



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

20 November – 30 November 2019

M/V Plancius



MV *Plancius* was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and vicar Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named *Hr. Ms. Tydeman*. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.



Captain Evgeny Levakov

and your international crew of 38

Chief Officer:	Miia Holma	[Finland]
Second Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[Germany]
Third Officer:	Nino Cizmic	[Croatia]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	Ana Sirbu Gomez	[Romania]
Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Ferenc Baranyay	[Hungary]
Ship's Physician:	Nick Bennet	[Australia]
and		
Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[UK]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Daniel Hohne	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zhao	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Chloe Marechal	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Maricel Grilli	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Jochem Braakhekke	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Leanne Briscoe	[Canada]
Camping Leader:	Rustyn Mesdag	[US/Chile]
Camping Guide:	Blacky Sun	[China]
Kayak Guide:	Alexis Bellezze	[Argentina]

Day 1 –Wednesday November 20, 2019

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

0800 GPS Position: Ushuaia Port

Wind: 20 kts SW **Sea State:** Port **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 10°C

This morning we woke up in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. It was a cloudy windy day with a few drizzles of rain, but that didn't put a damper on our spirits as we boarded the M/V Plancius: our home for the next 11 days. The expedition staff greeted us as we walked up the gangway where hotel manager Zsuzsanna met us at reception to give us our room keys and show us our rooms. Our luggage was already on board, so we took some time to explore the ship before we set sail for Antarctica. We took some great photos of Ushuaia from this vantage point as the houses and buildings got smaller and smaller as we headed out through the Beagle Channel.



After exploring the ship, we met in the lounge where expedition leader Ali Little welcomed us on board, gave us an introduction to her team, and Zsuzsanna explained some of the ins and outs of the ship. Our first task was a mandatory safety drill where we donned our bright orange life jackets and mustered in the lounge. Our second task was an abandon ship drill where we were escorted out to the lifeboats. Once we were familiar with these drills, we reconvened in the lounge for a welcome cocktail with our Captain, Evgeny Levakov. He spoke a few words, welcomed us on

the bridge and made us laugh a couple of times.

Shortly afterwards we were invited to the dining room to enjoy the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by head chef Heinz Hacker and his team. There was a real buzz in the dining room, as we got to know each other and talked about our hopes and aspirations for this voyage.



In the middle of the night we reached the entrance of the Beagle Channel and headed out into the infamous Drake Passage. Before going to bed we asked ourselves if we'd have a Drake Lake or a Drake Shake. Only time would tell.

Day 2 –Thursday November 21, 2019

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 56° 30.9'S / 065° 04.8' W

Wind: 25 kts W **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 5°C **Sea Temp:** 7°C

Our expedition leader Ali woke us at 0730, but many of us were already outside on deck to see if we could spot any sea birds. The sun was shining and the ship was not rocking and rolling as much as we had anticipated. After breakfast we gathered in the lounge to listen to Maricel talk about sea birds and threats to their habitats. We headed outside to spot some albatross and petrels. Just before lunch, the kayakers

gathered in the lounge as well, where Alexis explained some safety features and what to wear.



The gently rocking of the ship allowed some of us to nap after lunch, while others went outside to watch for more birds and stayed inside to listen to Sara's lecture on penguins. The campers had a briefing of what to expect for their night on the white continent.



At recap Sara showed us the wing span of birds we had seen. When they soar over the sea there's nothing to compare them to for size, but she held out a rope and it really gave us perspective to see the 7 feet between her and Leanne. Jochem talked to us a little bit about the Drake passage and the continental plates. Rustyn talked to us about seasickness. It was reassuring to know that no one is immune to it. However, we had been quite lucky that the Drake was calm. As we sat in the lounge after dinner, watching the sunset in the distance behind

a cloud, we realized just how fortunate we really were. At times we barely knew we were at sea.

Day 3 –Friday November 22, 2019

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60° 58.7' S / 060° 42.0' W

Wind: 13 kts NNE **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 3°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

As Expedition leader Ali made the morning call, our second day in the Drake Passage had begun. There are more passengers in the lounge enjoying the scenery as the sea conditions got much better. Today is a very busy and important day for all passengers and expedition team, because of the mandatory briefings that Ali gives after breakfast. At 0900, Ali started with Zodiac safety briefing. Zodiacs are our daily transport for landings and cruising. It is very important to learn and follow the instructions of expedition team on how to get in and out of a zodiac safely every time. During the briefing Daniel showed everyone how to put on the zodiac lifejacket, and how to use the sailor's grip. The IAATO briefing is the other mandatory briefing regarding the environmental protection in order to keep Antarctica as pristine as possible. The IAATO regulates the behaviour that the staff and tourists should undertake when landing and cruising in Antarctica.

As mentioned in the briefing, bio security is essential to the environment of Antarctica, for that reason not long after the briefings the passengers were called by decks to the lounge to vacuum any seeds possibly left in the pockets of their outer gear and back packs. Everyone seemed to appreciate this action to keep Antarctica pristine for the next visitors.



In the afternoon, several expedition guides introduced the citizen science projects that they are working on including penguin watch, bird watch, and glacier observation in the lecture room. This is an important opportunity for all passengers to submit their photos and videos to the websites and help the scientists with as much resources as possible.

As we got closer to the south Shetland islands, the motion on ship got better and better. There were even more people coming out of their cabins and to enjoy the view outside, even though it was quite foggy at the time. The big rubber boots were handed out around 5pm, with this act, we are finally finished the preparation for landings or zodiac cruising in the upcoming days, but the day was not over yet. During recap, Jochem gave more information on the ice we would encounter later in the trip, and Jerry talked about nautical miles and how to converse nautical miles to kilometres which is also relevant to the coming days.



