



Antarctic Peninsula

7-17th February 2019

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 Artur Iakovlev

**and his international crew
Including:**

Chief Officer:	Francois Kwekkeboom	[Netherlands]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Alex Lyebiedyev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Eva-Maria Kifmann	[Switzerland]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[United Kingdom]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Celine Clement-Chastel	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Nicole Janinhoff	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Turner	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Eduardo Rubio-Herrera	[Guatemala]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Regis Perdriat	[France]
Kayak Guide:	Alexis Belezze	[Argentina]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – 7th February 2019

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 54°53'S / 067°42'W

Wind: Light air **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +12°C **Sea Temp:** +10°C

So here we are at last in Tierra del Fuego, at the bottom of the world. Well, from Ushuaia we'll be going 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 the Great White Continent of Antarctica. Most passengers were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, ready to board our ship MV *Plancius*, home for our Antarctic adventure!

We were greeted at the gangway by members of our Expedition staff who sent us on board to meet Hotel and Restaurant Managers, Zsuzsanna and Alex. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of our fabulous Filipino crew.

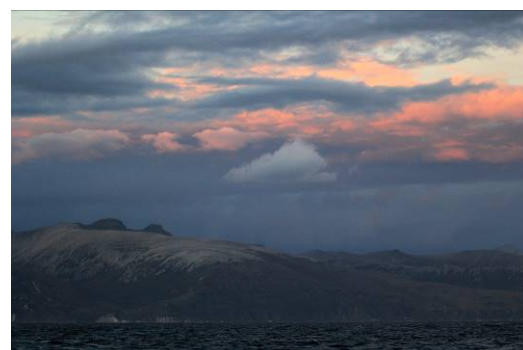
A little while after boarding we convened in the lounge on deck five to meet First Officer Francois, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the crew and staff.

We had been prepared for our actual safety drill and on hearing the general 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

Shortly after our first briefing we departed the jetty of Ushuaia and entered the Beagle Channel with an escort of black browed albatross.

After all the safety drills were taken care of we were invited once again to the lounge to meet our Hotel Manager Zsuzsanna who gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel which will be our home for the next 10 days or so. We then met our Expedition Leader, Ali Liddle and the rest of the Expedition Team who will guide us in Antarctica.

This was also a chance to meet our Captain, Artur Iakovlev and toast our voyage with a glass of Prosecco. At 19:30 we sampled the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by Chef Ralf and his galley staff. 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!



Day 2 –8th February 2019

At sea to Antarctica – Drakes Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 56°26'S / 065°37'W

Wind: WNW 4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** +7°C **Sea Temp:** +7°C

Our first morning at sea and our journey towards Antarctica has finally started! Even though it was a rather calm first night on the Drake quite a few were experiencing sea-sickness.



It was a breezy morning and Plancius was making good progress across the Drake Passage. After breakfast some headed out on deck to gaze at the birds that were eventually flying around the ship. During the day we found some Cape Petrels, Black-browed Albatrosses, Giant Petrels, Blue Petrels, White-chinned Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters! But occasionally there were also Magellanic and Gentoo penguins jumping and gliding through the water.



At 10:30 we gathered in the lounge to learn a little more about these sea birds from Regis who delivered a very informative presentation about the different species, how we monitor them and what is being done towards their conservation. As this is a bilingual voyage Laura had her first lecture on ice for our French passengers. She explained different types of ice in Antarctica and how global warming has an effect on Antarctica.

Those who signed in to go kayaking during this voyage had a first meeting with Alexis, the kayak guide, in the library where they were briefed on the operations involved with paddling in Antarctica.

After lunch Celine gave a lecture about Penguins; it answered many of our initial questions about these fantastic little creatures, and we were even more curious about these funny looking but perfectly adapted animals.

At 4:30pm Laura, Nicole, Celine and Eduardo gathered the campers in the dining room to explain how their night on the ice would be, about logistics, which clothes to bring and how to snuggle into the several layers of sleeping bags.

As there were still relatively calm conditions the rubber boot distribution took place so we were called by deck to proceed to the boot room on deck three to collect them. The staff were on hand to ensure everyone got the correct size ready to go ashore in Antarctica the day after tomorrow.



The final official event of the day was our first daily Recap & Briefing session. Ali explained the plan for tomorrow and showed some weather charts so we knew what to expect for our second day in the Drake. It was supposed to be still calm. The expedition team also took this opportunity to introduce themselves properly and tell us a little about the role they hope to play in our voyage.

Day 3 – 9th February 2019

At sea to Antarctica – Drakes Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 61°09'S / 063°03'W

Wind: E 4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

We enjoyed another gentle night of rolling on the Drake Passage, this favourable weather meant we had made very good progress over night. Ali and Celine woke us with news of the weather and sea state and for those early birds already out on deck there was a very quick glimpse of three Southern Bottlenose Dolphins.



After breakfast we attended the mandatory briefing about Zodiac operations so that we can be familiar with all the safety measures in place to get off the ship, on shore and back on the ship safely. Following this, Ali and Celine briefed us on IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) protocol and biosecurity, so that we will have minimal impact on the pristine environment of Antarctica. They explained how we should behave whilst in Antarctica to ensure the protection and conservation of this incredible, but very fragile environment. It is important that we follow certain protocol to ensure that we leave no trace of our visit and only take away nothing more than memories. In order to ensure we follow these protocols, we had to vacuum our outerwear; ensuring no seeds or plant material was hiding in our pockets and Velcro.



After lunch many of us headed out on deck to enjoy the birds that were following the ship whilst others took the opportunity to have a little siesta. At 3pm Laura and Regis gave their respective lectures, 'Ice' and 'Sea Birds', to the opposite language groups to yesterday.

As the afternoon progressed, we could see our first icebergs on the horizon, some were large tabular ones, most probably broken off from the Ross Ice Shelf, whilst others were small bergs in a variety of shapes and colours.

After tea and cake Sara gave a lecture entitled 'Seals of the Southern Ocean' in the dining room, she explained the difference between true and eared seals, their cold-water adaptations and a little about each of the species we could hope to see over the forthcoming days. Meanwhile Celine gave a lecture about Elephant Seals and the research she had done with them to our French guests up in the lounge. Once the lectures were over most headed out on deck for their first proper views of Antarctica, as the South Shetland Islands were now clearly in sight, we cruised through Boyd Strait, Snow Island on our port side and Smith Island to our starboard. There were numerous feeding humpback whales to be seen, blowing and fluking all around the ship, enjoying these nutrient rich waters.

At 6:30 we gathered in the lounge to hear about the plans for tomorrow from Ali, this was followed by a short recap about the Antarctic Convergence from Eduardo and Sara tried to demonstrate the enormity of some of the sea birds we had been seeing with the help of a piece of string. After which we made our way down to dinner, full of excitement at what the following days would bring.



Day 4 – 10th February 2019

Danco Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°37'S / 062°37'W

Wind: Variable **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

In the early hours of the morning, we continued with our sailing plan, which took us along the Gerlanche Strait. We cruised without problem enjoying the occasional sight of a whale, and the menacing view of a few icebergs.



The Gerlanche Strait is the area of water that separates the Palmer Archipelago from Antarctic Peninsula.

The Belgica Expedition (1897-1899), under command of Lt. Adrien de Gerlanche, explored the strait in January and February 1898, naming it for the expedition ship Belgica. The name was later changed to honor the commander himself. This strait is characterized by amazing views of the mountains in the peninsula, as well as the spectacular icebergs that cross the strait.

Shortly after an early lunch, we arrived to our destination for the morning, Danco Island. Danco Island is 1 mile long, and lies in the South part of the Errera Channel, of the West coast of Graham Land. It was originally charted by the Belgica Expedition, under command of Gerlanche and named after Emile Danco, a Belgian geophysicist member of the expedition who died on board the Belgica in the Antarctic. He was a very popular and admired scientist on board this expedition.

As usually, the first to land ashore were the members of the expedition staff, who opened the route to access the lower gentoo penguins and further on to the top of the hill where yet another colony of gentoo penguin nest. The people who opened the route were Adam and Sara who made some steps in the snow aiming for the summit. Once the routes were established, we proceeded to bring our guests ashore.

