

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA VOYAGE

on board

m/v Ortelius March 7thth – March 18th 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.



Captain Mika Appel

and his international crew of 42

including

First Officer: **Tony Salo** [Finland]

Second Officer: **Diederik Scholten** [The Netherlands]

Third Officer: **Igor Nazarov** [Russia]
Chief Engineer: **Aleksandr Bondarev** [Lithuania]

Hotel Manager: Sigi Penzenleitner [Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager: Melanie Penzenleitner [Austria]

Head Chef: Heinz Hacker [Austria]
Sous Chef: Gaurav Bawa [India]
Ship's Physician: Tanya Bayer [Germany]

and

Expedition Leader: Michael Ginzburg [Russia]

Assist. Expedition Leader: Iain Rudkin [United Kingdom]

Expedition Guide: **Daniel Höhne** [Germany]

Expedition Guide: **Pippa Low** [United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide: **Meike Sjoer** [The Netherlands]
Photography Guide: **Neill Drake** [United States]

Kayak Guide: **Zet Freiburghaus** [Sweden]

Mountaineering Guide: **Mal Haskins** [New Zealand]

Mountaineering Guide: Daniel Martig [New Zealand]

Camping Guide: **Ben Guinchi** [Argentina]

Camping Guide: Rustyn Mesdag [United States]

Guide Trainer: Bill Smith [United Kingdom]

Trainee Guide: Vide Brandt [Sweden]
Trainee Guide: Leonard Dewaele [Belgium]
Trainee Guide: Paul Ulrich [Austria]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Thursday 7th March, 2019 Embarkation, Ushuaia, Argentina

Wind: WSW 5 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +7°C

Today we find ourselves in the town at the end of the World; Ushuaia! This town marks the start of an adventure some of us have dreamt about for a long time, an adventure that will take us to the 7th continent; the big beautiful, white continent; Antarctica!

It was a drizzly, wet day in Ushuaia, with occasional bouts of sunshine, typically changeable for this region. By 4pm we are heading for our home for the next 10 days or so; the good ship Ortelius. We are welcomed on board by our expedition team and soon checked in by our hotel manager and assistant hotel manager; Sigy and Melanie as well as their hotel team. We are shown to our cabins and had some free time to get unpacked and settled in.

We have some time to explore the ship, and find our way around to the important areas; the bar on deck 6, the bridge on deck 7 and our restaurant for the voyage on deck 4. We meet and talk with our fellow passengers and begin to get excited about our expedition south.

At 5pm we are summoned by our expedition leader Michael to a mandatory briefing in the lecture room on deck 3. Michael welcomed us onboard and introduced third officer Igor who showed us the all-important safety video; highlighting what we should do to keep ourselves safe onboard and what to do in an emergency. We run through the mandatory abandon ship drill before leaving port. This involved mustering in the bar, which doubles as our mustering station, with our lifejackets from our cabins. Once mustered we head out to the lifeboats to complete the drill.

After the drill we continue to explore the ship and head out on deck to watch Ortelius depart from the port of Ushuaia.....and so the adventure begins!

Before we have our first dinner on board we gathered in the lounge/bar where Michael introduces our Hotel manager Sigi

who gives us a virtual tour of the ship and useful information about mealtimes, internet access and daily life on the ship. Soon after this Michael introduced Captain Mika who gave a lovely toast, and combined with a glass of bubbly (or orange juice), we raised a glass to the success of our voyage.

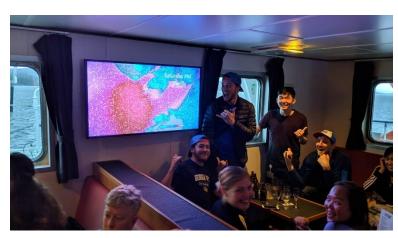
Then came dinner time and we were introduced to chef Heinz' delicious cooking.

After dinner we spent time on deck watching the Beagle channel pass us by as we head out towards the Drake passage.









We expect some rough weather crossing the drake so our expedition team organises our activity briefings to take place this evening; everyone is briefed on kayaking, camping and mountaineering and what is expected of us in preparation for these activities.

We head to bed after a long and exciting day. All in anticipation of our Antarctic adventure.

Day 2 – Friday 8th March, 2019 At Sea to Antarctica!

GPS position at 0800: 56°23'S, 066°17'W

Wind: W 7 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +3°C

Our first wakeup call comes early from Michael, our expedition leader, we awake to rolling seas, and everyone took time to get used to the ship's movement.

As we are expecting rough seas later in the day, we make our way through some essential tasks in the morning; firstly, we need to collect our life jackets and Muckboots – two essential items we will need for our adventures in Antarctica. Simultaneously to this, we also start the process of cleaning all our outer gear; this biosecurity measure is in place to reduce any possible contamination from foreign biological material making it on to Antarctica. The process involves vacuuming our outer clothing and cleaning our footwear, poles and tripods.

We make it through these tasks in time for an early lunch. Again, this is to facilitate the rougher weather expected as we head further south into the Drake Passage.

With quite a few of us feeling the adverse effects of being on a ship in the Drakes Passage, the afternoon is mostly filled with resting in our bunks, standing on deck with views of the horizon and many incredible birds soaring over and around the ship.

We get a chance to sign up to our activities for the trip; camping, kayaking and mountaineering. Through this sign up process we meet our activity guides and get a better idea of what will be involved on our adventures.

We have our first recap with the expedition team which gives us a review of the day and what to expect for the following day. We are introduced to the weather maps which will give us our daily weather on our expedition, and we are told what colours to look out for; blue being the colour for calm days, and purple meaning very windy days.

Those of us that are not too sea sick head to the dinning room for another delicious Ortelius dinner.







Day 3 – Saturday 9th March, 2019 At Sea to Antarctica!

GPS position at 0800: 60°04'S, 064°50'W

Wind: W 7 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +1°C

When we went to sleep last night, we were still heading South across the Drake Passage and we had gusts of wind up to 60kts. The sea was very rough, reaching a sea state of 10 on the Beaufort scale. Consequently, the ship rolled and rocked with the waves and it was not a surprise that there were some cases of seasickness.

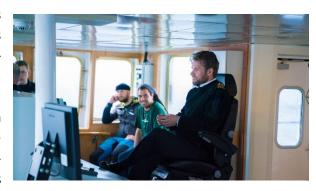
The wind decreased as the day broke but the sea was still in a rough state, with waves making the ship roll. All decks were closed, so we mostly hung out in the lounge. A good place to meet the fellow travellers and share the excitement about the basecamp activities of this

voyage. Just before lunch without noticing we had passed the Antarctic Convergence and sailed officially in to Antarctic waters. Some of us wandered the decks and spent time on the bridge and were rewarded with sightings of a number of bird species that followed the ship. Due to the fact that the waters south of the convergence are colder; they are more productive, meaning more food for birds and mammals.

Before lunch, the rougher weather is calm enough to allow Rustyn to give us a lecture on the politics of Antarctica; including the discovery of the continent, sovereignty, and the Antarctic Treaty. The lecture was very informative, but was presented in a unique way to bring this political topic to life.

Lunch was served in the dining room at 12:30 and for some of us it was the first bite to eat after recovering from the rocky waves.

Taking it easy was the best option today. For those who wanted to learn more about whales Pippa gave an inspiring lecture about the leviathans of the Southern Ocean. Having listened to Neil's photographic tips, keen photographers started checking their settings and making the first pictures of waves and each other as no icebergs were yet to be seen.







Michael and the Expedition Team gathered in the lounge just before dinner to give their daily recap and talk about the plans for tomorrow; a day with a zodiac cruise in the Antarctic Peninsula at Orne Harbour.

A lovely dinner was prepared by chef Heinz and his team. Most people went to bed early as tomorrow is a day full of kayaking, mountaineering and zodiac cruising.

Day 4 – Sunday 10th March, 2019 Orne Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS position at 0800: 64°17'S, 063°04'W

Wind: E 4 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: -1°C

A tranquil, misty dawn. Such a stark contrast to the tumultuous seas on the two-day crossing of the notorious Drake. Ice eerily begins to appear out of the retreating gloom whilst the glassy surface is occasionally broken by the blow of a humpback, unseen beneath the surface. As the clouds begin to fragment, ephemeral light dances across glaciers, ridges and mountain summits offering a trailer for what is to come. A grand unveiling of the much-anticipated continent of Antarctica.

