



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

on board
m/v Ortelius

3rd November - 14th November 2019



Photo: Mark Mueller

M/V *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 125-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17.6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 12 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Captain Yury Marin and his international crew of 52

Including

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| First Officer: | Mikael Svedberg | [Swedish] |
| Second Officer: | Svetoslav Tsvetkov | [Bulgarian] |
| Third Officer: | Andy Mangilit | [Phillipines] |
| Chief Engineer: | Guntis Dizbite | [Latvian] |
| Hotel Manager: | Siegfried Penzenleithner | [Austrian] |
| Assist. Hotel Manager: | William Barnes | [Dutch] |
| Head Chef: | Khabir Moraes | [India] |
| Ship's Physician: | Robin Johnson | [United Kingdom] |

and

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Expedition Leader: | Claudia Holgate | [South Africa] |
| Assist. Expedition Leader: | Pippa Low | [United Kingdom] |
| Mountaineering Guide: | Tim Blakemore | [United Kingdom] |
| Mountaineering Guide: | Jonathan Baird | [United Kingdom] |
| Camping Guide: | Julia Angermeir | [German] |
| Camping Guide: | Rustyn Mesdag | [American] |
| Snowshoe Guide: | Koen Jongerling | [Dutch] |
| Photography Guide: | Amelia Goldrick | [Canadian] |
| Kayak Guide: | Zet Freiburghaus | [Sweden] |
| Expedition Guide: | Catherine Buckland | [United Kingdom] |
| Expedition Guide: | Ian Peck | [Canadian] |

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Sunday 3rd November 2019

Embarkation, Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS position at 1600: 54°49'S, 68°17'W

Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 10°C Wind: SW F6 Sea state: Slight

It was late afternoon on a windy but sunny and beautiful day in Ushuaia. The first passengers to arrive to Ortelius at 4pm were a group of young (or young at heart!) adventurers. All the expedition staff greeted the guests as they climbed the gangway for the first time and hotel manager Sigi quickly had all the guests assigned and shown to their cabins where they will be staying for our trip. After every passenger was onboard and had a cabin we had our mandatory safety drill, everyone seemed to enjoy wearing orange!

Before dinner all the guides introduced themselves and Claudia, our EL gave us a little introduction about

expedition cruising in Antarctica. Our ships doctor (Rob) had a 'patch and pills party' after dinner to try and keep everyone free from feeling too sea sick, only time would tell if it had worked, as unfortunately the forecast had promised the infamous 'Drake shake'.



Day 2 – Monday 3rd November 2019

At Sea, Drake Passage towards Antarctica

GPS position at 1200: 57°45'59 S 65°7'22 W

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 3°C Wind: WSW F8-9 Sea state: Rough

When we were woken by our expedition leader Claudia, we found ourselves completely surrounded by open water. We were in the Drake passage and she was not being particularly kind to us. There was a steady 30-35 knots of wind, with a top wind speed recorded of 45 knots (!) creating a 4-5 metre swell and quite a bit of movement of the ship. Due to the rough waters the outside decks were closed so we filled our day with multiple lectures trying to keep our movements to a minimum, as many of us were not feeling 100%.

Our lectures of the day introduced us to many aspects of Antarctic

that were unknown to some of us. Claudia started the day with a lecture on the Birds of the Southern Ocean. A great overview and in-depth look at the birds we could see flying around the ship. After that Ian gave an interesting lecture on the Seals of Antarctica which showed the subtle, but important, differences between the seals we might see in the coming days. In the afternoon Rustyn gave his lecture on the Antarctic Treaty System and IAATO - which included all the politics involved on this complex subject. Later Amelie gave a lecture on photography and how to best make use of any camera you might have to capture the amazing wildlife and scenery. Although it was a rough day on the Drake Passage, we used our time wisely and learned quite a lot. Meanwhile outside several birds were seen. Black-browed, Northern and Southern Albatrosses were seen flying around the ship. As there was a lot of wind, the birds seemed to be having a great time - unaffected by the weather that was causing some of us so much trouble. Despite



the rough seas it was still well worth spending some time on the bridge watching what the ocean had to offer.

At the end of the day we had our first recap. Here Claudia explained the plans for the following day and showed us the forecasted weather charts. We would most likely have much calmer weather tomorrow, good news! When recap was over it was time for a lovely dinner after which we congregated in the bar to meet new friends and enjoy the anticipation of what was about to come...

Day 3 – Tuesday 4th November 2019

At Sea, Drake Passage towards Antarctica

GPS position at 1200: 61°37'21 S 62°45'30 W

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 1°C Wind: SE F2 Sea state: Smooth

We awoke to a sunny morning with almost a calm sea! This was great news for a lot of us who had been feeling a bit sea sick as it meant a good night sleep was had by all. Ortelius had a gentle motion and it was a relief to see the Drake Passages' softer side. A few cape petrels and southern giant petrels were showing off with their amazing flying, wheeling and diving around Ortelius.



Some of us as early morning risers were rewarded when a humpback was spotted, it reappeared during Claudia's IAATO briefing, which certainly interrupted the briefing for a little bit but our EL made sure no-one missed any part of this important briefing.

The species sighting sheet received steady ticks as we identified more whales, assorted birds and one penguin – which was quite difficult to identify from the ship as it sped past in the water. Reports of our first iceberg in the afternoon certainly got our attention and everyone was eager to get to Antarctica to see more of these huge wonderful pieces of ice.