Day 4 –Saturday November 23, 2019

Paulet Island

0800 GPS Position: 63° 25.1' S / 056° 12.1' W

Wind: 40 kts NW **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Clear sky **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C



In the early hours *Plancius* sailed through the Antarctic sound toward Dundee island. 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.

Soon after breakfast, Ali, our expedition leader announced that the wind was stronger than expected. The 40 knots of wind speed was above the limit in which the expedition team can operate the zodiacs safely. Instead, the *Plancius* cruised around Dundee island, along

the fast ice. Despite the wind, most of the passengers went outside, excited to see the Antarctic landscape for the very first time. The wind was so strong, it was difficult to walk outside. On the fast ice we saw our first penguins and seals. They were quite far away, but through the binoculars, we could clearly see Weddell seals and Adelie penguins. We could hardly believe we were finally in Antarctica!

While we enjoyed our buffet lunch, Ali and the Captain worked hard on the Plan B. The whole area was windy and our second landing, Brown Bluff, wouldn't be



possible either. They finally decided to try to have a look at Paulet island, a small round volcanic island on the South East of Dundee island.

When the ship arrived in the front of the island, the wind was still going strong. It was at the limit in which the expedition team could work with the zodiacs. A scout Zodiac was launched to assess the conditions which was deemed suitable for landing. Before long we were boarding the zodiacs.

Paulet is home to thousands of Adelie penguins, skua, and a kelp gull. Once ashore, we had to



carefully follow the path the team made for us, taking care to avoid the network of penguin highways, and stopping frequently to let the inquisitive birds waddle past us. Adelie penguins are so much fun to watch. They were named after the famous French explorer, Dumont D'Urville's wife, Adele. After a few last photos it was time for some well-earned rest, and the end to a fantastic first day in Antarctica.

Day 5 –Sunday November 24, 2019

Valdivia Point Zodiac cruise and Portal Point

0800 GPS Position: 63° 47.4' S / 060° 10.5' W

Wind: 8 kts NE **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 3°C **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Sailing from Paulet Island to Valdivia Point is a fair bit more than a stone throw's distance, so it wasn't before noon that we reached our intended landing site for today. However, a morning spent on board our beloved ship meant a morning spent with the transfer of information: wonderful lectures by Rustyn on the Antarctic Treaty and by Sara on whales served as visual nutrition for many thoughts up until lunch time.



As Valdivia Point came into sight, it became clear that the impressive, vertical ice barrier didn't exactly allow for a continental landing here. On to plan B: zodiac cruising. It turned out to be fantastic. Mesmerizing bays with huge icebergs, shiny blue colours and a wonderful Weddell seal. Blue eyed shags, a chinstrap and a few gentoo penguins



completed the package delivered to us by nature. Choppy seas directed a joyful group of kayakers to stay close to the glacial cliffs, where calmer waters enabled peaceful vistas between icebergs and into the water with remarkable strings of salp.

With all passengers back on board, our Captain and expedition leader Ali came up with a tricky little itinerary by the name of Graham's Passage:

a sheer impenetrable opening in what looked to be a solid wall of ice. As guests stood on the bow wondering where the ship would pass through the mountains and icebergs, a minke whale and multiple humpbacks joined in on our excitement and guided us on the way through.



Time for dinner. However, a morning on board also meant time for an evening program! And not just any program - a continental landing on Portal Point! A true first step on the seventh continent for many passengers. With half of the passengers ashore, the other half went for a zodiac cruise. Two teams, working perfectly together resulted in a whale sighting. With directions from the higher viewpoint on land, this enabled the kayakers and half of our passengers to have a superb encounter with a gentle humpback feeding in shallow waters.

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The cheerful atmosphere in the launch later that evening perfectly reflected the satisfied souls of all aboard MV Plancius. What a great day in the Antarctic!



Day 6 – Monday November 25, 2019 Paradise Harbour and Brown Station

0800 GPS Position: 64° 47.4' S / 062° 35.7' W

Wind: 18 kts **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** -1°C

Overnight we had sailed further south down the Gerlache Strait towards Ronge Island, to be in position for our morning landing at Danco Island. As breakfast was being served the Expedition Team prepared themselves to drop zodiacs and go ashore, however the weather took a sudden turn for the worse. It had been a foggy, snowy start to the day but the wind was steadily increasing and was now gusting at well over 30 knots, which is beyond the level for safe zodiac operations, so unfortunately Ali had to make the announcement that we would not be landing at Danco as originally planned. As with the true nature of expedition cruising, it was time to find a Plan B!



Ali asked for our patience while she and the Captain considered different options. They wanted to find a new location which might offer a little shelter from the ever-increasing winds. While we waited for news, many of us headed out on deck to enjoy the magnificent scenery, for those in any doubt as to why operations had been cancelled this was a firm reminder: there was a biting northerly wind that whipped across our bare faces.



By mid-morning, a Plan B was in motion: we were heading to Stony Point in Paradise Harbour in the hope this would provide such much-needed shelter. The Captain worked hard to find a suitable anchorage point and before too long zodiacs were being lowered and for those brave souls who were not afraid of some snow and wind, we headed out for an exploration cruise of this beautiful ice filled channel. There were several

enormous tabular icebergs that we cruised around; the dark foreboding skies made the blue of the ice even more prominent. As we headed towards Stony Point we found a small rocky island that had been colonised by Gentoo Penguins, their funny antics never failing to entertain us.



