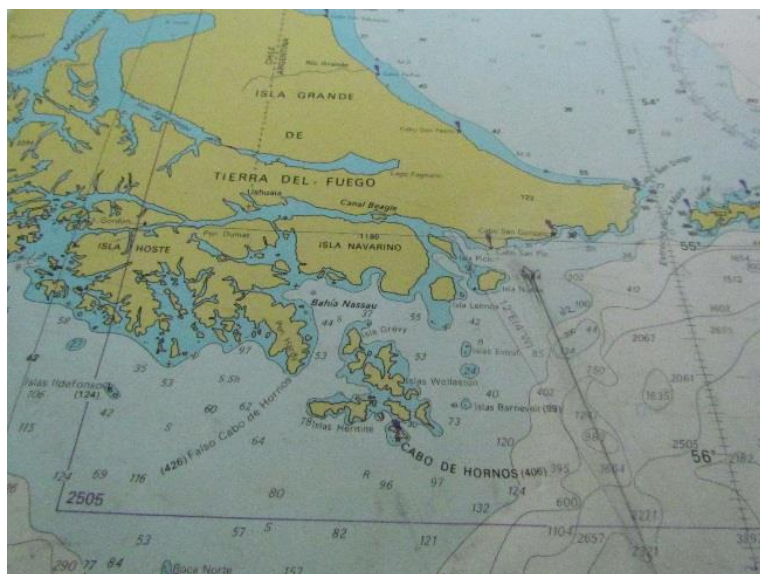
Well the forecast winds hadn't really arrived during the night or early morning as expected. This meant most of us were able to get a decent night of sleep and not be rolled out our bunks.

With no wake-up call again this morning the first call of the day was to breakfast where once again we were amazed that there was still fresh fruit available after nearly 3 weeks at sea. Beau in particular had a rather unusual craving for kiwis!

There was still some wind from the west, about 25 knots, and occasional rolls but generally life on board was acceptable and not the storm that was predicted to hit later on that morning.



Before lunch André & Chris gave some interesting insight on diving, André speaking about the history of diving in Antarctica and Chris explaining how marine mammals, in particular Weddell seals, are able to dive to such depth without aid such as we humans need. Thereafter Gerard, trip leader for the White Planet Expedition 2018 group, showed a short slideshow summing up what the divers had seen during the trip.



After lunch we were called deck by deck to reception, to settle the dreaded accounts. Nothing on board had to be paid for during the entire trip, until the last day that is!

Some dusky dolphins also made an afternoon appearance, bow riding *Plancius* and one even breached 3 meters straight up in the air!

Soon we were also called 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, especially in the cold of Antarctica where penguin guano was found on every rock and boulder.

At 18:00 we were invited to the lounge for Captain's Cocktails where we met with Captain Alexey once again to toast the wonderful voyage. He did some amazing navigation with *Plancius*, taking us close to whales and icebergs and into narrow channels for unforgettable experiences. The divers had a short video and the staff had contributed photos for a slide show that Bruce had put together for us. It was lovely to look back over the last 20 days on board *Plancius* and remember the places we had visited and the wonderful things we had seen.

Cheers everyone!

Day 20 – Thursday 8th March 2018

Disembarkation Ushuaia

We were woken by the last wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Andrew and readied ourselves 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 three weeks have taken us on a remarkable journey from the bottom of the world in Ushuaia, to the Falkland Islands, over to South Georgia and onwards to Antarctica and back 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 King penguins in the sunshine at Salisbury Plain or the sight of the icebergs in Antarctic Sound they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical miles: 3519 nm

Kilometres: 6517 km

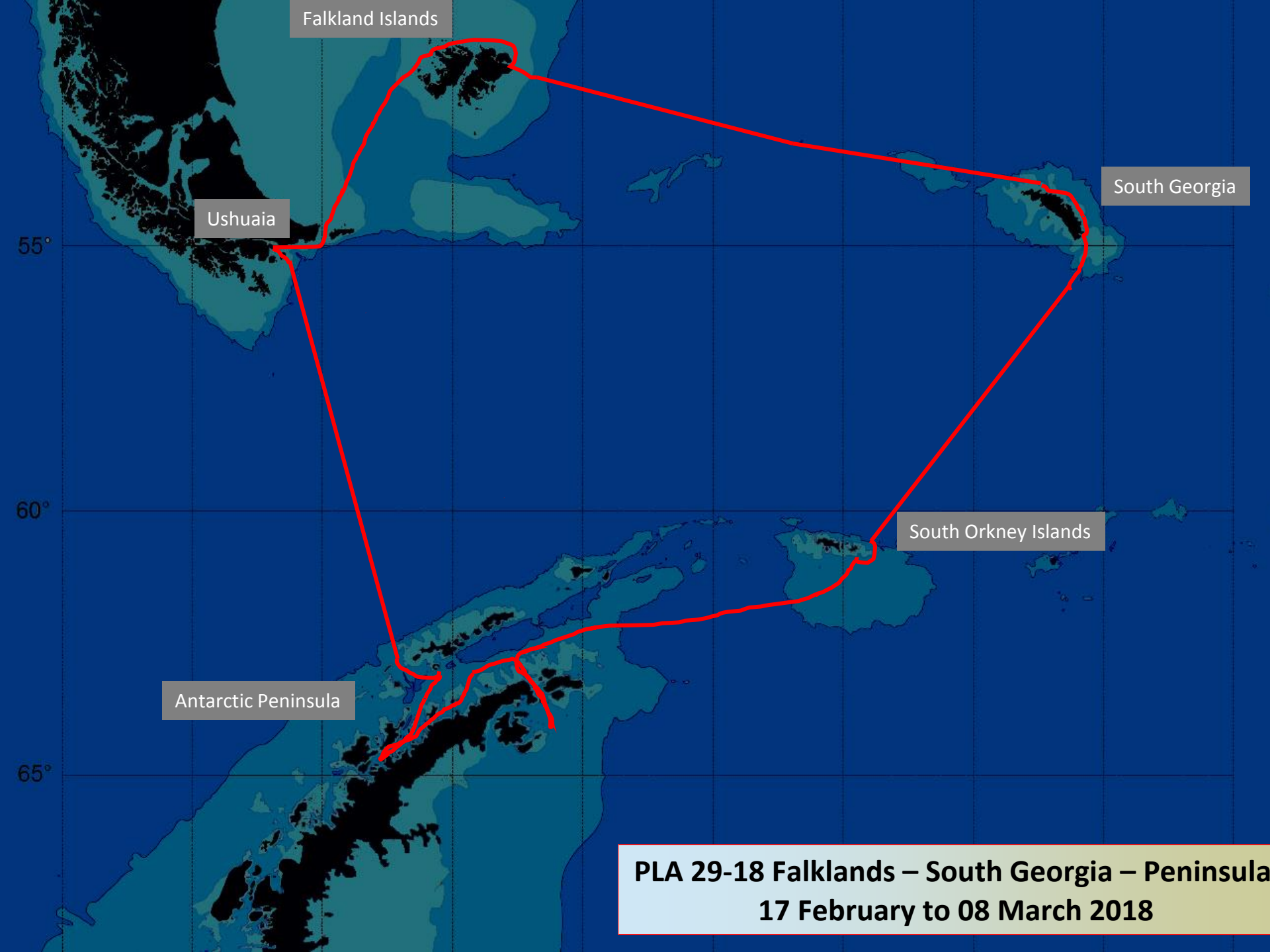


Your Expedition Team!

