



# Antarctica - Discovery and Learning Voyage

on board

m/v *Hondius*

29<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2020



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. *Hondius* is sailing as a 176-passenger vessel with 83 cabins. Our beautiful, modern vessel carries 369 m<sup>3</sup> of fresh water and has a water plant producing 70 m<sup>3</sup> 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 74

including

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

and

Expedition Leader:	<b>Martin Berg</b>	[Sweden]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Laurence Dyke</b>	[Great Britain]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Sara Jenner</b>	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jerry Zhao</b>	[China]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Meike Sjoer</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Maricel Grilli</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laura Mony</b>	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Daniels Karin Amby</b>	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Szymon Niezabitowski</b>	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sarah Kather</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Terri Moore</b>	[Canada]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Daniel Martig</b>	[New Zealand]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Paul Ulrich</b>	[Austria]
Workshop Guide:	<b>Neill Drake</b>	[United State]
Workshop Guide:	<b>George Kennedy</b>	[Australia]
Camping Guide:	<b>Ben Giunchi</b>	[Argentina]
Camping Guide:	<b>Vide Brandt</b>	[Sweden]

**We welcome you on board!**

# Day 1: 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## Embarkation, Ushuaia

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

Wind: SW7 Sea State: Port Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: +10 °C Sea Temp: +11 °C

Ushuaia! 'The End of the World; the Beginning of Everything' and for us the beginning of an incredible adventure. For most of us, it was a long-time dream, which had been booked months in advance, and we were really excited to board *Hondius*. However, before that, we had the full day to explore this beautiful Patagonian city; savouring the local flavours and enjoying the laid back Argentinian culture.

The southernmost town in the world marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego and the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime trip. Ushuaia, which means "the bay that penetrates to the west" in the indigenous Yaghan tongue, is a flourishing town that benefits from its



magnificent, yet remote setting. A big community of adventure travellers meet where the rugged spine of the South American Andes ends. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing on a whim. We had the best example today with a sunny and warm, yet windy day, where every hour felt like a different season.



It is finally 04:00 pm and we are slowly making our way to our future home for the next 10 days, *Hondius*. Actually, most of us were already waiting on the pier to board and you could feel the excitement in the air. The Expedition Team greeted us at the gangway, and you could feel the exhilaration among the team which was also starting a new journey. We



were met at Reception by Michael and Alex, our Hotel Managers. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of our fabulous Filipino crew.



We had a little bit of time to get familiarise with the ships before we all convened in the lounge to meet our Expedition Leader, Martin, and our Hotel Manager, Michael. They gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel which will be our home for the next few days, and a short introduction of the next couple of days. Then, we met the first officer Matei who led us through all the details of the required SOLAS briefing (Safety of life at sea). At the end of the briefing we

all went outside to see our last glimpse of Ushuaia before heading into the Beagle Channel. Bathed in golden light under a beautiful sun, and surrounded by sea birds, we left the harbour and city life for a while. On hearing the alarm, we reconvened at the 'muster stations', the Dining Room (Deck 3) and the lounge (Deck 4, 6, and 7), for the mandatory safety briefing and abandon ship drill. We donned our large orange life jackets that will keep us safe should the need arise.

One last time before dinner, we gathered in the Lounge with a glass of Prosecco. We were introduced to our captain, Remmert Jan Koster, who toasted to a safe and amazing trip. At 19:30 we sampled the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by Chef Ivan and his galley team. This first evening on board was occupied by more exploration of the ship, adjusting to its movements, and settling



into our cabins. In the early hours of the morning we would be out into the open waters of the Drake Passage and heading southeast towards Antarctica.



# Day 2: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## At Sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°40'.3 S      064°57'.3 W

Wind: NNE4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +7 °C Sea Temp: +8 °C



We woke up in the morning happy to discover we were travelling in relatively calm seas and the ship was really stable. After a nice breakfast in the dining room, we gathered in the Lounge where Martin introduced us to Expedition Cruising and the team that is going to take care of us during the whole trip. We learned about plans A, B, C and sometimes even F or G. He also told us how to behave around wildlife and in the Zodiacs. He explained why we had to clean all our gear before landing on Antarctica.

We had a small break before we were called down to Deck 3 to get our rubber boots. After finding our pair of boots for the trip, it was time to find some food as well, and the kitchen delivered an

amazing lunch buffet.

During the day, various sea birds were sighted around the ship from black-browed albatrosses to cape petrels, and even different types of prions. To give us more knowledge about some of them, Meike gave a very interesting lecture on albatrosses, the ultimate sea bird. Then, she invited us outside to see these magnificent birds in actions. The weather was amazing with the sun shining through the wispy clouds.

In the afternoon, we went down to Deck 3 once more. The rubber boot shop had now transformed to a biosecurity check area. Vacuum cleaners and staff members were ready to help us, they made sure we did not bring any invasive species to Antarctica. We really felt we were getting closer to Antarctica, now that we were allowed to land. At 06:00 pm, it was time for our first recap where Vide guided us through the topics of the evening. Martin told us about the plans for tomorrow. We all crossed our fingers that the



We all crossed our fingers that the

weather will stay as calm as it is. Then, Ben gave some information about camping and Jerry told us about the Antarctic convergence and how it affects life and climate in Antarctica. Neill had a small presentation about how to wear the pants with the boots, then he talked about social media responsibilities and how important it is to act as good ambassadors for Antarctica. Sarah told us about Krill; these fascinating little creatures that make up the largest biomass of the planet. With our heads full of all this new information, we went for dinner and admired the view of the open sea through the windows of the Dining Room.

