



Antarctic Peninsula

7th February – 17th February 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:	Teunis van't Verlaat	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Sebastian Duma	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Bobby Manevski	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Sean Steele	[Canada]
Ship's Physician:	Rogier Burggraaff	[Netherlands]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Andrew Bishop	[Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Liz Pope	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Beau Pruneau	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Regis Perdrail	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Silke Hoof	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Louise Adie	[U.S.A.]
Expedition Guide:	Nina Gallo	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Ben Giunchi	[Argentina]

Day 1 Wednesday 7th 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 Antarctica. Most passengers were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, ready to board our ship MV *Plancius*, home for the next 10 days.



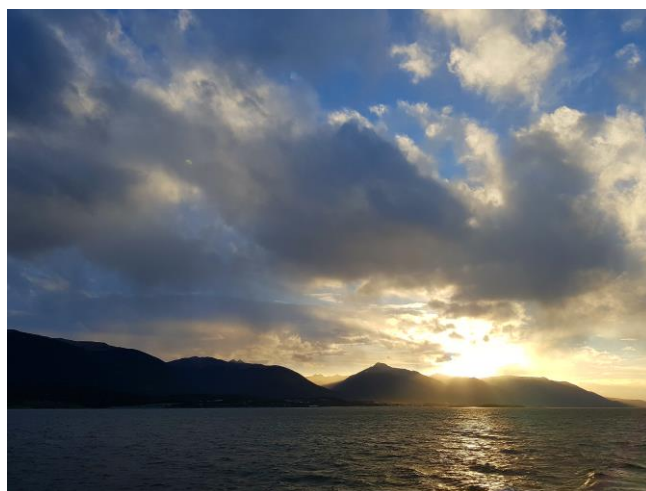
We were greeted at the gangway by members of our Expedition staff who were enjoying the warm sunshine. Our luggage was already on board so after a short wait on the wharf we made our way up the gangway and onto the good ship *Plancius*. We were met at Reception by Sebastian and Bobbi, our Hotel and Restaurant 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 group who will guide us 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 Chefs Heinz and Sean and their galley team. This first evening on board was occupied with more exploration of the ship, adjusting to her movements, and settling into our cabins. In the early hours of the morning we would be out into the open waters of the Drake Passage and heading south eastwards towards Antarctica.



Day 2 – Thursday 8th February 2018

At Sea Drake Passage Southward

08:00 GPS Position: 056°21' S / 064°47' W

Wind: W 25 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Clear. **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 25 knots of wind blowing but there was clear blue sky and sunshine. 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, enjoy the sunshine and enjoy the birds that were flying around the ship and



gathering in large numbers behind the ship as we sailed towards Antarctica. The most common species was the giant petrel, both southern and northern but there were also black browed albatross, storm petrels and even some royal albatross. 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 follow fishing vessels for discarded food but that is not on offer from *Plancius*, of course! Regis gave a fabulous talk after breakfast about seabird biology, fascinating on so many levels. Lunch was served at 12.30 and there were a few more takers in the restaurant than there had been for breakfast and but by this time the wind had increased and there was still some rolling as we headed for lunch. With continued sunshine however many of us enjoyed some more time out on deck trying to photograph the giant petrels that were flying about around the ship. Regis even saw a blow, most likely fin or sei, but too far away and undistinguished to change course.

At 3 pm we were invited down to the restaurant where Beau gave a talk about baleen whales and the various species we might have the opportunity to see on our voyage south. Blue whales, fin whales, humpback whales, minke whales....it was all possible!



© Marijke de Boer

By the time afternoon tea had been consumed in the lounge it was time to go back downstairs to the restaurant for an introduction to Antarctica from Liz.

By this time it was early evening and some of us took a pre-dinner drink at the bar while others enjoyed the warm sunshine on deck. At 6.30 pm we were invited to the lounge for the daily briefing where Andrew explained our plans for tomorrow, another day at sea with several mandatory safety briefings about our Zodiac operations

etc. The next day would also be when we received our pretty rubber boots! Such excitement in the air as everyone headed down for dinner in the restaurant.

Day 3 – Friday 9th February 2018

At Sea Drake Passage Southward

08:00 GPS Position: 059°59' S / 060°02' W

Wind: W 15 knots. **Sea State:** Slight. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +3°C.

Many were up bright and early as Andrew's dulcet tones wafted through the ship's PA system. Another day at sea, today would be full of mandatory briefings and other excitement - in the form of rubber boot handout and even a vacuum party! Unfortunately not the kind of party with party hats, clowns, or birthday cakes, but the kind of party where you had to clean and vacuum your expedition gear. Let down as it was, such a thing is mandatory for all ships and guests heading down to Antarctica to make landings, as a minimal impact on nature is required so as to least affect the environment so as not to introduce foreign species of plants and fungi.



Hard effort notwithstanding, due to the rolling nature of the ship and the fact that several people in general were not feeling so well, the rubber boot handout was postponed until further notice in the afternoon. Hopefully when the swell calmed down!



At 10:00 am Andrew lectured us all on how to behave down around the peninsula of Antarctica, as well as how to properly board and exit our Zodiac watercraft. Afterwards we started the vacuum party! With great fanfare six vacuum cleaners were brought up to the lounge and strategically placed for us all to clean every last little bit of grass, seeds, and cow manure from our outerwear.

After a scrumptious lunchtime meal from head chef Heinz the Hacker, the campers were called back up to the lounge for a briefing on what to expect while overnight camping in Antarctica. Ben and Nina graciously answered a variety of questions, ranging from correct size of pee bottles to the appropriateness of using the loo for number 2.



Then it was on to more vacuuming! The last of us who had not yet cleaned our gear headed up and signed off on the declaration sheet to declare the validity of our cleanliness. An afternoon lecture from Regis was then held, all about penguins, those curious little birds with the inability to fly through the air. Another lecture was planned, this time from Andrew about ice, however it was decided to better use that time to hand out the rubber boots! At long last everyone was called down deck by deck, and received their boots according to size requirements.

