



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA Base Camp

on board

m/v Ortelius

March 3rd -14th 2018



M/V *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 125-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17,6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 13 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 53

Including

First Officer:	Yuri Marin	[Russia]
Second Officer:	Laimonas Choroscia	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	Andy Mangilit	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager:	Dejan Nikolic	[Serbia]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Sava Savov	[Bulgaria]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Stefan Zivojinovic	[Serbia]
Ship's Physician:	Irene Tomson	[Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	[Canada]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Arjen Drost	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Michael Ginzburg	[Germany/Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Iain Rudkin	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Iggy Canepa	[Argentina]
Mountaineering Leader:	Mal Haskins	[New Zealand]
Mountaineering Guide:	Andy Taylor	[Australia]
Camping Guide:	Michael Green	[United Kingdom]
Camping Guide:	Peter Webster	[United Kingdom]
Kayak Guide:	Christian Engelke	[Germany]
Photography Guide:	Renato Granieri	[Italy]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Saturday March 3^d, 2018

Embarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48.6'S, 068°17'W

Wind: 0 knots Sea State: 0 Weather: Air Temp: 8 °C Sea Temp: 8 °C

Boarding Ortelius started late in the afternoon and we were soon checked in by our Hotel Manager and his assistant (DJ and Sava). We were shown our cabins and had some free time to get unpacked and settled in. Lovely to know that we don't have to change our 'hotel' again until we're back in Ushuaia.

We soon began exploring our new home; perhaps the most important place to find was the Bar on Deck 6, where coffee/tea can be accessed 24/7 and where our bartenders can often be found if we fancy something stronger. Of course, doors to the outside deck-space were also important to locate, so that when 'albatross', 'whales' and other delights are announced, we know how to get out there as quickly and efficiently as possible.



A bit later we were summoned by Expedition Leader Lynn to a mandatory briefing in the Lecture Room on Deck 3. She welcomed us on board and introduced Third Officer Warren, who gave an all-important Safety Briefing and Lifeboat Drill. Now we are aware of what we should do if we see a fire or man overboard, and know precisely what to grab and where to go in the event of the ship's general alarm going off. Seven short and one long blast calls us (warmly dressed) to the Bar, which doubles as our muster station. Once we are all there, radio communication between the bridge officers and ship's crew keeps us informed of developments. The 'abandon ship' signal is a verbal command given by the Captain or Chief Officer, and we hope that today is the only time we hear it, followed by the reassuring words "for practice only"...Filing outside in orderly fashion and gathering next to the lifeboats completed the drill; we were then free to continue our explorations of the ship, or come out on deck with our cameras to enjoy Ortelius' departure from Ushuaia and progress down the Beagle Channel.

Before dinner we again gathered in the Lounge/Bar on Deck 6 in order to meet key crew/staff and learn about ship routine during our voyage. Hotel Manager DJ imparted useful information about mealtimes, Internet/Webmail access and treating the toilets nicely. He was followed by Expedition Leader Lynn, who introduced Captain Ernesto – the person who will get us there and back again safely – and then handed over to her team of staff for self-introductions. We raised a glass of bubbly (or orange juice) to the success of our voyage and then it was time for our first dinner aboard. After dinner Dr. Irene was available in the ship's hospital to hand out seasickness medication and valuable advice. A stroll on deck to watch the local bird population on the wing, a cup of tea or something stronger, or the starry night, and then most of us fell into bed after a busy and exciting day, hoping for smooth seas to lull us to sleep. Tomorrow morning will find us well on the way to our first stop.

Day 2 – Sunday March 4th, 2018

At Sea in the Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 61°01'S, 063°05'W

Wind: NE 6 bft Sea State: 8 Weather: Air Temp: 4 °C Sea Temp: 2 °C

The first morning on board the Ortelius begun with Lynn's wakeup call followed by DJ who announced the breakfast buffet to be open. The que at the buffet was not as long as one could have had thought, as quite some of us experienced what seasickness is like. Nevertheless, those adventurous people who wanted to join mountaineering and kayaking had to attend the mandatory briefings for the respective activities.



As we had crossed the Antarctic Convergence, it was no wonder that the first big birds were spotted sailing around the ship. Is it an Albatross? Is it a Petrel? After Lunch, these and a lot more questions were answered in Arjen's lecture about the tubenoses. Now, knowing what we are seeing flying around the ship all our enthusiastic photographers wanted to photograph the southern birdlife. To make sure everybody gets the best out of their cameras, Renato gave a lecture about nature photography and how to get the birds sharp in flight.

After the lecture, it was time to practice on the outside decks before gathering in the lounge for the first daily recap of the trip.

Day 3 – Monday March 5th, 2018

At Sea in the Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 61°01 S, 063°05'W

Wind: NE bft 6 Sea State: 4 Weather: Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 0°C

We start our last day at sea before our arrival in Antarctica, the anticipation is building and we are all getting excited for our adventures to come.

Early in the morning we passed the convergence which marks our entry into geographical Antarctic waters.

The air is getting colder it is now 3 degrees centigrade and the water temperature has dropped to 1 degree centigrade. We all needed more clothing to keep warm today. Which only adds to our spirit of adventure.

We attended mandatory briefings and learned how to behave and what to expect when we arrive tomorrow.

The seabird numbers increased around the ship. We saw Albatross, Cape Petrels and other Petrels majestically flying near to the ship. It is amazing to see these birds. Some don't look large enough to survive whilst others fly for hours without flapping their wings.

Late in the day we passed Smith Island which marked our first sight of land. The islands were magnificent on the horizon. Covered in snow we marvelled at a yacht passing in the rough seas how do they do it?

Tomorrow our activities begin we cannot wait!



Day 4 – Tuesday March 6th, 2018

Cuverville / Orne Harbour

GPS position at 0800: 64°37'S, 062°36'W

Wind: NE 6 bft Sea State: 4 Weather: Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 0°C



After crossing the Gerlache Strait we approached Cuverville Island. Conditions were good and everybody had the first close up meeting with the stars of the place, Gentoo Penguins! People can't stop to take pictures of them! Thousands of them nest on the island, and we were able to see all the care to the chicks, the exchanges of the parents on the nest, the feeding, and the continuous shuttles up and down the slopes of Penguin parents coming and going from feeding trips. Gentoo's are very curious and friendly as we can see in the pictures.

In the afternoon, we had a zodiac cruise for everyone at Orne Harbour. The weather had gotten a little rougher than in the morning, but the enthusiasm of the passengers had not been cooled down.

It was the first time in this voyage that we had seen Chinstrap penguins, hearty little birds that prefer to live on rocky cliffsides and scree slopes, in places inaccessible to us for landing. After cruising the Chinstrap shore, we drove deeper into Orne Harbour, and checked out the icebergs and sea ice which had been trapped at the back of the bay by the wind and current. The icebergs and ice foes were carried to the back of the bay, and the zodiacs also drifted with the ice in this amazing snowy scene.



Kayaking

With 25 knots of wind around the ship we were surprised when our kayak guide Christian announced that he actually wanted to try to paddle this morning. But, on the Southern side of Cuverville Island we found surprisingly nice shelter from the wind and waves. We did not even have all of our kayakers on the water when a group of Humpback whales passed us and gave us a splendid show among the icebergs. In addition, we met both an enormous fur seal and watched Gentoo penguins en route to their colony; below our kayakers, above and in the water.