On behalf of everyone on board we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.

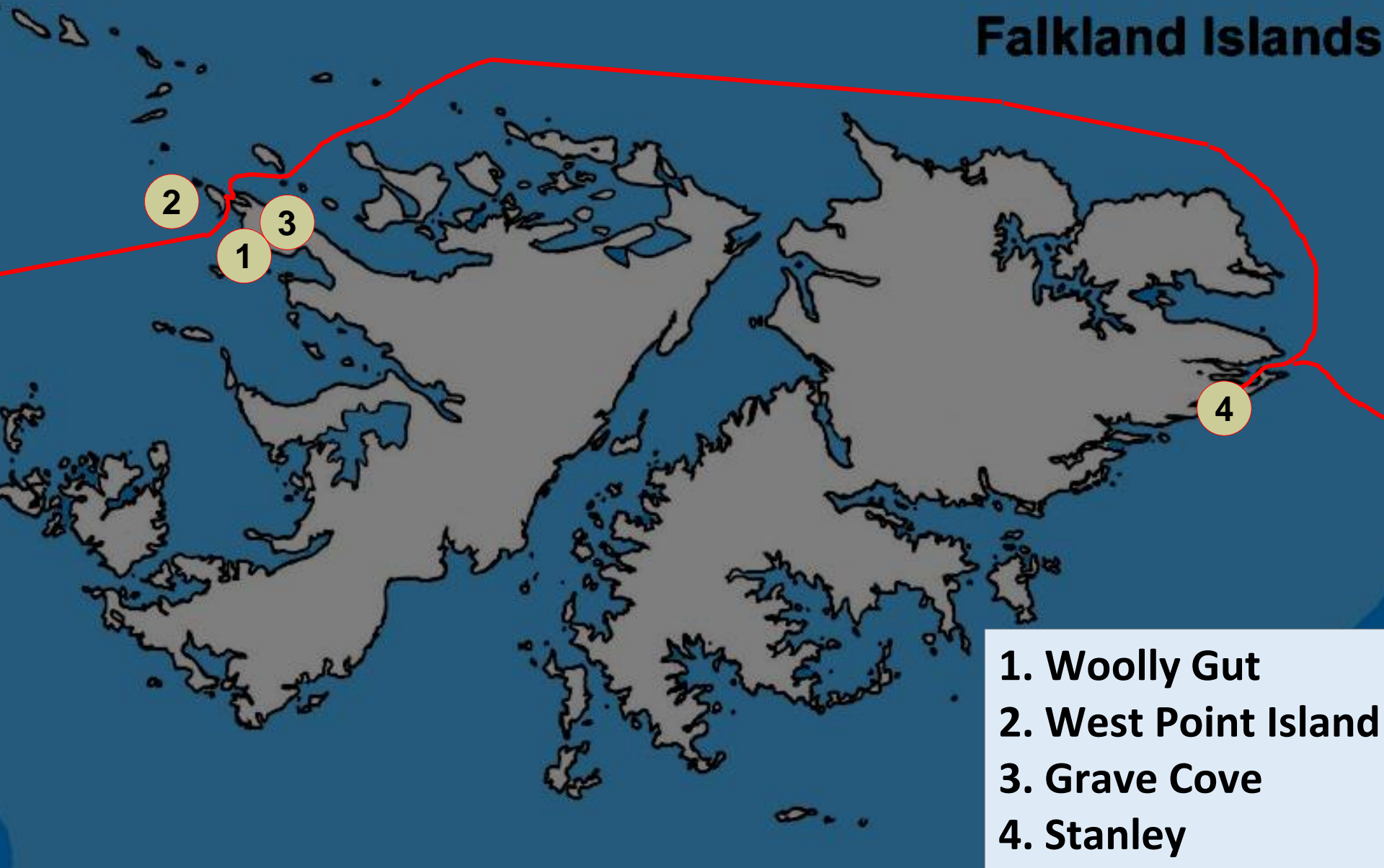


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PLA 29-18 Falklands – South Georgia – Peninsula
17 February to 08 March 2018