The majority of our guests climbed up, all the way to the summit of the small mountain that rises up to 160 m above sea level (circa 525 feet above sea level). We had a cloudy day, with layers of grey clouds hovering above us, which made us feel a bit chilly. From the top of the island we could enjoyed the spectacular scenery of the Errera Channel. This channel was named after Leo Errera, a professor at the University of Brussels who was one of the supporters of the Belgica Expedition. From the top we could appreciate the snow capped mountains with imposing glaciers, showing an endless collection of crevasses, seracs and bergschrunds. A parade of icebergs showed up below in the waters of the channel.



The guests who opted to stay next to the beach were rewarded also with the calm waters of the channel, as well as with the spectacular views of the icebergs and their endless blue-green colors. Certainly these guests were not disappointed since they probably enjoyed a long and quiet moment in which they were hear only the gentle splash



of the waves, the distant call of gentoo penguins or the murmur of the wind. All this was interrupted twice by the thunderous sound of a couple of avalanches that happened in the mountains opposite to the landing site.

Once we finished the landing, we returned to our ship to enjoy a hot meal, we had some rest and we prepare ourselves for our next activity which according to our plans, was a visit to Port Lockroy. This is a well known and popular Antarctic destination, visited by almost all the ships that call for the Antarctic Peninsula.

Today Port Lockroy offers a wide variety of Antarctic souvenirs as well as post stamps and books. Originally this building was established as part of a series of secret military bases erected by British Forces in 1944 in order to monitor any German or Axis maritime traffic in the Antarctic Region under the code name "Operation Tabarin". Originally was named Base A and later became a weather observatory until it was abandoned and later refurbished to make it the museum/shop is today, as part of the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust.

Sadly the weather did not allow us the visit to "Base A" on this day. As we approached the island, we could not find suitable conditions to undertake zodiac operations safely. Hence, after waiting until 17:15, we decided to move the ship to our next destination, passing in the vicinity of the famous Le Marie Channel. Here we had the chance to enjoy how the sun set, among the magnificent mountains that



Day 5 – 11th February 2019

Petermann Island and Pleneau Island, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS 08.00 Position: 65°10'S / 064°07'W

Wind: Light airs **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C



The morning started with the wake up calls that we had become accustomed to since joining the Plancius.

We were sailing towards the spectacular scenery of the Lemaire Channel, this channel cuts between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island in dramatic fashion; with its jagged ridges and snow caps rising into the clouds and icebergs strewn across the channel.

We made our way through and were greeted by more spectacular scenery.

We arrived Petermann Island, the most southerly position for our trip. Here, we had the chance to walk and discover Gentoo and Adélie penguin colonies.



Both species were raising chicks; the Adélie ones were already big and near fledging, some of them moulting before a soon departure. We also were able to enjoy a walk to the end of the island where the panorama of giant icebergs aground on the rocks stood in contrast to the smooth snow that ran down the hill to the shore.



The short and accelerate breeding cycle for Adélie (October to February) is one of the reasons. We could stand and watch the penguins as they went about the busy process of feeding their hungry chicks. Many of the chicks were just lying in the sunshine waiting for their parents to come back from sea with food but those that were with their parents created a wonderful show as the chicks chased them around the colony, desperate for some food before they went away again. It was wonderful to watch.

We returned to Plancius for a lunch before heading out on our next activity.



In the afternoon, we had the chance to land on Pléneau island. The expedition team had arranged a split landing and cruise with half of the passengers going ashore first and the other group going out into the bay for a Zodiac cruise. Pléneau island is 1.2 km long mainly covered by ice. One more time to watch the busy life of Gentoo penguins. On the cruise we sailed between huge and splendid icebergs. On

many of them we found a great number of Crabeater seals relaxing and even some Leopard seals.

Before dinner, during our daily recap, we learnt more about Seals and the French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot. And now we even know why ice is blue!

Day 6 – 12th February 2019

Port Lockroy, Brown Station and Skontorp Cove, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°49'S / 063°31'W

Wind: Light air **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Snow **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 1+°C



Today, our activities started very early in the day and at 6 AM the campers were picked up from Damoy point by our staff. They came back to the ship for a quick shower, and for a rewarding breakfast. Once breakfast had finished we commenced our activities for the morning. As luck would have it, we managed to get a slot to visit "Port Lockroy" since no ships organized a visit for this day.

This news was very well received by our guests who had prepared themselves a few days before, when our plans became frustrated by the weather. This time, the weather was slightly better,

although not perfect.

This time, the Neumayer Channel greeted us among a thick fog and snowy conditions. Consequently visibility was limited to 1.5-2 km producing a mysterious atmosphere.

We divided the group into two, one group would visit first the base while the other one would undertake a zodiac cruise in the nearby area. The visitors at "Base A", had the chance to visit the small museum as well as to buy some souvenirs and send postcards. The zodiac cruise allowed our passengers to appreciate wildlife not seen yet; such as a couple of fur seals and a lonely chinstrap penguin. After one hour and a quarter, we swapped the groups, so those in the zodiacs could have a chance of visiting "Base A" and those ashore could make a zodiac cruise.



When we came back to the ship, conditions deteriorated a little bit, and snow started to accumulate in the zodiacs as well as in the exposed decks of the ship. As we sailed away from the Neumayer Channel, the wind started to increase and grey clouds rolled in from the horizon. Luckily, as we approached our next destination, the sky started to clear up and we could appreciate the Antarctic mountains in the distance as well as our next destination, Brown Station.

This station is situated at the Coughtrey Peninsula at the north side of the entrance of Skontrop Cove, next to Paradise Harbor.

This small peninsula was thought to be an island when mapped by David Ferguson between 1913 and 1914. Here at the end of the small peninsula, the Argentinian Government established the base Almirante Brown Station in 1949-1950.



Here, we organized parallel activities, a small hike and a zodiac cruise. The guests who joined us at the landing, were greeted by the station's Doctor who explained the nature of the research being undertaken at the station. (research, with biologists studying fish, the quality of water and botany).

Those who landed were given the option of hike to the top of the hill behind the base, a nice vantage point from where it is possible to see a fantastic landscape of Paradise Harbor and the distant mountains of Graham Land.



The other activity we undertook was a zodiac cruise, which took our guests to nice view points of the glacier fronts in Paradise Bay. Here we could see a wonderful display of different colors of blues in the ice of the glacier, calving icebergs and majestic glaciers. Regarding wildlife, we enjoyed the views of a few antarctic terns, blue eyed shags, skuas, crab eater seals, weddell seal, Leopard seal, Minke whale and at the end, a couple of humpback whales.



Upon return to the ship we all enjoyed of a barbecue on board a delicious meal specially prepared by the skillful hands of the ship's galley, under direction of Ralph our head chef. The meal was served on the aft deck and it included whale sights and spectacular scenery. Later the setting was transformed into a dancing room where our guests as well as a few members of the crew took a chance to enjoy a beer and a fine selection of music provided by Ryan. Around 10:30 the party was called off and everybody went inside the ship either to sleep or to enjoy yet another drink at the bar.

Day 7 – 13th February 2019

Orne Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°43'S / 062°35'W

Wind: W 4 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 1+°C



In the morning we arrived at Orne harbour, a small cove situated at the eastern side of the Gerlache strait dominated by Spigot Point, a sharp, ice corniced peak 289m above sea level.

Many eager guests were waiting at the gangway to explore the magnificent surrounding. As always staff was ashore first to prepare the landing site, which in this case included to mark a save pathway through large group of playful Antarctic fur seals bulls, that were frolicking on the landing site.

Two activities were offered: a walk up to the chinstrap penguin colony followed by a short zodiac cruise or for those not choosing for the short but steep walk up to the ridge a longer zodiac cruise exploring the marine wildlife and the icebergs in the surrounding area. For those wanting a closer encounter with chinstrap penguins up the ridge it was a fantastic experience to also enjoy the view over the Errera Channel, the Gerlache Strait as well as Anvers and Brabant island in the distance. The chinstrap penguins nest on the



ridge leading to Spigot Point and we had a good view of their incredibly cute and well fed chicks.



From the ridge it was possible to contemplate the hard work that the penguins undertake on their feeding journeys as the highways reached all the way to the top of the ridge from the sea.

Those taking the zodiac cruise were delighted with the nice colors of the mosses and lichens decorating the steep cliffs of Spigot Point as well with the different nests of birds visible from the shoreline, especially Blue-eyed shags, Antarctic terns and yet more Chinstrap penguins. More Antarctic fur seals resting on the shoreline or on ice floes and spectacular glaciers that resembled our ship were also encountered.