In the afternoon a group of experienced kayakers was able to paddle in the swell around the chinstrap penguin colony. We followed the shoreline into the bay and saw several Crabeater, Fur and Weddell Seals. We were further proceeding through the ice and a really Antarctic scenery before we could see straight in the face of an enormous Leopard seal. A visit of a Humpback whale finished off this great outing.

Mountaineering

Morning – Georges Point

After 2 days of sea crossing we awoke with excitement to see the shores of Antarctica. The weather in the weeks earlier had been warm and wet but as we crossed the Drake Passage a cold storm had brought fresh snow to the Peninsula giving the mountains and glaciers we could see a fresh dusting of new snow.

With a stiff breeze at our backs the morning's climbing team, comprised of passengers without crampon compatible boots, made a shore landing at Georges Point.

The seas here were a bit rough so we moved slightly from the normal landing site to a more sheltered one where we ended up accessing the glacier directly.



The glacier here was free from snow and down to bare white ice - with no crevassing evident the team were



able to walk in snow shoes (for grip) higher on the glacier where we roped up and made our way to a short col low on the flanks of Mount Tennant – for a non-technical group this was an amazing journey that required them to cross a few interesting crevasses and a short medium angled slope.

Amazing views - photo opportunities - good laughs and a glacier excursion were exactly what was needed after 2 days of sea travel! The return to the shore was faster than the climb up and shortly after we were eating a well deserved lunch and coming to the realization that we were actually in Antarctica!

Afternoon – Spigot Peak

A smaller team was pulled together for the afternoons journey up Spigot Peak. Conditions on the peak were testing with firm hard rain frozen snow covered in places by a fresh dusting of wind driven snow from the previous 2 day storm.

A colony of Chinstrap penguins call Spigot peak their home – these sea-going flightless birds are mountaineers in their own right – and to see them ‘surf’ the snow slopes to ocean below to go hunting for fish to feed their chicks. Some of these birds can be found more than ½ way up Spigot Peak!

Given the conditions the team had to make their way between the hard, icy surface and the exposed rocky snow filled terrain. Steep exposed crampon work with Andy and Mal using short roping techniques allowed



the team the sneak their way past the dinner plate hard ice to make the final summit – the 360 degree views of ORNE harbour and the Gerlach Strait were amazing - even with a rapidly greying sky, stiffening breeze and dropping temperatures.

But here we were only ½ way - we still had to descend – so carefully retracing our ascent route we made our way back to the shore where our zodiac was waiting to take us back once more to our warm home - Ortelius.

Day 5 – Wednesday March 7th, 2018

Danco Island and Neko Harbour

GPS position at 0800: 64°49'S, 062°36.9'W

Wind: SE 2 bft Sea State: 0 Weather: Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 0°C

Neko Harbour is a beach and small rocky outcrop on the shore, backed by towering peaks and surrounded by glaciers - which are heavily crevassed. The glaciers surrounding the bay regularly calve.

The foundations of an Argentine refuge hut are still visible. Following weather damage in 2010 the hut was removed and the site cleared.

Some passengers enjoyed spend time with Gentoo's chic. Was extraordinary how close they could be.

Danco Island is a one mile long island in the southern part of the Errera Channel. Its north shore is characterised by a wide flat cobbled beach with a long snow-free slope behind it which rises up to the island's ice-covered summit. Permanent ice dominates the top and south side of the island.



Iain, one of the guides, led people to the top, where we spent some time on the fresh snow. We felt the spirit of this place and an amazing view of the landscape and some Gentoo's climbers.



Kayaking



Neko Harbour was at its best this morning. The glacial scenery was almost like a mirror and our beginner kayakers could not have asked for better weather. We were proceeding through the small pieces of ice and passed some beautiful blue icebergs. Just as we enjoyed the silence of the scenery, a couple of jumping penguins and a swimming seal were spotted. After kayaking we also got the chance for a short landing on the Antarctic continent.

At Danco Island the skies became darker and we were prepared for the worst. But

when we set out in our kayaks we enjoyed a fantastic peaceful scenery. Snow was slowly falling down on us while we were enjoying a full silence. But, we also spotted a Leopard and a Weddell seal. Penguins were constantly jumping around us, and we could even see them “flying” under water. The glacial icebergs around us were the biggest we had seen so far, and they felt even bigger from our tiny kayaks.



Mountaineering

The views were again incredible as we approached Neko Point - as we arrived we could see our route which



makes its way up the broad shoulder to a large rock buttress. We need to come ashore and walk gently past the Gentoos penguins who were very inquisitive about our equipment!

Its not advisable to let a penguin peck your rope to pieces!

After roping up we made our way up onto the glacier – conditions were again very firm underfoot to start with and with so little snow it was possible to see the uncovered crevasses lower down on the glacier – however as we climb higher

there is a little more snow which means of course that the crevasses are now hidden from view.

Staying roped up allowed us to remain safe with Mal and Andy leading each rope team – occasionally finding small crevasses to put their legs into they lead us safely past the larger, deeper and open crevasses we began to encounter as we got higher.

After about 1 ¾ hours we reached our high point where we could look down on Ortelius - our friends on shore and the Gentoo colony. Suddenly the serenity is shattered by the roaring sound of the glacial serac cliffs collapsing about 1.5 km away from us. Where we are was quite safe but the view of thousands and thousands of tons of car and bus sized blocks of ice crashing down onto the glacier below is a good reminder why we don't travel under these towering ice cliffs. The descent is much faster only interrupted by Mal and Andy once again finding a few covered crevasses to put their legs into. Back on shore we changed into our muck boots and we were whisked back to Ortelius for another tasty lunch.



The weather was looking a bit variable with a snow storm approaching so rather than walk up high onto a glacier where we could have been whited out – we instead found a short ice cliff on the side of Danco Island where 11 lucky expeditioners had the chance to experience climbing ice for the first time with the ocean lapping their feet. Mal and Andy quickly climbed up and built anchors for the team and then gave instruction on how to

safely belay a climber with the assistance of a back-up belayer. Next came instruction on how to use ice axes and crampons to best effect on the moderately angled ice wall. With three separate ropes set up we were unleashed on the ice everybody got the chance to climb at least 2-3 times as the snow storm arrived. Ice climbing with the ocean at your feet / snow falling on your shoulders AND in Antarctica? Sounds like this afternoons activity was definitely a winning combination.

Everybody did a good job of packing up swiftly and then back on board showed great teamwork in getting all the equipment cleaned before heading off to get out of our climbing gear.

Great day everybody – thanks very much!

