



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula—Whale Watching

22nd March—31st March 2019

M/V Plancius



Hans Verdaat

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:	François Kwekkeboom	[Netherlands]
2nd Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Alex Lyebyedyev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef :	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Susan Eckhardt	[Germany]

and:

Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Marijke de Boer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Hans Verdaat	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Joselyn Fenstermacher	[USA]
Expedition Guide	Frits Steenhuisen	[Netherland]
Expedition Guide:	Nina Gallo	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Sonja Heinrich	[Germany]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1—March 22nd, 2019

Embarkation—Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 54 °53'S/067°42'W

Wind: Light Air **Sea State:** Port **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +9 °C **Sea Temp:** +12 °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 of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. During the summer, this rapidly growing frontier town of 55,000 bustles with adventurous travelers. The duty-free port flourishes with tourism but also thrives on a sizable 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.



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. Slowly we started making our way to the gangway and, at 4 pm, we started 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, Michael and Alex. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of our fabulous Filipino crew.

A little before leaving the harbour, 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.





Finally, we left Ushuaia and the harbour to head towards the Beagle Channel. The few of us who adventured outside for the departure had a beautiful view of Ushuaia, even with the rain and the cold temperature. We went back to the lounge where Michael gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel which will be our home for the next 10 days or so. He was followed by Katja who gave us more information about the upcoming days. After that, all

the expedition staffs introduced themselves and we had the chance to learn a bit more about their background and their specialties. This was also a chance to meet our Captain, Artur Iakovlev and toast our voyage with a glass of Prosecco. At 7:30 pm, we sampled the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by Chef Khabir 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 will be out into the open waters of the Drake Passage!

Day 2—March 23rd, 2019

At Sea to Antarctica—Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 56 °38'S/065°35'W

Wind: NNE 4 Sea State: slight Weather: Clear Air Temp: +5 °C Sea Temp: +5 °C

This morning, we woke to Katja's cheerful morning announcement, the first of many pleasant, wake-up calls informing us of our position, the temperature and local conditions. The Drake Passage offered up delightful bluebird skies and calm rolling seas, a gentle introduction to the open ocean which saw most of us feeling well enough to file into the dining room at 8 am for a delicious buffet breakfast.

While some of us opted to spend the morning in our cabins acclimatizing to our new floating home, many joined Hans in the lounge to learn about some seabirds of the Drake Passage. Hans began by introducing us to the art of bird-spotting: a combination of



harnessing the power of our eyes and understanding how to share bird locations by using our ship as a clock face! It was fascinating to learn about the identifying features and physiology of some of the seabirds we hope to encounter, including a wide variety of albatross, and to see some photographs of these marvellous creatures up close. Now we are well equipped to go out on deck and spot seabirds for ourselves!

After a delightful buffet lunch, we began our afternoon program of mandatory briefings and activities to prepare us for our time in Antarctica. First, we joined Katja in the lounge to hear about how we can minimize our impact on this pristine and precious continent during our visit, giving the wildlife plenty of space and ensuring that we leave no trace. Katja also talked us through the basics of Zodiac operations, from boarding to disembarking these stable, open boats that will take us from Plancius to shore, and on cruises to search for wildlife.

Then we began the serious business of pre-Antarctic biosecurity, with the lounge converted to an impromptu vacuum party as

we removed stray seeds or weeds from our clothing. It wasn't long before our gear was spick and span and

ready to visit the great white south. The rest of the afternoon was passed collecting our cosy rubber boots, relaxing and enjoying the glorious sunshine and calm conditions in the Drake Passage.

We finished our day with a recap and briefing in the lounge, and are looking forward to tomorrow, each sea day bringing us closer to Antarctica!



© *Marijke de Boer*

Day 3—March 24th, 2019

At Sea to Antarctica—Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 61 °11'S/063°05'W

Wind: N 5 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: +3 °C Sea Temp: +2 °C



Today is the second day of our Drake crossing towards Antarctica. The situation is quite a contrast compared to yesterday's sunny and still weather. Overnight, the wind has picked up and sky is now overcast. The visibility is limited due to fog. Lucky for us the wind is northerly and pushes us forward. The ship rolls gently in the waves and this is still considered a calm ocean. Only the lower decks are closed just in case a large wave rolls over the decks. After breakfast Katja gave a presentation about Antarctica, touching a large range of subjects from exploration history to sea currents and from icebergs to the ozone layer. We now also

know the difference between land ice and sea ice and for instance that Argentina had some people being born the continent while other countries do their best to prevent that from happening at their research stations.



After lunch Marijke told us all there is to know about penguins. We learned about their behaviour, breeding cycle and how to recognize the different species by their appearance and sounds. Later in the afternoon, Sonja talked about whales of the Southern Ocean, focusing on the species we are most likely to see during this trip. By the end of the day the wind decreased a little. By this time, we were near Smith Island in the South Shetlands. This was when the first iceberg of the trip was spotted. A large tabular iceberg shrouded in its very own fog bank. It has been on and off foggy for most of the day which didn't help spotting whales. Despite the conditions a number of humpback whales were seen as well as a small group of hourglass dolphins. Tomorrow we will find ourselves in Antarctica and near the first landing site at the Antarctic Peninsula.



