



FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA & ANTARCTICA

on board *m/v Ortelius*
16th December 2019 - 3rd January 2020



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



Captain Yury Marin and his international crew of 52

Including

First Officer:	Mikael Svedberg	[Sweden]
Second Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Third Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager:	Siegfried Penzenleithner	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	William Barnes	[Holland]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Expedition Leader:	Claudia Holgate	[South Africa]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Tyrone Mckendry	[South-Africa]
Expedition Guide:	Christophe Bouchoux	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Adele Jackson	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Ruben Fijn	[Holland]
Expedition Guide:	Christian Savigny	[Argentina]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – 16th December 2019

Embarkation, Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS position at 2000: 54°54 'S, 067°57 'W

Air Temp: +12°C Sea Temp: +9°C Wind: SW 3 Weather: Overcast Sea state: Slight

It was late afternoon on a windy day in Ushuaia. The first passengers to arrive to Ortelius at 4pm were and all the expedition staff greeted the guests as they climbed the gangway for the first time and hotel manager Sigi quickly had all the guests assigned and shown to their cabins where they will be staying for our trip. After every passenger was onboard and had a cabin, we had our mandatory safety drill, everyone seemed to enjoy wearing orange! We soon left the pier hoping that the conditions co-operate for us to have this fantastic adventure.

Before dinner all the guides introduced themselves and Claudia (Clouds), our EL gave us a little introduction about what we are hoping to do on our trip. Our ships doctor (Linda) had a 'patch and pills party' after dinner to try and keep everyone free from feeling too sea sick, the weather forecast looked stormy so hopefully not too many of us would feel motion sickness!

After we left Ushuaia we heard that the wind conditions had worsened to the point that 3 other ships were locked in Ushuaia and could not leave the same day as we did. Our Captain definitely made the right call otherwise we would have lost a couple of days.



Day 2 – 17th December 2019

At Sea towards the Falkland Islands

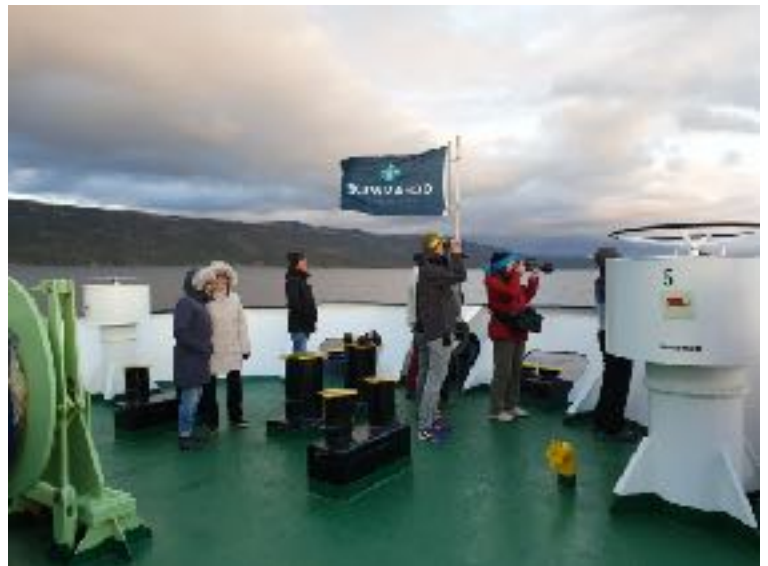
GPS position at 0800: 54° 39'S, 064° 50'W

Air Temp: +11°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C **Wind:** NW 6 **Weather:** Cloudy **Sea state:** Slight

The first morning after our departure from Ushuaia we were awakened by the sweet voice of Clouds to alert us all for the delightful breakfast that was being served in the restaurant. We had made good progress during the night towards the Falklands. The wind was blowing directly from the front, so rolling of the ship was almost absent.

After enjoying the buffet breakfast, many of us wrapped up warm and went outside to watch the seabirds – which are in their element. Specifically present were the two species of giant petrels (northern and southern) following the ship and additionally some Cape petrels, many slender-billed prions and hundreds of sooty shearwaters in the morning. Black-browed Albatross skimmed the water close at hand, using the air currents to demonstrate their skill at dynamic soaring. At the other end of the scale there were tiny Wilson's Storm Petrels darting low over the waves, with also some Common Diving Petrels – both the smallest species of seabirds to be seen here.

Today, the main event in the morning was the mandatory IAATO briefing and Clouds told us everything we needed to know about safe Zodiac operations. Safe landings are only possible with the right gear so everybody was fitted with a pair of boots and a life vest. We'll need to use these newly-acquired skills as soon as tomorrow when we reach the Falkland Islands and hope to make our first landings of the voyage. After a delicious lunch buffet, bird and more specifically marine mammal watching continued with sightings of Hourglass Dolphin, Fin Whale and Peale's Dolphin. Some groups of dolphins really came up close to the ship and played just under the bow.



In the afternoon two excellent introductory lectures were given by Pippa and Christian. Pippa told us all about the marine mammals we might encounter during our trip and Christian did the same for the birds we might see. At the daily recap Clouds introduced us to our plans for tomorrow: potentially two landings. In the morning we hope to be able to do some birdwatching at Carcass Island including tea in the local settlement. In the afternoon Saunders Island is on the menu. Afterwards she handed over the microphone to Pippa to tell us in short something about the history of the Falkland Islands before she handed over the microphone to Christian who introduced us briefly on the breeding birds of the Falklands. He finished his talk just in time before Sigi called us for the diner. Our first day at sea was drawing to an end and quite a few of us went to bed early preparing for the exciting day that was awaiting us...

Day 3 – 18th December 2019

Carcass and Saunders Islands, Falklands

GPS position at 0800: 51°18'S, 060°38'W

Wind: NE **Sea State:** Mild **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 10°C **Sea Temp:** 7°C

Claudia's voice woke us up this morning in front of Carcass island. The Ortelius has made a good and steady route. Conditions were good and zodiacs were launched right after the breakfast. The beach of Dyke bay was our starting point where all our guests disembarked and got the chance to roam around and witness the local wilderness. Upland geese, Magellanic penguins, oystercatchers, the very famous cobwren, cormorants, steamer ducks... among other species. The weather even cleared up and opened a very nice blue sky with sun shining.

Most of our guests followed Ruben on a 4km walk to join the Carcass settlement. A nice way to stretch legs and be attentive to the nature. Everyone went at his own speed and some even cheated a bit by seating in the zodiacs.

At the settlement, tea was served with a huge table full of cookies and pastries, a quite rewarding pause before heading back to the jetty and to the ship.

After a delicious meal the Ortelius was in front of Saunders island, but the wind had picked up and was steady at 30 knots with gushes at 35. The sea was covered with waves with white caps and the expedition team reluctantly decided to call off as this situation was not safe enough for operations.

Passengers stayed on the outside decks, enjoying the sun, watching the black browed albatrosses and the Commerson's dolphins along the nearby coast.

Ruben then gave a lecture about Falkland birds. It was then time for a recap where Cloud's gave all the informations about tomorrow's visit to Stanley. Then Adele spoke about some interesting facts of Carcass Island and Christian told the sad story of the extinction of the local "fox" called the Warrah.



Day 4 – 19th December 2019

Stanley, Falkland Islands

GPS position at 0800: 51° 33'S, 057° 39'W

Air Temp: +12°C Sea Temp: +7°C Wind: NNW 4 Weather: Clear Sea state: Calm

This morning we woke to cloudy skies and mildly turbulent seas aboard the *Ortelius*. From the ship we could see the charming coloured rooftops of Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, and we couldn't wait to disembark and experience this small port town for ourselves. It was a brief Zodiac shuttle to the jetty where we enjoyed an easy dry landing on the floating jetty. From here we fanned out to explore Stanley. Some of us made a beeline for the nearest coffee shop for our first real espresso in several days, or tucked into the cosy warmth of a souvenir shop to pick up some penguin paraphernalia.

Many of us wandered down the quiet main street towards the Falkland Islands' museum to learn more about the islands' colourful maritime and terrestrial history. Others opted for a different kind of education, participating in a traditional British pub crawl and sampling some of the local brews. Keen birders were rewarded with some special sightings among the coastal grasses before we left the Falkland Islands behind. As we departed, we were treated to the antics of a local sea lion lolling around at the end of the jetty. We arrived back on board in time for a delicious buffet lunch served up by our wonderful kitchen staff.

In the late afternoon, we attended a talk on Nature Photography by Tyrone. The lecture entitled "Nature through the lens" was a comprehensive lesson on photography gear, settings and useful techniques to help us to capture all the amazing landscapes and animals that we were sure to see over the next couple of weeks. At our daily, evening recap and briefing Clouds shared some information about the kinds of foreign seeds we hope to avoid introducing to South Georgia through our collective vacuuming efforts. Ty taught us about the Antarctic Convergence which we were crossing.

We finished the day with another delicious dinner, thanks to our wonderful chefs.



Day 5 – 20th December 2019

At sea: Falkland Islands to South Georgia

GPS position at 0800: 52°11,9'S, 053°10,7'W

Wind: W **Sea State:** Mild **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 5°C **Sea Temp:** 6°C

A full sea day gave us the time to focus on biosecurity, mandatory briefings, and topic lectures in preparation for visiting South Georgia. In the last few years South Georgia Heritage Trust has completed a successful reindeer removal and rat eradication programme and has tightened biosecurity measures to ensure that the island not only remains predator free, but also to ensure non-native plant seeds are not transported ashore. Staff diligently vacuumed all passengers' outer clothes and bags, and thoroughly scrubbed their boots and walking poles. A simple paperclip was a perfect tool for prizing out hidden seeds and bio-material trapped in the grooves on the sole of the boots.