Falkland Islands

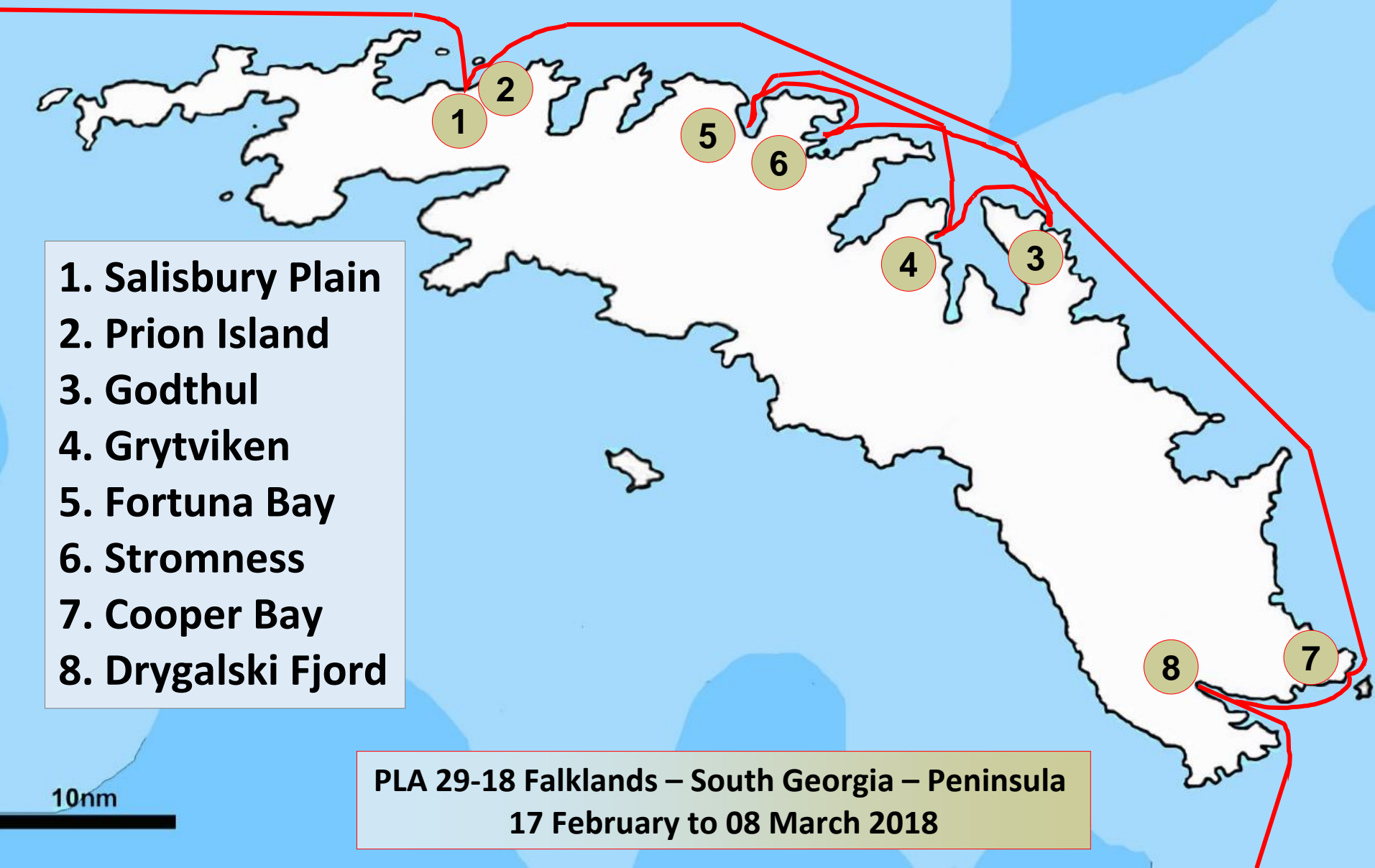


- 1. Woolly Gut
- 2. West Point Island
- 3. Grave Cove
- 4. Stanley

PLA 29-18 Falklands – South Georgia – Peninsula
17 February to 08 March 2018

10nm

South Georgia

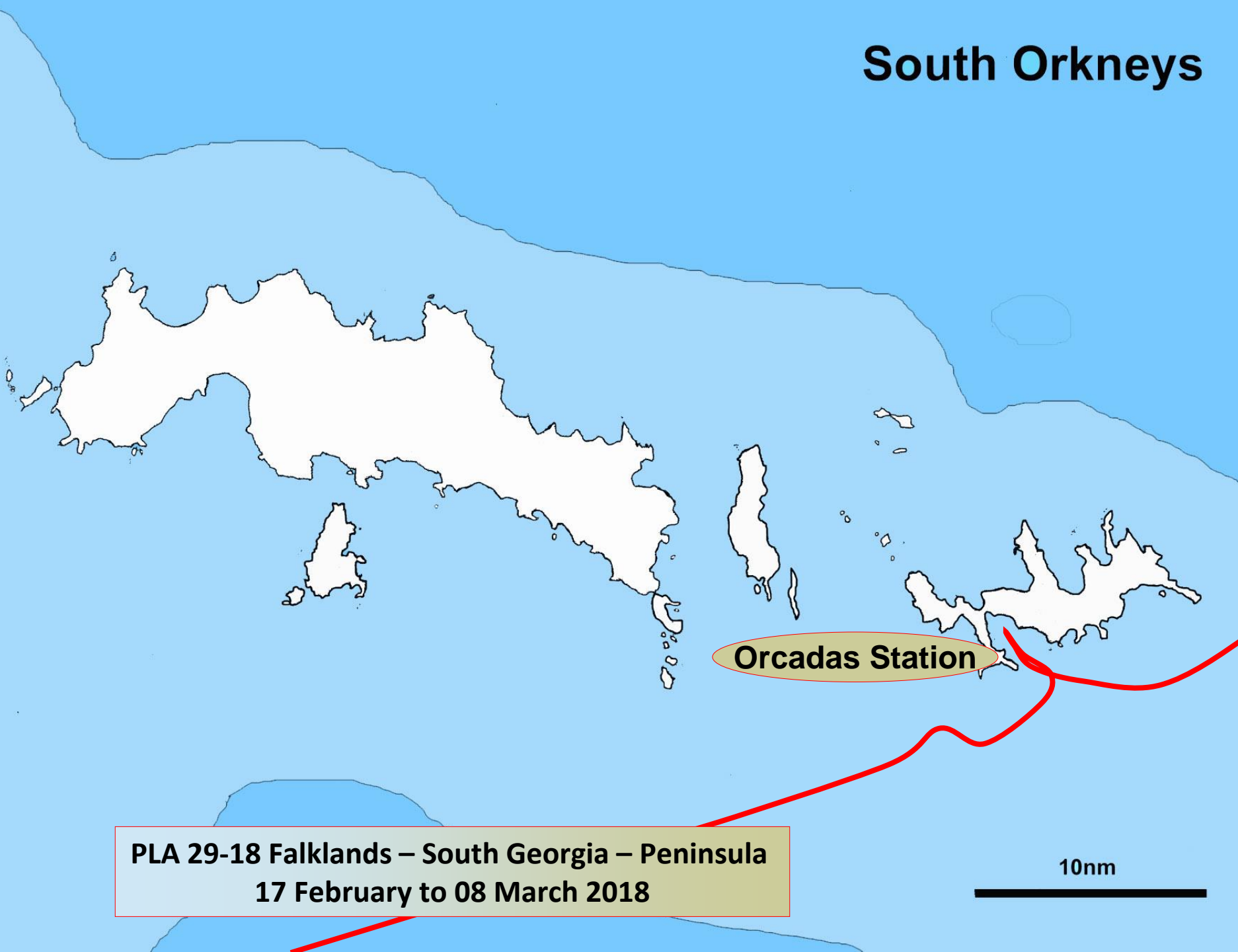


1. Salisbury Plain
2. Prion Island
3. Godthul
4. Grytviken
5. Fortuna Bay
6. Stromness
7. Cooper Bay
8. Drygalski Fjord

PLA 29-18 Falklands – South Georgia – Peninsula
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10nm