The delays imposed upon us by the Drake have hampered our start. Nonetheless, excitement still ripples through the vessel as Zodiacs are lowered one by one to glide up to the gangway, ready for *Ortelius* to disgorge another ten souls for whom life will never be the same again. Orne Harbour, so called for the natural shelter it gave to whaling and sealing ships from another era, lives up to its historic reputation, and we venture forth on calm seas for the adventure.

As an introduction to Antarctica goes, this does not disappoint. Penguins, seals, whales and ice, so much ice. Glaciers tumble chaotically downwards from the peaks high above only to eject their contents into the bay without warning. The Zodiacs forge ahead through their brashy remnants to be rewarded with close encounters with a female leopard seal and spy hopping Minke whales. Earlier, humpbacks had entertained the flotilla of boats and their eager onlookers. The booming resonance of their exhalations close enough to be felt, reverberating through the body. A real joy to be close to these leviathans of the deep! And let us not forget the penguins. These comical wee avians are synonymous with Antarctica and watching them porpoise perfectly past the Zodiacs is just another part of the magical arena we are in.

Switching off the engines and waiting for the wildlife, one is left awestruck by the amphitheatre surrounding us, dwarfing us in our insignificance. It provides a chance to pause, think and absorb. Once the wonderment of Antarctica has taken hold, it is hard not to be touched by its beauty and long from now, dream once again of being here, in this moment. When the whale blows, the ice cracks and the silence is deafening. Remember this...









Kayaking

We left Orne harbour behind and took the zodiac towards Cuverville. We had not even got in the kayaks before we have our first meeting with humpback whales! With beautiful conditions and nice weather, we spent 4 hours kayaking this afternoon and we met several humpback whales and all 5 seals species (Leopard, Weddell, Crabeater, Fur seal and Elephant seal) we can see at the peninsula.



Camping Kerr Point

After the first day there was a lot of anticipation for our first night camping at Kerr Point. After scouting a prime spot earlier in the afternoon, the weather could not have been more in our favour. We arrived at around 20.30 and immediately started working as a team to transform this remote camp spot into our home for the night. Crabeater seals were spread out over the beach to one side of us and Gentoo penguins had claimed the other side. Due to the tides our zodiac drop off point was on the opposite side of our camping area, so we worked out way across the snow field between all the wildlife. The sun was going down fast so everyone helped everyone dig their spot for the night. Everyone crawled into our bivys for the night and tried to get some sleep, but the glaciers that surrounded us were quite active all through the night and made for an eventful night's sleep. The night sky was perfectly clear and the stars shown so bright that no one had words to describe it. The Milky Way was in full force and the night couldn't be more perfect. We woke up the following morning at 04.45am, and the zodiacs arrived exactly on time at 05.15am. It had dropped to -5C that night. We had a new zodiac pick up site because the tides had gone back out during the night which saved us the walk back across the snow field. Hot coffee waited for us on Ortelius. It was a great night out.

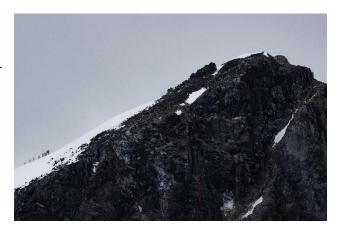
Mountaineering

PM - ORNE - Spigot Peak

We needed to change our intial plans as we were arriving later than expected to the peninsula and our landing sites had ben swapped - we were incredibly lucky to be able to still have the chance to give climbing Spigot Peak a nudge! The sky was very grey and completely overcast with rapidly easing winds although the air itself was very wet - this meant if we moved too quickly we'd sweat and then get cold whenever we rested - better to just simply go slowly!

The landing site for Spigot is normally very smll with lots of ice and often Seals and today was no exception. A small group of seals eyed us warily as we arrived onshore, changed our boots, put on our crampons and then began the short climb up to the Col above us where the Chinstrap Colony is located. Our guides used this time to observe our footwork and see how we were moving. It was important to do this because the very top of Spigot is quite exposed!

Conditions wise the snow was basically frozen and icey meaning that as we got higher on the mountain we needed to pay particular care with our footwork. We were now roped up into 2 groups of 4 with Mal and Dan leading the way using a technique called Short Roping. Misty cloud kept coming and going however just as we reached the small summit the cloud vanished and left us with spectacular - if still grey leaden skies





- of the surrounding area. Of course we still needed to get back down! moving off slowly from the summit we dropped down to the short flat shoulder before the final descent to the COL and then back to the shore for a pick up and a return to Ortelius.

Day 5 – Monday 11th March, 2019 Neko Harbour & Danco Island, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS position at 0800: 64°50'S, 062°43'W

Wind: SE 5 Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +2°C Sea Temp: -1°C

In the early hours Ortelius pressed southwards. The morning started very early for a few of us; we made our way onto the decks before breakfast to take in the approaching scenery of the Antarctic continent. We soon found ourselves surrounded by mountains, glaciers, and ice caps. With barely a breath of wind the sea was a still, dark pool, coloured by the ceiling of grey cloud and creating a suitably polar atmosphere. We breakfasted quickly and as we made our way back out onto deck the weather continued to improve, the last whispers of wind died away and the sun came out as we entered the Andvord Bay and approached our destination for the morning: Neko Harbour. Once again, we boarded the zodiacs, and after a short journey through the brash ice we were ashore at Neko Harbour. We stepped ashore and onto the mainland of Antarctica, our first continental landing! From here we walked swiftly up the beach, wary of the possibility of glacial tsunamis close to the shore. We then ventured up the snow slope, skirting round the noisy (and smelly!) rookery of Gentoo penguins. From the top the view was breathtaking; the huge fjord was littered with icebergs, growlers, and brash ice. Amongst this medley of ice the surrounding sunlit mountains reflected in the bright, blue mirror of the fjord waters.

During lunch *Ortelius* had repositioned and was now steaming into Errera Channel, a scenic channel with massive glaciers and vast snowfields.

With full stomachs and a cup of coffee we were soon recharged and ready for an afternoon of activities at Danco Island. The expedition team went ashore to scout the landing and before long we were boarding zodiacs bound for the beach. Danco is a small rounded island home to thousands of Gentoo penguins, skua, and is a resting spot for seals. Once ashore we picked our way carefully up the slope, taking care to avoid the network of penguin highways, and stopping frequently to let the inquisitive birds waddle past us on their way to feed their young.

The vantage point above the landing spot was the perfect place to take in our spectacular surroundings. Mountains more than 1000 m high form the flanks of the Errera Channel; glaciers, large cirque glaciers, and huge snow cornices adorn the jagged peaks. As we paused to take it all in, we spotted humpbacks out in the fjord, the noise of their deep exhalations carrying for miles in the still air. After a glorious few hours ashore, it was time to head back to the ship and we arrived just in time to take in a sumptuous buffet lunch. Aboard *Ortelius* once more there was time to take in the surroundings and make the most of the beautiful weather as the campers prepared to have another beautiful night put in









Antarctica. Ben and Rustyn went out scouting and decided the weather conditions were good to give it a go. So, the Expedition team brought us to Kerr Point and there we experienced the magic of an Antarctic night. The backdrop was spectacular, and as the campers settled in those of us on the ship were treated to a sunset that lit the mountains yellow and then pink as the sun dipped behind the huge peaks. After a few last photos of the alpenglow behind the ship and it was time for some well-earned rest, and the end to a fantastic day in Antarctica.

Kayaking

AM - Neko Harbour

The kayaking this morning starts in the best possible conditions; sun, blue sky and no wind. The bay is full of amazing ice and we make our way through brash ice and look at many incredible formations of ice.

PM - Danco Island

We have some stronger winds (25 knots), but that doesn't scare us off. We enter the kayaks outside Danco Island and go with the wind towards Cuverville. Best encounter of the day was a big leopard seal that was looking at us with the same joy as we looked at it.





Camping Kerr Point

The wind had picked up throughout the afternoon but camping was possible for our second night out. We were dropped off on the far side of the snowfield and walked through Crabeater seals and Gentoos to out camp spot on the far side. With some clouds in the sky the daylight was disappearing fast, and everyone joined forces and helped dig out sleeping holes for the night in order to utilise the remaining daylight. The wind was strong and made it challenging to set up our equipment. But as the sun went down and the starts came out, the wind completely stopped and made for a very quite night. The temperatures dropped to -9C which made all the glaciers that surrounded our camp spot solid and relatively stable. There were very few ice falls during the night and the silence was incredible. The cold, icy air made for almost zero humidity which allowed the view if the Milky Way to come out in all its glory. The night sky was unforgettable. Our zodiac pick up was on shore at 05.15am to take us back to the ship - and back to a well deserved hot breakfast.