With all the kit cleaned there was time to enjoy Cristian's lecture on the geology of South Georgia. Dutch cartographer, Ortelius, the name sake of our ship, was the first person to notice the pattern between the coastlines of the continents and suggested that the landmasses were once joined. Centuries later scientists developed the theory of continental drift and the dynamics of plate tectonics. The rock formations of South Georgia reveal several of the complex geological processes. Part of the island was once connected to the super-continent, Gondwana; with other parts of the island formed through cycles of extension and compression. The geology lecture set the scene and heightened our anticipation for arriving in the next couple of days. A mandatory briefing introducing the fragility of South Georgia's flora and fauna and alerting passengers to the need for taking great care not to damage the plants and disturb the wildlife when we do arrive.



Tyrone's earlier lecture on wildlife photography inspired many of us to venture outside with Ty and Reuben to photograph seabirds in flight. The wandering albatrosses, northern giant petrels, black-bellied storm petrels, white chinned petrels and prions gliding around the ship made the perfect subjects for all the bird enthusiasts and photographers on board. For Reuben this was an extra special day, he had hoped to see a great wandering albatross on his birthday, and today this dream came true. The albatross was certainly a feature of the day. The evening recap recounted all the various albatross species and the conservation challenges of combatting long-line fishing bycatch, plastic pollution and disease. Clouds also presented excerpts from the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner highlighting the cultural significance of the albatross as a symbol of fair winds and protection. Anticipation is high for reaching South Georgia, in the meantime we're enjoying having the company of the albatrosses along our sea journey..

Day 6 – 21st December 2019

At sea: Falkland Islands to South Georgia

GPS position at 0800: 53°02,8'S, 045°56,3'W

Wind: NW **Sea State:** Mild **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 6°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Another full sea day gave us the time to focus on the wildlife from the outer decks. The weather was relatively good with the sun peaking through the clouds every now and then. As the Captain had foreseen, approaching South Georgia allowed us to see more and more wildlife, with many prions, cape petrels and albatrosses flying around the ship.

Lunch gave us a mandatory break from the leisuring, but soon everybody was out again relaxing in beautiful conditions on the North Scotia ridge.

Some of the bird species we were lucky enough to see were the black-browed albatross, the beautiful light-mantled albatross, and the austral wandering albatross. We also saw the Northern giant petrel, the blue petrel, the white-chinned petrel and the sooty petrel. A definite highlight was the sighting of hourglass dolphins swimming towards the bow of the ship breaching repeatedly. This was definitely a first sighting for most of us!

During the day we had a talk from Christian about the penguin species we will expect to see in South Georgia. His specialist insight gave us information about the origin of penguins, their adaptations to life in this extreme ecosystem, and their breeding specificities. Ty gave us an introduction on Ecology and the key species in the Antarctic ecosystem.

By 6:30 we all gathered in the bar to listen to Clouds' briefing and to the recaps of the day. And at 7pm Siggie gave the ritual call for dinner. We are all waiting to waking up tomorrow with the first sight of South Georgia and all the wonders it has to offer!



Day 7 – 22nd December 2019

Salisbury Plain - PM Fortuna Bay

GPS position at 0800: 54° 01'S, 037° 11'W

Wind: NNW Sea State: Mild Weather: Fog Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 2°C

The morning activities started early, with a landing and zodiac cruise at Salisbury Plain, home of several tens of thousands King Penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*). The complex reproductive cycle of this animal was first studied in this area by Dr. Stonehouse in the 1950s. By monitoring a group of animals during several seasons he understood that within the apparent chaos there is an early cycle and a late one, the latter most likely to fail due to the lateness in the season and the small size of the chick as the winter arrives. During the visit many emblematic species were seen both from zodiacs and from shore: birds like both species of giant petrel (*Macronectes giganteus* and *M. halli*), South Georgia Pintails (*Anas g. georgica*), Subantarctic Skuas (*Catharacta lonnbergi*), and S. Georgia Pipits (*Anthus antarcticus*); the southernmost passerine, now abundant at last after the rat eradication programme in the island. Scattered among the Tussock grasses we found many families of Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*), and some young Southern Elephant Seals (*Mirounga leonina*).

The main attraction was of course the colony of King Penguins, with its mix of adults on eggs, chicks from last season, juveniles and moulting animals. After this activity, lunch was served, and soon a short briefing and recap was offered at the bar. The afternoon landing at Fortuna Bay was windy from its beginning, and again both a landing and a zodiac cruise were offered. A walk to the colony allowed the guests to see the seals up and close, and while crossing several streams many moulting kings were seen. At the colony, from a small hill everyone enjoyed an overall view of the place, with the nesting cohort in the middle and the chicks or “oakum boys” in the periphery. That name comes from the fibre used to seal wooden boat plates. In the middle of the bay the first iceberg was spotted, with a background of penguins, the glacier and mountains in the distance. With increasing wind speeds, we had to rush to the landing site and come back onboard Ortelius. Once back and safe the vessel was slowly repositioned to the next destination during dinner, navigation that would continue during the night.





Day 8 – 23rd December 2019

Stromness & Grytviken

GPS position at 0800: 54° 02'S, 036° 48'W

Air Temp: +6°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C **Wind:** NW 5/6 **Weather:** Cloudy **Sea state:** Slight

We awake as Ortelius sails into Stromness bay, the location for our morning landing; Stromness. Stromness is an old whaling station, which is now surrounded by wildlife. We land on a very busy Fur Seal beach, the whaling station is closed to visitors, so we do not go close, but are able to get fantastic views of this historical place from a distance. After navigating our way through the field of Fur Seals at the beach, we made our way on a walk to Shackleton's Waterfall; located at the end of the valley. The Waterfall is the famous location where Shackleton and his men descended into Stromness on the final leg of their journey of survival after the failed Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The Fur seals become fewer and fewer as we walk away from the beach, and instead we are joined by the birds; Terns, Pipits and Gentoo Penguins. As we reach the waterfall, the sun is shining and the sky is blue. Most of us enjoy a seat by the waterfall and take in the incredible surroundings of South Georgia.

After walking back to the beach we are whisked back to Ortelius by zodiac, and soon find ourselves sitting down to another deliciously prepared lunch in the dining room.

During lunch, Ortelius relocates to Cumberland Bay, south of Stromness, where we soon spot our afternoon landing; Grytviken. It is here we are inspected for our bio-security; firstly a government officer comes onboard and inspects our boots, backpacks and velcros to ensure we are not transferring any biological material onto the island. Our inspection was very successful and we passed with 99%!! Grytviken is another old whaling station, however it has been restored and we are able to visit the remains of the station. Here, we can also visit the Museum, Post Office and the cemetery where Shackleton is buried. The lovely weather from the morning continues into the afternoon and we enjoy a beautiful sunny visit to Grytviken; accompanied by Fur and Elephant Seals, as well as King Penguins and many beautiful birds.

We return to the ship to the smell of a barbecue. The fantastic galley and restaurant team have prepared a fantastic BBQ on the Heli deck. We eat in the open surrounded by the beauty of South Georgia, followed by dancing on the Heli pad into the night.

Another fantastic expedition day in South Georgia!





Day 9 – 24th December 2019

Godthul, St Andrews Bay

GPS position at 0800: 54° 41'S, 035° 40'W

Wind: NE **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Sunshine **Air Temp:** 3°C **Sea Temp:** 2°C

This morning, the Ortelius dropped anchor in the bay, just in front of Godthul where the sea was calm enough to drop the zodiacs. There were a few options in this area for either a landing or zodiac cruises. After an assessment of the conditions, we aimed this morning to have a zodiac cruise in the bay to check out its inhabitants. We followed the coast of the bay and found some really good spots to view nesting Kelp Gull and nesting South Georgia Shags up close, both with chicks. A good number of South Georgia Pipits were foraging close to the zodiacs on the shore line and both Gentoos and King Penguins were standing among large numbers of playful fur seals and moulting elephant seals.

After a delicious lunch, the ship set sail to the largest King Penguin colony of South Georgia in St. Andrews Bay. The zodiacs were lowered and although the swell made the transfer at the gangway pretty rough, the expedition team went to check out the conditions at the landing beach. All was set-up at the beach and we were ready to start the operation when the wind suddenly changed direction, picked up and reached very quickly 35 knots! Clouds didn't have any choice but to cancel the landing. Luckily, we had a plan B and after a short time sailing Ortelius entered an area with a lot of Humpback Whales. At least 25 of these gentle giants were around. Some dozing at the surface and some making deep dives. Some were lunge-feeding up until the surface, some were tail-slapping at the surface, and one of the whales even breached a few times. We had some spectacular views of flukes and all in all it turned out to be a great alternative for the missed landing in the afternoon. Just before dinner we had two recaps of Pippa and Christian about intriguing vocabulary and visuals signals and cues in King Penguins. Thereafter Clouds announced that we would be getting a wake-up call at 4:00 AM on Christmas morning. Surprisingly this message was received and answered with a lot of cheering... That's the spirit on an expedition cruise! And it didn't take long for Sigi to announce a great Christmas dinner: "Good Evening, Good Evening, Good Evening...."



Day 10 – 25th December 2019

Gold Harbour & Copper Bay

GPS position at 0800: 55° 40'S, 036° 59'W

Wind: NW **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 5°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Cloud's voice came very early on this Christmas day... 4 am !! But for a very good reason as the Ortelius was anchored in front of the beach of one of the most beautiful site of South Georgia : Gold Harbour. This site got his name by its perfect orientation at sunrise when the first rays of light paint golden reflections on the cliffs and glaciers surrounding the beach.

Unfortunately, the low clouds kept us from appreciating the phenomenon but the beauty of the place was rewarding enough to motivate all passengers to disembark on the beach. On arrival, many elephant seals were moulting, some of them were the biggest we saw so far on our trip. And for the first time of the trip we saw many very curious weaners which crawled on the landing site attracted by our bags and safety barrels. A little walk flagged by red poles brought everyone closer to the king penguin colony in a fantastic landscape of sea, rock and ice. We got back on our ship for Breakfast and tried our luck in the neighbouring Cooper bay known for its constant wind. The expedition team tried a zodiac cruise which had to be called back and cancelled due to strong gusts of over 35knot compromising the safety on the gangway. Safety is always first! After lunch everyone was happy to have some rest time to compensate for such an early wake up.