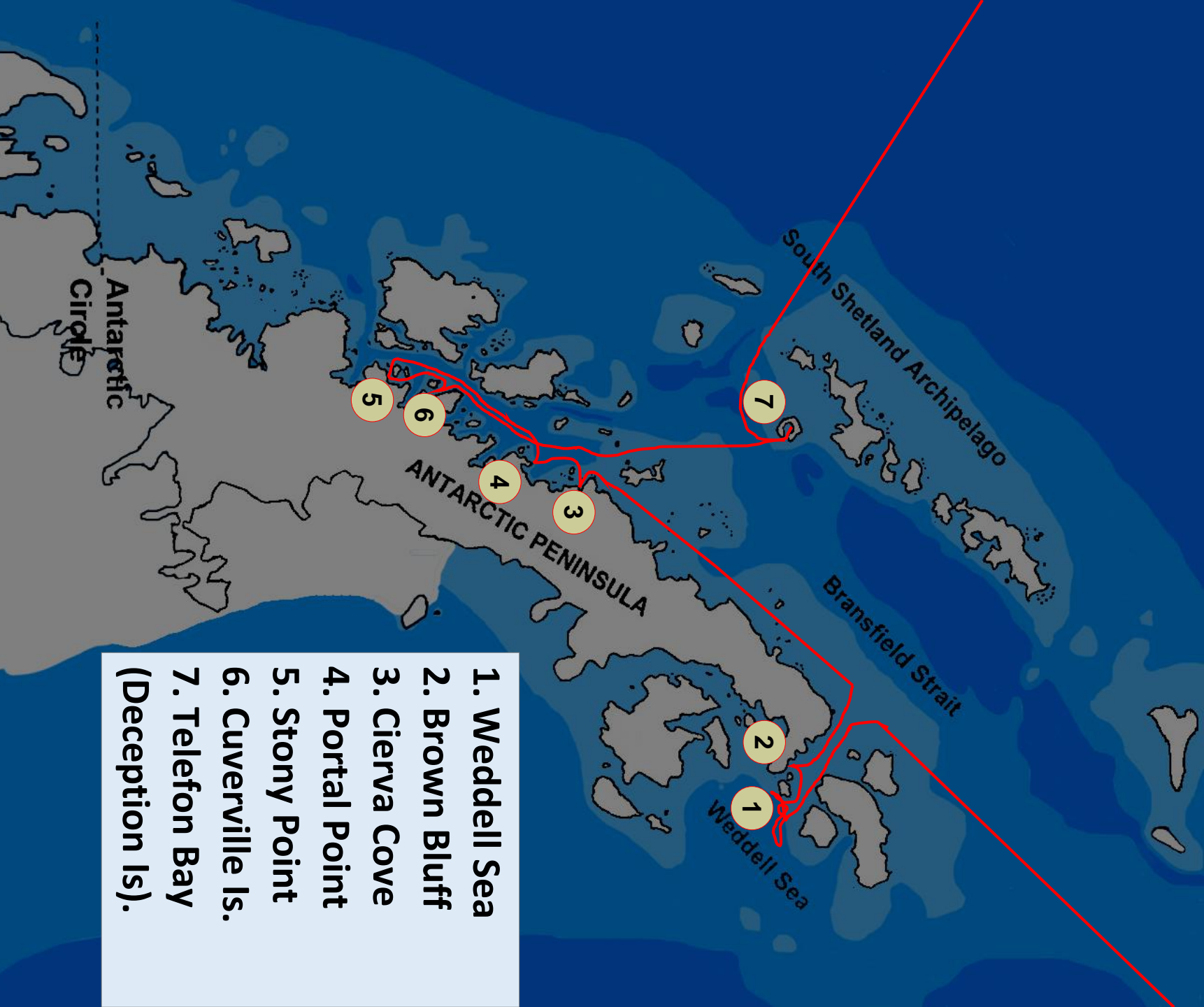
South Orkneys



Orcadas Station

PLA 29-18 Falklands – South Georgia – Peninsula
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10nm



1. Weddell Sea
2. Brown Bluff
3. Cierva Cove
4. Portal Point
5. Stony Point
6. Cuverville Is.
7. Telefon Bay (Deception Is.).

PLA 29-18 Falklands – South Georgia – Peninsula

17 February to 08 March 2018

Andrew Bishop – Expedition Leader



Andrew hails from King Island, a small island just north of Tasmania, Australia. He completed his university studies in Hobart at the University of Tasmania in 2001, earning a double major in Geology and Environmental Geography.

Since then he has travelled the world, visiting all seven continents, climbing a few high mountains and enjoying the experiences and challenges different nations and cultures can offer.

In 2010, after spending several years mainly focussed on working as an exploration geologist in the remoter areas of Australia, he began working as an expedition guide and lecturer to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Since then he has completed over 50 trips to this region working as a guide in various positions, and for the past few seasons as Expedition Leader. It did not take long for the northern Polar Regions to pique his interest and since 2012 he has also been guiding and leading trips to the northern isles of Britain, Jan Mayen, the Svalbard Archipelago and Greenland, as well as the more tropical climates of the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He is passionate about the outdoors and aside from his interest in geology he also enjoys interpreting and explaining the physical environment and will willingly share his knowledge of glaciers, sea ice and wildlife.

Liz Pope – Assistant Expedition Leader



Raised in the Philippines, USA, and Australia, Liz caught the ‘travel bug’ at an early age. After finishing her PhD studies in biology, Liz worked as a guide in Eastern and Southern Africa leading overland safaris; managed a lodge in Botswana’s Okavango Delta; and spent time as an education guide at Sydney’s Taronga Zoo.

Liz has worked on ships as an expedition guide since 2009 – this allows her to combine her curiosity of the natural world and her passion for sharing it with others. Liz has been thrilled to work in both ends of the world (Antarctica and the European Arctic) as well as Alaska’s Inside Passage, Southern Africa, the Scotland Isles, Russian Far East, and Papua New Guinea.



Beau Pruneau, Expedition Guide

Born in California near Los Angeles, Beau moved to Canada when he was one year old. Growing up in the Northern Ontario wilderness, he learned at an early age to appreciate the great outdoors while learning wilderness skills such as camping, survival, navigation, & tracking. After graduating college with a diploma in Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Management including studies in Biology, Wilderness Guiding, Wilderness Survival, Canoe Guiding, Marketing, & Business Management, he headed west to British Columbia to work at ski resorts where he learned to drive just about every kind of vehicle including tracked snow-cats, while exploring the mountains by snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking, & heli-boarding. After meeting his German wife in B.C., he moved back to Ontario working at another ski resort near the great lakes. In 2011 he crossed over to Germany permanently, trying his hand at making wine & building bikes while travelling the world with his wife, having been to nearly every continent with a special appreciation for the African savannah & Italian cuisine. Happiest in a jeep out on safari or out on deck searching for polar bears, he started working on expedition ships in the Polar Regions as an assistant expedition leader, guide, lecturer, gun armorer, bear expert, photographer, camping leader, safety officer, zodiac & outboard engine mechanic, as well as assisting with helicopter operations. He currently resides in Dresden, Germany with his beautiful wife.

