



Antarctica - Discovery and Learning Voyage

on board

m/v *Hondius*

20 – 29th December 2019



The MV *Hondius* was built in 2019 in Brodosplit, Croatia, as an expedition vessel for Oceanwide Expeditions. *Hondius* is 107.60m long, 17,60m wide and has a maximum draught of 5.3m and has an exceptionally high Ice class of PC6, a top speed of 15 knots and 3 diesel generators. The *Hondius* sails on LSMGO. Now the ship is sailing as a 176-passenger vessel with 83 cabins. Our beautiful, modern vessel carries 369m³ of fresh water and has a water plant producing 70m³ per day. In many ways, the *Hondius* is the perfect vessel for a true polar adventure!

Captain Remmert Jan Koster

and his international crew of 73

including

First Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
Staff Officer:	Toni Salo	[Finland]
Second Officer:	Maikel Overbeeke	[The Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Runa Brouwers	[The Netherlands]
Chief Engineer:	Daniel Liliac-Zajontz	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Alex Leyebyedyev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Bawa Gaurav	[India]
Sous Chef:	Sergiy Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Andrew Darby	[Great Britain]

and

Expedition Leader:	Florence Kuyper	[The Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Laurence Dyke	[Great Britain]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Martin Berg	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Isabelle Schulz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	John Rogers	[New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitoski	[Luxemburg]
Expedition Guide:	Sarah Kather	[Germany]
Kayak Guide:	Daniel Martig	[New Zealand]
Kayak Guide:	Paul Ulrich	[Austria]
Workshop Guide:	Neill Drake	[USA]
Workshop Guide:	George Kennedy	[Australia]
Camping Guide:	Ben Giunchi	[Argentina]
Camping Guide:	Vide Brandt	[Sweden]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1: 20th December 2019

Embarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 58°48'.5S, 008°18'.1 W

Wind: SW4 Sea State: Port Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: +10 °C Sea Temp: +10 °C

Many of us spent several months dreaming about our forthcoming Antarctic voyage, and hours shopping, reading, preparing logistics, excitedly chatting with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours about it. For most, this was followed by hours, if not days, travelling by planes, cars, buses to the end of the world, Ushuaia, where we were due to embark the *MV Hondius*.

We spent the day ambling about this lovely Patagonian city, savouring the local flavours and enjoying the sights. Ushuaia marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but also the beginning, the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. During the summer this rapidly growing frontier town bustles with adventurous travellers. The duty-free port flourishes with tourism but also thrives on a sizeable crab fishery



and a quickly growing electronics industry. Ushuaia, which means “*bay that penetrates to the west*” in the indigenous Yaghan tongue clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote setting. The rugged spine of the South American Andes ends here, where two oceans meet. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing in a blink of an eye. However, temperatures during the long days of the austral summer are relatively mild, providing a final breathe of warmth before heading off on our adventure down south.



For many this was the start of a lifelong dream, so guests eagerly awaited at the bottom of the gangway at 16:00 ready to board the ship *MV Hondius*, our home for the next 10 days. We were greeted at the gangway by members of the Expedition Team who were enjoying the warm sunshine having just returned from Antarctica that morning. Our luggage was already on board so after a short wait on the wharf we made our way up the gangway and onto the good ship. We were met at reception by the fabulous hotel staff who were there to assist with checked in and guide us to our cabins.

Shortly after boarding we convened in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5 to meet Expedition Leader, Florence Kuyper who gave us an overview of the expedition and the ship. They were then joined by First Officer, Matei, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the crew and staff. On hearing the alarm, we gathered at our designated muster station, for the abandon ship drill donning our huge orange life jackets that will keep us safe should the need arise. At 19:00 we returned to the lounge for Captains Cocktails, where we had a chance meet our Captain Remmert Jan Koster and toast our voyage with a glass of Prosecco.



Shortly after dinner, the navigational pilot that is required to transit the Beagle Channel boarded the *Hondius* and we set sail, finally we were underway!

The rest of the evening was occupied with more exploration of the ship, adjusting to her movements, settling into our cabins and meeting fellow travellers, before retiring for the evening for our first night at sea.

Day 2: 21st December 2019

At Sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 57°56'.5S, 065°25'.9 W

Wind: N6/7 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +8 °C Sea Temp: +9 °C

During the night the gentle rolling of our berths reminded us where we were. We woke to see a moderate swell. Some were queasy, but most turned out for coffee or breakfast. We soon learned that *Hondius* will be our dancing partner for the voyage. Walking the corridors required that we get in step with her rhythm



– swaying, rising and falling in her time – and always keeping one hand free for her.



The morning saw the proper kick-off of the voyage with the introduction of the Expedition Team by Florencence. She showed the IAATO briefing on our proper behaviour during landings and how to ensure that our impact on the wildlife and environment is minimized. Then came an overview of zodiac operations and Plan A for the expedition. We learned that, as expeditioners, we

must expect that plans can and will change. We were fitted for boots to be used during excursions and picked up our rental gear. Anticipation was building all the time.