The Ortelius then left South Georgia and took the sea toward South Orkneys islands. In the afternoon, the expedition staff offered a quizz to the passengers to check if the science dispensed during the trip was understood. A very good moment with good spirits and good mood. Everyone got out of the bar with a smile on his face. Then it was time for Clouds to speak about tomorrow's plans at sea. Ruben spoke about elephant seals and Pippa about the happy whale project where everyone can bring its contribution to science. The evening extended late in the night with Christmas celebrations which starting in the restaurant and finishing in the bar.



Day 11 – 26th December 2019

At Sea to South Orkney Islands

GPS position at 0800: 56° 48'S, 036° 10'W

Air Temp: +1°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C **Wind:** SE 7/8 **Weather:** Overcast **Sea state:** Moderate

This morning we woke up to slightly rockier conditions but all grateful for an extra hour of sleep thanks to a time change late last night. Breakfast was as delicious as usual and we were ready to enjoy a relaxing day at sea, looking for wildlife on deck or attending talks by the Expedition Team. At 9:30am Pippa gave us a fantastic talk about the seals of Antarctica. It was really good to get to know more about these marine mammals that have evolved so well to survive the harsh conditions in the Southern Ocean. We had a few minutes to get some teas and coffees before the next talk began.

Our marine biologist Pierre, gave us some fascinating information on the enigmatic Humpback whales which come down here to feed on Krill. We had already been fortunate enough to watch these amazing animals feeding and sleeping close to the ship a few days prior. After the talk there was plenty of time to walk around the ship, having coffee or tea and interchanging with other travellers. Time passed by while *Ortelius* was rolling through slightly rough seas.

After lunch, it was time for our second biosecurity check which meant another vacuum party! It was much more efficient this time round with everyone knowing exactly how, where and what to clean. Outside the ship the conditions haven't changed much. We kept on moving slowly through the day.

Our final lecture for the day was given to us by our Expedition Leader! As an expert climatologist, Clouds was able to give us some in-depth knowledge on the climate of Antarctica and how it has been changing. The talk entitled "Ice, wind and waves: An introduction to Antarctica and its climate" could not have prepared us better for our upcoming visit to the Peninsula.

Shortly before dinner Clouds invited us to join the Expedition Team for our daily recap and briefing for the next day. After recap a nicely presented dinner was waiting for us and most of the travellers went to bed early, tired of the long seaday and the ship's motion.

Day 12 – 27th December 2019

Orcadas Station, South Orkneys and sea journey towards the South Shetlands

GPS position at 0800: 60° 48,7'S, 044° 31,7'W

Wind: NW **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** 4°C **Sea Temp:** 2°C

The morning started with perfect conditions for our landing visit to Orcadas station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. The glaciers hugging the surrounding mountains blushed pink with traces of red snow algae. The Argentinian station team and a small group of chinstrap and Adelie penguins welcomed us ashore. The station team and us an interesting tour sharing the history and current operations of the base finished off with Argentinian hospitality of tea and biscuits. Seeing the remains of the stone hut built during the Scottish expedition led by William Spiers Bruce, where the team overwintered in 1903/04, was a highlight for everyone interested in polar history. Occupied year-round since 1905, the base became the first ever permanent station in Antarctica and the site of the longest continual meteorological data collection. Along with meteorological data the station team also conduct seismic and marine biology research.

Orcadas is known as a place where occasionally lone juvenile emperor penguins are spotted. Today was our lucky day as a single juvenile Emperor sat preening in the ice-filled Uruguay Bay behind the station. This was certainly an exceptional day for seeing marine life. Many passengers who took a zodiac cruise saw leopard seals, and whilst sailing away from the South Orkneys we were surrounded by whales: fin, blue and humpback whales.

Reuben's lecture on what it was like to live at Signy Station inspired many people to want to experience living and working in Antarctica for a season. Adele's lecture on Antarctic visual art which showed how artists have had a role in Antarctica since the earliest days of recorded exploration, gave an insight into different ways of understanding Antarctica both historically and also in the 21st century. Recap at the end of the day reminded us of the incredible day we had experienced. Staff and passengers alike were astonished and delighted to have seen the 'top three' (emperor penguin, blue whale, and leopard seal) all in one day. Now we sail farther south towards the Antarctic Peninsula for adventures that lay ahead.



Day 13 – 28th December 2019

At sea: South Orkney Islands to Antarctic Peninsula

GPS position at 0800: 63° 20,3'S, 049° 04,5'W

Wind: NW **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Clear sky **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 2°C

Another full sea day gave us the time to focus on the wildlife from the outer decks. The weather was windy and cloudy which did not offer the best conditions for wildlife watching but some irreducible birdwatchers still spent most of the day on the outer decks. We did manage to see humpback whales feeding on several occasions.

Even if we did not do any landing today we still saw penguins at sea, and the one species we saw was the chinstrap penguin. Some of the most interesting bird species we were able to spot were the Southern Giant petrel, the Southern fulmar, and Wilson's storm petrels. On the cetacean side we saw minke whales and humpback whales.

In the morning we listened to a talk from Pierre on the IWC and CCAMLR. This gave us an insight on the latest whaling issues and the conservation work the IWC is trying to achieve. It also provided information on the many issues that CCAMLR is tackling in trying to regulate the exploitation of living resources in Antarctic waters like the Patagonian toothfish, the Antarctic silverfish and krill fisheries, but also the bycatch mitigation measures it has put in place for albatrosses and petrels, as well as its efforts to create marine protected areas around Antarctica, like the one that was put in place in the Ross Sea 3 years ago. Hopefully it will achieve a circum-Antarctic network of marine protected areas in the future. Ty gave a talk in the afternoon about Antarctic Ecology where he went into depth about the intricate network of organisms living in Antarctica and their respective role in this large ecosystem.

By 6:30 we all gathered in the bar to listen to Clouds' briefing and to the recaps of the day. And at 7pm Sigi gave the ritual call for dinner. We are all waiting to waking up tomorrow to try to have our first glimpse of the Antarctic peninsula and hopefully our first continental landing.

Day 14 – 29th December 2019

Antarctic Sound – Bransfield Strait – Penguin Island

GPS position at 0800: 62° 51,6'S, 057° 24,8'W

Wind: NW Sea State: Mild Weather: Rainy Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 1°C

During the early morning Ortelius was at the entrance of the Antarctic Sound, named after the famous vessel of Carl A. Larsen, that was lost during the Swedish expedition of Prof. Otto Nordenskjöld (1901-03). With strong winds and abundant ice, it was unsafe to enter, so plans needed to be changed. With those prevailing winds, a sheltered option was found, this time at the South Shetland Islands: Penguin Island. While covering the distance between those points lunch was served, followed by a short briefing on the disembarkation for the afternoon.

Once arrived, the weather was good in terms of wind, but menacing clouds announced rain. Disembarkation proceeded, complicated by the low tide and many guests could hike up to the rim of this dormant volcano. From that vantage point -fog permitting- the view is usually spectacular. In the meantime several groups enjoyed a zodiac cruise close to an iceberg with Chinstrap Penguins on top. Many were trying to get there, jumping from the water, others falling. During the rest of the cruise, a Weddell Seal was spotted along with many Southern Giant Petrel nests. With winds increasing over 25 knots and under the rain it was time to proceed back to Ortelius. At 6:30 the traditional recap and briefing were offered, and after dinner was served. During the night Ortelius was repositioned to the eastern end of Livingston Island, for our morning landing at Halfmoon Island.



Day 15 – 30th December 2019

Half Moon Island & Deception Island - Polar Plunge

GPS position at 0800: 62° 34'S, 059° 49'W

Air Temp: +6°C **Sea Temp:** -1°C **Wind:** Light **Weather:** Sunny **Sea state:** Ripples

We sailed South overnight to arrive at Half Moon Island in the South Shetland Islands. Half Moon is a small crescent shaped island, home to a large Chinstrap penguin colony. The beach is filled with Chinstrap, but also a few Gentoo, Penguins. The island was used as shelter for whalers so we also find the remains of a waterboat on the beach. A short walk up the hill and we find beautiful rock formations covered in lichens and moss; surrounding these rocks is the colony of Chinstraps. At this time of the year the penguin chicks are beginning to hatch, and we saw a few sheltered under their parent on the nest. The parents feed their chicks by regurgitating food they have foraged for in the sea, and the parents swap over caring for the chick throughout the brooding period. A walk out to the West side of the island takes us out to some whale bones, washed up during the whaling period over 100 years ago. The island is surrounded by incredible scenery of Livingston Island; towering mountains and calving glaciers.

Over lunch the ship sails South West to Deception Island. The island is a shield volcano, where the side has been eroded, flooding the caldera allowing ships to sail through the gap, called Neptune's Bellows. The volcano last erupted between 1967 and 1970, and is still volcanically active. Inside, the waters are geo-thermally heated, and there are the remains of the Hektor Whaling Station which was operational between 1906 and 1931, and a British Antarctic Survey Base, Base B, which opened in 1944 and closed in 1969, after the buildings were destroyed by a lahar (mud slide).

We all head out on decks and to the bridge to watch the Captain and his bridge team impressively navigate through the bellows; an incredible sight to witness. And soon we are sailing inside an active volcano! Shortly afterwards we disembark on the zodiacs and head ashore. The beach is black, with volcanic sand, and steam rises from the geo-thermally heated waters. Here we walk along to a small gap, high up on the slopes of the volcano; called Neptune's Window; we have incredible views out into the Bransfield strait South to Antarctica. Here we also see many nesting Cscape Petrels on the cliff slopes. Down on the beach we find a resting Leopard seal; a rare sight to see on land, as they typically rest on ice exclusively. A walk back along the beach takes us to the old whaling station buildings and the old aircraft hangar; with views of historical buildings and whaling equipment.