Day 6 – Thursday March 8th, 2018

Lemaire Chanel / Vernadsky Station

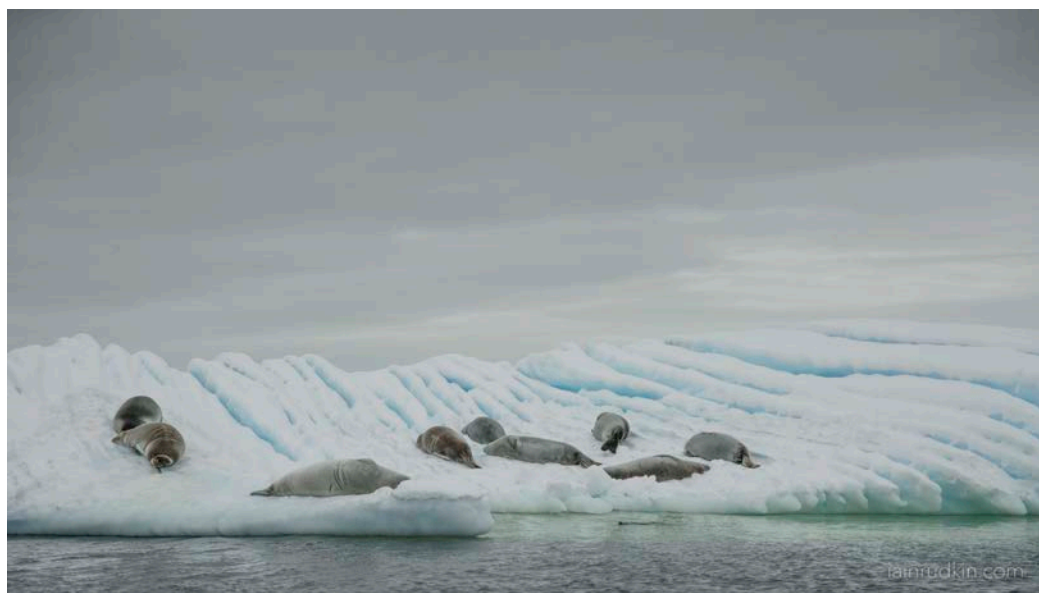
GPS position at 0800: 65°02'S, 063°53'W

Wind: NE 2 bft Sea State: 1 Weather: Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 0°C

This morning we headed to the Lemaire Channel. The expedition team dropped off zodiacs at the beginning of this narrow channel and cruised around icebergs and brush ice. The scenery was breathtaking and we spotted a number of seals, a leopard seal resting on ice and a couple of minki whales purposing in the calm waters. After a wonderful morning in excellent weather conditions we got back on board for lunch to get ready for the afternoon activities. In the afternoon we visited the



Ukrainian Vernadsky station (formerly the British Faraday station) situated on a very small rocky peninsula called Marine Point, Galindez Island (part of the Argentine Islands). This station is the oldest operational station in the Antarctic Peninsula region, with



continuous meteorological records, which have been collected since 1947 till present. The station was transferred to Ukraine in 1996 and renamed after academician Volodymyr Vernadsky. The station consists of the main double-stored working and accommodation block, and of ten auxiliary buildings.

Our guests, after receiving a briefing by the station leader on arrival, were shown how the Ukrainian station operates and how resident staff lives all year around.

After the visit to the station we popped over the Wordie House, which was initially used as the main station before it was expanded and relocated to Vernadsky. The older station still has the original tools and equipment.



Kayaking

Even for our guide Christian this was the first time kayaking through Lemaire channel. We started off with our Zodiacs in quite heavy and cold headwind. But, as soon as we boarded our kayaks and turned downwind, conditions turned out wonderful. We could feel the currents and eddies and were stunned by the movement of the ice. Also, we were able to watch a couple of Fur and Crabeater seals on our way. But mostly we were just enjoying the enormous mountains of the Lemaire. What a place to kayak!



Again, conditions seemed quite rough this afternoon, but inside the little channels of the Argentine Islands we found good shelter. But, we also found surprisingly much wildlife. We got close contacts with Skuas and some seals were as interested in us as we were in them. We also got a good view on the climbing activity of our mountaineering group and were happy to warm up at the Ukrainian research station of Vernadsky.



Mountaineering

Morning - Lemaire Channel

We awoke to close to 20cm of new snow settling on the decks of Ortelius. With the new snow and poor visibility it wasn't safe for us to venture into the terrain available to us in the Lemaire for Avalanche Safety reasons, instead a Zodiac Cruise in the Lemaire Passage was able to be enjoyed – a rare experience!

Afternoon – Vernadsky Station / Winter Island

Low visibility / a stiffening breeze and dropping temperatures meant that we chose to stay closer to Vernadsky Station instead of a long open water crossing to some longer terrain, that and of course the chance to visit the famous Vernadsky station! We made our way up narrow channels to find a suitable ice cliff – however instead of starting from the bottom of the cliff, Mal and Andy set up anchors at the top and lowered the 12 climber down to near the waters edge to then climb back up to the top.



A few climbers were a little nervous of being lowered down but after the first try everybody was able to reach the top with huge

grins and rounds of applause from the rest of the team – or perhaps the applause was our way of staying warm in the cold temperatures! We enjoyed a short visit to Vernadsky before heading back to Ortelius again for a well deserved hot shower and to relax and chat with our fellow expeditioners in the restaurant over dinner.

Camping

After a great day visiting the snowy playground that is Antarctica we got ashore to camp. It was a real treat to camp next to an historic site. The base was built by the British in WW2 under operation Tabarin. This base was part of a series of bases including Port Lockroy. It was imaginatively called Base H. It became part of the base Faraday run by the British Antarctic Survey after the war. Later it was sold to the Ukraine government to continue research to the present day. However, it is maintained the British Antarctic Heritage Trust.

We left the ship in a strange gloom which marked how far South we had travelled. We got ashore with a little light left and unloaded the Zodiac as fast as possible to beat the diminishing light.

We pitched camp on the slope at the back of the base we put together our warm bivvies' and set up camp. Building walls with the snow made for a more comfortable night. The Potty was set up and we explored close to our camp with the remaining light a proper adventure. Our bivvies' were comfortable and we soon dozed off into a slumber into the Polar Night. When we awoke we found that our bivvies' had a layer of fresh snow on them. We felt like true Antarctic explorers.



Around 5.30am we broke camp and removed all trace of us being at the site. We loaded the Zodiacs and re-joined the ship outside the bay containing Vernadski Station. What an experience.

Day 7 – Friday March 9th, 2018

Pleneau / Petermann

GPS position at 0800: 65°12'S, 064°10'W

Wind: 0 bft 0 Sea State: 0 Weather: Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 0°C

Once Ortelius had its full compliment of Argentine Island campers back on board we began our leisurely journey northwards with a day once more filled with activities. First stop was Petermann Island, home of the ubiquitous Gentoo but also the first opportunity for the passengers of this voyage to see the Adèlie penguin. Named by Dumont D'Urville during his voyage in the 1840's after his wife Adèle these are the 'Happy Feet' penguins many associate with Antarctica. Having spent time with many of these birds, I can assuredly say they are my favourite and seem to be



fuller of personality than many of the other penguin species we encounter down here at the upside down end of the world. Despite these moulting avians being rather subdued on our landing, they delighted all and will feature in many a photo album from the trip! To the west stands a simple wooden cross remembering a team of British Antarctic Survey men lost to the sea ice between Petermann and the peninsula. The winter sea ice is a fickle beast and the cross acts as a stark reminder of the perils of travelling across such terrain. However, spare a moment to imagine this scene during the depths of the freeze when the wind is calm, the sea is frozen to the horizon and the call of the Gentoo is silent. It is eerily beautiful and all one's senses find trouble computing the ice cold charm of it all.

A post prandial landing on Pleneau Island gave guests an opportunity for a longer stretch of the legs. Whilst modest in altitude, the terrain on this wee hill was decidedly slippery following the recent snowfall and cunning route finding was required to ease the difficulties. To add to the challenge, Gentoo penguins seemed to litter the route frequently and positioned themselves in such a way as to thwart upward access via the easiest routes! However, for those sufficiently skilled to negotiate penguin alley, the view from the high ground was breathtaking. Mighty peaks towered over us to the north and east, whilst icefalls tumbled downwards chaotically from the high plateau of the peninsula shedding their load in colossal calving events, the debris



from which lay to our west in an iceberg graveyard. An archipelago of small islands, a leopard seal flaying it's victim and icebergs crumbling were all treats that entertained those who ventured up into the lofty heights of Pleneau! The day will perhaps be remembered by two particular individuals best as their anniversary. A pre-dinner sail around the cirque of ice that is Girard Bay was deemed a suitable backdrop for the Captain to perform the necessary rights to pronounce them man and wife! So a day for Happy Feet and a Happy Couple!

