

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA Basecamp

on board

m/v Ortelius

December 29th, 2018 to January 09th, 2019



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.

OCEANWIDE

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 55

including

First Officer: Second Officer: Third Officer: Third Officer: Chief Engineer: Hotel Manager: Assist. Hotel Manager: Head Chef: Sous Chef: Ship's Physician: Tony Salo Diederik Scholten Luis Oroceo Andy Mangilit Guntis Dizbite Sigi Penzenleitner Melanie Penzenleitner Sean Steele Gaurav Bawa Duncan Gray

I

[Finland]

[Philippines]

[Philippines]

[Latvia]

[Austria]

[Austria]

[India]

[Scotland]

[The Netherlands]

[New Zealand / Canada]

and

Expedition Leader: Assist. Expedition Leader: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition/Snowshoe Guide: Expedition/Photographic Guide Camping Guide: Camping Guide: Kayak Guide: Mountaineering Guide: Beau Pruneau Sandra Petrowitz Marijke De Boer Claudio Ghiglione James Saulino Werner Kruse Grace Bodo Mark Vogler Pete Gwatkin Mal Haskins Trevor Streat [Canada/Germany] [Germany] [The Netherlands] [Italy] [United Kingdom] [South Africa] [United States] [United States] [Scotland] [New Zealand] [New Zealand]

welcome you on board!

Day 1 – December 29th, 2018 Embarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 1600: 54°48.6'S, 068°17.0'W Wind: SW 3 Weather: partly cloudy Air Temp: 12°C Sea Temp: 6°C



It was a very typical summer day in Ushuaia when we started our expedition cruise to the white continent: one moment it rained, the next moment the sun came out. At the end of the world, this is fairly common weather! In the afternoon we walked all the way to the end of the pier where Ortelius was moored, and by 16:00 we were invited to board our new home for the next twelve days. Hotel Manager Sigi and his assistant Melanie handed us our key cards, and we were shown to our cabins where we found our luggage already waiting for us. After some exploring of the ship, we gathered in the Lecture Room for the mandatory Safety

Briefing which was followed by a Safety Drill – we all got to wear our big orange lifejackets and assembled in the Bar before heading to the top deck to have a look into one of the lifeboats.

Meanwhile, Ortelius was on her way into the Beagle Channel – we were on our way to Antarctica! We had a bit of time to bask in the sun and take in the fantastic views before we were called to the Lounge on Deck 6 where we were welcomed by Captain Ernesto Barria and raised the glass for a toast to our



voyage. Afterwards, we got to know the members of the Expedition Team before we headed to the Dining Room for our first dinner on board, a sumptuous meal prepared by the chefs and their team.

Duncan, the ship's doctor, handed out patches and medical advice on how to prevent us getting seasick, and equipped with knowledge and patches, we made our way to the top deck to enjoy the perfectly calm waters of the Beagle Channel and the gorgeous sunset colours. A pod of dolphins came bow-riding, we spotted penguins, gulls, shags and other avifauna, and later on there was even a Minke whale to be seen. What a pleasant and exciting start to our voyage!



Day 2 – December 30th, 2018 Drake Passage: At Sea towards Antarctica

GPS position at 0800: 56°36.5′S, 065°32.0′W **Wind:** W 6 **Sea State:** moderate **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** 7°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C



The Ortelius was heaving slightly when Beau's voice woke us up. A gentle Drake Passage start and the Ortelius was already surrounded by effortlessly flying Black-browed Albatrosses and Giant Petrels. After a lovely breakfast the real action started. The day was full of activity briefings, for being a basecamp voyage there were many different things for everyone to take part in. There was, in particular, kayaking and mountaineering briefings for us to attend. After lunch, Gracie and Mark gave a briefing on camping and later in the afternoon Marijke gave a talk about penguins explaining their adaptions how to survive the cold Antarctic conditions.

Whoever was out on the decks or on the Bridge could admire the different seabirds following the ship, among them the black-and-white speckled Cape Petrels, brown Giant Petrels, Black-browed Albatrosses, and the largest of them all, the Wandering and Royal Albatrosses. The Wandering Albatross is the largest flying bird in the world, a magnificent creature with a wingspan of 3.5m!

During our daily briefing and recap, Sandra informed us about nautical terms such as knots and nautical miles, and Gracie told us all there is to know about the Antarctic Convergence. Beau and James showed us how to use the snowshoes!

Slowly it was time for the day to come to an end, after a wonderful dinner served piping hot, everyone slowly made their way to their cabins, into their warm cozy bed and with the sea continuing to be rather gently we were ready for another night of dreams about our upcoming adventures.

Those of us who stayed up to 'witness' the crossing of the Antarctic Convergence were treated on seeing a group of (probably) fin whales. The whales were taking advantage of the rich waters of the Convergence due to the upwelling of water that brings fresh nutrients to the surface.



Day 3 – December 31st, 2018 Drake Passage: At Sea towards Antarctica

GPS position at 0800: 61°02.0'S, 063°04.4'W

Wind: WNW 3 Sea State: slight Weather: partly cloudy Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: -1°C



We had a really nice night in the Drake Shake and we crossed the Antarctic Convergence around midnight. The morning started with a sunny day and clear sky. A lot of Cape Petrels, Prions, Wandering and Sooty Albatrosses were flying around the Ortelius sailing deeper into the Southern Ocean.

We had a busy morning following breakfast, first as Expedition Leader Beau presented the mandatory zodiac safety briefing and IAATO regulations for going ashore, followed by a visit to Deck 3 Lecture Room to get our rubber boots and zodiac life vests issued, in anticipation of our arrival at the Antarctic Peninsula the following morning.



After lunch we started our biosecurity "Vacuum Party" in the bar, where all of us made sure to pick away seeds and clean dirt from outer wear, hiking equipment and camera bags, to prevent non-native species becoming established in this pristine environment.

In the afternoon our South African staff photographer, Werner, gave us his photography tips and tricks for capturing great images of wildlife and the jaw-dropping landscapes of the Great White Continent. After our New Year's Eve dinner, we were all called back into the bar for the great Ortelius New Year's Eve Quiz (Trivia), in which Gracie and all the expedition team tested whether we had actually learned anything during the first days of this trip about Antarctica, staff and biology. The winning team was awarded with several bottles of fizz with which to celebrate the New Year...scores were impressively high, showing that much thinking and listening had gone on during the lectures and recaps.







Day 4 – January 1st, 2019 Cuverville Island & Orne Harbour

GPS position at 0800: 64°40.0'S, 062°38.4'W Wind: SW 2 Sea State: -- Weather: clear Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 0°C



Happy New Year! 2019 welcomed us with calm seas, blue skies, fantastic colours and stunning landscape wrapped all around the ship. In the early morning, *Ortelius* was sailing in the Gerlache Strait towards our first destination in Antarctica, Cuverville Island. Some of us hadn't even gone to bed while others were a bit late for breakfast which, admittedly, was rather early for a New Year's Day. Then again, how often does one get

to celebrate the start of a new year in Antarctica? So, to breakfast we went then we layered up, put on our lifejackets and headed out to the gangway where the Zodiacs were already waiting for us. Our first Zodiac ride was an exciting one – with lots of beautiful icebergs to look at, plenty of penguins porpoising and glaciated mountains to both sides of the channel. On shore, the welcoming committee was already waiting: several Gentoo penguins and a lone Adelie penguin which is quite an unusual sight in this spot. The guides had



marked paths for us to walk on, some of which we shared with the penguins who of course had the right of way, leading to the different parts of one of the largest Gentoo colonies on the Antarctic Peninsula. Sights, sounds, scents – it was overwhelming, and some of us just found themselves a spot to sit, watch, and enjoy while others trekked from site to site to see all of it. The kayakers came paddling into the bay while the mountaineers had gone to the neighbouring island of Rongé to make their way up a snow ledge to gain fantastic views of the ice-clogged waters with icy peaks in the background. Way too soon it was time to return to the ship.