As the evening rolled in, our daily briefing was held informing us all of the expected activities for our first day down around the peninsula, while sailing through the English Strait in the South Shetlands with the sun setting behind the mountains, providing the perfect backdrop as night closed in and everyone headed down for their dinner.

Day 4 – Saturday 10th February 2018

Wilhelmina Bay & Peltier Channel & BBQ

0800 GPS Position: 064°13' S / 061°29' W

Wind: SW 25 knots. **Sea State:** Choppy. **Weather:** Partly cloudy. **Air Temp:** +3°C.

A day of true expedition cruising, where Plan A becomes Plan B becomes Plan C. And on Plancius, it turns out Plan C is A-OK.

We woke up to calmer waters after two days on the Drake Passage, and our first glimpse of the breathtaking Antarctic coastline - it was enough to sweep you off your feet! Or was it the wind that was sweeping us off our feet?

In the morning we decided to forgo our first landing due to the windy conditions. Instead we sailed into Wilhelmina Bay in search of wildlife - and boy, did we find it! The Captain kindly steered the ship deep into Wilhelmina Bay where we spotted our first whale, then another, and another, then a pod, then more humpback whales than we knew what to do with.



There was a real sense of camaraderie on deck as we all 'oohed' and 'aahed', shutters clicked and we moved from starboard to port, following the whales as they dived and bubble-net fed, gasping in amazement at the sheer number of those grand, majestic sea-mammals. I don't think any of us could have anticipated seeing so many whales, let alone so many actively feeding, fin slapping and diving. It was truly a gift.

After Wilhelmina Bay we sailed towards Port Lockroy to see whether it would be feasible to land there, but the wind conditions were looking pretty ferocious. The Captain tried to find a sheltered anchorage, but the wind was relentless.

Sometimes the wind becomes an event in itself - a demonstration of wildness - and today was one of those days. It's not often you get to experience 50 to 60-knot winds. It was a spectacle, sweeping across the decks and catapulting us into the reality of Antarctica. We have arrived! Unfortunately we didn't get to arrive at Port Lockroy today, but we were hopeful we might be able to make another attempt later in the voyage.

Little did we know that missing Port Lockroy would result in cruising through some of the most striking, spectacular landscapes found on the Peninsula. We travelled through the Peltier Channel and into the Gerlache Strait, each lined with towering peaks and pinnacles, and vast tidewater glaciers.





In the afternoon Andrew, our intrepid EL, gave a lecture on glaciers, helping us to understand what we're looking at as we travel through this otherworldly, ice-covered landscape beyond the ship.

Right on schedule, just as Andrew's lecture finished, the skies cleared and the bay, icebergs, peaks and glaciers were bathed in golden evening sunlight.

Shortly thereafter, it was time for our daily briefing... again listening to Andrews's voice! But after he informed us of the following days plans, and Louise regaled with tales of the gentleman explorer Monsieur Charcot, and after Silke explained about humpback whales in

more detail... it was time for a surprise dinner! Out on the back deck, a BBQ dinner with music and picnic tables and free drinks for everyone – and even dancing for the sprightly!



Today was a humbling reminder that here in Antarctica, we are visitors in a natural world where we don't make the rules - we just abide by them. A fitting start to our Antarctic expedition.



Day 5 – Sunday 11th February 2018

Lemaire Channel & Pleneau Island & Petermann Island

0800 GPS Position: 065°06'S / 064°02'W

Wind: SW 9 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +2°C.

Finally the day arrived when we could finally step off *Plancius* and step on land, however early it might be. Andrew woke us up at 6:00 am to enjoy sailing through the Lemaire Channel. Even if it was a very early start, it was worth every minute we sacrificed staying in bed. The Lemaire Channel is a wonderful place



with amazing views of the mountains around, glaciers and icebergs that are breath taking especially at this time of the morning while having a coffee or hot chocolate.

After our amazing transit through this channel, everybody was ready for the delightful breakfast and



then started getting ready for what was to be the first landing of the trip.

Pleneau Island is a beautiful spot where we were not only able to see Gentoo penguins for the first time, but also able to enjoy one of the best Zodiac cruises we could possibly ask for. The subdued light was fantastic for photography, and nature was on our side because we could appreciate the sculptures made by the erosion of water and wind on the massive icebergs hanging around iceberg alley, some of them with not one but three arches, how cool is that? Plenty of wildlife was also present to welcome us to this extreme continent, crabeater seals resting on ice, one leopard seal very relaxed posing for pictures and a few minke whales approaching the Zodiacs and the kayakers, a very close encounter that made our first day memorable.



Spending a few hours outside let us know how cold Antarctica could be, so we were ready for a warm meal and hot drinks back on board *Plancius* to prepare us for the afternoon activities.

Petermann Island is a place with an interesting story, as some of the first expeditions to Antarctica were to this place. But not only could we find history there, but also a new kind of penguin for everyone to see... Adélie! As soon as we arrived, the guano smell of these little fellows made us realize just how many of them were around.

Having the chance to walk in two different directions, it was possible to see some of the Gentoo and Adélie penguins moulting feathers with the chicks running around, and at the same time enjoying a walk up the saddle to take in the wonderful views of the bay behind the landing site.

A place full of icebergs brought there and grounded there by the wind and currents. *Plancius* was also becoming part of the landscape, viewable from the top of the viewpoint to better understand the remoteness of our location at that point.

Five minutes before our expected arrival time to the ship, all tags were green and Captain Alexey started slowly taking us to the next place for more adventures.

Day 6 – Monday 12th February 2018

Neko Harbour & Port Lockroy

0800 GPS Position: 064°49' S / 062°36' W

Wind: SE 4 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +1°C.