Back on-board Ali outlined the plans for the afternoon before handing over to Szusanna who welcomed us on board with a nice buffet lunch. While enjoying lunch we sailed, and as if the amazing landscape and scenery of the Gerlach strait was not big enough a treat, the team spotted a pod of Orcas. First widely spread and in a loose group, they moved closer together and we could see a big male with a huge dorsal fin. They were parading along a set of loose icebergs and eventually they decided to approach Plancius to check out their visitors. They came swimming up close to the ship and diving underneath so we could see their unique characteristics from a very short distance, and study their behaviour. What a sight!



After that wind increased quite rapidly and a second landing at Orne Island was dropped in favour of cruising through the Gerlache strait, enjoying the impressions of the day and admiring the various magnificent iceberg and numerous Humpback Whales along the way.

Day 8 – 14th February 2019

Telefon Bay and Whalers Bay, Deception Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 62°59'S / 060°33'W

Wind: E 4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: 3+°C Sea Temp: 2+°C



Overnight we had sailed North to the South Shetland Islands, ready for our early morning landing at Telefon Bay in Deception Island. To make the most of our final day in Antarctica Ali woke us at 5am and a light breakfast was served in the lounge.

Deception Island is in fact a caldera, the result of a volcanic eruption, whereby the volcano collapsed in on itself and formed a large crater. At Deception Island part of the crater wall subsequently collapsed and let water in, so the centre of the caldera is accessible for vessels to sail into. Access is through a

narrow opening in the caldera called Neptune's Bellows which Captain Artur navigated us safely through. As we sailed towards Telefon Bay, located at the back of the caldera, we passed Whalers' Bay on our right-hand side and the Spanish research base, Gabriel de Castilla.



By 5:30am we were in place at Telefon Bay and were shuttled ashore. For those feeling energetic Eduardo lead a hike up to the crater edge, where we could gain spectacular views of



this moon like scape. The formation of Telefon Bay has most recently been modified by the 1967 eruption, which significantly broadened the main valley, on either side of the valley we could still see the prominent ash cliffs that were the remnants of an older crater. For those wishing to stay at a lower level, there was a chance to wander along the black volcanic sand beach, where there were lots of Antarctic fur seals resting. Before heading back to the ship, the brave (or foolish) amongst us stripped off and jumped into the icy Antarctic waters for our polar plunge. A quick dash back to the ship for a warm shower and a hot drink was much needed after our early morning, invigorating dip.

Back on board it was time for our second breakfast, after which Ali and Captain Artur called a meeting in the lounge to inform us of a change of plans. Due to the ever-worsening forecast for Drake Passage it had been decided that we needed to leave as soon as possible so instead of proceeding to Half Moon for an afternoon landing we were going to do a second morning landing in Deception Island, but this time at Whalers' Bay.



Whalers' Bay, was used by Norwegian whalers for shore-based whaling operations as early as 1911. The beach is pitch black and covered with volcanic sand and rock; as we reached the beach, we noticed steam rising from the water- evidence of the warmer-than-average temperatures found here as a result of volcanic activity. We spent the morning exploring the remains of the whaling station, including the few remaining whalers' graves in the cemetery, which was buried by an eruption in 1969. The old buildings are warped

and aged, memorials to the way of life down here. Some of us walked the length of the beach past the whaling

station towards a notch in the caldera walls called Neptune's Window. On the way we saw lots of whale bones, remnants of whaling and water boats, as well as piles of wood used to make barrels for whale oil. The short, steep hike up the walls of the caldera gave us a view ahead through Neptune's Window towards the peninsula (although covered in fog today), and back over the entire caldera. On the shoreline we found numerous Antarctic Fur seals dotted amongst the whaling relics and lots of juvenile Antarctic cormorants. As the morning progressed the weather unfortunately deteriorated with increasing wind and sleet so by 11:30am we were all back on board, in the safety and warmth off the Plancuis.



Before lunch was served the doctor was busy administrating sea sickness pills and patches to most on board in preparation for the forthcoming days, there was a sense of apprehension on board for what lay ahead.



After lunch most headed to their cabins for a little rest after the early start. For those not yet suffering of sea sickness they enjoyed their last views of Antarctica as we made our way through an ice strewn Boyd Strait, before hitting the infamous Drake Passage. At 3:30pm Celine gave a presentation about the effect of contaminants on sea birds to our English-speaking guests in the lounge, whilst Laura spoke about the geology of Antarctica to our French guests in the dining room.

At recap Ali showed us the most recent forecast for the Drake Passage, it was going to be a bumpy ride back to Ushuaia! After

which there was the usual recap from the staff during which Eduardo spoke about early Antarctic aviation, the first flight ever took off from Deception Island as well as the Aurora Australis.

After dinner the documentary film 'The Penguin Post Office' was shown in the lounge, this was filmed over a season at Goudier Island (Port Lockroy) with the Gentoo penguins and staff of the charity, UKAHT (United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust) that manage the island and post office and maintain its museum and buildings so we can enjoy this piece of history nestled in the Antarctic.

We were also able to catch a glimpse of the worlds largest bird, the Wandering Albatross as some spared nearby to the ship and for those very lucky a glimpse of Hourglass Dolphins was also possible.



After a delicious dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day most headed to bed for an early night, wondering what tomorrow's weather would bring!

Day 9 – 15th February 2019

At sea to Ushuaia – Drakes Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 59°72'S / 061°16'W

Wind: W 5 **Sea State:** Moderate/Rough **Weather:** Good **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

Our first sea day on the return across the Drake Passage after our amazing time in Antarctica.

We awoke to the movements of Plancius pushing her way through the swell and Zsuzsanna's invitation to have breakfast at 8 o'clock. Most people are now accustomed to the movement of the ship and enjoyed a relaxed morning in the lounge or sunbathing on the benches of deck 6. We were occasionally visited by a variety of albatrosses, e.g. Wandering albatross, Light mantled sooty albatross, Black-browed albatross or Grey-headed albatross.

At 10 o'clock Laura started the daily lectures with a fascinating talk about the geology of Antarctica. She explained how the continent was formed and what the visible rocks of Antarctica can tell about their origins. Parallel the French attended a lecture about contamination in seabirds given Celine in the restaurant.

The later morning was by the majority of people pleasantly spent in the lounge with watching the award-winning BBC- series "Frozen planet".

We enjoyed lunch in slightly calmer seas and after Ali gave her presentation "Ice Maidens", a presentation which looked at the women behind the explorers such as Scott and Shackleton as well as the struggle for equality in working in the Antarctic regions and exploits of those such as Felicity Ashton who was the first solo female to cross Antarctica.

The afternoon offered a chance to relax in the lounge or our cabins and we then had Adam giving us his presentation on "South Georgia, my year South". Adam overwintered on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia whilst working for the British Antarctic survey. The French group meanwhile attended a talk given Regis about the Kerguelen islands and his experiences of overwintering on the island.

With so many interesting talks and presentations day one in Drake passed very quickly and soon it was time for daily recap and dinner.

Day 10 – 16th February 2019

At sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 55°39'S / 064°42'W

Wind: W 9 **Sea State:** Very Rough **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +10°C **Sea Temp:** +7°C

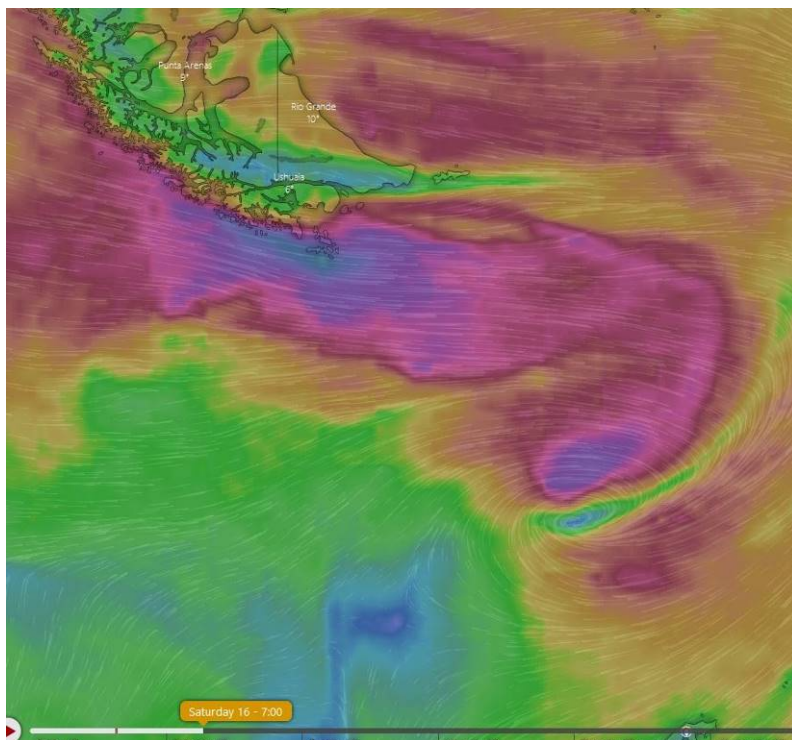
It has to be said that some of us did not manage a full night's sleep, as predicted the swell and wind conditions had worsened as we were in the weather system that was moving through the Drake's Passage.