Kayaking

Conditions were considerably calm this morning, but we enjoyed a lovely swell at Petermann Island; thus, being lifted up and down calmly by the waves. We followed the Eastern shoreline of the island and after visiting the place of Jean B. Charcot's second Antarctic overwintering with the "Pourquoi Pas" we spotted two solitary Adelie penguins, one of them nicely posing for us. Our great outing was finalized by watching not less than eight crabeaters seals either lying on an iceberg or swimming by us.



In the afternoon we found beautiful small and sheltered channels to paddle in. In addition, beautiful blue icebergs invited us for a photographic session in our kayaks. The scenery around us was just wonderful and we spotted both Crabeater and even a Leopard Seal on the ice floes around us. After a little paddle upwind, we finished off downwind with the view towards huge icebergs and the Southern entrance of the Lemaire channel.

Mountaineering

It had snowed again overnight and the morning was cold – the mountaineering team departed for the North East corner of Peterman island where we first had to get ashore! After making shore via a narrow cleft in the rocks and gaining the snowfield we then changed boots and got into our climbing boots and crampons to start our way up the frozen slopes above us.

Temperatures had dropped enough overnight to freeze the water running off the rock and icicles were hanging from multiple rock overhangs with at least another 10 cm of new snow. With boots and crampons securely fitted we roped up to make our way to a short steep snow lead that gave us access up and onto a series of rocky, snow covered ledges.



Careful footwork with the occasional rest on broad ledges to have a look at the amazing views beneath us brought us to the wide open summit of Peterman – the local birdlife had laid claim to the very true summit though with a cheeky Skua giving the mountaineering team an inquisitive look – retracing our steps again was fast than the ascent and a lower tide made it easier to reboard or zodiac for the ride back to our now very familiar Ortelius.

In the afternoon, for those that had not brought boots that would fit crampons Hovgaard island provided the perfect opportunity to go out onto glaciated terrain once again using snowshoes – the new snow actually provided the perfect surface for the snowshoes to give us excellent footing.

The broad open shoulder rises up to a long summit ridge – however significant crevassing meant the going to the very true summit with a team of 13 wide-eyed new mountaineers and 2 Guides was not the best option.

Instead - after finding a few 'interesting' crevasses for us to look into, Mal and Andy brought us to an amazing viewpoint that overlooked the Ortelius and large rock / cliff band that fell steeply away to the shore below us. Obligatory group photo's, hugs and laughs were had before we began to get too cold – whilst it was warmer back at the ship – where we were sitting below freezing with an increasing wind.



A faster descent and a rapid pack up of our gear and equipment was done and before we knew it our Zodiacs were there to whisk us back to hot showers. A fantastic day with amazing views and great people once again.

Camping

We made a second night of camping at Hovgaard after a great day doing other activities. We left the ship with stomachs full of food from the BBQ. The weather was overcast but the sky looked to be clearing so we hoped for a starry night.

We spent an hour setting up camp putting together our sleeping bags mattresses into the Bivvyie bags. Then we settled down for a cold but spectacular night on the ice. The weather was chilly but it was fairly calm wind wise. With the odd clear patch showing a star or two.

After another hour the skies opened and the whole starry vista appeared. It was beautiful with stars visible that light pollution filters out at home. We were watching satellites travelling across the sky when an explosion occurred shooting sparks into the night sky.



After this amazing show we settled down to sleep listening to silence broken by a Humpback Whale making noises in the back ground.

At 5.am Peter and Michael woke us and we returned to the ship. We were welcomed back onboard with Pastries and Hot Chocolate.

Day 8 – Saturday March 10th, 2018

Foyn Harbor & Wilhelmina Bay

GPS position at 0800: 65°112'S, 064°10'W

Wind: NE 6 bft Sea State: 3 Weather: Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 0°C

This morning we passed by Damoy point, where we originally planned a landing. Due to inclement weather we had to continue on to our next destination.

In the afternoon we arrived at Foyn harbor, where the weather conditions were significantly better. As soon as we arrived we set off for a zodiac cruise in this area, which is renowned for being a feeding ground for whales. A number of humpback whales was spotted and we had the opportunity to see the bubble-netting (feeding).



Left the whales, we headed to visit a Norwegian ship wreck in Wilhelmina Bay, off the West coast of Graham Land. The Norwegian whaling vessel Solstreif was moored to during 1921-22.

We then returned on board for the usual recap of the day and briefing for the following day's activities.



Mountaineering



Foyn Harbour

The weather caused us to change plans this morning – we were eying up a climb of Jabet Peak in Dorian Bay but the strong winds and approaching snow storm told us that we had better relocate further to the north.

So instead we devised a plan to head onto a small island near the wreck of a whaling ship factory ship, The Governorn which was scuttled in 1912 due to a fire onboard. Near here we were able to scope out a 40 meter high ice face which would present us with an exciting challenge.

We first had to climb off the beach by a small snow-covered rock step and then up onto the wide dome above.

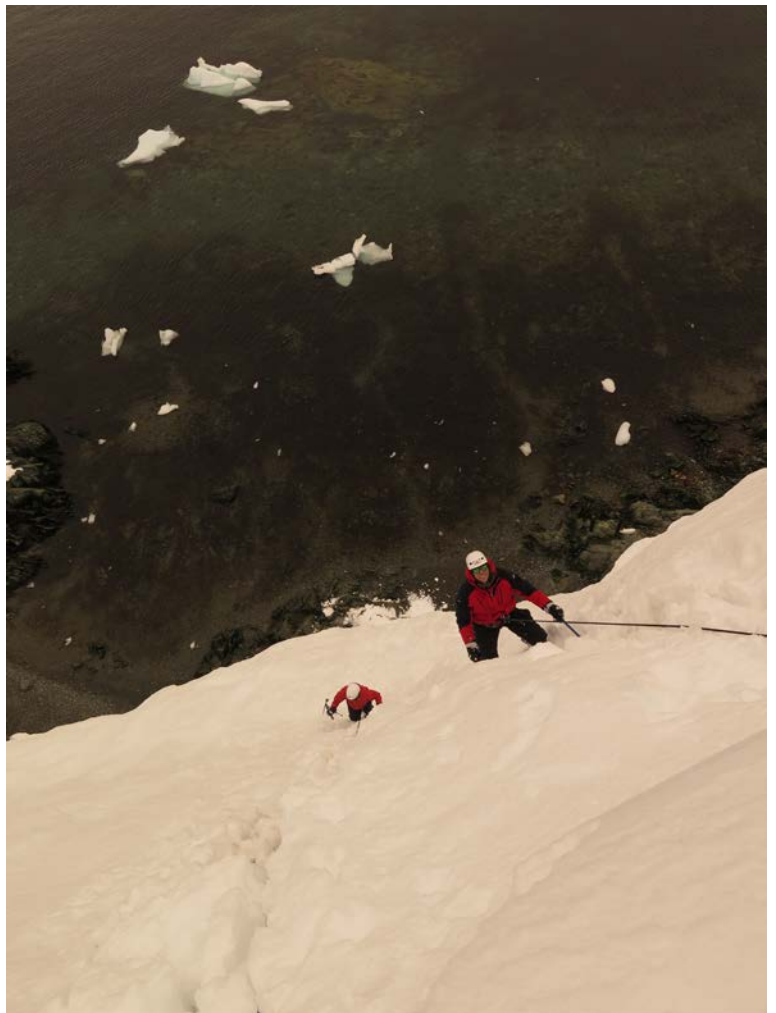
Mal
and

Andy were able to quickly assess the best site to give us an amazing experience! We were first lowered down to near the ocean – as the first climbers neared the shore a number of penguins came out from under the overhanging ice where they must have been sheltering.