In the morning we had a vacuum party! This was for biosecurity so we didn't bring any seeds, spores or small animals down to Antarctica that shouldn't be there. Boots and lifejackets were handed out and all of us were ready to go! In the evening our activity guides gave their briefings to all of the groups, kayaking, mountaineering, snowshoeing, photography and camping. This certainly made everyone ready and very excited to get going on our adventures in Antarctica.

Day 4 – Wednesday 6th November 2019

AM - Orne Harbour 64 °38'00 S 62 °33'00 W

PM - Cuverville Island 64°41'00 S 62°38'00 W

Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 1°C Wind: Var F1 Sea state: Calm

The fourth day of our Antarctic adventure got off to an incredibly beautiful start with a fantastic zodiac cruise in and around Orne harbour. We were able to get an up-close look at our first rookery with both gentoo and chin strap penguins giving us a show. As soon as everyone was back on Ortelius we set course to Cuverville Island, just south of Orne Harbour, in order to spend some time with the local gentoo penguins belonging to the largest gentoo colony in Antarctica. Along the way we enjoyed views of the striking blue sea under snow-covered mountain peaks and marvellous icebergs.



The weather remained good throughout the morning and afternoon with sunshine and little to no wind. A truly phenomenal start to our first day of excursions on the icy blue continent for this unforgettable trip. Excitement was running high at recap and briefing that evening; not only were we eager to hear about tomorrow's activities, but nearly 30 aspiring campers were hoping to spend the night out on the ice. Conditions stayed good and they shouldered their sleeping gear and all headed out around 8 pm all in good spirits. There was much speculation back on board as to how they would feel in the morning...



Kayaking

This was the first kayak of the season in Antarctica for Ortelius. We got in to our kayaks at Orne harbour, where we had beautiful conditions, sunshine and hardly any wind. Just a few hundred metres into our cruise we came across a chinstrap penguin colony, this early in the season we had to work our way through a lot of ice and it felt more like we were icebreakers than Kayakers. But our hard work paid off as we got to enjoy the penguins.

In the afternoon we kayaked near Cuverville, around huge icebergs and followed the coastline of the biggest gentoo penguin colony on the Peninsula.

Mountaineering:

AM - Eight of us set off from Orne Harbour in two roped teams. Wearing snowshoes we reached the col and the Chinstrap colony. Under blue skies and no wind, the chinstraps seemed happy to see us after 8 months with no visitors. Changing to crampons we climbed the steep and exposed ridge to the summit with stunning views. Care was needed on the descent with a big drop tugging at our heels to the left.



Cuverville

PM - Setting off in atmospheric light twelve of us wearing snowshoes and using ice axes climbed the steepening snow slopes until the angle eased and we reached the ice cap.

Reaching the summit, we soaked up the view on the other side of the island with a steep drop to the Ocean.

Camping: Kerr Point

After our first day in Antarctica there was a lot of anticipation for our first night camping at Kerr Point. After scouting a prime spot it was obvious that the weather could not have been more in our favour. 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. Everyone started working as a team to transform this remote camp spot into our home for the night. The ship sailed out of sight and left us in complete silence. After digging out our camping areas, we all crawled into our bivys for the night and tried to get some sleep so we would be as rested as possible for our 05:30 zodiac pick up. The temperature dropped low that night and from our bivys we could hear ice falls and avalanches though the night. A great reminder of our small place on this vast icy continent.



Day 5 – Thursday 7th November 2019

AM - Neko Harbour 64°50'37 S 62°31'58 W

PM - Danco Island 64° 43'56 S 62°35'33 W

Air Temp: 3°C **Sea Temp:** 1°C **Wind:** SE F5 **Sea state:** Slight

Today was a day of wonders. Starting in Neko Harbour, the wind was threatening to prevent us loading or landing the zodiacs. As we waited, the wind settled enough to make it safe to load the zodiacs with a little extra help from Zet. With small puffy clouds in the sky, the lighting could not have been better for photos. After a bumpy ride in the zodiacs, we arrived at the beach. Our landing at the gentoo rookery was quite challenging and the snowshoes had to be applied right away or ones legs would sink to the knees in the snow. The gentoo penguins were extremely



curious about what was going on their beach so they immediately came to look around. We passed some of their rookeries on our way up to the high viewpoint looking over Neko Harbour and Andvord Bay. The mountaineers were already far above us walking to the edge of the glacier, they walked over the debris of a recent avalanche, quite an adventure. After a quick lunch on the ship we arrived at Danco Island. What a difference a couple of hours had made, there was no wind, blue skies as far as the eye could see and beautiful sunny reflections from the glassy water.

The kayakers told us later on that they were almost too warm kayaking and enjoyed finding their reflections back in the smooth water all around them. In addition, the kayakers reported finding a weddell seal laying on a rock, gently snoring. The mountaineers found their way to steep glacial ice cliffs with their guides for ice climbing. On shore we had our hands full with the hundreds of gentoo penguins walking, sliding and stumbling around. A highway of penguins going up and down was therefore a busy crossing where we had a while for our turn. The view from the top of Danco island (although it was a warm walk up!) was simply breathtaking and absolutely worth the effort.



To top it all off, we had a delicious and well-deserved BBQ organised by the hotel staff on the helideck. With enough beer and wine for all, we watched the sunset with orange, red and purple colors filling the sky.

Kayaking

After a windy morning which prevented kayaking, thankfully the wind dropped to nothing when we arrived at Danco island. The sea was like a mirror and we cut the perfectly flat waters when we paddled south of Danco island. Gentoo penguins were jumping around our kayaks and we got to see an iceberg rolling.

