



## **Antarctic Peninsula**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Artur Iakovlev</b>	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	<b>Romanas Vićas</b>	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	<b>Luis Oroceo</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Michael Frauendorfer</b>	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b>	[Hungary]
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	<b>Sean Steele</b>	[Canada]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Tanja Bayer</b>	[Germany]

## AND

Expedition Leader:	<b>Andrew Bishop</b>	[Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Liz Pope</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sebastian Arrebola</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Martin McGrath</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Nina Gallo</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sonja Heinrich</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Toby Nowlan</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Zet Freiburghaus</b>	[Sweden]

# Day 1 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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

**Wind:** 20 knots **Sea state:** Moderate **Weather:** Mixed cloud cover



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.

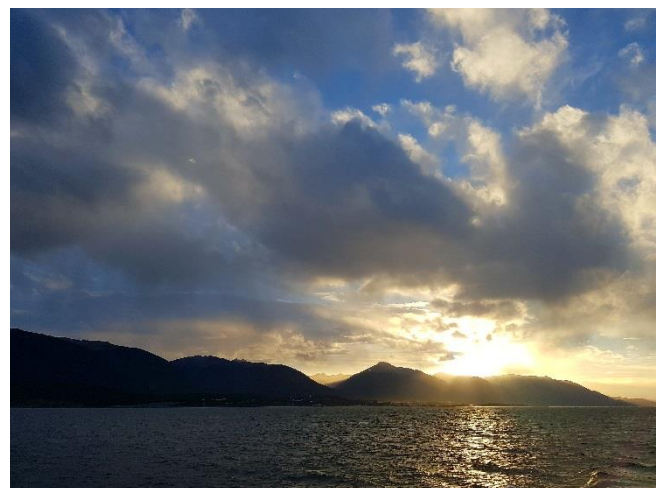
For many of us this is the start of a lifelong dream. The excitement comes in different forms for each unique person, but even the most experienced of us feels genuine excitement to depart on a journey to Antarctica. Most passengers were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, ready to board our ship MV *Plancius*, home for the next 10 days.



We were greeted at the gangway by members of our Expedition staff who welcomed us aboard. 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 Zsuzsanna and Michael, our Hotel and 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 Luis, 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 (with Toby as life jacket model!). 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 the escort of black-browed albatross, great shearwater and sooty shearwater. 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 Michael who gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel which will be our home for the next couple 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, Evgeny Levakov and toast our voyage with a glass of pink 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 – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### At Sea Drake Passage Southward

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

**Wind:** W 35 knots. **Sea State:**. **Weather:** cloudy. **Air Temp:** +2°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 30 knots of wind blowing. 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, to enjoy the sunshine and enjoy a few birds that were flying around the ship and gathering at the stern as we sailed towards Antarctica. The most common species was the giant petrel, both southern and northern but there were also black-

browed albatross, Wilson's storm petrels, soft plumaged petrels and even some southern 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! Toby gave a fabulous talk after breakfast about albatrosses and other great



© Marijke de Boer

seabirds; fascinating on so many levels. Lunch was served at 12.30 and we enjoyed yet another delicious meal from our lovely chefs. After lunch the wind picked up and only a few strong were out birding with Toby. 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 all things Antarctica from Liz. She gave us an overview of the coldest, driest, windiest continent on earth from the characteristics of glaciers to the history of Antarctica (dating back 200 MYA to Gondwana!) to some of the more charismatic creatures we may meet on our voyage ahead. Andrew then gave a great lecture

about glaciers. Now everyone has some decent background knowledge about glacial moraines and calvings.



At 6.30 pm we were invited to the lounge for the daily briefing where Andrew explained our plans for tomorrow. One more day at sea with lectures and the great rubber boot hand-out.

## Day 3 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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.

This morning we woke to our first sunrise over Antarctic waters as we continued our journey across the Drake Passage. Having crossed the



Antarctic Convergence overnight, a few keen birders were out on deck early to scout for some of the seabirds of the south, while the



rest of us started our day with tea and coffee in the lounge or a quiet morning in our cabins.

After breakfast, the business of preparing ourselves for Antarctica began. We attended mandatory briefings, where we learned about IAATO requirements and Zodiac operations, which filled many of us with a mix of excitement and anticipation. This was followed by a vacuum party - unfortunately not the kind of party with

party hats, clowns, or birthday cakes, but the kind of party where you clean and vacuum your expedition gear. Vacuuming gear is mandatory for all ships and guests heading down to Antarctica to make landings, to minimise our impact on the environment and avoid introducing foreign species of plants and fungi. So, 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 even cow manure from our outerwear.