While we were having lunch, *Ortelius* relocated to our afternoon landing spot, and the calm weather of the morning only got better: The sun came out, and we were looking at fantastic conditions for a landing on the outside of Orne Harbour. The mountaineers were the first ones to go for Spigot Peak, then the kayakers set out all the while two Humpback whales surfaced and swam and fed quite close to the ship and, after a short Zodiac ride, we all set foot on the continent of Antarctica! The snowshoe trail was a bit steep and felt a tad slippery in places but we were about as determined to go up to the colony or the viewpoint as were the Chinstrap penguins making their way from nesting spots down to the water or the other way around. It was amazingly warm in the sun, and it was hard to decide where to look first: at the Chinstraps with the first chicks appearing under the bellies of the parents, or at the scenery of Orne Harbour with huge glaciers and a lot of ice, or outwards over the Gerlache Strait where the kayakers were with the whales now. Only the mountaineers could possibly have had an even better view than us from their summit, and it was not an easy job at all for the guides to get us back to the ship in time!

Yet the first day of the new year had more in store for us. On the way to our camping spot, a pod of Orcas appeared, and they even seemed to be interested in two Humpbacks, possibly a mother with calf. Unfortunately, we could not linger to watch the scene unfold further but it was great to get some good views of

those fascinating marine mammals. Shortly after 21:00 we reached Doumer Island where the campers went ashore for their first night out in Antarctica and it could not have been a better spot nor a better night, for the light was glorious, there was hardly any wind, and the surroundings with the Seven Sisters and Jabet Peak towering over the islands were breath-taking. Small wonder some people got hardly any sleep at all but kept taking it all in, photo-



graphically or otherwise. Meanwhile, *Ortelius* retraced parts of her earlier route in the Neumayer Channel treating all of us on board to a magic Antarctic evening – honestly, it could not have been any better than this!

Kayaking

AM: Cuverville Island – Group 1 (14 persons)

What an incredible morning, arriving in Antarctica and to be greeted with sunny spells, light winds and calm seas! For Group 1 of the 114 signed up for kayaking these were just perfect conditions to enjoy their first activity experience in Antarctica. Cuverville delivered ice sculptures of all sizes that provided a perfect backdrop for the kayakers to manoeuvre around at a safe distance. A journey across the open water allowed the kayakers to spend some time with the Gentoo penguins washing themselves at the beach, always fun to watch and particularly nice from the sea. After a final round of group pictures it was (all too soon) time to weave our way back towards the waiting ship and lunch back on board.



PM: Orne Harbour – Group 2 (14 persons)

Nothing but light winds, calm seas, sunshine and blue skies the whole way for the afternoon kayaking trip. A full quota of 'mad for it' Kiwi's and other equally adventurous kayakers were 'all in' for the full polar kayaking experience, Antarctica certainly delivered in ways none of the participants had imagined. The group of 14 followed the coastal line at the glacier edge away from the landing site to a peaceful position where they could all switch off and just listen in silence. Although the group were silent the environment was not. The sounds of calving ice cliffs, bird calls, penguins porpoising and the small pieces of popping ice knocking against the sides of the kayaks all completely filled one's senses and stimulated the imagination. There was also a small matter of a big marine mammal wishing to spend 30 minutes with the kayakers!! The pictures sum up the moment better than any words.





New Year's Day Mountaineering

AM: Rongé Island, Georges Point

Our first landing in Antarctica on New Year's Day was full of adventure. We had awoken to calm seas, lite winds and amazing views of the Peninsula and a rising sense of excitement that our journey in Antarctica was actually real! Our landing was a little bit wet and now we understood why we needed to use Muck boots to get ashore – the snow on the beach was quite high and the Gentoo penguin colony was just above us on a small series of rocky outcrops.

After getting ourselves established on the snow, getting into snowshoes and wandering up towards the glacier, Mal and Trev roped us up for glacier travel and we headed of towards a small col on the low flanks of Mt Adams that offered us amazing views of the Gerlache Strait.

The snow was actually quite frozen and even though we didn't have crampons on, our snowshoes were able to give us enough grip make us feel secure going both up and down the small slope. A stiff breeze had picked up about 200m above sea level and despite taking shelter in a col

we were rapidly cooling down. Heading back down to the shore we reflected that even if we had gotten ourselves into trouble, we would have been kept safe – Banana Man was there to save us!



PM: Orne Harbour, Spigot Peak





Our first afternoon ashore gave us the opportunity to use the technical terrain above Orne Harbour. Our guides were not certain that the snow conditions would allow them to keep a large group secure on the Peak so the numbers for this technical trip were kept low. Six hardy climbers set out to break trail towards the Chinstrap penguin colony that perches itself high above the sea here.

The snow leading towards the true start of Spigot Peak was reasonably deep and the travel was slow. We climbed to a point where we could leave our snowshoes behind and then travel up between rock and snow for about 50 m before reaching our crampon point. The terrain from here was steep and exposed but the

snow actually allowed Mal and Trev to kick good steps which gave us secure footing. This meant that we could all move together slowly up the hill in two ropes.

Reaching the small summit gave as incredible views in 360 degrees. The wind was lite to moderate and the temperature quite acceptable. After sending the 1st Officer our best wishes from the summit we began the descent – going down is actually harder in many ways than going up. Good solid secure footwork was needed along with a slow steady pace to bring us back down to our snow shoes.



From the Chinstrap Colony view point it was easy going

along a well-worn path back to shore where we jumped back on the zodiacs and we were whisked back to *Ortelius* by Sandra for hot showers, a snack and hot drinks!

Camping

Doumer Island

After a stunning first day in Antarctica, the great weather continued into the night and we had a perfect camping evening. Several gentoo penguins and one chinstrap were waiting to greet us on shore. The sunset colours were reflecting off the glaciers and mountains. We all worked on assembling our camp bags and digging our trenches. Then we did a short walk to get more



sunset views. Working together we made our 'ANTARCTICA' photo in front of our amazing view spot. After a bit more fun everyone headed for the warmth of their bivy bags for a few hours of sleep.

Day 5 – January 2nd, 2019 Lemaire Channel, Pléneau Bay & Peltier Channel

GPS position at 0800: 65°03.2'S, 063°54.8'W

Wind: SW 4 Sea State: calm Weather: partly cloudy Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 0°C



The day started rather crispy and blue as the ship sailed down towards the Lemaire Channel. Hoping the narrow passage would be free of ice and passable, we made our way towards the entrance while everyone gathered outside on deck and enjoyed the beautiful views and sunshine. But alas, there was still too much ice around the channel. Not to fear, we managed to get through it but were not able to make a landing at



Port Charcot, a small bay on Booth Island named after the famous French Antarctic explorer. There was simply too much ice!

As we headed further south, the wind reduced and the clouds moved away to bless us with another beautiful warm Antarctic day. Many Crabeater seals were observed hauled out on ice floes, and large icebergs sparkled in the sun as *Ortelius* wove her way through the ice and wildlife. Occasional Weddell seals and one Leopard seal were also seen basking in the sun on thick ice floes. After lunch we continued to cruise towards Petermann Island but again our efforts were hampered by the ice. We changed our plans (again) and made our way to Peltier Channel where we launched all the Zodiacs for a wonderful sunny afternoon glacier cruise. Some Weddell seals were hauled out on the coastline, sleepily scratching about, and a nesting site of Antarctic Cormorants revealed goodsized chicks!



During our daily briefing, Beau in-

formed us about the upcoming plans and Marijke spoke about Crabeater seals – the most abundant seal on the planet. Mal completed the recap with an informative overview of calving glaciers.



Kayaking

PM: Peltier Channel – Group 4 (10 persons)

Unfortunately, with the volume of ice laying in both the bay and on the landing shore the morning activities had to be cancelled for safety reasons. Ice conditions also prevented the ship from meeting the Petermann schedule so it was full steam ahead towards plan B. A full ship's cruise dictated that only 10 of the signed-up 14 kayakers in Group 4 could therefore participate in the afternoon kayaking schedule. The team discussed the most logical and best fit to reduce 14 participants to 10, the kayak guide being most appreciative to the manner in which this happened and the willingness of the 4 to step down and be rescheduled. A gorgeous afternoon then unfolded for the 10 lucky people to enjoy a downwind paddle with a ship's drop-off at point A and pick up some miles later at point B. Ice cliffs on the right-hand side (all the way) with an interesting colony of Cormorants to visit on an island halfway down. Sunshine and great views at the end of the trip before final pictures and back on board for recap.



