



To the Ross Sea Itinerary

**Ushuaia - Antarctic Peninsula - Peter I Island
Bellingshausen Sea - Amundsen Sea
Ross Sea - New Zealand**

13th January – 15th February 2020

**On board the
M/V Ortelius**

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 reflagged 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 13 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.

Bridge Crew:

Captain: Ernesto Barría (Chile)
Chief Mate: Diederik Scholten (Netherlands)
Helicopter Mate: Andy Mangilit (Philippines)
Second Mate: Igor Nazarov (Russia)
Third Mate: Luis Oroceo (Philippines)

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Delphine Aurès (France)
Assistant Expedition Leader: Christian Engelke (Germany/Norway)
Guide & Lecturer: Simon Cook (Great Britain)
Guide & Lecturer: Steven Emslie (United States)
Guide & Lecturer: Gary Miller (Australia)
Guide & Lecturer: Victoria Salem (Great Britain)
Guide & Lecturer: Heïdi Sevestre (France)
Guide & Lecturer: Mark Vogler (United States)
Permit Holder: Darrel Day (Australia)

Hotel Staff:

Hotel Manager: Siegfried Penzenleitner (Austria)
Assistant Hotel Manager: William Barnes (Netherlands)
Head Chef: Heinz Hacker (Austria)
Sous Chef: Ivan Ivanovic (Serbia)
Cook: Pio Arevalo (Philippines)
Cook: John Baldres (Philippines)
Cook: Christian Cadungog (Philippines)
Stewards: John, Manilyn, Marvin, Rey, Anecita, Lemuel, Marie Antonette,
Ian, Glaiza, Jake, Angelica and Judy

Deck Crew:

Bosun: Neil Apawan (Philippines)
Zosimo, Jabbar, Joe, Philip, Edfel
Helicopter Crew:
Chief Helicopter Pilot: Felipe Henriquez (Chile)
Helicopter Pilot: Marco Montini (Argentina)
Helicopter Pilot: Aldo Puebla (Chile)
Helicopter Engineers: Pedro Santos, Manuel Baeza, Fernando Silva (Chile)

Engine Room Crew:

Chief Engineer: Aleksandr Bondarev (Lithuania)
2nd engineer: Oleksandr Ptashkin (Ukraine)
3rd engineer: Jhunwel Yuzon (Philippines)
3rd engineer: Pavel Kornej (Lithuania)
Electrician: Sergejs Kuzmins (Latvia)
Jess, Evan, Rogie, Janusz and Volodymyr

Trainees:

Jobje Johanna Sala (Netherlands) and Eline Schuurman (Netherlands)

Day 1 - Monday, January 13 - Ushuaia, Argentina.

GPS noon position: 54°48'S / 068°17'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +12°C, Gentle Breeze

Weather conditions: Variable

Barometric pressure: 996

Sea temperature & condition: +12°C, Beaufort 2, Calm

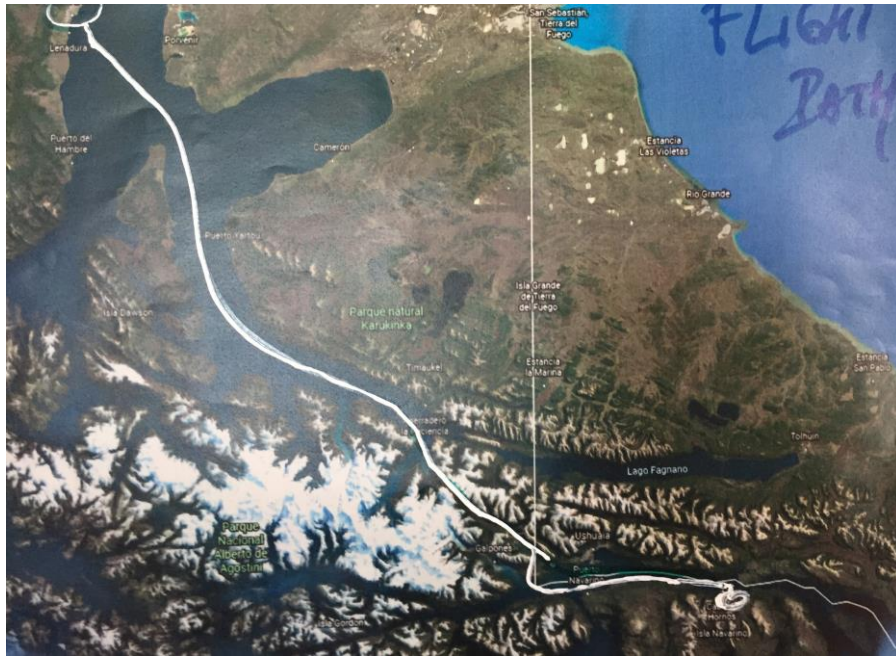
At 14:00 the time that we had all been looking forward to had arrived as we walked through security at the pier of Ushuaia and made our way to our home for the next 32 days - MV Ortelius - in anticipation for our or our Ross Sea Odyssey, a 32 day sail from Ushuaia, Argentina to Bluff, New Zealand, along the west coast of Antarctica, via the Amundsen Sea, where few people on earth have ever been!



We were greeted warmly by some of the expedition staff, who welcomed us aboard as we made our way up the gangway to the reception where Hotel Manager, Sigi and assistant William, checked us in and we were then escorted to our cabins by members of the hotel staff.

When everybody was on board, we were welcomed to the lecture room for the mandatory safety briefing by Andy, the third officer, followed by the blasts of the ship's horn, indicating the beginning of the lifeboat drill. We went to our cabins to retrieve those big, bulky orange life jackets, and reported to our muster station in the bar.

Just before 5pm we untied from the Ushuaia Pier and set sail into the historic waters of the Beagle Channel, under beautiful clear skies. Shortly before dinner we were called to the bar for a virtual ship introduction by Sigi, followed by expedition staff introductions, as we sailed towards our first stop, Puerto Williams, to pick up the helicopters we would need once we reach the Ross Sea.



By the time we reached Puerto Williams the weather had closed in preventing the



helicopters from flying over the Andes and over the Paseo Muerto - Pass of Death - to our rendezvous, so we dropped anchor and like many explorers before us, spent the night in the Beagle Channel.

Day 2 - Tuesday, January 14 - Puerto Williams, Chile

GPS noon position: 54° 55'S / 68° 35'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +12°C, Light airs

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 982

Sea temperature & condition: +12°C, Beaufort 1, Calm

We were roused in our cabins at 7:45 am by the voice of Hotel Manager Sigi over the PA system for our first daily wake-up call of the voyage, and found that the weather hadn't lifted overnight, causing further delays of the helicopters to fly from Punta Arenas. The good news was that the forecast called for improvement with the helicopters expected by afternoon.

Following breakfast, we were called to the lecture room on the third deck, at the bow of the ship, to be fitted and assigned our muck boot and zodiac life preservers - the landing gear we would need for the entire voyage.



At 11am, expedition and wildlife guide, Simon, kicked off the lecture series that would continue throughout the expedition with his informative presentation, *Birds of The Drake Passage*.



At the tail end of a delicious buffet lunch, we received word that the weather had lifted enough for the helicopters to fly through the Paseo Muerto!

In our excitement, many of us rushed out to the deck, cameras in hand, to witness the first helicopter at 1:30pm!





At 2pm we began the bio-security “Vacuuming Party”, to clean our gear of any dirt, seeds and other organic matter that could bring foreign and/or invasive species onto the Antarctic continent. By the time we finished all helicopters had landed on Ortelius and were safely stored away in the aft hanger, allowing us to continue our journey down the Beagle Channel.

The expedition to the Ross Sea had begun in earnest and at 6pm Captain Ernesto, came to the bar for a welcoming toast to the passengers and to wish us a successful voyage. Our daily recap session began with Victoria’s presentation on the Native peoples of Tierra Del Fuego and Steve informing us of the importance of bio-security.



Dinner followed at 7pm and by 8 pm we had sailed past Cape Horn. As we entered the infamous Drake Passage, the sky turned pink and we sailed on to Antarctica.



Day 3 - Wednesday, January 15 - Drake Passage

GPS noon position: $57^{\circ}56'S / 065^{\circ}08'W$

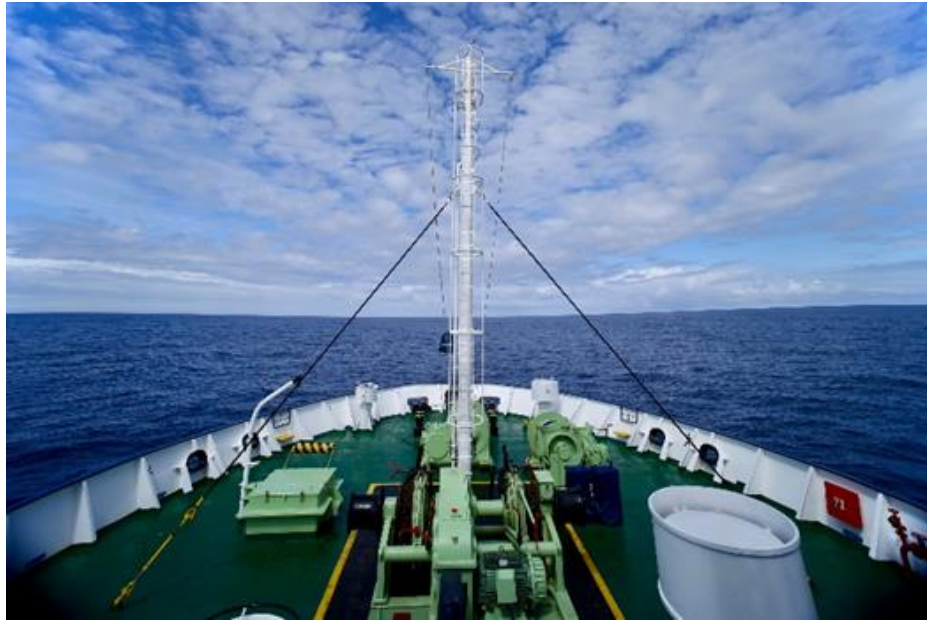
Air temperature & wind speed: $+9^{\circ}C$, SW5, Gentle Breeze

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 982

Sea temperature & condition: $+12^{\circ}C$, Beaufort 1, Slight

During the night we had entered the open stretch of the Drake passage and could feel the first rolling and pitching of our ship. Still, conditions were pretty favourable and we could slowly get used to the rather steady ships' motion; the motion which would be following us for the next month at sea. Just after breakfast many of us met the expedition team around the bridge for professional wildlife spotting and fresh air. Many new bird species were introduced to us by Simon and Co.



Meanwhile, Gary was ready for lecturing about the bigger marine mammals of the Southern Ocean: “The Whales of Antarctica”. With a focus on the Baleen whales he opened up this world of the Giants to us.

After lunch many of us continued watching for petrels, prions, albatrosses and the occasional unidentified whale, before Victoria gave us her first of many history lectures. This time, she was telling the tales of the less known Antarctic explorers around the Antarctic peninsula. The French gentleman of the Pole Charcot, the Belgium dreamer De Gerlache and the unbelievable rescue story of Swedish Nordenskiöld were introduced to us.

We learned that the best way for an explorer to become famous was if his expeditions ended in a disaster. Successful expeditions of the heroic age of Antarctic exploration are less known to us.

For Recap Delphine updated us on our progress and we enjoyed a fairly calm dinner at sea!