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Day 4—March 25th, 2019

Cuverville & Danco Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°40'S/062°36'W

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



Our first excursion off the ship! We were getting everything all together this morning, both zodiac cruising and also a shore landing. The first six boats dropped their passengers on shore, then returned to the ship to pick up the second group of passengers for a zodiac cruise. The cruising action started straight off the bat with humpback whales waiting at the gangway as the first attraction! And it didn't stop there. This is a busy time of year for leopard seals with all the juvenile penguins just learning to swim and



leaving shore for the first time. One leopard was viewed playing and eating on a fresh kill, and then there were several giant petrels picking at a leftover carcass floating out in the bay. There was even a “cute” juvenile leopard seal hauled out on an ice floe ... but then there were a couple of not-so-cute adults that got very curious and intimate with a couple of zodiacs—closely swimming around the boats and then unexpectedly one bit the rear pontoon of one and the keel underneath of another! This is an active time of year

and certainly their top-of-the-food-chain hormones were showing themselves in this behaviour. The whales were not to be set aside, however, they were quite social and spending lots of time cruising closely to a couple of zodiacs, what amazing wildlife behaviour experience we had for the morning!



For the landing, everyone was excited stepping ashore on Cuverville Island—the first glimpses of (live) penguins up close and personal. The gentoo did not disappoint, going about their daily rhythm of feeding, bathing, squabbling, flipper flapping, and all sorts of other antics. Walking through the snow along the red-pole-marked route took us to a viewpoint over one penguin rookery where we



could also see the Plancius drifting out in the channel. Watching the late-season dynamics of rookery life was interesting—some nest building practice as well as some attempts at courtship behaviour ... maybe more practice now means a better mate option next season! The other side of the landing offered a shore-side view of colony life, with many newly moulted chicks having a bathing session, perhaps trying out the water for the very first time. They seemed to like it, getting in and wiggling around and chatting to one another the whole time. Even though a leopard seal was seen patrolling the outer area of the beach it seemed that the shallow water and band of brash ice were protection enough for the youngsters to have a relaxed swim session. In the background, the adult moulters just looked miserable in their solitary spots higher on the beach, as if they had “been there done that” and just wanted to get the whole process over with. The skua flying overhead and calling to each other up on the cliff-sides were a reminder that it’s not too late in the season for them to score a meal ... the few smaller, still-downy chicks might still become a skua snack before the winter sets in for good.



Turning back around to the beach to watch the freshly moulted chicks again, we were treated to a special show. It began to snow, big fat flakes—and what a sight! The chicks didn’t seem to be sure what was happening. They all were looking upwards at the sky, looking at the flakes, poking their bills here and there ... and then started trying to catch the snowflakes ... just like when we were kids! One chick even fell over in its exuberant attempt at grabbing a snowflake out of the air.



With the change in weather it was time for everyone to return home to the Plancius, for a hot drink, a good lunch, and to get ready for the afternoon landing on Danco Island. Just around the corner and down the Errera Channel we went, and everyone came ashore for the land-based afternoon adventure. Many folks were keen to try out the snowshoes for hiking up the hill, others were content to stay closer to the beach and have some quiet time watching more of the gentoo channel on the “Antarctica Live” channel. For one couple, their special quiet time included getting married

on the beach! Not many people can say they had gentoo penguins in attendance at their wedding ceremony. For the majority, however, Danco was all about a hike up the hill. The snow was fresh and the hill was steep. Luckily there was a nice viewpoint and penguin rookery halfway up, providing a nice overview of the ocean below, the beautiful bands of ice, and the misty craggy mountains in the distance. Further up the hill, the next point of interest was a wide penguin highway, which even this late in the season was still seeing quite a lot of

action with penguins going down to feed or bathe and others coming back up the hill fresh from a wash or with a gullet full of krill for their almost-grown chicks. Because of the fresh snow, some of the downhillers seemed to find tobogganing easier than walking (especially when being chased from behind!) which provided a lot of entertainment for the humans standing by to watch. Finally, at the top of the hill we found a welcome flat spot to rest, catch our breaths, and take in the scenery. The fog came and went, adding to the mystique of our surroundings. As people settled in after taking their

“hero” photos, one by one the silence descended until finally all we could hear were the gentoo calling, the skua screeching, and whales blowing in the distance as we looked out over the calm, icy waters below. But



the afternoon wasn't over yet. What proper way to end the first Antarctic day but with a polar plunge?! Back down to the beach we did that crazy thing that will end up being one of the most talked about events of the whole trip. How can you explain what it's like to take off perfectly warm clothes (layers and layers of them!) when it's just a few degrees above freezing, and then with (mostly) sound mind and bodies walking (running?) into literally freezing water to take a dip. Who

does that?! But now those hardy plungers have photos to prove it, if not the memories of the brain freeze that occurred after they dunked their heads. And then it was done, staggering out of the water on the uneven boulders underfoot, to dry off and get clothes on as quickly as possible. But once the adrenaline was flowing, many probably didn't feel as cold as they'd expected ... especially not after once back on board with a hot chocolate in hand. What a way to end our first day.



People were buzzing at the bar where we were going to meet together for recap ... but the whale activity was so intense around the ship that we postponed our get-together to enjoy watching. It was hard to know where to look, humpbacks were literally surrounding the ship. Quite an incredible day. It was all Michael could do to get folks to go to dinner, but with the fine food on offer from Khabir and team people finally let their stomachs get the better of them and headed to the dining room to share stories and highlights from the incredibly eventful first day in Antarctica.