After a scrumptious lunchtime meal from head chef Heinz and his team, we made our way to the boot room to pick up our cosy polar boots in preparation for our first day in Antarctica tomorrow.

The afternoon was one of attending lectures for some of us, and quiet rest for those of us who were still adjusting to the rolling rhythm of the Drake Passage. The afternoon lecture program included another fine talk from Toby, this one about penguins. We learned about some of the different species we hope to see while we're in Antarctica and how to identify them. This was followed by an educational hour with Sonja, our resident marine mammal expert who told us

about some of the whales we may be lucky enough to see down south. As the evening drew in the birders' patience on the rocking upper deck was rewarded with sightings of the rare Kerguelen petrel – a prized sighting! This evening there was an air of anticipation at the briefing and recap as we gathered to hear the plan for tomorrow: our first day in Antarctica!!

## Day 4 – Thursday 22nd March 2018

### Wilhelmina Bay & Danco Island

**0800 GPS Position: Wilhelmina Bay** 64°38'S 62°10'W **Danco Island:** 64°44'S 62°37'W

**Wind:** Calm. **Sea State:** Calm, building later in the day. **Weather:** Partly cloudy. **Air Temp:** -1°C.

Today we woke up with much better conditions than the previous few days; the sea was slowly calming down and we had our first sight of the Antarctic Peninsula as we entered the Gerlache Strait. After breakfast everyone gathered out on deck to appreciate the fantastic landscape. The morning was bright and clear, the good visibility allowed us to see the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula, Liege and Brabant Islands. Soon, humpback whales started to show up, at first one or two, but then many more were swimming, resting and feeding in the waters of the strait.



Around mid-morning we entered Wilhelmina Bay to look for more whales; soon we found more humpback whales, *Plancius* made a slow approach and we had the chance to experience a close view of these magnificent creatures. The students on board totaled 250 whales seen that morning! Once we came out of the bay it was lunch time, and after spending so many hours on deck a warm meal was very much appreciated.



After lunch we approached our second destination of the day, Cuverville Island, named after a French Admiral by Adrien de Gerlache. The wind had picked up from a northerly direction and was heading towards our landing site. A quick response from Andrew, our Expedition Leader made us change the plans for the afternoon and instead of trying to land at Cuverville with deteriorating conditions, he decided to change our landing spot for Danco Island,

that lies in the protection of the Errera channel. The call proved to be the right one as we had a fantastic afternoon at Danco Island. Many of us walked all the way up to the top of the island, enjoying a 360° view of the mountains and glaciers of the Errera Channel. Gentoo penguins were busy coming up and down the



slopes to get to their (now barely visible) nesting sites, and there was a Weddell seal dreaming of fish on the shore that many of us had the chance to see.

Just before we headed back to *Plancius*, some “brave” fellow travelers challenged the Antarctic waters with a Polar Plunge. Back on the ship, Andrew told us the plans for tomorrow and we enjoyed a nice dinner prepared by our chefs on board. We went to bed with the feeling of having had a great day and already wanting to be tomorrow to see more of this wonderful world.

## Day 5 – Friday 23rd March 2018

### Neko Harbour & Skontorp Cove

**GPS Position Neko Harbour:** 64°50'S 62°33'W **Skontorp Cove:** 64°54'S 62°52'W

**Wind:** SW 10 knots with gusts of 30 knots. **Sea State:** BSS 4. **Weather:** Clear morning clouding over with passing snow storms. **Air Temp:** -1°C.



As our bleary-eyes blinked awake at Andrew's 0700 call to breakfast, *Plancius* steamed toward Neko Harbour and our first landing on the Antarctic continent. Toby's rendition of 'You are my Sunshine' echoed through the crew mess as the ship closed in on Neko in a strengthening wind.

Brash ice surrounded our landing site and 30 knot gusts buffeted the higher slopes.

Undeterred, we launched Zodiacs, cruised through the brash and landed beside the gentoo penguins

and occasional crabeater seal. Staff led many up onto the slopes once we'd determined it was safe, whilst some stayed on the beach zone amongst the penguins, watching humpback whales out in the bay.

Andrew's call for Polar Plungers brought many back to the beach, stripping in the gusty conditions to plunge from shore into the ice-strewn water for a few seconds of... Invigoration? Agony? Or just the huge satisfaction of the 'I did that' moment! Afternoon brought us to Brown base still in strong winds, we launched a staff Zodiac to check the landing, but conditions decided us upon a cruise into 'Paradise', another name for Skontorp Cove's surrounds.