Camping

Stony Point

Hard to believe, but we had another day of fantastic weather, continuing into the night for perfect camping conditions. We got our camping kits and loaded into the Zodiacs and headed towards the shore. Waiting for us at Stony Point were Weddell seals, Crabeater seals and Southern Giant petrels, even a white morph! Several penguins were right at our landing spot to greet us as well. The beach was full of krill, making obvious why so many penguins were swimming around in the waters. As we were digging our trenches and putting our camp kits together we saw a few good calvings from the nearby glacier. We did two groups for our Antarctica photo which came out really good, and started getting ready for bed. Sleeping in Antarctica! All through the night we heard sounds from the glaciers.





Day 6 – January 3rd, 2019 Useful Island & Rongé Island: Ketley Point

GPS position at 0800: 64°41.9'S, 062°51.9'W

Wind: WSW 2 Sea State: smooth Weather: sunny Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: -1°C



Our day was special in many regards as we explored two places only few members of the Expedition Team had ever visited before – in other words, it was a true Expedition Day! In the morning we went to Useful



Island. On our way to the landing site our Zodiac ride took us through iceberg-clogged waters which was part of the exciting experience! After landing at a rocky ledge we followed a narrow pathway in the snow slowly making our way to the top of the island where we were treated to incredible views all across the Gerlache Strait and towards Rongé Island all the while we were surrounded by Gentoo, even some Chinstrap penguins and Skua for sure! The kayakers had come to play amongst the bergy bits close to the island as well.

After the lunch, the team moved to the second landing site – and again, what a great time we had at Ketley Point on Rongé Island! From inside a tiny cove we made our way to the top of the hill passing really close to

a young Weddell seal taking a rest right next to the path, different groups of Gentoo penguins and Chinstrap penguins. Again, the experience was simply amazing!

After the landing we returned to the ship for dinner surrounded by the beauty of the Gerlache with ice-clad mountains and the odd whale blow in the distance.





Kayaking

AM: Useful Island – Group 5 (11 persons)

Always disappointing when people simply don't turn up for activities without any explanation. The reduced group size of 11 enjoyed a wonderful morning in the shelter of the landing site at a really useful island. The force of the wind away from the shores encouraged us to stay in close and spend time with the penguins and the grounded ice-burgs in the bay. There was time for everyone to develop some kayak manoeuvre skills around the ice-burgs and lots of time to have a photo shoot in front of a particularly sparkly small piece of

ice grounded in 12 inches of water. A short journey back towards the vessel in the open seas allowed all the participants to push the envelope a little and stay on the water as long as they dared before the waves got too big and the guide called the session to a close. Lots of happy faces from all the 10 lovely women that all took part and also from one very lucky guy.



PM: Ketley Point – Group 6 (14 persons)

It was a windy afternoon blowing 20 knots offshore with whitecaps all around the ship. There was however the possibility for kayaking to take place in the shelter of the shoreline. This would be a shorter trip that took account of the prevailing weather conditions. Some initial kayaking skills training and practice took place (in the shelter of the rocks) at the beginning of the afternoon for those who were unable to control their kayaks

from the go. Once everyone was in control of their craft a journey then took place from the Chinstrap colony to the landing area where the Gentoo's had taken up residence. This point was to be the venue for the polar plunge later in the afternoon that 11 of the 14 kayakers had elected to take part in. Away from the landing area the kayakers continued down the rocky coastline until they reached the large glacier that marked the endpoint. More photos then back onboard the Zodiacs and return to the ship for a speedy turnaround before the polar plunge.



Mountaineering

AM: Ketley Point

While the rest of the passengers and staff on *Ortelius* were getting ready to go and explore Useful Island the Mountaineering team headed off in their own Zodiacs on a longer open-water crossing to reach Ketley Point. An amazing location filled with seals, penguins, shags and incredible rock formations covered in lichen we could also access the glacier above for a great walk up to a high point affording us, yet again, amazing views of the surrounding area. Trev needed to take one person back down to our landing to rest whilst Mal roped us all up on one single rope to continue our wander. The glacier here looks benign but the rope is 100% needed as any crevasses are well hidden by the snow.

As short while later we arrived back to our landing to find that obviously our Mountain Guides were well grounded – and so were our Zodiacs. The tide had still been going out but this was nothing that a bit of team work couldn't easily solve.





PM: Ketley Point

Trev and Mal were keen to explore a new option for a slightly more technical glacier walk in the afternoon. Landing on a broad glacial tongue coming down between towering serac cliffs gave us safe access to get up and onto the main glacier above us. Beginning our journey back to the landing site it was easy to see that both Mal and Trev were being quite cautious through this new and technical crevassed terrain. Stopping at one crevasse we were able to safely look down and into the bowels of the glacier and we got a new appreciation of what crevasses really are like!

Shortly after Mal broke through a bridge of snow into a hidden crevasse and was left hanging with his feet unable to touch the sides of the crevasse wall beneath him. Trev reached him safely and with negotiations finished as to what it was worth to Mal to be



assisted out of the crevasse, we were able to safely move out of the crevasses field and back to a high point over the normal landing site.

A short snow slide later and we were back to watch with amusement the final passengers completing the polar plunge before it was time to get back to the ship to get warm yet again.



Camping

Leith Cove

A stunning spot with 360-degree views, Leith Cove was an excellent campsite for the (again!) perfect conditions: no wind and a clear evening. We all got to shore and after a short but steep climb we were rewarded with those amazing views, with many very close glaciers. Camping tonight was the GLT group plus a few friends who had been made along the journey. So, for sure it would be a fun evening with lots of laughs and photos. A bit of fun chaos as we got in position for our 'ANTARCTICA' photo. Then many, many group photos to follow, a few of them with not too many layers. We had a lot of space to spread out on our island top, some took advantage of this for a bit of privacy to enjoy the views in peace. As we were preparing our camp spots for the night and taking photos a group of humpbacks had been making their way close in. They stayed around for the entire night. After quite a good evening everyone got in their bivy bags and were tucked in with a few photos. We could hear the whales all through the night.



Day 7 – January 4th, 2019 Neko Harbour & Danco Island

GPS position at 0800: 64°50.7'S, 062°34.1'W Wind: var. 2 Sea State: smooth Weather: sunny Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 0°C



Beautiful conditions welcomed us in the Gerlache Strait this morning. With a blue sky, calm seas and a lot of ice around we sailed to Neko Harbour for our daily landing. The Zodiac ride itself was an amazing experience, zipping past beautifully sculpted icebergs in near perfect conditions. The snow conditions were good enough for walking without snowshoes (as long as you stayed on the path!) so many explorers continued up the trail



past a few Gentoo rookeries and up a steep slope hoping for a payoff on top besides just a sweaty base layer. Others spent most of the time enjoying the blue colour of the terminal glacier face in the bay, waiting for a big piece of ice to tumble down, looking at the chicks presents in the Gentoo colony and in the nests and enjoying the gorgeous views over Neko with a lot of smaller icebergs right in front of the landing site and bigger ones further out in Andvord Bay. While we were having lunch, the ship relocated towards Danco Island. Zodiacs were put into the water and soon we were all on land where we had different options of getting a view and stretching our legs. Most of us aimed to climb up to the top of the island to admire the view over almost the entire Errera Channel and the Arctowski Peninsula – and of course, over the Gentoo Penguins nesting up there. The view from the top showed us several massive icebergs (including Big Mama!) in the bay surrounded by glacier-clad mountains and clouds.



When we went back to the ship the time was perfect for a polar BBQ on the heli deck. The hotel staff had prepared the best BBQ in the polar regions and at the end of the dinner we took a passenger group photo on the back of the deck. The night continued in the bar singing and dancing!



Kayaking

AM: Neko Harbour – Group 7 (15 persons)

Yet another fabulous day dawned over the Peninsula with stellar conditions at Neko Harbour. This allowed an oversubscribed group of 15 very able kayakers to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience amongst the ice. Cameras clicking from the get-go all the way to the end of the morning. The most difficult decision for the kayakers was deciding from one amazing backdrop in the lens to the next. Photo shoots in front of the blue ice and amongst the small bergy-bits no doubt filled most of the memory cards and hopefully all of the memory banks that will never be deleted. A truly magical morning.