There was a real sense of accomplishment as we headed back to the ship for lunch, the expedition team had managed to pull off a good morning activity despite the rather challenging weather.

Whilst lunch was being served, we sailed just around the corner to 'Almirante Brown', the location for our afternoon's activity. 'Almirante Brown', or Brown Station as it is more commonly known, is an Argentinian



research station. Following a very severe fire in 1984 it is now only occupied by scientists and researchers for a few months over the summer. Unfortunately, there was no one at 'home' for our visit. The area surrounding the station is home to a small Gentoo penguin colony. It was here that we saw several Brown Skuas hovering, in hopes of an easy meal in the form of a penguin egg. For those feeling energetic the expedition team



had flagged a route up to the peak above the station and it was necessary for us to don the snow shoes they had brought ashore for us. From this high vantage point we were able to get superb views over Paradise Harbour and down into Skontorp Cove. One happy couple even got engaged at the peak. However, the most enjoyable part of the climb for most, was being allowed to slide down afterwards. This definitely brought out the child in us

all! For those who had not had enough adventure for one afternoon, there was the chance to take a polar plunge before heading back to the ship for a hot shower.

The much-anticipated Antarctic dinner turned out to be a barbeque on the back deck! While some opted to eat inside, the hardy ones of us ate in the open air, enjoying dinner in the most beautiful Antarctic setting, the perfect end to a true expedition day!



Camping

After a few days in Antarctica there was a lot of anticipation for our first night camping at Stony Point. The weather was a bit grey, but there was no wind to worry about, so camping was to go through as planned. We arrived at around 20:30 and immediately had a briefing regarding our location, our camp set up, and what to expect during the night. It started to snow lightly, but we had the right equipment and we had confidence that it would be a good night out. Everyone teamed up into small groups, helping to dig our protective walls, transforming this remote camp spot into our home for the night. The ship sailed out of site and left us in complete silence.



After digging out our camping areas, we hiked with the guides up the snowy peak behind the camp site to gain the 360° views of the mountains as glaciers that hung around us. We walked back to camp at midnight,

all crawled into our bivys for the short night and tried to get some sleep. We tried to get some sleep before our 05:30 zodiac pick up. The temperature dropped low that night and we could hear the snow falling on our bivy sacks all night long. We were woken up by Rustyn and Blacky at 05:00, although most of us were already awake enjoying the great morning light. By 05:15 the zodiacs were there to pick us up and bring us back to the ship. It was true cold and snowy Antarctic night.



Day 7 –Tuesday

November 26, 2019

Neko Harbour and Useful Island

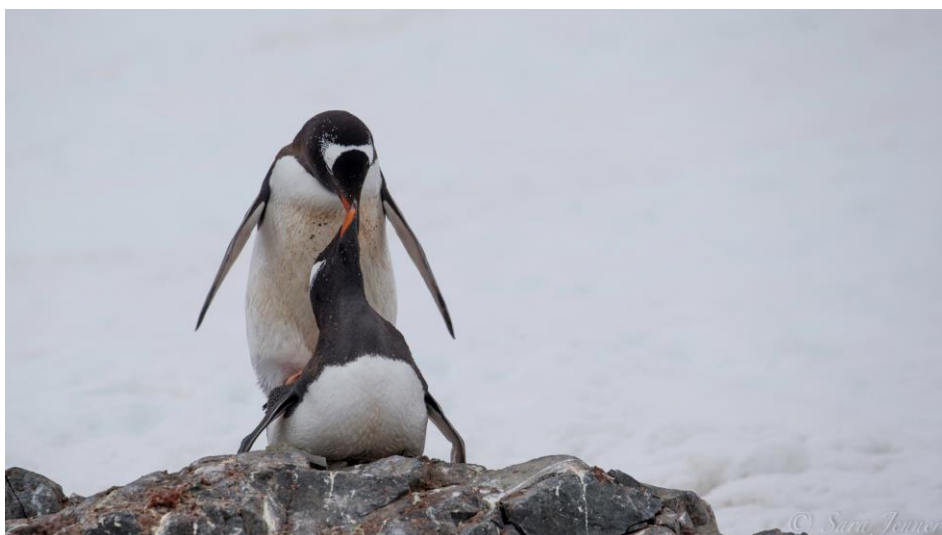
0800 GPS Position: 64° 49.9' S/ 062° 36.8' W

Wind: 1 knot **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C



This morning we woke up to humpbacks in front of the ship. It was a gorgeous clear morning and we were excited to see the whales join us before breakfast. Our first landing of the day was at Neko Harbour. The expedition staff advised us that once we got off the zodiacs we'd be able to visit the various penguin colonies and enjoy a hike to the peak, but we were told not to stay at the beach. Neko Harbour is a gorgeous bay of massive glaciers, which means

the possibility of calving, creating large waves, making the beach an unsafe area. We were all happy to watch the penguins trek up and down the well-established penguin highways, gathering rocks for their nests. Along our walk we saw some empty broken penguin eggs, which were the victims of the skuas that surrounded the nesting areas. Those who chose to hike to the peak were rewarded with stunning views of the glaciers, icebergs, and penguins that looked like little ants. It was hard to believe we had hiked so high, but it was worth it. The sun



was shining and we sat and watched three Weddell seals soak it up, exactly the same way we were soaking it all in. We had plenty of time to admire the vastness of this stunning place. It was truly an A+ morning!