With lots of re-positioning back in to comfortable positions the wake up call came at 8am which saw a range of movements, counter movements, excited squealing and spillages in the restaurant. Restaurant staff as always carried out assisting during the buffet service with acrobatic poise as the ship pitched in winds in excess of 64 knots meaning that according to the internationally recognised scale of wind strength/sea conditions known as the Beaufort scale we were out of a 'violent storm' and now in a 'hurricane'.

The ship remained rather busy with people watching the sheer power and magnificence of the ocean that was at times engulfing our ship.

Lunch was also well attended and afterwards we had the chance to relax or watch other episodes of 'Frozen Planet'.

At 6.30pm we began our farewells with Captains cocktails followed by a slideshow presentation of our trip that had been compiled by Sara, we enjoyed a smooth evening in the bar before going to bed at the end of our Antarctic expedition.



Day 11 – 7th February 2019

Disembarkation - Ushuaia

At 6am we approached the port of Ushuaia ready to disembark for the final time, no zodiac ride ashore and a dry landing. The last 10 days have taken us on a remarkable journey to Antarctica and allowed us a glimpse of life in this remote and sometimes inhospitable place. We will all have different memories of our trip but whatever the memories, whether it was the Gentoo penguins at Danco or the sight of icebergs for the first time they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

1799 Nautical Miles



Your Expedition Team!

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



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA (PLA27)
Kayaking Log
07th FEBRUARY - 17th FEBRUARY 2019

Kayak Guide – Alexis Bellezze (AR)



Participants:

Alistair	Richard	Hannah	Tanya
Kala	Lambertus	Jerry	Joseph
Bradley	Gregory	Gabriela	Stephen
Terry	Rémy	Laura	

Danco Island 10th February 2019 (AM)

Our first experience on cold waters. Danco offered us a unique landscape and our first close contact with a pack of five shy Humpback whales.

We paddled in a complete silence, having the sensation to be in a kayak in one of the most wild places on earth.



Petermann Island 11th February 2019 (AM)



This

morning was windy, 15 knots, some waves at the end of the bay, when we approach the open ocean.

After that we went in direction to the landing site to see some penguin colonies over the coast.

Was difficult to have the group all together. We had a debrief about safety for the next kayak trips and all of us were involved in some of the tasks to lifting the gear and the kayaks again to the ship.



PORT PLEANEAU

11th February 2019 Afternoon

A special afternoon. We had the best time for a private lesson about balance and paddle techniques for one of the beginner kayaker. He improved very fast and from that moment he felt more safe for sure.

We enjoyed the silence and the beauty of many crabeater seal around many ice packs moving around the area. Penguins jumping and swimming among us. Ice floating very close, we touched some of them and we felt the energy of thousands of years running through our skin.

Amazing experiences for all of us.



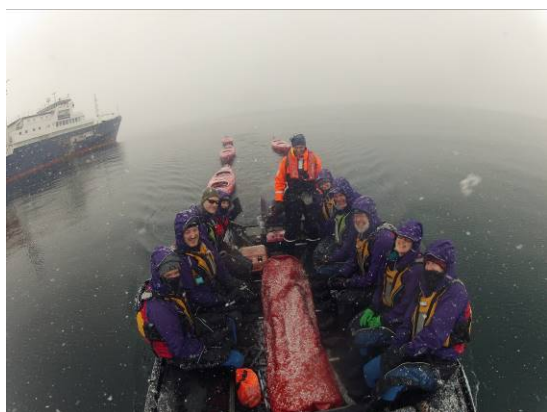


PORT LOCKROY

12 February 2019 Morning

Definitely, the highlight of this kayak trip was the snowing falling during the adventure. It was magic and we finally became a group of solid friends enjoying the same passion of this... it was unbelievable and all of us had the opportunity to go back to the ship and then to the post office, museum and shop.

The ship was far away, but we did it. Amazing!!



ORNE HARBOUR

13th February 2019 Morning

Last kayak trip of this Antarctica expedition. Memorable. Sometimes calm. Sometimes windy. We had the chance to paddle in a great bay surrounded by colossal glaciers and beautiful landscape.

We saw how the wind starts to compress the ice packs as the wind starts to increase and we were moving in different directions to avoid them.

The view of the M/V PLANCIUS drifting while we were paddling in such dramatic scenery added to the feeling of being a part of all of this.

Once at the ship, some of us were able to do the landing and climb the slope to the first spot where a colony of chinstrap penguins were.





Astonishing. Thank you guys... was a real placer to introduce all of you to this eco-friendly activity we call kayaking. All the best!





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.



PRIZES



€ 1000

GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher
for Oceanwide Expeditions



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for Oceanwide Expeditions

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

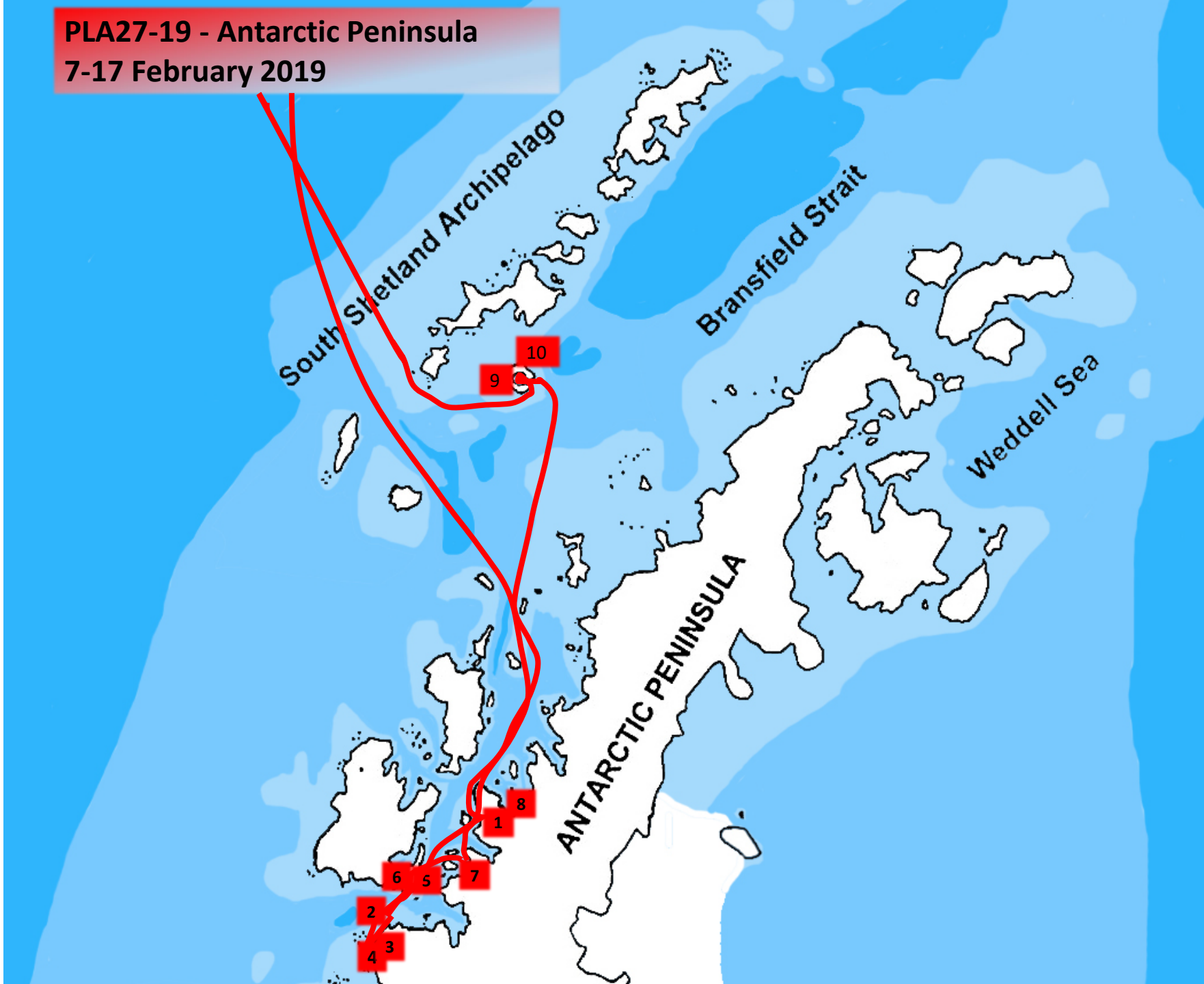
WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

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.