Mountaineering:

AM - Landing at Neko Harbour twelve of us in two roped teams climbed up towards the precipitous cliffs and jumbled glaciers above, we travelled into the depths of the glacier passing large crevasses and avalanche debris. Another blue-sky day to soak up the Antarctic Peninsula from up high.

PM - Ice Climbing! Three top ropes were set up on the steep ice beside the sea in Danco Island. Using two technical ice tools and crampons twelve keen climbers tested themselves on the near vertical ice. All this to the backdrop of a calm sea in perfect weather.



Day 6 – Friday 8th November 2019

AM - Damoy Island 64°48'27 S 63°30'12 W

PM Jougla Island 64°49'00 S 63° 29'00 W

Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 0/1°C Wind: SW F2/3 Sea state: Slight

The sunshine was a little slow in showing its face this morning but that didn't stop us wanting to visit Damoy Island. On shore gentoo penguins and a weddell seal were waiting to greet us. There are some historic British and Argentine field huts and we were able to look inside the British hut. The British hut was established by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in November 1975. This was primarily used as a transit station for BAS staff and stores to be flown south, if ice was preventing access to Rothera by ship. This was flown from the skiway on the glacier above the hut at Damoy. The hut was last occupied by BAS in 1993.

The Bahai Dorian hut was established by the Argentine Navy on February 23rd 1953, it has been (and still can be) used as an emergency refuge.

Some of us enjoyed the penguins, or had a walk up the hill, the kayakers went kayaking and our group of mountaineers had a great walk up the glacier and into a huge ice wall, it looked stunningly blue.

For our afternoon outing we had something special in store! We were able (with Tim and Johnny's excellent guidance) to go for a walk on some sea ice that was attached to the shore which



is called 'fast ice'. This ice will probably have melted in the next week or so, so it was very special to have this experience. We saw a weddell seal with a pup and of course enjoyed seeing the gentoo penguins on the island. The wind had picked up and it was a chilly journey back to the ship where warm showers awaited!

Due to the wind and sea ice, camping was cancelled, but we won't give up and fingers crossed for the next time. Instead we all settled down to another excellent meal prepared by our onboard chefs.

Kayaking:

It was a little windy this morning at Damoy but that didn't stop 14 strong Kayakers from going out on this sunny cold morning. We kayaked around icebergs all the way up to a gentoo colony and got the chance to see both a penguin diving in from the rocks and a demonstration of how they climbed their way out of the sea.



Mountaineering:

AM - Leaving from the huts we climbed in our snow shoes towards the glacier and old runway leading up to the steep slopes of Jabet peak. Zig zagging up the steepening blunt ridge we entered a large crevasse where all twelve of us stood with a towering ice wall above us. After soaking up the views towards Port Lockroy we descended on our snowshoes to the shore.



Jabet Peak, Damoy Point



Jougla Island – sea ice

PM - Everyone came on a sea ice adventure passing the scene of some whaling history including some old graffiti and signs. We went back on the sea ice passing a spectacular ice cliff and a mother and pup weddell seal.

Day 7 – Saturday 9th November 2019

AM – Pleaneau Island 65°6'3 S 64°2'49 W

PM – Petermann 65°10'36 S 64°8'14 W

Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 0°C Wind: S F2 Sea state: Calm

Our day began as Ortelius sailed South towards Pleaneau Island through the amazingly beautiful Lemaire Channel, it was breathtaking, not only in beauty but also with the biting temperature of the wind! There was a lot of us out on the bow braving the wind, as Captain Yury navigated us down the narrow channel. As we made our way out into the Penola Strait, we experienced a lot of sea ice that Ortelius was able to push its way through at the south end of the Lemaire. Thankfully we found the



wind had died down and we were able to get ashore at the visually stunning Pleaneau Island. With snowshoeing amongst gentoo penguins and our mountaineers scaling the east side of the island, it made for an outstanding morning.



Petermann

After repositioning the ship further south in the Penola Strait, we found ourselves in Port Charcot at the historic Petermann Island. With jaw dropping views from behind the back ridge on the far east side of the island, we were able to spot huge grounded icebergs and a very solitary and slothful weddell seal. On the north end as we hiked for a little elevation there was our first and only glimpse of the rare, and getting rarer, adelic penguin colony. A magnificent treat to say the least.

Port Charcot; named after Jean-Baptiste Charcot, the captain of Porquois-Pais which was Charcot's second French Antarctic expedition ship in 1903-05, which overwintered in the bay.

Later that evening we returned 31 of our happy campers to the far north end of Pleaneau Island for a snowy and foggy- but satisfying- overnight stay on the ice.

Kayaking:

In the afternoon the wind had calmed down and we were able to get in to the kayaks at Petermann island. We kayaked along the east side of the island and for some of the way our kayaks had to act more like icebreakers than kayaks. In a little shallow bay that is only accessible by kayak, we got a chance to see both adelic penguins and nesting blue eyed shags. As a great finale of kayaking this afternoon we landed on an ice floe from our kayaks.



Mountaineering:

AM - On today's sea ice adventure we travelled over to a small island with the back drop of spectacular icebergs (the graveyard), coming back we spent some time with a weddell seal on the ice before finishing by climbing in our snowshoes to the highest point of the island.

PM - Passing adelic penguins our team of eleven headed for Circumcision cove and the steep icecap leading to the highest point of the island. The team gave it their best but sometimes turning back is the best option if conditions are not right. After soaking up the view over the cove we descended to see the adelic.