Today we finally touched down on the Antarctic Peninsula, the actual continent. The soft voice of Andrew with his wake-up call had already become normality, and the weather was clear and beautiful. At 8:30 am we lowered our Zodiacs for a short transfer to Neko Harbour. Just after a rocky landing we found ourselves again in the middle of Gentoo penguins, this time with penguin superhighways, surrounded by white snowy hills and a beautiful impressive glacier on the other side of the bay. The water was completely calm which created an almost perfect reflection of the glacier. Everybody was hoping that a large piece of the glacier would break off and calve, but at the same time realized the magnitude of the wave that a calving of that size could produce. A short hike brought us first to the penguin

highways and further up to a magnificent viewpoint over said glacier and the entire bay.

The highlight of this landing was the polar plunge. Around 15 guests, man and woman alike, jumped into the clear and icy water, supported by the cheering audience and surrounded by the penguins.



In the afternoon we tried our second attempt to land at Port Lockroy on Goudier Island and this time we succeeded. One of the current inhabitants of Port Lockroy came on board to give us a short briefing about the history of Port Lockroy. Dividing the landing into 2 parts, half of us visited Jougla Point with Gentoo penguins and the Antarctic Shags and the other half visited the museum, swapping after roughly 1.5 hours.



And this time the penguins decided to check us out. The cute little creatures didn't have any fear and even sat on our shoe brush outside of the museum.



In the most southerly post office in the world, everyone diligently wrote their postcards home, stamping them with the special Antarctic penguin stamp, and sending them on a six week journey to their destinations around the world. Everyone also had the opportunity to have their passports beautified with said stamp, and plenty of Antarctic souvenirs were bought for loved ones back home.



A somewhat late but fully earned evening meal rounded out the day. At 20:50 pm sharp, Nina and Ben rounded up all 26 campers for that evening and Andrew and Beau drove them off into the distance for a special if somewhat sleepless night out under the Antarctic stars. Everybody tucked into their sleeping bags and with a few penguins as snow mates, what more could one ask for?



Day 7 – Tuesday 13th February 2018

Damoy Point & Brown Station/Skontorp Cove

0800 GPS Position: 064°48' S / 063°30' W

Wind: Calm. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +4°C.



For a few, the day broke extra early. Andrew and Liz headed out in Zodiacs bright and early, ready to pick up the campers who had a short but fantastic night under clouded stars. After a quick shower back on board, breakfast was announced. The ship headed over just around the corner, to a place called Dorian Bay, for a morning landing at Damoy Point. Two huts were on display there on shore, the mandatory Argentinian

building replete with their national flag, and the British building festooned in bright turquoise blue. A hike was on offer, for those who wanted to stretch their legs. Around the penguin colonies led by Ben, we worked our way up the slope to Tombstone Hill, stopping halfway to watch a relaxing fur seal. We then headed back down through a gully and up another hill on top of the 'landing strip', where planes used to take off and land to resupply the research stations in the southern Antarctic area. A beautiful view it was, of Port Lockroy just on the other side, with muted tones offering fantastic hues of blue throughout the ice in the surrounding glaciers.



Back on board for lunch! Exquisitely delicious, *Plancius* sailed back through the Neumayer Channel towards Paradise Bay, the location of our earlier BBQ. A split landing/Zodiac cruise was the idea, with half of us landing at Base Brown to enjoy (more!) Gentoo penguins, while the rest of us cruised with the Zodiacs around the corner in Skontorp Cove.

Ice, cormorants, even a lazy or perhaps tired crabeater seal were all on display as the afternoon wore on. Kayakers kayaked, hikers hiked, cruisers cruised, and penguin peepers peeped.

As everyone shuffled back on board the ship, reflecting perhaps on the events of the past days, our wonderful hotel manager Sebastian greeted us at the gangway with hot cups of hot chocolate, spiked with perhaps a little bit of rum! A cheery end to an engaging afternoon.

At promptly 18:30 pm, Andrew greeted us in the lounge for the daily briefing, after which he regaled us with facts pertaining to penguin anal pressure. Louise supplied us with sufficient information about krill and the circle of life that it entails down here in the southern hemisphere, before we were all called down to the restaurant for dinner.

With full bellies we all crawled into our beds, dreaming of what could possibly top the previous activities for the following day....



Day 8 – Wednesday 14th February 2018

Portal Point

0800 GPS Position: 064°28' S / 061°41' W

Wind: Calm. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast, snowing. **Air Temp:** 0°C.





Our final hurrah in Antarctica did not disappoint. As we motored into our anchorage position just off Portal Point, the low cloud lifted to reveal our pristine snowy playground for the morning. Our final landing – our third continental landing – allowed us time to hike up to a spectacular vantage point overlooking the iceberg-filled Gerlache Strait and nearby Charlotte Bay.

With not a breath of wind and a light dusting of fluffy snow, many of us took time to find a place to sit and reflect quietly on our own special Antarctic experience. Others admired the Antarctic fur seals that lolled about the rocks near the shoreline, snoozing soundly whilst doing impressive impersonations of the rocks they lay upon.

The morning also allowed us time for a final Zodiac cruise. Mother Nature's watery "sculpture park" of icebergs sparked our imaginations and provided myriad photo opportunities. Various members of Antarctica's cast came out to farewell us – with fur seals cavorting in the waters, cormorants bobbing about on the surface, and storm petrels and terns flitting over our heads. The star attraction however appeared to be the small groups of humpback whales that, although they were slowly making their way down the Gerlache Strait, obliged us with some good viewings of their characteristic "humped" dorsal fins and enormous tail flukes.

For those hardy (or foolhardy) folks amongst us, the opportunity for a final plunge into the frigid waters at the landing site proved too tempting. Squeals and gasps accompanied the mass movement of bodies – appearing not unlike our penguin friends – a gathering together and trepidation before entering, followed by swift gymnastic leaps and scurrying to exit.

