



Antarctica - Discovery and Learning Voyage

on board **m/v Hondius**

December 11th – 20th 2019



The MV *Hondius* was built in 2019 in Brodosplit, Croatia, as an expedition vessel for Oceanwide Expeditions. *Hondius* is 107.6 m long, 17.6 m wide and has a maximum draught of 5.3 m and has an exceptionally high Ice class of PC6, a top speed of 15 knots and 3 diesel generators. The *Hondius* sails on LSMGO. The ship is sailing as a 176-passenger vessel with 83 cabins. Our beautiful, modern vessel carries 369 m³ of fresh water and has a water plant producing 70 m³ per day. In many ways, the *Hondius* is the perfect vessel for a true polar adventure!

Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 74

including

First Officer:	Romanas Vicas
Staff Officer:	Toni Salo
Second Officer:	Maikel Overbeeke
Third Officer:	Runa Brouwers
Chief Engineer:	Daniel Liliac-Zajontz
Hotel Manager:	Dejan (DJ) Nikolic
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Alex Lyebedyev
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk
Ship's Physician:	Abraham Wouters

And

Expedition Leader:	Adam Turner
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Martin Berg
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Laurence Dyke
Expedition Guide:	Ben Giunchi
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer
Expedition Guide:	Isabelle Schulz
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony
Expedition Guide:	John (Johnny) Yeh
Expedition Guide:	John Rogers
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski
Expedition Guide:	Vide Brand
Expedition Guide:	Steve Egan
Expedition Guide:	Mengxiao Liu
Expedition Guide:	Paul Donovan
Workshop Guide:	Drew Anderson
Workshop Guide:	Neill Drake
Workshop Guide:	George Kennedy

We welcome you on board!

Day 1: 11th December 2019

Embarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 1600: 54°48'.6 S, 68°17'.9 W

Wind: W5 Sea State: port Weather: overcast

Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: +11°C

The start of our expedition was slightly delayed but once aboard we quickly made up for lost time. We were very pleased to get checked in and explore the beautiful ship that will be our floating home – *M.V Hondius*.

Once we had moved into our cabins, and met a few fellow expeditioners, the first order of business was dinner. The buffet prepared by Head Chef Ralf as well-stocked with delicious food, a good omen for the voyage.

We soon pulled away from the dock and

set our course down the Beagle Channel, and then to the open sea, and the south.



Once underway and well-fed, we met in the lounge for our introduction to life onboard and of the mandatory safety briefing. We learned from Expedition Leader (EL) Adam, and Hotel Manager DJ how to find what we need, and what to expect. The emergency alarm of seven short and one long blast sent us to our cabins to collect our life jackets and move to the muster stations and eventually the lifeboats. With that drill completed we had some time to relax in the lounge before testing our beds.

Day 2: 12th December 2019

Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°21'.7 S, 65°14'.9 W

Wind: W4 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast

Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +6°C

When we looked out after the morning wake-up call we saw that the feared Drake Passage was not so fearsome after all – at least so far. A few were queasy, or worse, but the turnout for breakfast was large.



Today was full of briefings and logistical activities to give us the knowledge and equipment that we needed during the expedition. We got fitted for the boots for landings, and learned how we will use them during Zodiac operations. The instructions for behaviour ashore were explained – including the 5-meter rule for wildlife, and how we can best preserve the natural environment. As part of this effort we did a thorough clean of our clothing and had them checked by an Expedition Team member

for biosecurity. We needed to ensure that we didn't carry any invasive species or diseases to this pristine wilderness. It is our responsibility.

In addition, we were introduced to the Expedition Team and learned who to ask when we have questions. The kayakers got together to get fitted for their gear and prepared to go paddling.

Throughout the day we were drawn to the outer decks to keep watch for seabirds and enjoy the wide-open views across the water. The seas were calm enough that passengers were spotted playing the wooden block balancing game *Jenga* in the library. Remarkable. Before the Briefing and Recap we toasted with Captain Alexey to the success of our voyage. Then EL Adam gave us Plan A for tomorrow and the rest of the expedition. As expeditioners we understood that Plan A might turn



into Plan B, C, D or E as the weather and conditions change. We were ready to respond to any changes.

Part of being an expeditioner is to make sure that we have enough energy to perform when called upon. This was our excuse for the large helping at dinner.

Some of this energy was spent in the lounge because we are all ready to get going. Are we there yet?

Day 3: 13th December 2019

Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 60°48'.3 S, 60°54'.1 W

Wind: SW3 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast

Air Temp: -1°C Sea Temp: +3°C

Overnight we passed through the biological boundary of Antarctica, the Antarctic Convergence. The air was now much colder and we started keeping watch for icebergs and different seabird species. During the morning we also passed the political boundary of 60° South and entered the region governed by the Antarctic Treaty.



The Drake Passage remained gentle so we were all able to attend our first day of lectures to prepare us for what we would see in the next few days. First up Johnny and Meike gave presentations about the cutest and most charismatic of birds, the penguins. Then

Martin continued with the theme as he covered their cousins, the majestic fliers, in his talk *Seabirds – Masters of the Sea and Sky*.

John told us the most famous and dramatic story in the history of Antarctic exploration in his lecture on Sir Ernest Shackleton and *The Imperial Transantarctic Expedition 1914-1917*. During the afternoon we spotted our first iceberg and had two excellent, prolonged close-up encounters with feeding Humpback whales. They were migrating south and feasting on the krill along the way. What superb creatures, what a show, and what a way to get our expedition underway.



Preparations continued as Ben and Vide gathered the campers for their briefing, and Neil and George held their introductory workshop on photography and videography. We were ready to sleep well and capture great images!



At Recap John used maps to tell us how human knowledge of the unknown lands of the south had unfolded, Vide reviewed the whales we had seen so far, and Meike told how we can become citizen scientists by sending our photos to HappyWhale.com.

The calm seas and watching the whales must have given us an appetite because the dining room was buzzing. Afterward, our Meteorologist Drew gave us an introduction to Antarctic weather. We hoped that he wouldn't have anything

too dramatic to tell us during the voyage.

The lounge was full until late. Only one more sleep.