Day 4 - Thursday January 16 - Drake Passage en route to Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 62°27'S / 064°47'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, SW7, Moderate Breeze

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 986

Sea temperature & condition: +2°C, Beaufort 1, Slight

Today was our second day in the Drake Passage and although the wind had increased somewhat since yesterday and Ortelius was rolling a little more, it was not too bad. Most people enjoyed their breakfast and then ventured out on deck to look for wildlife with the Expedition Staff. There were some very exposed, windy positions and most of us sought shelter on the bridge wing. But the Cape Petrels (pintados, or ‘painted ones’) were enjoying the windy side of the ship of course! Regular withdrawals into the Bar for hot drinks helped keep the blood flowing and it was a great way to spend the first part of the day.



At 10.30 am we all headed down to the Lecture Room to listen to Delphine’s mandatory briefings. Everyone who intends to make a landing in Antarctica needed to be made aware of the laws and guidelines influencing our behaviour here - the ‘What to Dos’ and the ‘What not to Dos’. Much of what Delphine told us was common sense, but it was good to get clear guidance on how far to stand from the wildlife (generally a minimum of five metres) and reminders that we should leave behind nothing but footprints. She managed to get an astonishing amount of information across in under an hour. For those who had never been in zodiacs before her briefing was vital for our wellbeing over the next four weeks and included how to dress for cold conditions, how to enter, ride in and leave a zodiac safely and how to maximise our enjoyment of this fantastic continent without any risk to life or limb - or to wildlife and the pristine environment.



We still had some time to relax and watch the waves before lunch, which Sigi announced at 12.30 pm. It was a staff favourite - spaghetti Bolognese! In order to avoid succumbing to an afternoon nap, many of us headed out on deck again after lunch; the sea breeze cleared our heads in a few seconds and the Cape petrels were still there...

Shortly after 3.30 pm Christian was ready for us in the Lecture Room to talk about photography. This talk was for everyone

at a basic level, not the advanced stuff. It was a good time to think about how to get the most out of our cameras **BEFORE** being bombarded with thousands of potential images of Antarctica. Once out among the penguins and in the ice there are many distractions to take our minds away from the technical side of our photos.

A few of us were lucky enough to be out on deck when some Humpback whales were blowing and splashing on the horizon. Even better, two came very close to Ortelius, then promptly dived under us, flukes waving as they disappeared into the depths...



Delphine gathered us in the Bar (where Jake was ready for our orders) before dinner as usual, for Recap & Briefing. There was a high level of interest in what will happen tomorrow, as well as a number of Expedition Staff who wanted to share their impressions of today with us.

Tomorrow will be a very early start, with a wake-up call from our Expedition Leader at 5.30 am! And we will be making a landing on the Antarctic Peninsula later in the morning, so there's a lot to look forward to.



Day 5 - Friday, January 17 - Lemaire Channel, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 65°13'S / 064°14'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +5°C, SE2, Light Breeze

Weather conditions: Partly Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 977

Sea temperature & condition: +2°C, Beaufort 1, Smooth

“Good morning good people of Ortelius!!” NOOO...it’s too early. It was decidedly difficult to get out of bed this morning when we got the call from Delphine at 05:15.



But oh it was certainly worth it. After dressing warmly we all bravely headed out into the brisk morning air—and what a morning it was. Down the Lemaire channel with bits of ice here and there in the channel and mostly clear skies.

There were a few puffs of clouds hiding a couple of the nearby peaks but they just enhanced the mystery of the channel. With Booth Island to Starboard rising 920 meters straight out of the sea and mainland Antarctic rising to over 1000 meters on the port we were all entranced with the scenic splendour of the Lemaire Channel.

Captain Earnesto and his crew expertly guided Ortelius down the narrow channel dodging most of the ice, but strategically ploughing through sections of it. We spotted a few penguin colonies at unlikely distances up steep snow slopes, a few seals resting on ice floes and even a few humpback whales travelling in the other direction as we spent a sublime hour in the Lemaire.



When we emerged at the southern end of Booth Island, our world opened up to equally enchanting views along the Penola Strait. We left the farthest south chinstrap penguin colony behind on Booth Island as we continued for another hour on

to the Argentine Islands—the farthest south breeding place of Gentoo penguins. Along the way we passed Petermann Island where Jean Charcot wintered on the *Porquois Pas* in Circumcision Bay back in the early 20th century. We all ducked inside for a well-deserved hot breakfast, so most of us missed the navigation behind the Argentine Islands, but it wasn't long before we were finally christening our cold weather waterproof gear for our first outing in Antarctica.

The first half of us headed out in zodiacs for a fantastic cruise around the many icebergs, big and small, near the ship. We encountered crabeater seals and dozens of humpback whales—some so close we heard their blows and smelled their breath. What magnificent creatures cruising stately along in the freezing cold water. For some of us, the icebergs themselves brought us as much joy and awestruck enthusiasm. The variety of shapes and sizes, colours and textures was remarkable as we cruised along on a beautiful calm and sunny sea.



The other half went directly to Vernadsky Station where we were warmly greeted by the Ukrainian scientists and staff. They generously showed us around the station that started its life in 1956 as the British, Faraday Station. In 1995 in the wake of the Madrid Environmental protocols of the Antarctic Treaty, Britain had to either continue to maintain the station and run it under new strict environmental guidelines

at great expense, or remove it and everything around the site. Meanwhile, when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, Russia took all the Antarctic stations and left a keen scientific community in the Ukraine with no place to study. It was a match made in heaven. Britain sold the station to Ukraine for the symbolic sum of one UK Pound and the Ukrainians have done an exemplary job continuing with Ozone Hole research (which was discovered with data from the former Faraday Station), as well a range of new projects dear to the Ukrainian scientists. The station is a cosy home for the small band of scientists. With ample laboratory space and a very congenial lounge/bar area or living space, we relaxed with the Ukrainians, samples a bit of homemade vodka, posted cards, and shopped for a few handmade souvenirs. What a lovely morning.

Finally—and a bit too soon for some—we did a big switch. Those of us who went first on a cruise, came to the station for more hospitality while those who visited the station first jumped into the zodiacs for their turn to cruise around the islands. The new group to the station were met with the same friendly enthusiasm as the first and received their tours and vodka in due time. The second cruisers in the zodiacs covered similar ground, but as is often the case with cruising, there were different experiences to be had.

We cruised past Wordie House, the previous research station. In fact the original presence there was even further back with John Rymill's British Grahamland Expedition. They had a hut here, but it was destroyed (after being abandoned) by a massive wave from a glacier calving nearby. Wordie house was the epitome of a British Antarctic hut, a cosy warm wooden structure perfectly suited to spending a cold, dark winter in Antarctica. The back channels to Wordie House were peppered with crabeater seals napping on ice floes in the delicious sunshine.

We had equally varied icebergs on the second cruise and some even had the thrill of humpback whales sliding below their zodiacs! It was hard to tear ourselves away from such a morning, but there is a long road ahead to the Ross Sea and lunch was waiting back on our warm ship. After our lunch, we were quickly into the open sea with perfect conditions but almost no ice. Our wildlife day was not nearly over, however, as we spotted probably more than 100 more humpback whales—and a minke or two in the next couple hours of sailing. As the afternoon evolved, many disappeared for a nap to make up for the early start of the day, and the day ended with a recap, dinner and a movie.



Darrel showed us a travel documentary he helped produce. And last but not least, we set our clocks back an hour before going to bed—a sure sign that we were finally heading west toward the Ross Sea.

Day 6 - Saturday, January 18 - Bellingshausen Sea.

GPS noon position: 66°19'S / 74°57'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +9°C, NE6

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 970

Sea temperature & condition: -, Slight

This morning we entered the Bellingshausen Sea with an extra hour of sleep. After the intense day we had yesterday this was very much appreciated! The seas were calm peppered with large icebergs, the cloud ceiling low with no rain, another welcoming day in Antarctica.



At 10AM it was high time to learn about the weird and wonderful glaciers of Antarctica with Heidi in the lecture room. She started by giving us the secret recipe to make a glacier, and insisted on the many many reasons why glaciers and ice sheets matter. Whether it is for the freshwater they are made of, the climate archives they protect or their direct influence on sea level, our future is directly related to these glaciers and vice versa.



Shortly after 3PM, we crossed the Antarctic Polar Circle at $66^{\circ}33'S$, which was a first for most of us! The ship's horn rang a few times to celebrate this achievement.

It was Simon's turn to share his passion for penguins with us. He described the different species we have already seen such as the Gentoos and Chinstraps and made us look forward to the many more we might meet along the way to New Zealand, in particular the majestic Emperor penguins, the only species to breed in the brutal cold of the Antarctic Winter, and the largest one of all, easily identifiable with their golden feathers around the sides of their heads.



The evening's recap started with the celebration of the crossing of the Antarctic Polar Circle, topped with glasses of champagne! Mark reminded us of the significance of this milestone while many of us took pictures of the sign he made "66°33'S". Victoria's recap focused on the mysterious and

extremely remote island of Peter the 1st that we are aiming to visit tomorrow. Finally, Christian was eager to tell us all about "Happy Whales", a citizen science project that aims to create the largest inventory of whale sightings in the world, and taught us how we can contribute to it every time we see a whale's fluke!



After dinner, it was time to hear some stories from Gary, during his time studying penguins and in particular penguins' livers in Antarctica. We could hardly believe the tricks the scientists were using to capture the animals, using big nets and catching them in mid-air while leopard seals were killing their prey and throwing them in the air. To the surprise of the seal, the freshly killed penguin would disappear, caught by the scientists just long enough to collect the liver, and would magically reappear just in front of the seal.

Day 7 - Sunday, January 19 - Peter I Island

GPS noon position: 68°02'S / 86°53'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +3°C, SW3, Light Breeze

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 984

Sea temperature & condition: -, Slight

Today's Sunday was definitely a special one! We were steadily approaching Peter the First island and were thus preparing for a possible scenic flight during the entire day. We still did not really know what conditions to expect, but Delphine and the Helicopter pilots ordered us all into the lecture room to give us the mandatory Helicopter briefing in the morning. This was followed by a so-called "Dry-run" during which we were all called out in groups, mustered for flight numbers and then practiced the procedures in and around the helicopters on the aft deck.



We could already see the infamous Island 80 nautical miles away and as we approached we could slowly see its magnificent shapes building in front of us. Meanwhile, Victoria continued her lecture series with the arguably most famous expedition of the Antarctic heroic age, “Shackleton’s Endurance Expedition”.



While, we were having dinner Delphine, Darrel, the pilots and our Captain were assessing the conditions with shifting winds and cloud cover, but around 20.30 we finally heard the news we were all hoping for: A reconnaissance flight was about to start!

All went well and this meant we could finally go ahead and offer scenic flights to all passengers, starting with Group 4 around 21.00. A couple of hours later, around 01.00 the last passengers arrived happily back from their scenic flights around the steep, glaciated, inhospitable coast of Peter I Island. They flew above icebergs and glaciers, and some even saw whales from the air. What an adventure under the Midnight sun. A day we will never forget!



Day 8 - Monday, January 20 - Bellingshausen Sea.

GPS noon position: 68°25'S / 95°10'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, SE 3

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 986

Sea condition: Smooth

Good morning again came the call. Delphine is relentless in waking us up every morning. Today is the first day in a while where we didn't get an extra hour from setting our clocks back as we zoom through time zones like nobody's business. Now for a couple days we've been heading west by southwest on a direct course for the Bay of Whales in the Ross Sea. There are many days to go so today we kept vigil for the numerous icebergs surrounding us and the steady stream of birds and whales.

After breakfast, Steve entertained and informed us with the remarkable story of the history of Adélie penguin colonies in the Ross Sea. He first summarized the nesting sequence to orient us on how and why there are so many well-preserved penguin remains. Then he told us the fascinating story of how he can excavate material from current and ancient penguin colonies to determine their histories. So much of the material is mummified eggshells, skin and bones from the many chicks that die at a colony every year. With radiocarbon dating he can determine the age of the colony and with stable isotope analysis he can even tell what their diet was during that time. He gave us the entire history of Adélie penguins.



over Peter I island.