As half of us watched Toby's lecture on his part in BBC's Planet Earth 2, the other half donned waterproofs and headed for the Zodiacs, swapping an hour or two later.



The day was fittingly brought to a close by Michael and Susannah's call to a 'Barbecue inside' in deference to the ever-present wind. A great end to a great day!



## Day 6 – Saturday 24th March 2018

### Whaler's Bay (Deception Island)

**0800 GPS Position:** 062°59' S / 060°34' W

**Wind:** W 15 knots. **Sea State:** Light chop. **Weather:** Partly cloudy. **Air Temp:** +1°C.



We were woken up a bit earlier than usual this morning so that we could be out on deck as we approached the notorious Deception Island, one of the three active volcanoes in the world that one can sail into. Neptune's Bellows ho! Far off on the horizon we could see the ominous silhouette signifying the entrance to Deception Island. A fresh dusting of snow had transformed this usually monochrome vista into a textured landscape. Once

inside the caldera, the patterns on shore were breath-taking. The gentle undulations of the volcanic remains were powdered with light snow, revealing outlines and forms just as varied and creative as patterns on an iceberg. Old rusted whaling silos complemented the white, red and brown hues of the snow, sand and silt on shore. Deception Island's last eruption in 1969/70 buried large parts of the whaling infrastructure that was in place when the island was evacuated. Nowadays, the eerie remains are slowly fading into the landscape as they are continually eroded by snow, sand, wind and water.

An energetic group followed Toby up to Neptune's Window, learning how to stand their ground against fur seals on the way. Looking south into the Bransfield Strait, the group strained their eyes to see a distant glimpse of the mountainous spine of the Antarctic Peninsula. Those at the other end of the beach took a hard right after reaching the aircraft hangar, and proceeded up to a perfect vantage point at the base of Ronald Hill. With clear skies and good visibility, the climb up was rewarded with brilliant views across Port Foster. On the water's edge, we met our first couple of chinstrap penguins ... who quickly became probably the most photographed penguins of the entire voyage!

Back onboard, a four hour steam to Half Moon Island was next on the agenda. As we reached the rocky turrets the island the wind had picked up considerably with gusts reaching over 40 knots. With the wind speed forecasted to increase even more in the following hours, unfortunately our planned landing had to be cancelled. And just as Antarctica had shown us her beauty and fragility in days prior, it seemed she was farewelling us with a reminder of her might.



And so the afternoon progressed. Nina gave a fascinating presentation about Antarctic politics and after securing our cabins for the sea days to come, some of us started to review our 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 7 – Sunday 25th March 2018

## At Sea, Drake Passage Northward

**Wind speed:** 37 knots **Sea State:** Moderate to severe, BSS 6 **Weather:** Overcast morning, clear throughout afternoon **Air Temp:** +4°C.



As we pushed onwards for the journey north to beat the approaching storm, the whispers of high seas did nothing to deter the hardest on the ship – the birders and students were lining the bridge wing at dawn. The birds trickled in throughout the morning with Cape petrels, black-bellied storm petrels and grey-headed albatrosses, and ultimately after a cold, wet and quiet morning, the birders' patience was rewarded with a

very windy though clear, bright and bird-filled afternoon.

Left, right and centre there were shouts of prion and petrel! Several stunning light-mantled sooty albatrosses approached the bow and followed the ship. At one point three albatross species could be seen in one scan with binoculars (black-browed, grey-headed, light-mantled)! Tiny diving petrels whirled past in the lee of the ship, while soft-plumaged and Kerguelen petrels wheeled in and out of the head winds in enormous loops at high speed. The audience on deck was thrilled as the Kerguelens hung above the stern in full sunlight – a rare look at this gorgeous slate-grey pelagic bird.

For those preferring to stay indoors today there was a jam-packed lecture schedule that was hard to break away from. Sonja gave a fascinating and sobering talk about Southern Ocean exploitation while guest speaker Lars gave a knock-out lecture about his work with elephant seals – they can dive to two kilometres and hold their breath for an hour and a half!

Squeezed in between these there was a showing of the hilarious though gripping 'Rounding of Cape Horn' in the lounge and head chef Heinz's superb food laid on for lunch and dinner failed to disappoint yet again.



Halfway through our battle northwards we were briefed by Andrew on the advance of the winds and what lay ahead – spurred on by a wonderful day, most of us were looking forward to it...