Mountaineering

AM- Neko Harbour

.... then again we are in Antarctica.

Neko Harbor is always an amazing and inspiring location to go mountaineer and this morning we were also rewarded with beautiful sunshine and calm winds The calm winds didn't last very long however as a strong katabatic wind coming down off the 2000m high mountains behind us quickly began picking up the recently deposited dry, crystalized snow and began shifting it about. Drifting snow lokks a bit stranger as we walk though it - it almost makes us feel like we are moving faster than we are! The limb to our high point for the day takes us through a small crevasse field but Dan and Mal were able to take us safely both up and down through this - standing at our high point was a bit cold as the cliffs above cast long shadows in the autumn sunshine so it's a bit like standing in a deep freeze



The climb gave us all an amazing view of the glacier pouring into Neko harbour and more of an appreciation of some of the hazards that a large Calving event can have here.

We made our way back down to the shore and observed many of the moulting juvenile penguins standing around waiting to lose their down feathers so they could finally get in the water and find food! The short journey back to Ortelius was followed shortly by a well deserved lunch

PM – Danco Island Ice climbing 11 ice climbers

Going ashore on the edge of Danco Island, Dan and Mal setup 3 short tope ropes on the safe section of ice cliffs on the Southern aspect of the Island. This allowed us all to rotate through a few different climbs after we had been given a short introduction on how to use crampons in a vertical plane as well a few tips on the techniques need to use our ice axes. We were also shown how to Belay each other using a 3rd person (Climber - belayer + backup) as a backup safety to ensure we didn't accidently drop each other! From our climbing position we could also see the large seracs across the bay collapsing and sending streaming ice avalanches down over the steep rocky cliffs and eventually into the sea below



- a very spectacular place - there are not many places in the world where you can go ice climbing with the sea lapping at your heels!

Day 6 - Tuesday 12th March, 2019

Almirante Brown & Stony Point, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS position at 0800: 64°53'S, 062°51'W

Wind: NW 1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: 0°C

This morning Ortelius sails into Paradise Bay- one of the most beautiful places on the Peninsula. Here we will land at an Argentinian station; Almirante Brown. This is an active summer station, where the main focus of research is fish population studies in the area. We are met by the base commander and ships doctor who gave us a very nice introduction to the base and it's history. Behind the station is a steep peak, but the short walk up, past Gentoo penguin rookeries, rewards us with spectacular views over the Bay, it's mountains, glaciers and icebergs. The views from this peak are the perfect photo opportunity, and many of us take the chance to get that 'Antarctic shot'.

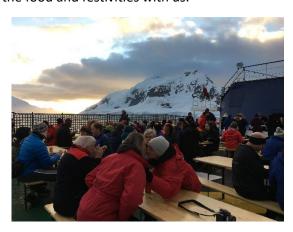
Below we can watch the other half of the ship that head out on the zodiacs to cruise Skontorp Cove before swapping on shore. Skontorp Cove sits at the base of the active and dramatically beautiful Skontorp Glacier, here we visit nesting birds, resting Crabeater seals on ice and the incredible peaks and arches of the glacier itself as it tumbles down the slope it rests on.

After rotating through landing and cruising, we then head back to Ortelius for a delicious buffet lunch onboard.

After lunch we take a longer zodiac ride to Stony Point. All the zodiacs travel together to this landing site, giving us the opportunity to get pictures of all the zodiacs on the water. Stony point is a small beautiful rounded peak, just a short walk up from the landing site, where we have panoramic views of Paradise Bay, with continental glaciers behind the peak. It is a unique opportunity to sit and take in the Antarctic silence away from the noise of the ship or zodiacs. We couldn't imagine anything better than the views and atmosphere found here- this is true Antarctica!

As we head back to the zodiacs, we encounter a resting Weddell seal on the shoreline; these cute seals often rest on the shore lines and ice flows in the area.

After a quick zodiac trip back to the ship, we head back on board for our surprise dinner; a BBQ on the Zodiac deck! We are blessed with calm winds, clear skies and a fantastic sunset, as well as the fantastic food put together by the hotel team. We invited the Argentinian base personnel to join us for the BBQ and they enjoyed the food and festivities with us.











Kayaking

Both morning and afternoon kayaking took place outside Almirante Brown Station, in an area known as Paradise Bay. We were kayaking on glass with lots of beautiful ice and both Crabeaters and a Weddell seal on the ice.



Mountaineering

AM - Brown Station - Canessa Point

A large team set out to climb a small peak overlooking Brown Station and Paradise Harbour. We needed to travel by zodiac about 10 minutes to be dropped off on a small rocky point where we climbed up and above the incoming tide to keep our equipment secure and dry. After we had put on our crampons the group negotiated the first short steep slope that lead away from the shore – we needed to pay carful attention here as a mis-step could have put us down amongst the rocks below. From here the route to the summit looked straight forward but we actually had to move back and forwards between to lines of hidden crevasses before reaching



and broad flat section just below our main summit. Just like on all previous mountain trips for this voyage the snow was very firm and icy and required good footwork on the steeper sections to ensure we had no mis-adventure. After being able to take short break for images and a change of layering we moved up the final slope to the summit where we were rewarded with amazing views of the mountains above and behind us as well as the expanding waves of a large serac collapse that was hidden down below us out of view. The weather was still and the ocean almost like a mirror! Going back to shore was faster than climbing up. Getting back into the zodiacs was a bit wetter than when we had first arrived as the tide had come in a bit - our zodiacs arrived and then before we knew it we were sitting down to yet another amazing meal on Ortelius.

PM - Brown Station

With Ortelius experiencing a minor issue with her anchor system we needed to change plans for the afternoons excursion. Mal had a plan to go and explore a site that nobody had ever been to before and we got to climb up along side the edge of an enourmous glacial icefall. Its not everyday that we are able to safely go into terrain like this so it was best we made use of the opportunity.

Dan and Mal set up fixed lines and taught us how to move independently along them, managing ourselves as we climbed high enough to a point where the glacier flattened out and we were able to rope of for standard glacier travel. This also meant that we could go and explore and look into a few of the enormous exposed crevasses that were now visible due to the nature of the late season snowpack. As



the wind began to pick up we made our way back to shore where Bill and Micheal had come to collect us in the Zodiacs – the mountaineering team had been able to be flexible enough to enjoy a slightly different mountaineering journey and got to learn a few of the techniques needed to survive a high altitude mountaineering expedition!

Day 7 – Wednesday 13th March, 2019 Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot & Vernadsky Station, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS position at 0800: 65°05'S, 063°58'W

Wind: SE 1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +1°C

This morning, many of us woke early to witness the ship pass through one of the most spectacular sites on the peninsula; the Lemaire Channel. The steep peaks either side of the channel dive straight into the ocean and offer a safe deep water passage through incredibly close up scenery- only if the ice allows of course. We come face to face with a large iceberg, awkwardly positioned in the middle of the channel, which would not allow us to pass. We remained in the channel and awaited movement from this large unpassable piece of ice. Whilst in the channel, there was much to witness; apart from the incredible scenery leering over us from above, we were also surrounded by many penguins, Minke whales, and Humpback whales. Shortly after breakfast the Captain and his bridge team expertly navigate around the large iceberg to allow us passage through the narrows of the channel.

On the South side of the Lemaire channel is a large bay, known as Port Charcot, which is home to a large iceberg graveyard – a perfect spot for zodiac cruising. We cruise through the broken and misshapen pieces of ice, occasionally frequented with crabeater seals resting on the tops. We pass towering icebergs, grounded on the bottom of this bay, surrounded by tall, beautiful snow-capped peaks. A truly awe-inspiring place.

Following our zodiac cruise, we have lunch on board Ortelius, as she navigates further South to Vernadsky Station; a Ukrainian Antarctic Research Base.

The base is located in a sheltered bay, and while we navigate the zodiacs through the narrow entrances to this station, the snow begins to pick up, making for wintery scenes.

At the station we are greeted by station staff, wo give us a tour of the base, and take us to their small souvenir shop. Here we can send postcards home and buy memorabilia made by the station staff here in Antarctica. While some of

us visit the station, the others cruise through the islands and visit Wordie House, the original British station hut here; its incredible to see how these men would have lived back in the early days.









After some sampling of the locally made vodka at Vernadsky we made our way back to the ship in driving snow and increasing winds. We were glad to get back on board and warm up in time for dinner.





Kayaking

The day with amazing icebergs. Both morning and afternoon kayak were out kayaking in icebergs graveyards. We had both Crabeater seals and a Leopard seal on the ice.