PM: Danco Island – Group 8 (12 persons + Doctor)

As the kayakers left the vessel and boarded the Zodiac heading for the shelter of the channel (to the left of the landing area) some were exchanged jokes about the likelihood of seeing some more whales amongst the ice-burgs. The kayak guide joked about the fact he had booked whales for a 3pm sighting and for everybody to stick together as a group and be prepared. Well, a little earlier than anticipated mother nature



once again provided the kayakers with a spectacle that none will ever likely experience again. The kayakers on OTL27 were truly Humpied for the second time in one expedition. Once is unusual but twice is completely crazy and a first for the kayak guide who has led Antarctic basecamp kayaking trips for 8 seasons. The ice-burg pics and encounters with the ice climbing mountaineers was super fun however the afternoon show was stolen by one particular rather large cetacean.

Mountaineering

AM: Neko Harbour

The journey above Neko Harbour is always amazing and this day was no exception. Neko offers a long, slow steadily rising climb to a point just below a set of cliffs. It was a beautiful morning with an amazing halo around the sun – this halo was giving us a warning for the possible weather to come later that night and over the next few days.



Continued amazing calm winds and mirror-like seas gave us incredible views. A lite wind had picked up by the time we reached our high point and by the time we had started to cool down it was time to make a move back towards the beach via the look out over the glacier.

This view point, and indeed anywhere in Neko Harbour allows you to really see

what glacial calving is all about and we weren't disappointed! A few amazing ice calvings gave a few of us a momentary startle but there was nothing to worry about where we were – nor for those still on the beach.

The mountain team was again the first and last team to reach and leave the shore and we zipped back to *Ortelius* for lunch.



PM: Danco Island

With a team of 12 keen people with technical boots and the attitude to fit we headed off to find a location to get our ice tools swinging and to get a taste of near-vertical ice climbing with the ocean lapping at our feet.

Trev and Mal ran the ropes up on the ice and then got us all fired up and ready to go. With a bit of coaching and technique development we were all running up and down the ice face with increasing confidence.

The slowly rising tide reminded us that time was passing and so after packing up our equipment we wandered back to the main landing site to board a Zodiac and head back to *Ortelius* for dinner.





Day 8 – January 5th, 2019 Port Lockroy & Dorian Bay/Damoy Point

GPS position at 0800: 64°49.8'S, 063°30.9'W Wind: NE 4-5 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 0°C



Overnight we headed across to Port Lockroy, our destination for today. Port Lockroy used to be French, but served as a British base later on. Nowadays, the old 'Base A' contains a museum and the penguin post office. As it is built on a small island, it is not possible to land everyone at the same time. For this reason, half of us would first visit the museum and the shop while the other half remained on board *Ortelius* as there was too much ice in order for us to land also at Jougla Point. The museum at Port Lockroy shows how a base operated in the 50's. The post office gave us the opportunity to send



seasonal greetings from Antarctica, and to post our many, many, many penguin postcards. Just next to the museum we could admire the tiniest chicks of Gentoo penguins. Their parents were taking turns in feeding them. Across from the museum we saw several Weddell seals, and we spotted our first Leopard seal hauled out on a giant ice floe.



After lunch we sailed around the corner for our afternoon landing at Damoy Point. This is a spit of land jutting out into Dorian Bay. Right above there used to be a landing strip for all the British aircraft coming into Lockroy, for scientists who were heading further south to Rothera Base. Flying in from the Falklands, they were landing at Damoy, then hopping onto a ship heading further south to Rothera. Nowadays it is simply a reminder of the good old days, as the British base now has their own hard strip for direct flights. The wind had settled down; however, there was a lot of ice in front of the entrance to the landing site and it was low tide so the approach was quite thrilling – the Zodiacs snuck through a narrow, shallow opening between the reef and a perfectly blue iceberg. A snowshoe hike took us up to the ridgeline that was used by the British as an ice airstrip. From here we enjoyed panoramic views out over the bay. The penguin peepers peeped away at even tinier chicks and the sun came out too! Near the hut were even tinier Gentoo chicks, with most penguins having one egg and one chick – they were rather busy fighting off (successfully) a large South Polar Skua.

During our daily briefing, Sandra told us who *Ortelius* really was and Mal showed us impressive photos of a rather steep climb. Beau gave us an overview of what was planned for tomorrow – obviously, it was going to be a day of surprises!



Kayaking

PM: Dorian Bay (14 persons)

After the morning session had to be cancelled due to high winds at Port Lockroy, also the afternoon kayaking looked sketchy on the outside of Dorian Bay with winds gusting in excess of 20 knots. Fortunately, the bay itself looked very different and offered (some of the less experienced kayakers) some shelter and an opportunity to learn some of the basic kayak-handling skills. This scenario worked out well and as the skill levels improved amongst the teams of two during the early part of the afternoon the winds eased to allow a journey along the coastline towards Goudier. The journey through the ice was magical and the backdrop simply incredible. The afternoon kayaking surpassed all expectations and completed the kayaking schedule for OTL27. All those signed up for kayaking had been offered an opportunity to take part during the expedition, 108 being the final total of participants.

Pete (the kayak guide) would like to extend his thanks to all the kayakers on board OTL27 whom took part in such a positive way. Without exception, everyone behaved responsibly on the water and people were incredibly helpful as regards usage and storage of equipment. It was a pleasure kayaking with all of you and may I wish you well in all your future kayaking adventures wherever they may take you.

Happy paddling!

Pete



Mountaineering

Jabet Peak

It is not often that the weather, the ship's schedule and the snow conditions all align to allow an attempt to be made to summit Jabet Peak – but that doesn't stop us from planning to make the attempt.



The technical nature and snow / ice conditions on Jabet mean that only a small team is really able to make the attempt. On the morning of the 5th the weather was a bit touchy as whilst it was mostly clear the wind was quite strong. As the morning progressed the winds were easing and with the forecast to continue to ease the go-ahead was given to go ashore. A short steep climb out of the ocean got us up onto the glacier to make the approach to where we could drop the snowshoes and get into crampons.

Conditions were quite firm and icy all the way to the summit. Mal and Trev needed to change modes from glacier travel to short-roping and then to pitched climbing to keep us secure.

Reaching the summit shelf, we changed again back into glacier travel before crossing the bergschrund and reaching the final steep gulley to the summit. At 580 m above sea level it had taken us five hours to reach this point from the ship and we had at least three hours to go before we reached the new landing site for our pick-up.



With the obligatory summit pictures taken we started our descent. Trev and Mal lowered us through the steep sections we had climbed and then with increasing confidence we made our way back down to the point where we had left our snowshoes.

The snow surface had started to melt and weaken which meant that the journey back to the shore was a slow process but after reaching the landing site we could all sit back, relax and look at our summit ... before quickly being taken back to the ship for a well-deserved late lunch!







Camping

Doumer Island

While we had missed camping the previous night due to bad weather, it actually had worked out perfectly for group 4. We enjoyed the BBQ on board the night before, skipped the miserable weather and instead went the next night in beautiful conditions. It was a small group, only 14 of us for the night. We made quick work of setting up our camp spots and had time to enjoy the sights and company of our fellow campers. The sunset was shining off the nearby mountains as we took our group photo then and we got comfortable in our bivy bags for our last night in Antarctica.





Day 9 – January 6th, 2019 Rongé Island: Georges Point

GPS position at 0800: 64°38.3'S, 062°44.0'W

Wind: SE 3 Sea State: calm Weather: partly cloudy Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 0°C



This morning we were greeted by a clear sky and intense sunshine as *Ortelius* steamed towards Georges Point, a small rocky outcrop with stunning scenery. With only a few hours available before heading north back to Ushuaia, this was to be a quick landing. After some scouting to find a suitable landing spot we once again found ourselves 'on the beach'. More Gentoo penguins were awaiting us with the occasional blue-eyed Antarctic Cormorants too and another Leopard seal.



After lunch we began our journey north transiting through the Gerlache Strait during another beautiful Antarctic afternoon. Claudio gave a lecture on climate change – a serious problem that is having a big impact on the fragile Antarctic ecosystem. Whale spouts were seen all around and some humpback whales cruised close by the *Ortelius*, waving their flukes and flippers as if to say goodbye to us.

During our daily briefing, Beau informed us about the upcoming plans and Grace spoke to us about happywhale.com – a brilliant and very easy-to-use website where we can submit all our whale fluke photos. This is the only way to learn more about the still largely unknown migration routes of the whales that come to feed down in Antarctica. Mal completed the recap with an informative lecture on why glacier ice is blue, green or white.