At the end of the landing some of us are brave (or silly) enough to take part in a Polar Plunge! Stripping off and plunging into the zero degrees waters of the Antarctic was a thrilling experience. We head back to the ship to warm up and are soon being served a delicious dinner in the dining room.





Day 16 – 31st December 2019

Cierva Cove

GPS position at 0800: 64° 05,8'S, 061° 04,7'W

Wind: SE Sea State: Smooth Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 0°C

What better way to mark the last day of 2019 than to touch the seventh continent?

This morning as we sailed into an icy Cierva Cove, the Argentinian base commander at Primavera Station gave permission for us to set foot ashore to provide a photo opportunity on the continental mainland. Our plan was to enjoy a morning of zodiac cruising among the icebergs in the bay and end the cruise with stepping out on land. However, the sea swell was too high for a safe landing. So we had to change to Plan B, which was to drive the zodiac to the rocky shore where people could reach out and touch the continent.

Gentoo penguins frolicked and porpoised around our boats as we slowly cruised around the majestic towering icebergs that were rising and falling with the swell of the sea. The fascinating sculptural shapes and the turquoise blue colour that seemed to glow from within the ice was a mesmerising sight for our final activity. As we pitched our way back to the ship through brash ice, we collected a beautiful pieces of crystal-clear glacial ice to bring back onboard to chill the champagne for New Year's drinks later in the bar. Humpback and minke whales gracefully swimming around the ship made for the perfect end to the cruise.

Back on board the high spirits continued with everyone enthusiastically joining in an auction of special items to raise money for the South Georgia Heritage Trust. Together we raised \$1200!

A champagne toast and a speech from the Captain got the New Year's party started, with many passengers singing and dancing right through into 2020.



Day 17 – 1st January 2020

At sea: Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 61° 37'S, 064° 12'W

Air Temp: +3°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C **Wind:** NE 5 **Weather:** Overcast **Sea state:** Slight

Once again, we found ourselves sailing through the Drake Passage on our way back to Ushuaia. This time, we expected that the infamous Drake would be a little rougher than our previous sea days due to a storm moving in from the West. However, this morning was still relatively calm on the *Ortelius* which meant that we were managing to stay just ahead of the stormy weather.

Outside, cloudy conditions prevailed making wildlife viewing challenging with only the most dedicated observers daring to spend more than a couple minutes out on deck. For those few the efforts were rewarded with the occasional view of a pelagic bird species such as the Southern Giant and Cape Petrels.

At 9:30 we were entertained by a lecture on penguins from Tyrone entitled: “Unusual Birds and where to find them”. Having been so lucky with our penguin sightings on this trip it was great to learn more about their behaviour and some interesting physiological adaptations for surviving the cold down here in Antarctica. We also watched a documentary

After lunch we headed back up to the bar to attend a fascinating talk on “Ocean Acoustics” by Pippa. Shortly after the lecture we headed out on deck to enjoy a few more hours of rocking and rolling in the Drake.

In the evening we met once again for the Recap and Briefing of the day. Clouds gave us a breakdown of the lectures and plans for the next day, Siggy informed of some of the admin tasks that needed to be sorted out like settling our bills and Tyrone gave us a short recap on the incredible Blue Whale.

Dinner was served and the food was outstanding as always thanks to the hard work of Head Chef Khabir and his team. What a great way to end another fantastic day on the *Ortelius*.



Day 18 – 2nd January 2020

At sea: Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56° 29,9'S, 065° 35,6'W

Wind: NW **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 10°C **Sea Temp:** 7°C

Another full sea day heading towards Ushuaia gave us the time to focus on the wildlife from the outer decks. The weather was relatively good and the sea conditions much better than yesterday. The big highlight was the spotting of a Southern Royal albatross.

We listened to a talk from Christian about Bird Conservation and how critical it is to take measures as quickly as possible to protect marine birds in Antarctica, as some bird species have extremely reduced populations and nest in one single island, which makes them extremely sensitive to small local changes, like for the Amsterdam albatross which only nests on Amsterdam Island and has a population of about 80 individuals only! We then had the privilege to listen to a talk from Adele on her personal experience of living at Port Lockroy. After returning the boots and life-jackets we listened to Ruben's talk about animal tracking.

By 6:30 we all gathered in the bar to listen to Clouds' briefing and to the recaps of the day. We then had our farewell drink with the Captain and went for dinner on our last evening on the ship. We reached Ushuaia at 9pm.



Day 19 – 3rd January 2020

Disembarkation - Ushuaia

At 8:30am we disembarked for the final time, no zodiac ride ashore and a dry landing. The last three weeks have taken us on a remarkable journey from the Falkland Islands, to South Georgia and to Antarctica, and gave us a glimpse of life in these remote and sometimes inhospitable places. We will all have different memories of our trip but whatever the memories, whether it was King Penguins or the sight of icebergs for the first time, 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: 3390 Nautical Miles

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





PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019/20

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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.



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for Oceanwide Expeditions



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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 OTL25 ●

		dec-19																jan-20				
BIRDS		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
English	Scientific																					
																				16	Embarkation	
																				17	At Sea	
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>											☉								18	Carcass / Saunders	
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>				☉			☉	☉	☉	☉									19	Stanley	
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>			☉						☉	☉					☉	☉			20	Scotia	
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>														☉		☉			21	Scotia	
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>										☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉			22	Salisbury Plain / Fortuna Bay	
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolome</i>				☉															23	Stromness / Grytviken	
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>									☉	☉									24	Godthul / St. Andrews	
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	☉	☉	☉	☉														☉	25	Gold Hb. / Cooper Bay	
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrystoma</i>									☉									☉	26	Scotia	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉			☉	☉	☉	☉	☉					☉	27	South Orkneys / Laurie I.	
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>					☉	☉	☉	☉	☉										28	Scotia	
Austral Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>				☉	☉	☉				☉									29	Penguin I.	
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		☉		☉	☉													☉	30	Halfmoon I. / Deception	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉		☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉		☉	31	Cierva cove	
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>					☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉							1	Drake S	
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>										☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉				2	Drake N / Beagle	
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>							☉		☉	☉	☉										
Cape/Pintado Petrel	<i>Daption capensis</i>		☉		☉					☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉					
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>					☉																
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						☉												☉			
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>				☉	☉	☉	☉		☉	☉								☉			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>														☉							
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		☉		☉	☉																
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>										☉											
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		☉		☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉		☉	☉					☉	☉		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	☉	☉		☉	☉	☉												☉	☉		
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>		☉		☉																	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉		☉	☉		
Grey-backed Storm-petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>		☉		☉																	
White-Bellied Storm-petrel	<i>Fregetta grallaria</i>				☉																	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>					☉	☉			☉		☉	☉									
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>		☉			☉					☉											
South Georgia Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>						☉	☉			☉											
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	☉		☉	☉																	
Imperial (Blue-eyed) Shag	<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>	☉		☉	☉														☉			
Antarctic (Blue-eyed) Shag	<i>Leucocarbo bransfieldensis</i>											☉	☉	☉	☉	☉						
South Georgia (Blue-eyed) Shag	<i>Leucocarbo georgianus</i>						☉	☉	☉	☉	☉											
Black-crowned night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			☉	☉																	
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>			☉																		
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>	☉		☉	☉																	
Flying Steamer-duck	<i>Tachyeres patagonicus</i>				☉																	
Falkland Steamer-duck	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>			☉	☉																	
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>			☉	☉																	
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica georgica</i>						☉	☉	☉													
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>			☉	☉																	
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalcoenus australis</i>			☉																		
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>			☉																		
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>			☉	☉																	
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>						☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉						
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	☉	☉																☉			



16 December 2019 - 3 January 2020

**Falkland Islands, South Georgia,
South Orkney Islands, Antarctic Peninsula**

M.V. Ortelius – Oceanwide Expeditions

At Sea (17-12)

Falkland Islands

- Carcass Island, Saunders Island (18-12)
- Stanley (19-12)

At Sea (20-12)