After a delicious lunch, we headed to Useful Island, in the Gerlache Strait. The island has a 360 degree view of the surrounding area which made it a perfect viewpoint for whalers in the past. As we approached the island excited to see some chinstraps and gentoos, our expedition guides told us that there was a leopard seal on one of the icebergs. This was an exciting wildlife spotting for everyone. Antarctica is the only place on the planet inhabited by leopard seals.



Camping

For the camping night on Leith Cove we could not have asked for better weather. The sky only had some highlight clouds and there was no wind. After all zodiacs delivered the campers ashore at 20:30 Rustyn briefed us about our equipment and the area. The campsite was amazing - a small island directly surrounded by high glacier walls on three sides and a view of the bay directly in front. Half of us started putting together our bivy bags and sleeping kits, while the other half used the shovels to start digging our sleeping areas out for the night. After the work was done everyone stayed awake for quite awhile and absorbed the grandeur and breathtaking views that surrounded us. As everyone settled into their bivys we could hear the blow of whales near by but could not spot them, but it was nice to know they were out there with us. In



the morning the entire team was in good spirits and broke down camp quickly and efficiently and got back to the ship for some hot coffee by 05:00. It was a cold and clear night that one would never forget.

Day 8 –Wednesday November 27, 2019

Zodiac cruise: Melchior Islands

0600 GPS Position: 64° 50.1' S / 062° 50.7' W

Wind: 8 kts ESE Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 2°C Sea Temp: 0°C



The day started very early in the calm and colourful morning when the campers came back to the ship after the calm overnight at Leith Cove. After breakfast we left the ship and jumped onto the zodiacs for a cruise in a quite choppy sea around the Melchior Islands. In the shelter of the curved shoreline of the islands we got to enjoy lots of fishing kelp gulls, Antarctic terns and cormorants which pointed out the diversity and fertility of the area we were

visiting. Crystal clear shallow waters also allowed us to see some sea stars on the bottom of the sea and the



fast ice spreading from the shore was a large carpet for Weddell seals to rest. The Melchior Islands gave us the chance to experience the Antarctic wildlife, landscape and weather on our very last Antarctic excursion.

After a Mexican lunch we attended Chloe's talk about the wonderful life underwater generally hidden and mysterious to

most of us. Soon after she opened our eyes to that part of the oceanic life, we were honoured to witness a display of some of the most conspicuous inhabitants of the ocean, but also hard to find in such a vastness. Ali's voice came over the PA system: we have orcas around the ship! And in fact, there were not just a couple of them. A group of more than twenty orcas in the company of two Minke whales privileged us. We had an incredible time moving around the ship while they showed up from every side and repeatedly appeared and disappeared under our feet, making us accept without complaint the freezing sensation taking over our bodies. This was probably the most exciting and glorious moment of the trip for many of us, and an incredible way to say goodbye to this amazing continent.



Kayaking Trip Log

As every trip begins, many passengers start to ask about timings, clothing, the perfect spot, how many layers do they have to wear, is it cold outside, or is it going to be wet during the kayaking experience...many questions, but nothing better than to put all your gear on and find out by yourself. After a safety briefing from our kayak guide, Alexis, including how everything works and operational procedures, we were divided into six groups of 14 people plus our guide who would venture out during the mornings and afternoons over the next few days.



This Antarctic Explorer's Voyage was for all of us and this time we visited different areas more exposed to the wind and far north in the Peninsula. The upcoming days will belong to us for ever. We were able to paddle in different places like Valdivia Point, Portal Point, Paradise Harbour and around the Argentinian Brown Station. We were kayaking at Neko Harbour, immersed in an ocean full of growlers of ice that came from the calving glaciers off one of the most beautiful scenarios of the Antarctic landscape. We kayaked to Useful island and circumnavigated it, with a beautiful group of Greeks who paddled in these frozen waters of the southern ocean for the first time in their warm lives.



We saw Antarctic terns, humpback whales, crabeater seals, weddell seals, a leopard seal, cormorants, sheathbills around the huts and penguins colonies; gentoo, adelie and chinstrap penguins from a special spot: our quiet kayak.

Kayaking means freedom of operation, silence, being closer to the water, and the environment. It offers a unique perspective and the opportunity to understand from the bottom of the glaciers and cliffs the real scale of Antarctica's mountains and surroundings.

It was a pleasure for Alexis, as your guide, to have the chance to introduce you to this part of the world that belongs to all of us and more importantly, depends on our actions and their consequences. For now, think about keeping this pristine continent as it is. That could be the best way to behave knowing that is home to many species. It's fragile and in need of eco-friendly actions from humans every day.

A few words from Alexis: Enjoy Life. Respect others. Leave no trace. Come back home with a good message for your friends and family. Nature rules the world.

Day 9 –Thursday November 28, 2019

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60° 52.3' S / 064° 07.7' W

Wind: 20 kts E **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Thanks to Expedition leader Ali's kindness, there wasn't a morning wake-up call this morning. The first announcement we heard was the lovely voice of Hotel manager Zsuzsanna calling for breakfast. Although it was the first day in the Drake passage returning to Ushuaia, there were still many passengers not feeling sea sickness.



We had been seeing a lot of ice in Antarctica, and finally we had time to listen to Jochem's lecture on ice. In our normal life, we usually just use ice to cool things, but from Jochem's lecture we have learned that ice in Antarctica is one of the most important elements that controls earth's climate and ocean current. It is very interesting to know how the ice sheet, ice shelf, glaciers and ice bergs are formed and why they appear the blue as we see them.

