



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Antarctic Peninsula

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<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>Jaanus Hannes</b>	[Estonia]
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>Martin McGrath</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Phil Norris</b>	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Nina Gallo</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Bruce Robinson</b>	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Toby Nowlan</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Elena Wimberger</b>	[USA]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Zet Freiburghaus</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Master:	<b>Catherine Buckland</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Chris Booker</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Henrik Enckell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Danny Copeland</b>	[UK]

# Day 1 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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



So here we are at last in Tierra del Fuego, at the bottom of the world. Well, from Ushuaia we'll be going *south* of south... a long way south. But for today, we ambled about this lovely Patagonian city, savouring the local flavours and enjoying the sights.

Ushuaia marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but also the beginning – the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. During the summer this rapidly growing frontier town of 55,000 bustles with adventurous travellers. The duty-free port flourishes

with tourism but also thrives on a sizeable crab fishery and a burgeoning electronics industry. Ushuaia (lit. “*bay that penetrates to the west*” in the indigenous Yaghan tongue) clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote setting. The rugged spine of the South American Andes ends here, where two oceans meet. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing on a whim. However, temperatures during the long days of the austral summer are relatively mild, providing a final blanket of warmth before heading off on our adventures.

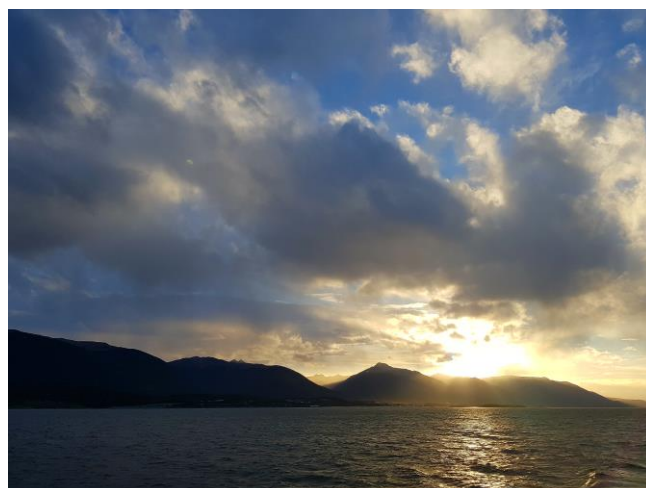
For many of us this is the start of a lifelong dream. The excitement comes in different forms for each unique person, but even the most experienced of us feels genuine excitement to depart on a journey to Antarctica. Most passengers were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, ready to board our ship MV *Plancius*,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



We were greeted at the gangway by members of our Expedition staff who 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 Jaanus, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the

crew and staff. On hearing the alarm we reconvened at the ‘muster station’, the lounge, for the mandatory safety briefing and abandon ship drill donning our huge orange life jackets that will keep us safe should the need arise. After this lifeboat drill we returned to the outer decks to watch our departure from the jetty of Ushuaia and the last of city life for a while. We entered the Beagle Channel with an escort of Black-browed albatross. Once we were on our way into the channel we were invited once again to the lounge to meet our Expedition Leader, Andrew Bishop and Hotel Manager 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 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 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### At Sea Drake Passage Southward

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

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

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

After breakfast some of us headed out on deck for some



fresh air, enjoy the sunshine and enjoy a few birds that were flying around the ship and gathering behind the ship as we sailed towards Antarctica. The most common species was the Giant Petrel, both southern and northern but there were also Black-browed Albatross, Storm Petrels, Soft Plumaged Petrels and even some Royal Albatross. Birds habitually follow ships at sea looking for food brought up to the surface by the wake but also to enjoy the uplift created by our passing. Traditionally they follow fishing vessels for discarded food but that is not on offer from *Plancius*, of course! Bruce gave a fabulous talk after breakfast about seabird identification, fascinating on so many levels. Lunch was served at 12.30 and we enjoyed yet another delicious meal from our lovely chefs. With continued sunshine however many of us enjoyed some more time out on deck trying to photograph the giant petrels that were flying about around the ship.

Then it was time for another preparatory step before we land in Antarctica – rubber boot fitting! We made



our way to the mud room on Deck 3 where our expedition staff assisted us in finding the very perfect size of the shoes we will use frequently over the next 11 days.

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.

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

## Day 3 – Saturday 10<sup>th</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 start 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 cow manure from our outerwear.

As exciting as the vacuum party was, it was quickly superseded by spotting our first iceberg of the voyage – a graceful, glowing tabular berg about one mile long. We also began to see hints of land up ahead: the South Shetland Islands.



After a scrumptious lunchtime meal from head chef Heinz and his team, the divers met with their intrepid team of guides to put the finishing touches on their preparations for their first Antarctic dive tomorrow. Then, just as we were preparing to go to the dining room for a talk on Penguins from Toby, we heard an announcement that whales had been spotted from the Bridge, and the Captain planned to divert our course to take a closer look. We threw on some warm layers, grabbed binoculars and cameras and headed for the outer decks, where we were treated to an amazing display of whale blows and fins, set on a backdrop of dramatic glaciers and mountains disappearing into low

clouds. The whales dived, then reappeared before continuing their journey down the coast. The staff were able to identify them as Fin whales, due to the white patch on the lower right jaw, and the long display of the body before the fin.

Many of us congregated in the dining room to hear Toby's talk on penguins and learn about some of the different species we hope to see while we're in Antarctica. Andrew's talk on glaciers was cancelled due to the unexpected, but much appreciated whale diversion, so we had about an hour of free time before gathering for recap to hear the plan for tomorrow: our first day in Antarctica!!

## Day 4 – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Neko Harbour & Stony Point

**0800 GPS Position:** 064°50' S / 062°33' W

**Wind:** Calm. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Partly cloudy. **Air Temp:** +3°C.

Today we felt the exquisite new feeling of accomplishment, achievement, and long harboured dream for many of us as we stood upon the Antarctic continent for the first time. The morning's adventure at Neko Harbour was grand, frosty, and full of adventure. As we trekked up into the snowy mass we had our first encounters with chilly, feisty, and the always cool gentoo penguins. The ice strewn beach whipped our spirits into shape as the climb up the crevassed hill overlooking the bleak, beautiful, and wild landscapes



where sea meets ice upon the Antarctic wilderness showed itself true.

The day was then dominated by the views and clarity of the second landing at Stony Point. The trek up the hill looked like only a hill. A few scattered penguins and a giant leopard seal were exciting, but the real fun started when the views showed themselves. A few hours into the afternoon it was Antarctica who chose the schedule just right for us, for the blue sky shone and the clouds cleared, to show in a way words could not, why it was named Paradise Harbour. As the day rolled on, we found it hard

to leave. A few even regretted not putting on sun screen, for the glorious sun radiated off the ice and gave any explorer among us' heart a feeling of otherworldly glory. The ice sang a song in the sun and we were there for it.

Many of us sat quiet to listen while others wandered in circles, snapping photos that memory won't allow to fade, with a backdrop of a temple of ice that only the soul could truly try to worship. As our spirits were buoyed by not only the views but the realization of where we were, what was happening, and who we were in the context of such a wild place... Smiles shone through the thickest of scarves. There are good days, great days and then, days in Paradise Harbour.

**W**e rolled out and found that another glorious sunset awaited us, peppered with icebergs and floating wildlife, penguins and seals dotting the ice and the views along with Antarctica's most famous resident, the humpback whale. In the end, for a first day of many firsts, wherever we came from or wherever we end up going, we'll always have the day to remember when the Antarctic love affair started properly within and for us.





## Day 5 – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Steaming South

**0800 GPS Position:** 065°10'S / 064°10'W

**Wind:** SW 10 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Clear morning clouding over in the afternoon. **Air Temp:** +1°C.



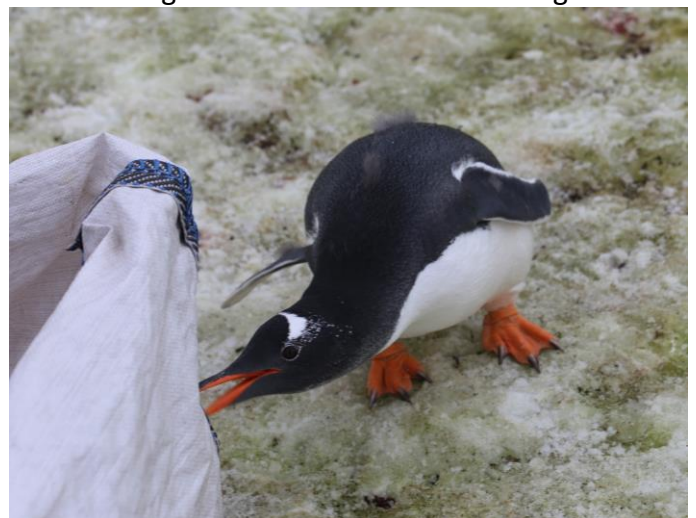
A bright and early (and very brisk) start for all aboard today as we were due to set sail through the majestic Lemaire Channel at dawn. Passengers and crew alike were assembled outside on the deck at 6:30 am to be greeted by Una's Peaks marking the dramatic entrance to Lemaire.