For a while we were ice climbing with the penguins swimming directly beneath us in the shallow water!

For most of us being lowered over the edge of a 40 meter high cliff was definitely a first but our confidence was bolstered by Mal and Andy's assurances that we would be more than safe with strong solid snow anchors and steady hands at the belay as we were lowered down. By the time we had been up and down the face a number of times were all feeling much more confident and had begun to move with style.

Iggy was on his way to pick us up so we packed up and got ourselves safely back to shore and our muck boots to await our ride but to the familiar site of Ortelius!



A HUGE THANK YOU from the Mountaineering Team for being so keen and able to deal with the changing conditions – remember an adventure is an activity with an unknown outcome and when you are on an Expedition to Antarctica its always and Adventure!

Camping

We made a second night of camping at Hovgaard after a great day doing other activities. We left the ship with stomachs full of food from the BBQ. The weather was overcast but the sky looked to be clearing so we hoped for a starry night.

We spent an hour setting up camp putting together our sleeping bags mattresses into the Bivvyie bags. Then we settled down for a cold but spectacular night on the ice. The weather was chilly but it was fairly calm wind wise. With the odd clear patch showing a star or two.

After another hour the skies opened and the whole starry vista appeared. It was beautiful with stars visible that light pollution filters out at home. We were watching satellites travelling across the sky when an explosion occurred shooting sparks into the night sky.



After this amazing show we settled down to sleep listening to silence broken by a Humpback Whale making noises in the back ground.

At 5.am Peter and Michael woke us and we returned to the ship. We were welcomed back onboard with Pastries and Hot Chocolate.



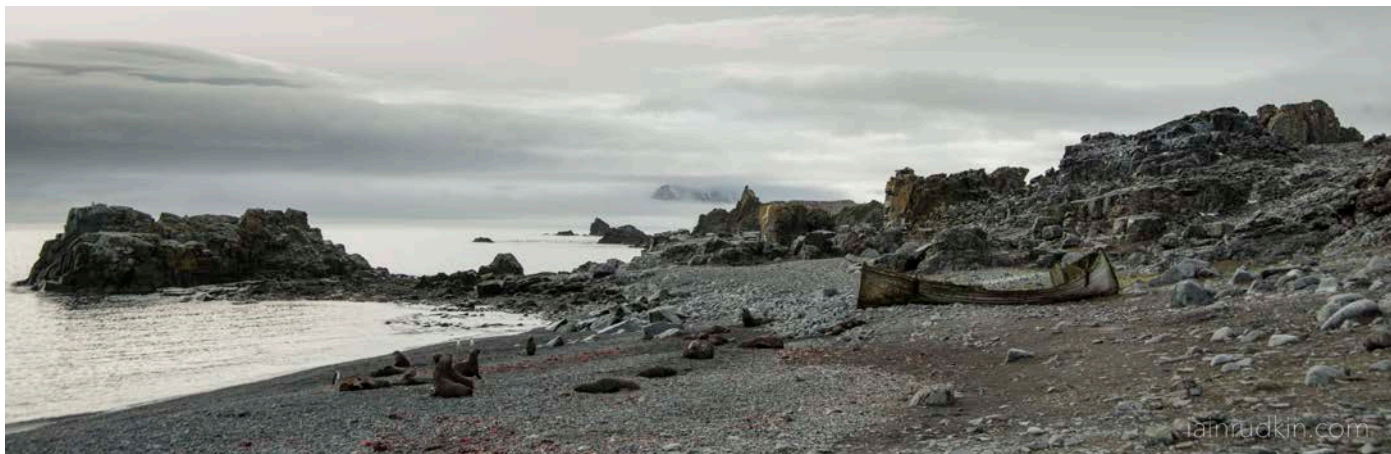
Thank You for coming camping with Oceanwide Expeditions

Day 9 – Sunday March 11th, 2018

Halfmoon Island

GPS position at 0800: 62°33 S, 059°54 W

Wind: NE 5 bft Sea State: 3 Weather: Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 0°C



After the wonderful spectacle of breaching Humpbacks the previous afternoon, it was somewhat a disheartening start to our last day south when we awoke to grey skies, low cloud and rain. We call it dreich weather in Scotland! Ever optimistic though, the expedition team still packed some towels for the promised polar plunge... Half Moon Island was used by sealers and whalers from as early as the 1820's and a old wooden boat from this period still lies on the beach. Now it is home to an Argentine station that first opened in the 1950's and after a period of closure was reopened in the late 1980's as a summer only research station named Camara after a naval aviator. It's outline should come as no surprise being curved and containing a bay named crescent. We landed on the southern side and split the landing into two groups. Those who still

had not had their fill of penguins wandered along a short distance to see the Chinstrap colony and Kevin the elusive, resident Macaroni. A large contingent though, headed north around the bowed coast and then higher to gain a different perspective of the island. The higher summits of Half Moon remained shrouded in mist initially so we opted to wander along the shorefront sadly littered with plastic. After our debris-free landings further south, this reminder of mankind's far reaching effect was poignant to many.



The mist though began to lift, so a few chose to continue the hike up the hill to a skua infested vantage point. From here we could see the raised beaches on the western side of the island and interesting geomorphological features underfoot caused by the effects of the permafrost. As a backdrop, Livingstone Island was beginning to show itself. Much more glaciated and spectacular than many of the South Shetlands, it is more reminiscent of the Peninsula we left behind and a fitting sight to take from this great continent. The final act of the voyage was the polar plunge, a fearless leap into the icy cold waters of the Antarctic. A feat many will be unlikely to repeat, more due to sense rather than circumstance! After an estimated twenty five hands were raised during recap we had closer to sixty 'swimmers' and had to request more towels from the Ortelius. From the whoops and squeals of delight, I gather those that went for a dip had a good time? And so ends our sojourn to the Antarctic Peninsula and we begin the journey north once more. Sailing up and away from the South Shetland Islands, they were revealed in all their glory - icy mountains, glaciers both chaotic and calming, blue skies and sun! Makes you want to come back, doesn't it?

Day 10 – Monday March 12th, 2018

At Sea

GPS position at 0800: 59°53.1'S, 066°13.7'W

Wind: NNW 5 bft | Sea State: 4 Weather: Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 0°C

Today was a full day at sea with no sight of land and not much in the way of wildlife, although there were several Cape petrels following the ship throughout the day, swerving amongst the waves of the Drakes passage. The Drakes passage, notorious for being extremely stormy and rough was pleasantly calm to moderate. Only a slight swell throughout the day meant almost everyone could move around the ship without suffering from seasickness. And as a bonus the early morning fog lifted to give relatively clear skies and sunshine.

We were all able to have a slightly longer sleep with no wake-up call (other than the announcement for breakfast... So not a particularly long lie!) After breakfast the day was kept full with presentations from Christian on whales and their adaptations for surviving in Cold waters, followed by Arjen on the non-flying bird varieties (penguins). Iain Rudkin then gave the final presentation of the day on his experiences of working and living in Antarctica, with experiences of life on a station and of life in the deep field living in small pyramid tents.