Mick Brown – Expedition Guide



A native of Dublin, Mick has lived in Pembrokeshire, West Wales for over forty years. Many years of experience as a guide, naturalist, and also with the RSPCA, have given him a depth of understanding based on hands-on experience, in particular with seals and seabirds.

As an educationalist, he has also worked locally with Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks and also at a children's outdoor education centre.

Mick has travelled widely (and wildly!), specializing for 15 years in the Arctic and Antarctica. A Zodiac driver and lecturer, he views his role as that of an interpreter – “translating” the natural world and the animal kingdom.

Wherever there is a bear or a badger, a penguin or a gannet to be found, whether in the remote polar regions or on the Pembrokeshire Islands, Mick is equally at home.

An all-round naturalist and a photographer since his teens, Mick's passion for the natural world is truly inspiring. He has recently published a book of his early days in Dublin as a street photographer which has achieved high critical acclaim.

Nina Gallo – Expedition Guide



Nina is a professional adventure guide based in the Blue Mountains, Australia. Her work and travels in rugged, remote environments have instilled in her a deep appreciation for the delicate balance of systems in the natural world.

She has been drawn to the polar regions since her first otherworldly experience of the midnight sun in 2002.

Nina studied science, politics, languages and literature at University, earning a Bachelor degree in 2007. During that time she fell in love with rock climbing, hiking, snowboarding and kayaking as ways of exploring wild environments. She has travelled in the Indian and Nepali Himalayas, European Alps, American and Australian deserts, and New Zealand in search of adventures in high and dry places.

Realising that an office job could never satisfy her thirst for adventure, Nina gained a number of guiding qualifications in Hobart and the Blue Mountains, Australia, where she works as a canyon guide, team coordinator on remote events, and helps run a climbing training organisation. Her time in Hobart, the home of Australia's Antarctic program, re-ignited her polar passion and she also gained qualifications to work in Antarctica.

Nina has worked as a polar guide and Zodiac driver, and lectures on historical topics, with a particular interest in the points of intersection between humanity and the environment, and the ways they act upon and transform one another.

Silke Hoof – Expedition Guide



Silke is a travel agent and tour guide for whale safaris and the Northern lights. She has been working in tourism for 20 years, with the last 7 years spent in the shore excursion departments on cruise ships; and for the past year also working on expedition ships. The last 4 winter seasons she was a tour guide in Norway for whale safaris and the Northern lights in Tromsø.

Silke grew up in Kiel, at the coast of Germany, and since she was born she was connected to the sea. At early age she began to explore and travel the world and has lived in several countries. During school, she spent a year in Florida (USA) as an exchange student and graduated there from high school. She became a travel agent and studied business administration with an exchange year in Sweden. After finishing her studies she moved to Argentina where she spent almost 8 years in Buenos Aires and worked, among others, as a tour guide for trips through Argentina, Chile and Southern Brazil.

When the financial crisis came, Silke's passion for cruise ships began. On several working trips to Norway, Spitsbergen and Greenland, she was fascinated by the beauty and silence of the Arctic region and was infected by the notorious “polar virus”. At the same time her passion for dolphins and whales and the Northern lights started and she went directly to Norway to work there as a tour guide for the Northern lights, whale safaris, husky- and city tours in Tromsø during the last 4 winter seasons. In the summer time she works on small cruise ships and on expedition ships.

In parallel, she began an apprenticeship in systemic family constellations and geomancy.

Being very concerned about the pollution of the oceans and its impact on the sea life she is committed to the conservation of the oceans and the protection of the whales.

Bruce Robinson – Expedition Guide



Bruce grew up in western New York where, at an early age, he developed a strong curiosity and fascination with the natural world. His interest in photography began at the age of 15, and quickly developed into a passion to capture and document the incredible diversity of nature on film. These passions have led Bruce to pursue a life discovery and adventure.

His travels have taken him to some of the most remote corners of the globe in search of many of the worlds most endangered and elusive wildlife. He has experienced many of the wonders of over 65 countries on seven continents.

Bruce has worked as a naturalist and photographic guide in regions as diverse the Amazon Rainforest to the Australian outback. Although relatively new to the splendour of Antarctica, Bruce's insatiable quest for discovery fuels his desire to share with others his knowledge and excitement about the world's wildlife and wild places.

Phil Norris – Expedition Guide



Phil grew up in a small town in Kansas and started traveling right away. He is a fan of all things adventure/expedition travel. He currently spends half his year living and guiding in his adopted home of Denali, Alaska. When he's not working, he can usually be found in random places ranging from Mongolia to the isles of the Pacific.

His hobbies include driving anything that floats, wearing excessively wild hats and treasure hunting/rock hounding.

A former commercial fisherman in Alaska and sheep herder in the Gobi desert, nowadays he enjoys road trips in his VW Jurassic Park themed camper van. A lover of history, anthropology, and wild landscapes, he is happiest wandering the woods or climbing anything as long as it's cold out.

Phil holds a degree in Anthropology and is a licensed Wilderness First Responder. According to some, he was born in the log cabin that he built with his bare hands.

Catherine Buckland - Dive Master



Catherine Buckland is a Commercial Diving Instructor and spends six months of her time in the UK doing this.

Able to teach a variety of marine based qualifications and a diver medic has meant she has worked on various different jobs.

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

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

Chris Booker - Dive Guide



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

Chris is a Marine Biologist who has spent over 20 years working in various aspects of the Marine Industry... from biological surveys of coral reefs in the Caribbean to diving inspections of oil rigs as an offshore commercial diver in the North Sea and most parts in between.

During this time he has provided logistical support to various survey expeditions and is also qualified as an instructor of diving, powerboating, sea survival and first aid.

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

André Fahrni - Dive Guide



André grew up in Switzerland – a country used to snow and the cold but not the very obvious place to dive. In 1999 it happened anyway, even though it was in the warm waters of Indonesia.

Becoming a dive instructor opened the door to work and live abroad, which he has done in the Philippines, Maldives and Sweden.

Not sure if cold or warm water diving is his favorite, André fell immediately in love with Antarctica on his first trip there.

Equally happy as when diving, skiing or hiking in the Swiss mountains is his preferred way to escape on weekends.

Danny Copeland – Dive Guide



Danny Copeland is a freelance multi-media specialist, focused on creating digital content that aids in marine conservation.

Born and raised in a small, seaside town in North Wales, Danny Copeland has always enjoyed learning about and experiencing the natural world. However after taking his first breaths on SCUBA in 2007, he developed an immediate affinity for life beneath the waves. Regardless of whether he's on a rebreather in the rivers of Canada, or freediving in the warm waters of Indonesia, Danny is happiest spending time underwater.