After lunch we started the series of lectures that helped us learn about our destination. First up was Martin who introduced us to the birds of the Southern Ocean in his talk *Seabirds – Masters of the Sea and Sky*. During the day we had a chance to explore the ship, visit the Bridge, and spend some time on the outer decks where we were able to admire those seabirds that Martin had introduced.



© Sara Jenner

During the Bio-Security Party we all did a thorough clean of our equipment with the Expedition Team on hand to inspect the results. We needed to ensure that we didn't carry any invasive species or diseases to this pristine wilderness. We took our responsibility seriously.

At Recap George and Neill gave an introduction to their photo and video workshop; Neill got us thinking out our responsibility when we take and post our photos on social media; John showed us how knowledge of the great unknown land of the south (Terra Australis Incognita) developed through mapmaking; and Sarah introduced us to the fun citizen science website HappyWhale.com.

Unfortunately, the dining room was underpopulated for dinner, not because of the food or service, which were excellent, but due to the sea state worsening during the afternoon. Pity. This also reduced the numbers and energy in the lounge after dinner too, but good fun was had but those that were able to be there.

Day 3: 22nd December 2019

At Sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 60°48'.5S, 064°42'.0 W

Wind: NW3 Sea State: Low Swell Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: +3 °C Sea Temp: +6 °C



Overnight, we sailed through the search area where the Chilean aircraft was believed to have gone down and we also passed the biological boundary of Antarctica, the Antarctic Convergence. When we woke, the air was much cooler and different seabird species were seen flying around the ship. The sea had calm somewhat and the big swell from the night before was long gone.

After a good breakfast, we all gathered in the lounge to attend our first day of lectures to prepare us for what we would see in the forthcoming days. First up, Meike gave a presentation about the cutest and most charismatic of birds, the penguins. This was followed by Lauras' lecture about ice in Antarctica which helped us understand the different type of ice we are going to see down in the Peninsula. In the middle of the presentation, we were interrupted by a group of humpback whales feeding close to the ship. We were really excited to see our first Antarctic marine mammals. As is typical of humpbacks, they gave us a beautiful show, showing their tails and flippers with lots of surface activity. Unfortunately, we could not spend long with them as we had a considerable distance to go to reach our morning destination of the Weddell Sea, however the



Expedition Team were confident we would other chances to see these incredible creatures over the next few days.

In the afternoon, 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*. This was followed by Neill and Georges, who presented all the tips and tricks we should know about making beautiful shots and videos in Antarctica. Shortly after afternoon tea being served in the lounge Ben and Vide gathered the campers for their mandatory briefing in the lecture room.



At Recap, Florence presented the plan for the next day and we were really excited by the thought of getting off the ship and actually setting foot on the Antarctic Continent at Brown Bluff. Neill concluded recap with a presentation about how to dress when we are shore. There was a real sense of excitement in the dining room as people happily chatted about their hopes and expectations for the following days.

Unfortunately, due to thick, low lying fog we could not see the South Shetland Islands as we passed them, however this allowed for a slightly earlier night than expected for some and a chance to prepare ourselves for our first day in Antarctica.

Day 4: 23rd December 2019

Weddell Sea

GPS position at 0800: 63°28'.4S, 056°53'.1 W

Wind: S8 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Snow

Air Temp: -4 °C Sea Temp: +1 °C



The view this morning was a dramatic scene, the rugged cliffs of Brown Bluff emerging from the clouds and mist of the Antarctic Peninsula. 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.

As we enjoyed breakfast, Florence and the expedition team dropped zodiacs into the

churning ocean, trying to find safe harbour on the beaches of Brown Bluff. Despite their best efforts, given winds of 35knotts and gusts up to 45, the landing was abandoned and the team returned to the ship safe, but dripping wet. Once the zodiacs were safely stowed, our Captain steered *Hondius* East and we ventured into the icy oceans of the Weddell Sea.



An exciting moment for all onboard awaited us as we set sail into the mist – our first Penguin sighting's. From the decks of *Hondius* we saw countless Adélie Penguins perched on icebergs and swimming through the icy waters. Undoubtedly the cutest and cuddliest of the penguins that call Antarctica home, the Adélie penguins put on quite a show for the eager photographers onboard.



As we sailed deeper into the Weddell, passing huge tabular icebergs, John entertained us in the Observation Lounge, explaining the development of ice shelves and the way meteorites have helped shape the peninsular. At one moment his lecture was interrupted by sighting's of humpback whales diving in search of krill just off the ships bow.

As the day progressed the winds eased and by the afternoon, the team had found a small bay between Jonassen and Andersson Islands for zodiac cruising. From the rubber pontoons of our vessels we saw blue-eyed Antarctic shag, rare Snowy Petrels, Skua 's feasting and even a

curious crabeater seal that came to inspect these strange visitors and of course plenty of penguins.



At Recap, Florence presented the plan for the next day followed by Laura who told us more about the origins of the enormous tabular icebergs we had seen in the Weddell sea. Finally, Sara shared her tips for seal identification and then, after an amazing first day on the Peninsula, it was time for another delicious dinner from our galley team.

As the passengers slept, one could swear the jingling of reindeer bells could be heard in the distance overhead as Santa made his final approach towards *Hondius* for Christmas.