Carving our way through crumbled brash ice, we eased our way through the channel. Treated to a stunningly clear morning, the light was perfect. Sheer mountains rising a thousand metres out of the water on either side towered over *Plancius* as we pushed forwards. Groups of crabeater seals – mostly in groups

of three and four – lounged on ice just below the ship and were unmoved as we passed by.

There was a brief glimpse of an ivory-white snow petrel from the back deck which caused some excitement among the birders. Wilson's storm petrels fluttered around the edges of ice floes. Dark menacing forms of south polar and brown skuas flanked the ship for most of the day and the odd distant giant petrel scoured the surface of the sea.

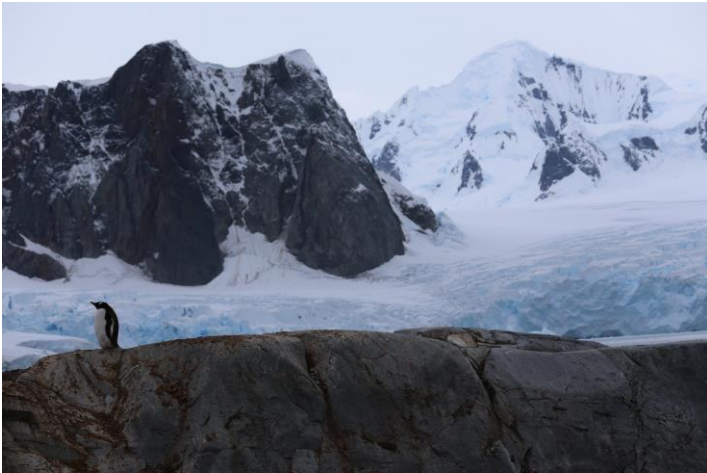
The channel was breath-taking; inconceivably steep black peaks decorated with giant, tumbling glacial waterfalls marked the path ahead as we glided through what felt like a scene from Lord of the Rings. There was a reverent silence on back deck as everyone stood and marvelled at the scene in front of them.





We broke through the channel just before breakfast and by 9:00 am there were Zodiacs of passengers steaming towards Petermann Island for an exciting new landing adventure. We were greeted by throngs of incredibly curious young gentoo penguins – brazen enough to nibble at our backpacks and life jackets as soon as we set foot on the island. We headed slowly up the icy slope through the bustling crowd of gentoos who were busy taking ice baths or sleeping on the path ahead. At the top of the island Liz Pope found our main quarry – nine stunning Adelie penguins! Some were a little tatty in full moult while others were in sparkling black-and-white tuxedo plumage. We arrived right at the end of their short breeding season so we were lucky and very grateful there were still some hanging around!

Andrew (Expedition Leader) led the way on another trail around the island to a stunning viewpoint



overlooking a cliff adorned with sheathbills and lounging Antarctic fur seals above a bay peppered with ice-bergs and humpback whales. Deep groans from the vast glaciers in the backdrop added a moody soundtrack to the colourful scene. Scott's Peak soared above the island (at 1000m above sea level) and humpbacks surrounded the *Plancius* in the bay. The kayakers were lucky enough to have a very close encounter indeed with these boat-friendly giants!

Before we headed back to ship it was time for the Polar Plunge. This was just as it sounds – any willing volunteers were offered the chance of a

chilly dip in Antarctic waters (today at -1 degrees C) as a rite of passage. There was an astonishingly big turnout as people shed their clothes and happily jumped in! The jumps were accompanied by screams, shouts, hollers and quick retreats into warm towels. “Invigorating”, “painful”, “necessary”, “ridiculous”, were some of the more polite words plungers used to describe their bathe.

We headed on south in order to make good progress and give us our best shot of crossing 66 degrees – the Antarctic Circle.

After a brilliant lecture from Andrew on glaciers, and from Bruce on photography, our final views from deck were of a panorama of the Southern Ocean punctuated by nothing less than the silvery blows of 14 humpback whales. What a way to polish off the day!

## Day 6 – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Crossing the Antarctic Circle, Hanusse Bay

**0800 GPS Position:** 066°57' S / 067°30' W

**Wind:** SE 40 knots gusting. **Sea State:** Large swell, white foam. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +1°C.

First Officer Jannus' voice announced the crossing of the Antarctic circle in the early morning hours. Those of us who were awake saw the dotted line in the sea that depicts the circle!



Most of us snoozed on as *Plancius* steamed steadily south into a strengthening wind. As our destination, Detaille Island hove into view, we were confronted by Antarctica in all its ferocious splendour, thwarting our plans to visit this lonely British base from the 1950s, which was only used for three years before being abandoned (as everything eventually must be in these latitudes), to the ice.



Cruising tantalizingly close by, we viewed the huts and radio masts of this time-capsule of history, we turned into the wind and headed further south into Hanusse Bay.

After lunch, we decided upon a Zodiac cruise among the ice in this huge bay. As we prepared, the wind began to moderate and the grey skies lightened as our

Zodiacs bomb burst out from the ship in all directions. We cruised amongst the ice floes, viewing Crabeater seals upon the ice. It seemed that every floe of any size had its own population of sleek blond seals snoozing the afternoon away.

Then came the call for 'Whales' from both ship and Zodiac alike, as both Minke and Humpback whales cruised by feeding or resting in the big calm bay.

We watched spellbound as a Humpback whale cruised towards our Zodiac, remaining at the surface as the competing sounds of the whales breathing and camera shutters whirring disturbed the now calm day.



Elated, we returned to the ship after a visit to an ice floe in the bays center. But it wasn't over yet! As the final staff Zodiacs prepared to come inboard, an inquisitive Humpback raised its huge head to look into Nina's Zodiac. We watched awe-struck as this show played out in complete silence, lest we disturb this stunning interaction between us and them. Antarctica changed lives today, as it always has, and it always will, for the lucky few who come here.

## Day 7 – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Port Charcot/Pleneau & Damoy Point/Dorian Bay

**0800 GPS Position:** 065°4' S / 064°0' W

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

Antarctica, you beauty! Out on deck pre-breakfast the landscape was, yet again, a sight to behold. As we



made our way up the Peltier Channel steep glaciated peaks rose off starboard side and massive icebergs made up the landscape off port. We made our way to anchorage in Salpetriere Bay, surrounded by a garden of icebergs.

Into the Zodiacs we zoomed some of us bound for a shore strewn with Gentoos. The snowy hill of Port Charcot was a colourful pallet of red and green as the snow algae had photosynthesized this late in the summer. Penguin antics amused many as our brush-tail friends waded into the water off the rocky shore splashing and diving en masse.

Some of us stayed in the Zodiacs to cruise around the iceberg kingdom. Intricately sculpted bergs, each more

beautiful than the next consumed our camera's viewfinders. We gazed in wonder at the blue striations, dramatic gutters and impressive designs created by snow, water and wind. One Zodiac found a leopard seal lolling on a flow while a cheeky crab eater seal entertained another. Just as we headed back the ship, the sun poked out from behind Booth Island sending a dramatic light across the water.

Back onboard we enjoyed yet another delicious lunch as we sailed through the Lemaire Channel onto our next adventure.

Our playground for the afternoon was Damoy Point, within a calm and sheltered Dorian Bay. Liz led a merry band of hikers up Tombstone Hill and then onto a high, snowy vantage point above nearby Port Lockroy. Far below us, curious Gentoo penguins inspected our fellow beachcomber expeditioners; tiny kayaks cruised across the waters; and divers bubbled their bubbles to the mirror calm water's surface.



Some of us took the opportunity to inspect the old British base hut – once home to a resupply base for British bases located beyond the Antarctic Circle, complete with a ice runway for the planes that acted as substitute for the ships when ice prevented a southward journey by sea.

## Day 8 – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Cuverville Island & Foyn Harbour/Enterprise Island

**0800 GPS Position:** 064°41' S / 062°38' W

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

Anchored off-shore at Cuverville Island, we awoke to snow flurries and whale blows out in the Errera Channel. Still calm glassy waters welcomed us as we boarded the Zodiacs and were shuttled ashore. Andrew briefed us regarding the stretch of beach we would be walking upon and we eagerly made our way down the snow-covered path, surrounded by Gentoo penguins galore.