Day 5—March 26th, 2019

Stony Point & Neko Harbour

GPS 08.00 Position: 64 °54'S/062°54'W

Wind: S 3 Sea State: Calm Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: +1 °C Sea Temp: +0 °C



Our second day in Antarctica brought even more highlights. Soon after breakfast we entered Paradise—Paradise Bay that is, aptly named for its stunning scenery of snow-capped mountain tops, glaciers reaching down to sea strewn with icebergs and bergy bits. As Plancius drifted in Ferguson Channel, we set out in zodiacs to set foot onto the Antarctic continent for the first time.

The first group landed on Stony Point, a snow-capped outcrop that afforded spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and sea. A friendly Weddell sea welcomed us ashore. After a short but invigorating snowy hike up to the top of this snow dome, we then enjoyed five minutes of silence, taking in the beauty around us. As this was a split landing some of us landed first while the second group had set out to explore the ice-strewn landscape by sea with the zodiacs. We cruised among majestic icebergs, drove through crackling brash ice and watched seals along the shore and on the ice floes. A few lucky ones even got to spot a minke whale up close. The

calm sea reflected the icy scenery giving rise to stunning mirror image reflections of sky and sea blending into one.



We had lunch as the Plancius set course towards Gerlache Strait. Then came the call of “Orca on portside” over the tano system and the dining room was emptied pretty quickly as everyone scuttled for coats and cameras. The orca (or killer whales) moved in two small groups along the glacier fronts. As the water was shallow and uncharted where the whales moved the Plancius had to stay a way off in the safe navigation channel. Still, everyone got a good (if distant) look, and those with binoculars spotted the large dorsal fins of two males and also a very small calf. There was a tremendous buzz of excitement aboard.

Plancius once again changed direction and moved into iceberg filled Andvord Bay where the Captain had to dodge many big icebergs en route to our afternoon landing site at Neko Harbour. This was another continental landing, and again it was a spectacular location, surrounded by an amphitheatre of actively



calving glaciers. There was a lot of ice on the way to the landing site but our expert zodiac drivers managed to push through and put us ashore where Gentoo penguins and beautiful female Weddell seal awaited us. The walking was a bit challenging as the snowy path soon became slippery. Some of us managed to venture up the snowy slopes along a path marked by staff. The views were once again stunning, but very soon the wind began to howl and the snow to swirl around us. We slithered, hopped and slid down the hill again, certainly nowhere near as elegant as those determined Gentoo penguins that they're making their ways

up and down the snowy slope. This full Antarctic experience was topped by the rumbling of avalanches from the snowy mountain tops and even a few small calvings of the glaciers nearby.



© Marijke de Boer

We returned to the comfort of the Plancius with a big smile on our frozen cheeks. As the Plancius sailed out of Andvord Bay more seals on ice, more sleeping humpback whales and even a distant beaked whale sighting were reported by the avid student observers on deck. During recap Katja, our Expedition leader, informed us of a small change of plans in that we would have to head north now to avoid some bad weather closing in on us. The snow had started to fall in thick flakes and the outside decks soon turned completely white. We went to bed full of anticipation of more Antarctic adventures tomorrow.



Day 6—March 27th, 2019

Portal Point & Cierva Cove

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°30'S/061°44'W

Wind: ENE 4 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: +2 °C Sea Temp: 0 °C

Today, Plancius woke up early to the voice of our Expedition Leader Katja. The morning was beautiful with soft light that reflected on the different icebergs you could see in the bay. After breakfast, a visit to Portal Point was scheduled. Portal Point was used by the British in the 1950s as a base for survey works into the interior of the Antarctic Peninsula. There, dog sledge teams were able to make their way onto the slope.



© Marijke de Boer

The expedition team planned for a split landing: one group for landing and one for a Zodiac cruise, halfway through the morning the groups would be swapped. Upon arrival a scout Zodiac tried to reach the beach that turned out to be littered with ice after some strong swell. The program was changed into a Zodiac cruise to enjoy the icebergs and wildlife around. During the Zodiac cruise, several Humpback Whales and Crabeater Seals were seen feeding in the brash ice. Some of us were lucky enough to get some really close encounter with these beautiful creatures, when they were spy hopping around the zodiac. The students from St Andrews were taking CTD and Ceccie-disk measurements from the zodiac and other passengers were able to help them with that.



Hans Verdaat



© Marijke de Boer



Upon the return to Plancius, Laura presented, in the Lounge, the Geology of Antarctica. A talk about the geological history of Antarctica and the different types of rocks that can be found on the Antarctic continent. As Plancius approached Cierva Cove a small pod of Killer Whales was found by the students on observer watch. The captain was able to bring Plancius nearer to the pod and several animals were seen swimming in the wake of our vessel.

In the middle of the afternoon, Plancius had arrived at Cierva Cove. On the other side of the bay, there is an Argentinean base called Primavera that is only open during summer. This wide bay, with several icebergs and brash ice, is created by multiple glaciers feeding into the area. The islands in the bay are full of wildlife, with both Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins breeding here. These colonies attract birds like Southern Giant Petrel, South Polar Skua and Kelp Gull. Along the shoreline Leopard Seals and a Weddell Seal were seen patrolling. Also, we saw hundreds of Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins porpoising around the zodiac. The soft light of the end of the day increased the different tones of blue visible in the different icebergs present in the bay.



After two amazing cruises, at 6 pm, we were all back on board Plancius for an Antarctic BBQ on the aft deck. All enjoyed the food in these Antarctic surroundings and some danced into the night. In the night Plancius set a course for the South Shetland Islands, North of the Antarctic Peninsula for a last landing in Antarctica!