Read the terms and conditions of the contest on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms



PLA27-19 - Antarctic Peninsula
7-17 February 2019



1. Danco Island
2. Lemaire Channel
3. Petermann Island
4. Pléneau Island
5. Damoy Point (Camping)
6. Port Lockroy
7. Brown Station/Skontorp Cove
8. Orne Harbour
9. Deception Island/Telefon Bay
10. Deception Island/Whalers Bay

Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in ‘camp’ and at the school in Stanley.

Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins

and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

Originaire du Royaume Uni, Ali a vécu 15 ans aux Falklands où elle a travaillé comme enseignante du Primaire à l’Ecole de Stanley et comme enseignante « itinérante ».

Plus tard, elle est employée comme Responsable de l’Education pour « Falklands Conservation » et partage son temps entre enseignement et conservation. En 1997, elle passe 9 mois en Géorgie du Sud où elle est en charge de la Poste et profite de la moindre opportunité pour y randonner, skier et explorer les sommets et les littoraux alentours.

Ali a publié trois livres à ce jour : *Plantes des îles Falklands* et deux ouvrages à destination des enfants utilisant les albatros et les manchots comme inspiration. Ali est une adepte de la course à pied, elle a ainsi couru trois marathons dans les Falklands et deux au Royaume Uni. Elle aime également le cyclisme, la randonnée et le camping.

Ali travaille pour des expéditions Arctiques et Antarctiques à bord des navires d’Oceanwide depuis de très nombreuses années, au point de ne plus les compter.

Ali s’est récemment installé sur l’île de Skye où elle rénove un cottage et profite des nombreuses randonnées de l’île. Elle est très attirée par la Biologie et la vie sauvage et aime partager son savoir et sa passion pour les régions polaires.

Céline Clément – Assistant Expedition Leader



Celine was born in the south west of France, in the vineyard region of Bordeaux. She grew up with a passion for travel, the natural world especially ocean wildlife... and wine!

Celine was initially Research Manager at the Department of Geography of the University of Bergen, Norway, investigating fisheries management issues in the Barents Sea. Since 1998, various contracts for France's national scientific research center (CNRS) have led this cartographer to participate in fifteen scientific missions in the Arctic (Northern Norway, Bear Island, and Spitsbergen) and Antarctic Peninsula. This work was primarily conducted as part of research programs funded by the French Polar Institute (IPEV) and focused on the adaptations of polar seabirds to changes in their environment. She knows all the ins and outs of capturing, bird banding, biometric measurements, blood sampling, and activity recorders.

During the same period, Celine has been a hiking guide in Spitsbergen and has regularly accompanied cruises in the Polar Regions, which has given her a taste for science outreach programs.

She currently works as Scientific Mediator and ensures the coordination and the carrying out of communication events in scientific culture. Member of the Board of APECS France, the national committee of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, she contributes to communicating the latest scientific discoveries in the polar world.

Céline est née dans le sud-ouest de la France, dans les vignobles du bordelais. En grandissant elle a développé sa passion pour les voyages, la nature, le monde marin en particulier... et le vin !

Elle a d'abord été chargée d'étude à l'Institut de géographie de Bergen en Norvège sur des questions de gestion des pêches en mer de Barents. Depuis 1998, divers contrats au CNRS ont mené cette ingénieure cartographe à participer à une quinzaine de missions scientifiques en Arctique (Norvège du nord, Ile aux ours, Spitzberg) et en Péninsule antarctique. Ces travaux se sont principalement déroulés dans le cadre de programmes de recherche de l'Institut Polaire Français (IPEV) et axés sur les adaptations des oiseaux marins polaires aux variations de leur environnement. Capture, baguage, mesure biométrique, prise de sang, pose d'enregistreurs d'activité sur différentes espèces n'ont plus de secrets pour elle.

Dans la même période, Céline a été guide de randonnée au Spitzberg et a régulièrement accompagné des croisières dans les régions polaires, ce qui lui a donné le goût de la vulgarisation scientifique.

Elle travaille actuellement comme chargée de médiation scientifique et assure la coordination et la réalisation d'actions de communication et de culture scientifique. Présidente d'APECS France, le comité national français de l'Association of polar Early Career Scientists (association des jeunes chercheurs et éducateurs des régions polaires), elle y contribue à la communication sur les dernières découvertes scientifiques dans le monde polaire (Semaine polaire, Jour de l'Antarctique, colloques).

celine.polarguide@gmail.com

Sara Jenner – Expedition guide



For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and every Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born!

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents and she has travelled extensively in the polar regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Falklands, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, and Sara decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

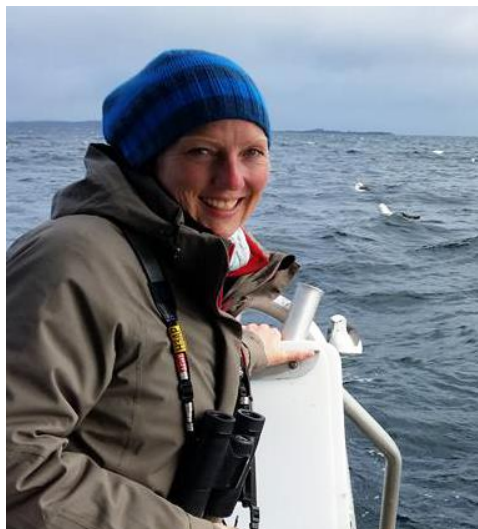
Aussi loin qu'elle s'en souvienne, Sara a toujours eu une passion pour les voyages et a toujours recherché les endroits les plus reculés et sauvages de la planète.

Seulement âgée de 10 ans, elle se souvient avoir vendu sa bicyclette rose favorite pour récolter de l'argent et commencer une cagnotte pour pouvoir voyager. A chaque anniversaire et à chaque Noël, elle y ajoutait un petit peu plus, et, finalement, à 18 ans, elle a réalisé son rêve et est partie plonger sur la Grande Barrière de Corail en Australie ! Son addiction pour les voyages était née!

Sara est aussi photographe, et quand elle n'exerce pas cette activité dans les régions polaires, elle travaille comme guide photo au Botswana, sur la rivière Chobe et dans le delta de l'Okavango. Elle croque vraiment la vie par les deux bouts.

La passion de Sara pour la nature et les grands espaces l'a mené sur les sept continents et elle a voyagé dans différentes zones des régions polaires: péninsule Antarctique, Falklands (Malouines), Spitzberg, Groenland, Islande, île de Baffin et Arctique canadien. Un temps, de retour au Royaume-Uni, Sara a travaillé dans le secteur du tourisme comme spécialiste des régions polaires en agence, mais le virus du voyage l'a à nouveau atteinte. Elle a alors décidé d'échanger sa vie à terre contre une vie en mer et a rejoint l'équipe d'Oceanwide Expedition en 2016.

Nicole Janinhoff – Expedition guide



Growing up in the Northern part of Germany, Nicole developed a fascination for animals and nature at a very young age. She studied Landscape Ecology and lived a year in Norway.

For ten years she worked as a freelance ecologist in Germany and The Netherlands mainly monitoring plants, biotopes, birds and bats.