After dinner, while the kayakers got an introduction to their activity, many of us gathered in the Bar for board games, chatting with new and old friends, or just to have a drink and relax before going to bed. We were ready for another day at sea and hopefully the first sight of the Antarctica.

## Day 3: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

### At Sea, Drake Passage and Robert Point

**GPS position at 0800: 61°05'.0 S 060°36'.1 W**

**Wind: NW4 Sea State: slight Weather: Overcast**

**Air Temp: +4 °C Sea Temp: +2 °C**



Overnight, we entered the Southern Ocean, sailing through the Antarctic Convergence as we approached the Antarctic Peninsula. We woke to find seabirds flying overhead and the gentle sway of forgiving seas welcoming us to a new day on the Drake Passage. Having made good speed overnight, the expedition team was busy planning a New Year's surprise, but for that we had to wait.

After a delicious breakfast from our galley team, we gathered in the lounge to hear Sara telling us about the different species of Penguin that awaited us in Antarctica. The kayakers met to gear up for the paddling ahead, and just before 12:00 pm, we saw our first iceberg. However, the biggest surprise came just before lunch when Martin, our Expedition Leader, asked us all to attend an unscheduled meeting in the lounge to reveal his plan.





Having had the wind at our stern and the full grunt of *Hondius's* engines running all night, we were able to plan a landing for Robert Point that afternoon – a second day landing that had never before been attempted by an Oceanwide vessel. Excitement rippled through the passengers as we all looked forward to the afternoon.



At lunch, we saw the Shetland Islands slowly approaching in the distance and by 2 pm we were deep in Nelson's Strait en route to Robert Island. At 4 pm, we boarded our zodiacs and set sail for our first landing of the expedition. Awaiting us on the shore were elephant seals, giant petrels nesting, and thousands of chinstrap penguins nursing freshly hatched chicks.

During our zodiac cruises, we saw blue-eyed Antarctic shags flying overhead and seals swimming in the ocean below us.



At 7 pm, we returned to *Hondius* for a cocktail in the bar, before enjoying a well-earned 6-course meal in the Dining Room after our adventures ashore. We finished the day on the bow, welcoming the new year at midnight, surrounded by pack ice and drinking mulled wine with new friends. There are few places better on earth where one could take a moment to reflect on the year that has passed and look forward to the year ahead.

**Happy New Year!**



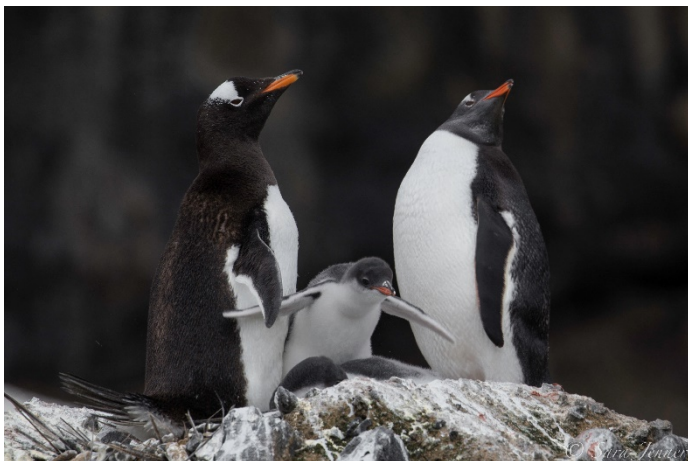
## Day 4: 01<sup>st</sup> January 2020

### Brown Bluff and Anderson Island

GPS position at 0800: 63°30'.4 S 056°56'.2 W

Wind: SE2 Sea State: Ice Weather: Fog

Air Temp: -1 °C Sea Temp: +2 °C



Everybody was super excited by the early start due to *Hondius'* fast speed and the helping hand from the wind and the waves. Nobody expected this moment to come this soon... Our first proper continental landing! Brown Bluff was the designated place for it, but the charm of the location didn't come just from being the continent ... but also from a hundred thousand breeding Adelie and gentoo penguins breeding Adelie and gentoo penguins in their nests taking care of their newly hatched chicks. The Expedition Team opened a path that took us to great locations to have a look at the nests, but we had to be very careful when walking and even just turning around, because the penguins were everywhere! The interest not only came with the penguins, but also with the geology of the place. There were some amazing boulders and volcanic rocks creating an incredible contrast of colour which, combined with the misty day, provided an amazing setting for taking pictures. During the morning zodiac cruise, we saw lots more penguins and even some distant humpback whales, but we were most aware of one thing, the remoteness and wildness of the place. Not very far from the landing site, a lot of brash ice and icebergs had gathered making a unique environment.



Back to the comfort and warmth of *Hondius*, we had a wonderful lunch that brought our energy back and got us ready for the afternoon adventure. Unfortunately, the landing wasn't looking very good because of the ice conditions and the visibility was deteriorating, but it was good enough to spot a dozen whales around us. Immediately, a voice on the PA system invited us outside to enjoy the beautiful show given by the humpback whales. As the conditions for the landing didn't look promising, Martin and his team organised a split zodiac cruise to get some good experiences with the whales. The very beginning of the cruise didn't look like we were going to be able to see anything besides mist and brash ice, but the huge effort from the guides driving among the ice rewarded us. Some of the humpbacks we first spotted from the ship were now closer to us and, from the perspective of water level in the Zodiacs, we were able to take amazing pictures. During the first cruise the mist dissipated and it was possible to find even some crabeaters and Weddell seals on the ice which made all the waiting in the cold



worth it. The second group was a bit luckier with the mist clearing up which allowed us to enjoy the beautiful background view made by the mountains surrounding us, while the people of the first group now enjoyed it from the comfort of *Hondius* having a hot coffee and chocolate.