Curious as ever, penguins pecked in wonder at our dangling straps and brightly coloured waterproof trousers. Patience was rewarded and many of us took a seat to allow the penguins to venture closer and closer.

Out in the bay a leopard seal was on the hunt. Not one but two penguins became his

appetizer and entrée for the morning. We watched in fascination as nature in action took place. At the end of the beach Bruce pointed out the endless whale spouts out in the Errera channel. Humpback whales



dipped and dived, one even jumping out and breaching before our eyes.

A thunderous crack in front of the beach announced the breaking of an iceberg and we watched as an iceberg the size of a small house turned completely over, exposing what had once been only been seen by the under water world of Antarctica.

Large white flakes fell slowly as we cruised passed a beautiful iceberg arch on our way back to our dear *Plancius*.

Whales were on the horizon the whole afternoon as we sailed through Wilhelmina Bay. A Zodiac cruise in Foyn Harbour was on the agenda next. As the sun peeked out we made our way to an old ship wreck, the

*Governoren*, which a captain sailed aground in 1915 in order to save the crew from a fire onboard. The rusted bow and foredeck jutted out of the water, contrasting starkly with the blue ice cliffs in the background.

Fur seals were active as some jostled with each other while others rolled on the snow using their flippers to scratch an itch. But the real show was out in the bay. Whales galore! As we made our way back to the ship, Humpback whales dipped and dived, spouting and fluking in a seemingly endless show.

Back onboard all tags were turned to green and Captain Evgeny at the helm began steering us north to tomorrow's adventure.





## Day 9 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### Whaler's Bay (Deception Island) & Half Moon Island

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

**Wind:** WNW 15 knots. **Sea State:** Choppy Waves. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +5°C.

Our last day in Antarctica! My how time flies. 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 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 1969-1970 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 Elena 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 was caught in a quick five-minute snowstorm where it seemed that everything surrounding them disappeared into a white cloud.



Moulting Chinstrap penguins took centre stage for most of the afternoon. Though active male fur seals and colourful lichen was a close second. However, Bruce led the way up a steep narrow path to view a lone Macaroni penguin that ended up stealing the show.

The massive glaciated slopes of Livingston Island across the water shone brightly in the sun and we relished this incredible and powerful landscape one last time.



Back onboard, a four hour steam to the South Shetland Islands was next on the agenda. As we reached the snow-covered Half Moon Island, the wind died down and the sun poked out, setting up perfect conditions for our final outing.





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

If Antarctica were music it would be Mozart.

Art, and it would be Michelangelo.

Literature, and it would be Shakespeare.

And yet it is something even greater; the only place on earth that is still as it should be.

May we never tame it.

— Andrew Denton

## Day 10 – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### At Sea, Drake Passage Northward

**0800 GPS Position:** 059°37' S / 067°70' W

**Wind:** NNE 18.5 knots. **Sea State:** Moderate. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +8°C.

Our luck from our first Drake crossing south seemed to stay with us for the morning as the moderately calm seas let our ship steam ahead at a smooth 11.1 knots. Andrew gave us all a reprieve from his dulcet tones, as Michael announcing breakfast at 8:00 am was the first thing anyone heard over the PA system. While a few braved the stairs and smells of food, most were content to snooze a couple more hours until the first lecture of the day was announced.



Nina talked about Early Explorers of Antarctica, and the trials and tribulations faced by the men who first dreamed that a continent such as Antarctica did exist and braved the icy southern ocean to substantiate their belief.

Out on deck the sun broke through and our first Light-mantled Sooty Albatross of the voyage could be seen soaring off port side of the ship.

After that it was time for more food, more fantastic things to stuff down our gullets, if we dared in the rolling swell of the Drake Passage.

After a post-prandial nap, Phil regaled us with information on the dinosaurs that may have once lived on the Antarctica continent. Among others, we learned a bit more about the duck-billed hadrosaurus the rival of T-rex, the allosaurus and also about a mega-penguin, as big as a human! The swell picked up and the wind began gusting at 40 knots as Toby took the stage to talk about his experience working on the well-known natural history series of Planet Earth II for four years. An accomplished young man to say the least!



At 6:30 pm, Sebastian and Andrew briefed us all once again the lounge, preparing us for the following days to come, as upon arrival in Ushuaia the dreaded culture shock would surely await some of us, exchanging penguins with talking monkeys, Zodiacs with taxis, and gangway sailors with the sometimes not so gentle airport security detail.

After dinner many of us convened in the bar for the Great Antarctic Quiz where quizmaster Phil shot us questions from a wide-ranging scope of Antarctic trivia. From history to biology to SCUBA to ice, we had to rack our brains through and through to guess the answers each round.

## Day 11 – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### At Sea, Drake Passage Northward

**0800 GPS Position:** 055°24' S / 066°54' W

**Wind:** SSW 15 knots. **Sea State:** Calm. **Weather:** Overcast. **Air Temp:** +11°C.



Rollin', rollin', rollin'... for many, a bit of a bumpy night. And although the weather was of no consequence, the continuous rolling motion of the ship began to bear on a few too many nerves. Some of us opted not to go to the dining room for breakfast and instead stayed in the horizontal comfort of our bunks for a couple more hours.

During the morning the divers and the kayakers met in their groups to wrap things up with their guides and return all gear.

At 1030 Doctor Tanja gave a talk about her experience working with emperor penguins at Cape Washington and the incredible conditions both crew and penguin endured on the shoot.

The photographers were happy campers today as we were treated to hour after hour of super-close

wandering albatross, southern royal albatross and southern giant petrel riding the windbreak of the ship. The leviathan birds dropped over our heads just above the bridge wings pleasing those below them.

After a delicious lunch we watched a fascinating (and at times hilarious) film about rounding Cape Horn and battled onwards towards the Beagle Channel. Making great time, we were there in time for sunset and, though the sky was a little grey, it finally felt like this epic voyage was coming to an end. A gorgeous little Magellanic diving petrel floated next to the ship delighting birders on deck.

Preparations were made for entering the Beagle Channel in the final few hours of sailing we were joined by yet more wandering albatrosses, Imperial cormorants and sooty shearwaters.

After the mammoth 'return of the rubber boots', Bruce gave us a fantastic slide show of the entire trip reminding us just how much we'd seen and done in such a short time – there were pangs of nostalgia all round and some happy tears. What an adventure it's been!



# Day 12 – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## Disembarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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

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

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

### Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical Miles: 2005 nm

Kilometres: 3713 km



### Your Expedition Team!

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





# KAYAKING LOG

## NEKO HARBOUR

We got in the kayaks on a frosty and snowy morning, with calm waters.

A lovely kayak about amongst icebergs and ice floes, looking for Minke and Humpback whales. We have our first encounters with these beautiful marine mammals!

We enjoyed the morning paddle with bits and pieces of ice all around us. It was especially fun paddling through the brash ice, making crashing sounds when it hit our kayaks.



## PARADISE HARBOUR

We paddled out after leaving the ship into the wide Paradise Harbour that was full of icebergs and brash ice. The weather was the best possible. No wind and lots of sun! We had great encounters with Crabeater seals and had a very close meeting with a Minke whale that swam under the kayaks. On the way back we saw a Leopard seal in front of the kayaks.

## PETERMANN ISLAND

Today we had a great adventure in front of us. We were going to circumnavigate Petermann Island. The weather was quite calm but there was still a good swell on the outside of the island. After a while we started to hear strange loud sounds. A few minutes later we could hear the blow from whales. We got behind a corner suddenly had six humpbacks feeding in front of us while they slowly moved our way. At closest they were not more that 20 meters away from us. After our adventure we had time for a short landing and some even did the polar plunge.



## PLENEAU

ICEBERGS ICEBERGS ICEBERGS. That is what what Pleneau is all about. All amazing formations. One is big, and another is more beautiful and the third is amazing. We ended by going close to the rocky beach and watched the Gentoo penguins get in and out of the water.





## PORT LOCKROY/JOUGLA POINT



Afternoon kayaking started in the outside of the bay. We didn't paddle long before we saw a logging humpback on our right side. When we started to paddle again we could see some activity in the water towards the Port Lockroy base. It was a leopard seal that was eating a penguin and around it it was skuas and Wilson storm petrels dancing on the water. Port Lockroy was closed for the season so we paddled deeper in to the bay and did a short landing from the kayaks to see the whale bones at Jougla Point. The afternoon adventure ended with a second Polar Plunge for Zet when he showed a how to roll without paddle.