Day 4: 14th December 2019

Great Wall Station

GPS position at 0800: 62°13'.6 S, 58°59'.1 W

Wind: variable Sea State: calm Weather: sunny

Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +3°C

It would be hard to imagine a better morning to start of expedition. The sea was flat and the sun shining. After a slight hiccup with time zones we were welcomed by the 40 staff at the Chinese Great Wall Station. It was interesting to see the buildings where they live and work



for up to one year. There was the chance to see a bit of Antarctic history with a tour of Building 1 – the first building built when the base was established in 1985. Between the ship and the shore we had our first zodiac cruise. We slid our way through the brash ice and watched the Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins in the water and on the land. For many our first penguins!

The conditions were ideal for kayaking – calm seas, no wind, sunshine with the odd cloud here and there. We hugged

the shoreline, sneaking in and out of the shallows and between rocks before arriving at Great Wall. Then out to the small island in the bay and around them. A great first experience of kayaking in Antarctica was had by all!

We had a long distance to travel to the Antarctic Peninsula for our next excursions so the afternoon was spent in a ship cruise. The Expedition Team took the opportunity to continue our education with talks by Jeff in Mandarin about the *History of the Great Wall Station*, and Steve about the baleen whales of the Southern Ocean in *Mysteries of Mysticeti - Majestic Moustached Whales*.

During the cruise the opportunity was taken to convene on the bow for a special treat from DJ and his team – hot cocoa and rum to make us as warm and happy on the inside as we were on the outside. We were feeling so good that we had no trouble smiling as various group photos were taken, including one of us all together.



As the cruise continued, we were treated to another surprise. This time it was provided by the Captain and the EL – entry into the caldera of an active volcano at Deception Island. As we explored the sheltered interior, Laura, John, and Johnny told us about the basic geology and history while Laura and Vide gave a more detailed description later that evening.

For dinner we were served at our tables after ordering from the menu instead of from the buffet. The kitchen team upped their game to match the service provided by the dining room team, so we felt very special indeed. Let the good times roll. And roll they did through a long and entertaining evening in the lounge with a stunning sunset out the window. Antarctic Peninsula tomorrow, can't wait.



Day 5: 15th December 2019

Cuverville Island, Orne Harbour

GPS position at 0800: 64°40'.2 S, 62°39'.9 W

Wind: N1 Sea State: calm Weather: sunny

Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: +3°C

The view this morning was a dramatic scene. Rugged Cuverville Island was off the bow surrounded by towering mountains with glaciers falling from the heights. The sea was full of icebergs of every shape and size, and every shade of white and blue imaginable. Indescribable. Welcome to the Antarctic Peninsula.



magnificent icebergs.

After a quick bite we were in the zodiacs, or kayaks, for a landing at the Gentoo colony at Cuverville (plus one lost Adelie) or a cruise in the surrounding waters. Both were delightful. The penguins were busy feeding and cleaning in the sea – how quick they are in the water! On shore they are clumsier, but still cute, and determined to get to their nest to share the task of incubating the eggs. The cruise included views of the penguins, crabeater and Weddell seals, Humpback whales, and those

In the kayaks, we circumnavigated the island along the way spending time in the big icebergs and ice cliffs along the shoreline. We turned the corner and went with the flow that pushed us along for a nice visit with a couple of Humpbacks close by. We didn't want to leave, and who can blame us.

We were so excited to see the penguins frolicking, that some decided to join them for the Polar Plunge. We were not as graceful, to say the least, nor as well insulated, but we had super fun, and the birds came over to check us out. What a "hoot" for them.



The afternoon landing was on the continent of Antarctica at the spectacular setting of the mountains and glaciers of Orne Harbour. We could have walked to the South Pole from there, but we would have missed dinner. So, we decided to limit our climb to the saddle and a visit to the Chinstrap penguin colony. That made three penguin species in the same day! We had a bonus bit of fun with a bum slide back to the landing site.

The zodiac cruise also featured nesting Chinstrap penguins plus Antarctic Shags with chicks, terns, kelp gulls, and still more cool icebergs. From the water it was possible to get a sense of the vast scale of the scene.



At recap Laura showed us the different types of icebergs. Then dinner was yet another special surprise from the kitchen and hotel teams – a BBQ on the back deck including free beverages! What could be better? How about Killer whales coming in from the starboard bow (did they want some of the BBQ?) And then, how about dancing in the sunset with the crew and staff and our new friends! Too much fun.

During all this excitement the campers had been preparing for their night out.

They left the ship at about 10 pm – and I think that most were tired enough to actually sleep. The camping location was Paradise – Paradise Bay that is, but we felt like we were in heaven.



Day 6: 16th December 2019

Lemaire Channel, Vernadsky Base

GPS position at 0800: 64°27'.6 S, 63°22'.6 W

Wind: WSW3 Sea State: ice Weather: overcast

Air Temp: -2°C Sea Temp: +2°C



In the morning we finally got a chance to see Antarctica in more typical Antarctic conditions. The wind remained moderate, but the sky was grey and the sea full of pack ice. This ice slowed our progress so the planned morning landing was not possible – welcome to expedition travel. Nonetheless, the

morning was full of interest. The pack ice gives a constantly changing panorama. The Lemaire Channel, with the mountains rising steeply on both sides of the narrow gap, is a wonder of nature in any weather. The Expedition Team filled any non-deck time with more information to keep us thinking. Johnny got us caught up with background on the places and animals that we have seen. Laura taught us about the rocks that make up those mountains in *The Geological History and Mineral Potential of Antarctica*.

For the afternoon landing and cruise at the Ukrainian Vernadsky Station we were up close and personal with the pack ice as the zodiac drivers had to either weave around it or push through it. At the base we were greeted by the twelve staff members who took us on a tour to see their laboratories and working conditions. We visited their common rooms, including the bar, as well as visit the most southerly souvenir shop and post office in the world. Homemade vodka shots, retail therapy, and postcards home! Outside, the Kelp Gulls, South Polar Skuas and Gentoo penguins welcomed us too. On the cruise we saw crabeater seals and Adelie penguins.

At recap Vide gave us a rundown on all the different Poles of Antarctica – geographic, magnetic, inaccessibility, and more. We had reached the furthest south for our voyage and Captain Alexey

turned us for home, then, as yet another special treat, he took us back through the Lemaire Channel over dinner. The mirror calm water matched our reflective mood.