Soon after our final washing of boots and turning of tags we upped anchor and our floating "home away from home" set sail northwards up the Bransfield Strait.



The final curtain of cloud parted in the afternoon and we were treated to more spectacular vistas around the ship – jagged, snow-covered peaks of the continent shining in the distance and the water sparkling like a sea of jewels all around us.

As the afternoon progressed, some of us started to review our many, many photographs taken on our expedition. Yet we are now part of a privileged group that know that Antarctica is a place that is so much more than can ever be captured in a simple image. And although words are also often inadequate in describing one's experience of this icy continent, these ones may just resonate in some way:

*If Antarctica were music it would be Mozart.
Art, and it would be Michelangelo.
Literature, and it would be Shakespeare.
And yet it is something even greater; the only place on earth that is still as it should be.
May we never tame it.*

— Andrew Denton

Day 9 – Thursday 15th February 2018

At Sea Drake Passage Northward

0800 GPS Position: 060°46' S / 063°23' W

Wind: WNW 18 knots. **Sea State:** Large swell. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +5°C.

Rollin', rollin', rollin'...for many, a rather sleepless night. And although the weather was of no consequence, the continuous rolling motion of the ship began to bear on a few too many nerves. Andrew gave us all a reprieve from his dulcet tones, as



Sebastian announcing breakfast at 8:00 am was the first thing anyone heard over the PA system. While a few braved the stairs and smells of food, most were



content to snooze a couple more hours until the first lecture of the day was announced. Beau talked about seals, the furry and curious creatures seen on the days down in the Antarctic proper. After that it was time for more food, more fantastic things to stuff down our gullets only to be later regurgitated in a rather hurried manner, in no polite fashion. In the afternoon, Nina gave a talk about Antarctic politics, no small feat itself. And again later on Louise made an appearance in the dining room to

discuss the early days of whaling, and how it affected culture and populations for many years to come.



Happy Hour! Shouted Sebastian over the PA system. What a great idea! Half price drinks at the bar is never a bad thought.

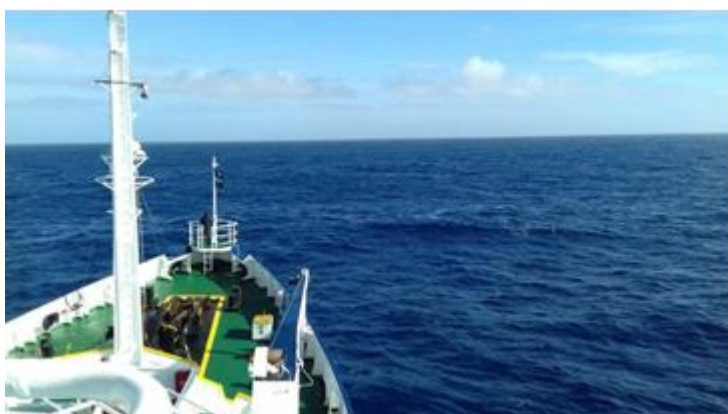
At 6:30 pm, Sebastian and Andrew briefed us all once again the lounge, preparing us for the following days to come, as upon arrival in Ushuaia the dreaded culture shock would surely await some of us, exchanging penguins with talking monkeys, Zodiacs with taxis, and gangway sailors with the sometimes not so gentle airport security detail. Silke informed us all about the Southern & Northern lights, fantastic displays of light dancing about the skies like ever so delicate yet beautiful butterflies.

Day 10 – Friday 16th February 2018

At Sea Drake Passage Northward

0800 GPS Position: 056°16' S / 065°56' W

Wind: WNW 16 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Sunny. **Air Temp:** +8°C.



Sunshine, and moderately calm seas. Another day on the Drake Passage, however a rather calm and slightly more enjoyable one. A slight few more of us made it to the dining room for breakfast, albeit a rather short one. Afterwards Liz gave a talk about the blubbery animals we had seen down around the peninsula, and their adaptations to such cold environments, and then it was time for more food in the form of lunch. Although the sun shone, the wind was rather mild, meaning there were simply not so many birds flying out and about the ship.

After lunch several exciting activities were planned. First, it was time to return the wonderfully practical rubber boots to the boot room! They had served us well, protecting our feet from penguin guano, rocks, salt water, and various other unwanted things. Alas, all good things must come to an end.

After the returning of the boots, Louise gave a talk about the Norwegian explorer Amundsen, and how he conquered the South Pole.

Then came the time of reckoning! Sebastian called us all deck by deck down to reception to settle our accounts. Credit card, Maestro, cash, all was accepted for payments other than the dreaded American Express and Argentinian Peso.

At promptly 18:00 pm, Andrew called us down the lounge for one more daily briefing. This time there was to be no informative talks, this was to be the Captains farewell cocktail toast, thus ending our voyage on a high note. Cameras flashed like paparazzi, and then it was time for the last dinner on board before entering the beagle channel and sailing up to Ushuaia.



Day 11 – Saturday 17th February 2018

Disembarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

0800 GPS Position: 042°45' S / 065°01' W

Wind: ESE 5 knots. **Sea State:** At Port. **Weather:** Sunny. **Air Temp:** +11°C.

We were woken by the last wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Andrew and got ready to disembark for the final time. We didn't have to turn our tags, there was no Zodiac ride ashore and it was a dry landing. The last ten days have taken us on a remarkable journey from the Ushuaia at the southern tip of Argentina, across the dreaded Drake Passage to Antarctica and allowed us a glimpse of life in these remote and sometimes inhospitable places. We will all have different memories of our trip but whatever the memories, whether it was the many Gentoo penguins (and humans!) bathing near the glacier at Neko Harbour, the sight of the iceberg graveyard next to Pleneau Island, or stepping on the continent of Antarctica at Base Brown they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical Miles: 1670 nm

Kilometres: 3092 km



Your Expedition Team!