Day 5: 24th December 2019

Orne Harbour and Orne Islands

GPS position at 0800: 63°28'.4S, 056°53'.1 W

Wind: NE6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Snow

Air Temp: -1 °C Sea Temp: +1 °C

It was another windy morning in Antarctica. Before the wake-up call, we were already right in front of Hydrurga Island. After assessing the conditions, Florence, decided that it was impossible to land consequently changed our plan and aim for Orne Harbour, which will be the first continental landing of the expedition. While cruising in the peninsula, we listened to Sarah talking about whales and all their mysteries.

At 10:15, the expedition team were ready to jump into their zodiacs and scout the area to find the best landing site. The 'normal' landing site was blocked with ice so the team headed out of the Harbour and past Spiggot Point, to find a second potential option. After half an hour or so they managed to find a small rocky outcrop where small groups could be landed on the Antarctica Continent. Each group also had the chance to do a zodiac cruise along the coast where we saw chinstrap and gentoo penguins jumping in and out of the water and nesting on the rocks. Even with the wind blowing and the snow falling, we





were captivated by these little creatures playing around our zodiacs. Some of us were lucky enough to see our first crabeater seal slowly swimming in the water. It felt good after three full days to finally stretch our legs, if only briefly, on land. It was with heads full of memories and stomachs empty, that we went back the ship. What an adventurous morning!



Luckily, our next landing, Orne Island, was just around the corner. After a short sail and a good meal, we were back in our outdoor clothes and life-jackets. As soon as possible, the Expedition Team picked the yellow and green groups from the ship and dropped them onshore. The gusty wind and the snow storm from this morning had disappeared and we were left with a beautiful, still, overcast afternoon. The soft light on the mountains and the ice was amazing and set the mood for the afternoon. On land, we were able to see two colonies of penguin, one of Chinstrap penguins and one of Gentoo's. The chinstraps were easy to identify with their black beaks and black chinstrap. Most of them were sitting on their nests and incubating eggs, so did not move a great deal, but a few penguins were still playing with rocks, building their nests or going up or down the hill which was really entertaining. The view at the top of the colony was breath taking. For the other half of the group, the red and blue group, they started with a zodiac cruises that brought them all around the island. Weddell seal, crabeater seals, penguins and even some Humpback whales in the distance was part of the experience. Navigating around the ice and searching for the wildlife was what made it so interesting. After an hour, we swapped and the green/yellow group went for a cruise while the red/blue group enjoyed time shore.

After getting back on the ship, as usual, we had the daily recap where Florence explained the plan for tomorrow.



However, it was a Christmas day and Michael, our Hotel Manager, surprised us with a glass of Kir Royale, the perfect way to finish this wonderful day.

Because it was already late, we went straight to dinner where the amazing galley team had prepared a delicious 6 course Christmas dinner. Celebrating Christmas in these conditions was very surreal and quite emotional for many! We finished our day in the lounge where we enjoyed a celebratory drink or two while Humpback Whales were spotted numerous times playing whilst we cruised the Gerlache Straight.

Kayaking Log

After setting foot on the Antarctic Continent at Orne Harbour twenty-two paddlers took the chance for their first paddling experience in Antarctica. The 25 knots of wind that we experienced in the morning had calmed down to pleasant kayaking conditions and the weather cleared up as we approached Orne island. We paddled along the shoreline beneath, a Gentoo Penguin Colony, a Gentoo jumped up right in front of the bow of one of the kayaks, giving everyone a bit of a surprise. It was a wonderful way to spend our Christmas Eve and work up an appetite for the Christmas feast that awaited us on board.



Day 6: 25th December 2019

Port Charcot Island and Peterman Island

GPS position at 0800: 65°06'.6S, 064°00'.0 W

Wind: N1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: -1 °C Sea Temp: +2 °C

Merry Christmas!! Christmas Day in Antarctica!! Santa Claus had to come a long way to find us, but we all received a present in the morning, not under the tree, but with a passage through the Lemaire Channel. The conditions were superb with muted skies and no wind. This brought out the colours of the ice and turned the sea into a mirror reflecting the craggy



peaks. There was even a dusting of light snow to add sparkle. An exciting but yet peaceful way to start a special day. We missed our friends and families, but were happy to share this occasion with our fellow expeditioners.



Our morning landing was just around the corner overlooking Port Charcot where the French explorer Jean Baptiste Charcot and his men had overwintered in 1904 aboard the ship *Français*. We were able to visit the remains of the stone hut that they used for magnetic observations and the large Gentoo penguin colony. The view over the bay full of ice was outstanding. Even better was being out in the bay during the zodiac cruise. This is an area where many large icebergs congregate – like an ‘Iceberg Graveyard’. As we wound our way among them to marvel at the variety of sizes, shapes and colours, we spotted Crabeater seals, and for a few lucky boats, a Minke whale.

As we ate lunch the *Hondius* shifted to our afternoon landing site at Port Circumcision on Petermann Island, there was a small flurry of snow as we transitioned. This continued and deepened so that during most of the landing large soft snowflakes drifted gently down. Simply Beautiful.