Up on the bridge and out on the bow, the dedicated few spent the morning occasionally spotting whales, photographing the icebergs passing by in a steady stream all day long. We also had great entertainment with squadrons of Cape Petrels circling the ship. Some no doubt relaxed in their cabin going over their photos from last night's helicopter flight

After lunch we had another fine lecture on the agenda. This time the topic was a bit lighter at heart and not quite so filled with scientific information. Mark spent the hour regaling with stories of his summer at McMurdo Station. From lining up to get on his C130 flight to the continent, to scrubbing floors as a janitor. He told a fascinating tale of people with different jobs, how life is filled with weird people



doing weird things. He told us of the hidden art secreted away in out of the way spots around McMurdo. Mark clearly took full advantage of his months at McMurdo with recreational trips and raging with the best of them at Prom celebrations. It was a crazy tale of crazy people—just the right tone to prepare us for our visit to Ross Island. We won't be visiting McMurdo on our trip because they'll be in the midst of their resupply efforts and cannot take the time to host 100 of us. Hoping to go to Scott Base, Mark also showed us photos of the friendly bar there and claimed it to be his favourite place.

The sea was lovely and calm all day so we maintained a great pace with the ship. At recap, Gary told us about the Gentoo penguin—the main species we saw on our visit to Vernadsky Station. The third largest of all the penguins, they are really a species of the sub-Antarctic that manages to extend its range all the way to 65 degrees 5 minutes south latitude. In fact, the colony that now occupies the same small island as the station is the most southerly Gentoo colony in the world, but they only arrived here about 10 years ago—another result of the warming climate of the Antarctic Peninsula. Victoria followed this with a short summary of Captain James Cook and his circumnavigation of Antarctica. Highly skilled in many facets of sailing and discovery, Cook was unlucky with his trips around the Great southern continent. In his expedition, he drove his ship to the south land, but unlucky for him, when he sailed so far south as to cross the Antarctic Circle, he still never laid eyes on the continent.

After dinner we finished the day with part one (of 4) of the story of Borchgrevink's expedition—the first to winter over on the Antarctic continent. They spent the winter of 1899 at Cape Adare. After that, there was nothing left but to head for bed and dream of blizzards and ice and a long, dark night.

Day 9 - Tuesday, January 21 - Amundsen Sea

GPS noon position: 68°50'S / 107°57'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, S2

Weather conditions: Partly Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 988

Sea condition: Smooth

Day 9 of our voyage. During the night we sailed past Cape Flying Fish the boundary of the Bellingshausen Sea and into the Amundsen Sea. We were awakened early by the sound of a loud scraping against the hull as Ortelius passed through a patch of sea ice along the “west” side of Antarctica, into one of the most remote spots on earth, waters that few have sailed before us - mostly whalers and explorers of the 18th and 19th centuries.



By mid afternoon the overcast skies cleared and turned into a beautiful, sunny day and the oceanscape was bursting with the color blue - the bright pale blue sky, the deep blue of the Amundsen Sea and all the electric shades of blue of giant icebergs in all shapes and sizes we sailed past throughout the day, too numerous to count.



ICE IN THE AMUNDSEN SEA

After breakfast Gary presented “Seals of Antarctica” in the lecture room, followed by the daily buffet lunch in the restaurant at 12:30.

In the afternoon, Victoria continued her lecture on Shackleton, with the tale of “Shackleton’s Forgotten Men” - the story of the OTHER half

of his failed Trans-Antarctic Expedition that took place in the Ross Sea.

Over the course of the day we spotted a Minke and Humpback Whale, Light Mantled Albatross, Cape Petrel, Southern Fulmar, Antarctic Petrel and a solitary Antarctic Prion.

That evening Darrel presented the first in a four-part docu-series “Forgotten Polar Hero”, on the Borchgrevink Expedition in 1899 and the first winter over. Oceanwide Expeditions helped facilitate this production and some of the spectacular footage of Cape Adare and Antarctica was shot during the 2017 Ross Sea Itinerary. Darrel facilitated a helicopter landing at the gravesite of the expedition’s zoologist, Nikolai Hanson, for the Great Grandson, who was onboard and subject of the documentary.



After a night off, we resumed setting our clocks forward an hour, the fourth time on our voyage, as we crossed another meridian on our way to the Ross Sea.

Day 10 - Wednesday, January 22 - Amundsen Sea.

GPS noon position: 69°17'S / 121°25'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +3°C, NE4

Weather conditions: Fog

Barometric pressure: 989

Sea condition: Smooth

“On the open, limitless ocean, where time is meaningless and the horizon is always out of reach, there is nothing to mark one’s progress save the occasional and unexpected cry of a bird, splash of a dolphin or spout of a whale.”

Simon Cook

Today was another day at sea, another day to reflect upon our great adventure thus far and another day to scan the open, limitless ocean.

As the day progressed so too did the quality of the presentations. Those that we have enjoyed so far have covered a wide range of subjects and have been presented in a range of different styles. After breakfast Simon once again took the microphone and visually guided us through the fascinating and exciting world of toothed cetaceans.

In the afternoon Heidi was performing – her excellent talk was about the fascinating world of sea ice. It is astonishing to discover that there is so much to learn about something as ‘simple’ as frozen water!



During recap Gary explained about just how difficult (or impossible!) it can be for ships to get through it. It was explained that we have been steering more-or-less due west to avoid a large area of ice but that, in approximately 36 hours when we start to turn towards the south, we might at last come into contact with it. How exciting!

Today was also another day to reflect upon our substantial calorie intake, courtesy of chef Heinz and his team. Once again, the food was delicious! There was plenty of

time to see what was going on outside too – hamsters ‘on the wheel’, going round and round the bow, icebergs gliding gracefully by, whales popping up at the surface and birds around the ship. Whales included the usual Humpbacks plus, later on, a very close Fin Whale that was seen by a few of us. The best time for birds was before breakfast and at 06.30 there was a very exciting sighting.



The watchman on the bridge spotted lots of birds on the sea ahead of Ortelius.

As we approached and they flew off they revealed themselves to be Blue Petrels – something like 1,000 of them! Whilst this was the undoubted highlight of the day, other species seen included Cape and

Antarctic Petrels, Southern Fulmar, Wilson’s Storm-petrel and a huge Southern Giant-Petrel.

During recap there was a flurry of snow but later in the evening the fog disappeared astern of us. Floating on the flat calm sea were dozens of icebergs, glistening in the sun. To round things off, several Humpback Whales decided to give us a show at close range. All in all it was quite a day!

Day 11 – Thursday, January 23 – Amundsen Sea, enroute to Ross Sea

GPS noon position: 70°33’S / 134°43’W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, SE4

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 985

Sea condition: Slight



Still no sea ice! But it will come soon. Quote of the Day on our Daily Programme for 23rd January is 'The Ice is Coming', attributed (correctly) to Captain Ernesto Barria.

It was a touch foggy in the morning, though visibility improved steadily throughout the day. The icebergs we are passing are now tending more towards the tabular than the multi-shaped, which is a sure

sign of our approaching nearer and nearer to the entrance of the Ross Sea. We continue to sail on incredibly calm and smooth ocean, with very little wind to disturb us, though it is **COLD** outside now and gloves, scarves, hats and many layers are

necessary for prolonged periods standing on deck.



Lectures today kicked off at 10 am with Victoria presenting: 'Brutally Unsubtle: The Life of Roald Amundsen - the Last of the Vikings.' It made quite a change to hear about a brisk, successful, efficient

Norwegian explorer capable of using dogs and skis in order to explore Antarctica with maximum speed and minimum risk! Amundsen is an impressive, though taciturn figure, who of course reached the South Pole first in December 1911, and went on to fly in the airship Norge over the North Pole too.



There was just time for a quick top-up to coffee levels in the blood stream before 10 lucky people headed down to a corner of the Dining Room for Day One of our Navigation Workshops with Darrel. It's proving tough to get a place on this popular training session!

Passengers worked with Darrel to plot a position on a chart, then to mark a way-point to plot a course from A to B, whilst taking magnetic variation into account. Not a bad introduction to this useful skill...

By then it was lunchtime, consisting of a particularly delicious lamb stew. A few folks disappeared for a siesta in the early afternoon,

though today the Bar area remained quite full - with passengers quietly reading, chatting, editing photos and popping out on deck at regular intervals to see what there was to be seen. A Snow Petrel was spotted and we passed pretty close to some magnificent bergs, some of which gleamed a deep blue.

Up next was Gary, to tell us about 'The Life of Adélie Penguins' in the Lecture Room. We are hoping to see more of these delightful little birds, bustling around on ice floes, when we break through the band of sea ice that charts show us marks the barrier between us and the Ross Sea; we came away from Gary's talk with considerable respect for these small, but characterful penguins, who live further south than any other creature.



There was time for a hot chocolate before good, clear light and icebergs lured us out on deck again and again until Recap time, when we joined Delphine and her team in the Bar. Darrel whetted our appetites with information on a raffle/auction for the position of Steve's Field Assistant during his scientific study of Adélie ancestry in the days ahead. And then Victoria informed us of today's important events in Antarctic history - Gerlache discovering his eponymous strait on this day in 1898, Borchgrevink crossing the Antarctic Circle in 1899, and Joyce preparing to set out on a tragic depot-laying mission for Shackleton in the Ross Sea in 1915, and commenting in his diary later that January 23rd was the last day he changed his clothes or washed for **TWO YEARS!**

And from the sublime to the - well, not really ridiculous. After showing us the latest ice chart, Delphine recounted the tale of Ortelius carrying musicians, technicians and fans down to King George Island (South Shetlands) in 2013 for the band Metallica to play its seventh continent in a year (hence the 'Krill 'em all' Bar!).

Toothfish (sustainably and legally caught near the Falkland Islands) was on the dinner menu and some lucky passengers were enjoying a breath of fresh air out on deck shortly after dinner when a Minke whale just happened to swim all along the starboard side of the ship - clearly seen underwater and then breaking the surface with a magnificent blow. Wow.





Movie night showed the final part of the Borchgrevink series in the Ortelius cinema and it delivered all the expected ingredients and more of a good polar adventure story, with some very modern political overtones and comments concerning its aftermath. A good time - in the end - was had by all.

It was noted that the volume of conversation at dinner was steadily growing by the day, and also the buzz in the bar continued late into the evening. We have been together for 10 days now and are growing into quite a family of individuals, with plenty to say to each other!

Goodnights were given, secure in the knowledge that once again we were gaining an hour. This is the life. And tomorrow we should be into (loose) pack-ice, which is definitely something to look forward to.