As usual, the day ended with a quick recap where Martin talked about the plans for tomorrow and Laura gave an overview of Brown Bluff's formation. 7:30 pm, Michael invited us in the Dining Room for another delicious meal!

## **Kayak Trip Log**

### **Brown Bluff**

2020 welcomed us with a foggy, but calm morning! Eight paddlers were ready to paddle between bergy-bits of ice towards the red-brown cliffs inhabited by thousands of Adelie penguins. The first few ones we saw were resting on the brash ice and swimming around. A southern giant petrel and flocks of Antarctic shags flew just a few meters above our kayaks. Once we arrived at the beach, we observed penguins coming in and out of the water and wobbling around on the cliffs. As conditions were calm, we even made a continental landing on one of the beaches. Just for fun, we paddle through a gap between two rocks inhabited by shags before the zodiac brought us back for lunch on the ship. It was a great first paddling and an amazing first experience in Antarctica.



### **Anderson Island**

We arrived at Anderson Island in foggy conditions. It is with 24 passengers that we started paddling and, soon after, we had a very close whale encounter, which was very special. Thanks to a light tailwind, the fog burnt off and we had a great paddle around the icebergs. We observed some Adelie and gentoo penguins. Towards the end, we got rewarded by a Weddell seal resting on a block of ice. What a day! We were spoiled by the wildlife and the weather.





**Day 5: 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

## **Astrolabe Island and Zig Zag Island**

**GPS position at 0800: 63°17'.3 S 058°42'.6 W**

**Wind: NE2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Fog/Rain**

**Air Temp: -1 °C Sea Temp: +3 °C**

Our 7:15am wake-up came easier today and almost everyone seemed recovered from the New Year's celebrations. In the morning, the lounge was buzzing as we were all grabbing a hot drink and looking out the windows at the conditions. There was fog and poor visibility as well as rain. It gave quite a mysterious allure as we all waited to reach Astrolabe island and get a look at what we would be seeing today.

We all enjoyed a delicious, hearty breakfast as always and there was plenty of conversations and excitement among the guests as they were sharing photos and exchanging experiences. The Expedition Team was rushing around getting everything prepared as always and the usual build of excitement and energy was evident as the guests spotted them geared up and waiting.



As soon as the Zodiacs were dropped in the water, the shore party was on their way to set up the landing site. We were all ready and we started boarding quickly to go ashore. Yellow and green groups were at the landing first today and they were not disappointed! We saw a new seal species. Indeed, we were lucky to have a hauled out Antarctic fur seal lounging on the rocky beach. There was also loads of Weddell seals and some, close enough, to get



great images of. This island is also well-known for the fractured boulders that we saw as we walked to the seals. This is caused by the thawing and freezing of the ice that works its way into the already existing smaller cracks in the massive plutonic rocks. The expansion of the water will eventually fracture the rocks into many pieces. This island has so many of these rocks scattered along the walk and a small area was closed so it is not disturbed. We were



also lucky today to have all three penguin species in one area! There are quite a few Adelies and chinstraps here and, of course, a few gentoos. There always seems to be at least one gentoo. Some of the guests have been making up stories about them being undercover and spying on the other species... who knows! We even spotted the ever-elusive leopard seal patrolling the landing site, before it tired and took a rest on the ice flow quite close to the Antarctic fur seal. The Zodiac cruise didn't disappoint either, with icebergs that looked like whales, plenty of cormorants, fulmars, and skuas flying overhead. Beautiful landscapes painted



by colourful lichens, and, of course, penguins! But a leucistic chinstrap penguin was definitely a show stealer for those lucky ones that spotted it, camouflaged on an iceberg.





The afternoon at Zigzag Island was cancelled due to rough conditions and large swell at the landing site as well as very poor visibility. So, with that, we continued sailing into the Gerlache Strait. Of course, we had a plan B prepared. This time plan B was an educational one, where we got to hear some lectures delivered from the expert expedition staff. In the afternoon Sarah gave a brilliant lecture on whales and all their secrets. Later, Laurence followed with an equally amazing lecture on Glaciology. As we were sailing away from the Weddell Sea, the breathtaking Antarctic Peninsula came into view at 5:30 pm. We got to enjoy the views during dinner, and it continued on into the night. It was an absolutely stunning day again and filled with so much action! This voyage continues to amaze us daily.

### **Kayak trip log** **Astrolabe Island**



French explorer Dumont D'Urville sighted Astrolabe Island in the Bransfield Strait during his 1837-40 Antarctic voyage and named it after his Expedition Flagship, Astrolabe. Eleven paddlers ventured out in mystical foggy conditions along the rocky island. On the high cliffs, we saw Antarctic fulmars nesting and some terns flying over our kayaks, while a few

chinstrap penguins watched us paddling past. We saw icebergs which were not grounded and kept a safe distance from them as we stopped for a few minutes of Antarctic silence. We listened to the swell of the ocean, the wind blowing around the ice and the penguins porpoising, before the zodiacs brought us back. We felt like being alone in the middle of a surreal environment, especially as the ship was hidden in the fog during almost the entire excursion.