## CUVERVILLE ISLAND

Our plan this morning was to circumnavigate Cuverville Island. But before we got in to the kayaks we could hear blows and soon see humpback whales all around us. This turned out to be whale paradise. We had whales everywhere. We probably did not kayak more than two kilometres but we saw over 20 Humpback whales. Some as close as a few meters away from us. It was a smiling group of kayakers returning to the ship today.





### **FOYN HARBOUR/GUVERNOREN**

Even before we got into our kayaks we saw humpbacks around us. They were a bit too far to kayak over to see. But we felt that we had our piece of a whale experience after this morning. We paddled around Guvernoren, a Norwegian whaling vessel that sank here in 1915. We could almost get our kayaks up on the back deck and we saw all details of the rusted wreck up close.

### **WHALERS BAY**

Early morning we are in the kayaks at 0800. We have become true masters in getting in and out of the kayaks fast by now. We started to kayak inside this active volcano. How many people have done that? By the sides of the shore we saw Fur

seals everywhere. When we were on our way out to the outside of the rim the weather changed in a minute. We got hit by a brief snow storm. We had to turn around with the swell of the big sea from one side and 25 knots winds hitting us from the other direction. After this we all knew how the fast the weather can change in Antarctica. We had the chance to do a short 20 minutes landing at the whaling station before we had to go back to the ship for another delicious lunch.

### **HALF MOON ISLAND**

It was our last kayak in Antarctica or in sub Antarctic waters this time. Six kayakers join for this beautiful day. The sun came out as soon as we were in the kayaks and the wind was at our backs when we followed the inner side of the island. We saw Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins hopping out of the water and back to their colonies. After one hour in the kayaks we decided that we had time for a short landing to visit the chinstrap colony.









# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS



# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

## DIVE TEAM

**Dive Team Leader:** Catherine Buckland

**Dive Guides:** Chris Booker, Henrik Enckell & Danny Copeland

For more information, contact us via:

[info@oceanwide-expeditions.com](mailto:info@oceanwide-expeditions.com)



The Antarctic Peninsula  
& Polar Circle



# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



## ANTARCTICA

11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #1 – NEKO HARBOUR

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 64° 50.799, W 062° 31.749

**DIVE TIME:** 09:34 – 10:25

**AVERAGE DEPTH:** 12.0m

**VISIBILITY:** 5m in shallows, 10m at depth

**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

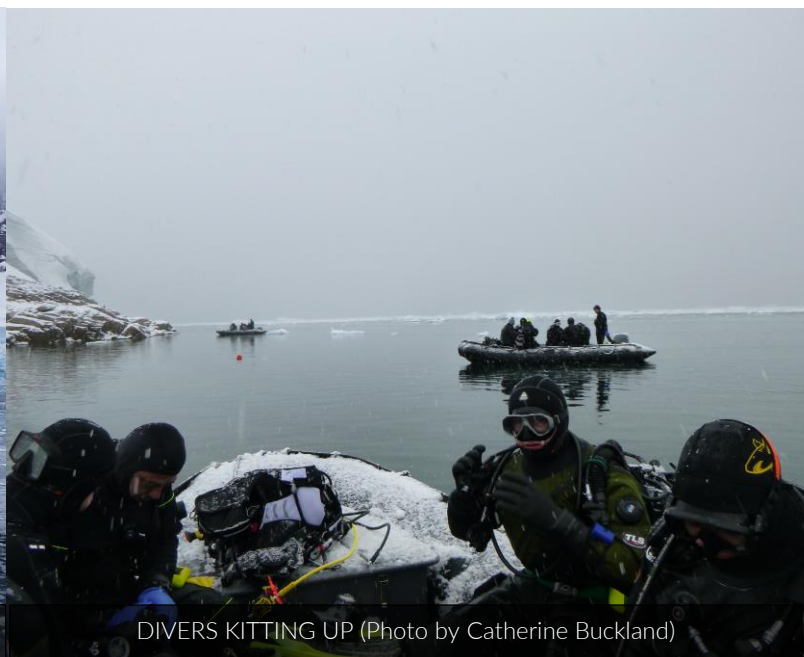
**HIGH TIDE:** 13:00 (1.05m)

For the first stop on our polar voyage we visited a site in Neko Harbour, where we were greeted with snowy conditions and sea water that was visibly freezing at the surface. Our inaugural plunge beneath the waves was used as a 'check-out' dive, so that everyone could get reacquainted with their drysuits, and ensure their equipment and weighting was all set for the rest of the trip.

Divers were treated to flat calm water, decent visibility, and an extremely indifferent crab-eater seal that happily swam at the surface close to the Zodiac. Post-dive, humpback whales could be seen raising their flukes and spy-hopping in the ice-field beyond the dive site – an awesome introduction to Antarctica!



ICY CONDITIONS AT DIVE SITE (Photo by Danny Copeland)



DIVERS KITTING UP (Photo by Catherine Buckland)

# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



## ANTARCTICA

11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #2 – WALL DIVE NEAR BASE BROWN

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 64° 53.907, W 062° 52.415

**VISIBILITY:** 10.0m

**DIVE TIME:** 15:30 – 16:30

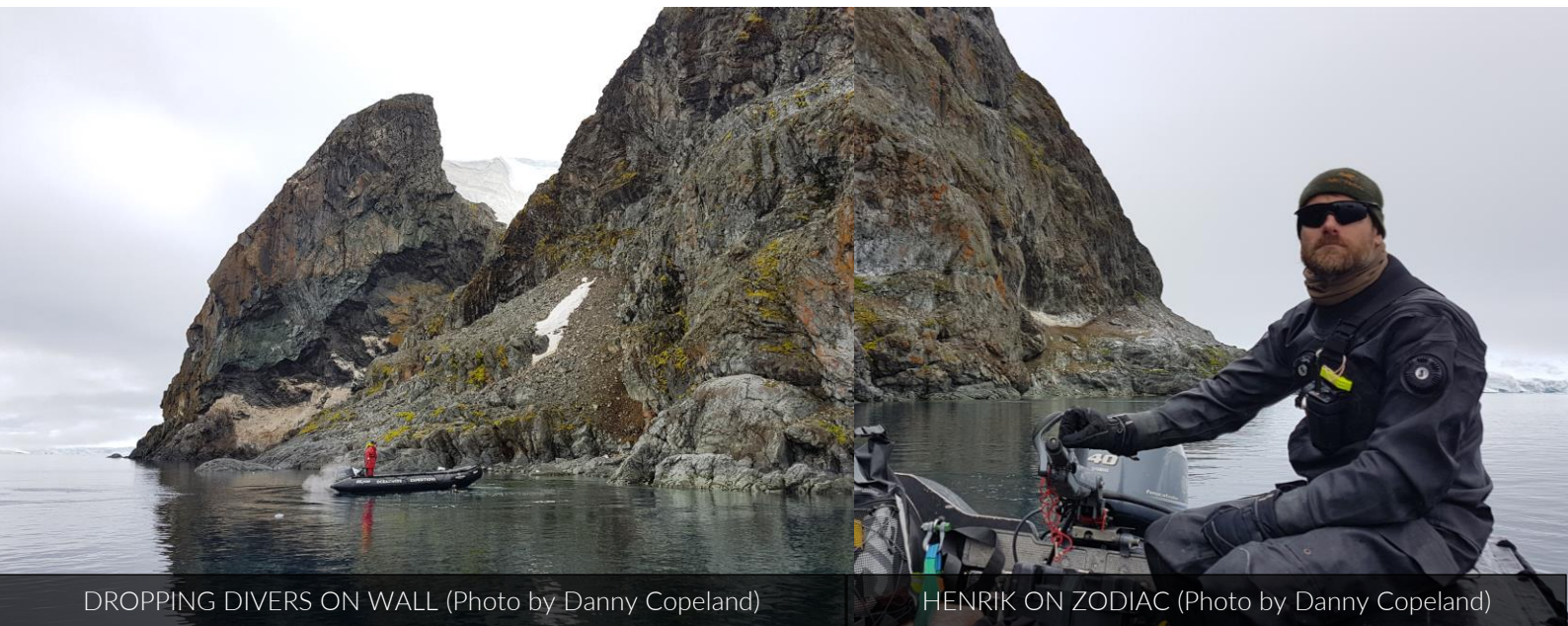
**WATER TEMP:** 0-1°C

**AVERAGE DEPTH:** 18.0m

**HIGH TIDE:** 00:00 (1.81m) (2<sup>nd</sup> HT of day)

Our second dive saw us jump in along a very scenic wall that lies a short distance from an Argentinian research station called Almirante Brown (or 'Base Brown'). Despite spending 15 minutes navigating a field of sea ice between the ship and the site, a small current created a weird natural barrier that prevented the ice from blocking-up the area around the wall.