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



KAYAKING LOG

PLENEAU ISLAND / PORT CHARCOT

Minke Morning! The shoreline of Port Charcot gave us a field of grounded icebergs, brash and icebergs pushed up against shore so we started out by cruising along the outer edge, viewing crabeater seals hauled out on numerous floes, numbering perhaps 30 in all. Further on, as we approached a sleeping leopard seal our attention turned to two minke whales...one far off ahead, the other just behind. We hoped to intercept it so paddled out into an open area where it then engaged with us and came around several times to check us out, returning often... even raising its snout at the back of Meera and Sonal's kayak, just inches away and much to their surprise, especially when it blew right next to them! We could see the top of its snout and the outline of its mouth and jaw, it had raised itself so high up! It immediately ducked under the stern of their kayak and circled around to have another look at us. At one point it passed directly beneath us, leaving a trail of huge bubble prints on the surface right between the kayakers. After a period of time checking us out from various angles it swam off to join up with a group of five others. As we paddled toward them three broke off and came straight toward us! They engaged with us for a while, again checking us out from various angles, then veered off away from us. We'd heard this was a highly unusual encounter as normally minke whales tend not to interact with kayakers. It was a stunning and memorable experience interacting with the minke whales...what a way to start our kayaking trip in Antarctica!



PETERMANN ISLAND

We enjoyed our time out and away from the ship by cruising the shoreline of Petermann looking for Adélie penguins and having a hearty laugh at the various approaches to launching into the water from shore by Gentoo penguins. We saw a good range of Adélie penguins and their nearly-full grown chicks. Passing through a narrow gap we were assaulted by cries from numerous Antarctic terns, guarding their chicks, well above us. Into a quiet little cove away from the wind we found dozens of penguins emerging from the sea and a fattening feed, preening vigorously before heading back to their colonies. With the weather changing and bearing down on us from the north, and bringing snow with it, we opted to head to the landing site and visit the penguin colonies on shore.

NEKO HARBOUR

Half paddle, half ashore with a swim! A lovely wander about amongst icebergs and ice floes, looking for minke whales but alas, none were interested in pursuing our offer of friendship. Two large adults came our way and checked us out, then the two young ones stayed a distance away, acting like typical "Slinkie Minkes".

We enjoyed the morning paddle with bits and pieces of icebergs all around us. Especially fun was paddling through the brash ice, making crashing sounds inside our voluminous hollow kayaks, then emerging into the still quiet on the other side of the brash ice fields. The contrast was wonderful!

After a time we took a ride with our trusty guardian angel, Nico, to shore so a few could try a quick dip in the frigid waters.



PORT LOCKROY

More wandering about amongst the shallow bits looking for seals and watching penguins on the rocks above. Two very playful fur seals came alongside and checked us out then did a bit of acrobatic surfing alongside and around us. We were amazed to see the heaps of whale bones on shore, remnants of the whaling era a hundred years before. A semi-skeleton, mostly intact, remains on shore and we could get a good glimpse of it as we paddled by. The lure of the station museum, Post Office and some shopping therapy brought us indoors for the last half hour of our time off the ship. Another great paddling day with good friends.



DAMOY POINT / DORIAN BAY

Two hardy souls braved the strong and swift currents running around the points of land and the nearby island named Casablanca. One rather curious Wedell seal reposed in the gentle and swelly shallows, watching us with large watery eyes. All along the island and coastline was prime territory for leopard seals but alas they were nowhere to be found. What we found instead was one very large and photogenic fur seal, perched precariously on a small ice floe. He was patient with us while we zoomed past for photos. Even though our hunt for more minke whales, and the more elusive humpback whales, was not successful we did find huge and well fed crabeater seals, asleep in various ice floes. One floe barely fit the two chubby beasts, happily snoozing away and the other ample and

adequate ice floe only had one on board. We think this was the fattest, most well fed one of them all. A glorious morning on flat calm water in and out of the fields of bergy bits. We could see our happy fellow passenger friends climbing up and down a steep slope for some great views from above.



PARADISE HARBOUR

We eight paddled out after leaving the ship into the wide open spaces of Paradise Harbour, headed toward some very tall cliffs. Amongst the ledges we found Blue Eyed Shag nests. The nearly full grown offspring were trying out their wings and water landings. It was quite humorous to see their attempts. Rounding a rocky point we aimed into Skontorp Cove but a little side cove caught our eye so we wandered inside. There we found low ice cliffs complete with ice caves...and no! We didn't wander inside... too dangerous, we'd heard. In the midst of the numerous and small icebergs we found one piece of old sea ice, floating benignly on its own. We set our 'motors' to "ramming speed" and had a good time plowing into and up on top of it. Knowing it wouldn't capsize we could relax and enjoy the unique experience of sitting atop an iceberg. In a kayak. In Antarctica! After a bit we wandered back out into the large cove and found ourselves surrounded by massive glaciers coming straight down to the waters' edge. We waited and waited for some calving action but it was being rather quiet so eventually we wandered on. Once back out to the harbour we accepted a ride in the Zodiac and headed toward the beach just in time for those needing a quick dip in the frigid waters. We thoroughly enjoyed our paddling time in the quiet, dead calm waters of Paradise... our own little paradise!