Day 7—March 28th, 2019

Half Moon Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 62 °34'S/059°48'W

Wind: W 7 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 2 °C Sea Temp: 0 °C



This morning we sailed over slightly choppy seas under steely skies towards Half Moon Island. Our hope, if the weather allowed, was to visit this crescent shaped island, nestled within a curve of the larger Livingstone Island in the South Shetland Islands. This would be our last landing of the voyage, but the weather forecast looked questionable. At breakfast, the dining room was filled with excited chatter as we waited for the verdict.

Around 8:30 Katja made the announcement: the landing would go ahead! We donned our warm layers, waterproof jackets and pants, life jackets and rubber boots for one last excursion and filed towards the Zodiac boarding deck.



It was a lively Zodiac ride to shore, with gusty winds making for an atmospheric introduction to this island chain to the north-west of the Antarctic Peninsula. By the time we arrived at the beach, the sun was peeking through the clouds, bathing the fur seals, gentoo penguins and us in warm morning light. An old water boat lay decaying on the beach, a reminder of a bygone era when sealing and whaling were thriving industries in

the South Shetland Islands. However, as we learned later, the origin of this boat is unknown and was probably used for resupplying vessels.

Today Half Moon Island is spectacular, with low-lying, stony beaches and rugged, craggy towers decorated with brilliant orange lichens and lush green mosses. Home to chinstrap penguin colonies, visiting fur seals and gentoo penguins, snowy sheathbills and - if we were lucky - the occasional macaroni penguin, there would be plenty to see!

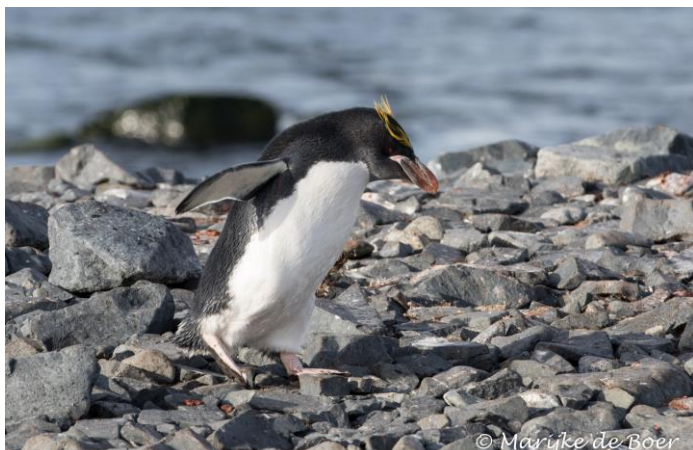


Katja and the team offered several options for exploration. Some of us walked along the gentle slopes and rocky beaches towards the Argentinian Camara base, an assortment of orange buildings in the lee of a small hill. Others opted to stretch their legs on a longer hike past Camara base, across snow patches and moss-covered hills in the distance. These intrepid hikers were rewarded with spectacular views across the island, revealing how Half Moon got its name.



The rest of us wandered up past a small chinstrap penguin colony, crossed a busy penguin highway (careful to give the commuting penguins right of way!) and made our way to a second chinstrap penguin colony perched on a rocky knoll. It was a joy to watch these spunky penguins hop and leap homeward or out to sea, to hear their brash calls and witness them going about their daily lives.

Unexpectedly - and much to our delight! - a macaroni penguin arrived on the island during our visit. Known as a regular visitor to this chinstrap colony, the macaroni penguin has a bright pink bill and striking yellow crest. We left Half Moon Island on a high with the wind in our hair, fresh air in our lungs and a third penguin species sighting to celebrate.





Returning to the ship, it was time to batten the hatches for our crossing to Ushuaia. Before heading to the Drake Passage, we had a last encounter with some beautiful fin whales that came swimming near the ship. With high winds forecast on the Drake Passage we had a few hours to dine, shower and prepare our cabins for two days of stormy seas. Of course, this forecast wouldn't interrupt our

lecture schedule, and in the afternoon many of us joined Katja in the lounge to attend her fascinating lecture on climate change. The day finished with our customary recap and briefing, and another delicious meal from the wonderful team in the galley!

Day 8—March 29th, 2019

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 60 °06'S/061°45'W

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



After having left the South Shetland Islands yesterday, we are now on our first day of the Drake crossing back to Tierra del Fuego. Yesterday afternoon, the forecast for the next two days looked pretty daunting with three low pressure areas passing through. Already during that evening the wind pick up a bit and the ship rolled and pitched through the night. So, in all honesty, a log entry for today was pre-written. However, things change. This morning the wind had dropped quite a bit and just an ocean swell with a wave height of 4m was left. Many people came out for breakfast, but the movement of

the ship clearly took its toll.

Jos presented a lecture on the life on McMurdo Station in the Ross Sea and Scott-Amundsen station at the South Pole. She has an impressive number of seasons under her belt and can provide us with good insight in daily life, all sorts of practicalities like travel and waste handling, and the social skills required in a closed community like a wintering crew.



During lunch suddenly the wind dropped almost completely and the ocean was shrouded in fog. This often happens on the Antarctic Convergence. A quick check on the bridge confirmed that the sea water temperature indeed went up from 2°C to 4°C (35.6°F to 39.2°F). We have now officially left Antarctica.

From the wildlife front there are no spectacular sightings to be reported but birds came to the ship regularly. Albatrosses like grey-headed albatross, light-



mantled sooty albatross and black-browed albatross were seen, as well as some wandering albatross. Smaller birds included prions, southern fulmar and many species of petrels. Some hourglass dolphins came to the ship but stayed only briefly.