The wall itself plunges down to 40-50m, and was extremely colourful relative to typical Antarctic dives thanks to patches of several kinds of cold water sponge. Divers also found an incredibly preserved penguin skeleton, and a large sea gooseberry drifting in the water column. Post-dive, the team watched three crab-eaters swim between the Zodiacs, before we began our long journey back through a maze of ice drifting on pond-like water, with incredible light bouncing off its surface.



DROPPING DIVERS ON WALL (Photo by Danny Copeland)

HENRIK ON ZODIAC (Photo by Danny Copeland)

# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle

## ANTARCTICA

12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #3 – PETERMANN ISLAND

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 65° 10.212, W 064° 08.139

**VISIBILITY:** <5.0m

**DIVE TIME:** 09:44 – 10:50

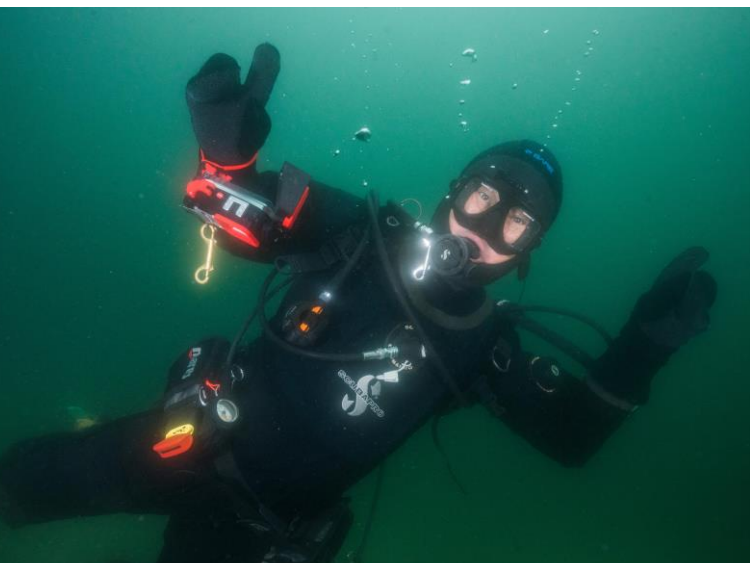
**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

**AVERAGE DEPTH OF DIVE:** 20.0m

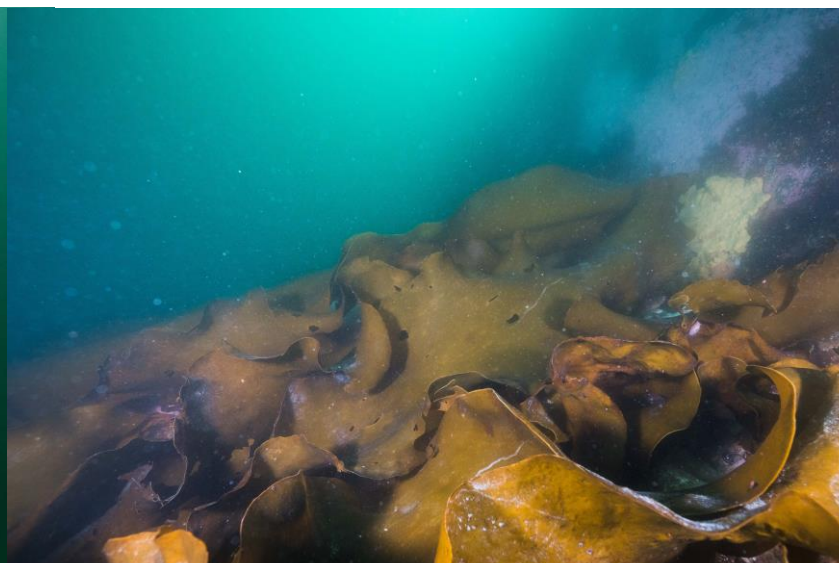
**HIGH TIDE:** 00:00 (1.62m)

For our third dive in Antarctica, we stopped off at Petermann Island after a brief cruise through the Lemaire Channel. The team split into two, with one group going to snorkel in the shallows in the hope of swimming with penguins, whilst the other group went around the corner for a dive.

The divers rolled in at a U-shaped gully right around the furthest corner of the island, where the rock brushes against a mountain of ice. There was a mini iceberg just inside the gully, so divers started off with a quick circuit around this mini berg, before swimming alongside a wall travelling into the gully and towards the shallows. Visibility was a bit murky, possibly owing to all the penguin poo entering the water from the colony sitting at the surface! Nonetheless, divers found piles of large kelp and sea stars, and were treated to a rare view of penguins looking down at them from the rocks as the divers surfaced.



JACK UP CLOSE! (Photo by Danny Copeland)



KELPY CONDITIONS AT 10 METRES (Photo by Danny Copeland)



# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



## ANTARCTICA

14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #4 – ICEBERG IN PORT CHARCOT

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 64° 54.412, W 062° 56.553

**VISIBILITY:** 5.0m

**DIVE TIME:** 09:53 – 10:25

**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

**AVERAGE DEPTH:** 19.0m

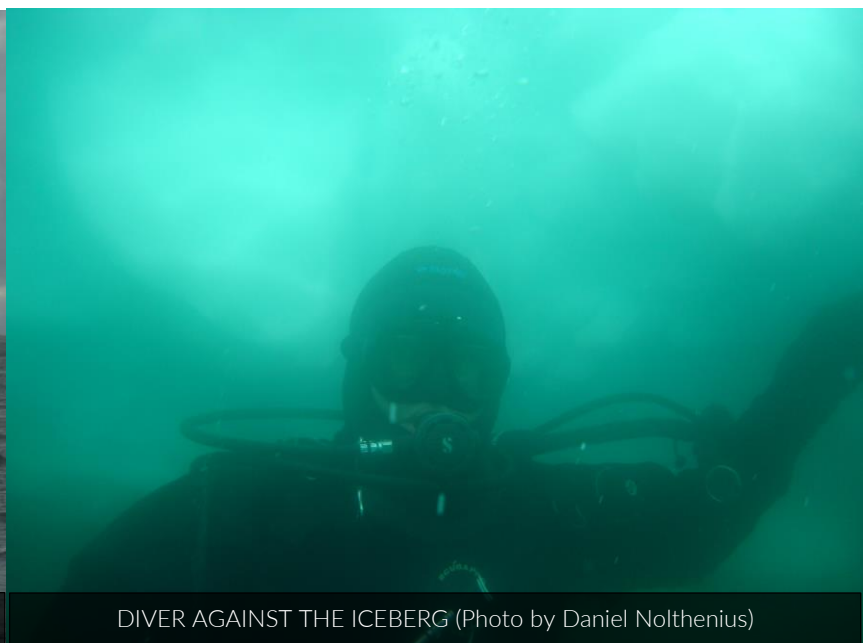
**HIGH TIDE:** 00:00 (1.61m)

After a day-off from diving due to windy weather below the polar circle, the team set out for a morning dive around one of the many icebergs drifting throughout Port Charcot. This was a landmark and novel dive for many, so spirits were high despite a slightly bumpy transit in the Zodiacs. Our chosen iceberg was short in stature and fairly long, making it the safest iceberg for us to dive in the area.

Divers were stoked with how weird and novel this dive was, remarking on the golfball-sized indentations that are found across the surface of the portion of the iceberg that sits underwater.