## Day 8 – Monday 26th March 2018

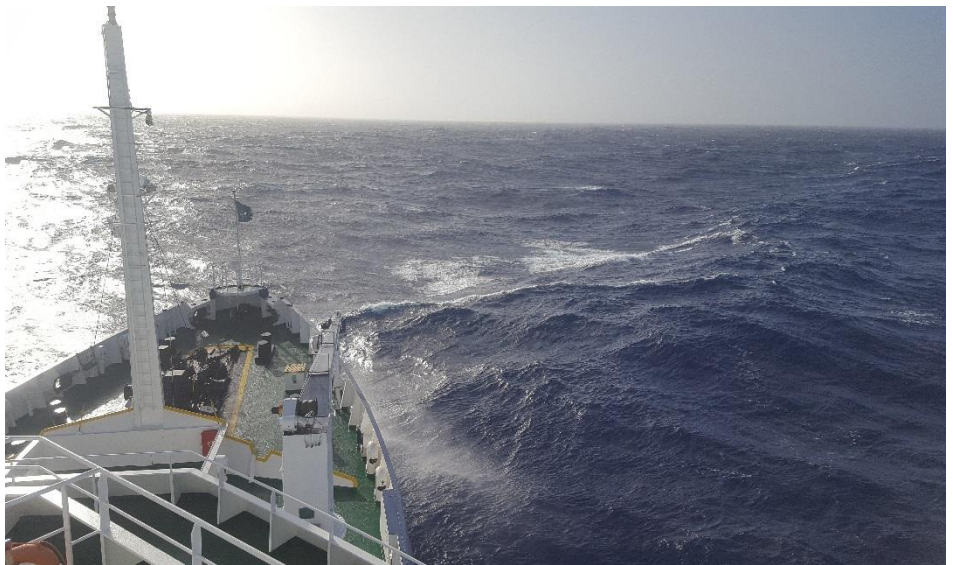
### At Sea, Drake Passage Northward

**Wind speed:** 37 knots **Sea State:** Moderate to severe, BSS 6 **Weather:** Clear morning, clouding later in the afternoon. **Air Temp:** +5°C.

Most of us arose feeling slightly groggy and bashed around. It had been another rather rocky night, so during breakfast we shared stories of sliding and rolling around in our bunks. Some of the particularly big rolls made our trusty ship *Plancius* lean to 35 degrees which even impressed the officer on watch on the bridge. Most of us have found our sea legs though.

A beautiful sunrise and relatively calm sea opened the day.

The keen birders were once again crowded onto the left bridge wing keeping a keen eye out for our feathery friends. When the upper deck was opened the observers poured out grateful for the space and air. The many black-browed and some grey-headed albatross and soft-plumaged petrels did not disappoint, and even a wandering albatross or two made a short appearance much to the delight of those who had missed these mighty birds on the way south.



A distant whale blow was spotted from the bridge wing at around mid-morning. After a few more blows this materialised into what became the highlight of the morning for many up top: a sei whale! The tall, falcate dorsal fin of the whale surfacing just a few hundred metres from the ship was a dead giveaway of this mighty and often hard-to-see species.

Nina provided our morning on-board education and entertainment with a fascinating talk on 2,000 years of Antarctic history and the quest for the elusive *Terra Australis Incognita*.



After yet another lovely banquet lunch we were treated to a showing of a documentary film about Shackleton's extraordinary expedition to Antarctica and guest speaker Lars finished the day with a wonderful and incredibly thought-provoking lecture on climate change and the future of sea ice in Antarctica.

The birders had the final hurrah though, as the wind picked back up in the evening and a fly-by Atlantic petrel paid a brief visit! An exciting sighting indeed.



## Day 9 – Tuesday 28th March 2018

### Staten Island

**Wind:** NW 22 knots. **Sea State:** Choppy Waves. **Weather:** Clear. **Air Temp:** +12°C.



We had made excellent time in crossing the Drake Passage - and all on board were grateful to have reached the other side! Since we had left a little early to beat an approaching storm with gale-force winds, we had a little extra time to spare. Andrew and Seba had been busily preparing something behind the scenes, and to everyone's great surprise and delight announced that they had arranged special permission (with the Argentine navy!) to do a ship cruise past the rarely visited Staten Island!

With very exciting species to offer both the mammal and the bird lover that we didn't have a chance of seeing further south, almost everyone was out on deck to soak in the opportunity at first light. The sun rose and already the boat was surrounded by the silhouettes of southern royal and black-browed albatrosses. As Staten Island loomed in front of us, birds filled the air – it was a truly glorious sight. The gorgeous weather continued for the duration of the day, with sunny weather raising us to a balmy 12 degrees Celsius!