In the afternoon Sonja gave a talk called 'seals for science' where she introduced two seal explores, elephant and Weddell seals, and the technology used to study them. Those deep diving mammals collect unique

information about their environment during their normal foraging exploits and collect data on ocean currents and processes affecting ice shelf stability.

By the end of the afternoon the wind picked up as expected. We now have some 45 knots wind and we could feel the swell in the dining room during diner time. The forecast for tomorrow again predicts some wind but we'll see.

Day 9—March 30nd, 2019

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 56 °13'S/064°57'W

Wind: W 7 Sea State: Rough Weather: Drizzle Air Temp: +5 °C Sea Temp: +6 °C



It is already 8 am, and for the last morning of the trip in the Drake Passage, we are woken up by Michael voice that told us it was time to get up and go for breakfast. It was a bit of a rocky night with ship rolling quite a lot. It is our last day at sea and we will try get the most out of it. However, the wind is strong and most of us decided to safely stay in our cabin. However, the blue sky and the shining sun encouraged a few people to go up to the bridge. After breakfast, some of us gathered in the lounge to look at the horizon, read a book or sort out all the photos they took during this adventure. It brought up a lot of

memory and made us realized that this trip is coming to an end.

Even with the wind picking up, at 10:30 am, Katja presented her experience with overwintering in Antarctica for 15 months at the German base, Neumayer. It was fascinating to hear about the experience of someone that spent such a long time in this cold, but beautiful, environment. For some us, it made us which we could do the same and the others were glad that our trip only lasted 9 days.

After that, we had a bit of time before lunch and we stayed in the lounge or outside on the bridge to try to spot some albatrosses, whales and maybe dolphins. Finally, Michael called us for lunch and we all went down in the dining room enjoying our last lunch on Plancius.



The afternoon went slowly with no lecture planned. Because the sun was shining and the swell was getting smaller most of us enjoyed some time outside up on the bridge or in the lounge. As we made our way in the entrance of the Beagle channel, we could spot several type of bird species like black-browed



Albatrosses, Giant petrel, Cape petrel... However, most of us were waiting for some peals or hourglass dolphins to break through the surface and start playing with waves at the bow of the boat. Around 3 pm, we were rewarded by a group of Dusky dolphins coming in front of the boat. What a nice show! Some Sei whales we sighted not much later and we managed to get some good views of this for us new whale species. Later in the afternoon the expedition team called us by deck to bring back our rubber boots and rental gear. This was another step towards leaving the ship tomorrow.

At 6:30 pm, we began our farewell with Captains cocktails followed by a slideshow presentation of our trip that had been compiled by Nina. We enjoyed a smooth evening in the bar before going to bed at the end of our Antarctic expedition. After picking up the pilot at 7 pm, and a leisurely sail into port, we arrived at the pier in the middle of the night.

Day 12—March 31st, 2019

Disembarkation—Ushuaia

In store for us this morning was a dry landing onto the dock—and a different kind of journey ahead—involving planes, trains, and automobiles instead of ships, zodiacs, and kayaks. The last 9 days have taken us on a remarkable adventure 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, the massive glaciers from Neko or the sight of zodiacs surrounded by ice and whales, they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

1625 Nautical miles

(3010 km or 1870 mi)

Furthest South:

64 °54'S 062°55'W



Your Expedition Team!

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



0 12.5 25 50 Nautical Miles

0 25 50 100 Kilometers

BIRD & MAMMAL LIST

		22-mrt	23-mrt	24-mrt	25-mrt	26-mrt	27-mrt	28-mrt	29-mrt	30-mrt
English	Latin									
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>									
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>									
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>							X		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				X	X	X	X		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			X	X		X	X		
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X								
Southern Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>		X							
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X						X	X
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>									
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X	X					X	X
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X	X				X	X	X
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			X				X	X	X
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>								X	X
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>			X	X				X	X
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>									
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>									
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		X						X	X
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		X	X					X	X
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X				X	X	X
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>			X					X	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X	X					X	X
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>									X
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X	X					X	
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>									
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>									
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		X	X				X	X	
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>									
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>		X						X	
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X								
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X			

Pale-faced Shearwater	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X	X		X		X
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X								X
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				X	X	X			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X								
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X	X	X		
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X								
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				X	X	X			
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>									
Marine mammals										
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>									
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>				X	X	X			X
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	X		X	X	X	X			
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>									
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>							X		
Southern Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis schlegelli</i>									X
Strap-toothed Whale	<i>Megaplodon layardii</i>								X	
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>									
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i> - Type A						X			
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i> - Type B					X				
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>			X					X	
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>									
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>									X
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				X		X			
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>				X		X			
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>				X	X	X			
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>				X					
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	X								X
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	X								
Burmeister's Porpoise	<i>Phocoena spinipinnis</i>	X								
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>		X							
Arnoux's Beaked Whale	<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>					X				

Dr Katja Riedel — Expedition Leader



Katja Riedel grew up in Germany where she studied and completed a PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry. For her research she overwintered 1997 at the German Antarctic Base Neumayer where she was responsible for the Atmospheric Observatory. Since then she has been on several scientific expeditions to Antarctica, for example measuring ozone at Scott Base, drilling ice cores at Law Dome and taking samples of 120,000 years old ice on

Taylor Glacier in the Dry Valleys.