Mountaineering AM – Hovegarrd

After a spectacular trip through the Lemaire Channel it was time to once again go ashore and go for a wander over glacier covered terrain. The objective today was a short traverse of Hovegarrd Island. We landed on a small point and, after organising our lifejackets into a recognizable bag for them to be brought back to us on the other side of the Island we roped up and began our journey up and over the Island. The terrain we were in was not hard or extreme – a broad gentle slope took us slowly to a viewpoint over looking Pleneau. The mirror like quality of the water was astounding, we could see a mother and calf humpback whale sleeping in the bay beneath us, penguins generally standing about and seals swimming through the waters below. Skua were flying above us and with Ortelius a fair way away it was hard to hear her en-



gines – the peace of Antarctica was all around us. Also from our vantage point we could see the Iceberg Graveyard - and slightly further to the SW the Iceberg Alley. After we had arrived at the shore and sorted our equipment ready

for pickup we enjoyed a 'quiet time' before the sound of the zodiacs coming to collect us signalled that we would soon be back aboard Ortelius and enjoying yet another amazing lunch.

PM - Wordie House -Crevasse fall training

As the expedition had had to make a change of plan we were in a location where there were no mountains for us to go wandering on. What to do? Our guides had plans up their sleeves – instead we would go through some technical training on how to hold crevasse falls and practice doing a group crevasse extraction.

After being introduced to the process of self – arresting with our ice axes we were roped up in teams of 4 and encouraged by our guides to simply walk off a perfectly good ice cliff

This would simulate the effect of falling unexpectedly falling into a crevasse. After successfully holding the fall – we were also on a back up rope that Dan and Mal were controlling incase we couldn't hold the fall – we then were taken through the process of simply standing up as a group and man hauling the person out and over the lip. A few of us found approaching the lip to be a daunting experience but we all shared the experience at least once. After getting packed up a few of us - including Mal – joined in with a series of cartwheels and handstands before going to Vernadski Station and enjoying visiting a working station –



as it was snowing fairly well outside the warmth of the station was also very welcome.

Day 8 – Thursday 14th March, 2019 Port Lockroy & Jougla Island, Antarctic Peninsula

GPS position at 0800: 64°44'S, 063°30'W

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

This morning when we looked outside, the World had a true Antarctic look. Lots of snowflakes, brash ice and a mediocre visibility. Captain Mika and his team sailed the Ortelius in front of Goudier Island; the landing site for this morning.

After breakfast we arranged a split- zodiac and landing due to passenger numbers that are allowed at Port Lockroy. Port Lockroy was an old British base till 1962 and is a museum now. The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust took over the management of the Port Lockroy in 2006 and maintains the base on behalf of the UK. During the Antarctic summer the small gift shop and post office helps to finance the operation of the museum, and on-going maintenance work to the buildings at Port Lockroy. The employees had left the premises for the winter, but we were still able to visit the quaint museum. Not to forget the Gentoo's that reside on this small island also.

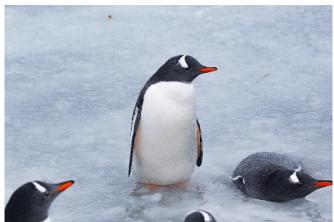
The other landing site for the morning was Jougla point that we reached by zodiac after a small cruise through the brash ice just behind Goudier Island.

It was not only the mystical landscape that revealed itself when the clouds of snow moved away this morning. In the bay just in front of Jougla point a leopard seal was hunting Gentoo penguins. Not bothered by our presence in a zodiac the seal tore its pray to pieces to eat the best parts and leave the rest for the giant petrels, kelp gulls and skuas. The leopard seal ate not 1, not 2, but 8 penguins during this morning, meaning most of us got to witness this spectacular scene.

Setting foot on Jougla point after was special too, being able to look at a whale skeleton amongst a colony of Gentoos.

Around 12 o'clock we drove the zodiacs back to the Ortelius after a morning well worth being out and about in the snow and among the wildlife.









Lunch was served we got mentally ready for the polar plunge that was scheduled for this afternoon. However, as we sailed toward Damoy Point fog rolled in and the wind picked up to 30 knots. Michael our expedition leader and the Captain decided the conditions were not safe and cancelled the landing for this afternoon. We continued sailing the Neumayer channel and from the bridge we watched the winds and the snow hitting the bow of the ship.

As an alternative, as we were stuck on the ship, in the afternoon we gathered in the lounge for the quiz with Antarctic trivia.

Pippa hosted this afternoon and kept us all entertained with her witty and joyful presentation. Team "United



Nations" made it to the finals and won the shootout; honoured with free drinks at the bar for the whole team. Michael and his expedition team recapped the events of the day with the latest news of what to expect the next coming days. Patch up! That was the advice of Tanja; our ships doctor, as the forecast for the Drake looked very rough.

Kayaking

AM – Goudier Island (Port Lockroy)

The heavy snow have turned the whole bay into a slush. It slows down the kayaks and also absorbs all sound. In silence we travel our way around Port Lockroy. Highlight was most likely the leopard seal killing a penguin in the middle of the group of kayaks.



Mountaineering

AM - Lockroy

Unfortunately we had to cancel our days activity for the attempt on the summit of Jabet Peak as the storm that had started the night before was still in full force. We postponed initially until later in the day - and although it looked like it was going to clear the storm re-intesified in the afternoon with winds over 35kts and more driving snow reducing visibility to nothing.

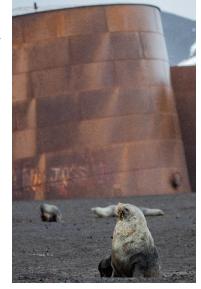
Day 9 – Friday 15th March, 2019 Whaler's Bay, Deception Island

GPS position at 0800: 62°59'S, 060°33'W

Wind: NNW 5/6 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Rain Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +3°C

Sailing into the caldera of an active volcano is surely one of the more unusual ways to awake from one's slumber. Those up and about pre-breakfast had the pleasure of ringside seats as *Ortelius* carefully navigated the narrows evocatively named *Neptune's Bellows*. Deception Island, a lonely outpost of the South Shetland Islands, is arguably the Peninsulas most interesting site from a human history perspective having taken centre stage for commercial, exploratory and scientific endeavors during the previous century.

Whalers Bay was first occupied in 1906 by Norwegian whalers who slowly developed their interests there, the remains of which still taint the landscape rust orange on this typically monochromatic Antarctic day. Large storage tanks stand, decaying and collapsing, whilst closer to shore in a similar state of disrepair, boilers and unidentifiable ironwork lies broken and crumpled. The remains of a factory whose sole purpose was to harvest whales. Volcanic activity has removed many traces yet enough still remain as a cautionary reminder to those who would repeat this damaging practice.



In the 1930's, Deception Island was used as the staging post for much of the early aeronautical forays over the continent. Most significant of these was Lincoln Ellsworth's flight from Dundee Island over to the Ross Ice Shelf in 1935 thereby achieving the first continental crossing. A decade later and the site was occupied by Operation Tabarin and subsequently as a scientific research station for the British Antarctic Survey. Unsurprisingly, they performed a number of seismic studies here!

The low clouds and rain on today's landing are not ideal conditions to really explore this place but it does lend a certain gloom to a setting whose very existence is down to man's insatiability and greed, a sad reminder of the whaling during that dark period in Antarctic history. Alas the Polar Plunge couldn't be achieved. An increase in wind caused the landing to aborted early and the beach evacuated. Perhaps an unsatisfactory end to what has been an incredible expedition. Heading out north into the Southern Ocean the ship starts to gently rock, homeward bound. Many of you will not return but hopefully the memories of this incredible place will leave an indelible mark on your life's journey.





Mountaineering

AM - Deception Island

Our initial plan to go ashore at Georges Point was cancelled as we had to radically change our landing site - instead MAL began to take us on a short walk up behind the old Whaling Station on Deception Island. This journey was shortlived as the wind suddenly increased and the entire shore landing had to be abandoned due to safety concerns of be able to return safely to the ship.

Day 10 – Saturday 16th March, 2019 At sea to Ushuaia, The Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 60°54'S, 062°44'W

Wind: NNW 5/6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4.5°C

By now we are getting used to Michaels voice for wakeup. After we left Deception Island we are out on the Drake Passage on our way home to Ushuaia. The wind map promises us a very rough and bad passage with huge waves but there is only some old swell on the sea for the first part of the night. Then it calmed down a bit and most of us were able to sleep.

After breakfast Meike gave us a lecture about Penguins. A brilliant insight into the lives of the non-flying birds and the threats they are facing in the last years.