PORTAL POINT

Our last paddle of the trip would take us out on another whale hunt, this time for the elusive humpback. Various Zodiacs had headed out before us so had a wide lead. We were on the watch for any one of a group of six that had earlier passed behind a massive iceberg near the ship, according to reports from the lookouts on the bridge. After spending a long while following along with a distant Zodiac and even more distant whale we finally gave up....this

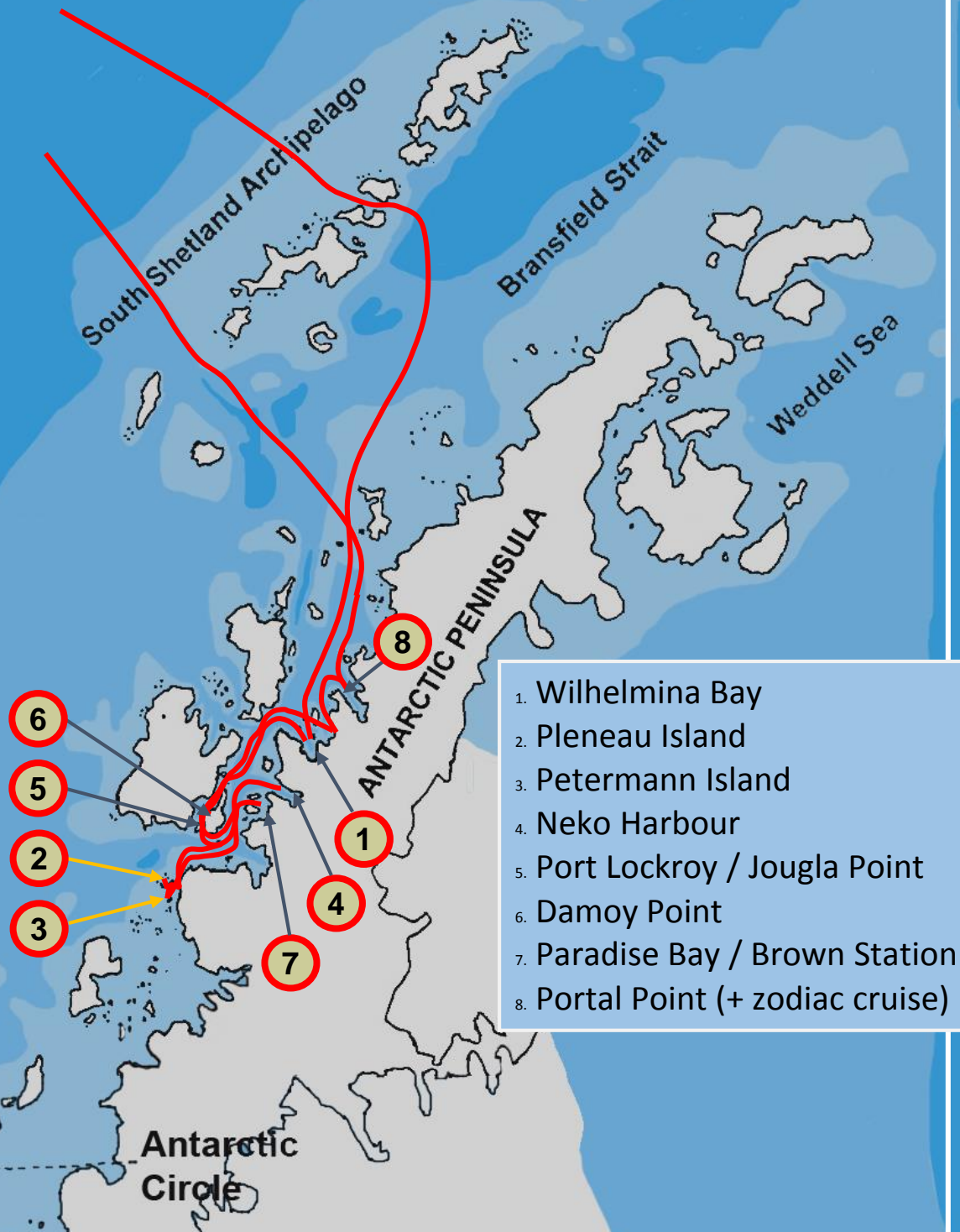
whale had no socializing desires this day. We turned to the opposite direction and headed out toward the middle of the Gerlache Strait, putting on some good distance. When it was time to head back to the ship we stretched our time limits a few minutes and had a lovely mini-cruise through a few of the massive icebergs toward a gorgeous arch. How is it possible for such a delicate piece of ice to stay standing as this one was doing? There are so many mysteries in Antarctica...we're convinced we've only seen a very tiny portion of those. We've had oodles of discoveries, both on and above the water, we feel as though we've only scratched the surface, or as they say in Antarctica, "this is only the tip of the iceberg."

Submitted 16 February 2018

Louise Adie, Kayak Guide







PLA 28 – 18 Antarctic Peninsula
07 to 17 February 2018

Wildlife List													
aboard M/V Plancius 7th Feb - 17 Feb 2018													
<u>BIRDS</u>	<u>AVES</u>	07/02/18	08/02/18	09/02/18	10/02/18	11/02/18	12/02/18	13/02/18	14/02/18	15/02/18	16/02/18	17/02/18	
Penguins													
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x				
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>					x							
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>												
King penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>												
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>												
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	x									x		
Southern Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chryscome</i>												
Albatrosses													
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		x	x									
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		x								x		
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			x									
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>			x						x	x		
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x							x	x		
Petrels													
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronecets giganteus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronecets hallii</i>	x	x							x			
Southern Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>												
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>			x	x	x	x	x					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>			x									
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				x	x							
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		x								x		
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>									x			
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>										x		
Magellanic Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>			x									
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica Antartica</i>												
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		x	x						x			
Storm Petrels													
Wilson's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x				
Black-bellied Storm-petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>			x		x							
Gray-backed Storm Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>												
Skuas													
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>					x	x	x	x				
Brown Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	x			x	x	x						
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>												
Shags													
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				x	x	x	x	x				
Imperial / blue eyed Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax albiventer</i>				x								
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	x									x	x	
Gulls and Terns													
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	x											x
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	x				x	x	x	x				
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>												
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				x	x	x	x	x				
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	x									x	x	
Sheathbills													
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>					x	x	x					

[illegible]

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.



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.