She completed a course in Antarctic studies and worked for more than 12 years as a research scientist in Wellington, New Zealand. Her research interests were greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and in ice cores. Since 2011 she works as an expedition leader and guide on expedition cruises in the Arctic and Antarctic.

The Polar Regions have always fascinated Katja. On private adventures she skied over 220 km through Svalbard, sailed on a small yacht to Antarctica, kayaked icy waters and worked as a science assistance in western Greenland. Her fondest memories of Antarctica are building a 24hour sundial and sledging from Hut Point to the Erebus Ice Tongue. Most recently she skated 250 km across the frozen Lake Baikal in Siberia und cuddled reindeer in Kamchatka. Life is an adventure for Katja and whenever she can she travels, hikes, cycles, sea-kayaks and skis to the remote and beautiful places on earth. When not traveling Katja lives in New Zealand and works as a freelance guide, science communicator and photographer. She is fluent in both English and German.

Marijke de Boer — Assistant Expedition Leader



Marijke grew up in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. In the early-90s, she worked over a number of summers as a volunteer field biologist specialising in sea turtle conservation in Greece. This was a magnificent experience and formed the inspiration for switching her Academic career towards Marine Biology.

She is fascinated by cetaceans, and has worked with Minke whales in Scotland, Killer whales, Blue whales and Belugas in Canada, Bottlenose

whales in the Arctic Labrador Sea, Risso's dolphins in the Irish Sea and Sperm whales off the Azores. She has also participated in various ocean-crossing surveys, namely the Davis Strait, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Southern Ocean and Antarctica. These surveys formed the core foundation of her detailed in-depth experience with marine mammals.

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

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

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

Hans Verdaat – Expedition Guide



Hans his fascination for nature and traveling has been present all of his life. From a young age on he has been an active birder traveling across Europe. He studied Coastal Zone Management in The Netherlands and as part of that study lived half a year in Norway. In 2006 he moved to the Dutch island Texel where he

has been working ever since as a field researcher for a marine research institute. In his research he specialises in seabirds and marine mammals.

Since 2004 he has participated in seabird and marine mammal surveys in the Caribbean, West-Africa, Antarctica, Spitsbergen and European waters. He has always been fascinated with the polar regions and has participated in several scientific expeditions both to the Arctic and Antarctic.

Since 1999 he started working as a (birding) guide. The last years he has combined his full time research job with guiding. During expedition cruises he is a guide, lecturer and zodiac driver.

In his free time Hans is a keen nature photographer and as seabird- & mammal admin active on Waarneming.nl / Observation.org

Hans speaks: English, Dutch and German

Joselyn Fenstermacher – Expedition Guide



As an undergraduate, Joselyn studied behavioral ecology and conservation biology, going abroad to Ecuador and Tanzania completing hands-on, research-based semester courses studying the local flora, fauna, and conservation attitudes.

She has worked all over the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, and with all manner of critters including fish, brown bears, desert tortoises, and endangered birds. Over the past many years she has also been working in Antarctica, beginning with several seasons supporting the scientific research at two U.S. science bases (McMurdo and South Pole). More recently she has served as guide and education coordinator on expedition voyages to the Falklands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula as well as in the Indian Ocean and around the UK and Scandinavia.

When back in the U.S. Joselyn spends most of her time in the Big Bend region of far western Texas where she has fallen in love with the Chihuahuan Desert. She works seasonally for the National Park Service as a bio-technician and interpretive Park Ranger, and completed her Master of Science botanical research there on Big Bend flora in 2007. Since then, she has continued investigating a small group of relatively unknown cacti, becoming a recognized regional expert.

Joselyn is passionate about learning more about the world around her, and sharing that passion with others- hoping to inspire a broader appreciation for, and understanding of, the fascinating world we live in.

Frits Steenhuisen – Expedition guide



Frits was born in Hilversum, The Netherlands. He studied Environmental Science in Amsterdam and now works at the Arctic Centre of the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. Frits specializes in spatial analyses and geographical information systems. He is also employed by the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority.

He is involved in the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment

Programme (AMAP) as an observer for the Netherlands since 1993. His current research topic is mercury emission modeling on different scales.

Besides his work in the university he has worked for Oceanwide Expeditions both as guide and expedition leader in the Arctic and in the Antarctic.

He traveled to Novaya Zemlya, in 1992, on an expedition to “het Behouden Huis”, the wintering place of Willem Barentsz. From 1990 until 2004 he traveled to Lapland, Finnmarken, Lofoten, Spitsbergen, Greenland and to the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falklands and South Georgia. On Spitsbergen he was involved in several archeological excavations on 17th century whaling stations. A few of his hobbies are sea kayaking, hiking, birds and photography.

Nina Gallo – Expedition guide



A professional adventure guide and sometime resident of the Blue Mountains, Australia, Nina has been drawn to the polar regions since her first otherworldly experience of the midnight sun in 2002. Since then she has spent time in far northern Canada, the Himalayas, the Alps and deserts in America and Australia, always seeking out quiet, wild corners to explore. These experiences have

instilled in her a deep respect for the balance of systems in the natural world.

Endlessly curious, Nina spent four years at university studying everything from literature and politics to science, Chinese medicine, psychology and French before graduating with a B.A and an appreciation for good storytelling. She also trained as an outdoor guide, getting most excited about roped adventures, rescues and wilderness first aid.

Nina has worked as a canyoning guide and climbing instructor in the Blue Mountains, first aider and volunteer manager on events in the Simpson desert, and guide and lecturer in Antarctica. She feels immensely privileged to travel to these places and share her passions for the natural world, human stories and adventure with all the wonderful people she meets.