Camping: Hovgaard

The camping night on Hovgaard started with a discussion on whether or not camping was possible at all. The grey clouds and predicted snowfall made the camping guides wonder how the night might play out. But with everyone being very positive and enthusiastic it seemed that the team could handle it - and they decided to push forward. After the zodiacs had delivered the campers ashore, there was a briefing about our camp spot and equipment. Everyone looked on as the guides built the privacy walls for the camp bathroom and they agreed that this might just be the best views a bathroom could ever have. As everyone settled into their bivys, a group of penguins walked through camp and decided to stay with us for the night.

At around 1am the snow started to fall constantly and slowly covered everyone, and everything, with 6cm of fresh snow. 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 05:30am. It was a cold and snowy night, but a night that no one would ever forget.

Day 8 – Sunday 10th November 2019

GPS at 0800: 65° 6'49 S 64°4'1 W

Air Temp: 0°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C **Wind:** Var – F1 / SW F7 **Sea state:** Slight

We started our day at Hovgaard Island where we had to pick up our campers after a cold and snowy night. We made our way north back through the Lemaire Channel towards Paradise bay. With all our hopes up we were looking for better weather that would allow a zodiac cruise. Our journey up went smoothly with many snow petrels flying around the ship. Arriving at the bay the weather looked a poor but, with the full motivation of the expedition crew we lowered the zodiacs and made our way to the research station Brown for a landing. With a lot of ice in our way there were already some doubts and after our Captain mentioned that there was more ice coming a difficult decision had to be made. We couldn't safely land.

With plan C up our sleeves, we made our way further up north to a place called Cierva Cove. As this was a 5 hour ride to the north, we had some time to fill and what better way than calling everybody on deck for a snowman contest. Starting with an intense snowball fight between the passengers and the expedition crew! With some amazing sculptures made, from a tiny to a gigantic snowman, whales and penguins Clouds announced the winner the contest, The Penguin! The winners were then able to enjoy the prize of a bottle of wine.

Making our way through the Gerlache strait, we found a position to hold station near to Cierva Cove just so we could make it an extra early start the next day on our zodiac cruise, fingers crossed the weather would remain favourable for us.



Day 9 – Monday 11th November 2019

GPS position at 0700: 64°8'21 S 60°56'49 W

Weather at 0700 Air Temp: 2°C **Sea Temp:** 1°C **Wind:** Var F1 **Sea state:** Calm

Weather at 1200 Air Temp: 1°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C **Wind:** W F10 **Sea state:** V.Rough

The weather remained stable and at 7:00 am we disembarked the ship for an astonishingly beautiful zodiac cruise near Primavera Station in Cierva Cove. A calm but snowy early morning cruise took us amongst blue icebergs and still waters surrounded by brash ice. The placid conditions made for a wonderful last excursion with all of us enjoying the final views of the most breath-taking place on earth. What a treat!



As soon as we were out of the shelter of the peninsula we went into the full force of the storm, with the ship moving around a lot people stayed in their cabins for a while to get used to the movement. The storm reached its peak in throwing a force 10 at us, some truly rough seas. In the afternoon some people felt well enough to join in the bar for some team trivia. Pippa put together a wonderful quiz for everyone to enjoy in the bar. A fun quiz made up mostly of questions referring to all of the information and some fun facts that we have gathered from these past days in Antarctica. A great way to finish our last day in Antarctica as we start to make our journey north to Ushuaia.

Day 10 – Tuesday 12th November 2019

GPS position at 0800: 60°19'5 S 63°30'9 W

Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 2°C Wind: NW F7 Sea state: Rough - Moderate

After a bumpy evening, in the middle of the night the weather had decided to give us all a break and improve so that we could get some sleep. It was still quite rough outside in the morning so the decks remained closed, instead we enjoyed two fascinating lectures. The first on whales of the Southern Ocean by Pippa and the second with Ian about the whales feeding habits and behaviour. In the afternoon we learnt about Tim's time living and working in Antarctica and finished off the afternoon with a fun game with the expedition team in the bar – seeing who could be best the liar!



Day 11 – Wednesday 13th November 2019

GPS position at 0800: 56°09'7 S 65°45'5 W

Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 9°C Wind: Sea state: Calm

The weather had calmed down enough overnight meaning we could enjoy some fresh air again! Another day at sea but we had certainly escaped the worst of the storm that was closely following behind. In the morning we learnt about the weird and wonderful sounds of the ocean from Pippa, and just after lunch we learnt about the evolution of penguins from Koen. The time had then come to hand back our rubber boots and lifejackets. We couldn't believe the trip was nearly at an end! In the evening we had our final recap, some brilliant photos and slideshow were shown and the captain came to share his thanks for a wonderful voyage.



Day 12 – Thursday 14th November 2019

GPS position at 0800: 54°49'S 68°17'W

Air Temp: 9°C Sea Temp: 8°C Wind: N F3 Sea state: Calm

We awoke for the last time with a wake up call from our EL, this was sadly our disembarkation day. We had all survived the Drake shake (!) and it was with mixed emotions we found ourselves in Ushuaia, happy that the movement of the ship had subsided but sad that the adventure was over for now. After our breakfast on board we said our goodbyes, and left the good ship Ortelius, although our trip was over it was simply fantastic and all of us have memories to last a lifetime.



Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total Distance Sailed: 1637.5 Nautical Miles

**On behalf of
Oceanwide Expeditions,
Captain Yury Marin,
Expedition Leader Claudia Holgate,
Hotel Manager Sigi
and all the crew and staff,
it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**

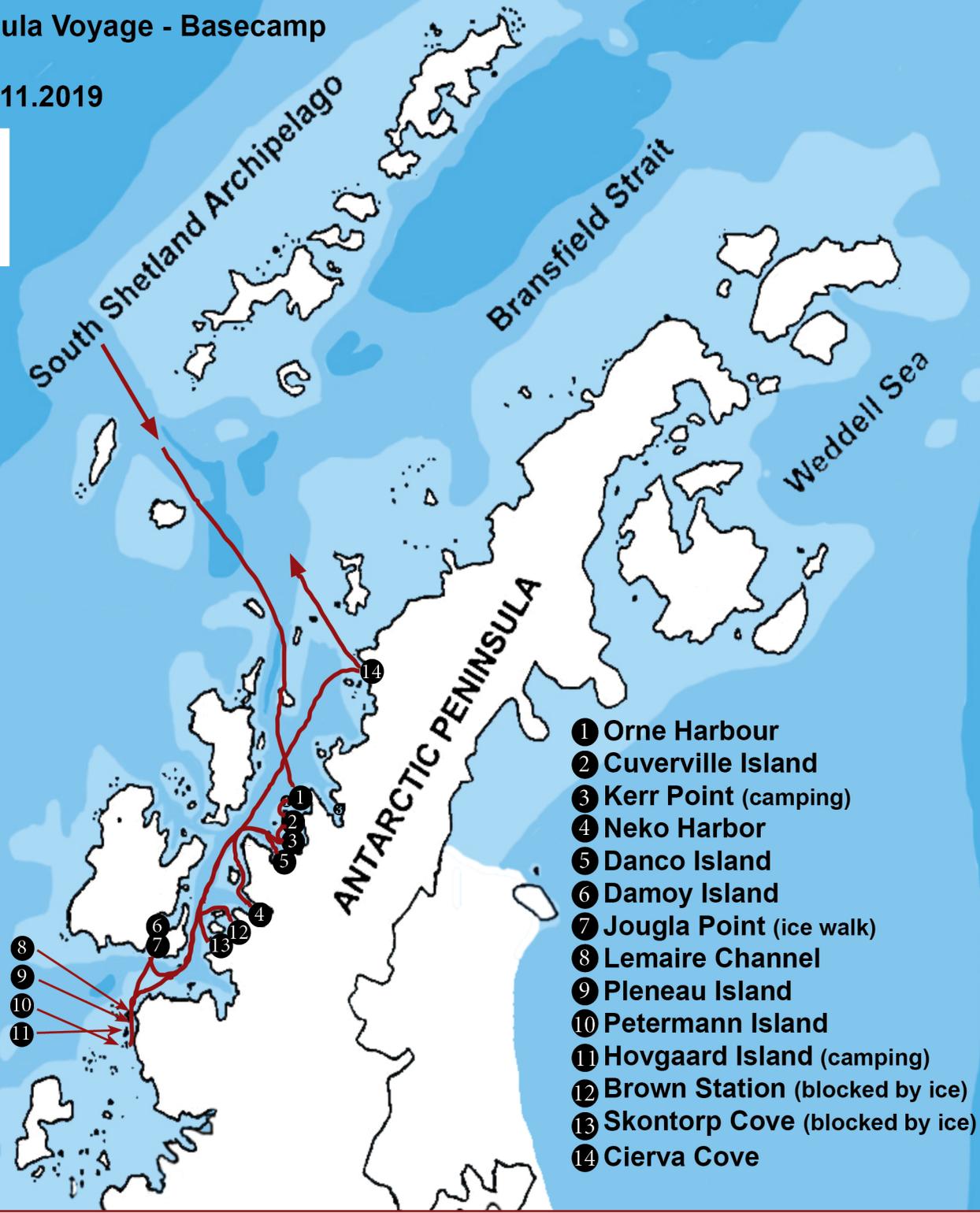
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M/V ORTELIUS

03.11.2019 to 14.11.2019



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Claudia Holgate - Expedition Leader



Claudia, or “Clouds” as she is known on the ship, is a Polar guide with a passion for sharing her knowledge and experience. Claudia, a South African native, has worked at all levels in government, for the United Nations, as an independent environmental consultant and as an academic, but being an expedition guide is the best job by far. She has an MSc. and a Diploma in Higher Education, and considers herself to be a general naturalist, able to speak authoritatively many natural history subjects, from climate and geology to birds and marine biology. Her research has focused on climate change and she will

point out some of the changes that we are seeing during our journey. Claudia’s contribution to geographical research, teaching, outreach and exploration lead to her being elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS).

Claudia’s has been working in the polar regions for 12 years and she still never tires of the White Wilderness and she will tell you that each trip is different and special in its own way.

Claudia is also a Critical Care flight paramedic and when she is back home in South Africa, she teaches doctors and nurses courses in Advanced Cardiac, Paediatric and Trauma Life Support and is currently working on a PhD in Emergency Medicine through the University of Cape Town. In her time off, Claudia loves going into the African bush, photographing, hiking and birding, as well as, doing community work as part of Soroptimist International (Johannesburg club).

Pippa Low - Expedition Guide



Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 7 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia and New Zealand. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in

various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

Upon completion of her degree, Pippa worked in Australia on marine science research projects as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant. After returning to Scotland, Pippa set up a wildlife tour boat company in her hometown of Findhorn and has spent the past 6 years working summer in Scotland, showcasing the wonders of the Moray coastline and wildlife to adventurers on board, and then spending the winter in southern hemisphere working on marine research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research. Most recently, Pippa worked in the Ross Sea on a New Zealand Ecosystem voyage, realising a life dream to work in Antarctica. On this voyage she assisted in the collection of baseline data on the World's largest Marine Protected Area; primarily on the distribution of cetaceans in this region.