Day 12 - Friday, January 24 - Amundsen Sea

GPS noon position: 72°49'S / 143°31'W

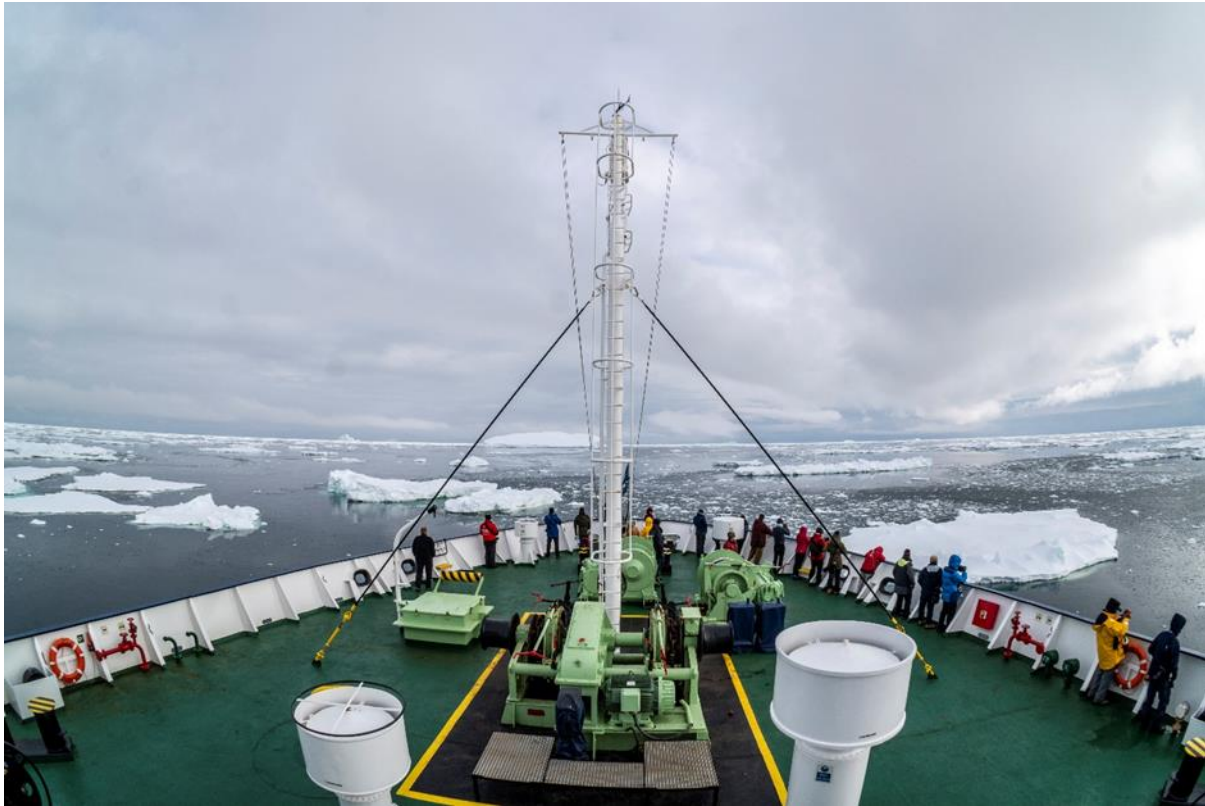
Air temperature & wind speed: +5°C, SW3

Weather conditions: Partly Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 985

Sea condition: Ice

Today is all about sea ice! Some of us woke up early to the sound of the ship hitting floes of pack ice drifting around Antarctica. The icescape was breath-taking. Calm conditions, no waves, low cloud ceiling with icy diamonds all around us.



We admired first-year ice, very flat, low on the water, and many more floes of multi-year ice with tall pressure ridges, several meters high. Navigating through this landscape takes real skills, and a lot of twists and turns.



Our finest spotters on the bridge rapidly found our first Emperor Penguin! Such a special moment on this expedition, and most definitely a highlight for us.



After a few hours in the sea ice, progress was visibly hindered by much denser, thicker sea ice. This is when the Captain decided to send the helicopter to get a good overview of the situation and help us find a way out. We had another 43 nautical miles of ice to cross. Fortunately, this plan worked, and we could find a much easier course in less dense, first-year ice.



As if the day was not special enough, we were full of happiness to celebrate Chinese New Year with our passengers! At 3PM we all gathered in the dining room to help

make hundreds of dumplings, it wasn't easy but some of us quickly got the hang of it, and entire trays were filling up quickly!





Dinner too, was a highlight! Tonight, the galley and hotel departments spoiled us with an indoor BBQ! Ribs, chicken wings, and of course the delicious dumplings so kindly prepared by our Chinese guests were on the menu. We raised our glasses for the new year and enjoyed what was probably the most remote celebration on earth!

To conclude this wonderful day, we met Darrel in the bar and listened and laughed to his stories of his numerous expeditions in Antarctica.



Day 13 - Saturday, January 25 - Ross Sea

GPS noon position: 74°19'S / 147°08'W

Air temperature & wind speed: 0°C, SE 6

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 981

Sea condition: Ice

The day started on a very sad note as soon after the wake up call, we came to realise one of our number, Richard Laurent, had passed away in the early morning hours. Richard was an enthusiastic member of our voyage, he was full of excitement for the trip and had questions for everyone. In the short time that he shared with the rest of us, he was well-liked for his positive outlook for the journey. Later in the morning once the formalities were taken care of, all those who wished to say goodbye to Richard and show support for Francine who was hit hardest by the loss, gathered in the lecture room for a small memorial. A few words were spoken about Richard's engagement in this trip-of-a-lifetime, but mostly we had a period of silence to mark his passing. Being well into the trip with many miles behind us and many more to go, the trip, of course, carries on. Most of the rest of the day was cruising in and out of heavy pack ice as we continued on our way towards the Bay of Whales and our farthest south.

As expected, the mood on the ship was subdued, but in the afternoon we continued with the lecture program and Steve presented us with an interesting and entertaining talk on the Evolution of Research Stations in Antarctica. Tracing the history of huts from the first ever stone hut by William Bruce, then on the continent with pre-fab huts built for the Borchgrevink expedition of 1898, to the ultramodern and emissions-free station of Belgium. For so long in their history, Antarctic huts were simply copies of simple wooden houses found in remote areas around the world, perhaps with a bit of extra reinforcement, but standard constructions. The more modern huts have new design features such as extra thick insulation, or being built on pilings to raise them off the snow and ice so the wind can blow through and under them. Having the wind beneath them helps reduce the accumulation of snow at the huts so prevents them from being buried as so many had in the past.



Not long after Steve finished with his talk, the call came from the bridge: Orcas! This turned out to be one of the premier orca experiences of the trip. There were many on them in the pod and the captain slowed the ship and maneuverer so we could enjoy the orcs. After a short while we discovered that the

orcas were attacking a Minke whale as a group. We eventually identified the orcas as Ecotype B with a very large eye patch and a clearly visible cape of dark color on their neck and shoulders. They are well-known seal hunters, but also hunt Minkes whales. Despite being a bit gruesome and tragic for the whale, it was a rare sighting and gave us extraordinary insight into the predator prey relationships in the Ross Sea.



As the evening progressed, we broke out of the ice and for some time we had open water again on our way to the west southwest. Expectations are high for tomorrow,

barring encounters with difficult ice, we should finally reach the Ross Ice Shelf in the vicinity of the Bay of Whales.

Day 14 - Sunday, January 26 - Ross Sea

GPS noon position: 76°25'S / 158°23'W

Air temperature & wind speed: 0°C, SSE 2

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 983

Sea condition: Calm

We continued to enjoy calm seas throughout the day as we crossed 77° S early in the morning and then entered the Ross Sea by noon. Cape Colbeck soon became visible to the east and we passed through several bands of pack ice where we observed our first Weddell Seals on ice flows. More Adélie and Emperor Penguins also were observed on these flows, but the real treat was when Simon sighted large groups of Antarctic Petrels roosting on two large flat ice floes, perhaps over 100 birds total. Simon later mentioned in recap that it was the first time in all his years of ship-based observations that he had seen Antarctic Petrels use an ice floe in this manner. Pods of Minke whales also were occasionally spotted around the ice floes or far away from the vessel. The air temperature fell to -4 °C by early evening as we



approached the Bay of Whales and our first views of the spectacular Ross Ice Shelf by midnight.

Also during the day we had two lectures, first by Victoria on Robert Falcon Scott and the Terra Nova expedition, and then a detailed look at the life of skuas by Gary. Both lectures were highly informative and entertaining. Everyone went to bed soon after dinner to prepare for an early wakeup call at 0100 to enjoy views of the Bay of Whales and the Ross Ice Shelf as we approached our most southern point of the journey.

Day 15 - Monday, January 27 - Ross Sea/Bay Of Whales

GPS noon position: 77°58'S / 172°46'W

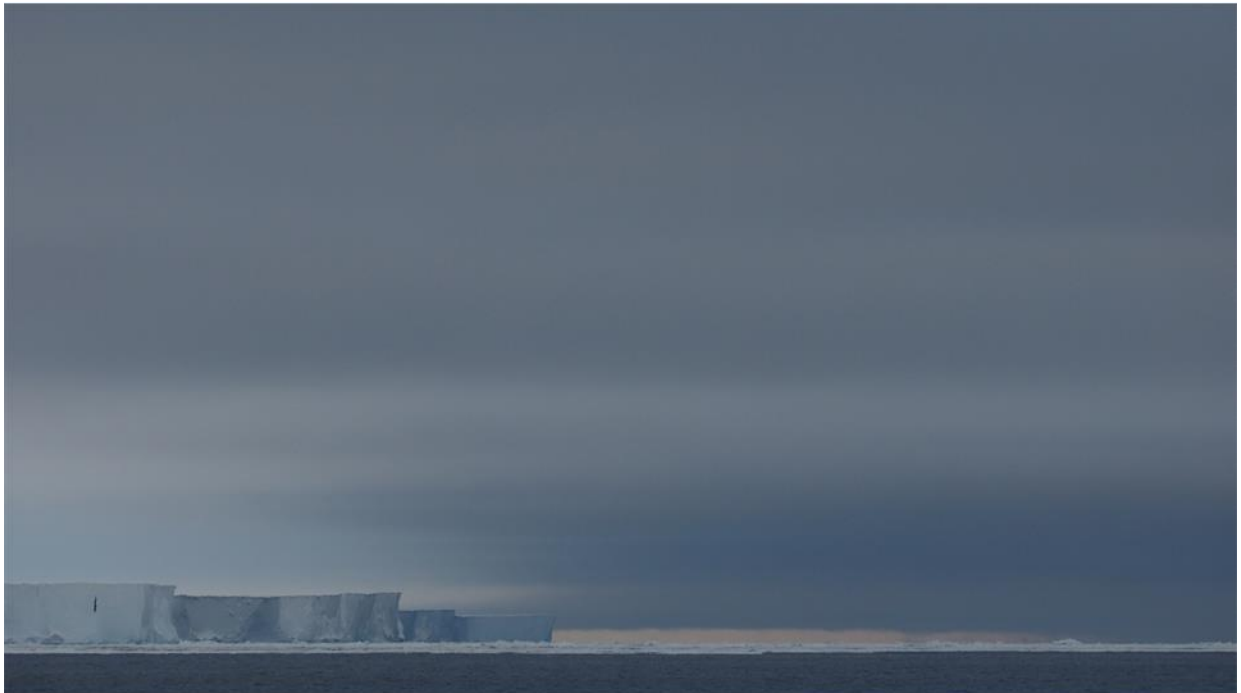
Air temperature & wind speed: -3°C, S 2

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 989

Sea condition: Calm

As promised, Delphine woke us up very early this morning; just as we were approaching the Bay of Whales around 2am.



And what a scenery was awaiting us here! A never-ending wall of ice stretched along the entire horizon. As we were sailing even further south into the bay of ice towards our southernmost position of $78^{\circ}32.5'$ at 3am, there were quite a number of Minke and even Fin whales around us. Dark but scenic clouds made our visit even more special. It is hard to even imagine how Roald Amundsen was “going ashore” on the Ross Ice Shelf pretty much where we were right now, a good 100 years ago; he and his men later succeeding in being the first to reach the Pole, from their base Framheim on the shelf.



After the excitement of the night many of us were happy to have a little nap in the morning as Darrel was giving his final round of navigational advice. Meanwhile, we were passing small fields of sea ice and continued our course westwards along the majestic Ross Ice shelf.