Now as I write this, several people are walking past in thick outdoor coats ready to stand on the back deck and gaze up the stars- with no light pollution the stars at sea can be really clear and beautiful! Those of us living in the Northern hemisphere also get to see many stars we never get to see back home.

Day 11 – Tuesday March 13th, 2018

At Sea

GPS position at 0800: 56°04'S, 065°50'W

Wind: N 8 bft | Sea State: 5 Weather: Air Temp: 10°C Sea Temp: 5°C

Another day at sea started a little bit bumpy in the Drake and our passing by Cape Horn was disturbed by the sea and weather conditions. Luckily the sea calmed down quite fast and we enjoyed the sunshine on the outer decks. We made good progress on our course to Ushuaia and before we entered the Beagle Channel, dolphins have been spotted dead ahead of the ship. What a great sighting in beautiful sun glitter.

Late in the afternoon, we arrived at our pilot station where the pilot was picked up and navigated the Ortelius safely to the pier in Ushuaia.

Day 12 – Wednesday March 14th, 2018

Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48.6'S, 068°17'W

Wind: 0 knots Sea State: 0 Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 8°C

All good things come to an end, as they say. Today was our last morning on Ortelius. After a last night in our cabin, which had started to feel like home already. We put our suitcases in the corridors this morning as instructed so the crew could take them out and off the ship. After one more breakfast it was time to say goodbye. Goodbye to our ship and its crew and staff, and to our new friends. Appointments were made to stay in touch and farewells were said. We could look back to a very nice and successful trip and all of us marveled at the sight of many Penguins and spectacular scenery during all the activities.



At 8:30 we handed in the keys to our cabins, picked up our luggage from the pier and walked towards Ushuaia. Heading for new adventures and with many great memories in our pocket.

Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Furthest South: 65°13' S 64°14' W

Total Distance Sailed: 1679 NM

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Lynn Woodworth, Hotel Manager Dejan Nikolic and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

OTL 31 Camping Log.

Guides Peter Webster and Michael Green.

Camping Log.

6th and 7th March 2018.

Inclement weather and poor visibility caused our first two nights of camping to be cancelled. This caused disappointment. However, we accepted the guidance of the experts aboard. Our safety must come first after all. It is after all late in the season and winter is approaching quickly.



8th March 2018 Wordie House.

After a great day visiting the snowy playground that is Antarctica we got ashore to camp. It was a real treat to camp next to an historic site. The base was built by the British in WW2 under operation Tabarin. This base was part of a series of bases including Port Lockroy. It was imaginatively called Base H. It became part of the base Faraday run by the British Antarctic Survey after the war. Later it was sold to the Ukraine government to continue research to the present day. However, it is maintained the British Antarctic Heritage Trust.

We left the ship in a strange gloom which marked how far South we had travelled. We got ashore with a little light left and unloaded the Zodiac as fast as possible to beat the diminishing light.

We pitched camp on the slope at the back of the base we put together our warm bivvies' and set up camp. Building walls with the snow made for a more





comfortable night. The Potty was set up and some explored close to our camp with the remaining light a proper adventure.

Our bivvies' were comfortable and we soon dozed off into a slumber into the Polar Night. When we awoke we found that our bivvies' had a layer of fresh snow on them. We felt like true Antarctic explorers.

Around 5.30am we broke camp and removed all trace of us being at the site. We loaded the

Zodiacs and re-joined the ship outside the bay containing Verdanski Station. What an experience.

10th March 2018 Hovgaard.

We made a second night of camping at Hovgaard after a great day doing other activities. We left the ship with stomachs full of food from the BBQ. The weather was overcast but the sky looked to be clearing so we hoped for a starry night.

We spent an hour setting up camp putting together our sleeping bags mattresses into the Bivvyie bags. Then we settled down for a cold but spectacular night on the ice. The weather was chilly but it was fairly calm wind wise. With the odd clear patch showing a star or two.



After another hour the skies opened and the whole starry vista appeared. It was beautiful with stars visible that light pollution filters out at home. We were watching satellites travelling across the sky when an explosion occurred shooting sparks into the night sky.

After this amazing show we settled down to sleep listening to silence broken by a Humpback Whale making noises in the back ground.

At 5.am Peter and Michael woke us and we returned to the ship. We were welcomed back onboard with Pastries and Hot Chocolate.



Thank You for coming camping with Oceanwide Expeditions

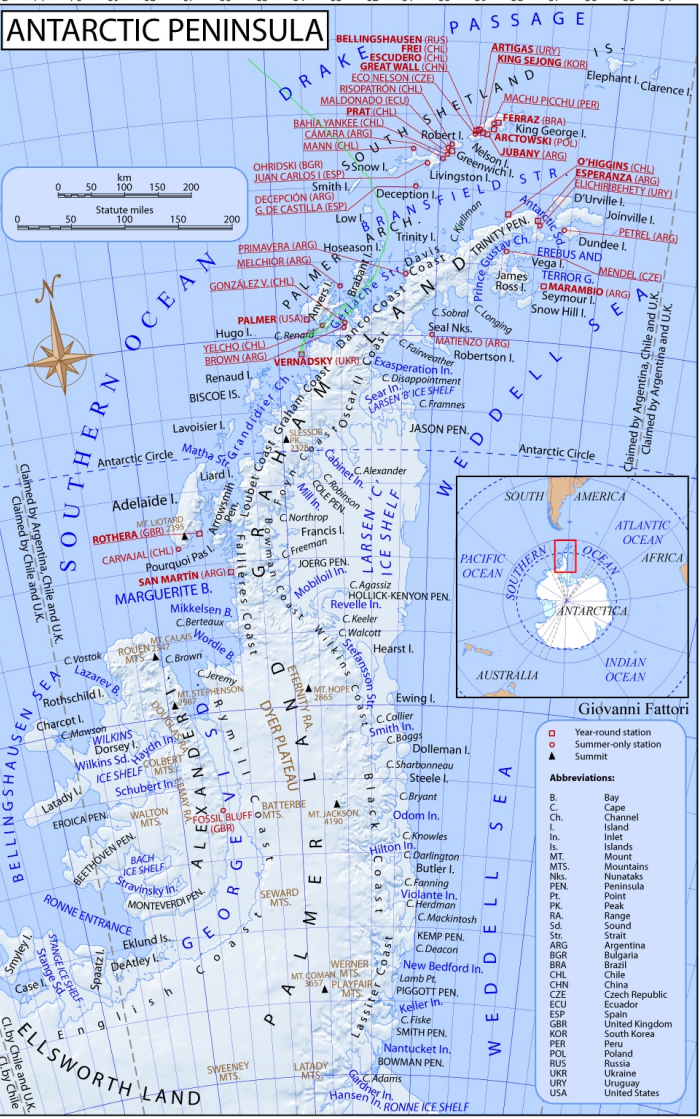
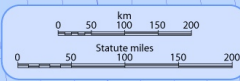
Antarctic Peninsula (OTL 31)
M/v Ortelius 3d March - 14th March 2018

Species list: Common birds and Marine Mammals from Beagle Channel to Antarctic Peninsula