Combined with an underlying passion for digital media and travel, Danny has dived and worked on various projects in over 20 countries across all seven continents. His experiences around the world have shown him first-hand the scale in which humans are changing and often devastating our oceans, and as such Danny's love for working in the underwater world has transformed into a passion to contribute towards its conservation.

In 2015, Danny spent a year travelling and diving around the world as the European Rolex Scholar for the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society. His focus was on developing his understanding of how to reconnect people with the oceans they depend upon. Working alongside industry leaders such as world-leading shark scientists, National Geographic photographers, and BBC underwater cameramen, the scholarship proved to be a formative year in directing the future of his career.

Since the scholarship, Danny now focuses on working with various groups on projects that combine media and marine conservation. He has contributed to the production of the award-winning Netflix documentary, *Chasing Coral*, as both a diving safety officer and underwater cameraman. More recently Danny spearheaded the Love Mini Mantas campaign for the Manta Trust, including shooting, directing, editing and producing the campaign's award winning 360 virtual reality film, *The Mini Mantas of Maria*. It was through this campaign that Danny came to appreciate the true potential of underwater virtual reality content in driving marine conservation action. He has since worked with several groups on producing underwater VR content, including the Blue Marine Foundation, PBS, and The Dubai Aquarium for their innovative VR Zoo exhibit, which offers the public 3-minute long experiences with a selection of the world's most endangered marine megafauna.

Danny first joined Oceanwide on a trip to Antarctica in 2015, and can't wait to once again take people beneath the waves in the remote polar waters of South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

Dr Tanja Bayer – Ship's Physician



Dr Tanja hails from Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt (Main) in Germany. Tanja is a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency, and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in the Antarctic, and since 2015 in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Tanja is also passionate about diving, and in addition to her work as a Doctor she has managed her own Diving Center, “TaWo Diving”, since 1996. As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.



Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew

Including:

Chief Officer:	Jaanus Hannes	[Estonia]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vičas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Sebastian Duma	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Sean Steele	[Canada]
Ship's Physician:	Tanja Bayer	[Germany]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Andrew Bishop	[Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Liz Pope	Australia
Expedition Guide:	Beau Preneau	[England]
Expedition Guide:	Mick Brown	[Ireland]
Expedition Guide:	Nina Gallo	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Bruce Robinson	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Silke Hoof	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Phil Norris	[USA]
Dive Master:	Catherine Buckland	[United Kingdom]
Dive Guide:	Chris Booker	[United Kingdom]
Dive Guide:	André Fahrni	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Danny Copeland	[United Kingdom]

Welcome you on board!



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Embarkation - Ushuaia
Saturday 17th February 2018

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.

Please note: *The Bridge and Bridge wings will be closed for departure while we navigate the Beagle Channel this evening.*

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 **Andrew Bishop** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Sebastian Duma**.

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.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea en route to the Falklands

Sunday 18th February 2018

As we sail towards the Falkland Islands, be sure to keep a lookout for accompanying seabirds and mammals!

0730 Wake Up call.

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

0945 Please come to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a **mandatory Zodiac boat briefing** by Andrew.

1030 Please come to the Boot Room (Deck 3 forward) to collect your **rubber boots**. 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 Dining Room.

1430 **Divers** please meet with the dive team in the **Dining Room**.

1530 **Silke** would like to unveil the mysteries of the marine mammals we hope to see on this voyage. Please join her in the **Dining Room**.

1700 Please join **Mick** in the **Dining Room** for his presentation - "**Wildlife and Landscapes of the Falkland Islands**".

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

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

Please ensure your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are secure in your cabin to prevent any accidents. Always keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship!

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

West Point and Saunders Islands

Monday 19th February 2018

At approximately 0700 we will be navigating through the **'Woolly Gut'**, a very scenic and narrow stretch of water. Here we hope to see various penguin species as well as cormorants and local birds and maybe even dolphins.

0630 Wake-up call

~0700 'Woolly Gut' navigation

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

0830 This morning we would like to go ashore at **West Point Island**. If the weather allows we would like to offer a long hike to a Black-browed albatross and Rockhopper penguin colony before visiting the settlement. A vehicle should be available to transport passengers who require it. Please listen for announcements.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

This afternoon's plans will be strongly dictated by the weather.

~1400 Please come to the **Lounge** for a briefing regarding our afternoon landing.

~1430 This afternoon we hope to land at 'The Neck' on **Saunders Island**. Here we can find Gentoo, Rockhopper, Magellanic and sometimes King penguins, Imperial shags and nesting Black browed albatross, as well as other interesting wildlife. The track to the Black browed albatross colony is steep and could be slippery. A vehicle should also be available if required. Please listen for announcements.

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

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

All activities are dependent on weather conditions and wildlife.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Stanley

Tuesday 20th February 2018

At approximately 0600 this morning we will be sailing through '**The Narrows**' and into the harbour of Port Stanley. If the weather is good this is a nice introduction to the township of Stanley.

0600 Transit of 'The Narrows'.

0700 Wake Up call.

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

~0830 In the morning we plan to visit **Port Stanley**. This *should* be a dry landing onto a floating pontoon.

- There are special notices posted on the whiteboards with information about some of the shops and attractions that will be open.
- Please note that not all shops can accept credit/debit cards, so it is advisable to carry some cash.
- Pounds Sterling and Falkland currency is fine, **undamaged** US Dollar and Euro notes may be accepted and your change will be given back in Falkland Pounds.

1300 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1500 Please join us in the Dining Room to meet Oceanwide Photographer, Andrew Peacock and find out more about his role on board during this trip.

1600 Please join Mick in the Dining Room for his talk, **Birds of the Southern Ocean**.

1800 Come and join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the Daily Briefing.

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

As we will be sailing in open waters after lunch, please ensure that you cabin and breakables are secure and you have taken medical precautions against seasickness, if required.



Falkland Islands & South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea en-route to South Georgia

Wednesday 21st February 2018

0745 Wake Up call.

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

1030 Please join **Mick** in the **Dining Room** for Part One of his presentation about **Penguins: 'Air Breathing Feathered Fish'**.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1530 Join **Beau** in the **Dining Room** and prepare to flipper out with his talk on **Polar Pinnipeds**.

1700 This afternoon **Mick** would like to offer a talk on **South Georgia: Wildlife & Landscapes** in the **Dining Room**.

1830 Daily Briefing - please join the Expedition team in the Lounge.

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

~2045 Test your newfound knowledge in the **Falkland Islands Trivia Quiz!**
Join **Phil** in the **Lounge** in teams of 4 – 6 people and prepare for some entertainment and fierce competition!!