In the afternoon though, Victoria was proceeding with her lecture series and told us everything about the Nimrod expedition of Ernest Shackleton who discovered the Beardmore Glacier, the longest glacier in the world, and was the first person to reach the actual Polar plateau and then came less than 100 nautical miles from being the first to reach the South Pole.

In the early evening, Delphine gave us another mandatory briefing regarding our future helicopter landing operations. Christian explained to us why we would now be jumping a day ahead and informed us about the international date line and its implications, while Darrel surprised us by telling us that the record-breaking vessel that reached the furthest south position ever was actually a small Polish yard, the SV Selma.

DAY 16 – Wednesday, January 29, Ross Sea, Ross Island – Cape Evans

GPS noon position: 77°21'S / 166°07'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -1°C, SE7

Weather conditions: Partly cloudy

Barometric pressure: 989

Sea condition: Slight

During the night we crossed the International Date Line travelling westwards, and so we have jumped from Monday January 27th to Wednesday January 29th. I reckon most of us spent our idle moments today trying to get our head round this concept...

Anyway, whatever the day, we were up bright and early and full of enthusiasm this morning as we were hoping (Plan A) to fly and land on to the Ross Ice Shelf at Cape Crozier. Unfortunately, the weather gods had other plans for us. Light snow soon developed into heavier snow with poor visibility, so we went straight on to Plan B – which worked out extremely well.



In preparation for Plan B Victoria was in the Lecture Room at 9.15 am to tell us all about 'Robert Falcon Scott's Antarctic homes'. The focus of this talk was on the physical layouts of both the 1901 - 04 Discovery hut (Hut Point) and the more sophisticated 1910 - 12 Terra Nova hut at Cape Evans. These two buildings were intended for very different purposes – the former for storage, as a science

laboratory for preparing blubber/skinning penguins and even as a theatre for staging plays over winter; the latter, however, was a real Antarctic dwelling for all of Scott's over-wintering men, and has been aptly described by Sir David Attenborough as 'a timewarp without parallel.' Imagine, despite having much to say on the subject, Victoria's lecture lasted precisely 45 minutes!

After coffee, Delphine gathered us all back into the Lecture Room for a mandatory briefing, to remind us of IAATO guidelines and especially to let us know the specific regulations regarding visits to Cape Evans. By re-assigning passengers into three zodiac groups, it would be possible for all of us to have a two-hour outing: to visit both the inside of the hut and its immediate surrounds, to walk just outside the officially-designated protected area in order to enjoy the general vistas and sights daily seen by Scott's men, and to take a short zodiac cruise for ice/landscape viewing and wildlife spotting. As lunch-time approached, the weather was looking good and shortly afterwards we began to get dressed for one of the real highlights of this voyage - an afternoon in the footsteps of Scott and his men at Cape Evans.



Expectations were exceeded. It was with a hushed reverence that passengers stepped onto the porch at Cape Evans and then into the messroom and wardroom. There is a certain atmosphere about this place: it is as if Scott and his men have just gone outside about their daily Antarctic business, and will soon return to gather round the iconic table for a gossip over a fried seal dinner, and to start planning sledging expeditions.

The ‘tenements’ (where Cherry-Garrard, Bowers and Oates bunked), various laboratories, Ponting’s Dark Room and Scott’s own quarters are all just as they were over 100 years ago. The Antarctic Heritage Trust have done a wonderful job of preservation on this hut and its 8,000+ artifacts. The emphasis of their work was on stabilization of the building and its contents and the prevention of further decay rather than restoration, and the results are minimally intrusive and look overwhelmingly authentic.



After feasting our eyes and camera lenses on the interior we dispersed around the landing area to enjoy it from as many angles as possible. For most this included getting photos of a sleeping Weddell seal, and then climbing Windvane Hill to pay tribute to the poignant cross erected there in memory of Spencer-Smith, Mackintosh and Hayward. These men lost their lives in this region in 1916 and were in fact three of the most recent occupants of the Cape Evans hut – the team which was laying depots for Shackleton’s Trans-Antarctic crossing, though in the end the supplies were never needed and remain in the ice to this day. The remaining seven members of this group spent a dismal extra year here before being rescued...and mainly going straight into World War I.



It was time for dinner upon our return from Cape Evans. With hearty appetites and much to talk about, we enjoyed Hotel Manager Sigi and Chef Heinz’s meal even more than usual. There was no need for the Ortelius cinema to open tonight to keep us entertained; as we approached the ice edge in preparation for visiting the Dry Valleys tomorrow – another of the trip’s highlighted destinations – the sky was clearing, the sun shining and Captain Ernesto delighted photographers by ‘parking’ us at the sea ice edge. Ice floes, with Adélie penguins grouped on them, spread to the horizon and the light just kept on getting better. Finally we retired to bed to recharge our batteries, leaving just a few night owls buzzing in the bar, mulling over a wonderful day in the Ross Sea and pondering what will happen tomorrow. Sleep well.

DAY 17 - Thursday, January 30 - Ross Sea, The Dry Valleys

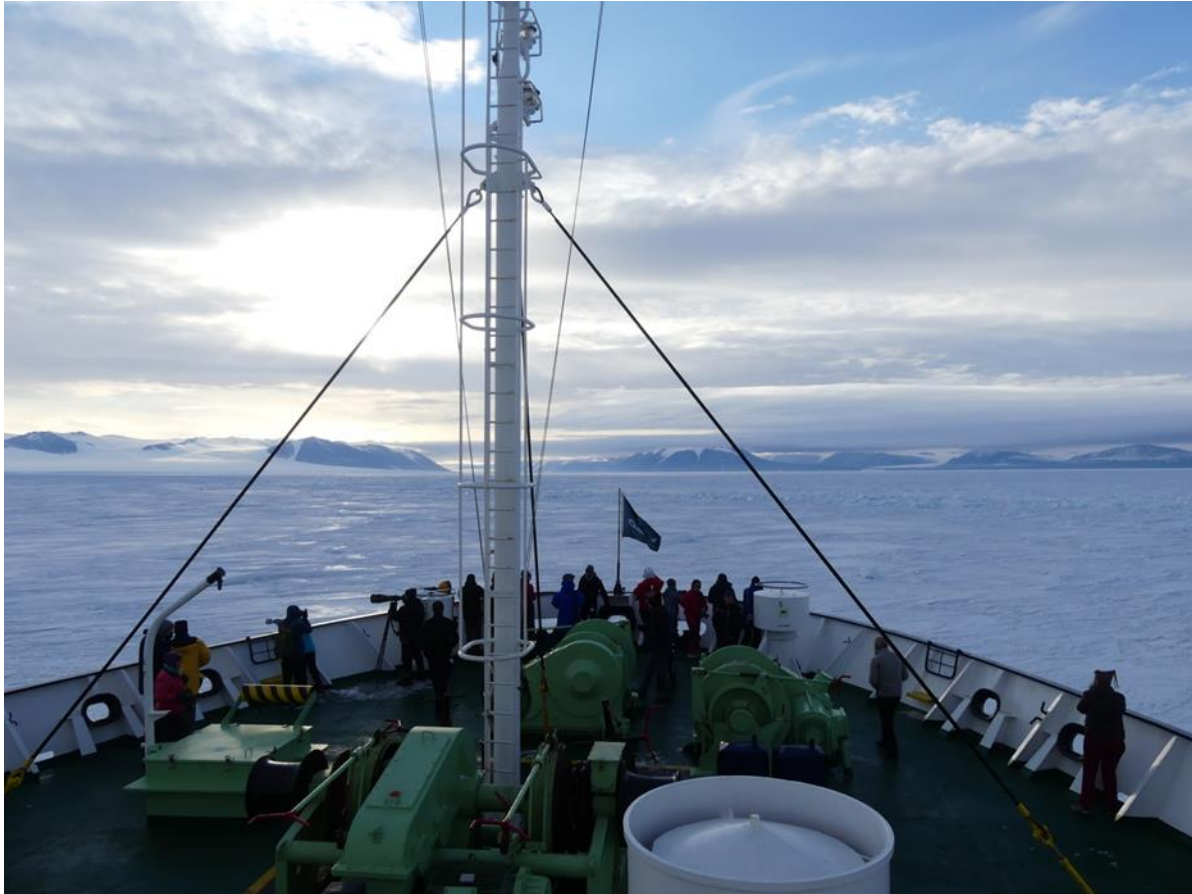
GPS noon position: 77°31'S / 164°51'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -1°C, S5

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 985

Sea condition: Ice



We awoke to a beautiful sunny morning with the Dry Valleys visible to the west, Mount Discovery in clear view to the south, but Ross Island and Mount Erebus still obscured by a heavy cloud cover. The temperature at 0600 was -2.6 °C with light winds at 12 knots. After breakfast, we had a clear weather window over Taylor Valley so we set out to take everyone up to Canada Glacier for stunning views and a nice hike around part of the valley. The first helicopter with staff left by 0830 followed by all passengers, by groups, for each to spend 45 minutes on the ground.



The 15-minute flight up the valley was spectacular with the sun highlighting the Commonwealth and Canada Glaciers. The landing point was not far from Canada Glacier and a one kilometer walk was marked out by the staff that followed ridge lines and came to a nice overview of the front of the glacier.

Two Crabeater seal mummies were on the route as well. It remained sunny all day, with light winds, so it was a comfortable outing with fantastic views of the valley, the Transantarctic Mountains, and the glaciers. We also had a good view of Lake Fryxell below Canada Glacier. This lake is saline (>9% salt concentration of sea water) but was frozen at the surface. Some of this salinity may be due to CaCl_2 salts in the soil that seeps into the lake from ground meltwater.



This landing in the Taylor Valley also had significance for another reason—it was our first landing on the continent. So, for those passengers who had not been to Antarctica before, they were able to touch their seventh continent. By mid-afternoon all had returned to the ship to rest and relax before recap and dinner. An excellent day!

DAY 18 – Friday, January 31 - Ross Sea, McMurdo Sound

GPS noon position: 77°47'S / 166°19'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -3°C, SE7

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 987

Sea condition: Smooth

Very early this morning the full majesty of mighty Mount Erebus became clear – a snow-covered, conical volcano billowing smoke into the atmosphere. Steve later said that he had never before seen so much coming out of the crater. At over 3,500 metres or 12,447' high, it was a very impressive sight. So too was the sea around us, due to wind of over 30 knots from the south-southeast. The ship made an approach to Cape Royds and on the land could be seen part of the large Adélie Penguin colony and the hut used by Shackleton. Unfortunately, the weather prevented us from leaving Ortelius so she turned her bow to the south, towards McMurdo station.

The visibility steadily worsened until snow was whipping around us. Soon the edge of the fast ice came into view, as did a large tanker and the pride of the US Coastguard, their old but sturdy icebreaker, Polar Star. Mark was delighted to see his hard-earned tax dollars being so wisely spent! The icebreaker was busy keeping open the channel that it had made through the ice to the station earlier in the season. On the way to and through the ice channel several species of marine mammals were spotted – Fin whale, Antarctic Minke whale and a solitary Leopard seal; there was also a single Emperor Penguin on the edge of the ice.



Although it was still very windy the visibility improved enough to allow us to see the small town of McMurdo.

There were, for example, radar domes, a church, large oil tanks, an old Quonset hut, accommodation blocks, storage areas, a NASA centre, a cargo ship, a hospital and a heliport.

From an historical point of view, we were treated to views of Scott's hut at Hut Point and the memorial cross to the South Pole party, which was high up on Observation Hill.



Ortelius turned around and on the way back towards open water eagle-eyed (or should that be whale-eyed???) Simon spotted killer whales heading towards us. They passed close by, on their way south and revealed themselves to be “Ross Sea Killer Whales”, or type “C’s”. Very exciting!