The pace of things picked up a notch as we spotted South American fur seals lazing on a rocky beach, and even more so when the tall fins of a group of at least seven killer whales broke the surface! The whales surrounded the ship, with some young individuals leaping clear of the water right next to the ship! They appeared to be staying in a current break and so were probably fishing there. They were accompanied by a big group of black-browed albatross and giant petrel looking for scraps.





Killer whale by Lucy Neyman

After breaking briefly for a fantastic lunch, everyone was back out in the sunshine, only to be greeted by a group of very playful Peale's dolphins, jumping right out of the water and bow-riding.



Peale's dolphins by Madlaina Michelotti



After they'd disappeared, the birders spotted a group of Andean condors circling high above the dramatic peaks of the wild-looking island, and even sighted the long-ago-introduced red deer on the island.

We were all buzzing with the day's sightings so far, but the wonderful icing on the cake was the coordinated efforts of Andrew's keen eyes and the Captain's superb navigation efforts to put us in a bay overlooking a large rockhopper penguin colony! The sight of the penguins, accompanied by two species of caracara, a red deer stag and a royal albatross flying underneath the whole scene will stay with many of us forever.



It was finally time to head across the Lemaire Strait to the entrance of the Beagle Channel, where we toasted our Captain, a fantastic voyage, and everyone on board.

## Day 12 – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 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!) the stunning Staten Island, or stepping on the continent of Antarctica at Neko, they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

#### **Total distance sailed on our voyage:**

Nautical Miles: 1743.7 nm

Kilometres: 3229.3 km



## **Your Expedition Team!**

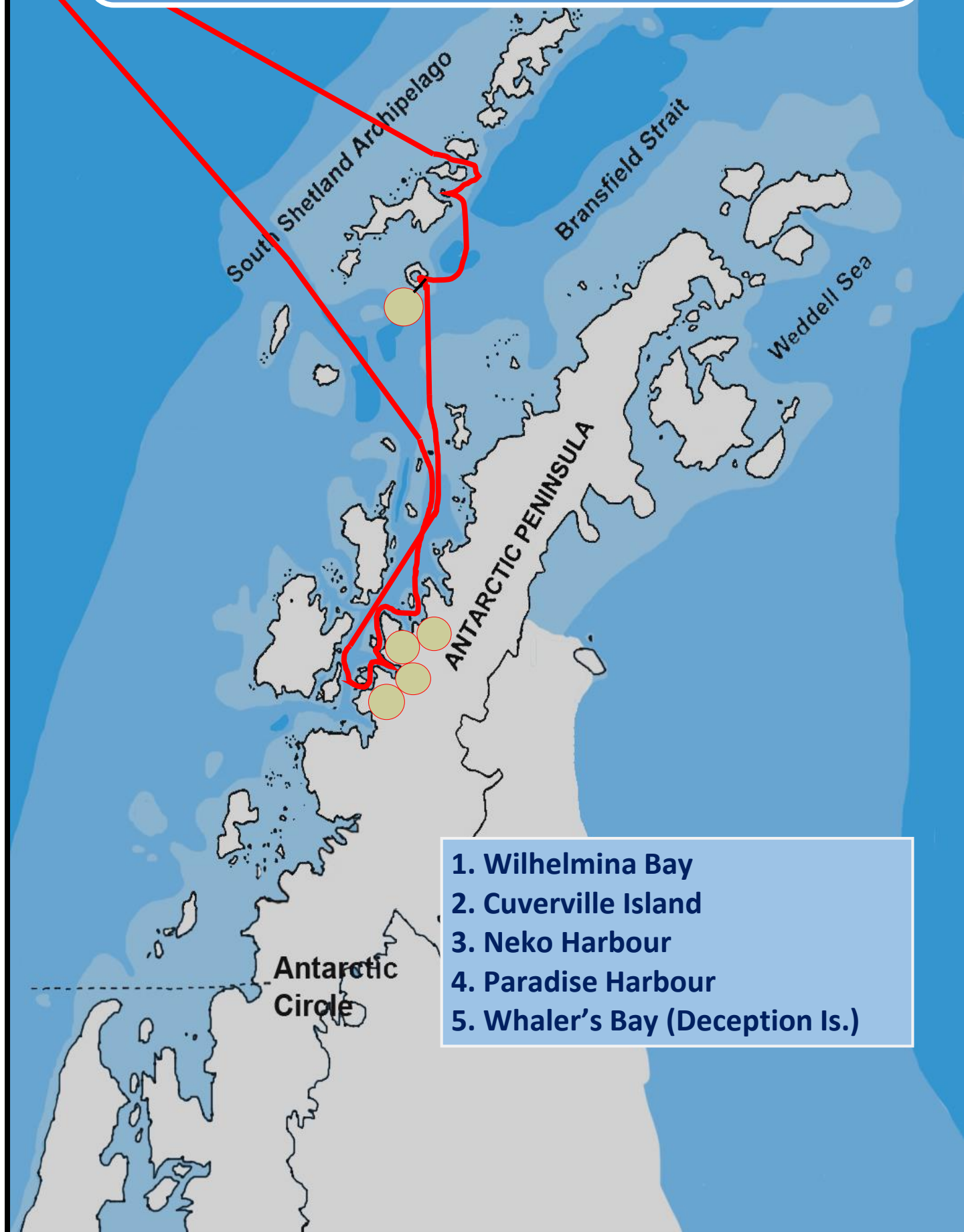
**On behalf of everyone on board we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.**