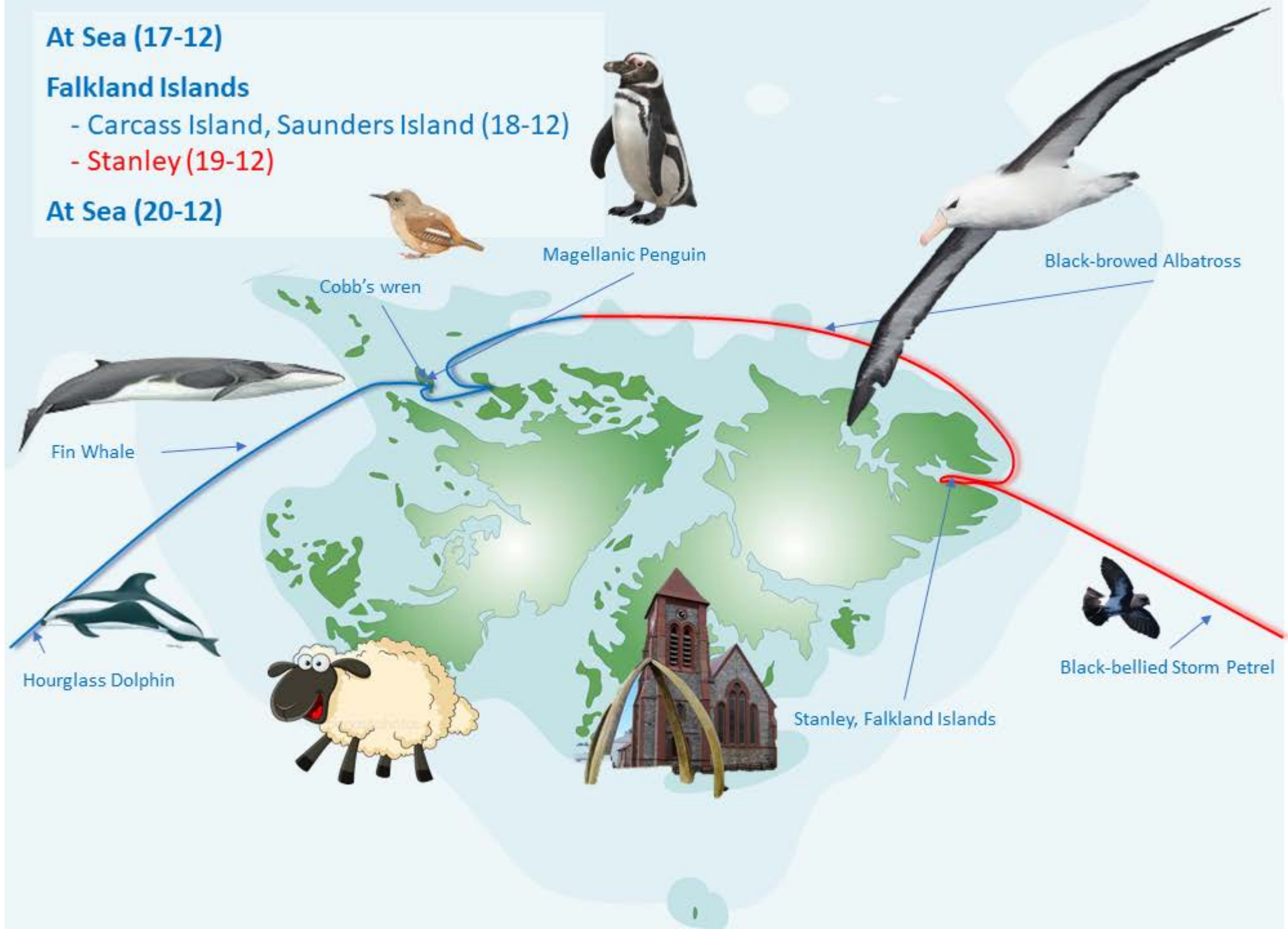


At Sea (17-12)

Falkland Islands

- Carcass Island, Saunders Island (18-12)
- Stanley (19-12)

At Sea (20-12)



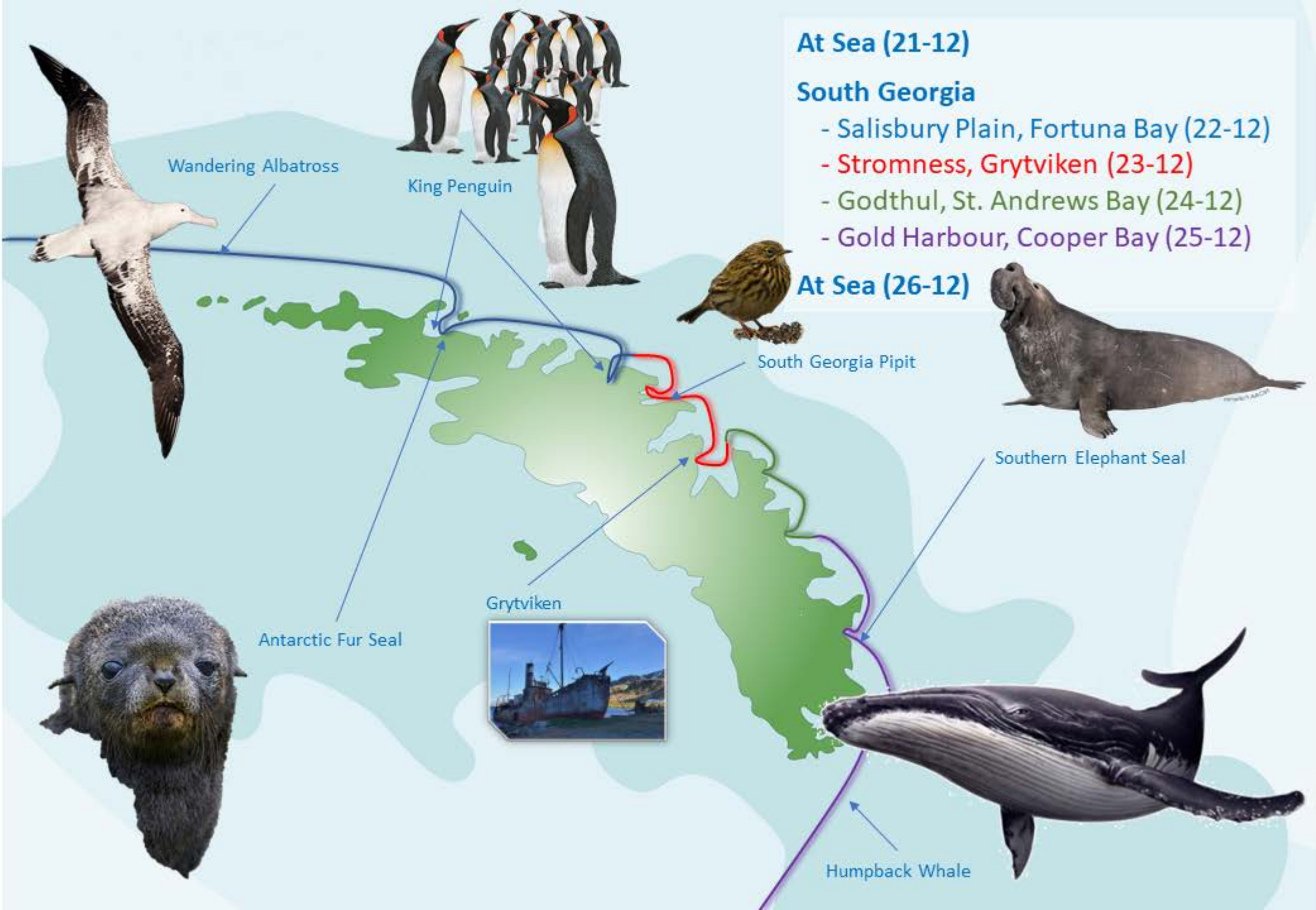
At Sea (21-12)

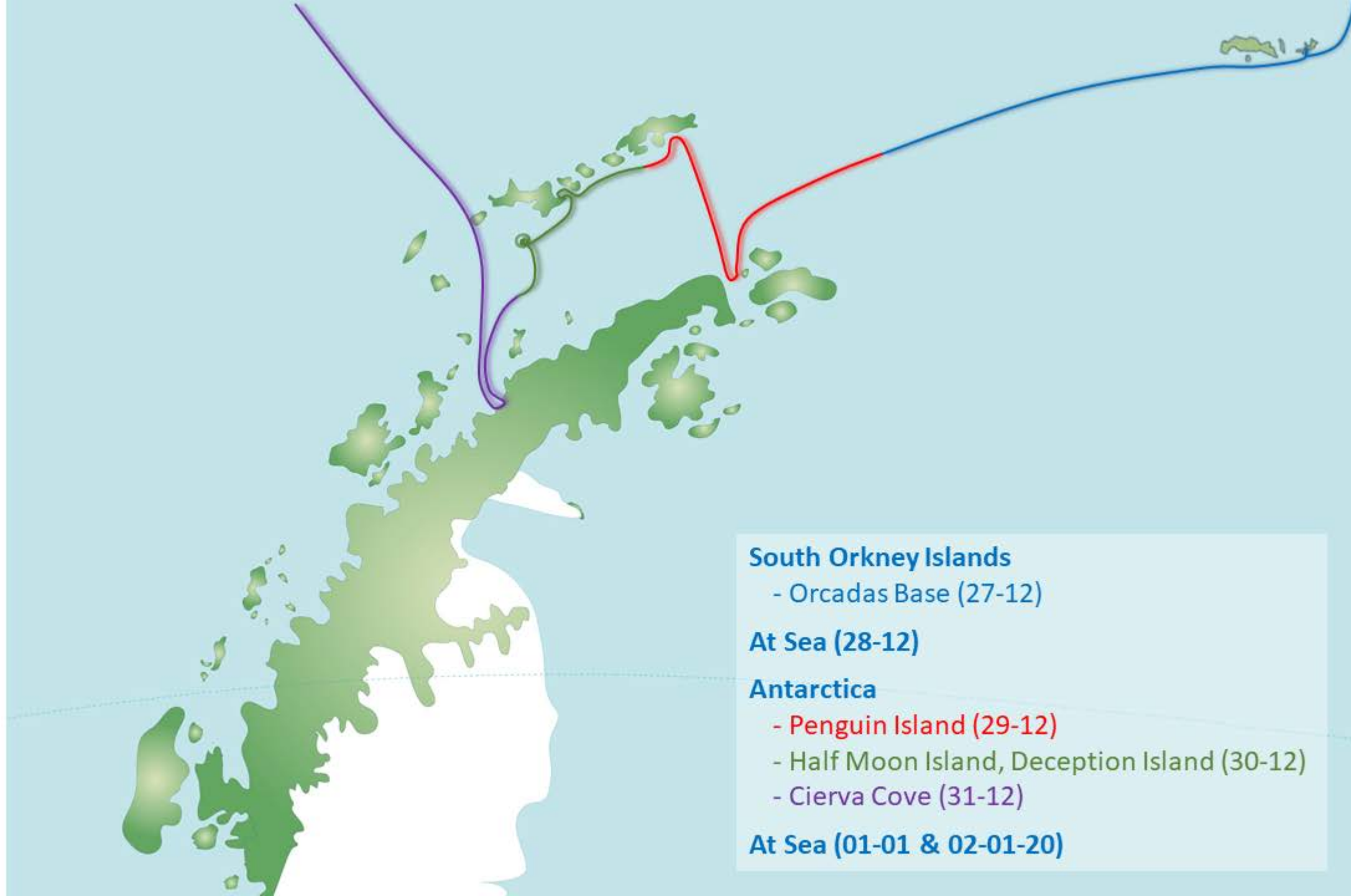
South Georgia

- Salisbury Plain, Fortuna Bay (22-12)
- **Stromness, Grytviken (23-12)**
- Godthul, St. Andrews Bay (24-12)
- Gold Harbour, Cooper Bay (25-12)