We then headed towards the area where the helicopters took off from the ship yesterday. A huge tabular iceberg, 5 nautical miles/8 kilometres long was not far away. Many of us had seen it yesterday from the choppers so it was interesting to see it at sea level. There was a smaller 'berg and fast ice at the end of the huge iceberg so the captain turned the ship towards the ice. We got very good, close views! By now it was some time after Simon had once more spotted

Killer Whales.

After the group photo had been taken of us on the bow the captain turned us towards the whales.



Originally they had been seen spy-hopping (lifting their heads up vertically out of the water to see what was on the ice) miles and miles away. By careful driving the captain got us quite close to the whales and it was soon realized that this was another pod of Ross Sea killers - how lucky can you get?

Once we were past the whales the ship came out from the sheltered side of the iceberg into winds that approached 40 knots in strength. Ortelius was canted over at an angle as she made her way across the sound towards the northern end of Ross Island. Recap was, again,

very informative. Gary told us all about seals on ice, Mark covered the use of some of the buildings whilst Simon took us back to his visit in 1994, when he ascended Observation Hill and had spray from the zodiacs freeze instantly when it hit him (-43 °C, with the windchill factor)! Delphine outlined the first plan (plan A) for tomorrow, which was for a helicopter landing on the Ross Ice Shelf.



DAY 19 - Saturday, February 1 - Ross Sea, McMurdo Sound

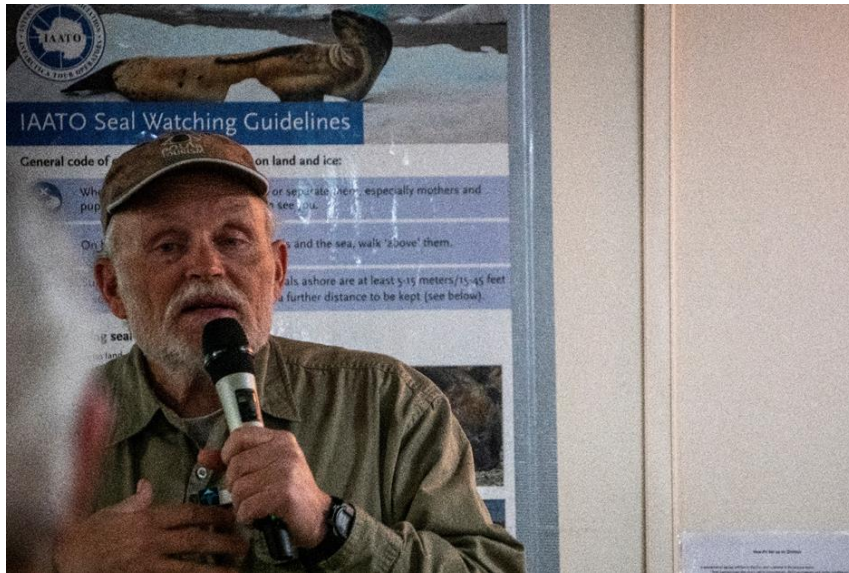
GPS noon position: 77°09'S / 166°19'E

Air temperature & wind speed: 4°C, S3

Weather conditions: Partly Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 989

Sea condition: Smooth



The wind has followed us through the night, and we woke up to a gently rocking ship on this Saturday morning. Today we'll attempt to go to the Ross Ice Shelf around Cape Crozier. After an early meeting with the Captain, Pilots and our Expedition Leader Delphine, it was obvious that the conditions were

unsuitable for a landing or a scenic flight in the area, gale force winds were preventing any operation to take place.

Plan B quickly came into effect. Cape Royds is only a few hours of sailing away. It offered us the chance to hear Gary (and his many sound effects) tell us all about his research on Emperor penguins in Antarctica, taking place a few years ago at Mawson station. He investigated Auster colony during the winter, in the toughest "but most magnificent time of the year". We learned that Emperors are actually the least faithful penguin with an 85% divorce rate, and that the adults are pound for pound



the best divers in the world, being able to dive down to 350 m and stay down 8 to 16 minutes!

The sun came out just after the lecture and even though the wind was still very much present, we had magnificent views of Mt Erebus, Mt Discovery and Beaufort Island.

Unfortunately as we reached Cape Royds and its iced-packed bay, we realized that once again the wind was too strong for our helicopters to fly safely. The limit is 25 knots and we had gusts up to 28 knots.

We all tried to get pictures of the hut before the ship turned around, which wasn't so easy as the hut is nested in a narrow bluff, sheltered from the elements. So long Cape Royds!

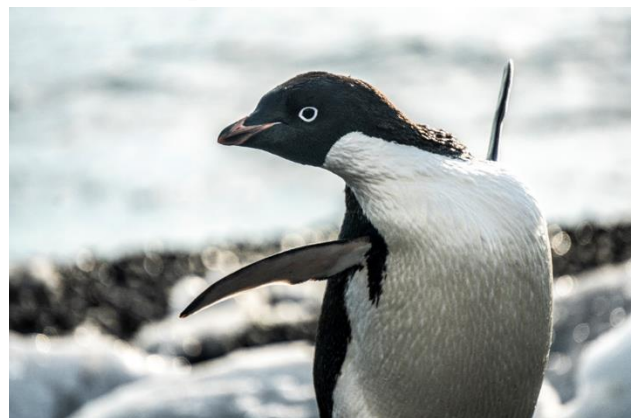


Today is another proper expedition day, when plan A and plan B do not materialize, so it was time for plan C to come into force. And it was the right



decision to take! Delphine called for a meeting at 3PM in the bar to tell us all about it. On our new weather maps it appeared that Cape Bird was protected from the wind, and indeed it was! We arrived at the Cape around 5PM and were greeted by a beautiful sun, and three workers from New Zealand who were there to winterize the Kiwi hut. We all landed at once and had plenty of time to quietly roam around, between

the nests and the skuas. It was our first walk among the penguins at a colony and everyone enjoyed watching their behaviour and humorous antics. Meanwhile, Steve took two 'field assistants' who won the raffle drawing to assist him in collecting penguin chick bones for his research and they were thrilled to help in this 'citizen science'.



After taking hundreds and hundreds of pictures, it was time for the most daring ones among us to brave the icy cold waters of the Ross sea for our first polar plunge! About 30 of us went either for a quick dip or a short swim in the middle of the icebergs and with the Adélies, congratulations to all our swimmers!



DAY 20 – Sunday, February 2 – Ross Sea – Terra Nova Bay

GPS noon position: 77°03'S / 164°56'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -1°C, SW6

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 985

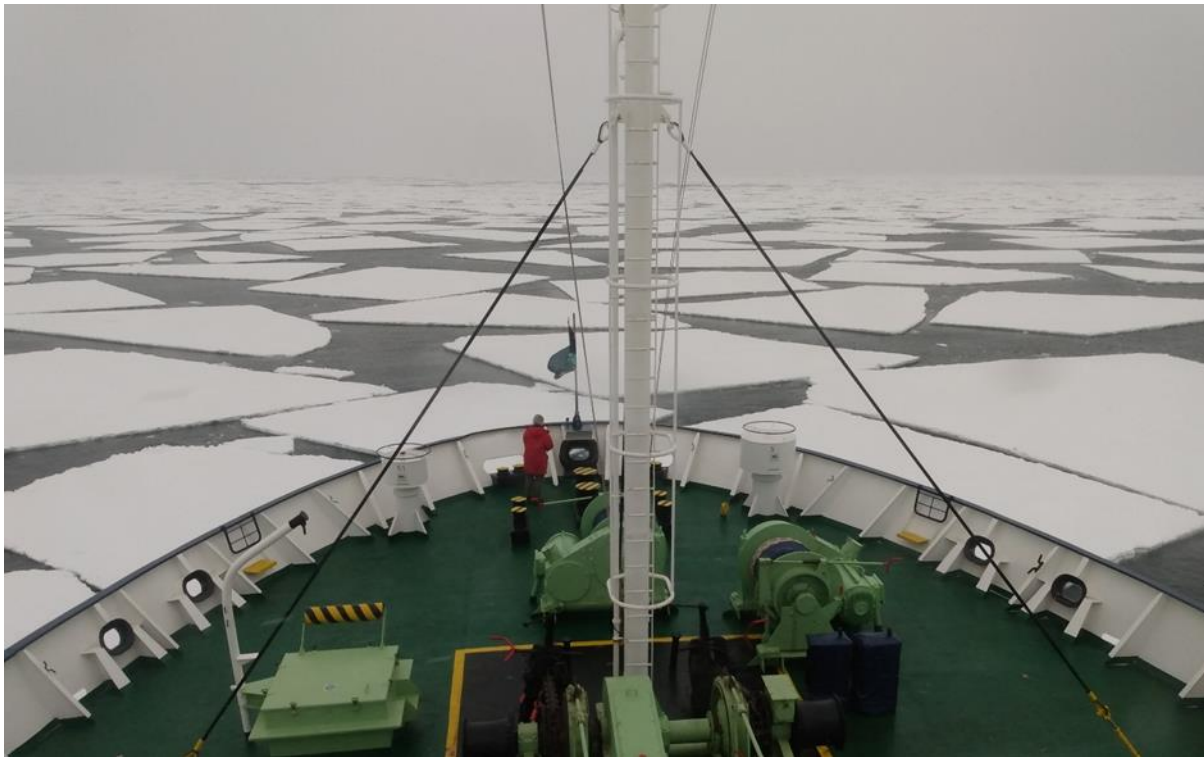
Sea condition: Ice

Earlier than expected, we reached the massive Drygalski Ice Tongue at the entrance of Terra Nova Bay. So much about the announced “sleep-in” 😊 on this Sunday morning.



Ice was awaiting us in all its forms. The Drygalski Ice Tongue floats more than 50km out into the ocean, marking the southern boundary of Terra Nova Bay, and sturdy sea ice made it difficult to navigate deeper inside the bay. Heïdi was truly in her element! Our captain tried the best to manoeuvre the ship closer to our possible landing sites at Inexpressible

Island or at any of the International Stations in the vicinity. We even contacted the nearby Italian icebreaker Laura Bassi for inside information about the ice conditions and visibility. But, soon it became clear that we could not risk going any further and thus we began to purely enjoy the incredible scenery.



Enormous ice floes were moved several meters up and down by the swell from a passing storm far out at sea, and with the swell also our beloved Ortelius was moving. It is hard to imagine the forces involved in such a natural spectacle. The swell continued several nautical miles into the pack ice. Meanwhile, the snow petrels flew effortlessly as usual around our ship.

Later in the afternoon Darrel took us on a virtual tour around Ortelius. So, we could finally see our galley and engine department in their working environment; the people we have been appreciating so much during the last couple of weeks.

Day 21 - Monday February 3 - off Wood Bay, Victoria Land, Ross Sea

GPS noon position: 74°19'S / 165°41'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, NW3

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 996

Sea condition: Ice

Today was another 'Expedition Day' in the Ross Sea - so we awoke prepared for ANYTHING. Ortelius had started moving a lot in the early morning and when we went up on deck before breakfast it was fairly clear that this was going to be a day of both ice and wind. Spectacular, but not easy for flights or zodiac operations!



Still, we could enjoy views and wildlife from the ship throughout the day. By scheduling Victoria's 'Antarctic Treaty System' lecture for 10 am we were pretty well guaranteed a spectacle demanding us all to be on deck instead of downstairs on Deck 3 - and Antarctica did not let us down! Not only was the sea ice magnificent, but there were three Emperor penguins standing on a floe. Captain Ernesto was able to take us quite close - close enough to see that one was a juvenile with some baby fluff still attached, whilst the two adults were moulting. We regarded the Emperors

and the Emperors regarded us.