Charcot spent two winters at this site, so history was again on our minds, but, as always, the penguins stole the show. The Gentoos were busy on their highways, and some chicks were seen in the Adélie colony. A sleepy Weddell seal never moved from the ice floe in the middle of the bay despite our intrusion. Several groups of Crabeater seals were spotted during the zodiac cruise. What a wonderful way to celebrate the furthest south point of our expedition.



We must have been good little boys and girls because Santa Claus decided to give us another present – also in the Lemaire Channel. Our return passage through this narrow channel was in sunshine with blue skies and phenomenal light on the mountains. Wow. What could be better? How about hot chocolate and rum on the bow courtesy of the Hotel Team? Wow!



At Recap Sara showed how penguins are counted using satellite photos, and how we can help count them through PenguinWatch.org; Isabelle showed how photo colours are analysed to help understand the variety of life here; and Neill introduced the photo competition.

Christmas dinner was the anything but traditional, Biryani rice and Thai curried vegetables, but nonetheless delicious.

For some expeditioners even a day this full was not enough – so they decided to go camping. They were dropped off for the night to dig their own beds and get cosy. They were even tired enough to get a little sleep.



What a Christmas. One like we have never seen before and will likely never see again.



Kayaking Log

After transiting the Lemaire Channel before breakfast our first group of paddlers for the day had the chance to kayak in the Iceberg Graveyard, or the Iceberg Garden as Florence preferred to call it. Twelve paddlers were very happy about the calm conditions and thought it was incredibly exciting to paddle around the towering icebergs, they even witnessed a small calving, at a safe distance of course. Several groups of Gentoo penguins were seen porpoising the water and they were lucky enough to see a couple of Crabeater seals hauled out on ice floes.



During lunch, snow began to fall, which really added to the magic and dramatic quality of Petermann Island which was the location for our afternoon's activity. The paddling was quite

challenging as the surrounding bays were full of brash ice and bergy bits. There were plenty of penguins to be seen, in and out of the water and a few lazy Crabeater seals resting on small ice floes. Quite some Christmas Adventure!

Camping Log

After a long day of activity, we sailed in to Paradise Harbour, planning to stay overnight at Connessa Point. After some surveying of the site it was decided too challenging and our Expedition Team established contact with the staff of Base Almirante Brown. After some friendly talk it was decided we could camp at "Punta Bis", close to the base. We could not have found a better spot. Beautiful light, Weddell seals, Humpback whales and Gentoo penguins all helped us to reach our ultimate goal: Happy Campers!

At 04.15 we woke up, cold but not frozen, and returned to the *Hondius* – filled with memories that would last for a lifetime!

Day 7: 26th December 2019

Danco Island and Portal Point

GPS position at 0800: 63°28'.4S, 056°53'.1 W

Wind: NE6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Snow

Air Temp: -1 °C Sea Temp: +1 °C

On this early morning of our last day in Antarctica we had a very mixed way of starting the day. While most of us woke up by the familiar voice of Florence speaking from the bridge, thirty-eight guests and two guides woke up in their sleeping bags after a night of camping on the Antarctic mainland, in Paradise Harbour. The early



birds on board the *Hondius* could notice staff members were busy by 5:00 collecting the cold campers and to prepare for another day full of adventure.

The first activity of the day took place on and around Danco Island, located in the Errera strait – a place with many opportunities for the adventurous.



The 'fit, fast and furious' joined Sara in an extended hike to the very top of the island, whilst others chose to use their time at one of the several Gentoo penguin colonies located on the slopes, a small group went out kayaking around the icebergs and at the very end of the landing the bravest even decided to challenge their physical limits by doing a 'Polar Plunge' in the icy waters! There was also a zodiac cruise offer around the icebergs, looking for wildlife, a lucky few saw their first Sothern Elephant seal and Leopard seal of the voyage.





When we came back to the *Hondius* the galley had prepared a bountiful buffet lunch, so that we could recharge our energy levels as the vessel navigated further North through the Gerlache Strait towards our afternoon landing site: Portal Point. While most of us had their minds focused on the fact that we were in for another continental landing a few other

things happened as we approached the site. As we were rounding the Reclus Peninsula, we started observing large numbers of humpback whales.



While the expedition staff were preparing the zodiacs and the beach for our arrival we could see them in every direction of the ship. Tail slapping, breaching, lunge feeding, surface rolling – almost every possible type of humpback behaviour was displayed. The majority of us got the most spectacular whale encounter of our lives, tail flukes in every direction, whales swimming right under our zodiacs and water spouts from exhaling humpbacks so close that we could smell the krill on their breath! So, enchanting that, for a second we nearly forgot about the enormous icebergs, even larger than the *Hondius*, that surrounded the bay. At least until the very largest of them started collapsing and created





a massive wave that spread out in every direction. While the first group cruised the other went ashore to walk on the glacial outcrops and enjoy the snoozing Weddell seals and the ever so adoring Gentoo penguins ashore, the other half went out by zodiac to have a closer look at the Humpbacks. When it was time to swap the groups, there were many excited people standing in line to hop in the zodiacs, nervous that they might have missed the show – but

rest assured the feeding frenzy of Humpbacks resumed and there were whales aplenty for all of us! One of them, a truly rare sight, was a humpback with only half a tail – most probably the result of entanglement.