At Sea (26-12)







South Orkney Islands

- Orcadas Base (27-12)

At Sea (28-12)

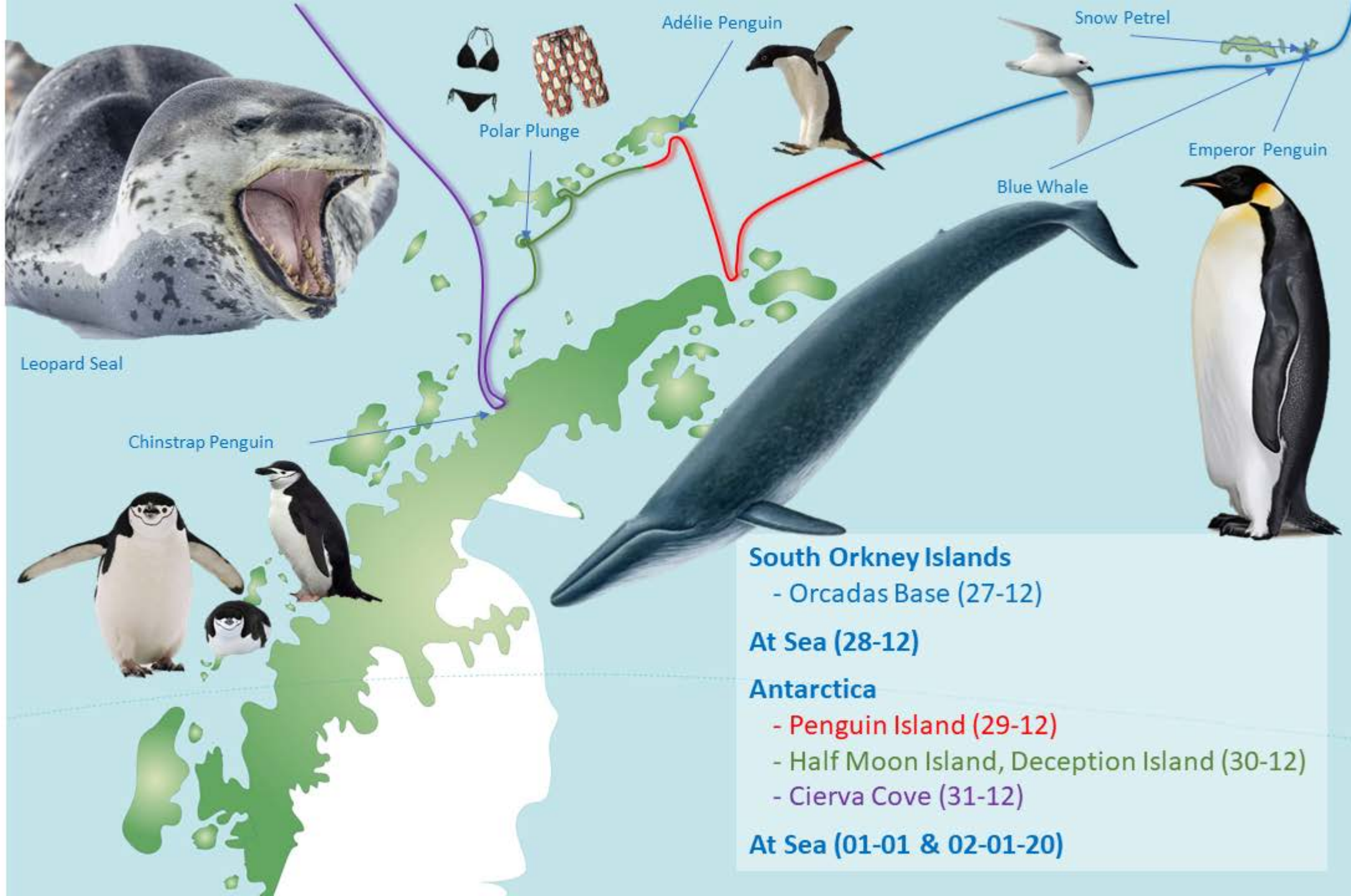
Antarctica

- **Penguin Island (29-12)**

- Half Moon Island, Deception Island (30-12)

- Cierva Cove (31-12)

At Sea (01-01 & 02-01-20)



South Orkney Islands

- Orcadas Base (27-12)

At Sea (28-12)

Antarctica

- Penguin Island (29-12)

- Half Moon Island, Deception Island (30-12)

- Cierva Cove (31-12)

At Sea (01-01 & 02-01-20)

Claudia Holgate - Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

Pippa Low - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Tyrone Mckendry – Expedition Staff



Tyrone is an Ecologist and bird guide from Johannesburg, South Africa; which is a country renowned for its incredibly high level of biodiversity. Although based in the busy city, he would spend his free time exploring natural landscapes in search of wildlife to study and photograph.

He completed his Master of Science degree through the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. His research looked at how wildlife corridors could mitigate the negative impacts of urbanisation on biodiversity. During this research he served on the committee of an NGO where he conducted regular biodiversity surveys and community upliftment work. He soon found an interest in conservation, which led to him establishing a conservation project to try and protect rare and elusive African-Grass Owl in South Africa.

Through this work he realised that his greatest passion was teaching others about the environment and why it is important to preserve it. This led to writing articles, giving presentations and guiding for anyone that wanted to learn more about the natural world.

Tyrone is an award-winning wildlife photographer and he uses his photos in lectures and articles, to share exciting and interesting wildlife moments with others. Now as an expedition guide, he travels around the world, observing, learning and teaching ecology along the way. He hopes that through this work, he will inspire as many people as possible to love and appreciate nature and all the wonderful things it has to offer.

Christophe Bouchoux - Expedition Guide

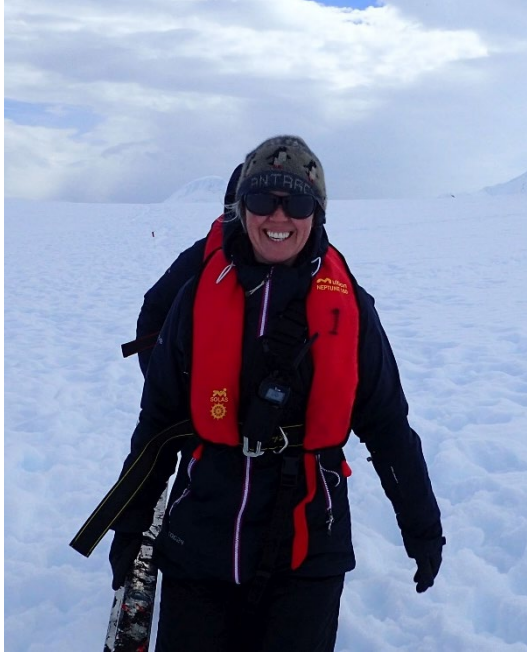


Christophe Bouchoux is French. His background is sixteen years of backpacking as a naturalist around the world on the five continents. He is a big lover of our planet, nature and wildlife. He worked (and still does sometimes) as a guide in India and Nepal and as a trilingual guide in Finnish Lapland between reindeer herders, frozen lakes and river, northern lights and snowmobiles. He still guides groups of naturalists in search of whales, moose and musk ox in Scandinavia and particularly in Norway.

He recently started to work in polar region and worked as a guide in the Arctic: Svalbard, Franz Joseph land, and East Greenland; and Antarctic zone: Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctic peninsula. His main subject is the history of polar conquest. When he is not in « cold »

regions, Christophe spends his time in his jungle lodge in south Nepal near Bardia National park, home of the Bengal tiger.

Adele Jackson – Expedition Guide



Adele is an environmental artist interested in the interrelationships between people, places, culture and nature. Much of Adele's recent artwork has focused on Antarctica, inspired by the continent's cultural, geopolitical, and natural environments.

Adele has worked in Antarctica since 2013. Her first role was as expedition photographer, she then worked for the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust for four years where she was base leader, and conservation team field assistant at the Port Lockroy historic site.

Originally from West Yorkshire in the UK, Adele is now living in New Zealand where she is studying for a PhD at Gateway Antarctica, at the University of Canterbury. Her research explores 'the value of visual artists working in Antarctica'.

Pierre Gallego - Expedition Guide



Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique. He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

Ruben Fijn - Expedition Guide

Ruben Fijn (1981) is a seabird ecologist from the Netherlands that studied Ecology in Amsterdam and Cape Town. After having worked two summers in Svalbard as a field assistant he focused his research on Antarctic seabird and for this spent a field season during the summer to study the foraging ecology of Snow Petrels at Signy (South Orkney Islands) for the British Antarctic Survey. After that he wintered in the sea-ice of the Lazarev Sea to study



ice-bound top-predators and their interaction with under-ice fauna. Additionally, he travelled by ship from Cape Town to Europe to study latitudinal patterns in seabird distribution and abundance along the route. He is also one of the co-authors and initiators of BirdLife International's book 'Important Bird Areas of Antarctica' as well as a volunteer doing breeding bird surveys for Falklands Conservation.

Currently he works as a seabird ecologist on various topics concerning North Sea seabirds, including ship-based and aerial surveys to quantify bird abundance and distribution as well as various projects that look into bird movements using specialised bird-radars, colour bands, geolocators and GPS-loggers. And although tubenose-expert by education, albatross-lover as a hobby, my current work focuses on tern species and ranges from studying migration routes of Arctic Terns to mapping fine scale foraging trips of Sandwich Terns to determine what drives habitat choice and variability in foraging decisions in this species.

Christian Savigny - Expedition Guide



Christian is an Ornithologist, naturalist and Illustrator. Birding since childhood, he has explored many places in South America, Western Europe and Southern / Western Africa; but oceans and remote islands have always been like a magnet. Sailing south on research vessels since 1998, he has found among other rarities several albatross and petrel species new for Argentina and/or the Southwest Atlantic. He is considered Argentina's "pelagic birds guru".