In 2009 she joined the aerial survey team from Wageningen Marine Research and has been participating in marine mammal surveys on the North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Ireland, Dutch Caribbean and Antarctica.

Since 2014 Nicole has been working for the Ministry of nature conservation of the federal state of Lower Saxony, Germany (NLWKN).

Her specialisation within the biotope conservation department is coastal biotopes and mires.

After having first been to Antarctica, her visit to the high Arctic and to Svalbard enhanced her fascination for the polar regions even more.

Nicole speaks: English, German and Dutch

Nicole a grandi dans le nord de l'Allemagne et y a développé très jeune sa fascination pour les animaux et la nature. Elle a étudié l'écologie du paysage et a vécu une année en Norvège.

Pendant dix ans, elle a ensuite travaillé comme écologue indépendante en Allemagne et aux Pays-Bas, s'occupant d'inventaires de biotopes, plantes, oiseaux et chauve souris.

En 2009, elle a rejoint l'équipe de suivi aérien du Centre de recherche marin de Wageningen et a ainsi pu participer à des suivis de mammifères marins en Mer du Nord, océan Atlantique, Irlande, Caraïbes et Antarctique.

Depuis 2014, Nicole travaille pour le Ministère allemand de la Conservation de la Nature de l'état de Basse Saxe (NLWKN). Ses spécialisations au département de conservation des biotopes sont les zones côtières et les marais.

Après sa première expédition en Antarctique, ses déplacements dans le Haut Arctique et au Spitzberg ont renforcé encore plus sa fascination pour les régions polaires.

Nicole parle anglais, allemand et hollandais.

Adam Turner – Expedition guide



Adam was brought up in countryside of Essex, England. He began sailing at the age of 9 and began working on the local river aged 12 before leaving school.

By 16 he had a small fishing boat and was working on boatyards and taking tourists to see the local seal colonies as well as helping out on the local Lifeboat.

Adam then joined HM Forces and was posted to Northern Ireland and in the UK, he also served in Kenya as a boat operator. In 2002 Adam joined the Police and spent several years on a specialist unit working across the UK with his search dog Charley.

Since being a young lad Adam had dreamt of working in the Antarctic like his Uncle had done in the late 1980's, and in 2014 Adam left the Police to work as Boating Officer for British Antarctic Survey at King Edward Point, South Georgia where he spent just over a year.

Adam studied at Middlesex University and often gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and he now works as guide and Consultant.

Adam holds a commercial masters certificate and instructs in several marine disciplines, he enjoys diving, climbing, kayaking and outdoor activities.

Adam a grandi dans la région de l'Essex en Angleterre. A 9 ans, il navigue déjà à la voile et à 12 il travaille pour une rivière locale. À ses 16 ans, il possède un petit navire de pêche et il fait découvrir aux touristes les colonies de phoques locales. Il propose également ses services à bord du bateau des Sauveteurs en mer.

Adam rejoint ensuite les Forces Britanniques en Irlande du Nord et au Royaume Uni, il est également envoyé au Kenya en tant que pilote d'embarcations. En 2002 Adam intègre une unité de Police spécialisée du Royaume Uni avec Charley, son chien de recherche.

Depuis sa plus tendre enfance, Adam a toujours rêvé de travailler un jour en Antarctique comme l'a fait son oncle à la fin des années 80. En 2014, Adam quitte la Police pour travailler comme pilote d'embarcation pour le British Antarctic Survey à King Edward Point en Géorgie du Sud où il reste un peu plus d'un an.

Adam a étudié à l'Université de Middlesex et propose des conférences sur l'Histoire. En 2017, il est élu membre de la Société Royale de Géographie, et propose aujourd'hui ses services comme guide et consultant.

Adam possède un Master en Commerce et est instructeurs dans plusieurs disciplines maritimes, il aime la plongée, l'escalade, le kayak et toutes autres activités de plein air.

Eduardo Rubio Herrera

Expedition Guide



Eduardo describes himself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for nature, particularly for the sea, mountains, sunrises and sunsets.

Trained as an astronomer, he got a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position, in 2013 he decided to split his time between lecture halls and ships. Hence you could find him part of the year lecturing physics and astronomy and the other part giving lectures and guiding in ships to Antarctica and in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Eduardo's interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips he has undertaken, he has given lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), our Universe, famous battles at sea and optical phenomena, to mention some. At sea, besides being an engaged guide and lecturer, he loves to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore. Eduardo always aims to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live.

Eduardo se décrit lui-même comme astronome de profession avec une passion pour la nature, en particulier la mer, la montagne, les levers et les couchers de soleil !

Il obtient son Doctorat en Astronomie à l'Université d'Amsterdam en 2010. Après son Post-Doc, il décide, en 2013, de partager son temps entre amphitheatres et navires d'expéditions. Ainsi, il enseigne une partie de l'année, la physique et l'astronomie à l'université et le reste du temps il donne des conférences et guide les touristes en Antarctique et dans l'Atlantique sud.

Les centres d'intérêts d'Eduardo vont de l'histoire des grands explorateurs aux subtilités de l'astronomie. Lors des voyages auxquels il prend part, il donne des conférences sur les explorateurs polaires, sur les recherches menées en Antarctique (en particulier en astronomie), sur notre univers (rien de moins), sur de fameuses batailles navales et sur les phénomènes optiques, pour n'en citer que quelques unes. En mer, il adore montrer aux passagers les constellations, les nommer...

Eduardo tente sans cesse d'éveiller l'intérêt des gens pour les sciences ainsi que leur sensibilité envers cette unique et fragile planète sur laquelle nous vivons.

Laura Mony – Expedition guide



The ocean had always been part of Laura's life. She started spending time on sailboats when she was a baby and she sailed around the world crossing several oceans when she was between 12 and 14 years old.

That trip increased her passion for the ocean because she discovered its vastness and its importance on the earth's dynamic. Laura had the chance to start traveling very young and has been all over the world alone, with a backpack, with family or friends. These trips gave her the opportunity to develop an open mind and an intellectual curiosity about the climate phenomena that govern our planet.

Born in France, she grew up in the French part of Canada where she did her bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering. During her bachelor's degree, she became fascinated by the polar regions and wanted to continue her studies in that field. That is why, at the end of her degree, she left Canada for Tasmania, Australia, to do her Master in Marine and Antarctic Science. During that degree she deeply studied this fascinating continent with a specialization in geophysics and glaciology.

L'océan a toujours fait partie de la vie de Laura. Elle a commencé à naviguer sur des voiliers quand elle était un bébé et elle a navigué autour du monde, traversant plusieurs océans, quand elle avait entre 12 et 14 ans.

Ce voyage a augmenté sa passion pour l'océan parce qu'elle a découvert sa grandeur et son importance sur la dynamique de la planète. Laura a eu la chance de commencer à voyager très jeune et elle a découvert le monde avec son sac à dos, toute seule, avec des amis ou de la famille. Ces voyages lui ont donné la chance de développer une ouverture d'esprit sur les différentes cultures et une curiosité intellectuelle à propos des phénomènes climatiques qui gouvernent la planète.

Née en France, elle a grandi au Québec où elle a fait son Bac (Niveau License) en génie géologique. Pendant ses études, elle a commencé à être fascinée par les régions polaires et a voulu continuer d'étudier cette partie du monde. C'est pourquoi, à la fin de ces études, elle a quitté le Canada pour la Tasmanie, en Australie, pour faire son Master en science marine et antarctique. Durant ses études, elle a étudié, en profondeur, ce continent fascinant avec une spécialisation en géophysique et en glaciologie.

Régis Perdriat – Expedition guide



A biologist by training, Régis has always been passionate about nature. After a master's degree in ecology and a scientific mediation diploma, he rapidly got involved in the actions of the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (Birdlife France), where he specialized in seabird care and their rehabilitation after oil spills.

Then he joined the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust studying endangered species. In Brittany he worked for the Sept-Iles Nature Reserve.

In 2008, Régis overwintered on the Kerguelen archipelago (very remote French subantarctic islands) as an ornithologist, studying populations of penguins, albatrosses and elephant seals. Régis fell in

love with those isolated environments and carried out several fieldwork missions in Crozet and Kerguelen. He finally joined the management team of the natural heritage of French Southern and Antarctic Lands, based on Reunion island, and became Head of the Southern Lands Nature Reserve, implementing its environmental policy.