The whales had put on such a show that we were running a little later than planned and there wasn't even time for our daily re-cap, arriving back at the ship only minutes before dinner was being served.

As we dined, the Hondius set her course North and the announcement was made that we were in fact leaving Antarctica and headed for the treacherous waters of the Drake Passage. Our minds were full of impressions and feelings. From the stormy waters of the Weddell sea to the glassy surface of the Lemaire channel, we had seen Antarctica in most of her moods and weathers. Our memory cards were full and our camera batteries empty – truly a sign of a successful Oceanwide expedition.

Kayaking Log

We arrived at Danco Island shortly after the wakeup call, it was slightly foggy and there was barely any wind, it was a magical morning. Seven paddlers took to the water and circumnavigated the island, observing Gentoo Penguins and several Crabeater seals along the way and even spotted a few Humpbacks on the horizon that were feeding in the channel.

Shortly after 16:00, we started operations in Charlotte Bay, whilst the land lovers went ashore at Portal Point. Before the kayaks and Zodiacs were lowered into the water, we could see the bay was bubbling with whale activity, there were humpbacks feeding in every direction, we could hope they would stay around long enough for us to get a closer look. With a gently NE wind, the nine paddlers boarded their kayaks from the safety zodiac and headed in the direction of the 'whale soup'. We made use of the tailwind but were cautious to keep a safe distance from the towering icebergs that loomed all around. Of course, everyone was keen to get a little closer to the giants of the sea, but so as not to disturb the whales we stayed together and allowed ourselves to drift in the wind. The whales were incredible relaxed around the kayakers and approached very close, it was quite incredible to see these enormous creatures alongside our little kayakers, it gave a real sense of size and perspective. The highlight for the paddlers was when a humpback surfaced just meters in front of them with a large gapping mouth as it took a huge gulp of krill infested water, what better way to conclude the kayaking program in Antarctica. An unforgettable gift.....



Day 8: 27th December 2019

At Sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 61°59'.4S, 062°31'.1 W

Wind: NNE Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog

Air Temp: +1 °C Sea Temp: +4 °C

We woke at a leisurely time of 07:45 to the now familiar refrains of Florence and her wake-up call. She let us know that the weather outside was pretty good (for the Drake Passage!); air temperatures were around 4°C and a light easterly breeze ruffled the surface of the water. Many of us were a little later than usual for breakfast, taking the opportunity to stay in bed for a few extra minutes after the exertions of the previous week.

After another sumptuous breakfast we gathered in the Observation Lounge; an opportunity for a cup of tea or coffee, and our last chance to submit entries to the Photo Competition.

Laura, our onboard geologist, then took the floor and gave an interesting lecture about the geology of Antarctica. We learnt that Antarctica, as it looks today, is a relatively recent phenomenon. The permanent ice sheet which smothers the land has existed for only around 30 million years, when Antarctica became separated from the surrounding continents and was thermally isolated from the rest of the world by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. We also learnt that Antarctica is still very geologically active. There are frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and most of this activity is focused in the area that we have been visiting – the Antarctic Peninsula.



Before long, it was time for lunch and we admired the shifting seascapes of the Drake Passage from the Dining Room windows. The Drake was starting to show her teeth; during the afternoon the wind steadily increased, and the waves grew in concert too.

In the afternoon Vide gave a really insightful lecture on the Antarctic Treaty system, explaining the history behind the unusual political agreement which governs Antarctica. In essence Antarctica is owned by nobody, or everybody, depending on how you look at it. Regardless of ownership, it is very strictly protected; Antarctica is the largest area of pristine wilderness on our planet.

After a chance for an afternoon nap we regrouped in the Lounge for a talk about phytoplankton from Isabelle, one of the marine biologists in the Expedition Team. She introduced these fascinating organisms and explained their immense importance in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean – these microscopic, single-celled organisms are the base of the entire food chain. The abundance of wildlife that we have enjoyed over the last week is entirely dependent on these unique marine plants.

Dinner was wonderful, as usual, although the increasing movements of the ship caused a few of us to retire to our cabins a little earlier than usual. The brave, and the medicated, gathered after dinner for the photo competition. The general photo competition was won by a fun image of a penguin snowman constructed at one of the landing sites. The landscape category was won by a wonderful photo of icebergs in the Lemaire Channel. Finally, the animals category was won by a gorgeous photos of an Adelie penguin with its chick.



As the evening drew to a close we carefully retired to our bunks, *Hondius* was now pitching pretty vigorously in the maelstrom of wind and waves around the ship. It proved a little difficult to undertake even simple tasks, like the brushing of teeth, but once in bed the rocking sent us off to sleep.