The seas were incredibly calm as we left the last of the Antarctic Peninsula islands behind. Dinner was on schedule as the *Ortelius* prepared for the crossing of the Southern Ocean's Drake Passage.


Day 10 – January 7th, 2019 At Sea in the Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 60°54.9'S, 063°15.0'W Wind: WNW 4 Sea State: slight Weather: sunny Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: --



This morning we were allowed to stay in bed longer – Beau's wake-up call came at 07:45 before Sigi's gentle voice reminded us of breakfast. The Drake continued to be at its best possible with warm sunshine and calm seas. At 10:00, we were invited to attend Mal's lecture about glaciology. Afterwards, many of us spent time on deck and on the bridge watching to catch whales, birds and other sea life. Then at 14:30 we joined Marijke to learn about whale identification. In the late afternoon *Ortelius* crossed the Antarctic Convergence and we were officially out of Antarctic waters. While some remained in their cabins catching up on rest, many were in the Bar throughout the day, writing journals, editing photos, playing board and card games, learning a bit more from the lectures and visiting amongst the passengers.

Just before dinner, we met in the Bar for the daily recap where Sigi told us some important details about closing up for our departure; we looked at some photos of the day from Mal, and Gracie showed us just how big some of the seabirds and Antarctic avifauna are in terms of wingspan. Then it was off to dinner, followed by some retiring to the cabins while others headed back to the Bar to upload photos to the share folder, play more card games or have a few drinks with fellow friends.



Day 11 – January 8th, 2019 At Sea in the Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°33.3′S, 066°44.9′W **Wind:** SE 6 **Sea State:** moderate **Weather:** sunny **Air Temp:** 9°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C



The Drake Passage had treated us to another incredibly calm night with only slight movement of the ship as we drew ever closer towards our destination. As we had made exceptionally good progress, we were able spot land in the distance already at about breakfast time – we had the southern tip of South America in sight! Lots of Black-browed Albatrosses, Sooty Shearwaters and some White-chinned Petrels were around, and we

also saw some of the huge Royal Albatrosses. After breakfast, Mark invited us to the Lecture Room for his presentation about a very different voyage: the semi-circumnavigation of Antarctica on board Ortelius, going from New Zealand all the way to Ushuaia exploring the Ross Sea. What a contrast to afterwards step out on deck being greeted by the balmy temperatures, blue skies and warm sunshine just off Cape Horn!

In the afternoon it was finally time to settle our



ship's accounts and hand in our rubber boots and Zodiac lifejackets – it looked like our journey was coming to an end indeed, even more so with the Captain's Farewell. What an incredible trip we had had! The Dining Room was buzzing with excitement as was the Bar afterwards while *Ortelius* made her way into the Beagle Channel to pick up the pilot and continue towards Ushuaia.

Day 12 – January 9th, 2019 Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48.6'S, 068°17.0'W

All good things come to an end, and unfortunately this is not just a saying. Today was our last morning on *Ortelius*. After a final night in the cabin which had started to feel like home, we were instructed to put our duffels, backpacks and suitcases in the corridors this morning so the crew could take them out and off the ship to be ready for transport to the airport or the storage facility in town. After one more breakfast it was time to say goodbye. Goodbye to the ship and its crew and staff, goodbye to all new friends. Appointments were made to stay in touch and farewells were said. All could look back to an absolutely stunning voyage with highlights too numerous to mention. At 08:30 everyone handed in the keys to the cabins, picked up their luggage from the pier, and set off by bus or foot towards our individual destinies, heading for new adventures and with many great memories.



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°09.00'S, 064°04.00'W

Total Distance Sailed: 1.749 nm

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Beau Pruneau, Hotel Manager Sigi Penzenleitner, and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



PHOTOGRAPHY Contest 2019

Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE WORTH A **€ 1000 GIFT VOUCHER**?

Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.







€ 500 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 30 April 2019. The photography contest runs from 01 November 2018 until 31 March 2019.









		29-dec	30-dec	31-dec	1-jan	2-jan	3-jan	4-jan	5-jan	6-jan	7-jan	8-jan
English	Latin											
Emperor Penguin	Aptenodytes forsteri											
Adelie Penguin	Pygoscelis adeliae				Х	Х				Х		
Gentoo Penguin	Pygoscelis papua papua				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Chinstrap Penguin	Pygoscelis antarctica			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х				
Macaroni Penguin	Eudyptes chrysolophus		Х									
Rockhopper Penguin	Eudyptes chrysocome	Х										
Magellanic Penguin	Spheniscus magellanicus	Х										Х
Wandering Albatross	Diomedea exulans		Х	Х							Х	Х
Northern Royal Albatross	Diomedea sanfordi											
Southern Royal Albatross	Diomedea epomophora		Х	Х								Х
Black-browed Albatross	Diomedea melanophris	Х	Х	Х							Х	Х
Grey-Headed Albatross	Diomedea chrysostoma										Х	Х
Light Mantled Albatross	Phoebetria palpebrata			Х							Х	
Northern Giant Petrel	Macronectes halli			Х								Х
Southern Giant Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х
Antarctic Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialoides			Х								
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	Daption capensis		Х	Х	Х	Х				Х	Х	
Antarctic Petrel	Thalassoica antarctica											
Snow Petrel	Pagodroma nivea					Х	Х					
Soft Plumaged Petrel	Pterodroma mollis											
Blue Petrel	Halobaena caerulea		Х								Х	
White-chinned Petrel	Procellaria aequinoctialis		Х	Х							Х	
Sooty Shearwater	Puffinus griseus											Х
Great Shearwater	Puffinus gravis											
Antarctic Prion	Pachyptila desolata			Х							Х	
Fairy Prion	Pachyptila turtur											
Slender-billed Prion	Pachyptila belcheri		Х									
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Oceanites oceanicus		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	Fregetta tropica			Х							Х	
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	Oceanites nereis											
English	Latin	29-dec	30-dec	31-dec	1-jan	2-jan	3-jan	4-jan	5-jan	6-jan	7-jan	8-jan

Species list: Birds and marine mammals seen 29 December 2018 to 08 January 2019

Common Diving-Petrel	Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard		X									
Megellanic Diving-Petrel	Pelecanoides magellani											
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	Phalacrocorax atriceps	Х										Х
Antarctic Shag	Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis				х	Х	х	Х	Х	х		
Pale-faced Sheatbill	Chionis alba				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Chilean Skua	Catharacta chilensis	Х										Х
South Polar Skua	Catharacta maccormicki				Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Sub-Antarctic/Brown Skua	Catharacta antarctica			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
South American Tern	Sterna hirundinacea	Х										Х
Antarctic Tern	Sterna vittata				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Marine mammals												
Southern Right Whale	Eubalaena australis											
Antarctic Minke Whale	Balaenoptera bonaerensis	Х			Х	Х		Х				
Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Blue Whale	Balaenoptera musculus											
Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus			Х						Х	Х	
Sei Whale	Balaenoptera borealis										Х	
S. Bottlenose Whale	Hyperoodon planifrons											
Long Finned Pilot whale	Globicephala melas		Х									
Killer Whale	Orcinus orca				Х			Х				
Hourglass Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus cruciger											
Peale's Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus australis	Х										Х
Dusky Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus obscurus	Х										
Leopard Seal	Hydrurga leptonyx				Х	Х			Х	Х		
Crabeater Seal	Lobodon carcinophagus					Х						
Weddell Seal	Leptonychotes weddelli					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Southern Elephant Seal	Mirounga leonin											
Antarctic Fur Seal	Arctocephalus gazella			Х								
Southern Sea Lion	Otaria flavescens	Х										

Beau Pruneau - Expedition Leader



Born in California near Los Angeles, Beau moved to Canada when he was one year old. Growing up in a log house in the Canadian wilderness he appreciated the great outdoors at an early age. After graduating college with a diploma in Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Management he headed to British Columbia to work at a ski resort in the Rocky Mountains where he continued to drive just about every type of mechanized vehicle as well as exploring the mountains by snowboard, mountain bike and on foot.