Benjamin Giunchi – Expedition Guide



Ben comes from the country side of Argentina, known as “The Pampas”. He has experienced and loved nature since was he was very young, but after a few years traveling around the country he discovered his passion for Patagonia and the mountains.

This also woke up a curiosity about glaciers and wildlife and he became a guide around El Calafate and El Chaltén.

Having the chance to share some time with people around the world, he turned into a Tour Leader to expand his knowledge about culture in South America and took a few courses that could take him closer to his dream... Antarctica!!!

As we are probably hitting a dram together, I invite you to share all the good vibes and enjoy a unique place in the world and your life... WELCOME TO YOUR ADVENTURE!!

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.

Louise Adie – Kayak Guide



Trinidadian born Louise has been enthralled with the natural world all her life, encouraged by her Norwegian parents. She's currently a passionate consumer of historical tales, particularly those involving the human exploration of the polar regions of the world.

While kayak guiding has been her passionate contributions to passenger's Antarctic experience, her history lectures share an equal passion. For the

past 8 years she has lectured aboard eco tourism cruise ships about the various players in the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. Additionally, she has given the toast numerous times at the graveside of Sir Ernest Shackleton at the Whaler's Cemetery on South Georgia at Grytviken.

In the past 3 years she has written and acted in two one-act, one-woman plays about luminary Antarctic explorers British Sir Ernest Shackleton and Norwegian Roald Amundsen. Her next plays will be focused on Australian Douglas Mawson and Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Setting the stage for this hunger for human exploration, her great grandfather, Alexander Lange, was the first Norwegian whaling manager to begin the taking of whales in Antarctica in 1905, after having worked in the Arctic areas surrounding Svalbard for 20 years.

Now entering her 14th year in the expedition cruising world, Louise has worked on ships from the Antarctic to the Arctic as both a kayak guide as well as a historian. In all she has taken over 1300 people kayaking in the polar regions.

Living in the US most of her life, Louise has recently been published in two important periodicals, WoodenBoat Magazine and Sea History Magazine. Both articles focused on the recently launched Norwegian Viking ship, the Draken Harald Harfagre, and its exploratory voyages through the North Sea, the East coast of Greenland and into the Great Lakes of the US. If you visit Mystic Seaport, CT, this coming summer you may find her guiding decks tours on board, or expedition guiding in Alaska and the Russian Far East.

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.

Regis Perdriat – Expedition Guide



Regis, a behavioural biologist, has a passion for wildlife protection and natural heritage conservation.

His fieldwork has brought him to the French Southern Territories in the South Indian Ocean, the Kerguelen Islands, where he studied albatrosses and penguins for one year.

He has worked as a fieldwork ornithologist in diverse environments such as Kazakhstan, South Africa, and Greenland. On top of this, Regis loves being a wildlife photographer.

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.



Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew

Including:

Chief Officer:	Jaanus Hannes	[Estonia]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vićas	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	Teunis van't Verlaat	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Sebastian Duma	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Bobby Manevski	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Sean Steele	[Canada]
Ship's Physician:	Rogier Burggraaff	[Netherlands]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Andrew Bishop	[Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Liz Pope	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Beau Preneau	[Canada]
Expedition Guide	Regis Perdrail	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Louise Adie	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Nina Gallo	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Ben Giunchi	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Silke Hoof	[Germany]

Welcome you on Board



Antarctic Peninsula

Embarkation in Ushuaia
Wednesday 7th 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.

Tea, coffee and light snacks are available in the Lounge on Deck 5.

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

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

We will conduct the mandatory Lifeboat Drill after the briefing. Please listen for the Alarm.

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

~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.



Antarctic Peninsula

At Sea towards Antarctica

Thursday 8th February 2018

0730 Wake-up call.

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

1030 Regis would like to talk about **Seabird Biology**, in the Dining Room.

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

1330 For those of you signed up for **Kayaking** please join Louise in the Library for a briefing about your activity.

1500 Beau will be in the Dining Room to introduce us to **Baleen Whales**.

1700 Liz will present an **Introduction to Antarctica** in the Dining Room.

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.

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

Antarctic Peninsula

At sea towards Antarctica

Friday 9th February 2018

- 0730 Wake-up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.
- 0930 **Rubber Boots!** This morning we will issue you with your Rubber Boots. The Boot Room is on Deck 3 forward. Please bring your warm socks for trying the boots.
We will call you by deck number so please listen for announcements.
- 1030 **IAATO and Zodiac Safety Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing about our behavior on shore in Antarctica and how we travel safely in the small boats from ship to shore. Please join Andrew in the **Lounge**.
- 1100 **Vacuuming!** We will call you by deck to bring your outer gear, backpacks & camera bags to the Lounge to clean. Remember to sign the declaration form.
Please listen for announcements.
- 1100 **Kayakers** please meet with Louise in the **boot room** to collect your Kayaking gear.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 For those of you signed up for **Camping** please join Nina and Ben in the Lounge for a briefing about your activity.
- 1400 **Vacuuming** continues in the Lounge.
- 1530 **Penguins!** We hope to see a number of different species of penguins during our voyage to Antarctica. Please join Regis in the Dining Room to find out more about these iconic little birds!
- 1700 Please join Andrew in the Dining Room where he will be explaining all about **Glaciers**.
- 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.

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

Antarctic Peninsula

Cuverville Island and Port Lockroy

Saturday 10th February 2018

During the early morning we will be sailing down the Gerlache Strait. If conditions are good, it is well worth getting up early and heading out on deck with your camera to enjoy the view. Please be careful of the slippery decks.

0700 Wake-up call.

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.

Our arrival time at our morning location will depend on our progress during the night so please listen for announcements over the PA system.

TBA We hope to make our first landing at **Cuverville Island**, a well-known Gentoo penguin rookery. Please listen for announcements regarding timings.

Kayakers please listen for announcements regarding your activity this morning.