Day 9: 28th December 2019

At Sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°51'.2S, 065°27'.2 W

Wind: WNW4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +5 °C Sea Temp: +8 °C

During the night the ship had rocked and rolled with the significant swells, bouncing and pitching along the way. Many of us did not get much sleep so the morning was a rather quiet affair, with most people taking to their cabins either to tend to their seasickness or to make up for lost sleep. For those feeling bright eyed, the Bridge was a good place to be, to keep an eye on the horizon as well as to look out for birds and marine mammals. It was a bright sunny morning and the wind and swell continually reduced as we approached South America and found a little protection from the mainland.

Meike began the lecture programme with an interesting talk on 'Albatross'. During our voyage we have seen many albatrosses and it was really fascinating to learn more about these giant seabirds and the threats they are now facing.

At 11:00 Sara gave her presentation 'Women in Antarctica', about the women behind the heroic explorers and how despite their very different personalities they each provided the foundation for the

Women won't like it in Antarctica .

... as there are no shops and no hairdressers



success of their partners. She also shed some light on the transition of Antarctica from being a men's only domain to one where researchers and explorers of both sexes pursue their dreams and passions.

By lunch time the sea had significantly calmed, consequently most people had regained their appetites and the light hearted chatter of the dining room that we had become accustomed to,

resumed once more.

After lunch Ben gave a presentation about the Beagle Channel which was well timed as we were now almost in view of the historical piece of water, he also spoke about the original inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego. The lecture program for the day concluded with a mini-series from the Expedition Team 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 if we have a hope of preserving this last great wilderness.

Before dinner, there was a chance to raise a glass of bubbly and toast a successful voyage with the Captain and Expedition Team. Michael also took the opportunity to introduce and thank his hotel department for their hard work and commitment to making this such a wonderful and memorable voyage. The recap concluded with a short video compiled by George of video clips that other guests had summited and a slideshow, built day by day by Neill, of all of our unique experiences in Antarctic.

It was almost sad to be called to our last dinner, but nonetheless spirits were high in the dining room. While waiting for desert to be served, (homemade tiramisu), Michael introduced the galley team.! It was fantastic to finally see the hardworking kitchen team that had prepared such wonderful meals for us, despite some less than ideal sea conditions at times, Head Chef Ivan and his team has been outstanding from start to finish.



As we cruised into Ushuaia, the sun was shining beautifully on the surrounding mountains and there was a wonderful rainbow to be seen peeping over the mountain tops, it seemed just the perfect ending to a fabulous trip.

Day 10: 29th December 2019

Disembarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 58°48'.5S, 008°18'.1 W

Wind: WNW5 Sea State: Port Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: +9 °C Sea Temp: +10 °C

Today we were woken by the last wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Florence and got ready to disembark in Ushuaia. The last 10 days have taken us on an eye-opening journey to the frozen continent and allowed us a short glimpse into an environment that most will never see. We all had slightly different experiences but whatever the memories, whether it was our first-time onboard zodiacs, hiking in rubber boots, seeing massive ice cliffs, sitting with penguins watching their funny antics or making new friends, they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.



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: 1,820 nautical miles

Furthest South: 65°18'.1 S, 064°07'.88 W

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Remmert Jan Koster,
Expedition Leader Florence Kuyper, Hotel Manager Michael Frauendorfer
and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019/20

Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE WORTH A **€ 1000 GIFT VOUCHER**?

Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



PRIZES



€ 1000

GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher

for Oceanwide Expeditions

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 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

Wildlife List - Antarctic peninsula on board M/V HONDIUS - December 20th to 29th 2019

Beagle
Channel at sea at sea at sea at sea

Birds

		20-déc.	21-déc.	22-déc.	23-déc.	24-déc.	25-déc.	26-déc.	27-déc.	28-déc.
PENGUINS										
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>					X				
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>				X	X	X	X		
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>									
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>									
ALBATROSSES										
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X	X						X
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X	X						X
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>									
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	X	X							X
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>		X	X						
Light-mantled sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>		X	X						
PETRELS										
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		X							X
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Southern/Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>			X	X	X	X			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>									
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				X	X				
White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>									
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>									
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>									
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Lugensa brevirostris</i>									
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X						
Greater shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>									X
Sooty shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X							X
Manx shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>									
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X	X						
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila becheri</i>			X						
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>									
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		X	X						
STORM-PETRELS										
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>									
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>									
DIVING-PETRELS										
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>		X							

Florence Kuyper - Expedition Leader



Florence is a cosmopolitan with a passion for the polar regions, remote nature, deserts, history and nomadic people around the globe. After receiving her Masters degree in Educational and Organisational Psychology in the Netherlands, Florence had a European career as a consultant-manager in the field of social affairs.

In 2004 she went for the first time to the big white desert 'Antarctica' and her passion for this continent has drawn her back 'South' ever since.

But Florence can also do extreme heat: she crossed 1,200 km of harsh Mongolian desert on foot, together with a team and her Bactrian camel. Florence lived on a British historical base on the Antarctic Peninsula "Port Lockroy" where she worked as Base Leader. She also works on sailing yachts in the Arctic and Antarctica. Florence has worked as a guide and expedition leader in both polar regions since 2012 and she looks forward to sharing her knowledge and unlimited passion for the polar regions with you.

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.

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.

Sara Jenner - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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.