Back in France since 2016, he now proposes his experience for scientific expeditions and shares his passion for birds as often as he can. His last expeditions took him to North-East Greenland, to the steppes of Kazakhstan or to the Antarctic Peninsula. Looking for him? Try outside, you should find him and his binoculars searching for birds or whales.

Originaire du Val de Loire, Régis est depuis toujours passionné par la Nature. Une Maîtrise en Ecologie et un diplôme de médiateur scientifique en poche, il s'implique rapidement dans les actions de la Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux en Bretagne où il se spécialise dans les soins aux oiseaux marins victimes de marées noires.

Il rejoint ensuite le Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust pour étudier et tenter de sauver des espèces menacées d'extinction. De retour en Bretagne, il travaille pendant dix ans pour la Réserve Naturelle des Sept-Iles où il acquiert une solide expérience en conservation des oiseaux marins grâce à son travail de terrain.

2008: grand moment de sa vie, Régis part hiverner dans l'un des endroits les plus isolés au monde, l'archipel de Kerguelen – une île subantarctique française – en tant qu'ornithologue, pour l'Institut Polaire Paul Emile Victor. Il y restera quatorze mois pour étudier les populations de manchots, albatros, éléphants de mer ...

Tombé amoureux de ces milieux isolés, Régis réalise alors plusieurs missions scientifiques de terrain à Crozet et Kerguelen. Il rejoint ensuite l'équipe en charge de la conservation du patrimoine naturel des Terres australes et antarctiques françaises, basée sur l'île de la Réunion. Il y travaille comme chef de service de la Réserve naturelle des Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises (TAAF).

De retour en métropole en 2016, il propose maintenant son expérience pour diverses expéditions scientifiques et partage dès que possible sa passion pour les oiseaux.

Ses dernières missions l'ont menée au Nord-Est du Groenland, dans les steppes Kazakhs ou en Péninsule Antarctique. Si vous le cherchez à bord, essayez dehors, vous devriez le trouver, lui et ses jumelles à la recherche d'oiseaux ou de baleines !

Alexis Bellezze – Kayak guide



Alexis previously served in the Army and Air Force and is a qualified veterinarian surgeon, with an expertise in Farming, Equine and Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.

However, his love of wilderness and adventure took him to train as a kayak guide in Patagonia. He is also a qualified paraglider pilot, trekking guide and a Wilderness First Responder Instructor. He has extensive experience guiding tourists, mountaineers and kayakers, in the form of creating and delivering corporate development days, solo trips, expeditions and educational programmes.

He loves nothing more than being in the outdoors, especially if there is a chance to camp or see wildlife, but most importantly relishes the chance to share this with likeminded people.

Alexis a d'abord servi dans l'Armée de l'Air. Il a ensuite acquis les qualifications pour devenir chirurgien vétérinaire, expert des animaux d'élevage et des chevaux ainsi que du sauvetage d'animaux sauvages.

Malgré toutes ces compétences, c'est son travail de guide kayak en Patagonie qui lui donne la plus entière satisfaction, tant il est passionné de nature et d'aventure. Moniteur de parapente, guide de randonnée, il a également un Brevet de secourisme en milieu extrême, pour lequel il est devenu instructeur. Il a l'habitude de guider des touristes et de concevoir des expéditions, voyages individuels, de groupes ou éducatifs.

Il n'aime rien de plus que d'être à l'extérieur, tout spécialement s'il peut camper ou observer la faune sauvage, mais le plus important pour lui est de pouvoir partager ces moments avec des personnes partageant la même passion.



Captain Artur Iakovlev

**and his international crew
Including:**

Chief Officer:	Francois Kwekkeboom	[Netherlands]
2nd Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
3rd Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Alex Lyebiedyev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Eva-Maria Kifmann	[Switzerland]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[United Kingdom]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Celine Clement-Chastel	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Nicole Janinhoff	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Turner	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Eduardo Rubio-Herrera	[Guatemala]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Regis Perdriat	[France]
Kayak Guide:	Alexis Belezze	[Argentina]

Welcome you on board!

Welcome on board!

Your luggage should already be in your cabin. Please check that you are not missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does NOT belong to you or your cabin mate please tell a member of staff or crew.

Feel free to explore the ship. Tea and coffee is always available in the Lounge on Deck 5

~1715 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill** in the Lounge. **ALL** passengers **must** attend this very important safety briefing.

Lifeboat Drill.

After the briefing we will complete the **Lifeboat Drill** but the timing of this will depend on our departure from the pier so please listen for alarms and announcements and make your way to the Muster Station, the Lounge, on Deck 5.

The Bridge and Bridge wings will be closed this evening.

~1845 We would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Ali Liddle** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Zsuzsanna Varga**. Afterwards Captain **Artur Iakovlev** 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!

If you think you may require sea sickness medication then please take it at this time! Dr Eva will be available in the lounge after dinner if you require any additional medication or advice.

Tonight, at around midnight we will be in open waters. Please secure your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) in your cabin, keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship and be careful with the heavy doors.

0730 Your first Wake Up call from your Expedition Leader, Ali. Good Morning!

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

During the morning we will be sailing South in the Drake Passage. Take some time to get your 'sea legs' and enjoy the seabirds that will follow us on our voyage.

1030 **Seabirds.** The Drake Passage is a great place to see Southern Ocean seabirds. If you would like to find out more about the species we might see and how they are adapted to life at sea then please join **Regis in the Lounge** for his presentation about Seabirds. This will be in English.

1200 **Kayakers:** If you have **pre-booked** and pre-paid for Kayaking during this trip please meet our Kayak guide Alexis in the Library to find out more about your Kayaking activities on board Plancius.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Penguins!** We hope to see plenty of penguins during our time in Antarctica. Please join **Ali in the Dining Room** if you would like to learn more about these iconic little birds. This will be in English.

1630 **Campers:** If you have **pre-booked** and pre-paid for a night of Camping on this trip please meet the camping guides in the Dining Room to find out more about your night on the ice!

1715 If the weather conditions are good at this time we would like to give you your Rubber Boots. We will call you by Deck so please listen for announcements over the PA system. Bring a pair of socks with you!

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

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

- 0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1000 **Zodiac Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage. It will outline our Zodiac operations on board Plancius. This will be followed by a mandatory IAATO briefing which outlines the guidelines regarding our expedition to Antarctica. Please join Ali in the Lounge for the English version of this.
- ~1045 The briefings will be followed by Bio-security procedures on board which will involve vacuuming your outer clothing, particularly Velcro fastenings as well as camera bags and back packs. You then need to sign a bio-security declaration. We will call you to the Lounge by Deck number/cabin number so please listen for announcements.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- Bio security procedures will continue in the Lounge. Don't forget to sign with the staff!
- 1500 **Ice.** We are travelling to the frozen continent of Antarctica and will see plenty of ice on our voyage. If you would like to find out more about Antarctic ice then please join **Laura in the Lounge** where she will tell you more. This will be in English.
- 1630 **Seals.** We hope to see a number of different seal species during our time in Antarctica, including Crabeater seals and Leopard seals. Please join **Sara in the Dining Room** to find out more about the seals and their lifestyle in the Southern Ocean regions. This will be in English.
- 1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and explain plans for tomorrow. There may also be stories from staff.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

- 0630 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0700 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- ~0800 **Danco Island.** For our first landing we hope to be able to take you ashore on Danco Island. This island is home to large colonies of Gentoo penguins so we hope to be able to take you ashore to spend time with these Antarctic residents. If conditions allow, we will also offer a hike to the top of the island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at their Highways.
Kayakers please listen for announcements.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1500 **Port Lockroy.** This was known as **Base A** by the British Antarctic Survey and is now a small museum with a Post Office and gift shop. There are also hundreds of Gentoo penguins around the buildings so please take care where you are walking. Due to the island and buildings being small we will split the group so that the first group go ashore at Port Lockroy while the other group will go on a Zodiac cruise in the local area. We will swap the groups after an hour or so. Both groups will do both landings.
At the shop and Post Office they take Credit/Debit cards, Euro, Dollars and Pounds sterling.
One group will go to Port Lockroy first for the museum, penguins and Post Office. Please no more than 30 people in the museum building at any one time. Guides will be there to assist.
The other group will go to on a Zodiac cruise in the local area.
Please listen for announcements regarding timings.
Kayakers you will have the opportunity to kayak and then visit Port Lockroy at the end of the afternoon. Please listen for announcements from Alexis.
- 1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
Campers! We hope to take you ashore after dinner for your night on the ice! Please listen for announcements!