OUR CHOSEN ICEBERG (Photo by Daniel Nolthenius)



DIVER AGAINST THE ICEBERG (Photo by Daniel Nolthenius)

# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



## ANTARCTICA

14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #5 – CASABLANCA ISLAND, DORIAN BAY

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 64° 48.618, W 063° 30.660

**DIVE TIME:** 16:24 – 17:15

**AVERAGE DEPTH:** 18.0m

**VISIBILITY:** 10-15m (best vis of trip)

**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

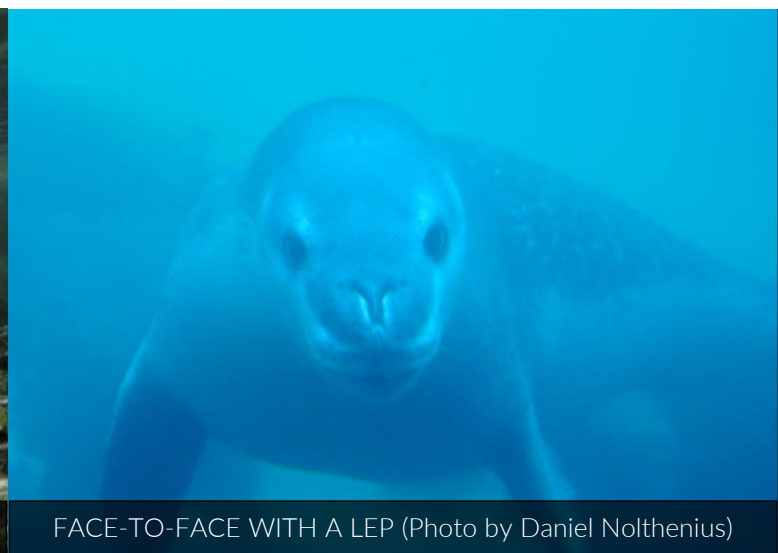
**HIGH TIDE:** 22:00 (1.27m)

For our fifth dive, the team once again split in two – some opting to go diving around Casablanca Island, whilst the others went snorkelling in search of penguins underwater.

For the snorkelers, their persistence and patience paid off. After calmly sitting in the water in the shallows for 20-minutes, the local Gentoo penguins decided they were all happy to pile into the water to swim around and wash their feathers. They were totally indifferent to the snorkelers, resulting in incredible photos of penguins swimming underwater. Meanwhile at Casablanca Island, the divers surfaced from an incredible dive dominated by exceptional visibility, sun stars, sponges, and various critters. However the fun was just beginning – as divers surfaced, a local leopard seal came over and began interacting with the divers. Fortunately she was a curious individual, and spent the next 15 minutes rolling around at the surface, inspecting everyone's fins and cameras - a once in a lifetime encounter with one of Antarctica's most famed and charismatic predators.



PENGUINS UNDERWATER (Photo by Akiko Kojima)



FACE-TO-FACE WITH A LEP (Photo by Daniel Nolthenius)

# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



## ANTARCTICA

15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #6 – WALL DIVE AT CUVERVILLE ISLAND

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 64° 40.974, W 062° 36.811

**DIVE TIME:** 09:18 – 10:30

**AVERAGE DEPTH:** 19.0m

**VISIBILITY:** 10m along wall's edge/drop-off

**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

**HIGH TIDE:** 06:00 (1.5m)

For our morning at Cuverville, our team once again split in two – one opting to do a wall dive, and the other heading closer to shore for another snorkelling session. The Cuverville wall drops down extremely quickly to >80m, so divers swam alongside it and over the deep water below, before rounding a corner onto a shallower shelf-like area. As was becoming typical for our trip, conditions at the surface consisted of fluffy snowfall and glass calm water, thanks to a total lack of any wind. The great conditions extended beneath the waves, with another dive with >10m of visibility on the wall's edge.

Meanwhile, the snorkelers were in for a treat – our second leopard seal of the trip entered the shallows. She was uninterested in the snorkelers, due to the dead penguin sitting in her mouth! Chris recalled the group to the Zodiac, where they proceeded to spend the next 20-minutes watching the seal predate and flay another Gentoo penguin only metres away from the Zodiac!



SNORKELERS WITH PENGUINS (Photo by Chris Booker)



LEOPARD SEAL PREDATION (Photo by Atsushi Nagano)



# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle

## ANTARCTICA

15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #7 – GUVERNØREN WRECK, FOYN HARBOUR

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 64° 33, W 062° 1

**VISIBILITY:** 5-10m

**DIVE TIME:** 15:50 – 16:40

**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

**AVERAGE DEPTH:** 19.0m

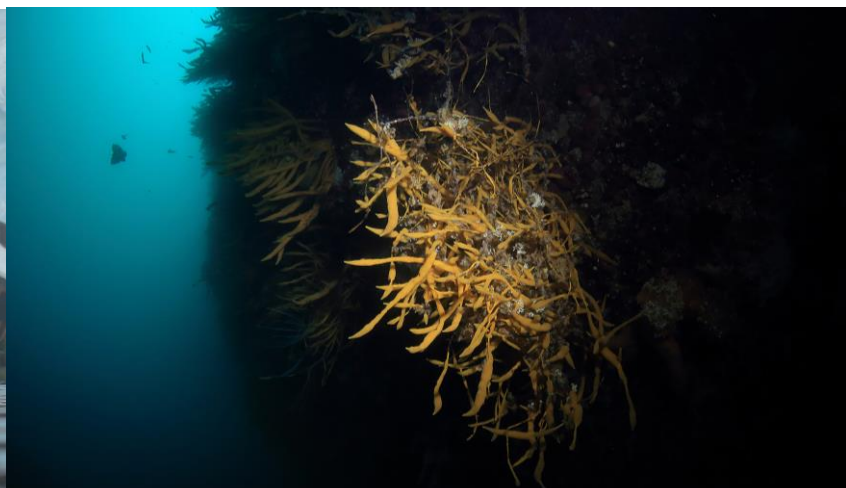
**HIGH TIDE:** 19:30 (1.84m)

Our seventh dive saw us visit another must-see dive site when down in Antarctica – the Guvernøren wreck of Foyn Harbour. At the time she sank, the Guvernøren was transporting whale oil when she accidentally caught fire. In order to save the valuable cargo, the captain ran her aground in shallow water, where she remains to this day over 103 years later. The bow of the wreck sits above the waterline, whilst the majority of her body sits underwater, with the stern and prop sitting at about 19-22m.

Conditions were calm, quiet, and atmospheric at the surface. Divers jumped in and proceeded to swim down the starboard side of the wreck towards the stern, checking out the marine life that has found a home on the metallic remains. Across her body, divers found large patches of yellow finger-like sponges which grow incredibly slowly in these polar waters. One diver even found a young notothenid fish finding shelter in the wreckage.



WRECK ABOVE WATERLINE (Photo by Daniel Nolthenius)



YELLOW FINGER SPONGES (Photo by Atsushi Nagano)

# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



## ANTARCTICA

16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #8 – WHALER'S BAY, DECEPTION ISLAND

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 62° 59.325, W 060° 33.443

**VISIBILITY:** <5m in shallows, 5-7m at depth

**DIVE TIME:** 08:30 – 09:17

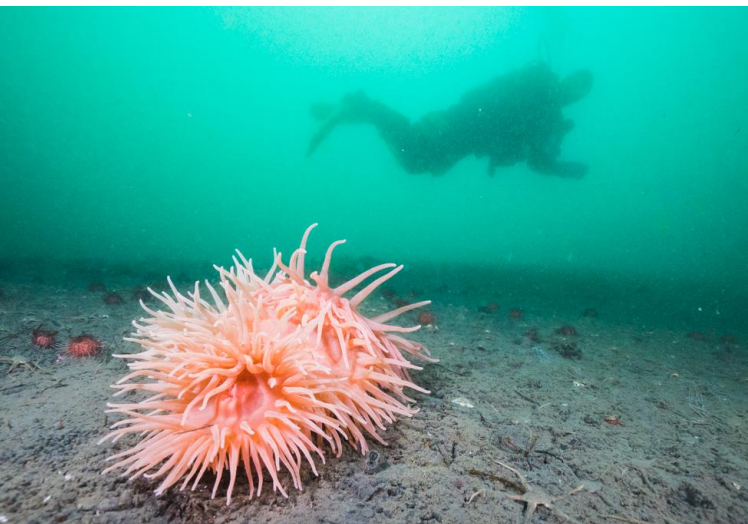
**WATER TEMP:** 1°C

**AVERAGE DEPTH OF DIVE:** 17.0m

**HIGH TIDE:** 06:00 (1.82m)

The final day of our trip saw us diving on the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, with Whaler's Bay, a famous site along Deception Island, was the location for our penultimate dive. Divers rolled in slightly earlier than usual, so the combination of limited morning light, dark volcanic sand, and the promise of whale bones resulted in an extremely eerie and atmospheric dive – one that is quite different from any other location in Antarctica.

The site itself consists of a sloping seabed made of dark, mud-like volcanic sand, which dropped down at a steep 70° gradient into the abyss. At first glance there didn't seem to be much benthic life, but closer inspection revealed a seabed that seems to be half substrate and half made up of wriggling brittle stars! Sitting on top of them were herds of small, red sea urchins, and the occasional sea star and giant trio of anemones. In the shallows, divers found a pile of whale ribs and vertebrae, signalling the history of this eerie site.