Involved in Antarctic expeditions since 2005, he has worked extensively in the Peninsula, Sub-Antarctic Islands, the Ross area, etc. completing semi-circumnavigations that included helicopter operations. His lecture topics include bird identification, ecology and conservation; history of exploration, marine mammals and basic geology. Christian is an experienced all-weather Zodiac driver, trained in multiple survival techniques including at-sea survival, and has taken part of SAR operations.

With a degree in Natural Sciences plus courses on Biological Sciences, Nature Interpretation, Ornithology and Fisheries Monitoring, Christian worked with NGOs like Wildlife Conservation Society and Birdlife in the Important Bird Areas, Red Data Book, Seabird Conservation programs and the ACAP. During the 90's volunteered for the WWF and Wetlands International.

He regularly publishes and acts as a reviewer / freelance editor, involved in conferences and congresses; Christian has trained fisheries observers for the Argentine government. His illustrations and photos appeared in many NGO publications, magazines and newspapers. He has co-authored / illustrated the "*Commented Checklist of the Birds of Neuquén, Patagonia, Argentina*", and co-authored the milestone "*Important Bird Areas of Argentina*". Christian collaborated with several authors in their respective bird guides, improving and updating texts, maps and images of all seabirds and most antarctic - subantarctic birds. He is currently finalizing (this time for real!), the preparation of "*Birds of the Southwest Atlantic & Antarctica*", the most up-to-date, detailed and thoroughly illustrated book for that region.



Embarkation

Monday 16th December 2019

Welcome on board!

Your luggage will have been delivered to your cabin. After we are all onboard, please check and notify Reception if you are missing anything or have luggage that does not belong to you.

While we are embarking please feel free to explore the ship. The Lounge/Bar is located on Deck 6.

~17.15 **Mandatory Safety Briefing in the Lecture Room (Deck 3). ALL PASSENGERS are required** to attend this important safety briefing. A roll call will be conducted.
We will conduct the mandatory Lifeboat Drill right afterwards. Please listen for the Alarm.

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

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

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

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

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

At sea on route to the Falkland Islands

Tuesday 17th December 2019

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30 Join **Clouds** for the IAATO and zodiac briefing (Lounge deck 6). This is **mandatory** and roll call will be taken.
- 11h00 Time to collect boots and life jackets from the lecture room, (deck 3). Please wait for announcements for your cabin to be called
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h30 Join **Pippa** for a lecture on **whales** (Lounge deck 6)
- 16h30 Join **Christian** for a lecture on **Seabirds**(Lounge deck 6)
- 18h30 Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day's activities and a briefing on tomorrows plans
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

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

Carcass and Saunders Islands

Wednesday 18th December 2019

- 07h00 Wake-up call
- 07h15 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 08h30 After breakfast we aim to take you ashore to **Carcass Island**. The island is rat-free and holds a large number of birds native to the Falkland Islands. We will land everyone onshore at Dyke Bay first and then walk to the Settlement (about 2.5 miles / 4km). For those who do not want to walk to the settlement, we will take you by zodiac to the landing ramp by the settlement.
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 14h30 During the afternoon we hope to bring you ashore to **Saunders Island** to enjoy Black-browed Albatrosses, Southern Rockhopper Penguins, Gentoo Penguins and King Penguins.
- 18h30 **Recap:** Clouds and the Expedition Team will meet you in the Lounge (Deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Stanley, Falkland Islands

Thursday 19th December 2019

- 07h15 Wake-up call
- 07h30 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 08h30 Landing in the town of **Stanley**. We will be landing on a jetty, so it will be a dry landing, however, Stanley Harbour is predicted to be windy and there may be sea spray on the Zodiac ride! So wear your waterproofs. The museum opens at 8am and most shops open at 9am.
- Shuttle** We will have a zodiac shuttle from the Jetty when you want to come back.
- 12h30 - 14h00 An extended **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 14h00 Last zodiac to return to the ship
- 16h00 Join **Ty** for a lecture on **photography** in the Lounge
- 1830 **Recap:** Join Clouds and the team for a recap of the day's activities and the plans for tomorrow (Deck 6).
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Enjoy your meal!

Notes about Stanley:

Most shops will accept British Pounds, Falkland Island Pounds and US dollars (Some also accept Euros). Most shops (But not all) accept credit cards.

There are no ATMs in town

You can buy an internet voucher (Be warned the internet is not fast) at the Jetty Visitor Centre, West store or anywhere advertising a wifi sign.

*This afternoon we once again will enter the Southern Ocean.
Please ensure your belongings are secure, keep one hand for the ship
and one hand for yourself.*

At sea on route to South Georgia

Friday 20th December 2019

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30** **Mandatory Biosecurity vacuuming and boot cleaning**
 Deck 3 will be called
 Followed by Deck 4 (Please wait for announcements)
 Followed by Deck 5 (Please wait for announcements)
- BIOSECURITY:** Join Clouds and the team for a **Vacuum party** in the Lecture Room!!!!!!! Please bring all your outer gear that you intend on wearing in South Georgia. This includes:
Jackets, waterproof trousers, boots, back packs and camera bags, tripods, monopods, and walking sticks
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h30 Join **Christian** for a lecture on **Geology of South Georgia** (Lounge deck 6)
- 16h30 **Mandatory Briefing for South Georgia** (Lounge deck 6)
- 18h30 Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day's activities and a briefing on tomorrows plans
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

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

At sea on route to South Georgia

Saturday 21st December 2019

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30** Join **Pippa** in the lounge for a talk on **Whaling**
- 11h00** **The Mandatory South Georgia briefing** will be re-broadcast in the lounge and those who have not done biosecurity will need to do biosecurity at this time. **You cannot land if you have not attended the briefing, had your clothing inspected and signed the biosecurity declaration**
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h30 Join **Christophe** for a lecture on **Shackleton's Endurance expedition** (Lounge deck 6)
- 16h30 Join **Christian** for a presentation on **Penguins** (Lounge deck 6)
- 18h30 Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day's activities and a briefing on tomorrow's plans
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

On the evening of Friday 20th December,
we will move the clocks FORWARD by
one hour from 00h00 to 01h00 this
means that you will get one hour less
sleep!

Salisbury Plain and Fortuna Bay

Sunday 22nd December 2019

Salisbury Plain

06h45 **Wake-up** call

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

08h30 **Disembarkation** for landing at Salisbury Plain. Please be patient and be attentive to announcements

Zodiac explorers - please wait for the announcement at the end of disembarkation for your zodiac cruise.

12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

13h45 Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day's activities and a briefing on tomorrow's plans (Deck 6)

Fortuna Bay

Approx 15h30 Landing at Fortuna Bay

Depending on the time to reposition, we are hoping to start disembarkation at 15h30. This is subject to change and we will make announcements as soon as we know the conditions and timing

Zodiac explorers - please wait for the announcement at the end of disembarkation for your zodiac cruise.

19h30 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

Important notes

It is critically important that you do not stand up in the zodiac, you must slide and only get out when instructed.

If a fur seal charges at you, **DO NOT RUN!** Make yourself big, clap your hands or knock to stones together and they should back off.

The South Georgia Government requires that we "Black out the ship at night to prevent bird strikes. Please ensure that your curtains/blinds are closed in the evening.

The outside decks will be closed between 10pm and 3am, as all outside lights will be turned off.

Stromness and Grytviken

Monday 23rd December 2019

Stromness

This morning we hope to land at Stromness, the site of an old whaling station. We cannot go closer than 200m to the station, the boundary is well signposted. We will offer a walk to Shackleton's Waterfall, which is approximately 4km (3.5miles) return

06h45	Wake-up call
07h00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
08h15	Landing at Stromness
~08h40	Zodiac explorers
11h30	Last zodiac
12h30	Lunch

Grytviken

This afternoon we plan to land at another historic whaling site. Here we will offer a walk to the cemetery where Shackleton and Wild are buried. From there we will offer a long hike to Gull lake (This is a steep fast and furious walk and should only be attempted by serious walkers), everyone else will walk around to the whaling station, where you can explore the station, the church, the post office and museum. There will also be a guided walk around the whaling station

14h00	Pick up South Georgia officials
14h10	Short talk by South Georgia heritage trust in Lounge (Deck 6)
	The officials will inspect all guests and crew leaving the ship for any seeds, vegetation, soil etc. As soon as we are cleared we will land at the cemetery. Disembarkation after talk - Long hikers go first , followed by everyone else
16h00	Whaling station walk
18h00	Last zodiac
18h15	Talk by KEP scientists on their research (To be confirmed)
19h00	Dinner

Important notes

Please remember to clean and check your boots and clothing after each landing
Please ensure that your curtains/blinds are closed in the evening to prevent bird strikes. The outside decks will be closed between 10pm and 3am, as all outside lights will be turned off.

Expedition Morning / St Andrew's Bay (PM)

Tuesday 24th December 2019

Expedition Morning

We will be moving further South in South Georgia and evaluating conditions at a number of potential landing sites or areas good for zodiac cruising. The weather forecast for this area looks challenging, however, we will only know once we reach the site and can evaluate the conditions. Please listen for announcements.

- 06h45 **Wake-up call**
07h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- ~08h45 **Landing** or Zodiac cruise – Please listen for announcements
11h30 Last zodiac
12h30 **Lunch**

St Andrew's Bay

This afternoon we hope to land at St Andrew's Bay, South Georgia's largest King Penguin colony. It is also a major Elephant seal breeding area and lots of Fur Seals. A landing here is very wind and weather dependent, but we are hoping for good conditions.