After we learned about the importance of ice in Antarctica, Jerry brought us back to 120 years ago, in the time of the golden age

of Antarctic exploration. The famous polar explorers Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen were in a race to be the first to reach the South Pole. One succeeded and safely returned, and one died during his return, but they both had their reasons to reach the south pole and their way of doing it. Jerry told their stories and his opinions on the difference between the two expeditions.

In the afternoon Maricel and Ali were on the sun deck behind the bridge showing passengers how to do bird survey. The Drake Passage is a great place for the sea birds to fly and feed. There were many species of seabirds flying around the ship, and the sea condition were perfect for us to study and enjoy these beautiful birds flying around us. Some of us were really doing the science bit of surveying the sea birds, and some of us were just enjoying the time being outside looking at them.

We had a great encounter with Orcas, also called Killer whales yesterday afternoon, Sara gave a wonderful lecture on the orcas in the lounge so we would know more about these gentle “killers”. Sara explained the difference between each type of Orca, their hunting techniques and why they are called the wolf of the sea.



Although it was not an outdoor activity day, our time was filled with lecture and science activities on board, and of course many passengers already looking forward to be back on land.

Day 10 –Friday November 29, 2019

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 56°11.8' S / 067 ° 08.9' W

Wind: 20 kts SW **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 7°C

After a leisurely wakeup call and a wholesome breakfast, the *Plancius* sailed along Cape Horn. We obtained special permission from the Chilean authorities to approach as close as 3 nautical miles. The foggy weather did not stop us to contemplate the silhouette of the tip of South America.



As we continued with our relaxing day at sea, we were given a lecture titled “Ice maidens, women in Antarctica” by our expedition leader Ali. We learned about Emily Shackelton, Kathleen Scott and the first woman who set foot in Antarctica, the Norwegian Caroline Mikkelsen.

After lunch Daniel gave us a virtual tour of the ship’s engine room and interworkings which made many of the passengers sit up with interest and questions. A nice way to have some insight into what happens behind the scenes on *Plancius*.

As we approached the Beagle channel, Alexis talked about the Yamana, the people of tierra del Fuego. They were the last humans who belonged to this region the last 6000 years: the canoe nomads of the southern oceans.

Before everyone knew it, the day had to passed and the Captain and staff joined us in the lounge for the Captains toast and a few words of thanks from the expedition staff as well as passengers. Sara had put together a wonderful slideshow, bringing us back to our days on the ice. It is hard to believe that it all when by so fast.

Day 11 –Saturday November 30, 2019

Disembarkation Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: Ushuaia Port

Sea State: Port **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 5°C

Today we were woken by the last wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Ali and got ready to disembark in Ushuaia. The last 11 days have taken us on an eye-opening journey to the frozen continent and allowed us a short glimpse into an environment that most will never see. We all had slightly different experiences but whatever the memories, whether it was our first-time camping, hiking in snowshoes, riding in a zodiac, seeing massive ice cliffs or making new friends, they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