## Day 6: 03<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

### Neko Harbour and Cuverville

GPS position at 0800: 64°50'.6 S 062°33'.3 W

Wind: Light Wind Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: +7 °C Sea Temp: +4 °C



© Sara Jenner



After a day of foggy weather and difficult conditions for landings, Antarctica showed us it's best side, with a stunningly beautiful sunny morning! As if we would have known before, we had plenty of exciting activities planned for today. We started with split landing and zodiac cruise at Neko Harbour. Neko is another landing site on the Antarctic continent where we had the chance to walk up a slope to an incredible viewpoint. What makes this place special is the view onto a very active glacier calving into Andvord Bay. After making our way up to the top, many sat down to rest, enjoyed the sun and listened to the rumbling



glacier. For two of our guests, it was without a doubt one of the most memorable days of their lives – a wedding proposal took place on top of the hill, and she said yes! Meanwhile, at the gentoo penguin colony a few meters below, a couple of chicks were hatching out of their eggs, and some of us were lucky enough to witness those special moments.

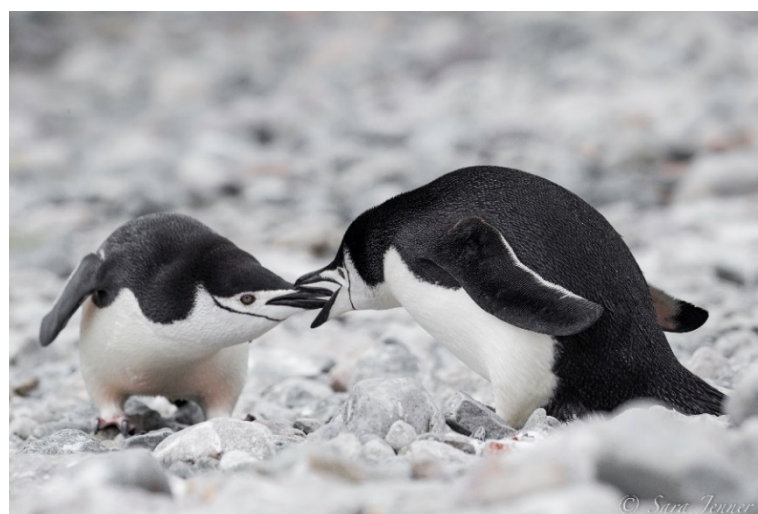
During the zodiac cruise, we were mesmerised by the different shades and shapes of the icebergs, while searching for wildlife resting on them. We found penguins posing for us, crabeater and Weddell seals enjoying the sun. A few passengers even had an elusive minke whale popping up just right next to their zodiac, disappearing again just a couple of breaths later.



Back on the ship, we regained energies with a delicious lunch and, afterwards, we joined our guides George and Neill for a photography workshop on the outer decks. Some humpback whales seemed to be aware of that and wanted to be the stars of our pictures, breaching several times behind the ship. This is a rare behaviour in their feeding grounds, you could tell by the excitement of the Expedition Team.



Our afternoon landing took place in Cuverville Island, nesting place of one of the largest gentoo penguin colonies in this area of the Antarctic Peninsula. We had time to observe all types of different behaviours of those charming creatures – resting, bonding, mating, and stealing each other's pebbles. Two elephant seals were hauled out in between the colony and, also, Antarctica's largest land animal -





the 5 mm long Antarctic Midge - was active on this sunny afternoon.

With our zodiacs, we circumnavigated Cuverville and were able to understand the dimensions of the penguin colony, nesting all around the Island. Nesting Antarctic terns, leopard seals and sleeping humpback whales were other highlights of this cruise, of course, always accompanied by stunning iceberg formations.



At least half of our passengers plus some crazy crew and staff members took advantage of that warm summer day and took a very quick swim in the freezing Southern Ocean just before getting back on board.

To finish this amazing day, we were invited to a barbecue Dinner on the outside decks, with mulled wine and beer, followed by some dancing for the passengers and crew that

still had energy left over. A small part of our passengers decided to take the quieter option and went for a camping night at Kerr point, listening to calving glaciers, singing Weddell seals, and humpback whales passing by their night camp.

## **Kayak trip log**

### **Neko Harbour**

Neko Harbour, a place of great beauty at the end of Andvord Bay, was the morning destination for eight paddlers. During the night, the fog cleared and, this morning, we enjoyed a clear view of the mountain tops towering over the sheltered bay as we paddled at a safe distance of the calving glacier. On the top of a very steep iceberg, we saw three penguins which look like mountaineers and we wondered how they could reach that location. Somewhere in the bay, a whale is indicating its presence by his loud breathing noises and we paddled out to find a fluke, a hump, or the spray caused by the breathing. Luckily, we found



two beautiful humpback whales slowly making their way out of the bay. A loud thunder is followed by a glacier calving and we saw a piece of ice falling into the sea. It was too small to create a big wave, but still impressive to observe from several hundred meters away.