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS



# PLA 31 – 18 Antarctic Peninsula 19 to 28 March 2018



1. Wilhelmina Bay
2. Cuverville Island
3. Neko Harbour
4. Paradise Harbour
5. Whaler's Bay (Deception Is.)

**aboard M/V Plancius 19 - 28 March 2018**

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<u><b>BIRDS continued</b></u>	<u><b>AVES</b></u>	19/03/18	20/03/18	21/03/18	22/03/18	23/03/18	24/03/18	25/03/18	26/03/18	27/03/18	28/03/18
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>											
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X								X	X
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X	X			X	X
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>			X							
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			X							
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				X	X	X				
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X									X
<b>Sheathbills</b>											
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X	X	X			X	
<b>Other</b>											
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>						X				
Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>									X	
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus australis</i>									X	
Southern Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>									X	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>									X	
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hydrida</i>									X	X
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>									X	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>						X			X	

[illegible]



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## **Andrew Bishop – Expedition Leader**

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**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.

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## **Liz Pope – Assistant Expedition Leader**

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**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.**

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## Martin McGrath – Expedition Guide

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**Martin is a full time professional diver and guide. Originally from the North East of England, he began diving whilst still studying for his degree. On a trip to see his sister who was working in the Arabian Gulf, he decided that the expatriate life was for him, and it took him more than 25 years to return home!**

He freely admits to not being able to "walk past a puddle without wanting to get in it to see what's at the bottom of it" and thinks that the North and South Polar regions are one of the best places on earth to do it.

He has done more than 12000 dives in a career lasting more than 25 years. He is a PADI Master Instructor, a BSAC Advanced Instructor and an HSE Commercial diver. He has worked as a safety and support diver for TV and media crews in extreme environments. He has specialty instructor rating in more than 17 disciplines, and he is also a qualified skipper with sea survival and VHF qualifications. He is an emergency first response instructor trainer and a scuba technician.

He has dived in Antarctica, Australia, Scapa Flow, UK, Norway, France, Spain, Sicily, Beirut, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, South Africa, Mozambique, Maldives and the Galapagos Islands. He owned his own dive centre in the UK, but now living in Australia, he devotes his time to commercial, safety and expedition diving.

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## Nina Gallo – Expedition Guide

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**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.



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## Sebastien Arrebola – Expedition Guide

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Sebastian was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he earned a degree in Tourism. He took a one-year mountain guide training course, climbing in different parts of Argentina such as Mendoza, Bariloche, and Tierra del Fuego. In 2000, he moved to Ushuaia, Argentina, where he became a Tourist guide in Tierra del Fuego, working as a free-lance guide for different companies in Ushuaia. Concurrently, he worked on several vessels visiting sea mammals and birds colonies at the southernmost tip of South America.

He sailed to many places in the world including to the Mediterranean Sea, the Canadian Arctic, Antarctica, Argentina, Chile, and around the mystic Cape Horn. In 2002, he moved to England for almost two years, where he took different courses on Sea Survival (Including wet drill), Marine Radio Operator (Short Range) and First Aid, all accredited by the Royal Yachting Association.

Sebastian has specialised in polar tourism and natural history. His first trip to Antarctica was on board a 36 ft (12 m) sailing boat, during this one-month voyage he developed skills on ice-navigation, and he familiarised himself with the Antarctic Environment, Exploration History, and Natural History. He has led several expeditions to Antarctica on board different vessels. He also worked as a lecturer (Geography, Ice, and Antarctic History), naturalist and Zodiac Driver. In 2008, his polar experience also extended to the Arctic, sailing in the Canadian Arctic and part of the Northwest Passage.