- 14h30 **Landing** at St Andrew's Bay
14h50 **Zodiac explorers** (30 places, sign up at reception)
- 18h30 Join Clouds and the team for a **Recap and Briefing** in the Lounge
19h00 **Dinner**

Important notes

Please remember to clean and check your boots and clothing after each landing
Please ensure that your curtains/blinds are closed in the evening to prevent bird strikes. The outside decks will be closed between 10pm and 3am, as all outside lights will be turned off.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

Wednesday 25th December 2019

Landing: Gold Harbour

We hope to offer an early landing at Gold Harbour, where there are tens of thousands of King penguins, Elephant seals and Fur Seals, as well as stunning scenery

- 04h00 **Wake up call**
- 04h15 Pastries in the Lounge
- 04h45 **Disembarkation** for landing at Gold Harbour

Zodiac Cruise: Cooper Bay

We would like to offer a zodiac cruise around Cooper Bay, where we hope to see Macaroni Penguins and possibly some chinstrap penguins.

- 07h30 **Breakfast**
- 10h00 Disembarkation for **Zodiac Cruise - Cabins 334-431 and Chinese guests**
- 11h15 Disembarkation for **Zodiac Cruise - Cabins 432-529**

- 12h30- 14h00 **Lunch**

- 13h00 Set sail for the **South Orkney Islands.**
This is a great area for wildlife, so be ready!

- 16h00 South Georgia **Quiz**
- 18h30 Join Clouds and the team for **Recap and Briefing**
- 19h00 **Dinner**

Important notes

Please remember to clean and check your boots and clothing after each landing. Please ensure that your curtains/blinds are closed in the evening to prevent bird strikes. The outside decks will be closed between 10pm and 3am, as all outside lights will be turned off.

At sea, on route to the South Orkney Islands

Thursday 25th December 2019

We will be going back to Ushuaia time tonight (GMT-3), so you get an extra 1 hour sleep.

At midnight, the clocks will go back to 11pm

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30 **Lecture:** Join **Pippa** for a presentation on seals
- 11h00 **Lecture:** Join **Pierre** for a lecture on Humpback whales
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h00 **Mandatory Biosecurity vacuuming and boot cleaning**
Deck 3 will be called
Followed by Deck 4 (Please wait for announcements)
Followed by Deck 5 (Please wait for announcements)
- BIOSECURITY:** Join Clouds and the team for a **Vacuum party** in the Lecture Room!!!!!!! Please bring all your outer gear that you intend on wearing in Antarctica. This includes:
Jackets, waterproof trousers, boots, back packs and camera bags, tripods, monopods, and walking sticks*
- 16h30 **Lecture:** Join **Clouds** for “Ice, wind and waves: An introduction to Antarctica and its climate”(Lounge deck 6)
- 18h30 **Recap and briefing:** Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day’s activities and a briefing on tomorrows plans
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

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South Orkney Islands, Orcadas Station

Friday 27th December 2019

06h45 **Wake-up** call
07h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.

This morning we hope to land at Orcadas Station, the oldest station in the Antarctic. The base has a fascinating history and we will have the opportunity to explore the museum, base grounds and the new station. For those that don't zodiac initially, there will be an opportunity to do a zodiac cruise later on the way back to the ship.

08h30 **Landing at Orcadas station**
Last 30 passengers will do a zodiac cruise before landing (fill up the sheet at reception)

12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

14h30 **Lecture:** Join Ruben for "Life on a base" (Lounge Deck 6)

16h30 **Lecture:** Join **Adele** for "Antarctic Art" (Lounge deck 6)

18h30 **Recap and briefing:** Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day's activities and a briefing on tomorrow's plans

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

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At sea, on route to the Antarctic Peninsula

Saturday 27th December 2019

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30 **Lecture: Join Adele** for a lecture on the **Discovery of the Peninsula**
- 11h00 **Lecture: Join Ty** for a talk on **Antarctic Ecology**
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 15h30 **Lecture: Join Clouds** for a presentation titled **“Ice on the rocks: Glaciers and Glacial landscapes**
- 18h30 **Recap and briefing: Join Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day’s activities and a briefing on tomorrow’s plans
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

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Kinnes Cove and Brown Bluff

Sunday 29th December 2019

Kinnes Cove

This morning we hope to land and zodiac cruise in Kinnes Cove, which is a large Adelie Penguin breeding colony. We regularly see 3 species of penguins in this area.

06h45 Wake up call

07h00 Breakfast

08h30 Blue Group Disembark to shore

08h45 Pink Group Disembark to shore

09h00 Yellow Group disembark to zodiac cruise (45 min) then to shore

09h45 Blue to zodiac cruise (45 min) then ship

10h30 Pink Group to zodiac cruise (45min) then ship

11h30 last zodiac from shore (Yellow group)

12h30 Lunch

Brown Bluff

This Afternoon we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Brown Bluff. This is an Antarctic Continental landing and has a Gentoo Penguin and a large Adelie Penguin breeding colony. We sometimes see leopard seals in this area.

Please stay above the high tide line to allow penguins free access to the beach.

14h30 Yellow group disembark to land

14h45 Blue Group disembark to Land

15h00 Pink group to zodiac cruise (45 min) then land

15h45 Yellow group to zodiac cruise (45min) then ship

16h30 Blue group zodiac cruise (45 min) then ship

17h30 Last zodiac from shore (Pink Group)

18h30 Join Clouds and the team for our daily **Recap and Briefing**

19h00 Dinner



Penguin Island

Sunday 29th December 2019

Penguin Island

12h00-13h00 Lunch

13h30 – Long hikers disembark.

14h00 – Regular landing/zodiac split

14h00 Yellow group disembark to land

14h15 Blue Group disembark to Land

14h30 Pink group to zodiac cruise (45 min) then land

15h15 Yellow group to zodiac cruise (45min) then ship

16h00 Blue group zodiac cruise (45 min) then ship

17h00 Last zodiac

18h30 Recap and Briefing

19h00 Dinner

18h30 Join Clouds and the team for our daily **Recap and Briefing**

19h00 Dinner



Monday 30th December 2019

Half Moon Island and Deception Island

Half Moon

06h15 **Wake up call**

06h30 **Breakfast**

07h30 **Group 1 Cabins 432-529** Landing at Half Moon (Group 2 stay on ship, until swap over)

08h45 **Group 2 Cabins 334-431** and Chinese speaking guests (Go ashore and group 1 go back to ship)

10h30 Last zodiac leaves the shore and we head to Deception Island

12h00 Lunch

Deception Island

This afternoon, we plan to enter **Deception Island** in the South Shetland Islands. The island is a shield volcano, where the side has been eroded, flooding the caldera allowing ships to sail through the gap, called Neptune's Bellows. The volcano last erupted between 1967 and 1970, and is still volcanically active. Inside, the waters are geo-thermally heated, and there are the remains of the Hektor Whaling Station which was operational between 1906 and 1931, and a British Antarctic Survey Base, Base B, which opened in 1944 and closed in 1969, after the buildings were destroyed by a lahar (mud slide).

15h00 We plan to sail through **Neptune's Bellows**, into Deception Island. The best place to watch this spectacular navigation is out on the top or bow decks.

15h30 **Landing at Deception Island** -We will land on a broad gravel beach with walking opportunities ranging from a short, flat stroll around the historical remains (Please keep your distance!) and to a beach walk to Neptune's window.

17h00 **Polar Plungers** come to the landing site. Wear your swim suit under your clothes. Towels will be provided. Plungers will be taken straight back to the ship.

17h30 Last zodiac leaves the shore

18h30 **Recap and Briefing** - Join Clouds and the team for a recap of the day

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room



Tuesday 31st December 2019

Cierva Cove

06h45 Wake up call

07h00-08h00 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room

Cierva Cove Zodiac cruise

08h30 Group 1 **Cabins 334-431 and Chinese speaking guests**

10h00 Group 2 **Cabins 432-529**

11h30 Last zodiac

12h00 Set sail for Ushuaia (8 hours to Boyd Strait)

12h30- 13h30 **lunch** will be served in the dining room

14h30 **Boots and zodiac life jacket collection:**

We will call by decks, please pay attention to announcements

16h30 **lecture** – Join Ty for a presentation on **Penguins** in the lounge

18h30 Join Clouds and the team in the lounge for a **Recap and briefing**

19h00 Dinner will be served in the dining room

21h00 (00h00 GMT) **New Year's toast** and party in the lounge

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

At sea on route to Ushuaia

Wednesday 1st January 2020

Happy New Year!!!!

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 0800 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room**.
- 09h30 Join **Ty** for his presentation on **Penguins** (Lounge deck 6)
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h30 **Documentary** “Extreme Ice” (Lounge deck 6)
- 16h30 Join **Pippa** for a lecture on **Ocean Acoustics** (Lounge deck 6)
- 18h30 Join **Clouds** and the team for a recap of the day’s activities and a briefing on tomorrows plans (Lounge deck 6)
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room

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At sea on route to Ushuaia

Thursday 2nd January 2020

07h45 **Wake up call**

08h00 **Breakfast**

09h30 Lecture – Christian on **Seabird Conservation**

11h00 Lecture – Adele on **Living at Port Lockroy**

12h30 **Lunch**

13h45 **Group photo** on the heli deck (Deck 6)

14h00 **Boots and zodiac life jacket (And rental gear) collection:** (In Lecture room deck 3)

We will call by decks, please listen to announcements

16h30 **Lecture** – Clouds on **Climate change**

18h15 Final **Recap** and Briefing

Captain's farewell and slide show

19h00 Farewell dinner

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



Disembarkation, Ushuaia

Friday 3rd January 2020

Please ensure your large (check in) luggage is outside your cabin **before** going to breakfast at 07h30.

We will move your luggage during breakfast to the pier, and after the bus has arrived, we will call you to come down the gangway.

You must ensure your **own luggage is moved** to either, the airport bus or the luggage storage truck, if you wish to use either of these services.

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

08h30 We expect the busses to arrive at 08h30 and to begin **Disembarkation. Please listen and wait for announcements.**

It will be a great help to all the crew if you do not wait in the Lobby, which will be a very busy place. The Bar will offer good views of Ushuaia, and long-awaited cell/mobile phone coverage

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

We hope to see you again, North or South!

"Fair winds and following seas"