After meeting his German wife in B.C., he moved back to Ontario to work at a ski resort near the great lakes. In 2011 he crossed over to Germany permanently, trying his hand at making wine & building bikes while travelling the world with his wife. Happiest in a jeep out on safari or out on deck searching for polar bears, he now works on expedition ships in the polar regions as an

expedition leader, rifle expert, as well as assisting with helicopter operations. He has also been recently certified as a PTGA Senior Polar Expedition Guide. He currently resides in Dresden, Germany with his beautiful wife & son.

Sandra Petrowitz – Assistant Expedition Leader



From early on, Sandra has been a dedicated naturalist, traveler and photographer. Fueled by curiosity and a deep passion for being out and about, her extensive journeys have led her across the globe. When visiting the polar for first regions the time she immediately fell for the high latitudes' nature and light. So besides stories and photos, she brought home the polar bug. She has been returning frequently to the Arctic and Antarctica ever since.

Holding a degree in journalism, Sandra has a background in working as an

editor, free-lance journalist and writer for more than 20 years. An avid nature, wildlife and travel photographer, she has a wide interest in all kinds of nature and wildlife observations. When she is not working on board expedition ships, Sandra leads specialized photo trips to the polar regions but also to places like Botswana and Jordan, or contributes images and articles to magazines and websites. She has published two books on travel photography. A third is in the making.

Marijke de Boer – Expedition Guide



Marijke grew up in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. She is fascinated by cetaceans, and has participated in various ocean-crossing surveys, namely the Arctic Davis Strait, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Southern Ocean and Antarctica. These surveys formed the core foundation of her detailed in-depth experience with marine mammals.

She completed a MSc in Marine Ecology (University of Utrecht) and a PhD (Marine Mammal Ecology) at the University of Wageningen focusing on the abundance and distribution of cetaceans using (low-cost) seagoing vessels ('Platforms of Opportunity').

Nowadays her research focuses on marine fauna within the Wider Caribbean Region, West Africa and Cornwall (UK). Marijke has produced a wide selection of scientific publications and presented numerous papers to various international conferences and committees.

Whilst she very much enjoys the academic side of her career, her first love is sharing her knowledge in the field. She has worked as a wildlife guide during multiple oceanic expeditions and is happy to 'escape the office'. She currently lives in the Netherlands and England and speaks Dutch, English and German. The ocean is very special to her – 'after more than 20 years of sailing the seven seas, it never fails to educate, surprise and enthrall me'.

CLAUDIO GHIGLIONE – Expedition Guide

PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences, expedition guide and wildlife photographer



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. Always interested in science and nature since he was really young. His first passion was, as for a lot of other children, the dinosaurs. If he has to consider himself only as a student, he thinks he wasn't a good one because he didn't like to spend entire days inside buildings only reading books.

However, he has always needed to discover new things because he is really curious and, for this reason, he likes to learn always new things. Everyone comes into the world with the need of discovery but just few people have this passion when they become adults. As Indiana Jones said in one of his films, "you'll never be a good archaeologist if you don't go to the field". Funny expression but he is firmly believed that the same applies to every biologist or any other job related to science or nature can do the difference.

After high school his tendency for the scientific subjects led him to take a **degree in Environmental Sciences** and then also a **master degree in Marine Sciences**. After these degrees, he worked several years on different University scientific projects and in March 2017 he defended and deposited his **PhD thesis in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences** run in collaboration among the University of Siena (Italy), the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey (United Kingdom) with a specialization in polar benthic ecology. He took part in different Artic and Antarctic expeditions as a researcher, expedition guide and as a photo guide too because, in addition to his scientific skills, he is also a professional wildlife and travel photojournalist.

This is a just brief biography about him... If you want to know more, just ask him or visit <u>www.riftia.eu</u>

James Saulino – Expedition Guide



Jim was born in London and studied engineering. In the 1990's, tired of factory life, he cycled across Spain to join a charity developing alternative technologies such as solar cookers, ovens and stills for 'third world applications'.

He then switched his focus to conservation issues working with many NGO's including projects focusing on sea turtle and monk seal protection with WWF. During the 1990's he sailed with Greenpeace and worked with many of their European action teams.

The 2000's saw him working on the UK's south Cornwall coast doing by-catch research which necessitated searching for stranded dolphins on very remote coastal areas.

Most recently he has been conducting marine mammal research on behalf of the Icelandic and Greenland authorities in the Denmark Strait off east Greenland. He is also involved with a project in Suriname working with sloths, river dolphins and sea turtles.

He lives in Suffolk and speaks English, some Dutch and a little Spanish.

His motto is "it is no accident that sea turtles have been around for something like 200 million years, and this fact should teach us that a 'higher intelligence' is no guarantee of survival, although it may help delay our extinction".

Werner Kruse – Photo Guide



Werner Kruse is a welltravelled and experienced Editor, Cameraman and Photographer. Werner has worked on international productions in Los Angeles, travel documentaries for Princess Cruises and Wildlife & Expedition Documentaries in Africa.

After graduating from High School, he studied photography at Port

Elizabeth Technikon while working as freelance photographer for the regional newspaper, Die Burger. From there he gained experience as assistant to renowned Fashion/Advertising & Documentary photographer, Johan Wilke.

In 2004 he expanded his career working as Cameraman and Editor in Cape Town, South Africa. His passion for editing took him to Los Angeles where he did an Avid Certified Professional film-editing course at Video Symphony in Burbank.

After his studies he started working all over the world making travel documentaries for Princess Cruises. He explored places such as Petra, Machu Picchu, Great Barrier and Rapa Nui, Spitsbergen, Iceland and his favourite, the Hawaiian and Tahitian Islands. Currently he is based in Cape Town, South Africa, working on TV shows, documentaries, commercials and corporate productions as well as frequent travels abroad for various video and photo assignments.

Werner is extremely passionate about wildlife, nature and the ocean, supports environmental and wildlife causes and believes in conservation. He has travelled to 112 countries and loves to capture every moment.

Grace Bodo – Expedition Guide

Grace grew up in the United States and since completing her studies has spent the last 6 years exploring the globe. Her biggest passion is travel and she loves exploring all the different aspects, cultures and natures of our world.

In her traveling life Grace has worked in many adventurous roles. A few of her favorites include living in the most remote parts of New Zealand wilderness for months on end hunting possums, commercial salmon fishing in Alaska, sailing through the Arctic, working on a Russian ship in the Sub-Antarctic down towards the Ross sea and most recently sailing around to all the small islands in the middle of the pacific ocean where she was giving lifesaving medical training to small villages on small, beautiful islands. In 2015 Grace sailed on a 47 foot sail boat of 5 people from New York, up to Greenland and across the top of North America to Alaska, being the 127th sail boat to ever successfully sail the North West Passage. Grace is very experienced leading in the outdoors and maintaining morale while sea sick. She is the type who knows a little bit of a lot of different things and loves picking up new skills and random bits of knowledge.

As a traveler when she is not guiding she spends a lot of her time volunteering, enjoys sleeping in her tent or hammock and her favorite mode of transportation is hitch hiking, meeting amazing people from all walks of life. She has lived in the Netherlands, Israel, New York, Mexico, Turkey, New Zealand, Indonesia and Tonga. She has spent time in over 70 countries and plans to continue traveling for many more years.

Her future plans include continuing as a guide with Oceanwide on their various and amazing expeditions around the globe. Also she is considering this 2018 to join a 124 foot sail boat of dysfunctional but lovely crew who are attempting to not only sail the North West Passage but to get as close to the North Pole as any sail boat has in history.

Grace has years of experience looking after people and keeping everything running smoothly. She works well with people because she is thoughtful, helpful and genuinely cares that you are happy, safe and enjoying yourself as much as possible.

You will likely always see Grace smiling during the voyage, she is living the life of her dreams as a guide and is always thrilled to be anywhere in the Antarctic. What makes this adventure to Antarctica extra special for Grace is being able to share it with everyone on board and she is really looking forward to meeting you!



Marc Vogler – Expedition Guide

Nationality: American

Mark graduated the prestigious UCLA Film School and is published travel writer and photographer. In college he became a NAUI certified diver and went on to work on film productions and underwater film crews, shooting sharks on location in the Bahamas.