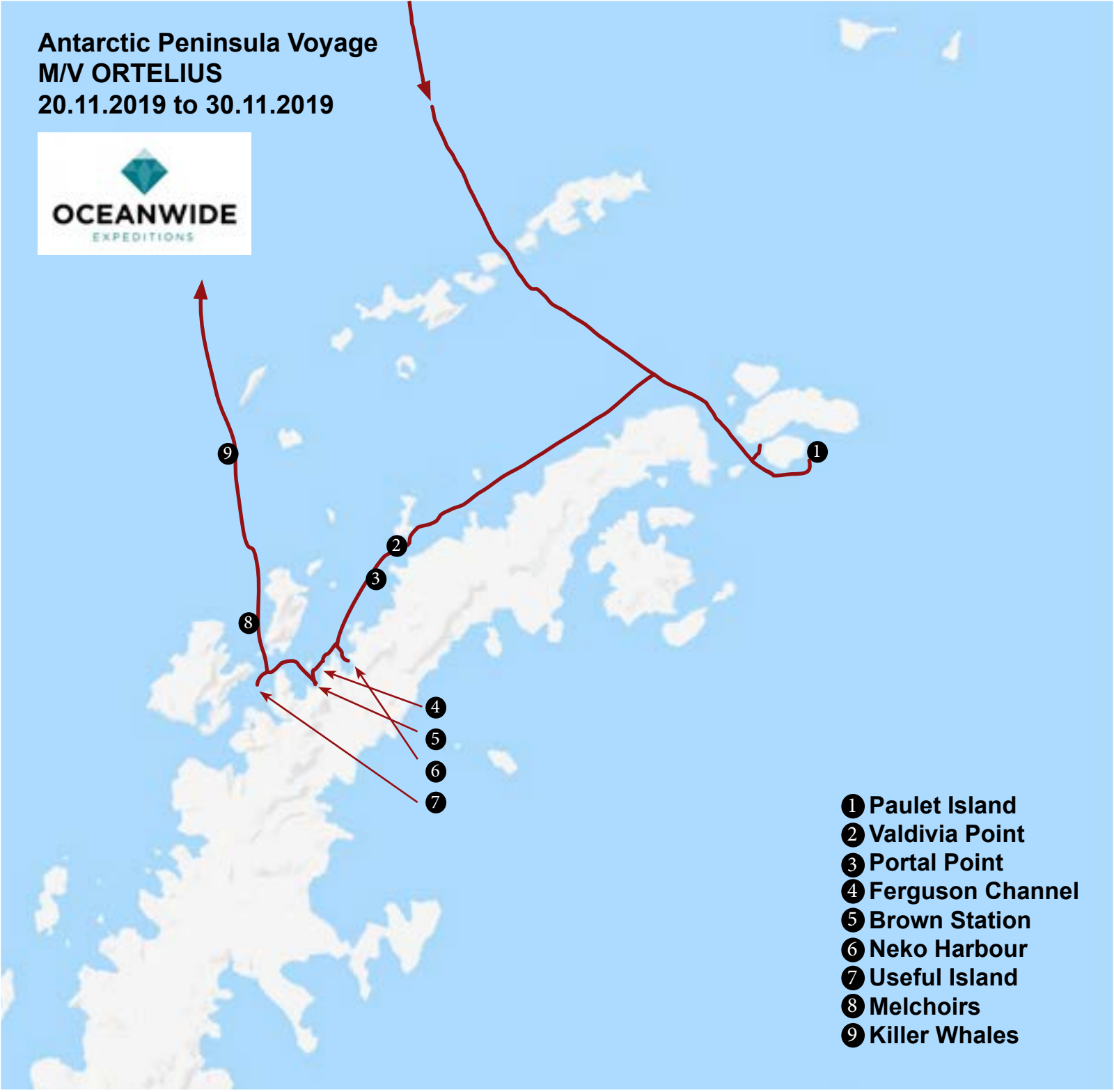
Nautical miles: 1862

Kilometres: 3448



And behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Evgeny Levakov, Expedition Leader Ali Liddle and all the crew and staff, we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.

Antarctic Peninsula Voyage
M/V ORTELIUS
20.11.2019 to 30.11.2019



- ① Paulet Island
- ② Valdivia Point
- ③ Portal Point
- ④ Ferguson Channel
- ⑤ Brown Station
- ⑥ Neko Harbour
- ⑦ Useful Island
- ⑧ Melchoirs
- ⑨ Killer Whales



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- Analyse satellite images of Antarctica, looking for penguin colonies, via www.penguinmap.com
- Count Penguins on camera trap images on www.penguinwatch.com
- Send your ice and glacier pictures (past and present) to www.recognice.org and hashtag your images on social media #recognice
- On your next voyage, in any ocean, carry out your own seabird survey and send it to Michael.schrimpf@stonybrook.edu or visit <http://michaelschrimpf.weebly.com>

Ali Liddle - Expedition Leader



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

Latterly, she was employed as Education

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

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

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

Daniel Höhne -

Assistant Expedition Leader



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 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.

Sara Jenner - Expedition Guide



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

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

Ever since Sara has been travelling the globe in search of wild and remote places and has spent many months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species.

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

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

Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide



Jerry has been in love with nature and wild life and traveling all his life. Soon after completing his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end guests throughout Europe.

He then became partner in an international traveling consulting firm and focused on route planning and employee training. Searching for more adventure, He travelled around the world to collect all the skills that

he needed and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as Expeditions Guides in 2015. He has set foot on all seven continent and four oceans. He has travelled to the North Pole, Spitsbergen, and Antarctic regions several times along the way he has studied the geography, wildlife and Environment of the Polar regions. He loves nature, wild life, and he loves to share all that he knows to everyone who comes across.

Chloé Maréchal - Expedition Guide



Chloé is a passionate diver fascinated by marine life and exploration. She earned a European master degree in Marine biodiversity and conservation and loves to share her expertise for the marine environment. In April 2013, she was selected as the 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater scholar. She spent a year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields, getting very different experiences in marine science and in the diving industry. Diving and science are not her only passion; she enjoys exploring new countries and discovering new cultures. She has been diving on all continents and living

in more than 20 countries.

Chloe now lives in northern Norway just above the polar circle. When she is not onboard, she can be found underwater: observing the ocean's inhabitants, searching for forgotten wrecks or mapping and exploring undiscovered underwater cave passages.

Maricel Grilli - Expedition Guide



Maricel grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she studied biology and later completed her PhD at Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

Her research project on the ecology of brown skuas led her to spend 4 summer seasons trapping birds at King George Island, where she was caught by that peaceful and wild place.

Since 2015, she has lived in Patagonia, where she continues to research bird ecology and their conservation issues. There, most of the year, she combines work on the computer with outdoor life in the beautiful Andean mountains and lakes.

Every summer Maricel returns to Antarctica to enjoy its beauty and discover new places. She looks forward to sharing what she has learned and her love and respect for this wonderful place with you.

Jochem Braakhekke - Expedition Guide



Being born in one of the more mountainous regions of the Netherlands, with hills up to impressive heights of almost 100 m a.s.l., young Jochem was naturally attracted to alpine environments and the extreme importance of ice ages.

As a 2-year-old, still covered in baby seal blubber, he got introduced to hut life in the Austrian Alps. The black and white pictures exhibited in those huts, depicting huge glacier tongues and impressive ice-falls with noble men wearing hats posing on them, left a lasting impression. What in the world has happened to those glaciers since

then!

It wasn't until two decades later, that Jochem got reinjected with the glaciology virus; during his Bachelor's in Earth Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, Jochem spend a semester in Longyearbyen, studying Arctic and Marine Geology. In order to be a little bit closer to the tiny remnants of the Last Ice Age, he moved to Switzerland and continued studying geology and glaciology at the ETH Zürich.

Jochem is particularly interested in the interplay between glaciers and bedrock, the so-called field of Glacial Geology. He has extensive knowledge about the past ice ages and the related tools and clues presented to us by the current landscape; silent witnesses of the incredible power of ice.

In contrary to popular believe, glaciology is not a dying field: the cryosphere is a big box of discoveries yet to be made and it is Jochem's goal to get as many people involved in unboxing those.

Leanne Briscoe - Expedition Guide



Leanne's interest in nature, wildlife and the outdoors developed after many years in university studying to become a lawyer.