As a lecturer on Antarctic topics, he has been invited to the annual meeting of the International Superyacht Society, in Fort Lauderdale, Unites States, and to the Antarctic week organized annually in the city of Ushuaia, Argentina. He has written several articles related to Antarctica in different magazines and publication, like *The Great Southern Route*, *Superyacht Times*, and *Boat International* among others. He is also co-author of *Antarctica, discovering the last continent*. Sebastian speaks English and Spanish.

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## Sonja Heinrich – Expedition Guide

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**Sonja is a marine biologist and has specialized in the ecology of marine mammals. She holds degrees in Zoology and Marine Science (MSc) from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and a PhD from the University of St Andrews in Scotland where she still lives and works at the Sea Mammal Research Unit.**

For the last ten years she has been coordinating and teaching a Master's degree programme in marine mammal science at St Andrews. Her fascination with the furry and blubbery ocean predators has taken her on research assignments all around the globe. She has spent months along remote beaches studying the behaviour of New Zealand sea lions or wrestled with these and other feisty seals during tagging and census programmes.

For her PhD Sonja initiated an ongoing boat-based study of the conservation ecology of elusive dolphins and porpoises in southern Chile. Sonja is passionate about nature and the outdoors, loves horse-riding when she is landlocked and enjoys scrambling up mountains or running in coastal forests.

She is well versed in English, German and Spanish. Since 1999, Sonja has also been working as lecturer, naturalist, zodiac driver and expedition leader aboard expedition vessels in the Arctic and Antarctic. She is looking forward to sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for these magical polar places with you.

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## Dr Tanja Bayer – Ship's Physician

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**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.



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## Toby Nowlan – Expedition Guide

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**Toby is on board as a guide, lecturer with special interest in seabirds and cetaceans. He is a passionate naturalist and birder and has been since a very early age, and his near-obsession with birds developed as he led research expeditions around the world. These ranged from the lowland jungles of Borneo to the Sea of Cortez in Mexico, to look for the vaquita porpoise, the rarest and most endangered cetacean on the planet. Other expeditions included tagging narwhals in the Canadian Arctic and surveying rare primates in the West African jungle. He has assisted in other bird and mammal research projects in Madagascar,**

**Indonesia, the Arctic and Malaysia, and has lectured on bird conservation in universities in the UK and Korea. He used to work as a birding guide in Kenya and helped manage safari camps there.**

Toby now works in natural history television as Assistant Producer and was a field director on the BBC landmark series Planet Earth 2 for four years. He travelled widely with the series and is currently working on another landmark series for release in 2020, as well as a major landmark natural history series for Netflix. Toby has scuba diving experience from many countries and climates and works as safety diver on BBC filming shoots.

Toby will be combing the ocean for seabirds from the back deck whenever possible!

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## Zet Freiburghaus – Expedition Guide

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Zet is a former successful member of the Swedish national kayak team who after his active career has travelled around the world.

Last year he hiked and rode a horse in the Tien Shen mountains of Kyrgyzstan and explored large parts

of Ethiopia, where he saw the Ethiopian wolf and were standing on the rim on an active volcano. His sharp eyes and great experience in nature implies he rarely misses an animal.

Zet has a Master of Science in Biology from Lund University. Today he works as a guide with the whole world as his office. Zet is new to the Oceanwide crew and very excited to share his enthusiasm and energy on board our vessels this season.



# Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Artur Iakovlev</b>	[Russia]
2nd Officer:	<b>Romanas Vičas</b>	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	<b>Luis Oroceo</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Michael Frauendorfer</b>	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b>	[Hungary]
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	<b>Sean Steele</b>	[Canada]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Tanja Bayer</b>	[Germany]

AND

Expedition Leader:	<b>Andrew Bishop</b>	[Australia]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Liz Pope</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sebastian Arrebola</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Martin McGrath</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Nina Gallo</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sonja Heinrich</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Toby Nowlan</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Zet Freiburghaus</b>	[Sweden]

Welcome you on board!





# Antarctic Peninsula

Embarkation in Ushuaia  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 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 an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Michael Frauendorfer** and a welcome from Expedition Leader **Andrew Bishop**.