Day 7: 17th December 2019

Hydrurga Rocks, Mikkelsen Harbour

GPS position at 0800: 64°08'.6 S, 61°36'.6 W

Wind: N2 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast

Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: +4°C

We made good progress overnight and the wake-up call came early – but then this is an expedition not a holiday. We made our landing, zodiac cruise and kayaking at Hydrurga Rocks in calm conditions with a gentle sea. Our luck continued. On land was a large Chinstrap colony with the occasional vagrant Adelie and Gentoo penguin seen. Weddell seals were hauled out near the landing site. But, this landing was mostly about the snow! It was deep and we had to follow the long paths to various parts of the Rocks. This made it like a fun holiday with photo opportunities at every corner. We laughed and played, then played and laughed some more. The cruise featured graceful icebergs, Weddell, Crabeater and Elephant seals, and, of course, those delightful birds. The kayakers had a “swell” time, which isn’t always the best in a kayak. We got



underway in the channel between the two islands, taking in a few lazy Weddell seals and the odd Chinstrap rookery along the way. The swell stayed with us throughout the morning

so it was good to find a few bays here and there with calmer waters to rest a while and take it all in. Yet another great outing complete with a few challenges to overcome – but we are expeditioners and overcame!

D'Hainault Island, set in the heart of Mikkelsen Harbour, was the site for our afternoon landing, cruise, and kayaking. The island is not notable for its own beauty, but is home to a large Gentoo colony. There is whaling history here with bones and old boats along the shore. Some Weddell seals came to visit too. The special character of this place is made by the mountains and glaciers that completely surround the island. These we were able to see up close from the zodiacs and kayaks. Continuing the theme of this expedition, we had another surprise when



DJ came to the party with hot cider and whisky afloat. What a splendid final excursion.

At recap Meike told us more about the Skua and Steve explained about the various seal species. Because we had an early start, we had an early finish – which left time for a few beverages before dinner, some with glacial ice to provide the fizz. We fizzed our way through dinner and on into the lounge – for yet another surprise treat, this time provided by nature. We passed through

a large group of bubble-net feeding Humpback whales all around the ship with tail flukes showing through the glorious sunset. Wow.



Day 8: 18th December 2019
Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 61°22'.5 S, 64°02'.8 W

Wind: E3 Sea State: smooth Weather: overcast

Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +4°C



A gentle crossing of the Bransfield Strait overnight gave way to a gentle start to our crossing of the Drake Passage as we enjoyed a sleep-in and leisurely breakfast.

Today was time to again take advantage of the knowledge that the Expedition Team shared. Laurence and Johnny got us started by explaining *Ice & Glaciers*. Later Szymon helped us learn about the largest member of the dolphin family in his talk about *Killer Whales*, and Steve gave his talk '*License to Krill*', focused

on Krill, the incredibly abundant and important food source for all of the animals we have enjoyed seeing over the past few days.

Meanwhile we returned those boots that have served us so well and had time for a chat, photo editing or a nice little nap. And napping seemed an especially attractive option as the wind and sea built during the day. We learned that *Hondius* was our dancing partner for the Passage as we walked the passageways – and she seemed to be in the mood for a bit of Rock and Roll.

By afternoon we had passed back north of 60° and out of Antarctic waters, but waves were breaking over the bow and the lounge was mostly empty.

Nonetheless, the dumpling assembly line in the dining room was in full swing.

Outside, the sea birds love wind and they were around the ship in great numbers.

At recap John showed how the annual freeze and thaw of the sea ice around Antarctica is critical to life in the oceans, and Martin gave a graphic

demonstration of the wingspans of the

seabirds as well as showing how the sea temperature marks the Antarctic Convergence.

For dinner we got a chance to sample all those dumplings that we had worked so hard to put together. Conditions had eased so the dining room was well populated. Yum yum yum.

With the less bumpy ride the lounge was a nice place to hang out for the evening, especially with the next installment of *Frozen Planet* on the big screen, but our beds were too attractive to resist for very long.



Day 9: 19th December 2019

Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°39'.1 S, 64°52'.5 W

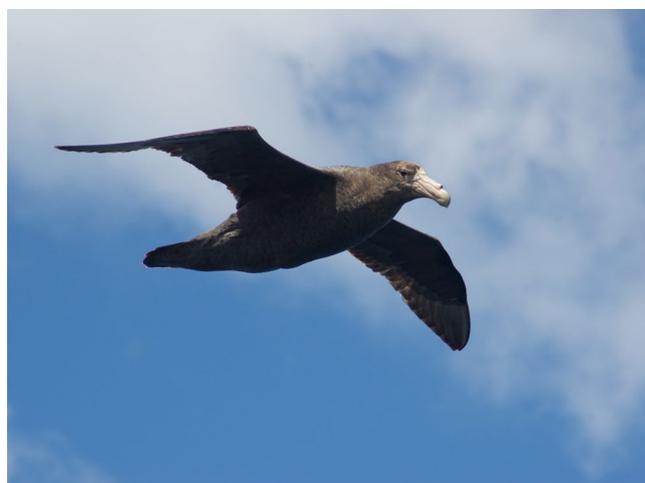
Wind: NW6 Sea State: slight Weather: overcast

Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +8°C

The changing mood of the Drake Passage had changed again - for the better this time as *Hondius* provided a smooth ride through the night and morning. Our own mood was a bit melancholy and bittersweet as is inevitable for the final travel day of any expedition. We were content, thrilled even, with the experiences that we had shared, but were also aware that our time of sharing was drawing to a close. Today was a day for double checking onward travel arrangements, circulating to make sure that no farewells with special friends were missed, and wistful reflection.



Happily, the expedition activities were not yet over. Drew helped us understand the atmosphere with his presentation on *Ozone Holes and the Sun*. Then Vide described the political and environmental governance of the south in his lecture *The Antarctic Treaty and Madrid Protocol*. Later, Ben prepared us for arrival in his home country with his talk about *The Beagle Channel*.



Now that we had seen it for ourselves, it was appropriate the Expedition Team presented a lecture mini-series about human impacts on the Antarctic environment – which got us thinking about ways that we can all contribute to the changes that will be required.

The final formal event was a chance to toast to our successes over a farewell drink with Captain Alexey Nazarov

including introductions of the Hotel Crew by DJ and one last Thank You to all of the people aboard *Hondius* who worked so hard to make our holiday so wonderful. Then, off to the dining room to enjoy another excellent meal. The noise from chatter was so loud we had to shout to arrange the photos at the tables. Finally, after a few birthday songs, another excellent surprise – Baked Alaska for dessert – with fireworks! The work done by Head Chef Ralf and his team has been outstanding from start to finish.

We knew that we would have an early start in the morning, but it didn't seem to matter as we got together in the lounge one more time and partied until late (but not quite as late as the Expedition Staff!).