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

TBA This afternoon we hope to visit the historic base at **Port Lockroy**. One of the staff from the base will come on board to give a brief talk about the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT), and the history and management of Port Lockroy.

After the briefing we will conduct a split landing with half the group going ashore at **Port Lockroy** and the other half visiting the nearby **Jougla Point** where we can see Gentoo penguins and Antarctic Shags. We will swap halfway through the landing. Please listen for announcements.

At Port Lockroy we will have the chance to visit the museum, Post Office and souvenir shop. The shop accepts Euros, Dollars and Pounds sterling but prefer Debit and Credit cards (no AMEX). You may also stamp your passport but please be careful and do not lose it!

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

1900 **A Special Antarctic Dinner** is served on the back of 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.

~2030 **Campers** please be ready at the gangway to go ashore if conditions are favourable. Don't forget your warm clothes, hat and sunglasses, and remember to use the warm and comfortable toilets on board before you go ashore!!



Antarctic Peninsula

Port Charcot and Petermann Island

Sunday 11th February 2018

This morning we will be transiting the Lemaire Channel, a very scenic and narrow channel between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island. Come out on decks to enjoy the views!

0600 Wake-up call.

~0630 Entrance to the Lemaire Channel.

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.

0830 **Port Charcot.** We hope to go ashore and visit this historic location where Charcot overwintered on the *Français*. There are Gentoo penguins and possibly a small number of Adélie and Chinstrap penguins. If conditions are favourable we may offer a walk to a nearby cairn. Please listen for announcements.

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

1430 **Petermann Island.** This island is home to both Gentoo and Adélie penguins and there is a memorial to three members of the British Antarctic Survey that died on the nearby sea ice in 1982. On an historic note, Charcot's 2nd expedition overwintered here on board the *Pourquois Pais*. Please listen for announcements.

1900 Join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Briefing** where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

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

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

Antarctic Peninsula

Port Charcot and Petermann Island

Monday 12th February 2018

- 0700 Wake-up call.
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.
- 0830 **Neko Harbour.** Weather permitting we hope to make a continental landing here at Neko Harbour. The surrounding scenery is particularly striking, and there is a dramatic glacier front close by the landing site. ***Please do not stay on the beach in this location, as glacier calvings can produce big waves onto the shore.*** There is a large colony of Gentoo penguins to enjoy but be aware of penguin highways up and down the slopes. We hope to be able to offer a hike to a viewpoint over the bay and glacier. This is quite a steep climb so please be aware of your abilities.
We will offer a **Polar Plunge** at the end of the landing so if you would like to swim in Antarctic waters please bring your swim suits! We will bring the towels!
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA This afternoon we hope to be successful in our second attempt to visit the historic base at **Port Lockroy**. One of the staff from the base will come on board to give a brief talk about the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT), and the history and management of Port Lockroy.
After the briefing we will conduct a split landing with half the group going ashore at Port Lockroy (Goudier Island) and the other half visiting the nearby Jougla Point where we can see Gentoo penguins and Antarctic Shags. We will swap halfway through the landing. Please listen for announcements.
As a reminder, the shop accepts Euros, Dollars and Pounds sterling but prefers Debit and Credit cards (no AMEX). You may also stamp your passport but please be careful and do not lose it!
- 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.
- ~2030 Campers please be ready at the gangway to go ashore. Don't forget to enjoy the comfort of Plancius' bathroom facilities before you leave!

0700 Wake-up call.

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.

0830 We plan to go ashore at **Damoy Point**, which was used as a transit station for British Antarctic Survey staff and stores being flown south to Rothera Station. We will visit the hut and a Gentoo Penguin colony. If conditions allow, we will offer a short hike.

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

1430 This afternoon we will travel into **Paradise Harbour** where we hope to make a second continental landing at the Argentine Station, Almirante Brown; as well as enjoy a Zodiac cruise in nearby Skontorp Cove. Please note that the station is currently occupied so please do not enter any buildings. This will be a split landing and cruise with **half of us** going ashore first and **the other half** going for a Zodiac cruise.

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.



Antarctic Peninsula

Portal Point

Wednesday 14th February 2018

0700 Wake-up call.

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.

0900 Conditions allowing, this morning we plan to go ashore at **Portal Point** for our third Continental Landing, and last landing of this trip. We would again like to conduct a split landing with one group Zodiac cruising while the other lands, and swapping half way through. Please listen for announcements.

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

This afternoon we will be sailing north and into the Drake Passage. If you think you may need seasickness medication please take it after lunch – prevention is better than cure! If you need medication Dr Rogier will be in the Lounge after Lunch.

1500 **Sea Day Documentary:** Rounding Cape Horn Sea Day Movie: 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 is in English in the Lounge.

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. Enjoy your meal!

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

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

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

1030 **Antarctic Seals.** We've seen them in the water, on rocks and on ice. Please join **Beau** in the **Dining Room** to learn more about the pinnipeds of the Antarctic waters.

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

1500 Please join **Nina** in the **Dining Room** for her thought-provoking presentation, "**Antarctic Politics: from Discovery to Today**".

1630 **Early Whaling Industry.** Please join **Louise** in the **Dining Room** as she describes life aboard a whaling vessel in Antarctica in the early 1900's, told from the working man's perspective... with information gleaned from the original diaries of her great grandfather, Alex Lange.

1830 Please come and join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Briefing**.

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

We are sailing in open waters, please remember to secure your cabins and belongings and 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.

1030 If you would like to learn a little more about how marine mammals have adapted to a life at sea, please join **Liz** in the **Dining Room** for her presentation, "**Blubber and Fur: Mammals in a Watery World**".

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 **How Amundsen Took the South Pole.** Known for efficiency and an innate understanding of icy climates, the Norwegians stunned everyone with their apparent ease in attaining the Pole. Join **Louise** in the **Dining Room** to find out just how this was accomplished and what set them apart to attain victory.

~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** 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.*

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: please ensure you 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!