In the afternoon we joined lain for his talk about his time in Antarctica on a British survey base called Rothera Sta-

tion. He spent 3 winters on the station and showed us emotional moments of his daily live on the station. Before our daily recap Pippa talks about noise and acoustics in the oceans and how far and fast sound is travelling in the open waters.

We have a short recap before dinner where Sigi tells us of the plans for disembarkation and how to settle our bills- time to pay for all those beers!

After dinner Bill gives the last talk of the day about Paintings and Seas. As a skilled Artist it was so interesting to listen and learn more about Art. Most of us went up to the Bar after this and Neil showed us his slide show, encapsulating the last 10 days in Antarctica. What a beautiful time.



Day 11 – Sunday 17th March, 2019 At sea to Ushuaia, The Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 57°15'S, 065°02'W

Wind: SE - 6 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: +4°C

Another day at sea started with calm seas for a change. Thick fog was surrounding the Ortelius while she was on her way north. As outside temperature increased again, we enjoyed the outside decks and witnessed the birdlife changing. As everything good comes to an end at some point, it was time for the first farewell in the morning - we had to say good bye to our boots, our dear companions that kept us dry and warm on all our adventures in Antarctica.

A lecture from Michael broke up the morning; he told us about Sea Ice and the repercussions of climate change on it.

After lunch Bill gave us an in-depth overview on the History of whaling, including the stories of whalers from the Southern oceans.

We made good progress on our course to Ushuaia and before we arrived at the pilot station, we had our farewell cocktails with the Captain, the department heads and the expedition team to celebrate our extraordinary trip and recap the wonderful experiences we shared with new friends.





Tuesday 18th March, 2019 Disembarkation Ushuaia, Argentina

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 three weeks 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 sight of icebergs for the first time, whales breaking the surface of the water or penguins waddling along highways, they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.



Your Expedition Team!

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

Total Distance Sailed: 1720 NM





PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019

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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.



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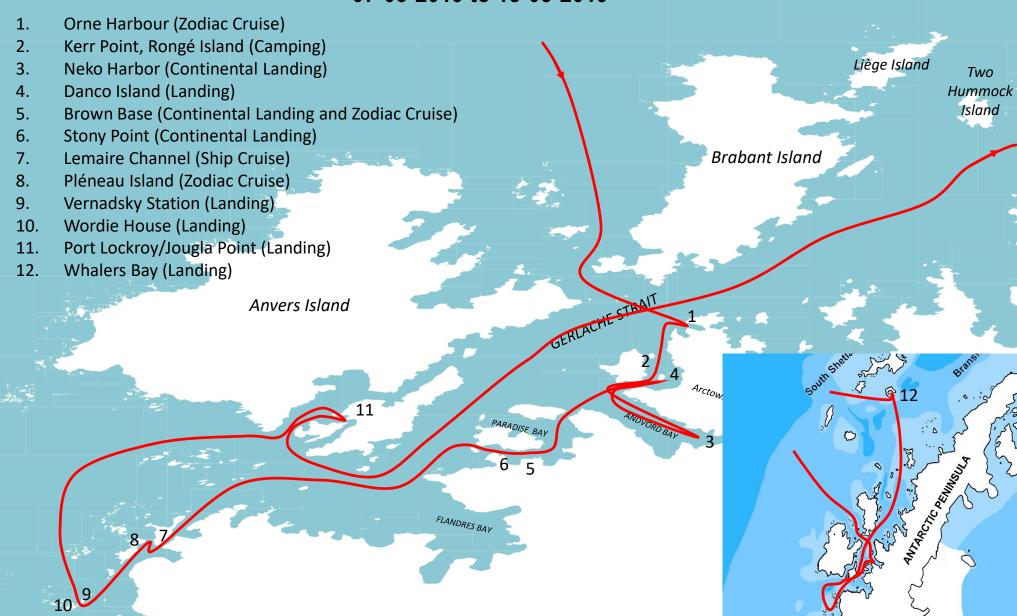
WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

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



Antarctic Peninsula Voyage – Basecamp M/V ORTELIUS 07-03-2019 to 18-03-2019



Michael Ginzburg — **Expedition Leader**



Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and turned even into an addiction after his first research Svalbard. expedition on Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice and since has worked on evolution and ecology of sea ice diatoms of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Michael has participated in over a dozen scientific expeditions of up to four months duration and works for several national polar programs

in field operations and safety. Having traveled all seven continents in his twenties, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion and curiosity for nature in photography and documentaries.

Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist and director for different natural history units. Also, he co-directed the movie "Project: Antarctica" which premiered in movie theaters in 2018. In 2016 Michael became the editor in chief for The Explorer's Magazine.

Iain Rudkin – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

Daniel Höhne



"Ein stimmungsgeladenes und gut fotografiertes Bild ist nicht nur immer wieder schön anzusehen. Es ist viel mehr. Es ist gelebte Leidenschaft und Emotion, ein unvergessliches Naturgefühl.

Was über viele Jahre hinweg für mich ein leidenschaftliches Hobby war, ist mittlerweile mein Beruf geworden. Menschen, die sich für

Themen rund um die Fotografie und Umwelt interessieren mit hinaus auf Tour zu nehmen und dabei neben fotografischen Inhalten auch die Geographie unserer Landschaften zu vermitteln, macht mir persönlich die größte Freude.

Die meisten Menschen tragen den Wunsch in sich, Natur in ihrer Ursprünglichkeit und intakter Form, sei es während eines Urlaubes oder der Freizeit am Wochenende, erleben zu wollen. Dafür muss diese aber auch erhalten werden.

An das Zitat von Goethe angelehnt "Man sieht nur, was man weiß" gilt für mich auf meinen Foto-Reisen grundsätzlich immer, dass jeder nur achten und schützen kann, was man kennt und versteht. Dabei hilft mir die Naturfotografie, die eigene Blickrichtung und Wahrnehmung vieler natürlicher Schönheiten zu verändern und meinen Horizont zu erweitern.

Wenn wir beginnen zu verstehen, dann lernen wir auch, Natur und natürliche Einflüsse, bzw. natürliche Gegebenheiten nicht als "unsere", des Menschen Gegner, zu betrachten, sondern im Einklang mit unserer Umwelt zu leben und sie als Teil unseres Lebens zu betrachten. Wenn wir uns auf das Naturerlebnis einlassen, werden wir die einmalige Chance bekommen, uns als gleichberechtigt mit allen anderen Lebensformen dieser Erde zu betrachten.

Fasziniert von der Kraft der Natur und der Sensibilität der Ökosysteme absolvierte ich mein Studium der Geographie an der Universität Tübingen bis 2009. Seit 2002 bin ich im Naturfotografischen Feld in stetiger Selbst- und Weiterentwicklung. Dabei hatte ich in den letzten Jahren immer die Möglichkeit, unterschiedlichste Projekte im Bereich Fotografie und geographischer Umweltbildung durchzuführen.

Hierzu zählen neben den fotografischen Workshops und Tagestouren auch Buchprojekte zusammen mit dem Hinstorff Verlag in Rostock und Kooperationen mit dem Deutschen Jugendherbergswerk, sowie die Zusammenarbeit mit unterschiedlichen Reiseveranstaltern, welche alle sehr auf umweltverträgliches Reisen und Naturverständnis bedacht sind.

Sich auf die Natur einzulassen, bedeutet für mich Emotion, Leidenschaft, persönliche Entwicklung und Freiheit."

Daniel Höhne - Expedition Guide



A well photographed picture is more than just looking at it again and again. It is emotional and unforgettable passion and a story behind.

Most of the past years it was more or less my hobby to get outside and take nature photos. But today it is my profession and beside working as a fulltime guide I work also for newspapers and magazines.

Taking people hand by hand outside and show them what to see and what outside can be felt is one of the greatest things for me to do. It is even more important and necessary to understand our ecosystems and for that reason I try to take people out in the wilderness. To understand why things in nature happen and what our part as humans is in different environments. We only can protect what we really know and love.

I studied Geography and Geology in the south of Germany, Tübingen. Since then I was fascinated by the power and sensibility of our white and cold ecosystems.

Combined with nature photography I am self-employed within different kinds of guiding nature and photography journeys.

My hot spots are Iceland, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctica and Germany. Most of my time I spend in Iceland for exploring and working in unique places and feel the strength of the old Viking land.