Day 10: 20th December 2019

Disembarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48'.6 S, 68°18'.1 W

Wind: NE3 Sea State: port Weather: cloudy

Air Temp: +10°C Sea Temp: +11°C

A quick breakfast, luggage out, double check the passports, handshakes then down the gangway to whatever adventure awaits. Go well.



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 on our voyage: 1571 nautical miles

Furthest South: 65°15'.0 S, 064°16'.0 W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Alexey Nazarov, Expedition Leader Adam Turner, Hotel Manager DJ Nikolic and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



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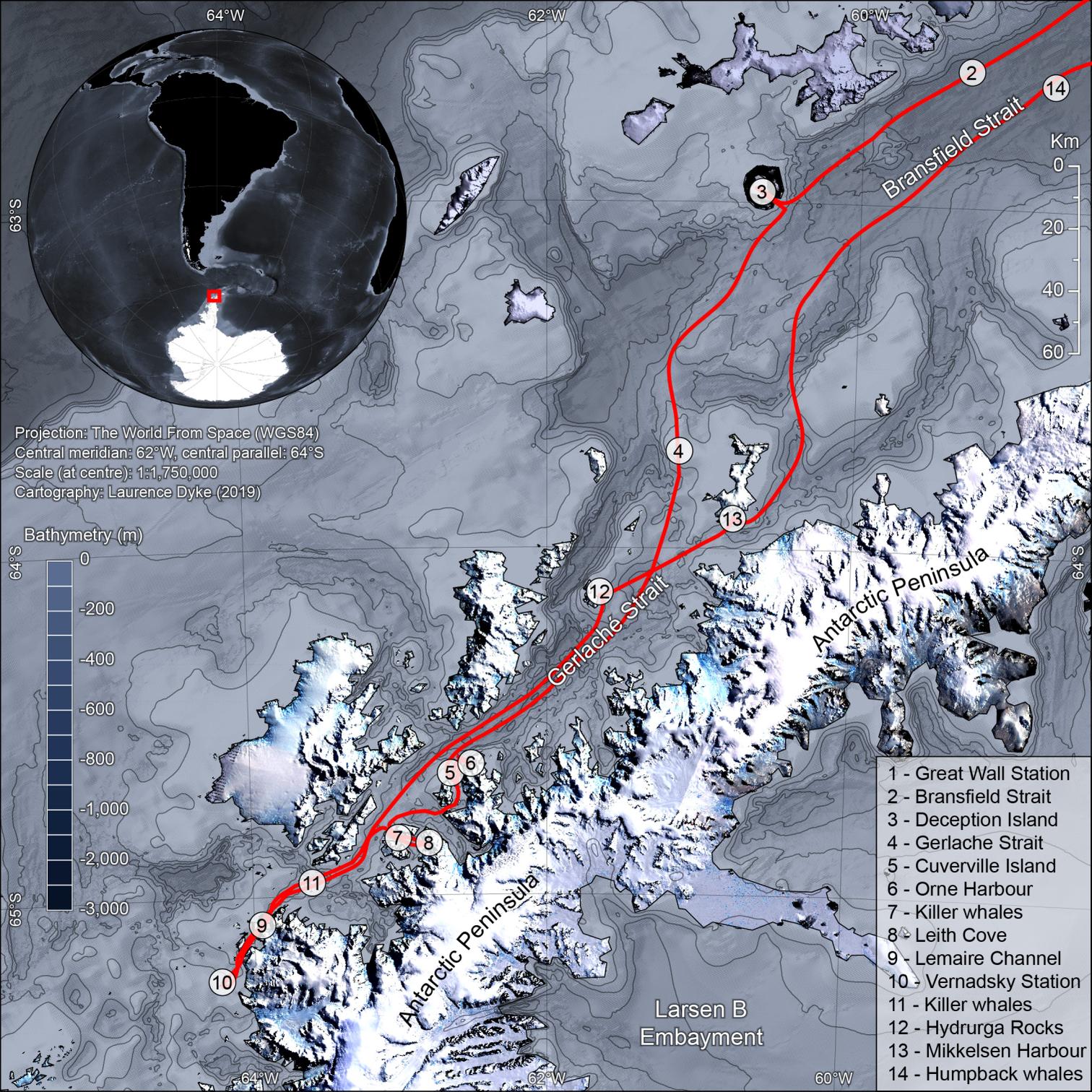
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The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 02 June 2020. The photography contest runs from 03 November 2019 until 02 May 2020.

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



Adam Turner - Expedition Leader



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

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

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

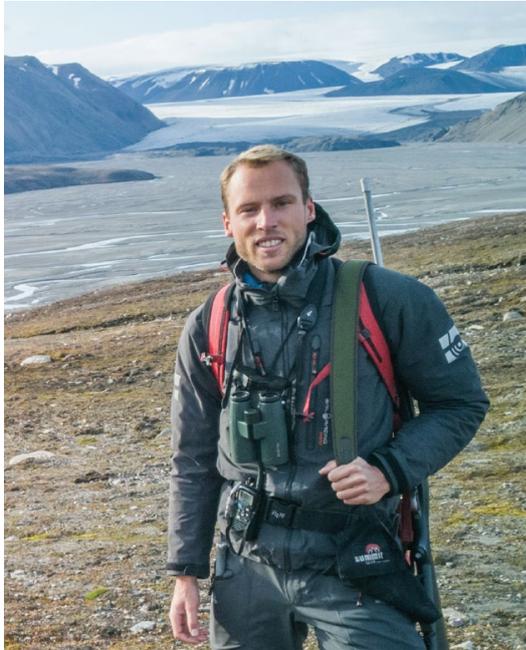
across the UK with his search dog Charley.

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

Adam studied at Middlesex University and often gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and he work full time for Oceanwide.

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

Martin Berg - Assistant Expedition Leader



Martin's passion for birds and mammals has taken him all over the world in his search for rare species.

He has always been drawn to adventures and has participated in many expeditions and conservation projects into the Amazon rainforest, the Arctic, Caucasus, and the Himalayas to study poorly known and endangered bird species.

He has also spent several seasons studying seabirds on islands in the North Atlantic Ocean and around New Zealand and as well as conducted at-sea surveys on seabirds and marine mammals in waters around Antarctica.

Martin holds an Honours degree in Biology from Lund University in Sweden and a Master's degree in Marine Biology from Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre in Canada. He lives in Stockholm, Sweden, but most of his time is currently spent either in the Arctic or Antarctica where he guides and gives lectures in a wide range of topics related to natural history.