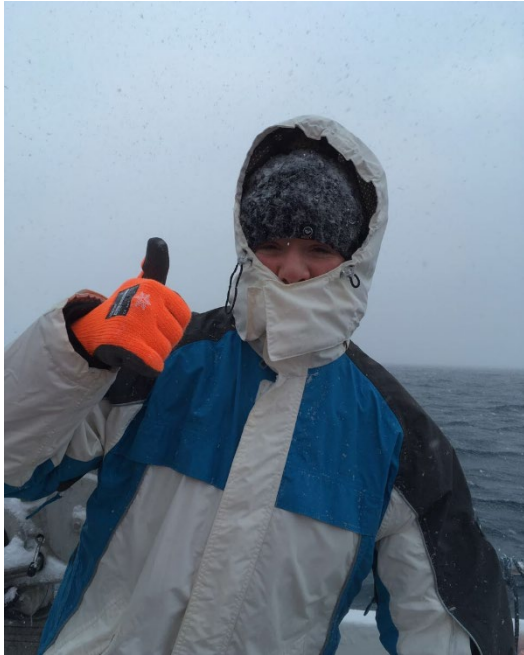
Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a television director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If

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".

Laura Mony - Expedition Guide



The ocean had always been part of Laura's life. She started spending time on sailboats when she was a baby and she sailed around the world crossing several oceans when she was between 12 and 14 years old.

That trip increased her passion for the ocean because she discovered its vastness and its importance on the earth's dynamic. Laura had the chance to start traveling very young and has been all over the world alone, with a backpack, with family or friends. These trips gave her the

opportunity to develop an open mind and an intellectual curiosity about the climate phenomena that govern our planet.

Born in France, she grew up in the French part of Canada where she did her bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering.

During her bachelor's degree, she became fascinated by the polar regions and wanted to continue her studies in that field. That is why, at the end of her degree, she left Canada for Tasmania, Australia, to do her Master in Marine and Antarctic Science. During that degree she deeply studied this fascinating continent with a specialization in geophysics and

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.

Szymon Niezabitowski - Expedition guide



Szymon was born in Cracow, Poland. He studied Biology and Geography in Cracow where he received his graduate degree in “Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences”. His final thesis was about Volcanic Soils on Iceland.

After he finished his studies, he joined Polish Academy of Sciences and worked for the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, where he was a guide and researcher on exotic animals.

Szymon began guiding in the Arctic in 2016 on Spitsbergen and since then has also led

Orca whale trips in North Norway.

From the earliest years of his life he is a passionate naturalist with a special interest in the geography and the wildlife of the higher latitudes.

Sarah Kather - Expedition Guide



Sarah studied Geography and Biology in Germany. After finishing her university career, she left her home country for the Colombian Amazon region, where she worked as interpreter and guide for tourism agencies and environmental projects. Her passion for nature and outdoor activities guided her as she travelled through South America, working in different countries and diverse regions across the continent. Finally reaching the famous Ushuaia, she was grateful to learn that it is not the end of the world, participating in her first voyages to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, and South Georgia as an expedition guide in 2015-16.

Having discovered her curiosity of the ocean during those polar voyages, Sarah decided to focus on guiding bird- and whale-watching tours, exploring beautiful spots in Chile, Brazil, Colombia and Portugal. She will be happy to tell you everything from the tiniest flowers until the biggest whales of Antarctica.

Dan Martig - Kayak Guide



Dan grew up in the Swiss Alps, and has lived in New Zealand for over 30 years. Born in a Swiss mountain village, he's spent his life exploring the mountain ranges, rivers, oceans and wilderness of Europe and the South Pacific, and guiding people who want to share the life-changing experiences only to be found in wild places.

Antarctica is the ultimate wilderness - a place that feeds the soul and lifts the spirit. Dan is looking forward to his second season of guiding for Oceanwide in a place that most people only dream of visiting, and helping you experience an extra-ordinary

landscape and environment.

Dan is an internationally qualified mountain guide and sea kayak guide. His years of professional guiding experience and his friendly, practical, down-to-earth nature will ensure you'll have a memorable time exploring Antarctica by kayak.

Dan's approach to life is holistic – he lives a sustainable life on a small property in New Zealand's South Island and believes in living in harmony with the natural world.

Paul Ulrich - Kayak Guide



ACA Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor and BCU 4 star Trip Leader.

It was the Danube River in Austria where I was born and where I grew up. As a child this river, which connects countries and people, inspired my longing for the big wide world out there. As soon as I could I cycled through all continents, walked through deserts and climbed some peaks like Kilimanjaro and Aconcagua.

During one of those trips I discovered a new passion, sea kayaking. It was like hiking on the water just that I didn't need to carry a backpack. After paddling 2500 km on the

Yukon River, 600 km from Stockholm to Helsinki across the Baltic Sea and 37 days through the Fjords of Patagonia without any options to buy food I wanted to work in the Kayak Industry.

I worked as a sea kayak Instructor and Tour Guide on Lake Neusiedl (Austria), Lake Constance (Germany) and the Island of Amorgos and Milos in the Mediterranean Sea in Greece.