Pippa Low – Expedition Guide



Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 7 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia and New Zealand. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer. Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia. Upon completion of her degree, Pippa worked in Australia on marine science research projects as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant. After returning to Scotland, Pippa set up a wildlife tour boat company in her hometown of Findhorn and has spent the past 6 years working summer in Scotland, showcasing the wonders of the Moray coastline and wildlife to adventurers on board, and then spending the winter in southern hemisphere working on marine research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research. Most recently, Pippa worked in the Ross Sea on a New Zealand Ecosystem voyage, realising a life dream to work in Antarctica. On this voyage she assisted in the collection of baseline data on the World's largest Marine Protected Area; primarily on the distribution of cetaceans in this region. The 2018/19 season will be Pippa's first working as a guide in this region.

Pippa arbeitete 7 Jahre als Guide und Skipper, vornehmlich in Schottland, Australien und Neuseeland. Es fand eine wissenschaftliche Spezialisierung auf marine Säugetiere und deren Schutz statt. Dafür verbringt Sie je die Hälfte des Jahres auf den unterschiedlichen Hemisphären und zeigt Menschen mit Begeisterung die Meereswelten und was diese zu bieten haben. An der Küste vom wunderschönen Moray Firth aufgewachsen begeisterte sich Pippa schon früh für die marinen Lebensräume und deren Bewohner. So verbrachte Sie jede freie Minute auf, im und unter Wasser, was dazu führte, dass Pippa Meeresbiologie an der Universität Schottland und später Australien studierte. Über Ihren Abschluss hinaus, arbeitete Pippa in australischen Forschungsprojekten zur marinen Lebewelt, als Beobachter mariner Säugetierarten, wissenschaftlicher Taucher und Forschungsassistent. Nach der Rückkehr nach Schottland baute Pippa eine Agentur für Bootstouren und Beobachtung in Ihrem Heimatort Findhorn auf und arbeitete die letzten 6 Sommer in Schottland, um Begeisterten die Einmaligkeit dieses Küstenstreifens näher zu bringen. Die Wintermonate verbrachte Sie auf der Südhalbkugel und arbeitete in marinen Forschungsprojekten, sowie der Foto-Identifikation und Verhaltensforschung mariner Sägetiere. Damit einher ging ein wachsendes Interesse am Schutz und Erhalt dieser Ökosysteme. Die letzten Jahre verbrachte Pippa im Gebiet der Ross Sea auf eine neuseeländischen Schiff für Ökoforschung und realisierte sich somit einen Traum, in der Antarktis zu arbeiten zu können. Während dieser Zeit half Sie, grundlegendes Datenmaterial hisnichtlich dieses grössten, geschützten marinen Lebensbereiches zu generieren. Die Saison 2018-2019 ist Ihre Erste als Guide in dieser Region.



Meike Sjoer

naturalist expedition guide

From early on Meike has been a passionate naturalist and traveller who just loves birds. At the age of 7 she bought her first bird book. Being outdoors all the time she wanted to learn more about the amazing creatures she encountered. Investigating and learning about nature and wildlife has been a passion ever since.

Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If not travelling she is the director of the prime time wildlife television program Vroege Vogels.

When time permits, she volunteers as a nature guide for the Dutch institute for nature and education. As a teenager Meike started sailing the oceans but her true love for the life in the oceans began 14 years ago when she started working with Sea sheperd on the mediateam.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip, and looking forward to sharing knowledge and the passion for this magical polar world with you.

Neill Drake - Photography Guide



After serving almost ten years in the US Coast Guard, Neill Drake found himself taking time off to backpack around South America. He first travelled to Antarctica in 2015 as a guest and developed his love for polar exploration. He has positioned himself in the industry leading Photography Workshops for guests of all experience levels and will cater his workshops to make sure everyone on board goes home with photos they can be proud to share with their friends and family.

When Neill is not in Antarctica, he is traveling around South America in a VW Bus with his dog, documenting his travels through photography to show the world the amazing culture he has fallen in love with. He was born in Long Island, New York, but calls California home after the military brought him out there over ten years ago.

ZET FREIBURGHAUS Kayak guide



Zet is a former successful member of the Swedish national kayak team who after his active career has travelled around the world. Just last year he hiked and rode a horse in the Tien Shen mountains of Kyrgyzstan and explored big parts of Ethiopia, where he saw the Ethiopian wolf and were standing on the rim on an active volcano. His sharp eyes and great experience in nature implies he rarely misses an animal.

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



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.

Daniel Martig - UIAGM Mountain Guide



Born in the Swiss Alps but has been based in New Zealand for the last 30 years.

I walk in the spirit of my great grandfather who guided people on first ascents in the Swiss Alps in the 1800's. I have been guiding for the last 35 years in both the Swiss and New Zealand Alps. I spend time most of my time in natural places guiding in the mountains, canyons, mountain biking, sea kayaking and heli-skiing.

My passion is big for pristine wild places like Antarctica. Where the mountains and the sea meet is a very powerful place for me! We have to take care of the natural world for generations to come!

I feel honoured to climb with you here and wish you a great trip. Leave no trace, only your footprints!

Benjamin Giunchi – Camping Guide



Ben comes from the country side of Argentina, known as "The Pampas". Since very young experienced nature but after a few years traveling around the country he discovered his passion about Patagonia and the mountains. This also woke up a curiosity about glaciers and wildlife and he became a guide around El Calafate and El Chaltén.

Having the chance to share some time with people around the world, he turned into a Tour Leader to expand his knowledge about culture in South America and took a few courses that could take him closer to his dream... Antarctica!!!

As we are probably hitting a dram together, I invite you to share all the good vibes and enjoy a unique place in the world and your life... WELCOME TO YOUR ADVENTURE!!



Rustyn Mesdag - Expedition Guide

Rustyn was born in Seattle, Washington where grew up in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. He quickly discovered his love for snow and ice which led to climbing and then travelling abroad. After working as an alpine guide in the United States, in 2004 he relocated to Patagonia where he started a guide service outside of Torres del Paine National Park. For 15 years he has been leading climbers, travellers and trekkers through the most extreme terrains of Southern Chile. Aside from the guide service, he operates an equipment rental centre, backpackers hostel and conducts daily lectures to eager Patagonian backpackers looking for tips and pointers

about trekking in the wild. He also moonlighted as a travel writer, focusing on Southern Chile, and for many years he published an english speaking travellers newspaper in Patagonia and this led to his first trip to Antarctica - writing about his experiences there. Always looking for the next adventure, Rustyn now finds himself working for Oceanwide Expeditions and helping others explore this incredible region. When Rustyn isn't travelling or working in the outdoors, his other passion is his love for old motorcycles and long rides through Southern Chile and Argentina. Rustyn is fluent in English, Dutch and Spanish and is more than happy to sit and spend time discussing world travels, alpine climbing and the in's & out's of cold weather equipment management.

William Maclean Smith [Bill]



"Super Bill "as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 50 years experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry Plus 50 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits. He has the following qualifications ...

Royal Yachting Association Advanced Powerboat Instructor Royal Yachting Association Senior Sailing Instructor Royal Yachting Association Windsurfing Instructor British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor British Association of Ski Patrollers National Patroller British Association of Ski Patrollers First Aid Trainer Snow Sport Scotland Ski leader

President of the Assynt Highland Games Honorary member of Assynt Crofters Trust Member of the Federation Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip

Tanja Bayer - Ship's Physician



Tanja is from Germany. There she workes as a GP and also specialized in orthopedic surgery and diving medicine.

Her first job in remote areas was 1989 in Western Australia. She worked for 3 month for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Port Headland.

She loved the work "outside" the clinic, like she says: "Bushmedicine".

2009 she travelled for the first time to the antarctic peninsula. She was asked to write an article about diving in Antarctica for a German diving magazine and just 2 weeks later she was there.

And she got the "bug" and figured out how she could manage to spend as much time as possible in Antarctica.

She applied as a ships doctor and started 2010 on different vessels.

2015 she became "bipolar" and started to work for Oceanwide Expeditions. Now she spends 12-14 weeks a year in the polar regions. This year even more :-))))!

She loves water, oceans, ice, waves and everything that lives in it.

In Germany she also runs a diving school since nearly 20 years and takes groups on dive trips all around the world. On Ortelius and Plancius she also worked as a dive guide earlier in this arctic season.

If some time is left, she teaches diving centers and ship crews in her special course: "First aid in remote areas". Teaching and safety checks during a cruise and helping to prevent accidents, so they just do not happen:-)))!

This is my wish and of course a fantastic trip and experience you will never forget!