Martin is a keen birder and experienced in bird and mammal identification, and while almost constantly focused with his binoculars busy finding seabirds and marine mammals, he always appreciates a good chat about ecology and conservation.

Laurence Dyke – Assistant Expedition Leader



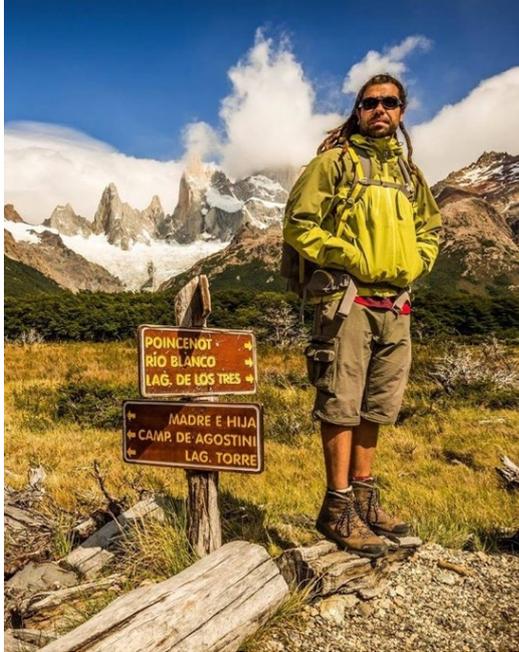
Laurence is from Cornwall in the far southwest of the UK and grew up on the coast, never far from the water and boats. Laurence has a background as a geographer with a special focus in glaciology, a choice inspired by seeing a glacier up close for the first time in the Austrian Alps.

For the last 7 years he has worked in science, both in the UK and Denmark, working to understand how and why huge glacier systems have changed in the past. Laurence first visited the Arctic in 2010 whilst undertaking research for his PhD

and was immediately captivated by the wild landscapes of the high latitudes. His subsequent research has taken him on numerous expeditions to remote areas of Greenland, Svalbard, and Arctic Canada.

Laurence is also a passionate advocate for polar science, when time allows, he produces videos and articles about research from Greenland and the wider Arctic. Laurence lectures in glaciology and geography.

Ben Giunchi - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



From early on Meike has been a passionate naturalist and traveller who just loves birds.

At the age of 7 she bought her first bird book. Being outdoors all the time, she wanted to learn more about the amazing creatures she encountered. Investigating and learning about nature and wildlife has been a passion ever since.

Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a television director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If

not travelling she is directing the prime-time wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels*.

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

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

Isabelle Schulz - Expedition Guide



Isabelle Schulz was born in 1979 in Morges, Switzerland. She completed her bachelor studies in biology at the University of Cologne and completed her master with a major in marine biology at the University of Bremen, Germany. It was important to her to complete an interdisciplinary education, which is why she chose environmental law as a minor subject.

Her passion for nature and traveling already began in her cradle of her early years. She grew up in Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, where desert tours (to 5,000-year-old petroglyphs and engravings) were the main destination of the school holidays. Her passion for nature and traveling grew even more, when she spent two months in the Costa Rican rainforest to study the mating behavior of the strawberry frogs (*Dendrobates pumilio*) and two months in Oman to study migratory behavior of spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*).

The topic of her doctoral thesis led her to Antarctica. Her thesis dealt with the topic "iron fertilization in the Southern Ocean". She finished her PhD in 2013. From 2014 to 2018 she investigated natural iron fertilization in the Red Sea by sand input from the Saudi and Egyptian desert. She was interested to know whether sand storms can have an impact on the growth of phytoplankton (micro-algae). Of course, she used the direct location on the Red Sea, equipped with compressed air cylinder and mask, to dive into the incomparable water world of the Red Sea and to be close to her "colleagues".

Biography --- Laura Mony



The ocean had always been part of Laura's life. She started spending time on sailboats when she was a baby and she sailed around the world crossing several oceans when she was between 12 and 14 years old. That trip increased her passion for the ocean because she discovered its vastness and its importance on the earth's dynamic. Laura had the chance to start traveling very young and has been all over the world alone, with a backpack, with family or friends. These trips gave her the opportunity to develop an open mind and an intellectual curiosity about the climate phenomena that govern

our planet.

Born in France, she grew up in the French part of Canada where she did her bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering. During her bachelor's degree, she became fascinated by the polar regions and wanted to continue her studies in that field. That is why, at the end of her degree, she left Canada for Tasmania, Australia, to do her Master in Marine and Antarctic Science. During that degree she deeply studied this fascinating continent with a specialization in geophysics and glaciology. When she is not onboard, she is doing contracts at University Laval as a research associate in Hydrogeology

John Yeh - Expedition Guide



I was born on 1958 in Taiwan and lives in Sydney, Australia since 1991. I joined “Chinese Boy Scouts” from Junior High to college. During in Boy Scouts those years I learned a lot from the team work, camping skill, tracking skill, wildlife, plants etc. I was in the army service for 2 year as a Lieutenant. I have taken up orienteering in Gobi Desert, China twice on 2013. I really enjoy traveling and outdoor challenging.

I had EE bachelor degree and was R/D engineer for 7 years before work as a regional Sales manager in South Europe and GM for Australia/New Zealand. I have traveled 27 countries and covered 6 continentals during my working carrier. I changed my working carrier into tourism industry since 2013 and work as “Senior International Business

Consultant” & “Expedition Guide”. I have been to Antarctica 7 times and twice for Arctic till Dec/2015 and really enjoy dealing with people.

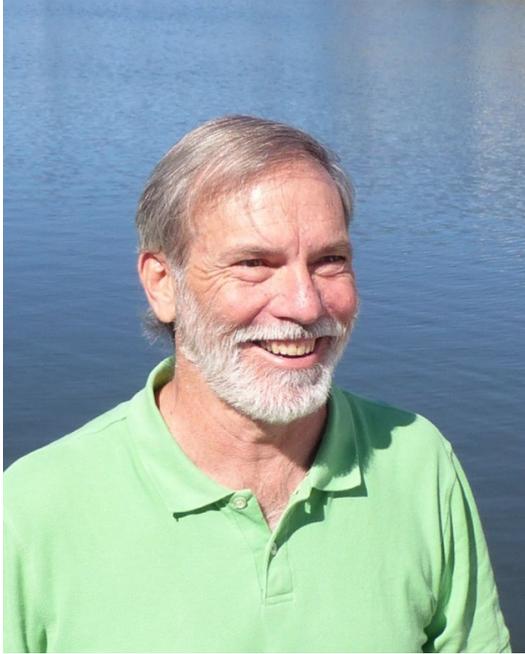
Due to more Chinese travelers visiting Antarctica & Arctic as me work as an expedition guide, I can deliver more conservation education to those travelers. Hope our future generation can see the last piece of wild land in the earth. This is my passion and willing to do more in the near future.