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.

Sonja Heinrich - Marine biologist



Sonja is an Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) at the University of St Andrews in Scotland (UK) where she teaches courses about marine mammals and marine conservation. She is based at the renowned Sea Mammal Research Unit which reflects her research interests in the furry (i.e. seals) and blubbery (i.e. whales & dolphins) ocean predators. Sonja gained her PhD from St Andrews in 2006 for her work on sympatric ecology and conservation of coastal dolphins in southern Chile. She also holds a Masters in Marine Science degree from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and a general biology

degree from the University of Cologne in Germany. Her research activities and work as guide/lecturer aboard expedition cruise ships have taken her all around the globe, with a notable preference for remote cool-temperate and polar regions.

She has been to Antarctica every year since 1999, and since 2011 regularly takes University students on research trips to the Antarctic Peninsula (usually aboard Oceanwide's MV Plancius!). A keen explorer of ocean and mountain realms alike, Sonja is passionate about nature and the outdoors, loves horse-riding when she is landlocked, enjoys scrambling up mountains, running in coastal forests and rowing coastal skiffs. She is well versed in English, German and Spanish. Sonja is looking forward to sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for these magical polar places with you.

Susan Eckhardt – Ship`s Doctor



I have been a General Physician and Paediatrician for almost thirty years. I have always been hospital based but have always looked out for posts with unusual opportunities.

I studied in Freiburg and Heidelberg (Germany) as well as Vienna and worked up until 4 years ago in the UK in big City Hospitals as well as remoter places like the Highlands and Islands of the UK as a Consultant.

I first had the opportunity to come to the Arctic and Antarctic Regions some six years ago and have been escorting cruises with Oceanwide ever since. The regions have always fascinated me and I am about to start Arctic and Northern Studies with the university of Anchorage.

I have a teaching commitment with the European Resuscitation Council which takes me to different European countries.

I currently work in Switzerland, which allows me to go skiing, hiking and cycling whenever possible with my family.



Captain Artur Iakovlev

Chief Officer:	François Kwekkeboom	[Netherlands]
2nd Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
3rd Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Alex Lebedev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Susan Eckhardt	[Germany]

AND

Expedition Leader:	Katja Riedel	[Germany/New Zealand]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Marijke de Boer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Hans Verdaat	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Joselyn Fenstermacher	[USA]
Expedition Guide	Frits Steenhuisen	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Nina Gallo	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Sonja Heinrich	[Germany]

Welcome you on board!



DAILY PROGRAM

Whale Watching
Friday 22nd March 2019

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

~1700 We would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Katja Riedel** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Michael Frauendorfer**.

This will be followed by **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Briefing** in the Lounge. **ALL** passengers **must** attend this very important safety briefing.

Lifeboat Drill.

After the briefing we will complete the **Lifeboat Drill**. Please listen for alarms and announcements since the timing will depend on our departure and make your way to the Muster Station, the Lounge, on Deck 5.

The Bridge and Bridge wings will be closed this evening.

~1845 **Captains Cocktails!** Captain **Artur Iakovlev** invites you to join him for a welcome drink in the Lounge. You will also meet the Expedition Team and hear more about our voyage.

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! The ships doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner if you require any additional medication or advice.

Tonight we will be sailing on open waters, please secure breakable items in your cabin and be careful with moving doorws and in the staircases.



DAILY PROGRAM

Saturday 23rd March 2019

- 0745 Wake up call. Good morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1030 **Seabirds of the Drake Passage.** 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 Hans in the Lounge for his presentation.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Mandatory Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore in Antarctica! It will outline Zodiac operations on board of Plancius and IAATO guidelines for the respectful behavior ashore. Please join Katja in the Lounge.
- The briefing will be followed by **Bio-security procedures** 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.
- 1830 Please join Katja 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.

Sunrise: 07:30

Sunset: 19:27



DAILY PROGRAM

Sunday 24th March 2019

The lecture program will be depending on sea conditions, please listen for announcements!

- 0745 Wake up call. Good morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 1030 **Introduction to Antarctica.** Please join Katja in the Lounge for an introduction into all things Antarctica.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Penguins.** If you would like to find out more about this iconic little bird then please join Marijke in the Lounge.
- 1645 **Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean.** Join Sonja in the Lounge.
- 1830 Please join Katja 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.

Sunrise: 07:22 Sunset: 19:12



DAILY PROGRAM

Cuverville Island & Danco Island

Monday 25th March 2019

- 0700 Wake Up call. Good Morning!
- 0730 Breakfast Buffet is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0830 **Cuverville Island.** This morning we would like to offer a split landing/Zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island. The first 6 Zodiacs are going ashore; the next 6 Zodiacs are cruising, halfway through the landing we will swap. On land you have a chance to watch Gentoo penguins, from the Zodiacs we hope to spot some marine wildlife.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Danco Island.** We hope to take you ashore at Danco Island. On shore we would like to offer a hike/snowshoe hike to the top of the island. Hikers please come early to the gangway! Follow the route carefully as you will pass some penguin colonies. There are also known crevasses on the top of the island, listen to your guide!
If you do not want to hike you can enjoy the penguins either at the beach or walk to a higher penguin colony. The walk will be on snow.
Weather permitting, we would like to offer the **Polar Plunge** at the end of our landing. Wear your swimsuits under your warm clothes. We provide the towels, you the insanity.
- 1830 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for our **daily Recap.**
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