English	Latin														
		Ushuaia	at-Sea	at-Sea	Antarctica	Antarctica	Antarctica	Antarctica	Antarctica	Antarctica	at-Sea	at-Sea	Ushuaia		
		3-mrt	4-mrt	5-mrt	6-mrt	7-mrt	8-mrt	9-mrt	10-mrt	11-mrt	12-mrt	13-mrt	14-mrt		
PENGUINS															
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>														
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>							X							
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X					
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>				X					X					
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>														
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>														
ALBATROSS															
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X												
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>														
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X									X			
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X								X			
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>			X											
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>														
PETRELS															
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>		X												
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X					X	X	X			
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>														
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>			X						X	X	X			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>														
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>						X		X						
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		X	X							X				
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>														
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	X	X	X											
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>			X							X	X			
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>														
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>			X											
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>														
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachvotila turtur</i>														
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>			X											
Diving-petrel	<i>Pelecanoides sp.</i>		X												

SHAGS																								
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	X											X											
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X											X											
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X														
SHEATHBILLS																								
Pale-faced Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X	X	X	X			X													
SKUAS																								
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X											X											
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>					X	X	X																
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X														
GULLS AND TERNS																								
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X																						
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	X														
Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>																							
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X																						
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X														
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna</i>																							
MAMMALS																								
English	Latin																							
BALEEN WHALES													3-mrt	4-mrt	5-mrt	6-mrt	7-mrt	8-mrt	9-mrt	10-mrt	11-mrt	12-mrt	13-mrt	14-mrt
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>				X	X	X																	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>				X	X	X			X														
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>																							
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>										X													
TOOTHED WHALES &																								
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>																							
Killer Whale/Orca	<i>Orcinus orca</i>																							
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>			X																				
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>																							
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>																							
SEALS																								
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				X	X	X	X																
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>				X	X	X	X																
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>				X					X														
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>									X	X													
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X														

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



Giovanni Fattori

- Year-round station
- ◻ Summer-only station
- ▲ Summit

Abbreviations:

- B. Bay
- C. Cape
- Ch. Channel
- I. Island
- In. Inlet
- Is. Islands
- MT. Mount
- MTS. Mountains
- NUNTS. Nunataks
- PEN. Peninsula
- Pt. Point
- PK. Peak
- RA. Range
- sd. Sound
- Str. Strait
- ARG. Argentina
- BGR. Bulgaria
- BRA. Brazil
- CHL. Chile
- CHN. China
- CZE. Czech Republic
- ECU. Ecuador
- ESP. Spain
- GBR. United Kingdom
- KOR. South Korea
- PER. Peru
- POL. Poland
- RUS. Russia
- UKR. Ukraine
- URY. Uruguay
- USA. United States



Andy Taylor (Frog)

New Zealand

NZMGA / IFMGA

Mountain and Ski Guide



**Have been going to the mountains from the age of three
And over many years have been working as a mountain
Guide in many places in the world .**

**Summer guiding and heli-skiing are things that I enjoy
sharing with people. As well as keeping people safe I love
taking them to some great places.**

**At home in New Zealand I have a 8 year old daughter who I
loves spending time with outside – I'm hoping to get some
great pictures of Penguins / whales and seals to share with
her when I get home from this voyage.**

Arjen Drost – Guide & lecturer



When Arjen arrived in Spitsbergen for the first time in 1999 as a biology student, he fell in love with the Arctic. After three summers of research on Barnacle Geese in Ny Ålesund, Spitsbergen he started guiding in small expedition cruise ships for Oceanwide Expeditions. Here he loves to share his passion for the Polar Regions with others.

Arjen was born in the Netherlands and soon started watching birds. Many hours were spent finding and watching birds in the local neighbourhood and enjoying nature. His choice to start studying biology came to no surprise for anybody. During this study he specialized in ecology, especially the interaction between herbivores and plants.

For ten years Arjen has combined guiding in the Arctic with a full time teacher job at a secondary school in the Netherlands, where he taught biology. Now he gave up his teaching job to become a fulltime expedition guide.

In his spare time Arjen is a keen nature and wildlife photographer, giving photo workshops and lectures and is co-author of several Dutch books on nature photography.

Arjen speaks English, Dutch and German.

Christian Engelke – Expedition & Kayak Guide



Since his first vacation to Norway in 1996, Christian has suffered severely under the quite widespread “Scandinavia-fever”. He has been exploring both the mountains and coastal regions of Norway, Sweden and Greenland by feet, on skis and in his sea kayak.

2008, studying industrial engineering, Christian moved to Svalbard. Finally, after nearly three unforgettable years and experiences at 78 degrees North he moved “down South” to Tromsø in Northern Norway where he finished his Master’s degree in “Technology and Safety in the High North”.

Since 2009 Christian is working as a freelance guide, especially on longer tours all year around. First around Svalbard and Greenland, and since 2014 also towards the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia. He loves both the minimalistic landscape and quietness, wildlife encounters, and the heroic history of the high latitudes.

He is also a sea kayak instructor with his speciality being kayak trips with Orcas and Humpback whales he is offering around Tromsø since 2014.

When Christian is not in the very high latitudes, you probably find him playing around in his sea kayak off the Norwegian coast in wind and waves.

Lecture topics

- Hjalmar Johansen (The third Man behind Amundsen & Nansen)
- Glaciers & Sea Ice
- Whales
- Photography (for beginners)
- Belgica/ De Gerlache
- Jean Baptiste Charcot

Recaps Antarctica/ South Georgia (5-15min)

- Cape Hoorn
- James Cook (finding South Georgia)
- Nordenskiöld
- Antarctic Treaty

Iain Rudkin – guide/ lecturer

'A love for travel alongside a passion for mountains, wild places and photography has allowed Iain to fulfil many a childhood dream. Equally at home in his native Scottish mountains as in the polar regions, Iain has been fortunate enough to be able to combine his enthusiasm for the wilderness with a real life job - a privilege not lost on him! This 'work' has led him to over winter three times in Antarctica, climb unclimbed peaks as well as getting covered head to toe in penguin guano...it's not all glamorous!'



Ignacio Canepa – expedition guide



Ignacio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Since he was a teenager, he dreamed of living and working in nature.

Once he graduated from University, with a degree in Business Administration, he began looking for a job in Argentinean Patagonia.

In June of 2006, he found a job working in the Patagonian town of El Calafate, the province of Santa Cruz.

Ignacio loves sports, movies, the great outdoors and he hopes to one day learn how to dance without stepping on his partners toes.

He is delighted to be onboard the Ortelius.



Lynn Woodworth – Expedition Leader

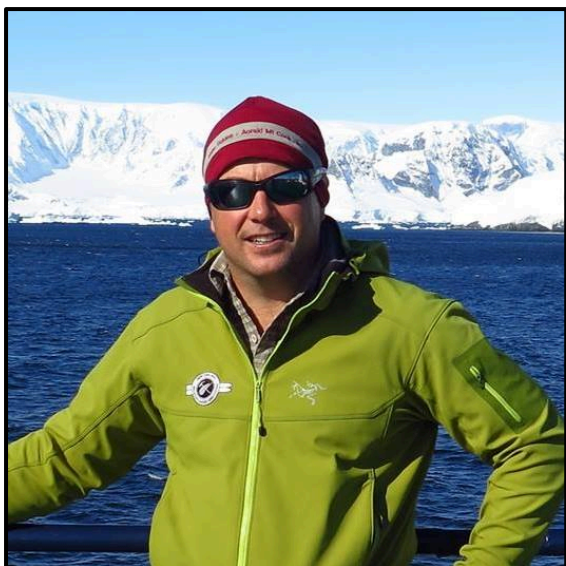
Lynn comes from the mountains and lakes of western Canada, where she first developed her love for remote wilderness and cold water.