我于1958年出在台湾, 1991 年移居澳洲雪梨. 初中到专校我参加“中国童子军”, 在这期间我学会了团队合作的重要性, 露营技巧, 野外求生及追踪技巧, 野生动植物的辨识及应用. 服过两年兵役, 少尉分队长. 2013 参与两项戈壁徒步赛事及高中拓展训练. 我喜爱旅行及户外挑战运动.

我已取得电机工程学士学位, 有7年电子线路研发经历, 也担任过南欧区域业务经理及澳洲/新西兰公司总经理. 在这些年工作期间走访过27个国家及6大洲. 2013转换职场到旅行行业, 担任公司资深国际业务顾问及荷兰南北极探险旅行探险队员. 截至 2015年12月, 已去过南极7次, 北极2次, 享受跟旅客对话及互动的过程.

鉴于南北极旅行中国旅客数量逐年增加, 做为探险队员可以有很好的机会传递生态保育教育, 好让我们后代子孙可以欣赏到地球上最后一块野生净土. 这是我热衷的事, 希望未来能做得更多.

John Rogers - Expedition Guide



History came early to me as my home town, Concord, Massachusetts, is famous as the site of the first battle of the American Revolution and much early American literary culture. I learned to swim in Walden Pond, of Thoreau fame. My love of the outdoors started with family holidays to lakes and mountains.

Following a move to Los Angeles to undertake a Bachelor of Science from the California Institute of Technology, I began a career in computer software development. An unexpected 3 month paid holiday, when my employer went

belly up, was spent hiking and exploring in the Canadian Rockies. With this the travel bug bit hard, and has never let go.

Another travelling holiday brought me across the Pacific to New Zealand in 1980 with the goal of living outside of the USA. A holiday romance with Jill started then and has never ended. Several long unpaid leaves have allowed me to visit every continent – the final one being Antarctica on a ship-based expedition in 2001. With this, the Antarctic bug bit hard, and has never let go. As a member and officer of the New Zealand Antarctic Society; and a resident of Christchurch where Antarcticans are thick on the ground; and through the post-retirement completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies at the University of Canterbury; I have been able to pursue and indulge an interest in the amazing stories of Antarctic exploration, past and present.

My approach to the history of the places and people of the Antarctic is based on those stories. I hope that anyone on this voyage with specialized knowledge, or with a family connection, will help me to help others share in this fantastic legacy.

Vide Brandt - Expedition Guide



Vide was born in Sweden, but have been a resident of Longyearbyen, Svalbard since 2007. He fell in love with the polar regions during his first visit to the Arctic, as a young boy back in year 2000. He works as a field guide all year around and try to spend as much time as possible outdoors in the polar regions. When not part of the Oceanwide Expeditions team he works with terrestrial activities such as snowmobile tours and ice-caving in local glaciers, or at sea with various expeditions and/or with film projects focusing on Polar Bears and Killer Whales. After 11 dark seasons in the far north he decided to seek the light in Antarctica and now works for Oceanwide Expeditions during the winter– A decision he could not be more satisfied with!

Steve Egan - Expedition Guide



Growing up among dramatic landscapes of World Heritage Cradle Mountain in Tasmania well fostered Steve's innate passion for pure, untouched wilderness. His particular interest is in Earth's more extreme environments & the subtle & spectacular adaptations of wildlife that carve out their existence in such places.

Desire to discover further shores, led to extended expeditions throughout the Himalaya & Tibet, South American Andes & Galapagos, Morocco's Atlas Mountains, traversing New Zealand's Southern Alps & a European journey from Sicily to Arctic

Norway. After a rewarding year teaching English in Indonesia & exploring her islands, Steve returned to Australia to complete formal studies in wildlife ecology, turning love of shared nature experiences into his profession, based in Tasmania's unique wilderness.

Further interest in Aboriginal cultures & tropical ecosystems drew Steve to several years leading overland adventures in Australia's rugged Kimberley & Kakadu National Parks, & as naturalist on coastal expeditions, exploring crocodile infested mangroves & lush ancient rainforests from Borneo to Madagascar & colourful coral reefs as far afield as Aldabra Atoll & Papua New Guinea.

With one eye firmly fixed on the horizon & returning to his native Southern Ocean, Steve's extensive exploration of Tasmania's offshore islands naturally grew into his passion for the wild circumpolar oases of Sub-Antarctic Islands & the spectacular beauty of Antarctica. Finding a mirror image of exotic destinations in the Northern Hemisphere, he's explored Arctic's Russian Far East, Alaska, Northwest Passage, Greenland & the many island jewels that link them - as an enthusiastic naturalist on various expeditions.

Mengxiao Liu - Expedition Guide



Mengxiao is from Beijing and graduated from Institute of Technology Carlow in Ireland. She has a background in Sport Science and Nutrition.

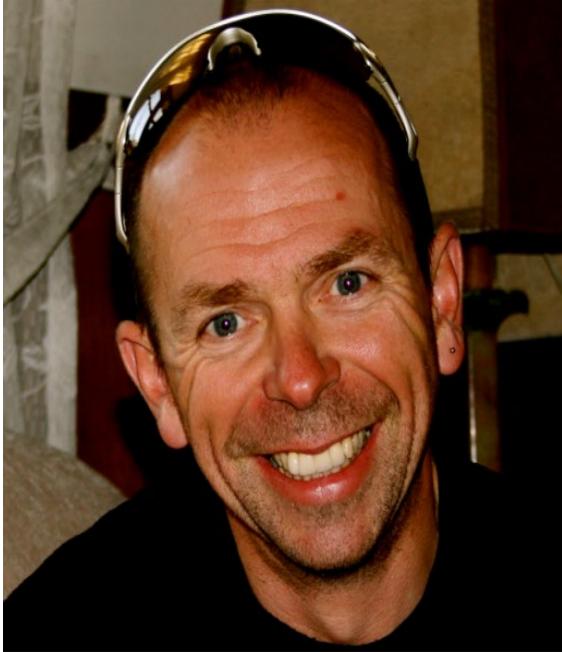
Mengxiao has spent her life fascinated by the natural world. She has also been in love with hiking and snow-sports.