Please ensure your breakables are secured in your cabin and keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship.



Falkland Islands & South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea en-route to South Georgia
Thursday 22nd February 2018

As we continue sailing towards the biologically rich waters of South Georgia keep a lookout out for birds and large mammals!

- 0745 Wake Up call.
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 Please meet in the Lounge for a **Mandatory Briefing** for all visitors to South Georgia & Antarctica. This will include IAATO guidelines and biosecurity measures.
- 1030 **Vacuuming** stations will be set up in the Lounge to remove invasive species from your clothing and equipment. **Please ensure you sign the declaration** regarding these important measures. Listen for announcements; you will be called by Deck.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Vacuuming** continues as required.
- 1330 It's time for some retail therapy, the **Ship Shop** is open at Reception!
- 1500 **Sea Day Doco** (40-min): Come and learn more about Shackleton's *Trans-Antarctic Expedition* of 1914-1916 in this film which includes both re-creations as well as original photography and footage. Many describe this story as "one of the greatest survival stories of all time". This will be in the Dining Room.
- 1630 Join **Mick** in the Dining Room for **Part Two** of his penguin talk: **Penguin Summer**
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Lounge**. In addition to the **Daily Briefing**, Andrew will be showing an important film about our coming days in South Georgia.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS TO PREVENT BIRD STRIKES.

TONIGHT (21st Feb) WE WILL BE CHANGING THE SHIPS TIME. PLEASE TURN YOUR CLOCK
FORWARD ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED!



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Salisbury Plain and Prion Island

Friday 23rd February 2018

We will be cruising towards the north-eastern coast of South Georgia from the early hours of the morning.

0700 Wake-up call

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

~0830 This morning we plan to take you ashore at **Salisbury Plain** which is home to a large King penguin colony. There will also be Fur seals and maybe Elephant seals on the beach.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room

1400 This afternoon, weather and wildlife allowing, we hope to go ashore at **Prion Island**, home to the Wandering albatross and many Antarctic fur seals. We will do this in three groups. Please see lists and listen for announcements.

1900 Please come to the Lounge for our daily briefing.

1930 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

DON'T FORGET TO CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS TO PREVENT BIRD STRIKES.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Expedition morning and Grytviken

Saturday 24th February 2018

0700 Wake up-call

0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the Dining Room.

Expedition Morning.

Please listen out for announcements

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1430 Please come to the Lounge for an introduction to **Grytviken** and information about the rat eradication program, conducted by staff from the SGHT museum while we are clearing customs.

~1500 First Zodiac to shore to the Cemetery. Here we will visit the grave of 'The Boss' and offer him a toast. Following this a staff member from the museum will offer a guided tour through the whaling station, starting from the Pump House, alternatively you can roam freely and visit: Church, museum, post office, and gallery. All other buildings are closed! Zodiacs back to the ship will leave from the two ship wrecks in front of the museum.

1900 Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our **Daily Briefing**.

1930 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

DON'T FORGET TO CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS TO PREVENT BIRD STRIKES.
BITTE SCHLIESSEN SIE ALLE VORHÄNGE, UM VOGELSCHLAG ZU VERHINDERN.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Fortuna and Stromness
Sunday 25th February 2018

PLAN C: Take 1

0700 Wake up-call

0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the Dining Room.

~0845 If conditions allow we would like to go ashore at Fortuna Bay. Here we plan to offer a nice walk (approx. 1km each way) to a small King penguin rookery and further into valley if time allows. There will also be fur seals.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1430 Wildlife and weather allowing, we would like to take you ashore at Stromness, an abandoned whaling station. We hope to offer a walk to the 'Shackleton Waterfall', a return walk of approximately 4 km. You will also be able to stroll along the beach and nearby areas. Please be mindful of the Fur seals and penguins.

1830 Please come up to the lounge for the Daily Briefing.

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

DON'T FORGET TO CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS TO PREVENT BIRD STRIKES.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Cooper Bay and Drygalski Fjord

Monday 26th February 2018

Plan B...

Our activities today will be highly dependent on weather and swell.

- 0700 Wake-up call
- 0730 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the dining room.
- ~0830 We hope to make a Zodiac Cruise at **Cooper Bay**. Cooper Bay is a breeding site for Macaroni penguins, Light-mantled Sooty albatrosses, Blue-eyed cormorants, King, Gentoo, and Chinstrap penguins. We will split the group in two, going by cabin number (Odd and Even). Even numbered cabins will cruise first.
Please listen out for announcements.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1330 After lunch the Captain will sail the ship into **Drygalski Fjord**. This is one of the most striking landscapes of the island and a fitting farewell to our South Georgia adventure.
- 1500 Mick would like to give his presentation "Birds of a Feather", an interesting investigation into the humble Feather.
- ~1830 Please come to the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing**.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

We will be heading into open waters during the afternoon, as always please secure your belongings, make sure all cupboards and doors are secure and always have one hand for the ship when moving around.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea towards Antarctica

Tuesday 27th February 2018

- 0745 Wake-up call.
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1030 **Vacuuming for Antarctica** in the Lounge! We will call you by deck. Please bring your outer clothes, backpacks and camera bags. Please don't forget to sign the *Antarctic Pre-Arrival Biosecurity Declaration*.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 Vacuuming for Antarctica will continue! We will call you by deck.
- 1500 **Bruce** will be in the **Dining Room** to give an **Introduction to Photography**. He'll be sharing his tips and tricks to get the most out of your photos in Antarctica.
- 1630 It's **Happy Hour!!** Please feel free to come up to the **Lounge** and enjoy good company and a drink or two prior to our Auction!
- 1730 To assist the SGHT in their efforts to keep South Georgia rat free we would like to run an **Auction**. Items will be displayed from 1630 in the **Lounge**.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

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

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

South Orkney Islands

Wednesday 28th February 2018

This morning we will be approaching the South Orkney Islands. If the weather is good the islands should be visible from daylight (approximately 0500).

0730 Wake-up call.

0800 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the Dining Room.

~0930 Weather and ice allowing we would like to go ashore and visit **Orcadas Station** on the South Orkney Islands. Due to the Station Leader's request we will conduct a split landing.

ODD numbered cabins will visit the Station first, then Zodiac cruise.

EVEN numbered cabins will Zodiac cruise first, then visit the Station.

There may be some souvenirs available for purchase, and the possibility to send postcards as well. The base personnel will accept USD, Euro and Argentinian Pesos at the exchange rate of the day.

There is also the chance to stamp your passport, this must be done at your own discretion. Please be very careful with it and do not lose it!

Please listen out for announcements regarding timings.