She has travelled to all 7 continents and has been to more than 50 countries. Some memorable experiences for her have been snorkelling with belugas and humpbacks; camping on the Canadian Arctic floe edge to see narwhals; the valleys and mountains of Kyrgyzstan; the silverback mountain gorillas of Uganda; as well as hundreds of scuba dives with sharks, pygmy seahorses and unique creatures like the nudibranch. She feels most at home in the ocean or outdoors.

When she isn't travelling or diving she does triathlons, marathons and volunteers for the Toronto International Film Festival. Sometimes she finds time to sleep.

After scuba diving with Oceanwide in Antarctica, Spitsbergen and Greenland, Leanne is proud to be part of the Oceanwide team. She looks forward to hearing about where guests have travelled and where they'd like to go on their next adventure.

Rustyn Mesdag - Camping 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

Blacky Sun - Camping Guide



Black, was born in Northeast China, now live in Shanghai, sporty person, coach level in canoe, free-diving, cross-country race. As a diver, he is always proposing to protect the marine environment and animals, meanwhile he is an action-volunteer of a well-known international NGO. From 2015 to 2018 he led his hiking team 100% to summit the top of Kilimanjaro three times.

From 2016, he has been working for Oceanwide as a polar expedition guide.

Alexis Bellezze - Kayak Guide



A Polar and Patagonia kayak expedition guide with expertise in wilderness adventure, long haul travel and mountaineering in the Nahuel Huapi National Park, Limay River and Lake District.

Professional background in the Army and Air Force, a degree in Veterinary Medicine (Domestic, Farming, Equine and also Wildlife Rescue and Rehab, Trauma and soft tissues surgeon) which compliments his outdoor expedition work as a Paraglider pilot, Trekking guide, CPR and Wilderness First Responder senior instructor in Argentina and Chile

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

Nick Bennett - Ship's Doctor



Nick is an Australian emergency doctor. This is his first Antarctic season and beneath that cool and calm exterior he's at least as excited as you are.

Ever since he was a child, Nick has been fascinated by exploration and the sea. His dad's garage is cluttered with boxes full of books and model ships that attest to this. These days his other interests include hiking, SCUBA diving (in warm water), wildlife and eating and drinking well. He will obsessively read about news and current affairs whenever he has an internet connection.

Nick usually works in a public emergency department but he has experience in many other fields of medicine, especially intensive care, diving and hyperbaric medicine and medical education. He's studying a Master of Public Health specialising in remote and polar medicine and has more adventures planned now that he's realised he can use his medical degree as a licence to work in wild places.

Nick lives with his girlfriend next to the Great Barrier Reef in tropical far north Queensland.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Ushuaia

Wednesday 20th November 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 are always available in the Lounge on Deck 5

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

~1800 Approximate sailing time. As we leave Ushuaia, we recommend that you enjoy the views from the outside decks.

The Bridge and Bridge wings will be closed this evening.

~ 1815 **Lifeboat drill.** Please listen for alarms and announcements and make your way to the Muster Station, the Lounge, on Deck 5.

~1845 After our departure, we would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Ali Liddle** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Zsuzsanna Varga**. Afterwards Captain **Evgeny Levakov** invites you to join him for a welcome drink in the Lounge, where you will also meet the Expedition Team.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on Deck 3 (behind reception). Bon appétit!

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

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

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

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

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

1000 **Seabirds.** The Drake Passage is a great place to see Southern Ocean seabirds. If you would like to find out more about the species we might see and how they are adapted to life at sea then please join Maricel in the **Lounge** for her presentation about Seabirds.

1130 **Kayakers:** If you would like to find out more about the Kayaking option on board Plancius during this voyage then please join Alexis in the Lounge.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Penguins!** We hope to see plenty of penguins during our time in Antarctica. Please join Sara in the **Lounge** if you would like to learn more about these iconic little birds.

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

1815 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

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

- 0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0900 **Zodiac Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage. It will outline our Zodiac operations on board Plancius. This will be followed by a mandatory **IAATO briefing** which outlines the guidelines regarding our expedition to Antarctica. Please join Ali in the Lounge.
- ~1000 The briefings will be followed by Bio-security procedures on board which will involve vacuuming your outer clothing, particularly Velcro fastenings as well as camera bags and back packs. You then need to sign a bio-security declaration. We will call you to the Lounge by Deck number/cabin number so please listen for announcements.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- Bio security procedures will continue in the Lounge. Don't forget to sign with the staff!
- TBA **Citizen Science.** There are a number of projects being conducted on board cruise ships that support science in Antarctica. These include bird surveys, whale identification and penguin counts among many others. If you'd like to find out how you can get involved and support science during the trip and when you get back home then please join the staff in the Lounge.
- 1700 At this time we would like to give you your Rubber Boots. We will call you by Deck so please listen for announcements over the PA system. Bring a pair of socks with you!
- 1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Antarctic Sound

Saturday 23rd November 2019

0700 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

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

~0830 **Petrel Cove.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Petrel Cove on Dundee Island and explore the area. There are the relics of an Argentine Station, including an aircraft hanger. The station was in use in 1951/52. This is a site which is seldom visited so it will be a true Exploration and Discovery morning.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1500 **Brown Bluff.** We hope to make our first Continental landing on Antarctica! The beach is backed by high, volcanic 'tuff' cliffs creating a spectacular back drop to the landing site. We will visit the Adélie penguin colony and also a small colony of Gentoo penguins. Please give penguins right of way on the beach, follow the red poles and remember your 5 metre distance rule.
If conditions allow, we may offer a guided walk onto the nearby glacier. We will let you know once we are on shore.