Antarctic Peninsula (OTL 32-19) M/v Ortelius 7th of march - 18th of march

Species list: Common birds and Marine Mammals from Beagle Channel to Antarctic Peninsula **English** Latin 7-mrt 8-mrt 9-mrt 10-mrt 11-mrt 12-mrt 13-mrt 14-mrt 15-mrt 16-mrt 17-mrt 18th **PENGUINS Emperor Penguin** Aptenodytes forsteri Adelie Penguin Pygoscelis adeliae Gentoo Penguin Pygoscelis papua Х Х х Х х Chinstrap Penguin Pygoscelis antarctica Х Macaroni Penguin Eudyptes chrysolophus Magellanic Penguin Spheniscus magellanicus **ALBATROSS** Wandering Albatross Diomedea exulans х Х Х Х Northern Royal Albatross Diomedea sanfordi Southern Royal Albatross Diomedea epomophora Χ Х Black-browed Albatross Diomedea melanophris Χ Χ Х **Grey-Headed Albatross** Diomedea chrysostoma Χ Χ **Light Mantled Albatross** Phoebetria palpebrata **PETRELS** Northern Giant Petrel Diomedea sanfordi Х Х Х Х Х Х Southern Giant Petrel Macronectes giganteus Χ Antarctic Fulmar Fulmarus glacialoides Χ Χ Cape Petrel (Pintado) Daption capensis Х **Antarctic Petrel** Thalassoica antarctica Х Х Х Snow Petrel Paaodroma nivea Pterodroma mollis Soft Plumaged Petrel Blue Petrel Halobaena caerulea Procllaria cinerea **Grey Petrel** Х White-chinned Petrel Procellaria aequinoctialis Х Х Х Westland Petrel Procellearia westlandica Sooty Shearwater Puffinus griseus **Great Shearwater** Puffinus gravis Pachyptila desolata Antarctic Prion Slender-billed Prion Pachyptila belcheri Fairy Prion Pachvotila turtur Wilson's Storm-Petrel Oceanites oceanicus Χ Х Х Х Х Black-bellied Storm-Petrel Fregetta tropica Х Diving-petrel Pelecanoides sp. SHAGS Rock Shag Phalacrocorax magellanicus Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag Phalacrocorax atriceps Antarctic Shag Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis Χ Χ Χ Х Х **SHEATHBILLS**

Pale-faced Sheatbill	Chionis alba					х	х	х	х						
SKUAS															
Chilean Skua	Catharacta chilensis			х											
South Polar Skua	Catharacta maccormicki				Х	х	х	х							
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	Catharacta antarctica					х	х	х	х						
GULLS AND TERNS															
Dolphin Gull	Larus scoresbii				х										
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus					х	х	х	х	х					
Brown-hooded Gull	Chroicocephalus maculipennis														
South American Tern	Sterna hirundinacea														
Antarctic Tern	Sterna vittata					х	х								
Arctic Tern	Sterna					Х	х	х		х					
MAMMALS															
English	Latin														
BALEEN WHALES		7-mrt	8-mrt	9-mrt	10-mrt	11-mrt	12-mrt	13-mrt	14-mrt	15-mrt	16-mrt	17-mrt			
Antarctic Minke Whale	Balaenoptera bonaerensis					х	х	х							
Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae				х	х	Х	х		х					
Blue Whale	Balaenoptera musculus														
Sei Whale	balaenoptera borealis														
Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus														
TOOTHED WHALES &															
Long Finned Pilot whale	Globicephala melas		х												
Cuviers's Beaked Whale	Ziphius cavirostris														
Killer Whale/Orca	Orcinus orca														
Hourglass Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus cruciger														
Dusky Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus obscurus														
Peale's Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus australis														
SEALS						_						_	_		
Leopard Seal	Hydrurga leptonyx					Х		х	х						
Crabeater Seal	Lobodon carcinophagus					х	х	х	х						
Weddell Seal	Leptonychotes weddelli					х	х	х							
Southern Elephant Seal	Mirounga leonin					х									
Antarctic Fur Seal	Arctocephalus gazella					х				х					

southern bottel nose whale



Captain Mika Appel

and his international crew of 42

including

First Officer: **Tony Salo** [Finland]

Second Officer: **Diederik Scholten** [The Netherlands]

Third Officer: **Igor Nazarov** [Russia]
Chief Engineer: **Aleksandr Bondarev** [Lithuania]

Hotel Manager: Aleksandr Bondarev [Lithuania]

Hotel Manager: Sigi Penzenleitner [Austria]

Assist. Hotel Manager: Melanie Penzenleitner [Austria]

Head Chef: Heinz Hacker [Austria]
Sous Chef: Gaurav Bawa [India]
Ship's Physician: Tanya Bayer [Germany]

and

Expedition Leader: Michael Ginzburg [Russia]

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Iain Rudkin** [United Kingdom]

Expedition Guide: **Daniel Höhne** [Germany]

Expedition Guide: Pippa Low [United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide: Meike Sjoer [The Netherlands]
Photography Guide: Neill Drake [United States]

Kayak Guide: **Zet Freiburghaus** [Sweden]

Mountaineering Guide: Mal Haskins [New Zealand]
Mountaineering Guide: Daniel Martig [New Zealand]

Camping Guide: **Ben Guinchi** [Argentina]
Camping Guide: **Rustyn Mesdag** [United States]
Guide Trainer: **Bill Smith** [United Kingdom]

Trainee Guide: Vide Brandt [Sweden]

Trainee Guide: Leonard Dewaele [Belgium]
Trainee Guide: Paul Ulrich [Austria]

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Welcome you on board!



Thursday 7th March 2019

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.

~17.15 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.

- 18.30 We would like to invite you to the **Lounge** on Deck 6 for an **introduction to the ship** by Hotel Manager Sigi and a **Welcome Briefing** by Expedition Leader Michael.
- 19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on **Deck 4** behind **Reception**. Bon appétit!
- ~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.

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



Friday 8th March 2019

06:45	Wake up call.
07:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
08:30	Bio-security vacuuming and declaration as part of IAATO regulations This will take place in the Bar (deck 6)
	Lifejackets and boots This will take place in the Lecture Room (deck 3)
	These two events will occur at the same time in order to avoid the worst of the weather. You will be called by cabin numbers and decks so please listen out for announcements.
11:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
15:00	We hope to deliver a lecture this afternoon. Depending on the weather and the conditions this may take place in the bar. Please listen out for announcements.
18:00	Recap: This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forward to tomorrow's plans. Michael and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge.
18.30	Dinner is served in the Dining Room located on Deck 4 behind Reception . Bon appétit!

Today, we will be sailing in the Southern Ocean
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Saturday 9th March 2019

07:45	Wake up call.
08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
09:30	For those that missed the opportunity, there will be a second biosecurity session of vacuuming in the Bar .
11:00	Rustyn will give an entertaining lecture in the Bar on the Antarctic Treaty and IAATO to whet our appetite for what is to come!
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
15:00	Pippa will deliver a lecture on the Whales of the Southern Ocean including those we may come across. Join her in the Bar to find out more about these leviathans of the deep!
18:00	Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily Recap .
18.30	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

Today, we will be sailing in the Southern Ocean
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when the ship starts to move with the swell.

REMEMBER - ONE HAND FOR THE SHIP AT ALL TIME



Orne Harbour Sunday 10th March 2019

07:45	Wake up call.
08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
09:00	Today's Mountaineers meet Mal in the Lecture Room .
09:15	Today's Kayakers meet Zet in the Heli Hangar .
10:00	All Campers meet Ben and Rustyn in the Lecture Room .
AM	This morning we should be in sight of the Antarctic Peninsula and the islands nearby. We will sail through Dallman Bay and past the Melchior Islands en route to our first activity. This is great place to take in your first glimpse of this magnificent continent and there is a good chance to spot whales!
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
13:00	Mountaineers: meet Mal in the Lecture Room, dressed and ready to go.
~13:50	Kayakers: meet Zet on deck 5 port side.
~14:00	This afternoon we would like to offer a Zodiac cruise in Orne Harbour . This bay has steep mountains and glaciers on all sides, so is not suitable for landing but ideal for a Zodiac cruise. Apart from stunning scenery, this place is also known as one of the few places in the Gerlache Strait which has a colony of Chinstrap Penguins.
	Timings may change depending on when we arrive at Orne Harbour so please listen out for announcements.
18:30	Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily Recap .
19:00	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!
20:30	Camping at Kerr Point Please be dressed & ready to go and then go to the Heli Hangar by 20:00 to collect your gear. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!
20:30	CRAMPON Mountaineering Group (11 th) meets Mal in the Lecture Room.

Remember to take great care on deck as they may be icy and slippery due to the colder temperatures overnight.