Tim Blakemore – Assistant Expedition Leader



Tim is an international (IFMGA) mountain guide with over twenty years of experience in the outdoor industry. From the UK, he is now based in Chamonix, France and guides all over the world. He is a current trainer and assessor of new mountain guides and directs the training programme of the British Mountain Guides.

He has climbed new routes and skied first descents in Scotland, Norway, Greenland, Svalbard, Alaska and Antarctica.

He has led many ski and sail expeditions to Svalbard, Arctic Norway, Greenland and Antarctica.

He first visited Antarctica with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in 2000 and he spent half a year working from Rothera Research Station and on remote airfields. He's since visited the Peninsula many times; Mostly working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions and other providers and recently (January 2016) he chartered a 30 metre yacht and led a thirty day ski expedition to the continent with clients (climbing and skiing new peaks).

In his spare time he still climbs, skis and sails his yacht on the West Coast of Scotland.

Julia Amgermeier - Camping Guide



Julia was born Germany in a small village outside of Frankfurt and she has always had a love of the outdoors. She started her career as an Intensive Care Nurse, a profession she continues today in her off time.

The majority of her time, however, is now spent in Puerto Natales (Chile) where she works as a trekking guide in Torres Del Paine, one of the most beautiful parts of the world. Julia's passion is connecting people with nature, and showing them the beauty around them. Getting people away from computers and social media and giving them a life

changing experience.

Julia looks forward to sharing these amazing adventures with her guests on every trip.

Rustyn Mesdag - Expedition Guide



Rustyn was born in Seattle, Washington where grew up in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. At a young age 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 equipment shop. More than this he conducts daily lectures to eager Patagonian backpackers looking for tips and pointers about trekking in the wild. Ten years ago he 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 cars & motorcycles. 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.



Amelia McGoldrick - Expedition Guide



After studying photography at Toronto's Ryerson University, Amelia apprenticed and collaborated in Ireland and Spain before creating her own photographic tour and workshop company in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a tour leader and tutor as well as award-winning photographic artist, Amelia's on-board

workshops are client-focused, concentrating on passenger camera skills and composition with hands-on instruction and positive feedback. Amelia explains the basics of shooting to beginners while also counselling and encouraging advanced photographers. From where the on-button is to professional-level advice, Amelia is a patient and enthusiastic teacher. Amelia has worked in the Antarctic, South Georgia and Falkland Islands as a photography guide since 2012 and is thrilled to be working with Oceanwide on the Ortelius for selected voyages.

Zet Freiburghaus - Kayak Guide



Zet is a former successful member of the Swedish national kayak team who after his active career has travelled around the world.

Just last year he hiked and rode a horse in the Tien Shen mountains of Kyrgyzstan and explored big parts of Ethiopia, where he saw the Ethiopian wolf and were standing on the rim on an active volcano.

His sharp eyes and great experience in nature implies he rarely misses an animal.

Zet has a Master of Science in Biology from Lund University.

Today he works as a guide with the whole world as his office. Zet is new to the Oceanwide crew and very excited to share his enthusiasm and energy on board our vessels this season.

Catherine Buckland - Expedition Guide



Although born inland in the UK this didn't stop Catherine from developing a love for the water and sea. She began sailing at an early age and completed longer sea voyages as she got older. Her maritime interests meant it wasn't a huge leap to start scuba diving. Predominantly Catherine is a commercial diving instructor and diver medic based in Plymouth, on the south coast of England. Diving year-round, she trains commercial divers, including teams from the British Antarctic Survey and some work with the UK military. In between time she enjoys working for Oceanwide on their

dive trips, helping experienced tourist divers to explore these frigid waters. Land guiding for Oceanwide in the Antarctic and Arctic has enabled Catherine to really enjoy working above the water and appreciating the wildlife in these fascinating environments.

Ian Peck – Guide/Naturalist



Hello everyone! My name is Ian Peck and I hail from Cape Breton Island Nova Scotia, Canada. I have been travelling down to Antarctica and North to the Arctic for the past 7 years. With over a 1000 days on the frozen continent I am extremely excited to start a new chapter with Oceanwide Expeditions. With a Biology degree and a passion for wildlife I am looking forward with great enthusiasm for getting back down south and driving zodiacs and lecturing on the most incredible wildlife I believe exists, baleen whales and Antarctic seals. I can't wait to get out there and see everything this amazing place has to offer.

Rob Johnson – Ship Doctor



I'm Rob and I come from the South West of England.

I have been a doctor for 10 years mostly working in the Emergency Department but have recently changed direction to General Practice (Family Medicine). Over those 10 years I have spent time practicing expedition, remote and rural medicine from the highlands of Scotland to the mountains and glaciers of the Tien Shian.

This will be my first expedition to Antarctica and I am very much looking forward to sharing the experience with you all.



Embarkation

Sunday 3 November 2019

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

~17.15 **Mandatory Safety Briefing in the Lecture Room (Deck 3). ALL PASSENGERS are required** to attend this important safety briefing. A roll call will be conducted.

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

18.30 We would like to invite you to the **Bar** on Deck 6 for an **Introduction to the Ship** by Hotel Manager Sigi, this will be followed by a welcome cocktail, hosted by the Master of the vessel, Captain Yury Marin.

Expedition Leader, Claudia Holgate, will finish off with a **welcome briefing** and introduction to the Expedition.