In 2006 Mark heard the call of the ice and ventured to Barrow, Alaska to see the frozen ocean. In 2011 he then went South, sailing below the Antarctic Circle, where he developed an acute



case of Polar Fever. In 2012, he returned to the Arctic, exploring the east coast of Greenland and sailed deep into Scoresby Sund, the largest fjord system on earth, resulting in his first published polar piece, "Greenland's Iceberg Parade: The Greatest Show On Earth", published by international shipping industry magazine, Marine Commerce. In 2015, Mark was sent on assignment to the Antartica peninsula with international Digital Travel Magazine, Man About World, to pen "Antarctica: The Ultimate White Party".

Since then Mark has built his polar credentials, earning his STCW-95 certification at the California State University Maritime Academy, trained with US Coast Guard in maritime safety, and become certified in wilderness first aid.

Most recently, Mark spent the first 2 months of 2018 with the

National Science Foundation at McMurdo Station, the United States Antarctic Research Station in the Ross Sea, and is on standby to return there to winter-over in Antarctica in 2019.

Mark has explored and photographed both the east and west coasts of Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, Canadian Arctic, Alaska, the Antarctic Peninsula, ventured into the Weddell Sea, and in 2017, he semi circumnavigated the Great White Continent, on a 32 day sail from New Zealand to Argentina with Oceanwide Expeditions Ross Sea Itinerary

Mark is thrilled to join the expedition team with Oceanwide Expeditions, and to share with their guests his love and passion for Antarctica and Polar Travel.



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 spend time working from Nepal, India, Peru, New Zealand and Antarctica.

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 4 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.

Trevor Streat – Mountain Guide



Trev is a veteran New Zealand Mountain Guide. Internationally qualified by the I.F.M.G.A. he has been guiding since 1989.

Along with many years climbing and skiing in New Zealand's Southern Alps he has also spent 20 winter seasons heliski guiding in the Himalaya, North India and paid several visits to the Arctic to ski on the West coast of Greenland.

This is Trev's first visit to the Antarctic Peninsula and he is very much looking forward to exploring this amazing region together with all of you!

Dr Duncan Gray – Expedition Doctor



Duncan is an Emergency medicine doctor from Scotland. He worked for 18 years as a Consultant in Glasgow, before recently retiring from full-time work. He now spends most of his time travelling, teaching and pursuing outdoor sporting activities including sea kayaking, ski touring and mountaineering.

Duncan teaches wilderness medicine, to junior doctors and to first aiders, teaching them how to adapt their skills to the outdoors. He is a regular teacher on courses in Scotland and Morocco, and in jungle and desert environments.

He holds qualifications as British Winter Mountain Leader and British Advanced Sea

Kayak Group Leader. He recently passed a Jungle Guide qualification (PAWGI). His hobbies include scuba diving, skydiving and hut-to-hut skiing in Norway.

Duncan has worked in Antarctica on three occasions previously as a doctor, including a half season at an adventure logistics base run by the company Adventure Network International (now called ALE), a ski crossing of South Georgia and providing medical cover to the first marathon to the south Pole (never repeated since). He has been to the south pole four times (in a small aircraft!).

In recent years Duncan has provided medical cover to many adventure tourism trips such as three treks in the Sahara, Kilimanjaro and Rain Forest treks. He has provided medical cover to ultramarathons in Guatemala, Rajasthan and Peru (all in 2018). He has taken part in expeditions to climb in China, Pakistan and climbed Denali (Mount McKinley) in Alaska.

Duncan has worked in many interesting medical jobs over the years including the Royal Flying Doctors Service of Australia, Ski Patrol in Whistler Canada and the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service in London.

OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 53

including

First Officer: Second Officer: Third Officer: Third Officer: Chief Engineer: Hotel Manager: Assist. Hotel Manager: Head Chef: Sous Chef: Ship's Physician: Tony Salo Diederik Scholten Luis Oroceo Andy Mangilit Guntis Dizbite Sigi Penzenleitner Melanie Penzenleitner Sean Steele Gaurav Bawa Duncan Gray

and

Expedition Leader: Assist. Expedition Leader: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition/Snowshoe Guide: Expedition/Photographic Guide Camping Guide: Kayak Guide: Mountaineering Guide: Beau Pruneau Sandra Petrowitz Marijke De Boer Claudio Ghiglione James Saulino Werner Kruse Grace Bodo Mark Vogler Pete Gwatkin Mal Haskins Trevor Streat [Finland] [The Netherlands] [Philippines] [Latvia] [Austria] [Austria] [New Zealand / Canada] [India] [Scotland]

[Canada/Germany] [Germany] [The Netherlands] [Italy] [United Kingdom] [South Africa] [United States] [United States] [Scotland] [New Zealand]

welcome you on board!



Embarkation Saturday 29 December 2018

Welcome on board! Your luggage will have been delivered to your cabin. After we are all onboard, please check and notify Reception if you are missing anything or have luggage that does not belong to you. While we are embarking please feel free to explore the ship. The Lounge is located on Deck 6.

~17.00 Mandatory Safety Briefing in the Lecture Room (Deck 3). ALL PASSENGERS are required to attend this important safety briefing.

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

- ~18.00 Approximate sailing time. As we leave Ushuaia we recommend that you enjoy the views from the top outside decks.
 Please Note: The Bridge will be closed for departure while we navigate the Beagle Channel.
- Soon after sailing we would like to invite you to the Lounge on Deck
 for an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager Sigi and a
 Welcome Briefing by Expedition Leader Beau.

Afterwards there will be **Captain's Cocktails** with Captain Ernesto Barria. You will also meet the rest of the Expedition Team.

19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on **Deck 4** behind **Reception**. Bon appétit!

Tonight we will enter the Drake Passage. Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship starts to move with the swell.



Drake Passage Sunday 30 December 2018

0745	Wake-up call
0800	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
0930	Join the Expedition Team in the Lounge (Deck 6) for introductory briefings on various activities (<i>the briefings are mandatory for those interested in doing the selected options</i>)
	0930 - 1030 Kayaking with Pete
	1045 - 1145 Mountaineering with Mal & Trevor
1230	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1345	Sign up for Mountaineering in the Lounge (Deck 6)
1430	Join Grace & Mark in the Lounge (Deck 6) for an introduction to Camping (the briefing is mandatory for those interested in camping).
1630	Feel free to join Marijke in the Lounge for an Introduction to Penguins.
1830	Recap: This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forward to tomorrow's plans. Beau and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge .
1900	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!
<i>Today</i> и	ve are in open waters, please always hold on with at least one

hand and be very careful in the stairwells.



Drake Passage Monday 31 December 2018

0745	Wake-up call
0800	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
0930	Please come to the Lecture Room (Deck 3) and join Beau for the <u>mandatory</u> IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing. Everybody who wants to go ashore in Antarctica will have to come to this briefing!
1100	We will start distributing your Rubber Boots and Life Jackets in the Lecture Room, located on Deck 3 . To ensure a smooth operation we will call you by Deck number so please listen out for announcements. Bring your thick socks!
1230	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1330	Biosecurity vacuuming time ! We will call you by deck to the Lounge (Deck 6) to vacuum your outer clothes and the bags that you will be taking ashore. Please listen out for your deck and don't forget to sign the IAATO biosecurity declaration afterwards.
1700	Almost everybody has brought a camera on this voyage – join Werner in the Lecture Room (Deck 3) for some Tips and Tricks about Photography . This is suitable for people with all kinds of cameras.
1830	Recap: This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forward to tomorrow's plans. Beau and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge.
1900	New Year's Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!
2115	Those of you who are scheduled for mountaineering on 01 January in the afternoon (PM) please meet Mal and Trev in the Lecture Room (Deck 3). Please bring your mountaineering boots! At the same time, those of you scheduled to kayak on 01 January in the morning (AM), please meet with Pete in the Heli Hangar (Deck 6 back of the ship) .
2130	New Year's Eve trivia night ! Please join Gracie in the Lounge for some fun and games.