### Cuverville Island

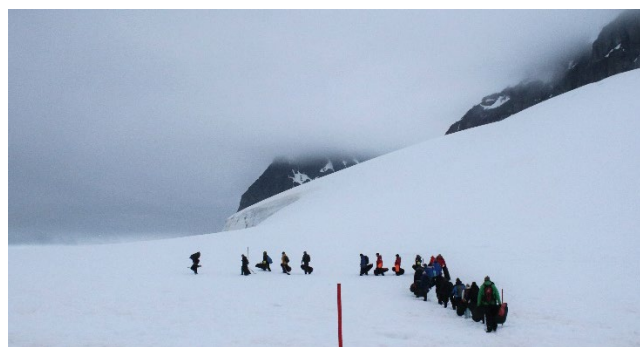


Our goal for this afternoon was to circumnavigate Cuverville Island which is at the end of the Errera Channel. At the beginning, we passed some big icebergs which laid off the island before following the shoreline beneath ice cliffs. At the other end, the island opens to a big bay where we spent time observing two Humpback whales quite closely and a minke whale in the distance.

After 4:00 pm, we paddled back to the ship to get ready for the polar plunge, observing several gentoo penguin rookeries along the way.



## Camping Trip Log



After an amazing day full of activities with good weather, it was time to experience the camping, but not before having the most southern barbecue in the world. First of all, Vide and Ben went out scouting and preparing the camping site with all the gear needed for spending the night out. By the time they got there, they found a lot of Weddell seals resting at our site, so the logistics were a bit tricky. However, it definitely added an unexpected plus for all of us. After a long ride on the zodiacs from the ship, the guides welcomed us and briefed about rules and procedures. It did not take long to dig our holes and, when we had some quiet moments, we could listen to the beautiful and unreal singing of the Weddell seals around. This was the best way to get ready to sleep and a good night song. Just in time, the staff in charge warned us about the rain coming and suggested it was much better to be already inside our 'bivy bags' when it will arrive. They were so right, it rained almost all night long, not strongly, but enough to prove that the equipment works very well, even in the extremes of Antarctica. At about 4:15 am, we woke up and as soon as we opened our eyes, a group of humpbacks started feeding and breaching

in front of us, not too far from the coast line... What a way to start our day! Finally, the zodiacs arrived and we were all ready and excited to go back to *Hondius* for a warm shower, hot coffee and happy to share the experience with all our fellows!

## Day 7: 04<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Orne Island and Orne Harbour

**GPS position at 0800: 64°39'.9 S 062°38'.8 W**

**Wind: SE2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast**

**Air Temp: +2 °C Sea Temp: +5 °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 our Expedition Leader, Martin, speaking from the bridge, 38 guests and 2 guides woke up in their sleeping bags after a night of camping





at Kerr Point. The early birds on board the *Hondius* could notice that Zodiacs and staff members were buzzing around at 4:30am to collect the intrepid campers, and to prepare for another day full of adventure. The first activity of the day took place on and around Orne Islands, located in the Gerlache Strait – a place with many opportunities for the adventurous. Already before breakfast, the announcement was made that there were many humpback whales that were having a krill feeding frenzy all around the ship. The action did not stop, but rather intensified as we disembarked the *Hondius* and went out by the zodiac to

observe them at a closer distance. Tail flukes in every direction, whales swimming right under our Zodiacs, and waterspouts from exhaling humpbacks so close that we could smell the krill on their breath! The performance was so enchanting that, for a second we nearly forgot about the enormous icebergs, even larger than the *Hondius*, that surrounded the bay. When it was time to swap the groups ashore 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 resumed and there were plenty of whales for all of us! At the same time, the shore party enjoyed the perfect sunshine on Orne Island – the whales were everywhere around the island and made for a spectacular observation from land. The inclusion of a massive chinstrap penguin colony only made things better... and noisier. By this stage in the expedition we had

spent plenty of time with all different brushtail penguin species, and had gained knowledge of their different languages and vocalizations. The somewhat confusing nickname “Rockbreaker Penguin” that has been given to the chinstraps finally started to make sense as we could listen in



closely to their powerful, high-pitched song. A morning to remember!



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: Orne Harbour. While most of us had their minds focussed on the continental landing, and some a bit anxious about the rather steep foot path leading us nearly 100 metres above sea level. The stunning sunshine made everything even more exciting. While the Zodiacs cruised around the bay, observing both humpback whales and Weddell seals, the rest of us were made the ascent up to the chinstrap colony located on the lower ridge of the Spigot Peak. Up on the top, we could marvel at a mind-blowing view with the Gerlache Strait on one side and the massive glaciers on the Antarctic mainland behind us. In the colony we even managed to catch a glimpse of some newborn chinstrap hatchings. This day finished off with a thrilling

slide down the mountainside, back to the landing site.





As we dined, *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 misty fog in the Weddell Sea to the glassy surface of Neko Harbour, 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.

## **Kayak Trip log**

### **Orne Island**



Orne Island, situated just around the corner from yesterday's polar plunge, zodiac cruising, and kayaking, surprised us with its diversity. As we circumnavigated the island, we saw several snowy sheathbills, two crab-eater seals, and a colony of Antarctic petrels. We, then, crossed over to some icebergs with magnificent blue colours. As we kept paddling, we discovered a resting leopard seal on a snow slope above the beach. At the same time, humpback whales and a gentoo penguin colony could be seen around. The mountain ranges in the distance looked wild and overwhelmingly beautiful, thanks to that gorgeous weather!

### **Orne Harbour**

Orne Harbour one of the most magnificent places on the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula! We started paddling with 13 people from the harbour out and around Spigot Peak.

Along the coast, we saw the penguin highway that goes all the way up to the top where there is the colony. We were incredibly lucky with totally calm conditions and clear sunny skies as we hugged the coast on the way back to the ship.