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

~18.00 Approximate sailing time. As we leave Ushuaia, we recommend that you enjoy the views from the top outside decks.
Please Note: The Bridge will be closed for departure while we navigate the Beagle Channel.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Drake Passage

Monday 4 November 2019

- 0745 Wakeup call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 Join Claudia in the Bar on Deck 6 for a fascinating presentation on the Birds of the Southern Ocean.
- 11:00 Ian will give a presentation on **Seals of Antarctica** in the Bar (Deck 6)
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 Rustyn will chat about IAATO (The international Association of Antarctica Tour Operators) and the Antarctic Treaty system in the Bar (Deck 6)
- 1630 Join Amelie in the Bar (Deck 6) for a presentation on Photography basics
- 1830 **Recap:** This is our daily opportunity to revisit the events of the day and look forward to tomorrow's plans. Claudia and the Expedition Team will meet you in the **Lounge**.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

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



Tuesday 5 November 2019

The Drake Passage on route to Antarctica

0745 Wakeup call

0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.

*We will be conducting the **mandatory IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing**, as well as biosecurity and boots and lifejacket hand out this morning.*

0900 **Deck 3 and 5** guests, please join Clouds in the Bar for the **mandatory IAATO and Zodiac safety briefing**. Everybody who wants to go ashore in Antarctica will have to come to this briefing! Roll call will be taken.

0900 **Deck 4** guests, you will be called by room number go to the lecture room for boot handout and biosecurity. **Vacuum Party!** When called please bring your used outer clothes and the bags that you will be taking ashore.

When both groups are finished, we will swap around. Deck 3 and 5 will go to biosecurity and deck 4 will go to briefings. Please listen for announcements.

1130 Activity briefing - Snow shoeing (Everyone must attend as many of our landings will have snow shoeing) (Bar deck 6)
Followed by - Mountaineering briefing for those signed up (Bar deck 6)

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

1400 Activity briefing - Kayaking (Bar deck 6)
Followed by Activity briefing - Camping (Announcements will be made before start)

1530 Sign ups for activities will be carried out in the bar. We will call up guests 20 at a time. (Bar deck 6). During this time, we will have wildlife watching on the bridge, and if conditions allow, on deck.

1830 **Recap and briefing** - Join Clouds and the Team in the Lounge.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!



Wednesday 6 November 2019

Orne Harbour and Cuverville Island

*This morning we would like to offer a Zodiac cruise in **Orne Harbour**. This bay has steep mountains and glaciers on all sides, so is not suitable for landing, but ideal for a Zodiac cruise and Kayaking. Apart from stunning scenery, this place is also known as one of the few places in the Gerlache Strait which has a colony of Chinstrap Penguins.*

06h45 Wakeup call

07h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.

07h45 **Mountaineers:** meet Tim in the **Heli Hanger**, dressed and ready to go.

08h15 **Kayakers:** meet Zet in the **Heli Hanger** on deck 6.

08h15 **Zodiac explorers Group 1 – Cabins 445 to 529** - please come to the gangway for your cruise.

Photo group 1 please wait until the end for your own zodiac with Amelia

10h00 **Zodiac explorers Group 2 – Cabins 334 to 444** - please come to the gangway for your cruise.

Photo group 2 please wait until the end for your own zodiac with Amelia

12h30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

*This afternoon we plan to land on **Cuverville Island**. Home to the largest Gentoo Penguin colony on the Peninsula, this is a good opportunity to try out your snow shoes for a short walk to the penguin colony or, if the ice conditions allow, join Koen for a moderate walk up the hill to a stunning viewpoint. Don't forget to stop and take in your surroundings*

13h45 **Mountaineers:** meet Tim in the **Heli Hanger**, dressed and ready to go.

14h00 **Land adventurers.** Disembarkation to the landing site.

cabins 334-444 will be called first and cabins 445-529 will be called straight afterwards (Just so you don't wait too long at the gangway). Please wait for your cabin group to be called.

14h15 **Kayakers:** meet Zet in the **Heli Hanger** on deck 6.

16h00 If you come back to the landing site early, we may be able to take you on a short zodiac cruise on the way back to the ship. We will know when we get there, so listen to the onshore briefing.

17h30 **Last zodiac from shore**

18h30 Please join Clouds and the Expedition Staff in the **Lounge** for our **Daily Recap**

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the **Dining Room**. **Please let the campers go first!** Enjoy your meal.

20h15 **Camping at Kerr Point, Ronge Island**

Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hanger by 20h00. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: **The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!**



Damoy Point and Port Lockroy

Thursday 8 November 2019

06h45 Wakeup call

07h30-08h30 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining room.

Expedition Morning

09h00- Koen will give a lecture on penguins

This morning we have a long transit to **Damoy Point** on Wiencke Island. This small bay and associated point are home to two small huts, one Argentine and one British, plus several thousand Gentoo penguins. On arrival we will assess the wind and ice conditions, before we know what we will be able to offer.

13h00-14h00 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

14h00 **Mountaineers:** meet Tim in the **Heli Hanger**, dressed and ready to go.

14h30 **Port Lockroy Group** Disembarkation to the landing site cabins 334-444.

14h45 **Jougla Point** cabins 445-529 Please wait for your cabin group to be called.

14h45 **Kayakers:** meet Zet in the **Heli Hanger** on deck 6.

15h45 **Port Lockroy and Jougla groups swap**

17h30 **Last zodiac from shore**

18h30 Please join Clouds and the Expedition Staff in the **Lounge** for our **Daily Recap**

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the **Dining Room**. *Please let the campers go first!* Enjoy your meal.