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

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

0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

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

Expedition Morning in the Gerlache Strait!

During the morning we will be sailing south in the Gerlache Strait. There will be icebergs and we may see some whales during our navigation. We may offer some presentations during the morning so please listen for announcements.

1200 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Valdivia Point.** This is a real exploration afternoon so let's go out and see what we can find! Please listen for announcements regarding our timings and activities.

1730 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1800 **Buffet Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

After dinner we hope to be able to take you ashore on Portal Point and out on a Zodiac cruise in Charlotte Bay. Once again, please listen for announcements.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Danco Island and Paradise Bay

Monday 25th November 2019

0700 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

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

0845 **Danco Island.** This island is home to large colonies of Gentoo penguins so we hope to be able to take you ashore to spend time with these Antarctic residents. If conditions allow, we will also offer a hike to the top of the island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at their Highways.

At the end of the landing we will offer the chance to do a 'Polar Plunge', an Antarctic swim. We'll bring the towels, you bring the insanity!

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

TBA **Paradise Bay.** We plan to do a split landing/Zodiac cruise at **Brown Station & Skontorp Cove.** This will be a continental landing with Gentoo penguins and a Zodiac cruise in Skontorp Cove with spectacular glacier views, nesting Antarctic cormorants and occasional seals.
We will take half of you ashore first and the other half out in the Zodiacs for a cruise. We will swap during the afternoon.

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

1900 **Special Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

After dinner we hope to take Camping Group 1 on shore at Stony Point. Please collect your camping kit from the Boot Room at 2015



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Neko Harbour and Useful Island

Tuesday 26th November 2019

- 0700 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0845 **Neko Harbour.** This will be a continental landing! This morning we hope to take you ashore on the continent of Antarctica. From the landing site we will offer a walk past the Gentoo penguin colonies and their penguin highways to reach a viewpoint over the glacier. Please give the penguins the right of way on the way up and down and share the viewpoint space with your fellow passengers.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Useful Island.** We hope to be able to take you ashore at Useful Island where we will find Gentoo penguins and some Chinstrap penguins. Please follow the red poles and give the penguins right of way as they pass.
- 1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

After dinner we hope to take Camping Group 2 on shore at Leith Cove. Please collect your camping kit from the Boot Room at 2015



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Melchior Islands

Wednesday 27th November 2019

0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

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

TBA **Melchior Islands.** This morning, for our final activity here in Antarctica we would like to take you all out on a Zodiac cruise in this very scenic bay. There are lots of small islands which we will explore in search of wildlife as well as enjoying the glacial scenery. Enjoy your morning.

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

During Lunch we will start our navigation into the Drake Passage. Please secure your items in your cabins and make sure you have taken sea sickness medication if required.

1530 **Life Under the Southern Ocean.** Chloe will give a presentation all about the life under the ocean, including Krill. Please join her in the Lounge at this time.

1815 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

There will be no wake-up call this morning! But Zsuzsanna will wake you at 08:00 for breakfast!

- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 **Ice: Not Just for Cooling Drinks!** We have seen plenty of ice on our voyage to Antarctica. If you would like to know more about the cool stuff then please join Jochem in the Lounge.
- 1100 **The Race to the Poles.** The beginning of the 20th century was known as the Golden Age of Exploration. Please join Jerry in the Lounge to find out more about the expeditions of Scott and Amundsen in their race to be first to reach the South Pole.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Bird Survey.** If you would like to take part in a bird survey in the Drake Passage please join Maricel on the deck behind the Bridge and see what you can find.
- 1530 **Killer Whales.** We have had an amazing encounter with Killer whales so if you would like to learn more about them please join Sara in the Lounge.
- 1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Drake Passage

Friday 29th November 2019

0730 Wake up call from Ali. Good morning everyone, good morning!

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

TBA Cape Horn. We hope to be able to approach the infamous Cape Horn for views of the tip of South America.

Bird Survey. Maricel will be on deck to do a bird survey at Cape Horn so if you'd like to take part she will be behind the Bridge.

TBA **Ice Maidens: Women in Antarctica.** Please join Ali in the Lounge to find out more about the women who made their mark in Antarctica and some of the women behind the great Antarctic explorers.

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

1430 **Plancius: Behind the Scenes.** If you would like to find out more about our little blue ship, Plancius then please join Daniel in the Lounge for a look behind the scenes.

1600 **Yamana: The people of Tierra del Fuego.** As we approach the Beagle Channel please join Alexis to find out more about the people who made the land of fire their home.

1700 **Rubber Boots.** At this time, we invite you to the boot room to return your rubber boots. We will call you by deck.

1815 **Captains Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition Team and Captain Evgeny in the Lounge to toast our successful expedition to Antarctica.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

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

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

As you leave your cabin for breakfast please place your large **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door and return your key rings and card holders to Reception. You can keep your personal cards. 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.

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

~0845 All passengers leave the ship. Please listen for announcements.
Please make sure you have all your belongings.

- If you are taking 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 1226**. This building is located past the service station and approximately 350 m to the left as you leave the pier. ***You will need to pick up your luggage before 1400.***
- If you are staying in Ushuaia: You are free to leave the pier on foot with your luggage by the customs control entrance. Taxis can be found opposite the entrance to the pier.
- For our Cosmorama group: Please collect your luggage and take it to your bus.

***On behalf of all the Staff and Crew on board Plancius we thank you for travelling
with us.***

We wish you a safe, easy journey home.