ANEMONES ON SLOPE (Photo by Danny Copeland)



DIVERS & WHALE BONES (Photo by Danny Copeland)

# DIVE LOG

8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

MV Plancius – The Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle

## ANTARCTICA

16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### DIVE #9 – HALF MOON ISLAND, SOUTH SHETLANDS

**LOCATION (GPS):** S 62° 35.881, W 059° 53.804

**VISIBILITY:** 10m

**DIVE TIME:** 15:12 – 16:00

**WATER TEMP:** 0°C

**AVERAGE DEPTH OF DIVE:** 17.0m

**HIGH TIDE:** 19:30 (1.75m)

Our final afternoon of diving saw us rock up to Half Moon Island – a small, crescent-shaped island that sits in the south-west corner of the McFarlane Straits as part of the South Shetlands archipelago.

Conditions had brightened up significantly since the morning in Whaler's Bay, with the sun shining through sporadic clouds. Those that went diving rolled in along the edge of the island facing out of the bay, where they found a slopy site covered in limpets and typical Antarctic fauna. One group of divers found another large salp, whilst a lucky few dived with Gentoo penguins underwater! Unlike many interactions, these penguins stuck around, seemingly playing with the bubbles from their SCUBA units – an incredible way to bid farewell to an epic week of polar diving!



DIVERS DESCEND FOR THEIR FINAL DIVE (Photo by Chris Booker)





## THANK YOU & SAFE TRAVELS

Thank you to all the divers for making this trip to the Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle so entertaining and exciting for everyone involved. Thank you for exploring these polar waters with us, and we wish you safe and awesome diving wherever your travels take you next.

- Catherine, Chris, Henrik, Danny

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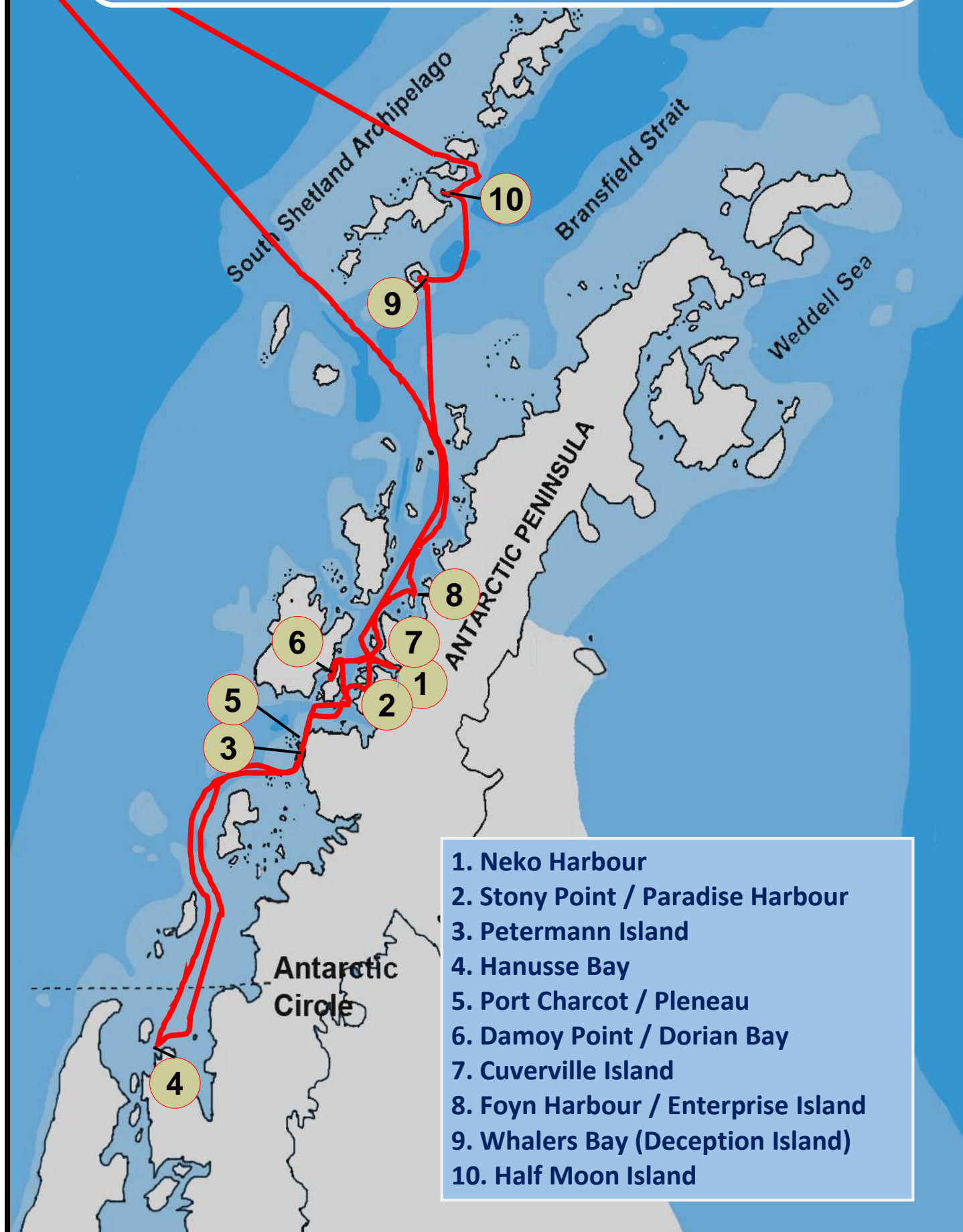
For more information, contact us via:  
[info@oceanwide-expeditions.com](mailto:info@oceanwide-expeditions.com)



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

# PLA 30 – 18 Antarctica & Polar Circle

08 to 19 March 2018



1. Neko Harbour
2. Stony Point / Paradise Harbour
3. Petermann Island
4. Hanusse Bay
5. Port Charcot / Pleneau
6. Damoy Point / Dorian Bay
7. Cuverville Island
8. Foyn Harbour / Enterprise Island
9. Whalers Bay (Deception Island)
10. Half Moon Island

**Wildlife List**  
**aboard M/V Plancius 08 - 19 March 2018**

<b><u>BIRDS</u></b>	<b><u>AVES</u></b>	08/03/18	09/03/18	10/03/18	11/03/18	12/03/18	13/03/18	14/03/18	15/03/18	16/03/18	17/03/18	18/03/18	19/03/18
<b>Penguins</b>													
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>				X	X		X	X	X			
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>					X	X						
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			X					X	X			
King penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>												
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>									X			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X										X	
Southern Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chryscome</i>												
<b>Albatrosses</b>													
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X	X							X	X	
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X								X	X	
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>										X		
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X	X	X					X	X	X	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X							X	X	
<b>Petrels</b>													
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes hallii</i>	X									X	X	
Southern Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>		X	X	X					X	X	X	
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>												
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				X	X			X				
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>										X		
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>			X						X	X		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	X	X	X							X	X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	X	X									X	
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		X	X									
Common Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>		X								X		
Magellanic Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>											X	
<b>Storm Petrels</b>													
Wilson's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>			X							X		
Gray-backed Storm Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>												
<b>Skuas</b>													
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Brown Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	X			X	X		X	X	X			
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X	X										
<b>Shags</b>													
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Imperial / blue eyed Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax albiventer</i>	X										X	X
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	X										X	X
<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	X	X			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>												
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X										X	X
<b>Sheathbills</b>													
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>					X		X		X			





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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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## Phil Norris – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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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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## Bruce Robinson – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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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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## Elena Wimberger – Expedition Guide

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Elena's penchant for adventure began at a young age while reading tales of polar explorers such as William Scoresby and Ernest Shackleton. The pull to the wild and unknown has taken hold ever since. Between various levels of academic education, she has directed her energies towards developing her skills and knowledge of the great

**outdoors.**

After receiving her B.A. in Politics and Spanish, Elena backpacked 4000 kms across the United States, starting at the Mexican border and finishing in Canada. An avid outdoor enthusiast, her primary pastimes include skiing, climbing, hiking and mountaineering. Born and raised in the pacific northwest of the United States, Elena grew up enjoying the various mountain ranges her home area has to offer. She has worked a ski instructor and Wilderness First Responder in the Cascade and Olympic mountains.

Elena has worked on expedition ships in both Antarctica and European Arctic since 2014 and loves sharing her passion and enthusiasm for the great outdoors and remote regions.



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## Zet Freiburghaus – Kayak 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.