20h15 **Camping at Damoy Point**

Please be ready to collect your gear from the Heli Hanger by 20h00. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: **The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!**

Expedition Morning and Petermann Island

Saturday 9th November, 2019

Expedition morning

07h15 Wakeup call

07h30 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.

Expedition Morning - Please listen for announcements as to our activities. We will not begin any activities before 08h30

12h30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

Petermann Island

This island has a large Gentoo Penguin colony, nesting Blue Eyed Shags and a small colony of Adelie Penguins.

13h30 **Kayakers:** meet Zet in the **Heli Hanger** on deck 6 to collect your gear.

14h15 **Mountaineers:** meet Tim in the **Heli Hanger**, dressed and ready to go.

14h30 Landing at Petermann for cabins **334-444**

14h45 Landing at Petermann for cabins **445-529**

18h30 Meet Clouds and the expedition team in the bar for our daily **Recap**.

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

20h00 **Camping Night**

Collect your gear at 20h00 at the **Heli hanger**. Please be ready to depart for your night ashore. Remember to pack warm clothes and don't forget: **The bathrooms onboard are more comfortable than the one onshore!!**



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Brown Station, Skontorp Cove

Sunday 10th November 2019

- 06h00-06h30 We will do an announcement for anyone wishing to witness the transit of the **Lemaire Channel** once more.
- 07h45 Wake up call.
- 08h00-09h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30 **Kayakers** meet Zet in the **Bar**.
- 10h00 Lecture by Amelia For DSLR users with some more advanced techniques. Everyone welcome. In **the Bar**.
- 12h30-13h30 **Lunch** is served in the **Dining Room**.

Brown Station and Skontorp Cove

- 13h30 **Kayakers:** meet Zet in the **Heli Hanger**.
- 13h30 **Mountaineers:** meet Tim in the **Heli Hanger**, dressed and ready to go.
- 14h00 This afternoon we plan to do a split landing and zodiac cruise. We will do a continental landing at **Brown Station** with its resident population of gentoo penguins. At the same time, there will also be a zodiac cruise through Paradise Harbour to **Skontorp Cove**.
- 14h00 Cabins **445-529** will land at Brown Station first.
- 14h30 Cabins **334-444** will cruise Skontorp Cove first.
We will then swap on shore so everybody can do everything.
- 19h00 Please join Clouds and the expedition team in the bar for a **recap and briefing**.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the **Dining room**.

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



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Cierva Cove

Monday 11th November 2019

This morning we plan to offer a zodiac cruise in Cierva Cove. This beautiful cove has spectacular glacial scenery, icebergs, Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins and maybe we will see a leopard Seal.

06h00-07h00 Pastries in the lounge

07h00 Zodiac cruise disembarkation for cabins 445-529

07h15 Zodiac cruise disembarkation for cabins 334-444

Please sign the opt out sheet before going to bed tonight if you don't plan to go zodiacing in the morning

09h00-10h00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.

11h00 Lecture: Climate change with Clouds in the bar

13h00 Lunch is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

This afternoon we will be collecting boots and zodiac life jackets in the lecture room. Please listen for announcements

14h30 Collection for cabins 334-444.

15h00 Collection for cabins 445-529

16h30 Quiz time in the Bar

18h30 Please join Clouds and the expedition team in the lounge for a **recap and briefing.**

1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Today we will be heading into the Drake Passage, please always hold on with at least one hand and be very careful in the stairwells. Please do not wear flip-flops on the ship during this time



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Drake Passage

Tuesday 12th November 2019

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 0800-0900 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 09h30 **Lecture** by **Pippa** on Whales to be held in the bar deck 6
- 11h30 **Lecture** by **Ian** on the foraging and ecology of baleen whales in the bar deck 6
- 1230-1330 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Lecture** by **Tim** on living and working in Antarctica (Bar deck 6)
- 1600 **Liar's Club**. Join the Expedition Team in the bar trying to guess who on the team is the best Liar
- 1830 **Recap**: Please join Clouds and the Expedition Team in the Bar for a recap of our activities and plans for the next day.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Today we are in the Drake Passage, please always hold on with at least one hand and be very careful in the stairwells. Please do not wear flip-flops and keep your hands away from door frames

Drake Passage

Wednesday 13th November 2019

- 07h45 Wake up call
- 08h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 10h30 **An Ocean of Sound** – Please join Pippa in the Bar for a lecture on the acoustics of the Southern Ocean.
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 14h00 **Penguins** – Please join Koen in the bar for a lecture on the evolution of penguins
- 15h00 **Rounding the Horn** - We will show a movie about sailing around the famous Cape Horn in the bar.

*This afternoon we will be collecting **boots and zodiac life jackets** in the lecture room. Please listen for announcements*

- 16h30 Collection for **cabins 334-444**
- 17h00 Collection for **cabins 445-529**
- 18h00 **Captain's Farewell:** Please join us in the bar for a farewell toast with the captain, as well as the trip slideshow.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

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



Disembarkation, Ushuaia

Thursday 14th November 2019

Please ensure your luggage is outside your cabin by the time Sigi invites you to breakfast at 07h30. We will move your main luggage to the pier, and after the busses have arrived we will call you to come down the gangway. You must ensure your own luggage is moved to the airport bus or the truck to the luggage storage place if you wish to use either of these services.

07h30-08h30 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room.

08h30 We expect the busses to arrive and to begin **Disembarkation**. **Please listen and wait for announcements**, and it will be a great help to all the crew if you do not wait in the Lobby, which will be a very busy place. The Bar will offer good views of Ushuaia, and long-awaited cell/mobile phone coverage

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

We hope to see you again, North or South!

"Fair winds and following seas"