She has previously worked as a tour leader and organised teenagers' scientific expedition to the polar regions at a scientific and educational organization. At her first arrival to Svalbard in 2015 she knew she was home. At that time the idea started to grow to become an expedition guide.

She gained more knowledge about wildlife and polar environment by travelling with scientists while she was a tour leader. Mengxiao joined the Oceanwide family in 2019 and is excited to share the unforgettable moments with you.

刘梦箫来自北京，大学在爱尔兰学习运动科学专业。她一直都对大自然很着迷，并且热爱徒步穿越和滑雪。她之前在一家科学教育组织做青少年极地科学探险领队。2015年，当她第一次来到北极斯瓦尔巴群岛时便爱上了极地，萌生了想要做探险队员的想法。她利用做领队时和极地科学家一起工作的机会学习了更多的极地动植物和环境的知识。2019年她加入了 Oceanwide 的大家庭并希望非常可以和你们分享难忘的时刻。

Paul Donovan - Kayak Guide



Paul was born and brought up in the valleys of South Wales. He began kayaking and climbing at the age of 14, thanks to opportunities within school.

By the age of 19, Paul was managing and delivering an outdoor programme for Sport Wales, which was the catalyst to carving out a career in adventure activity delivery.

Paul studied Sports Science at Cardiff Institute of Higher education before taking up a lecturing post to train future adventure activity instructors.

Paul is a qualified Teacher, Lecturer and Outdoor Activity Coach. He has over 35 years experience dealing with public, private and voluntary sector organisations, providing safe and rewarding experiences and opportunities at the highest level, to enhance personal and social development of individuals and groups both in the UK and throughout the rest of the world.

Paul's expertise and competencies as a paddler and mountaineer has enabled him to explore the rivers, seas and mountains on the seven continents of the world. He continues to lead and guide expeditions worldwide.

Paul runs his own business providing Outdoor Activity Coaching, Technical Consultancy and Worldwide Trekking, Mountaineering and Kayaking opportunities.

In addition, he has been a Freelance Inspector for the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (AALS). Currently he is a Freelance Inspector for Adventuremark and Learning Outside the Classroom, a Quality Assurance Officer and Internal Verifier for Canoe Wales, Project Manager for AdventureSmart.UK and Chair of the Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation (WATO) and the Outdoor Alliance in Wales.

Drew Anderson - Workshop Guide



Meteorologist Drew Anderson looks forward to talking weather with you.

When not on the Hondius, Drew is on television or in a classroom.

He has spent 10 years on television in the United States. While viewers in Pennsylvania (home to Philadelphia) have seen him the most, so have viewers in Vermont, New York, Ohio, and Texas.

While his main job is sharing the daily weather report, he will also report live in the community or co-anchor the news. Just for our trip, Drew has interviewed some Antarctic scientists and made some reports. He looks forward to sharing them.

For about five years now, he has been teaching students about the weather, Earth science, and sustainability at Penn State University and West Chester University. In his classes, he is known for walking on desks, making cotton candy, and splashing water. Yes, they all have weather connections, but more importantly, they keep his students awake. ;)

Just like you and many on our crew, Drew has travelled all around the world, including every continent and all 50 states.

Neill Drake - Photography Guide



Originally from San Diego, California, Neill Drake has been traveling to Antarctica for the past five seasons hosting Photography workshops for our guests. Each workshop is carefully curated to meet the needs of the individuals on board. He first went as a guest in 2015 and became obsessed with photographing the regions of the Southern Ocean. He found his passion for Photography while deploying around the world during his ten-year service in the United States Coast Guard. He worked as a Machinery Technician onboard a 270' Medium Endurance Cutter and specialized in Search and Rescue as well as cold water

survival. When Neill isn't working with Oceanwide Expeditions, he and his dog have been road-tripping for the last four years from Ushuaia to Alaska in an old VW Bus he bought and built in Brazil.

George Kennedy - Videography Guide



George is an Australian filmmaker and photographer whose work with USAID, IFAW and Sustainability International has focussed on conservation, environmental protection, and humanitarian emergencies. Most recently, George has covered the Venezuelan refugee crisis, Chilean wildfire response and the environmental protection movement in Patagonia.

Prior to working in film, George worked as a paramedic in both rural and metropolitan Australia. When in Australia, he still occasionally throws on the uniform to work with Ambulance Victoria in Melbourne.

Aside from photography, George's great passion is motorcycle travel. He has ridden through Asia from Mongolia to India, around Australia, and most recently from Patagonia to the United States on his trusty Kawasaki KLR650.

George has also recently fallen in love with the forgotten art of 35mm film photography. If you'd like to get a little nostalgic, he has his collection of film cameras onboard and would love to help you capture a unique perspective of Antarctica.

Abraham Wouters – Ship’s Doctor



Abraham (Bram) was born in Vlissingen, the ‘hometown’ of the Hondius, in The Netherlands. He grew up at the southwest coast of Holland, the province Zeeland (‘Sea land’). As you see, from his birth he had a strong connection with the sea!

After finishing his study Medicine in 2013 he worked for three years in different hospitals in the Emergency Room and on various wards, before starting his specialisation to General Practitioner (GP). Since completing this in March 2019, he now works as a freelance GP in primary care practices and prisons in and around Amsterdam.

In the past, Abraham combined his passion for his work and traveling, by volunteering in different projects in Africa (Ghana, Sierra Leone), Europe (Lesbos) and Asia (Nepal, Indonesia).

The possibility of combining his major passions; adventure and nature, with my job as an expedition doctor, is a dream come true.



WELCOME ABOARD!

Boarding and departure from Ushuaia

Wednesday 11th December

*For the arriving passengers: luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible.
Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage!*

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge bar on deck 5 ****

- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4).
- 20.00 Welcome briefing in the observation lounge (deck 5). Expedition leader Adam and hotel manager DJ will introduce you to the life on board the Hondius. This will be followed by a **mandatory** 'Safety at Sea' briefing for ALL passengers. Presence will be checked.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors jamming!



Into the Drake Passage!