She started travelling at 17, and eventually settled in Australia, where she completed two biology degrees, including a PhD in conservation genetics, examining Minimum Viable Population Size in wildlife. While in academia, Lynn lectured in topics ranging from population and quantitative genetics to basic animal structure and function, managed international conferences and research labs, and worked briefly in biological

patents. In her spare time, she qualified as an Exotic Wildlife Zookeeper, and has raised and released quite a range of orphaned marsupials, kookaburras and the occasional snake.

Lynn's first trip to the Antarctic happened by accident. In 1996, she was lucky enough to join a Ross Sea voyage after her intended travel plans fell through. Two years later, she began an around the world motorcycle trip by travelling down the coast of South America. In Ushuaia, she left her motorcycle behind to sail to the Antarctic Peninsula. She was hooked on Antarctica, and has been working in the polar regions ever since. She has been to the Ross Sea region, and knows the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falklands and South Georgia as well as some penguins. In the northern summer, she has taken ships to arctic Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Russia and the North Pole. Lynn stopped counting in 2007, at somewhere over 135 voyages, 17 different vessels, and more than two years of her life spent in the Drake Passage. She has held most ship-based roles including lecturer, guide, zodiac driver, Assistant Expedition Leader and Expedition Leader, and has also worked on shore as Operations Manager. She has co-authored two books on Antarctica, *Antarctica The Complete Story* (published on three continents) and *The Blue Continent* (released in 17 languages at last count).

Lynn still calls Australia home. She has recently moved from the big smoke of Sydney to just South of Hobart, Tasmania - as close to Antarctica as she can get and still be in Australia.



Mal Haskins

New Zealand

NZMGA / IFMGA

Mountain and Ski Guide



I've been calling the mountains and high ranges of the world my home now for the last 20 years. I really enjoying sharing my passion and enjoyment of the great outdoors with others so guiding was a natural progression for me. I work in various parts of the world in both summer and winter conditions taking people mountaineering and skiing and call Wanaka, New Zealand my home.

I had the opportunity to come down to work and experience the Antarctic Peninsula a few years ago and have been coming down each season now for the past 3 years.

I find all mountain ranges around the world special but with Antarctica there is extra magic – the wildlife, amazing glaciers, weather and the people you meet on these journeys – it's an experience you can't match anywhere else in the world.

I'm looking forward to sharing my joy of the mountains with you in this special place.

Michael Ginzburg—Guide and Lecturer



Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and turned even into an addiction when he first stepped on Svalbard at the early age of 20. Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice and ever since (12 years by now) worked on the evolution and ecology of sea ice diatoms of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Michael has studied both marine and polar biology as well as participated in over a dozen scientific expeditions with durations of up to four months. Having traveled all 7 continents, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion and love for nature in photography and articles. Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist throughout the world. In 2016 Michael accepted a teaching position for photojournalism at the German POP Academy in Bremen.

Michael Green Expedition Guide.



I have always loved the Sea and so joined the Navy as soon as I left School. In the Navy I became a diver and have enjoyed diving and instructing all over the world.

I joined Oceanwide Expeditions three years ago as a dive guide and have led and guided both in the the Arctic and the Antarctic. I love both equally. Antarctica is one of the most special places on this planet in my opinion.

I am in my third year of a photography art degree and love seeing your photos they are all fantastic and capture different aspects of what we are going to see. If you need any help with your camera or your photos just ask. White balance is a favourite as our cameras aren't used to an all white background.

I look forward to helping you get the most from your holiday so please don't be frightened to ask any questions you may have.

My only tip for your trip is to take the time to look, then see and most importantly think.

The nicest moments are when you can be quiet and relaxed, stop listen to the silence and think where you are. Not many people get to do what you are doing so savor every second.

I look forward to helping you have a safe adventure here in the Antarctic.

Peter Webster - Expedition Guide



Peter was born in Scotland and has been wildlife watching and doing wildlife photography for years. Early interest led to him studying a degree in Conservation Biology, which then led to work in the Outer Hebridean Islands of Scotland on the Uist Wader project in an effort to conserve the wading birds species.

Marine interests then led to him returning to study a MSc in Marine and Fisheries Ecology at the University of Aberdeen. After working as a commercial diver for a year he was offered the position of Field Diving Officer with the British Antarctic Survey.

Peter then spent 16 months in the Antarctic, stationed at Rothera Research Station on the Peninsula where he managed dive operations for a wide range of scientific research associated with the study of climate change such as how well the Antarctic marine environment will adapt to increasing water temperatures, ocean acidification and increased disturbance (seabed scouring) by icebergs.

He also flew into deep field Antarctica where he carried out meteorological work, worked on aircraft operations, raised depots buried by snow and then spent one month on the Rhonne ice shelf with a team of three to offload over 400 tonnes of science cargo from a ship, haul it away from the ice edge and depot it safely for future research projects.

Peter started working with Oceanwide Expeditions in February 2015 and has now done several Antarctic and Arctic trips with them. When not on cruises he works as a skipper, scallop diver, powerboat instructor and is currently studying another degree in digital mapping.

Peter Webster – Dive Manager



Peter was born in Scotland and from a young age started wildlife watching, bird watching and assisting in bird surveys. His early interest led to him studying a degree in Conservation Biology.

Marine interests led to him returning to study a MSc in Marine and Fisheries Ecology at the University of Aberdeen. After working as a commercial diver he was then offered the position of Field Diving Officer with the British Antarctic Survey.

Peter then spent 16 months in the Antarctic, stationed at Rothera Research Station on the

Peninsula where he managed dive operations for a wide range of scientific research associated with the study of climate change such as how well the Antarctic marine environment will adapt to increasing water temperatures, ocean acidification and increased disturbance (seabed scouring) by icebergs.

Peter has been diving for 10 years, has several thousand dives from sites including Scotland, Antarctica, Iceland and Argentina. He is an experienced HSE professional SCUBA diver and BSAC open water instructor, qualified hyperbaric supervisor / operator, a trained dive medic and is a commercially endorsed RYA advanced powerboat handler.

Peter started working with Oceanwide Expeditions in February 2015 and has now done several Antarctic and Arctic trips with them. When not on cruises he works as a skipper, scallop diver, powerboat instructor and is currently studying another degree in digital mapping.

Renato Granieri

Photographer in residence



After a childhood spent bathing in sun, sea and sand, I decided to leave my birthplace, Alghero, in Sardinia, and embrace a much colder climate. I now call the grey skies of London, England, home, but find myself heading to even cooler places in the pursuit of my passion – nature photography.

I specialise in wildlife and travel photography, earning commissions from newspapers, magazines, tour operators and tourist boards. I also lead photography tours around the World.

To date, I've been lucky enough to have visited nearly 70 countries.

But there's something about the polar regions that always gets under my Mediterranean skin; the sheer beauty of the landscapes and the struggle for survival endured by resident species is thrilling to document.

Award-winning photographer and regular contributor to the BBC, I have been recently featured in the GDT - European Wildlife Photographer of the Year, National Geographic Traveller UK, International Bird and Nature Contest, Top LATA Published Photographer of the Year, Wanderlust Photographer of the Year, Bird Photographer of the Year. Check out my website here www.renatogranieri.com

Whether you are an advanced photographer wielding a DSLR camera and 500mm lens or an amateur snapper carrying a compact, I'm available to help you get the most out of this trip photographically. Look out for me on deck (often from pre-dawn 'til dusk), wrapped up in thermals, woolly hat and a thick down jacket. I may feel at home here more than anywhere else in the world – but that doesn't mean I won't be complaining about the cold!