1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1530 Please join Liz in the Dining Room for her presentation, **Destination Antarctica: an Introduction to the Icy South.**

1700 Phil will present his talk, **Ice Monsters of Antarctica** in the Dining Room.

1830 Come and join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing.**

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea towards Antarctica

Thursday 1st March 2018

0745 Wake-up call.

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

1030 Liz will give her talk **Ice is Nice: Bergs, Brash, Frazil and Floe** in the **Dining Room**.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1500 Come and learn about the **Discovery of Antarctica: 2000 Years in the Making** with Nina in the **Dining Room**.

1700 Please join Andrew in the **Dining Room** for his presentation about the **Geology of Antarctica**.

1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing**.

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

2045 Join Quiz Master Phil in the Lounge for the **South Georgia Trivia Quiz**. Make up teams of 4 – 6, and have some fun while testing your new passion and knowledge about this incredible subantarctic isle.

As the ship continues to move please remember to secure your belongings and always have one hand for the ship! Thank you.



Falkland Islands & South Georgia and Antarctica

Expedition Morning and Brown Bluff
Friday 2nd March 2018

This morning we will be sailing through the scenic Antarctic Sound, where we can usually see many large icebergs.

0700 Wake-up call.

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

This morning's activities will depend on weather and ice conditions. Please standby for announcements!!

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1430 This afternoon, weather permitting, we plan to go ashore on the Continent of Antarctica at **Brown Bluff**. There is an Adélie and small Gentoo penguin colony and if conditions allow we would like to offer a walk onto a nearby glacier. Please listen out for announcements.

1830 Come and join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the Daily Briefing.

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



Falkland Islands & South Georgia and Antarctica

Cierva Cove & Portal Point
Saturday 3rd March 2018

This morning we will be sailing down the **Bransfield Strait** and into the stunning **Gerlache Strait**. If the weather is good there will be spectacular views at sunrise (~0600).

0730 Wake-up call.

0800 Breakfast buffet is available for one hour in the Dining Room.

~0900 This morning we would like to offer a Zodiac cruise in **Cierva Cove**. **Even numbered** cabins will cruise first, **odd numbered** second. A photography oriented cruise will be available for those interested, please wait for the final two Zodiacs.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

TBA After lunch we plan to go ashore at **Portal Point** for our second Continental Landing! If conditions are good we will conduct a split landing, with half the group going ashore while the other half Zodiac cruises. **Odd numbered** cabins will go ashore first. Please listen for announcements.

1830 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the Daily Briefing.

1900 **A Special Antarctic Dinner** is served on Deck 3 *behind* the Dining Room. Go through the door at the back of the Dining Room and follow the music. Dress warmly and bring your dancing shoes!! Bon appétit.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DEPENDENT UPON WEATHER, ICE AND WILDLIFE CONDITIONS.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Stony Point & Cuverville Island

Sunday 4th March 2018

We will be sailing down the Gerlache Strait overnight. This area can be very good for whale watching, especially in the morning.

0700 Wake-up call.

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

0830 This morning we intend to go ashore at **Stony Point**, in Paradise Bay. We will offer a split landing, with the first five Zodiacs going ashore, the remaining will Zodiac cruise the Fergusson Channel. For the keen explorers we hope to offer a hike to the top of a snow dome for some great views.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1430 Weather permitting we plan to land at Cuverville Island, a well-known Gentoo penguin rookery. At the end of this landing we would like to offer a Polar Plunge. Please listen for announcements regarding timings.

1830 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the Daily Briefing.

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

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DEPENDENT UPON WEATHER, ICE AND WILDLIFE CONDITIONS.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Telefon Bay, Deception Island

Monday 5th March 2018

0530 Wake-up call.

0600 Be on deck to enjoy the impressive navigation through the narrow entrance of **Neptune's Bellows** – into the flooded caldera of **Deception Island**.

0630 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

0730 This morning we plan to land at **Telefon Bay** (Deception Island) where we will offer a walk (approx. 2 km return) to a look out at the rim of one of the island's volcanic craters.

*Once we are back on board we will sail into the **Drake Passage** via the **Boyd Strait**. Please remember to take sea-sickness medication if required, and secure your belongings in your cabin.*

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

Dr Tanja will be available at reception after lunch for seasickness medication!

1500 **Sea Day Documentary: Rounding 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'. This will be shown in the Lounge.

1700 Please join **Nina** in the **Dining Room** for her thought-provoking presentation, "**Antarctic Politics: from Discovery to Today**".

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

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

Please secure your breakable items in your cabin to prevent any damage. Always keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship and take sea-sickness medication if necessary.

There will be no wakeup call this morning!!

- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1030 **Race to the South Pole:** Phil will talk about the famous race between Scott and Amundsen to the South Pole, and the lessons learnt from both expedition's experience.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 Join Doctor Tanja in the Dining Room to hear her about her recent experience, **Living with Emperor Penguins.**
- 1700 Please join Mick in the Dining Room for his presentation about **Greenwich Mean Time & Navigation at Sea.**
- 1830 Join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing.**
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
- 2045 Come and join Quiz Master Phil in the Lounge as he tests your Antarctic knowledge in the final **Plancius Pub Quiz!**

We are in open waters, please move carefully around the ship.

There will be no wake-up call this morning!!

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

0930 ***Divers Only:*** Please meet with Catherine and the Dive team in the Lounge to have your logbooks stamped.

1030 If you would like to learn a little more about **Diving in Antarctica & the Diving Ability of Marine Mammals**, please join **André & Chris** in the **Dining Room** for their inaugural and fascinating presentation.

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

~1430 Return of your rubber boots! We will call you by deck to return your boots to the boot room (Deck 3 Fwd). Please listen for announcements.

1530 Join **Nina** in the **Dining Room** for her presentation, ***The Great White Silence: The Story of Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition.***

~1700 *Sebastian will call you to **Reception** to settle your **on board accounts**. You will be called by deck number so please listen for announcements.*

1800 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a **final briefing, slideshow** and a **farewell toast** from your Captain.

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

After dinner: Payments will recommence at Reception, if necessary. Please listen for announcements.

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Arrival in Ushuaia

Thursday 8th March 2018

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 Wake-up call.

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

*As you leave for breakfast please place your **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door and return your **keys to reception.***

*Your luggage will be moved from the ship to the pier. Please ensure you **collect it from the pier** prior to leaving!*

0830 All passengers leave the ship.

- **If you are catching the airport bus:** collect your luggage and place it on the bus.
- **If you have an afternoon flight:** You can have your luggage stored. **Please bring 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.***
- **If you are staying in Ushuaia:** You are free to leave the pier on foot with your luggage by the customs control entrance. Taxis can be found opposite the entrance to the pier.

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