## Day 8: 05<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### At Sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 61°41'.0 S 063°46'.4 W

Wind: NNE4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog

Air Temp: +1 °C Sea Temp: +4 °C



For our first day back in the Drake Passage, we enjoyed the quiet and calm sea. In fact, we were appreciating a bit of a sleep in after four and a half intensive days of discovering the Antarctic Peninsula. As usual, at 8 am, Michael announced that the doors of the Dining Room were open, and breakfast was ready.



The sun was shining through the clouds between short periods of fog and a few birds were flying around the ship. We were chatting in the lounge until, at 9:30 am, Laura talked about the geology of Antarctica. She explained how Antarctica has been formed and which type of rock you could find down there. This talk was followed by Terri's talk about the plastic in the ocean and what can be done to change our habits. In between the talks, some of us went outside trying to find some sea birds, or just to enjoy a bit of





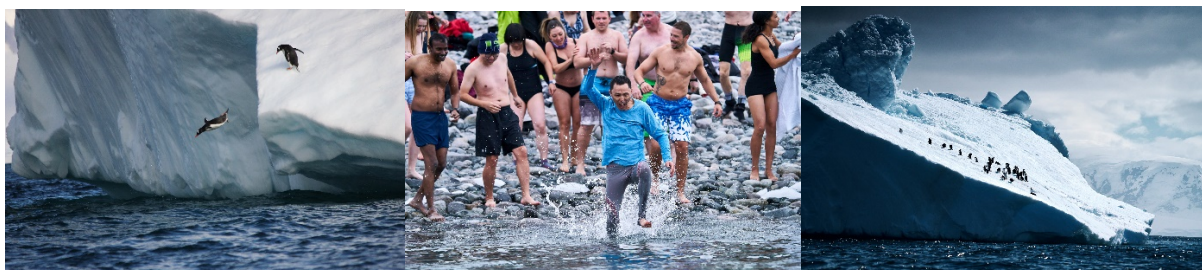
sunshine. Finally, 12:30 pm rung and we were called back into the Dining Room... As we don't eat enough on this ship. Even by doing nothing all morning, we were all extremely hungry and the full Dining Room which is a sign how calm the Drake was.

After a well-deserved lunch and rest, we gathered again in the lounge to listen to Laura, Sara, Sarah, and Maricel who talked about Citizen

Science or how to help-out science by giving some of our time and photos. They introduced us to four projects: (1) RecognIce who use photos of glaciers all around the world to raise positive awareness, (2) Happy Whale who identify whales all over the planet, (3) Penguin watch who ask for your time to count nesting penguins from photos, and (4) Oceanites who make an inventory of sea birds in Antarctica by asking you to do some bird surveys when you venture towards the southern continent.



Finally, the last lecture of the day was given by Vide who talked about the Antarctic Treaty that protects Antarctica, keeps it pristine and untouched by any human activity. Like every day at 6:15 pm, we had the Recap where we got some new information about disembarkation, paying our bills, but also an interesting comparison between the Arctic and Antarctic presented by Karen. The dining room was, again, buzzing with conversation waiting for another delicious meal to be served. After dinner, we all gathered in the lounge for the photo competition and we were all excited to see if our photos had made to the final three. We all cheered up for our favorite photo!



# Day 9: 06<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## At Sea, Drake Passage

**GPS position at 0800: 56°30'.25S 065°48'.4W**

**Wind: NW3 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast**

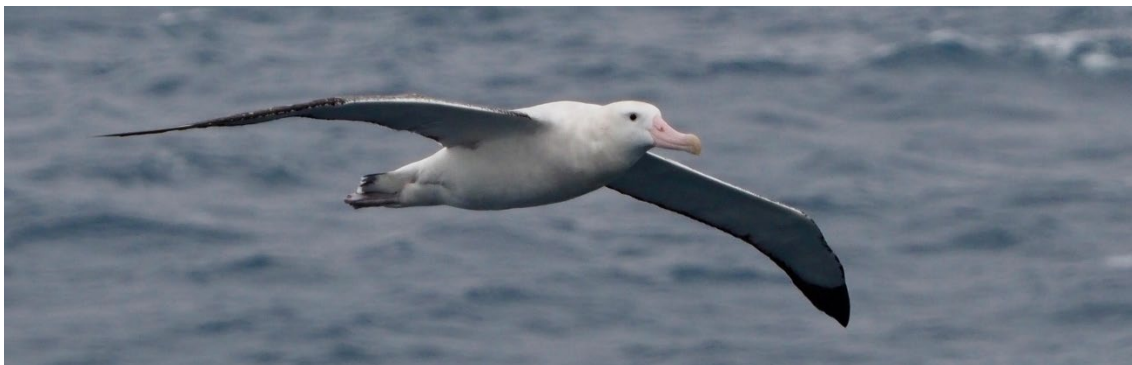
**Air Temp: +6 °C Sea Temp: +9 °C**

For our last day in the Drake, we were woken up by Michael and his enthusiastic voice calling us for breakfast. There was a bit more wind than yesterday and the ship was pitching a bit. Some of us decided to stay a bit longer in bed, but the dinning room was still pretty full. The day started slowly with Karen talking about the Sweedish expedition of 1901-1904. Then, we were called deck by deck to hand out the boots that we used during the whole trip. You could feel that it was the end of the trip and everyone could feel the emotion in the air.



At 11:30am, Sara talked about the women in Antarctica and how they shaped Antarctica exploration. We were surprise to learn how late it took for the first women to be part of an expedition team. For one last time, before lunch, we enjoyed a bit of time on the bridge or on the outside deck to observe sea birds or just enjoying the slow movement of the waves.