Sunrise: 0725

Sunset: 1909

Moonrise: 2036



DAILY PROGRAM

Stony Point & Neko Harbour

Tuesday 26th March 2019

- 0700 Wake Up call. Good Morning!
- 0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0830 This morning we intend to go to **Stony Point in Paradise Bay**. We will offer a split Zodiac cruise and landing. The first 6 boats go ashore where we offer a hike to the top of a snow dome for some great views over Paradise Harbour. This is your first continental landing. The next 6 boats will go Zodiac cruising looking for pretty ice and marine wildlife. Halfway through the landing we will swap. If you **only want to Zodiac cruise**, please let Doctor Susan know and come last to the Gangway.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1430 **Neko Harbour**. Weather and ice permitting, we hope to make another continental landing, this time at Neko Harbour. The surrounding scenery is particularly striking, and there is a dramatic glacier front close at the landing site. **Please do not stay on the beach, as glacier calvings can produce big waves onto the shore**. There is a colony of Gentoo penguins to enjoy but be aware of penguin highways up and down the slopes.
- 1830 Please join Katja and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**.
- 1900 Dinner is served. Bon appétit.

Sunrise: 0728

Sunset: 1905

Moonrise: 2054



DAILY PROGRAM

Portal Point & Cierva Cove

Wednesday 27th March 2019

0630 Wake Up call. Good Morning!

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

~0815 **Portal Point.** This area was used by the British in the 1950s as a base for survey work into the interior of the Antarctic Peninsula. We want to do a split landing/Zodiac cruise at Portal Point. The first 6 Zodiacs are going ashore; the next 6 Zodiacs are cruising, halfway through the landing we will swap. This is a continental landing. A snowy walk uphill gives you a nice view on the iceberg littered bay. On the cruise we will be looking for wildlife. If you **only want to go cruising**, please come late to the gangway and let Doctor Susan know.

1130 **Geology of Antarctica.** Come and join Laura in the Lounge where she talks about the geological history of Antarctica and the different types of rocks that you can find on the continent.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1500 **Cierva Cove.** This afternoon we would like to offer a Zodiac cruise in Cierva Cove. This wide bay is often full of icebergs and brash ice, created by multiple glaciers feeding into the area. We hope to explore the ice and islands looking for wildlife. Please listen for announcements regarding timings, we will cruise in two groups.

1500 Group 1 (cabins 201 to 408)

1615 Group 2 (cabins 409 to 606)

1845 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for our daily **Recap**.

1900 A special **Antarctic Dinner** is being prepared for you. Bon appétit.

Sunrise: 0731

Sunset: 1901

Moonrise: 2126



DAILY PROGRAM

Half Moon Island

Thursday 28th March 2019

- 0730 Wake Up call. Good Morning!
- 0800 Breakfast Buffet is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0900 **Half Moon Island.** For your final landing in Antarctica we hope to take you ashore at Half Moon Island, which is home to some Chinstrap penguins. Beautiful glaciers on nearby Livingston Island surround us and sometimes seals haul out on the pebble beaches. Please follow the marked path and give penguins the right of way. We will also offer a long hike for a last leg stretch before the Drake Passage. (Note: this is a scenic, not a wildlife hike!) Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- Soon after our return to the ship we will enter the **Drake Passage**. Please secure breakable items in your cabin and take sea-sickness medication if necessary. Always hold on with at least one hand when the ship is moving. Depending on sea-conditions we might offer a lecture in the afternoon. Please listen for announcements.*
- 1500 **Climate change and its impact on Antarctica.** Please join Katja in the lounge for a presentation about the science of climate change and the impacts we are already seeing in Antarctica.
- 1830 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

Sunrise 0734

Sunset 1858

Please keep always one hand for the ship and secure any breakable items!



DAILY PROGRAM

Friday 29th March 2019

Depending on sea-conditions we might offer a lecture program today, please listen for announcements.

No wake-up call this morning! 😊

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

1030 **Day in the life of the US Antarctic Program.** Jos spent two winters and one summer at the American South Pole Station. Hear about her unique experiences.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1530 **Seals for science.** Join Sonja in the lounge for her presentation on oceanography, science and climate change in Antarctica and how seals help scientists to collect data.

1830 Please join the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily **Recap**. T

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Drake Passage

Saturday 30 March 2019

No wakeup call this morning! 😊

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

1030 **Life and work on Antarctic research bases.** Katja over-wintered 15 months at the German Antarctic base Neumayer. She also worked for the New Zealand Antarctic Program at Scott Base and the Australian program at Law Dome. Hear about her experiences.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

Sometime in the afternoon/evening we will collect your **rubber boots** and Michael will call you to reception to settle your **onboard accounts**. This will depend on sea conditions. Please listen for announcements.

1830 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join us in the Lounge for a celebratory drink to toast the success of our Antarctic voyage. Katja will also outline plans for disembarkation in Ushuaia.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Arrival in Ushuaia

Sunday 31st March 2019

0700 Your final Wake-up call. Good morning.

Please place your large **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door **before 0745** 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.

~0830 All passengers leave the ship. Please make sure you have all your belongings and collect your large check-in luggage from the pier.

- If you are catching the airport bus: please collect your luggage and place it on the bus.
- If you have an afternoon flight: You can have your luggage stored. Please bring it to the luggage truck on the pier and it will be taken to **Avenida Maipú 1210**. This building is located past the service station and approximately 350 m to the left as you leave the pier, opposite the casino. ***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 journey home.