Neko Harbour and Danco Island

Monday 11th March 2019

06:45	Wake up call.
07:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
07:30	AM Mountaineers meet Mal in the lecture room, dressed and ready to go.
08:30	During the morning we hope to do a continental landing and Zodiac cruise in Neko Harbour known for its Gentoo Penguins and spectacular scenery.
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
13:00	PM Mountaineers : meet Mal in the Lecture Room , dressed and ready to go.
13:30	PM Kayakers meet Zet in the Heli Hangar.
14:00	This afternoon we aim to land on Danco Island - named after Emile Danco, a geophysicist onboard <i>Belgica</i> during Gerlaches' expedition of the late 1890's. There are Gentoo penguins and the opportunity to walk up to the top for stunning views of the landscape.
18:30	Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily Recap .
19:00	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!
20:30	Camping at Kerr Point Please be dressed & ready to go and then go to the Heli Hangar by 20:00 to collect your gear. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!
20:30	AM (12 th) Kayakers meet Zet in the Heli Hangar .
20:30	Crampon Mountaineering Group (12 th) meets Mal in the Lecture Room .

Remember to take great care on deck as they may be icy and slippery due to the colder temperatures overnight.



Brown Station, Skontorp Cove and Stony Point

Tuesday 12th March 2019

07:15	Wake up call.
07:30	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
08:30	AM Mountaineers: meet Mal in the lecture room, dressed and ready to go.
09:00	This morning we plan to do a split landing and Zodiac cruise. We will do a continental landing at Brown Station with its resident population of gentoo penguins. At the same time, there will also be a zodiac cruise through Paradise Harbour to Skontorp Cove . The first five Zodiacs will go ashore first, and the second five will cruise first. We will then swap on shore so everybody can do everything.

Please check in the Bar and Reception to see which is your group.

09:15	AM Kayakers: meet Zet on Deck 5 - Port Side
13:00	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
13:45	PM Mountaineers : meet Mal in the Lecture Room, dressed and ready to go.
13:45	PM Kayakers: meet Zet in the Heli Hangar.
14:30	This afternoon we aim to go ashore at Stony Point on the Danco Coast where we can walk up to a view point overlooking Paradise Harbour and its glaciers! There is also the chance to do a Polar Plunge! We will provide towels so please don't take them from your cabins.
18:30	Surprise Dinner - location subject to weather conditions! Bon appétit!
20:30	Camping at Stony Point Please be dressed & ready to go and then go to the Heli Hangar by 20:00 to collect your gear. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!
20:30	AM (13 th) Kayakers: meet Zet in the Heli Hangar .
20:30	Crampon Mountaineering Group (13 th) meets Mal in the Lecture Room.

Remember to take great care on deck as they may be icy and slippery due to the colder temperatures overnight.



Pleneau Island and Vernadsky Station

Wednesday 13th March 2019

We will ship cruise through the famous Lemaire Channel. This narrow channel is only 06:00 600m wide at its narrowest point and is surrounded by spectacular, glaciated mountains. We encourage you to come to the outer decks and enjoy the views! Dress warm and join Neill for a photography workshop on Deck 6. 07:45 Wake up call. 08:00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour. AM Mountaineers: Please listen for announcements as time will depend on when we finish our transit through Lemaire Channel. 09:00 AM Kayakers: Meet Zet in the Heli Hangar. 09:30 Depending on the ice conditions, we plan to either land on **Pleneau Island** for stunning views and gentoo penguins or Zodiac cruise through an area known as the Iceberg Graveyard - large grounded bergs and a good chance to see Leopard seals! 12:30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room. 13:15 PM **Mountaineers**: meet Mal in the Lecture Room, dressed and ready to go. 13:15 PM Kayakers: meet Zet in the Heli Hangar. 14:30 This afternoon, we plan to land at Vernadsky Station - a Ukranian base where the chance to spend money and send postcards. Bring your Euros and Dollars. Due to numbers allowed inside the station, this will be a split landing with a visit to the historic base and museum of Wordie House. The first 5 boats will leave for Vernadsky Station whilst the second 5 will cruise the islands and visit Wordie House first. 18:15 Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily **Recap**. 18:45 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit! 20:30 **Camping at Wordie House** Please be dressed & ready to go and then go to the Heli Hangar by 20:00 to collect your gear. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!! 20:30 **Crampon Mountaineering** Group (14th) meets Mal in the Lecture Room.

Remember to take great care on deck as they may be icy and slippery due to the colder temperatures overnight.

AM (14th) **Kayakers:** meet Zet in the **Heli Hangar**.

20:30



Port Lockroy and Damoy Point Thursday 14th March 2019

07:15	Wake up call.
07:30	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
08:30	Mountaineers: Please meet Mal in the Lecture Room , dressed and ready to go.
09:00	We plan to land at Port Lockroy , an old British base on Goudier Island as well as a short visit to the adjacent Jougla Point. This is a split landing due to the numbers we are allowed ashore at Port Lockroy base. Port Lockroy is one of a series of bases on the peninsula from operation Tabarin and now acts as a museum.
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
13:30	PM Kayakers: meet Zet in the Heli Hangar.
14:00	This afternoon, 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. Once again, we plan to offer the Polar Plunge to those brave enough and will bring towels ashore!
18:15	Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily Recap .
18:45	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!
20:30	Camping at Damoy Point Please be dressed & ready to go and then go to the Heli Hangar by 20:00 to collect your gear. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!
20:30	AM (15 th) Kayakers: meet Zet in the Heli Hangar .

Remember to take great care on deck as they may be icy and slippery due to the colder temperatures overnight.



Deception Island Friday 15th March 2019

06:45	Wake up call.
07:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
09:00	This morning we plan to be in a volcano! Deception Island is a donut shaped ring with a bite out of one side, where ships can sail through a gap called Neptune's Bellows. The volcano last erupted between 1967 and 1970, and is expected to erupt again but not imminently We hope to land at Whalers Bay - the most significant land based whaling station in the Antarctic Peninsula active from 1906-31. There will also be an opportunity for a Polar Plunge if the weather Gods are on our side As before, we will provide towels.
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
13:30	This afternoon we will sadly start the journey northwards. However, en route watch out for whales and a last chance to see this magnificent continent. As rough weather is expected, please secure items in your cabin as the ship starts to rock and roll!
15:00	Mal will deliver a talk in the Bar on Glaciology and Climate Change. Join him to find out more about the landscape we've seen and how its changing.
18:00	Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily Recap .
18:30	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

Today, we will be sailing in the Southern Ocean in poor weather. Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship starts to move with the swell.



Drake Passage Saturday 16th March 2019

07:45	Wake up call.
08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
10:30	This morning, Meike will give a talk on the Penguins of the Antarctic . Please come along to the Bar find out more about these fascinating creatures.
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
14:00	lain will give a talk on what it is like to Overwinter in the Antarctic . Join him in the Bar to hear his tales.
16:00	This afternoon, Pippa will give a talk in the Bar entitled an Ocean of Sound . Join her to find out all about the bioacoustics of the Southern Ocean.
18:00	Please join Michael and the Expedition Team in the lounge for our daily Recap .
18:30	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

Today, we will be sailing in the Southern Ocean in poor weather.

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 17th March 2019

07:45	Wake up call.
08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
09:30	This morning we will collect in your boots and your lifejackets. We will call you out by cabin number so please listen out for announcements.
11:00	This morning, Michael will deliver a talk in the Bar about Sea Ice . Come along and join him to learn more about this unique feature of the polar regions.
12:30	Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
15:30	This afternoon, Bill will deliver a talk on Whaling . Join him in the Bar to learn more about this dark period of Antarctic History.
18:00	Please meet the Michael and the Expedition Team in the Bar for a quick briefing about plans for disembarkation tomorrow and afterwards a Farewell Toast from our Captain .
19:00	Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit!

Today, we will be sailing in the Southern Ocean. Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship starts to move with the swell.



DisembarkationMonday 18th March 2019

We will be arriving to Ushuaia at around 07:00 in the morning. The Bridge, forward Bow Deck and rear Stern Deck will be closed during docking. 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 before breakfast at 07:30. We will move your main luggage to the pier, and after the buses have arrived, we will call you to come down the gangway.

Identify your own luggage and bring it to the correct bus or the luggage truck.

You can have your luggage stored for the day. Please take it to the truck on the pier and it will be taken to 'Il Gatto' at *Avenida Maipú 1210*. This building has a green roof and is located past the gas station and approximately 350 m to the left as you leave the pier. *You will need to pick up your luggage <u>before</u> 14:00*.

07:00 Wake-up call. Good morning!

07:30 **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.

O8:30 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.

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"