So Victoria's lecture was postponed until the afternoon and we were free to remain out on deck for the rest of the morning, appreciating the spectacular Ross Sea ice-scape. After many glimpses of seals and Adélie penguins during the remainder of the morning, shortly before lunch we came into some slushy ice and spotted a pod of Orca spy-hopping along its edge! It was a magnificent sighting, watching these awe-inspiring 'dolphins' rear out of the



water to see if there was any food (i.e., penguins) lurking at the edges of the ice floe, and cameras were happily clicking away for the duration of the experience.

Although we did not get an opportunity to leave the ship today as we'd originally hoped, there continued to be plenty to see from deck and Heidi's voice came over the PA several times to tell us about the ice tongues we could see as we sailed past, the first being the Drygalski Ice Tongue, but the clearest being the Aviator Glacier Tongue, which bounds Wood Bay to the north. We were pleased to learn all about them from our resident ice enthusiast - apparently they consist of ice flowing rapidly out from the continent and floating on the ocean, and can extend many kilometres, though it is not precisely known why they sometimes form extensive tongues like these rather than shelves. They calve icebergs exactly like ice shelves though. And around lunch time we saw an impressive example of a large berg being tossed around by swell as the wind increased, driving spray in dramatic plumes right over the top of the berg.



The choppy seas we entered in the early afternoon gave a number of us an excuse to take to our beds for a siesta and to give ourselves time to recover our sea legs. At 3 pm Victoria finally got to give her talk, though unusually it was held in the Bar, which was deemed a more stable platform for her slightly queasy audience! Quite a few committed passengers turned up to find out how the Treaty came into being and has evolved, and to learn all about the regulations governing Antarctica right now. In the 2040s the most significant of the environmental protections currently guarding the continent will be voted on anew and there is some uncertainty what will happen next. For sure, Antarctica needs all the ambassadors it can get, and we should all go home and lobby politicians to maintain it as a pristine reserve for peace and cooperative science long into the future...



Tea time came around. Quite a number of passengers were on the bridge or out on deck, enjoying (for the most part) the slightly rougher sea conditions we were now in, though there were mixed feelings about Ortelius' rolling and occasional corkscrew motion. Recap and Briefing was much worse attended than usual, with a few



unclaimed seats still available. Delphine filled us in as always – with information about tomorrow at Cape Hallett - and we heard more about the Orca we had seen today, as well as listening to one of Simon's AMAZING stories.

Dinner was subdued, with the same people missing as from Recap...and with the exception of a few die-hards in the Bar (someone has to keep Jake company) we took the

opportunity to go early to bed, rather enjoying being rocked in our Ortelian cradles throughout the night. Fortunately the weather had taken a turn for the better by the early hours.

Day 22 - Tuesday, February 4 - Ross Sea - Cape Hallett

GPS noon position: 72°11'S / 170°35'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +4°C, S3

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 978

Sea condition: Ice

After enduring two days of large swells crossing the Ross Sea, we awoke today to calmer waters. We had arrived overnight to Cape Hallett, the former location of a U.S. station during the IGY and now home to a large Adélie penguin colony of perhaps 61,000 breeding pair. The sky was cloudy but clearing with good visibility, so Delphine arranged scenic helicopter flights for all passengers.



The operations began after breakfast beginning with a reconnaissance flight at 0830 to determine the best route to follow for spectacular views of glaciers, the penguin colony at Cape Hallett, and of Mt. Herschel which was named by James Clark Ross in honor of the astronomer, Sir John Herschel. Sir Edmund Hillary summited this peak as well.

Next, there was a flight at 0930 to drop Steve and two passenger volunteers who won the raffle drawing to act as field assistants at Cape Hallett where they remained until 1600, collecting penguin bone samples and enjoying the nice weather at the colony. Meanwhile, passengers disembarked for a 25-minute scenic flight, three per helicopter so all could have window seats, and these flights continued through the afternoon. All were thrilled by the views and we were glad the nice weather held all day.

As the ship left Cape Hallett and headed north to Cape Adare, we passed close by the Possession Islands, including Possession and Foyen Islands, both of which have large Adélie penguin colonies on the beaches and ridges above. Possession Island also is where James Clark Ross landed on 12 January 1841 to plant the British flag and claim the area for Britain. As the evening grew late, we were treated to one final look at Mt. Herschel with lenticular clouds above, a perfect end to a perfect day!



Day 23 - Wednesday, February 5 - Ross Sea - Cape Adare

GPS noon position: 71°21'S / 170°07'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, VAR2

Weather conditions: Partial Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 978

Sea condition: Calm

Our good fortune with the weather continued today as we awoke early to calm waters off Cape Adare, where the largest Adélie penguin colony in Antarctica is located (estimated at 338,000 breeding pair). The beach was surrounded by small to large icebergs and brash ice, but openings to the beach large enough for zodiac landings could be seen.

Meanwhile, we were treated to a pod of Minke whales circling the ship plus large ice floes were drifting by that were covered with penguin chicks. Good visibility all around, including the mountains behind the cape, made for a promising day ahead.



After breakfast, we lowered the zodiacs and the staff went ashore to scout out the best landing site for the passengers. Due to the large amount of ice and the high swell, the only safe landing was at the corner of the beach on the northeast side of the penguin colony.



However, because all the chicks were now creching and off their nests, it was easy to establish a trail to the hut and the first group of passengers came ashore by 0930 for a nice walk across the colony to the hut. All groups had over an hour ashore to

watch the penguins and go inside the hut for photos.



The landings lasted until 1400, with Victoria giving explanations about the Borchgrevink hut while others enjoyed watching the behavior of the thousands of penguins surrounding us. This hut, placed here in 1899, is the oldest building on the entire continent. Though most artifacts inside had been removed for restoration by the New Zealand Heritage Trust, it was nice to go inside and see what it was like to have stayed in this hut over 120 years ago. It was a perfect day for us and we were very lucky as the last tour ship to visit this place was two years ago!

After returning to the ship, we set off for Robertson Bay on the back side of Cape Adare.



A leopard seal went by the ship on an ice floe and the scenery remained spectacular. Delphine then arranged a zodiac cruise for the passengers in the back of the bay, past cliffs, icebergs and ice floes. Nice scenery for an early evening event. Meanwhile, Steve, Gary and one passenger (Peter Gates) whose wife won the auction for him to participate on a research

trip to the upper terrace at Cape Adare, left by helicopter at 1645 and arrived at the terrace at 1700. They spent over three hours there to survey for abandoned penguin colonies on areas of the terrace that Steve had not yet investigated. They also sampled at six sites to recover ancient penguin bone, eggshell, egg membrane, and feathers. They even found a mummified chick carcass, though not in one piece, but very useful for the science at this amazing place. They returned to the ship by 2015 for a late dinner and the ship remained in the back of Robertson Bay for the night.

Day 24 - Thursday, February 6 - Ross Sea - Robertson Bay/Shipley Glacier

GPS noon position: 71°16'S / 196°54'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +4°C, NW2

Weather conditions: Partial Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 977

Sea condition: Calm

We awoke today in Robertson Bay, awaiting word on sea ice, swell, wind and cloud ceiling conditions, as we were aiming for a helicopter scenic flight in and around Robertson Bay and over Shipley Glacier. Shortly after breakfast the fog burned off and we found ourselves floating in beautiful, sunny, and calm waters. Delphine made the announcement that heliops were a go! Those in Group 3 raced to suit up while the rest of us enjoyed a leisurely morning, filled with anticipation of our chance to hop on the helicopters for our turn to cruise over this magnificent bay!



After Delphine and the pilots made a reconnaissance flight, to confirm conditions and determine the flight path, it was our turn for a breath-taking flight.

We were treated to a bird's eye view of the deep blue waters of Robertson Bay, the sparkling white tops of the large tabular icebergs floating in the bay and then the helicopter pilots turned towards shore and flew low, across the top of Shipley Glacier, and give us a close look at the giant crevasses, then flew back to Ortelius, completely surrounded by the sea ice.

The weather held all day and we all were able to participate in the flights, finishing in the late afternoon. Afterward, as the captain took us out of the ice pack, we sailed past Emperor and Adélie penguins, a group of crabeater seals lounging on an ice-flow and even a minke whale spouted several times before disappearing under the ice.



In the evening, we turned north, and as we sailed out of Robertson Bay, a large pod of minke whales swam across our bow and into the bay.



It was a special, rarefied day, indeed, that none of us will ever forget.

Day 25 - Friday, February 7 - Southern Ocean

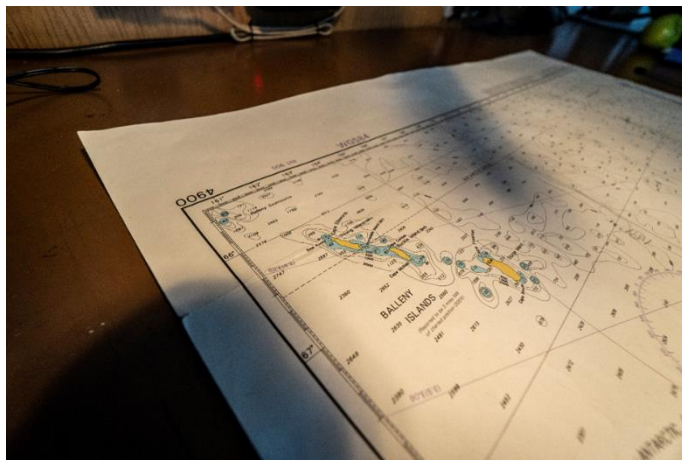
GPS noon position: 68°20'S / 166°52'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +3°C, SE4

Weather conditions: Fog

Barometric pressure: 975

Sea condition: Ice/Calm



On this Friday morning, our mighty ship is making great progress towards the Balleny islands. Before we started with our daily program of lectures, some of us enjoyed some fresh air at the bow of the ship to admire dozens of Cape Petrels and Greater Snow

Petrels flying around the ship. And to our ornithologist Simon's surprise, one of them even landed on the blue railing of the ship!

At 10:30 we all gathered in the lecture room to hear Steve tell us all about his research on penguins. Investigating eggs shells and bones helps Steve know more about the diet of penguins, which is directly linked to climate, sea ice and polynyas. What a clever way to reconstruct past conditions in Antarctica! Steve has collected samples from 15 different localities around Antarctica, and was even granted permission to sample the Adélie eggs collected by Scott's party at Cape Evans. During our adventure he was able to collect a lot more samples thanks to our passengers/research assistants at Cape Bird, Cape Adare and Cape Hallett! The samples he has collected on our expedition will be dried and cleaned, triple bagged and sent to his lab in the U.S. for analysis. We wish Steve good luck with his research, which you can learn more about at www.uncw.edu/penguins and hope that this research program will continue on the Oceanwide ships!



During the rest of the morning we sailed past a few tabular icebergs and thin bands of sea ice, that reminded us that the continent Antarctica was still only a few dozens of nautical miles away. We even got the chance to see a handful of humpback whales!



After a delicious lunch, Simon took us on a tour of the SS Discovery, the 3 masted ship that carried Robert Falcon Scott, and Ernest Shackleton on their first and highly



successful journey to the Antarctic, named the Discovery expedition. The SS Discovery was built in Dundee in 1901 specifically for Antarctic expeditions and research and fitted with labs and a small dark room. After a long and tumultuous life, she is now back in Dundee and has been refitted and open to the public. Simon finished his lecture with a few anecdotes that only he can tell.

During the evening the fog came in, making our navigation more difficult. We decided to keep our distance with the approaching Sturge Island and the sea ice that was surrounding

it. Tomorrow we're hoping that the weather will remain calm to allow us to explore the area with our zodiacs!