In March 2019 I was invited to join a Trainee Programme with Oceanwide Expeditions and I am thankful to be able to work where the mountains meet the sea and the whales, penguins, and seals are roaming free.

Let us all have a great trip in unique Antarctica!

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.

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!!

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!



Antarctica: Danco Island & Portal Point

Thursday 26th December

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the dining room.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 08:15 *Fast Fit and Furious Group*, please stand by on Deck 3.
- 08:45 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Danco Island.
- 09:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Danco Island.
- ~11:30 Polar Plunge!
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 13:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 15:45 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Portal Point.
- 16:00 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for the zodiac cruise at Portal Point.
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:00 This evening we will slowly cruise through Wilhelmina Bay in search of whales and other wildlife. 🐋

This evening we will enter the Drake Passage, please secure your belongings, take sea sickness medication if necessary, and remember, always keep one hand for the ship.



Into the Drake Passage!

Saturday 21st December

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 07.45 | Wake-up call |
| 08.00–09.00 | Breakfast buffet in the dining room. |
| 09.30 | 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 |
| 14.00 | Join Martin in the lounge for his lecture: <i>Seabirds – Masters of the Sea and Sky</i> . |
| 15.30 | 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. <i>Please be aware that this event is compulsory for everyone onboard and attendance will be checked.</i> |
| 18.00 | 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

Sunday 22nd December

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room.
- 09:30 Meike welcomes you to the Lounge for her lecture about Penguins.
- 10.30 Paul and Daniel welcome the kayakers to the Lecture Room for a mandatory briefing about kayaking in Antarctica.
- 11.15 Laura welcomes you to the Lounge for her lecture about “Ice: Types of ice, ice dynamics, and the impact of climate change”.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 14:30 John welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his Imperial Transantarctic Expedition.
- 15:45 Neill and George welcome you to the Lounge for an introduction to photography and videography in Antarctica.
- 17.00 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.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Observation Lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner.
- 21:00 Join George in the Lecture Room for a special workshop on 35 mm film photography.

Remember: walk slowly, no flip-flops or sandals on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!



Weddell Sea Antarctica: Brown Bluff & Gourdin Island

Monday 23rd December


- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30–08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 08.30 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Brown Bluff.
- 09.00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 15:30 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Gourdin Island.
- 15:45 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Gourdin Island.
- ~18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 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!

Antarctica: Orne Harbour & The Orne Islands



Tuesday 24th December

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30–08:30 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 09:00 Join Florence in the lounge for her briefing about our morning destination followed by our marine mammal researcher Sarah for her lecture about Whales.
- ~10:30 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Orne Harbour, on the continent of Antarctica!
- ~11:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise within the spectacular Orne Harbour.
- 13:00 Lunch.
- 14:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 15:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at The Orne Islands, a beautiful set of islands in the Gerlache Strait.
- 15:15 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around The Orne Islands, home to Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins.
- 18:30 Join the expedition staff in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 Christmas 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!



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Merry Christmas in Antarctica!

Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot & Petermann Island

Wednesday 25th December

- 07:00 This morning we will cruise through the Lemaire Channel famous for its scenic views. We will wake you up shortly before we arrive to the entrance.
- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the dining room.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 09:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Port Charcot, known for its history, icebergs and penguin rookery.
- 09:30 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Port Charcot.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 12:30-12:45 George welcomes you the library for passport stamping.
- 13:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 13:30 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Petermann Island.
- 13:45 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for the zodiac cruise at Petermann Island.
- 17:00 This afternoon we will once again cruise through the Lemaire Channel. Join the expedition team on the outer decks to admire the scenery and wildlife!
- 18:15 Join the expedition staff in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:30 Campers leave for Consessa Point. Please stand by for announcements.

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!



Antarctica: Danco Island & Portal Point

Thursday 26th December

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the dining room.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 08:15 *Fast Fit and Furious Group*, please stand by on Deck 3.
- 08:45 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Danco Island.
- 09:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Danco Island.
- ~11:30 Polar Plunge!
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 13:00 Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
- 15:45 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Portal Point.
- 16:00 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for the zodiac cruise at Portal Point.
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:00 This evening we will slowly cruise through Wilhelmina Bay in search of whales and other wildlife. 🐋

This evening we will enter the Drake Passage, please secure your belongings, take sea sickness medication if necessary, and remember, always keep one hand for the ship.



The Drake Passage

Friday 27th December

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room.
- 09:00 Deadline for entries to the photo competition.
- 10:00 Join our Geologist Laura in the lounge for her lecture “Geology of Antarctica: geological history of the continent and how it became Antarctica”.
- 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 Vide welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture about the Antarctic Treaty.
- 16:30 Join Isabelle in the Lounge for her lecture “Jewels of the Ocean: Phytoplankton”.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Team 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

Saturday 28th December

No wake-up call. Sleep in!

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

09:30 Meike welcomes you to the lounge for her lecture about Albatrosses.

11:00 Join Sara in the lounge for his lecture about “Women in Antarctica”.

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 Remmert Koster!

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

Sunday 29th December

07:15 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.

07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.

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!