Cuverville Island and Orne Harbour Tuesday 1 January 2019

Tuesday T January 2019

0645 Wake-up call 0700 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour. 0730 Mountaineers: meet Mal in the Lecture Room, dressed and ready to go. 0730 Kayakers: meet Pete at the kayaks (Deck 5 portside). 0815 This morning we plan to land on **Cuverville Island**. Home to the largest Gentoo Penguin colony on the Peninsula, this is a good opportunity to sit and take in the life of a penguin, as they move around the island. Snowshoes will be available at the landing site, with a staff member to help. 1200 Lunch is served in the Dining Room. 1245 Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6. 1300 Mountaineers: meet Mal in the Lecture Room, dressed and ready to go. 1400 This afternoon we would like to try a landing at **Orne Harbour**. Apart from the stunning scenery, this place is also known as one of the few places in the Gerlache Strait which has a colony of Chinstrap Penguins. Please listen to the guides instructions, as crevasses can be present. 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our Daily Recap. 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **Dining Room**. Please let the campers go first! Enjoy your meal. 2130 **Camping at Doumer Island** Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hangar by 2115. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!



Port Charcot and Petermann Island

Wednesday 2 January 2019

0715	Wake-up call
0730	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
~0800	We will attempt to sail the ship through the famous Lemaire Channel . This narrow channel is only 600m wide at its narrowest point and is surrounded by spectacular, glaciated mountains. Please come to the outer decks and enjoy!
0845	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go.
0845	Kayakers: meet Pete at the kayaks on Deck 5 portside.
~0930	We hope to go ashore at a place called Port Charcot , after a famous French explorer. Depending on the ice conditions we may have to change plans, so please remain flexible.
1230	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1300	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go.
1315	Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6.
1430	We hope to offer you a landing at Petermann Island . This island has a large Gentoo Penguin colony and a smaller one of Adelie Penguins. In addition, there is a refuge hut on the island as well as a commemorative cross.
	Again, depending on ice conditions we may have to change plans at the last minute so please remain flexible.
	For those of you keen on a Polar Plunge : At the end of the landing we will try to offer you the opportunity to splash around in Antarctic waters. Please wear your swimsuit under your warm clothing. We will bring towels for you!
1830	Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our Daily Recap.
1900	Dinner is served. Please let the campers go first. Bon appetit!
2030	Camping at Hovgaard Island
	Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hangar by 2015. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more

comfortable than the one onshore!



Useful Island and Ketley Point Thursday 3 January 2019

0715	Wake-up call
0730	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
0800 0800	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go. Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6.
0930	Expedition morning at Useful Island . Here we plan to go ashore at a chinstrap colony, with fantastic views into the Gerlache Strait.
1230	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1300 1315	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go. Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on deck 6.
1430	Expedition afternoon at Ketley Point, Ronge Island . Here we plan to go ashore and spend time with the Gentoo penguins.
1830	Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our Daily Recap.
1900	Dinner is served in the Dining Room . Please let the campers go first! Enjoy your meal.
2015	Camping at Leith Cove. Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hangar by 2000. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!



Neko Harbour and Danco Island

Friday 4 January 2019

0715	Wake-up call
0730	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
0800	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go.
0800	Kayakers: meet Pete at the kayaks on deck 5 portside.
0845	We hope to land at Neko Harbour on the Antarctic Continent . This small indentation in Andvord Bay is named after a whaling ship that used the bay as a home base for a couple of years around 1910-1913. Gentoo penguins abound here. Remember this is an area with high potential for glacial calving's, so please keep an eye out for mini tsunamis on the beach.
1200	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1300	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go.
1315	Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6.
1430	We plan to land at Danco Island, where a colony of Gentoo penguins reside. Ice and snow conditions allowing, we will try to offer a longer walk up to the hilltop for those who wish to burn off a few extra calories.
1845	Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our Daily Recap.
1900	Dinner is served in the Dining Room . Please let the campers go first! Enjoy your meal.
2015	Camping at Kerr Point.
	Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hangar by 2000. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!
2030	Technical Mountaineering Group (5 th) meets Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room.



Port Lockroy & Damoy Point Saturday 5 January 2019

0645	Wake-up call
0700	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
0730 0730	Mountaineers: meet Mal & Trev in the Lecture Room, dressed & ready to go. Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6.
~0800	We will bring on board Port Lockroy staff who will meet us in the Bar for a quick chat about past and present Port Lockroy.
~0845	We plan to land at Port Lockroy . This is a split landing where you will get to visit two sites. One half will start at Jougla Point with the wildlife, and the second half will start at the museum & penguin post office on Goudier Island . We will swap locations halfway through so everybody gets to visit both spots.
1300	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1415	Kayakers: meet Pete in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6.
1500	We hope to land at Dorian Bay, near Damoy Point on Wiencke Island. This small bay and associated point are home to two small huts, one Argentine and one British, plus several thousand Gentoo penguins.
1900	Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our Daily Recap.
1930	Dinner is served in the Dining Room . Please let the campers go first! Enjoy your meal.
2030	Camping at Damoy Point Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hangar by 2015. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!



Expedition Day Sunday 6 January 2019

Early this morning we will pick up the campers who will have spent the night at Doumer Island. For those who are awake anyway or inclined to wake up for having a look, the Neumayer Channel is a beautiful ship cruise which we will start around 5:45am. Afterwards we enter the Gerlache Strait heading north-east.

- 0715 Wakeup call. Good morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast** will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- TBA **Expedition morning** at Georges Point. We hope to be able to arrange a short last landing at a place called Georges Point, on Ronge Island. While we hope this will work, we cannot be certain that we will arrive with enough time after picking up the campers. Please listen out for announcements pertaining to further information.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA We will arrange a **lecture**, topic, location, & timing to be determined. Please listen out for announcements for further information.
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Lounge** for our **Daily Recap**.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **Dining Room**. Enjoy your meal!

Please prepare both yourself and your cabin for potentially rough seas. While we do not expect bad weather, it is best to put cameras, computers and other valuable fragile items down low, between layers of clothing, and where they cannot roll off onto the floor. Please also remember: one hand for the ship!

This afternoon we are in open waters, please always hold on with at least one hand and be very careful in the stairwells.



At Sea Towards Ushuaia

Monday 7 January 2019

0745	Wake-up call. Good morning!
0800	Breakfast will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
1000	Mal would like to invite everyone into the Lecture Room on Deck 3 for a talk about Glaciology .
1230	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
1430	Please join Marijke in the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to hear all about Whale Identification.
1630	For those curious, Mark will be in the Lecture Room (Deck 3) to explain about Living in Antarctica: Life at McMurdo Station.
1830	Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for our Daily Recap.
1900	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Today we are in the open ocean, please always hold on with at least one hand and be very careful in the stairwells.



Drake Passage Tuesday 8 January 2019

0745	Wake-up call. Good morning!
0800	Breakfast will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
1000	Mark would like to talk about Circumnavigating the Great White Continent - New Zealand to Ushuaia. This will be in the Lounge.
1230	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
±1500	Time for settling accounts with Sigi and Melanie at Reception. We will call you by deck number; please wait till your deck is called to avoid queues. You can pay with cash (Euro, USD) or major credit cards (except American Express). Please listen for announcements.
	Later this afternoon we will would like to collect the boots and zodiac lifejackets . Please stand by for announcements .
1815	Please meet the Expedition Team in the Bar for a quick briefing about plans for disembarkation tomorrow and afterwards a Farewell Toast from your Captain .
1900	Farewell Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Today we are in the Drake Passage, please always hold on with at least one hand and be very careful in the stairwells.



Disembarkation Wednesday 9 January 2019

We will be arriving in Ushuaia sometime this morning. The Bridge, forward Bow Deck and rear Stern Deck will be closed as the officers and crew will be working to bring us to dock. Once we dock, please **DO NOT go down the gangway** until an announcement has been made that we have been cleared to disembark by the local authorities.

Please ensure your luggage is outside your cabin by the time Sigi invites you to breakfast at 0730. We will move your main luggage to the pier, and after the busses have arrived, we will call you to come down the gangway. You must ensure your own luggage is moved to the correct bus or the truck to the luggage storage place if you wish to use these services.

- 0700 Wake-up call.
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **Dining Room** for one hour.

Please place your large luggage outside your cabin when Sigi invites you to breakfast, and return your key card holders to reception when you go to breakfast.

- 0830 All passengers must depart the ship. Buses to the airport will be on the pier. Everybody must identify their own luggage and make sure it goes to the right location.
 - You can have your luggage stored. Please take it to the truck on the pier and it will be taken to 'll 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 <u>before 1400</u>.*

The Captain, Crew, Staff and all of Oceanwide thank you for joining us on this incredible voyage and wish you all the best in your travels.

We hope to see you again, North or South!

"Fair winds and following seas"