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## Catherine Buckland - Dive Master

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

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

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

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

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## Chris Booker - Dive Guide

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

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

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

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



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## Henrik Enckell – Dive Guide

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**Henrik has been diving for over 20 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR. He runs the IART (International Association of Rebreather Trainers) Regional Office for Northern Europe and is a member of the IART Board of Advisors.**

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters *General von Steuben* and *Wilhelm Gustloff* in the Baltic and *HMS Victoria* ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

His interest for both the ocean and space has engaged him in projects with the *European Space Agency* (Mars500 project) and the *SeaSpace Exploration and Research Society* (Project Poseidon) among other adventures.

He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions during 15 years and he was one of the first persons to take people diving on expedition vessels in these remote, challenging and many times undived waters.

Henrik has a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and a long experience in software development with project and line management positions in global companies. He has lived and worked in Tokyo, Japan for two years.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He is living in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters aged 16, 12 and 11 and his two-year-old son.

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## Danny Copeland – Dive Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.





# Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

including:

Chief Officer:	<b>Jaanus Hannes</b>	[Estonia]
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>Martin McGrath</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Phil Norris</b>	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Nina Gallo</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Bruce Robinson</b>	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Toby Nowlan</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Elena Wimberger</b>	[USA]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Zet Freiburghaus</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Master:	<b>Catherine Buckland</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Chris Booker</b>	[UK]
Dive Guide:	<b>Henrik Enckell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Danny Copeland</b>	[UK]

## Welcome you on board!



# Antarctica and Polar Circle

Embarkation in Ushuaia

Thursday 8<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 **Seabirds** we hope to meet on our voyage, please join **Bruce** in the Dining Room for his presentation.
- 1145 *For those of you signed up for **Kayaking** please join Zet in the Library for a briefing about your activity.*
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Rubber Boots!** This morning we will issue you with your Rubber Boots. The Boot Room is on Deck 3 (forward). Please bring your warm socks for trying on the boots.  
*We will call you by deck number, so please listen for announcements.*
- TBA ***Divers:** please meet Catherine and the dive team in the Boot Room for an initial orientation. Listen out for an announcement!*
- 1630 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.





# Antarctica and Polar Circle

At Sea

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018

- 0730 Wake-up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.
- 1000 **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**.
- 1100 **Vacuuming!** We will call you by deck to bring your outer gear, backpacks & camera bags to the Lounge to clean. Remember to sign the declaration form. *Please listen for announcements.*
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Vacuuming** continues in the Lounge.
- 1430 For those of you signed up for **Diving** please join the Dive Team in the **Dining Room** for a briefing about your activity.
- 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 Andrew in the **Dining Room** where he will be explaining all about **Glaciers**.
- 1830 Join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Briefing** where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

Please secure all breakable items (cameras, computers, etc.) and doors and drawers in your cabin.  
Remember to keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship when moving around.



# Antarctica and Polar Circle

Neko Harbour and Paradise Harbour

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**This morning we will be sailing down the stunning Gerlache Strait. If the weather is good it will be well worth getting up early. Sunrise ~0630.**

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.

**Kayakers** please listen for announcements regarding your activity this morning.

**Divers** please listen for announcements regarding your activity this morning.

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

1430 This afternoon we intend to go ashore at **Stony Point**, in Paradise Bay. For the keen explorers we hope to offer a hike to the top of a snow dome for some great views over Paradise Harbour. Please listen for announcements.

**Kayakers** please listen for announcements regarding your activity this afternoon.

**Divers** please listen for announcements regarding your activity this afternoon.

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.**



# Antarctica and Polar Circle

Petermann Island  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

0630 Wake-up call.

~0700 This morning we will be transiting the **Lemaire Channel**, a very scenic and narrow channel between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island. Come out on decks to enjoy the views!

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

0900 **Petermann Island**. This island is home to Gentoo (and possibly Adélie) penguins and there is a memorial to three members of the British Antarctic Survey that died on the nearby sea ice in 1982. On an historic note, Charcot's 2<sup>nd</sup> expedition overwintered here on board the *Pourquois Pais*. At the end of this landing we would like to offer a **Polar Plunge**. Please listen for announcements.

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

PM This afternoon we will continue **sailing south** towards the **Antarctic Circle**.

1530 Please join **Andrew** in the Dining Room for his fascinating presentation about **Glaciers**.

1700 If you'd like some tips and tricks about **Photography in Antarctica**, please join **Bruce** for his presentation in the Dining Room.

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

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

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





# Antarctica and Polar Circle

Antarctic Circle & Detaille Island

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*Sometime after 0500 we will be crossing the Antarctic Circle (66°33'S). Chief Officer Jaanus will make an announcement in the corridors and public spaces when this occurs.*

0700 Wake-up call.

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

~0900 Conditions allowing, this morning we plan to go ashore at **Detaille Island** where there is an opportunity to visit an old British Antarctic Survey hut. This will be a split landing, with the first half of the group going to shore, and the second half Zodiac cruising (then vice versa). *Please listen for announcements.*

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

PM **Expedition Afternoon.** This afternoon's activities will depend on ice and weather conditions. Please standby for announcements.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

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



# Antarctica and Polar Circle

## Expedition Morning and Port Charcot

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

0700 Wake-up call.

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

**This morning's activities will be determined by the wind and ice conditions. Please standby for announcements.**

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

1430 **Port Charcot.** We plan to go ashore and visit this historic location where Charcot overwintered on the *Français*, as well as offer a Zodiac cruise around the nearby icebergs. This will be a *split landing*, with the first half of the group going to shore, and the second half Zodiac cruising (then vice versa). *Please listen for announcements.*

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

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

Cuverville Island & Foyen Harbour

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

0700 Wake-up call.

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

0830 Weather permitting we plan to land at **Cuverville Island**, a well-known Gentoo penguin rookery. Please listen for announcements regarding timings.

**Divers & Kayakers:** please listen for announcements regarding your activities.

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

1430 **Foyen Harbour.** This morning we hope to take you out on a Zodiac cruise in the area around Enterprise Island and into Foyen Harbour. The island scenery is beautiful with high ice cliffs and small inlets. We will also visit the ship wreck of the *Governøren*, which is an old whaling ship that caught fire in 1915 and was deliberately sunk by the crew to try and save her. There are sometimes humpback whales in the area so we will go exploring and see what we can find.

*This will be a **split activity** with half of the group cruising while the other half remains on the ship. We will then take the second half of the group cruising. Please listen for announcements.*

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

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

# Antarctica and Polar Circle

Deception and Halfmoon Islands

Friday 16<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.*

0630 Wake-up call.

~0700 Sailing through Neptune's Bellows.

0700 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

0800 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.*

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1500 This afternoon we hope to land at **Half Moon Island**, a well-known nesting site for chinstrap penguins.

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

1900 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.**





# Antarctica and Polar Circle

At Sea

Saturday 17<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 **Phil** will present his talk, **Ice Monsters of Antarctica** in the Dining Room.

1630 **Toby** was part of the 4 years of filming for the new BBC production, **Planet Earth 2**. Come along to the **Dining Room** to find out about what goes on behind the scenes in a project such as this.

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

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

2045 Come and join Quiz Master Phil in the Lounge as he tests your Antarctic knowledge in the **Plancius Pub Quiz!** Make up teams of 4 – 6 people, and come up with a creative team name.

We are sailing in open waters, please remember to secure your cabins and belongings and move carefully around the ship.

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

- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3) for one hour.
- 0930 ***Divers Only***: Catherine and the Dive team will be in the Lounge to stamp your logbooks. **Please ensure your dive kit is removed by 1000.**
- 1000 ***Kayakers Only***: Meet with Zet in the boot room to return your gear.
- 1030 Join **Doctor Tanja** in the **Dining Room** to hear her about her recent experience, **Living with Emperor Penguins.**
- 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.*
- ~1630 **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.
- 1800 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a **final briefing** and a **farewell toast** from your Captain.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
- After dinner:** *Payments will recommence at Reception, if necessary. Please listen for announcements.*

Although we will be alongside ***you are not permitted to disembark until we have been cleared by the port authorities.*** Please wait for announcements!

0700 Wake Up Call.

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

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

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

0830 All passengers leave the ship.

- If you are catching the airport bus: please ensure you collect your luggage and place it on the bus.
- If you have an afternoon flight: You can have your luggage stored. Please bring it to the truck on the pier and it will be taken to 'Il Gatto' at ***Avenida Maipú 1210.*** This building has a green roof and is located past the service station and approximately 350 m to the left as you leave the pier. ***You will need to pick up your luggage before 1400.***
- If you are staying in Ushuaia: You are free to leave the pier on foot with your luggage by the customs control entrance. Taxis can be found opposite the entrance to the pier.

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