Antarctic Peninsula

Petermann Island and Port Charcot

Monday 11th February 2019

0645 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

At this time, we hope to transit through the Lemaire Channel, a beautiful, narrow channel to reach our planned destination of Petermann Island but this will depend on the ice conditions we find there. Please listen for announcements.

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

~0900 **Peterman Island.** After breakfast we plan to go ashore on **Petermann Island**. This will be our most southerly position for our voyage. On shore we will find Gentoo penguins but also a small colony of Adélie penguins as well. Staff will mark the route to the penguins with red poles and maybe a longer walk along the island ridge. Please stay on these marked trails as there are known crevasses and snow overhangs at the edge of the island.
Kayakers please meet with Alexis at this time.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1430 **Port Charcot.** Our afternoon location is in Port Charcot on Booth Island. This was the place where Jean Baptiste Charcot brought an expedition in 1903. On shore we will take you to the Gentoo penguin colonies and where we can sometimes find Chinstrap and Adélie penguins as well. There will also be an opportunity to hike to the top of the island where there are stunning views over the surrounding area.
Kayakers please meet with Alexis.

1845 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our daily re-cap.

1915 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.



Antarctic Peninsula Port Lockroy and Paradise Bay

Tuesday 12th February 2019

At 0600 we will collect our campers from the shore!
For everyone else.....

0700 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

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

~0830 **Port Lockroy.** This was known as **Base A** by the British Antarctic Survey and is now a small museum with a Post Office and gift shop. There are also hundreds of Gentoo penguins around the buildings so please take care where you are walking. Due to the island and buildings being small we will split the group so that the first group go ashore at Port Lockroy while the other group will go on a Zodiac cruise in the local area. We will swap the groups after an hour or so. Both groups will do both landings. **At the shop and Post Office they take Credit/Debit cards, Euro, Dollars and Pounds sterling.**

Whales Group will go to Port Lockroy first for the museum, penguins and Post Office. Please no more than 30 people in the museum building at any one time. Guides will be there to assist.

Penguins Group will go to on a Zodiac cruise in the local area.

Please listen for announcements regarding timings.

Kayakers you will have the opportunity to kayak and then visit Port Lockroy at the end of the afternoon. Please listen for announcements from Alexis.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1500 **Paradise Bay.** We plan to do a split landing/Zodiac cruise at **Brown Station & Skontorp Cove.** This will be a continental landing with Gentoo penguins and we will offer a short hike to a viewpoint over the bay. We will also offer a Zodiac cruise in Skontorp Cove with spectacular glacier views, nesting Antarctic cormorants and occasional seals.

The **Whales Group** will go ashore first while the **Penguins** go cruising and we will swap groups on shore.

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Special Antarctic Dinner. Please dress warmly and join us on Deck 3!** Bon appétit.

0700 Wake-up call from Ali

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

0845 **Orne Harbour.** This morning we hope to take you ashore in Orne Harbour where we will take you on a short walk to the Chinstrap penguin colonies on the ridge. This is another continental landing so enjoy your second visit to the Antarctic continent.

The hill to the Chinstrap penguins is quite steep so if you think that this is not for you then do not worry, we will take you out on a Zodiac cruise instead where we will see Chinstrap penguins along the shore and maybe some seals or even whales.

For those who would like to go ashore you will have around 1 hour 30 mins shore and then we will take you on a Zodiac cruise before coming back to the ship.

Hikers: Please come to the gangway at 08:45

Zodiac cruise: Please come to the gangway at around 09:00

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1430 **Orne Island.** This small island is also home to Chinstrap penguins as well as Gentoo penguins. The island has gentle slopes and we will flag a trail up to the colonies of penguins. Please follow the flags.

At the end of the landing we will offer you a Polar Plunge – an Antarctic Swim! We'll bring the towels, you bring the insanity!

1830 Please join Ali and team in the Lounge for our daily **Recap** where staff will tell stories and we will outline our plans for our last day here in Antarctica.....

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



- 0500 Wake-up call from Ali.... sorry! At this time there will be juice and pastries available in the Lounge before we go out.
- 0545 **Telefon Bay.** At this time, we hope to take you ashore at Telefon Bay, which is in the inner part of the caldera of Deception Island. We would like to offer you a walk to the rim of a volcanic crater for views into the crater and also views across Port Foster. If you don't want to hike then you can enjoy some time along the shore.
At the end of the landing we will offer you the Polar Plunge!! We'll bring the towels!
- 0815 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1030 **Seabirds, the Invisible Threat.** During our voyage over the Drake Passage we see many seabirds, from the large albatross to the small storm petrels. They are under threat from pollutants and contaminants and **Celine** will tell you more in her presentation which will take place in the **Lounge**. This will be in English and repeated tomorrow in French.
- 1200 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1245 **Half Moon Island.** After a quick buffet lunch, we hope to be able to take you ashore at Half Moon Island where there are colonies of Chinstrap penguins and some beautiful glaciers on the nearby Livingston Island. We will walk you over to the colonies on the other side of the island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at the penguin highways.
- Mandatory afternoon snooze!!!
- We may offer a presentation or documentary in the Lounge during the later part of afternoon. Please listen for announcements.
- 1800 Please join Ali and team in the Lounge for our daily **Recap** where staff will tell stories and we will outline our plans for tomorrow.
- 1830 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

There will be no wake up call this morning.....but Zsuzsanna will wake you at 0800 for breakfast!

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

1000 **Geology of Antarctica.** If you would like to find out more about the rock that lies beneath the snow and how the continent of Antarctica was formed then please join **Laura in the Dining Room** for a geological walk through time.

1115 **Frozen Planet.** We will screen an episode of the award winning BBC series Frozen Planet, narrated by Sir David Attenborough. This will be screened in the **Lounge**.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1445 **Ice Maidens, Women in Antarctica.** We often hear of the male explorers who made their mark on the continent of Antarctica during the golden age of exploration but who were the women behind the men and which women have made their own mark? Join **Ali in the Lounge** to find out. This will be in English.

1645 **South Georgia, My Year South.** Adam overwintered on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia whilst working for the British Antarctic Survey. If you'd like to hear about his time on the island then please join him in the **Dining Room**.

1830 Please join Ali and team in the Lounge for our daily **Recap** where staff will tell stories and we will outline our plans for tomorrow.

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

During the night we will begin to experience stronger winds and the ship will begin to move a little more. Please secure all your belongings, ensure that all your cupboards and drawers are locked and keep movement in your cabin to a minimum. Thank you.

Please be aware that our lecture programme will be dependent on the weather and the movement of the ship, particularly during the morning. Please listen for announcements.

- 0745 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1000 **Science in Antarctica.** There are many research stations in Antarctica dedicated to science and research but what are they doing and why? Please join **Eduardo in the Lounge** to find out more about the extraordinary science in Antarctica.
- 1125 **Frozen Planet.** We will screen episode 2 of this award-winning BBC documentary series narrated by Sir David Attenborough. This will be in the **Lounge**.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Team presentation!** Ali would like to tell you all about Krill, Nicole will explain about Argo Floats, devices that collect data at sea and Adam will tell you about the wind Beaufort Scale. This will be in the **Dining Room**.
- 1630 At this time we will collect your rubber boots! We will call you by deck to the boot room on deck 3 so please listen for announcements from the Expedition team.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join us in the Lounge for a celebratory drink to toast the success of our Antarctic voyage. Ali will also outline plans for disembarkation in Ushuaia.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

Accounts. After dinner you will be called by deck to settle your accounts with Zsuzsanna and Alex at Reception. Please listen for announcements.

0700 Your final Wake-up call on Plancius from Ali.

As you leave for breakfast please place your large **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door and return your cards, key rings and card holders to Reception. You may leave your hand luggage in your room but please place it on the floor so the hotel staff can start to change the bed linen.

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

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. Please make sure you have all your belongings

- If you are catching the airport bus: please collect your luggage and place it on the bus.
- GNGL – you have your own bus arranged.
- If you have an afternoon flight: You can have your luggage stored. Please bring it to the luggage truck on the pier and it will be taken to **Avenida Maipú 1226**. This building 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 all the Staff and Crew on board Plancius we thank you for travelling with us. We wish you a safe and easy journey home.