At 11:30am, Sara talked about the women in Antarctica and how they shaped Antarctica exploration. We were surprise to learn how late it took for the first women to be part of an expedition team. For one last time, before lunch, we enjoyed a bit of time on the bridge or on the outside deck to observe sea birds or just enjoying the slow movement of the waves.



As we were getting closer to the Beagle Channel, we started seeing land which was the tip of Patagonia. It was perfect timing as Ben talked about the history of the Beagle Channel and the people that lives along the coast. For the last talk of the trip, Vide, Laurence, Syzmon, Maricel and Laura talked about climate change and the impact on the icy continent. After visiting this pristine environment, it was interesting to learn on how it could change in the next few years.

To end the trip on a positive note, we all gathered in the lounge for an evening of celebration. It is with the usual glass of Prosecco that, with the Captain and the Expedition team, we toasted in honour of this amazing trip. This was a life changing experience! For one last time, we had a delicious diner with our fellow companions. We were already nostalgic of the ship life as we were picking up the pilot that would bring us back to Ushuaia.



# Day 10: 07<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## Disembarkation, Ushuaia

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

**Wind: N2 Sea State: Port Weather: Rainy**

**Air Temp: +11 °C Sea Temp: +10 °C**

Today we were woken by the last wake-up call from our Expedition Leader Martin 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: 1637 nautical miles**

**Furthest South: 64°50'.6S 062°33'.3W**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Remmert Jan Koster, Expedition Leader Martin Berg, 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](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)



1. Robert Point
2. Brown Bluff
3. Andersson Island
4. Astrolabe Island
5. Neko Harbour
6. Cuverville Island
7. Orne Islands
8. Orne Harbour









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# Martin Berg - Expedition Leader

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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.



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# Laurence Dyke - Assistant Expedition Leader

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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.

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# Sara Jenner - Assistant Expedition Leader

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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.



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# Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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# Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide

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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.



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## Maricel Grilli - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

beautiful Andean mountains and lakes.

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

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# Laura Mony - Expedition Guide

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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

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# Karin Amby Daniels - Expedition Guide

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Karin is born and raised in Dalarna, Sweden. She explored the forests around her home from a early age. Camping out in tents, snow-caves and wind-shelters has been an important part of her life since childhood.

As a teenager she became fascinated by the polar regions. White wide barren landscapes pulled her to the north. In 2001-2004 she studied to become a Guide. In her final year she had a five week internship in Spitsbergen. That changed her life forever and In 2007 she moved to the Arctic Archipelago permanently. She

stayed for nine years and learned a lot about the polar regions. During her time in Spitsbergen she studied biology at The University Centre in Svalbard, worked as a scientific field assistant, started her own guiding business and worked in the tourist information and museum. She is a dedicated Botanist with a broad knowledge in Arctic plants. She also has a burning interest in everything that grows in extreme conditions.

Karin hat special bond to water. If its not frozen its warm enough to swim in according to her. And if its frozen mostly an axe or chainsaw can solve the problem.

In 2016 she left Spitsbergen, went back to Sweden and worked in a refugee camp. As the camp closed down she continued her “desk based” career for some time, but soon found out that working Monday to Friday every week was not a life for her. Since 2018 she works as a guide for Oceanwide expeditions. When she is not on a ship exploring the polar regions she can be found in the beautiful village Älvdalen in Sweden. Here she spends a lot of time in nature, preferably on the dogsled or on skis. So far she has been guiding in Sweden, Spitsbergen, Greenland and the Norwegian coast. This is her first time as a guide down south.



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# Szymon Niezabitowski - Expedition guide

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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.

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## Sarah Kather - Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Terri Moore - Expedition Guide

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Terri is from Alberta Canada, born and raised in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. She has spent 15 years studying the environment and working in the expedition fields. Terri has three passions in life; Environment, Travel, and Adventure. She has worked all over the world and has a zest for life. Trying to combine her three passions as much as possible which leads her to exciting destinations, where she soaks up the culture and spends the rest of the time outdoors exploring in nature.

She has volunteered with many organizations, sailed through cyclones, and summited Himalayan peaks. She also holds a Guinness World Record in skiing. Through her work and extensive travel experience she has a wealth of world knowledge, including working with Polar Bears in the Canadian Arctic, expeditions to Patagonia, South Georgia and Antarctica, as well as guiding in Australia to see Humpback Whales. She is also a guest speaker at schools where she works with the teachers to help educate the students on science and geography related topics.

In addition to studying environmental science, she has also studied marine biology, and is a certified English teacher. Her most recent adventure saw her teamed up with the Canadian Cancer Society where she cycled across Canada to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer. She has worked with companies such as BBC, WWF, and National Geographic.

Terri views the world as a university and lives her life of travel like she is in a classroom constantly learning new things every day. When she isn't with us on our expeditions or traveling the globe, she is back home with her two step-children and partner Jon. She enjoys travel, hiking, skiing, cycling, sailing, stand up paddle boarding and running.



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## Dan Martig - Kayak Guide

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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.

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# Paul Ulrich - Kayak Guide

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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!



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## Neill Drake - Photography Guide

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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.

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# George Kennedy - Videography Guide

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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.

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# Ben Giunchi - Expedition Guide

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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!!



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# Vide Brandt - Expedition Guide

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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!