Thursday 12th December

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00–09.00 Breakfast buffet in the dining room.
- 09.00 The expedition team welcomes you to the lounge for a staff introduction followed by a mandatory IAATO briefing covering safety and wildlife regulations in Antarctica. Attendance is compulsory and will be checked.
- 11.15 We are handing out the rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to the boot room on Deck 3. Bring your thick socks to find the best sized boots for you! If you have pre-ordered rental gear you can also collect this from Deck 3 at this time.
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Biosecurity. Join us on Deck 3 for the **mandatory biosecurity check**. Please bring all your outdoor clothing and gear with you for inspection. We will call you deck by deck, so stand by for announcements. ***Please be aware that this event is compulsory for everyone onboard and attendance will be checked.***
- 16.30 Paul welcomes the kayakers to the lecture room for a mandatory briefing about kayaking in Antarctica.
- 18.15 Join the expedition staff in the observation lounge for our daily recap! This is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and our plans for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Dinner

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!



Approaching Antarctica

Friday 13th December

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room.
- 09:30 John welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture about Penguins (**Mandarin**), while Meike will give a presentation about penguins in the Lecture Room (**English**).
- 11.00 Join Martin in the observation lounge for his lecture: *Seabirds – Masters of the Sea and Sky* (**English with Mandarin translation**).
- 11.15 Ben and Vide welcome you the Lecture Room for an introduction to camping in Antarctica. Please note that this is a mandatory briefing for those of you who have signed up for camping.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 14:00 John welcomes you to the lounge for his lecture about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his Imperial Transantarctic Expedition (**English with Mandarin translation**).
- 16:00 Neil and George welcome you to the lounge for an introduction to photography and videography in Antarctica (**English with Mandarin translation**).
- 18:30 Join the expedition staff in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Join our Meteorologist Drew in the Lecture Room for an introduction to Antarctic weather (**English**).

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!



Cuverville Island & Orne Harbour

Sunday 15th December

07:15 Wake-up call

07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room.

08:15 Kayakers meet up in the Library.

This morning we hope to land and Zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island, known for its large rookery of Gentoo Penguins.
Polar Plunge after the landing, all have the chance to swim

09:00 **Green** and **Yellow** groups to the zodiacs for a landing

09:15 **Blue** and **Red** groups to be ready for a Zodiac cruise

12:30 Lunch

During the afternoon we intend to land and Zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour.

14:30 **Blue** and **Red** groups to be ready at 14:30 for a landing

14:45 **Green** and **Yellow** groups to be ready for a Zodiac cruise

18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap!

19:00 This evening we will have a special Antarctic dinner, please dress warmly

Campers please listen for announcements



Cuverville Island & Orne Harbour

Sunday 15th December

- 07:15 Wake-up call
- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room.
- 08:15 Kayakers meet up in the Library.
- 09:00 This morning we hope to land and Zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island, known for its large rookery of Gentoo Penguins. We ask **Green** and **Yellow** groups to be ready at 09:00 for a landing, and **Blue** and **Red** groups to be ready for a Zodiac cruise at 09:15.
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:30 During the afternoon we intend to land and Zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour. We ask **Blue** and **Red** groups to be ready at 14:30 for a landing, and **Green** and **Yellow** groups to be ready for a Zodiac cruise at 14:45.
- 18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap!
- 19:00 This evening we will have a special Antarctic dinner, dress warmly, and standby for announcements.



Port Charcot & Vernadsky Station

Monday 16th December

07:15 Wake-up call

07:30–08:30 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room.

08:15 Kayakers meet up in the Library.

This morning we hope to land at Port Charcot. Please listen for announcements as the ice conditions will determine our time of arrival this morning.

09:00 We ask Blue and Red groups to be ready at 09:00.

09:15 We ask Green and Yellow groups to be ready at 09:00.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Kayakers meet up in the Library

15:00 We ask Green and Yellow groups to be ready at 15:00.

15:15 We ask Blue and Red groups at 15:15.

18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap!

19:00 Dinner



Hydrurga Rocks & Mikkelsen Harbour

Monday 16th December

07:15 Wake-up call

07:30–08:30 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room.

08:15 Kayakers meet up in the Library.

This morning we hope to land at Port Charcot. *Please listen for announcements as the ice conditions will determine our time of arrival this morning.*

09:00 We ask **Blue** and **Red** groups to be ready at 09:00.

09:15 We ask **Green** and **Yellow** groups to be ready at 09:00.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Kayakers meet up in the Library

15:00 We ask **Green** and **Yellow** groups to be ready at 15:00.

15:15 We ask **Blue** and **Red** groups at 15:15.

18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap!

19:00 Dinner



The Drake Passage

Wednesday 18th December

No wake-up call. Sleep in!

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room.
- 10:00 Join our glaciologist Laurence in the lecture room for his lecture “Glaciers and Glaciation” (English). At the same time Johnny welcomes you the lounge for his talk about Ice & Glaciers (Mandarin).
- 11:30 This morning we will gather your rubber boots on Deck 3. Stand by for announcements, we will call you deck-by-deck. *Please make sure that your boots are clean and dry when you return them.*
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 14:30 Szymon welcomes you the lounge for his lecture about Killer Whales.
- 16:30 Join Isabelle in the lounge for her lecture “Jewels of the Ocean: Phytoplankton”.
- 18:30 Join the expedition staff in the observation lounge for our daily recap!
- 19:00 Dinner.
- 21:00 Join Neill and George in the lounge for our photo competition!

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!



The Drake Passage

Thursday 19th December

No wake-up call. Sleep in!

08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room.

09:30 Michael welcomes you to the lounge for his lecture entitled ‘*What the Divers See*’, showcasing life under the waves in Antarctica. **Ozon holes and sun**

11:00 Join Vide in the lounge for his lecture about the Antarctic Treaty & The Madrid protocol.

12:30 Lunch

*During the afternoon we ask you to settle your accounts at the reception.
Please stand by for announcements.*

14:00 Ben welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture about the Beagle Channel.

16:00 Join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for a lecture mini-series about human impacts on the Antarctic environment.

18:00 Join us in the Lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Alexey Nazarov!

19:00 Dinner.

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!



Ushuaia

Friday 20th December

06:45 Wake-up call.

Please leave your large check-in luggage in the corridor outside your cabin when you go for breakfast. Crew and staff will bring it to the pier where you need to personally identify it and bring it to the bus going to the airport or temporary storage facility.

07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.

08:00-08:30 Disembarkation. There will be buses waiting at the dock for those that requested a transfer to the airport.

We hope that you had a wonderful trip, and thank you for travelling with us. We hope to see you onboard again someday!