Afterwards there will be **Captain's Cocktails!** **Captain Evgeny Levakov** 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.**

- 0730 Wake-up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.
- 1030 If you'd like to learn more about the **Albatrosses & Other Seabirds** we hope to meet on our voyage, please join **Toby** in the Dining Room for his presentation.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Rubber Boots!** This afternoon we will issue you with your Rubber Boots. The Boot Room is on Deck 3 (forward). Please bring your warm socks for trying on the boots.  
*We will call you by deck number, so please listen for announcements.*
- 1530 Please join Liz in the Dining Room for her presentation, **Destination Antarctica: an Introduction to the Icy South.**
- 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.**

0730 Wake-up call.

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

0930 **IAATO and Zodiac Safety Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing about our behaviour on shore in Antarctica and how we travel safely in the small boats from ship to shore. Please join Andrew in the **Lounge**.

~1030 **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.*

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

1330 **Rubber Boots “Take 2”:** We would like to issue you with your Rubber Boots. The Boot Room is on Deck 3 (forward). Please bring your warm socks for trying on the boots. *We will call you by deck number, so please listen for announcements.*

1530 **Penguins!** We hope to see a number of different species of penguins during our voyage to Antarctica. Please join **Toby** in the **Dining Room** to find out more about these iconic little birds!

1700 Please join **Sonja** in the **Dining Room** where she will be explaining all about **Whales**.

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.



**This morning we will be sailing down the stunning Gerlache Strait. If the weather is good it will be well worth getting up early for the views. Sunrise ~0700.**

0700 Wake-up call.

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

0830 For those still requiring their Rubber Boots, please come to the boot room (Deck 3 forward).

**This morning will be an expedition morning and our activities will be dictated by the weather and wildlife. Please listen out for announcements.**

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

1430 **Cuverville Island.** Weather and ice allowing, we hope to make a landing at Cuverville Island a well-known Gentoo penguin rookery. Please listen for announcements regarding timings. At the end of this landing we would like to offer a **Polar Plunge**. Please listen for announcements.

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

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

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

# Antarctic Peninsula

Neko and Paradise Harbours

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

~0700 Wake-up call.

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

~0830 **Neko Harbour.** Weather and ice permitting, we hope to make a continental landing 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 colony of Gentoo penguins to enjoy but be aware of penguin highways up and down the slopes.

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

1430 **Paradise Harbour.** This afternoon we would like to conduct a landing and Zodiac cruise in Paradise Harbour, the exact location will be determined by the weather. We will offer a split landing, with the first half of the group (odd numbered cabins) going ashore first, and the other half of the group (even numbered cabins) Zodiac cruising. Please listen for announcements.

1830 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.**

# Antarctic Peninsula

Deception and Halfmoon Islands

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*Early this morning we hope to sail into **Deception Island** through the infamous 'Neptune's Bellows'. Be sure to be out on deck as the Captain navigates Plancius through this narrow gap and into Port Forster.*

0700 Wake-up call.

~0800 Sailing through Neptune's Bellows.

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

0900 We would like to take you ashore at **Whalers Bay**, the site of an old research and whaling station. Weather permitting there will be a walk to Neptune's Window. *Please listen for announcements.*

1200 *Doctor Tanja will be at Reception to distribute seasickness medication.*

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1600 This afternoon we hope to land at **Half Moon Island**, a well-known nesting site for chinstrap penguins. *Please listen for announcements.*

1900 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for a **Daily Briefing**.

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

**We will be heading into the Drake Passage after our final landing. 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.**



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

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

1030 Please join **Sonja** in the **Dining Room** for her topical presentation, **“Southern Ocean Exploitation & Management”**.

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

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 Our guest lecturer **Lars** will give his presentation, **“Seals for Science”** in the Dining Room.

1830 Please 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.

# Antarctic Peninsula

At Sea

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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

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

1030 Please join **Nina** in the **Dining Room** for her thought-provoking presentation, “**The Discovery of Antarctica: 2000 years in the Making**”.

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

1500 **Sea Day Documentary:** 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”.

1630 **Lars** would like to share his presentation about **Ice & Climate Change**. Come along to the **Dining Room** to learn more.

1830 Please 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.



# Antarctic Peninsula

Staten Island  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Today will be an Expedition day and Ship Cruise around Staten Island. Please join the staff on deck for Oceanwide's inaugural visit to Argentina's most southerly island.

0700 Wake up call.

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

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

1400 *Michael will call you to **Reception** to settle your **on board account**. You will be called by deck number so please listen for announcements.*

~1530 **Return of your rubber boots!** Please ensure they are clean and dry. We will **call you by deck** to return your boots to the Boot Room (Deck 3 Fwd). *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.



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 Levakov, Andrew, and all the staff and crew onboard *M.V. Plancius*, we wish you all the best for your future journeys!**