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## Maaika Menzies - Ship's Doctor

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My name is Maaika Menzies, your ship's physician. I did my medical training at the University of Amsterdam and afterwards practiced internal medicine, cardiology, pulmonology and ICU.

I now practice family medicine/GP. I love the outdoors and every spare minute I have I spend hiking or sailing the Dutch waters.

With being your doctor onboard the Hondius I combine two of my favorite things, practicing medicine and enjoying the nature.



## WELCOME ABOARD!

### Boarding and departure from Ushuaia

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 \*\***

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| ±17.15 | Welcome briefing in the observation lounge (deck 5).<br>Expedition Leader Martin and Hotel Manager Michael will introduce you to the life on board the Hondius.                                  |
| ±18.00 | Departure of the Hondius. Please stay off the bridge during this time.<br><br>This will be followed by a <b>mandatory</b> 'Safety at Sea' briefing for ALL passengers. Presence will be checked. |
| 19.00  | Captains welcome cocktail in the observation lounge.   |
| 19.30  | Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4).  |

After dinner, feel free to relax in the lounge, enjoy the scenery and discover the ship.

***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!

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 which covers safety and wildlife regulations in Antarctica. Attendance is compulsory and will be checked.
- 11.15 We are handing out your 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!
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Join Meike in the lounge for her lecture: *“The Ultimate Seabird – Albatross”*.
- 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. This event is compulsory for everyone onboard and attendance will be checked.
- 18.00 Join the Expedition Team 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
- 21:00 Kayakers will meet Paul and Dan in the Lecture Room for their **mandatory** kayaking briefing.

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!



## New Year's Eve



Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December

- 12:00 Briefing in the lounge about plans for this afternoon and tomorrow.
- 12:30 Buffet lunch in the Dining Room.
- 14:00 Ben and Vide welcome you to 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 and those on the waitlist.
- This afternoon we hope to land at Robert Point! Stand by for announcements.
- 16:30 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Robert Point.
- 16:45 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise.
- 19:15 Join us in the Observation Lounge for a celebratory toast to the New Year.
- 19:30 New Year's Eve Dinner.
- 23:30-00:00 New Year's Eve Celebrations & (hopefully) a view of the Antarctic Continent.



## Weddell Sea Antarctica: Brown Bluff & Paulet Island

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January - Happy New Year!

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 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 <b>Yellow</b> & <b>Green</b> Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Brown Bluff.  |
| 08:45       | We ask Groups <b>Red</b> & <b>Blue</b> to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Brown Bluff.  |
| 12:30       | Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room.  |
| 13:30       | Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.  |
| 14:30       | We ask Groups <b>Red</b> & <b>Blue</b> to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Paulet Island.  |
| 14:45       | We ask <b>Yellow</b> & <b>Green</b> Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Paulet Island.  |
| ~18:30      | Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap.  |
| 19:00       | Dinner   |
| 20:30       | Neill and George invite you to the Observation Lounge for a workshop lecture on Photography and Videography. This includes tips and tricks for successful camera work in Antarctica. |

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!





## Astrolabe Island and an Expedition Afternoon

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

- 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.
- ~09:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Astrolabe Island.
- ~09:15 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Astrolabe Island.
- 12:30 Buffet Lunch in the Dining Room.

## EXPEDITION AFTERNOON

(Please listen for announcements)

- 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!



## Neko Harbour and Cuverville Island

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

- 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.
- 08:45 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Neko Harbour.
- 09:00 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Neko Harbour.
- 12:30 Lunch buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 14:30 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Cuverville Island.
- 14:45 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Cuverville Island.

A **Polar Plunge** will be offered at the end of the landing, we will provide the towels.

- 18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 A special Antarctic Dinner (dress warmly)!
- 21:30 Campers leave for Kerr 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!



## Orne Island & Orne Harbour

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January

05:00	Campers pick up from Kerr Point.
06:45	Wake-up call.
07:00–08:00	Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room.
07:30	Kayakers meet Dan and Paul in the lecture room.
08:00	We ask Groups <b>Red</b> & <b>Blue</b> to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Orne Island.
08:15	We ask <b>Yellow</b> & <b>Green</b> Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise within the spectacular Orne Island.
12:00	Lunch.
13:30	We ask <b>Red</b> & <b>Blue</b> Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Orne Harbour.
13:45	We ask <b>Yellow</b> & <b>Green</b> Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour.
18:15	Join the expedition staff in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
19:00	Dinner

This evening we will be entering the Drake Passage so please make sure everything is stowed properly in your cabins. The Doctor will be available after dinner if you would like to discuss sea sickness medication with her.





## The Drake Passage

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

*No wake-up call. Sleep in!*

08:00–09:00	Breakfast buffet is served in the Dining Room.
09:00	Deadline for entries to the photo competition.
09:30	Join our Geologist Laura in the lounge for her lecture “Geology of Antarctica: geological history of the continent and how it became Antarctica”.
11:15	Terri welcomes you to the lounge for her presentation about ‘Plastic Pollutions in our Oceans’.
12:30	Lunch.
14:30	Join the Expedition team for a series of mini presentations about different Citizen Science projects that you can get involved with on your return home, if you wish to help Antarctica and its incredible wildlife.
16:30	Vide welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture about the Antarctic Treaty.
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

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

*No wake-up call. Sleep in!*

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 09:30 Join Karin in the Lounge for her lecture about the Swedish Antarctic Expedition from 1901-1904.
- 10:30 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.*
- 11:30 Join Sara in the lounge for her 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

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

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.

08:30-09:00 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!