Day 26 - Saturday. February 8 - Balleny Islands, Antarctica

GPS noon position: 66°37'S / 163°05'E

Air temperature & wind speed: 0°C, W5

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 978

Sea condition: Slight

We woke up early this morning - either out of choice, or because Delphine made the wake-up call at 5.30 am! But it was well worth it as here we were, just off the Balleny Islands and despite some snow and swell we were about to experience something few people have ever done. Indeed, just getting a glimpse of this island group is a rare achievement.



While deck team and staff were getting everything ready in preparation to test the waters and see if we could go for a zodiac cruise, an impressive number of passengers was already out on deck admiring the birds and glimpses of craggy, rocky, ice-covered islets. We were delighted when the call came for the first group to take to the zodiacs and soon our wonderful little RIBs were zooming over the water in the direction of the mysterious-looking Buckle Island.



Despite the cold, wind and snow (which all made it more of a real exploration experience!) the zodiac cruise was an immense success.

Group B departed Ortelius at 6 am and Group A at 7.30 am (with early pastries available in the Bar and breakfast provided between the two group departures).

Everyone enjoyed the antics of Adélie penguins as the zodiacs

got close up to the amazing rock chimney we had glimpsed from the ship. In addition, there were some Weddell seals and a few boat-loads of passengers even saw a Leopard seal, which species has proved fairly elusive until now. But the rocks of the island, fringed with icicles and sprinkled in snow were the stars of the occasion, with birds wheeling high overhead as well as round the ship – Sooty Shearwaters and Greater Snow Petrels being the most iconic.

Shortly before 10 am (which felt like mid-afternoon at least!) all staff were back on board and zodiacs hoisted into place on deck. If anything the weather was improving, with glimmers of sunshine penetrating through the cloud, though the wind began to rock Ortelius strongly as she ventured out from the shelter of Buckle Island and headed north towards Young Island. We were out and about on deck enjoying the change in the weather, the sea views and glimpses of wildlife for the next hour or so.

By then it was time for lunch, which we enjoyed all the more for having been outside in the cold since early this morning. And soon after lunch came another milestone in our voyage – we crossed the Antarctic Circle for the second time, going north. Mulled wine was served around 2 pm in celebration and groups of passengers were poised on the Bridge around all of the screens and pieces of equipment registering our exact location; we now have photographic evidence of this transit!



Shortly after this we reached Young Island (the only major Balleny Island north of the Antarctic Circle) and cruised around it to bid a final farewell to Antarctica. These were the last glaciers we would see and it was with several backward glances and the early onset of nostalgia that we departed New Zealand-wards, away from the allure of the ice.

Apparently Simon - who lives on the Bridge - left it for a few minutes for a tea break; big mistake. Steve was therefore the first to spot literally thousands of birds settled on the water and soon he saw Humpback whales among them, sharing a good feed of krill at the surface of the sea and just ahead of the ship.

Recap & Briefing was dedicated to Balleny Island stories from the team and especially featured Steve's penguin-bone successes. The account of hard work and hardship suffered in the name of science by his two able assistants on that beach (not to mention Heidi, who seems to have attempted to climb every elevation in sight before reluctantly giving it the thumbs down) was enthusiastically received by fellow-passengers - as we sat cosy and warm, sipping a drink in the Ortelius bar. Victoria closed Recap with a historical account of John Balleny's discovery of these remote and hostile rocky outcrops in 1839. And we learned that even Sir Ernest Shackleton never managed to see them, so we've done something The Boss didn't!



Now we are on our way to the New Zealand sub-Antarctic group of islands, which we hope will provide a whole new adventure in themselves.

And so to bed, after the final, self-congratulatory drink of the day. Sweet dreams - life on the ocean wave is rocking and rolling us a little more now we have left the ice

behind and we need to concentrate on getting our sea legs back over the next few days...

Day 27 - Saturday February 9 - At sea in the Southern Ocean

GPS noon position: 62°35'S / 163°01'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, WSW5

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 993

Sea condition: Rough

As usual, our day started with a cheerful call from Sigy telling us that breakfast is ready. After the excitement of yesterday with Zodiac cruising Sabrina Island in the Balleny Islands, today promised to be a relaxing ride over a mild sea. Perhaps a bit of time to be spent catching up on downloading, editing and labelling photos? Maybe a little extra nap to catch up after many days of activity. The sea was kind to us all morning. Though not dead calm, we had a lazy roll for the entire morning and most of the rest of the day. Many spent the morning reading while the usual sentinels on the bridge kept sharp eyes peeled for interesting birds and whales. Was that a sei whale spotted in the morning? Probably.



There were definitely some new birds; we had White-headed Petrel, a Blue Petrel, and a few Grey Petrels to add to our list. Just before lecture time, our first Southern Royal Albatross graced us with a magnificent fly-by.

In mid-morning, Gary gave us a great talk on how penguins have adapted to their environment to be able to thrive in what we consider to be a very harsh environment. For the most part, they are highly capable and can withstand Antarctica's worst with little drama. We heard about their feathers, and how important they are for survival; how Emperor penguins managed to breed over winter, but King penguins cannot manage in the same way. They can only breed twice every three years because of the long period they need to fledge their chick. But most importantly, we heard that because of their adaptations, penguins usually see their environment as normal and moderate.

After a break for lunch and some more wildlife watching from the bridge, we had an historical talk from Victoria. She gave us the full story of the Borchgrevink Expedition—whose hut we visited a few days ago at Cape Adare. Despite many difficulties and problems, they succeeded with a very important expedition. Being the first to stay the winter on the Antarctic continent, many who have come after overlooked so much that they accomplished. Borchgrevink did an admirable job of organising his expedition with equipment for a completely unknown environment. Certainly it was bad luck that Cape Adare did not give them the access to long distance travel on the continent that they had hoped for. Nevertheless by staging at Prince of Wales Island, they managed some good excursions in their time at Cape Adare.



Today instead of a recap, we held an auction of some great Antarctic items to raise money for the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust (NZAH). The NZAHT takes care of all the historic huts in the Ross Sea Dependency and has done a fantastic job of conserving the important history of exploration by conserving the huts in the Ross Sea. The bidding was intense and the auction raucous as Darrel led the way. Thanks to all the bidders and buyers for their generous donations.



Finally after dinner we returned to a bit of 'story time' with Heidi. She told us all about her next exciting project. With a team of experts, she will go on a research expedition in Svalbard. Hauling sledges by hand, these 5 women will collect snow samples right across Spitsbergen in March to study the importance of fine particles from pollutants on the melting of Svalbard snow and ice. Anyone can find more information by following their expedition on: www.climatesentinels.com. For being at sea all day we kept pretty busy. With another hour or so after Heidi's talk, we kept spotting a few birds around the ship, but drinks and evening socialising beckoned from the bar so many finished their day with a nightcap before heading off to bed.

Day 28 - Monday February 10 - At sea in the Southern Ocean

GPS noon position: 58°17'S / 165°55'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +6°C, W7

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 987

Sea condition: Rough

It was a delicious treat to have a lie-in this morning, especially as Ortelius' motion told us that we definitely were out there in the middle of the Southern Ocean! Cautious, sleepy figures on the stairs could be seen in the process of offering morning coffee in bed to their partners and friends – always with one hand for the ship.



Breakfast was reasonably well-attended, though there were definitely more empty spaces than usual. Likewise in the Lounge/Bar this morning; the most dedicated passengers were staring with fierce concentration at their computer screens, briskly and ruthlessly throwing themselves into an orgy of photo-editing. This usually led to the need to go out on deck for a breath of fresh air and a good steady gaze at the distant horizon before getting back to work.



At 10.30 am Gary shared facts and tales of his wintering at the Australian Antarctic station Mawson. This was well-received; although he spoke about his science, the emphasis was very much on life lived through the harsh dark of an Antarctic winter. There is a very small social circle on base at a time when all activities are extremely limited, with everyone stuck indoors for the most part. Gary gave us a taste of the patience and character it must need to work as a team, taking on multiple jobs

just to keep the place ticking over until the next summer. Of course, it was the parties that pulled everyone through!

When lunchtime came round it was William's gentle voice welcoming us for a change. As he put it himself: "The dining room is open, but there are no passengers!" This situation soon improved as most of us consumed our sweet-and-sour pork and rice with enthusiasm, even indulging in a little retail therapy in reception afterwards.



A siesta was the next planned activity. If anything the swell was increasing, so going horizontal made a lot of sense. Emerging shortly before 3 pm, we were ready to be entertained by Expedition Leader Delphine as she put her lecturing hat on and told us what it was like wintering at the French Sub-Antarctic station 'Alfred Faure', in the Crozet Islands. Sub-Antarctic islands seem to get the worst of the weather in many ways...

Tea and a muffin and time on the Bridge/out on deck were popular ways of passing the rest of the afternoon - all very much with one hand for the ship - until the early evening, when a beer at the Bar and Recap time ushered in another Ortelius evening - of photo exchanges and reminiscences and shared tales of adventure.



Recap itself featured a report from Heidi on some recent ice shelf calvings and giant iceberg movements, followed by Victoria with the tale of



Shackleton's whisky, re-discovered under his hut at Cape Royds in 2006. It took until 2010 to extract the bottles and then fly three of them from McMurdo to Christchurch, New Zealand, and then on to Whyte & Mackay HQ in Invergordon (Scotland). Samples of the 100 year+ whisky were taken and after some months of work, 'a meticulous modern recreation' was achieved,

from the careful marriage of 25 whiskies, aged eight to 30 years. And the bottles themselves? They were returned to Cape Royds on Ross Island, of course.

Stifling sad thoughts of waste, with our better natures acknowledging the authentic history New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust is dedicated to preserving, we went into dinner (hare or salmon trout) and devoted the rest of the evening to contemplating whether or not Delphine's message from Captain Ernesto was correct - that the weather conditions were 'easing'. Just in case, we battened down the hatches in our cabins before settling down for a cradle-rocking night. The Bridge has closed all outside decks except Deck 6, so better to be safe than sorry inside as well.

Day 29 - Tuesday, February 11 - At sea in the Southern Ocean

GPS noon position: 54°06'S / 169°03'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +9°C, WSW6

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 1005

Sea condition: Rough

Despite yesterday's reassurance that the sea would be calmer no-one told the weather! Overnight, it was still very boisterous and in the morning Steve thought that housekeeping had been in very early and had rearranged the room! The waves were still big and some of us were still feeling the effects of the motion.

This continued for much of the day, with the outer decks remaining closed.

Even the normally unperturbed, ice cool Ice Pilot finally succumbed to the ship's gyrations. He did not have a good day at all.....



This morning we were greeted by a lovely grey sky and a wondrous grey sea. It was our third day at sea enroute to the rugged and isolated splendour of Campbell Island and many of us took advantage by having a lie-in. After a splendid breakfast there was time in hand before the first presentation of the day. There was another in the afternoon and it was a bit like a father and daughter double act. Someone said, “Well, if she’s your daughter, how is it that she speaks with such a strong French accent?” The answer was simple – her mother is French! Simon got the ball rolling with a fascinating, thought-provoking and at times humorous account of albatrosses – winged wanderers of the world. After lunch it was the turn of Heidi and she invited us into the lecture theatre for an erudite, concise and intellectually stimulating talk on climate change.

The talk on albatrosses encouraged us to look out for them and several different species were spotted. In order of appearance, they were: Snowy Wandering Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Campbell Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Light-mantled Albatross, Auckland Shy Albatross and Southern Royal Albatross. In the late evening, in a matter of minutes, no fewer than 8 Southern Royals sped past the ship on their way south to look for food. Other birds of interest during the day included Cape, White-chinned and White-headed Petrels, Diving-petrels, Sooty and Sub-Antarctic Shearwaters and Black-bellied and Grey-backed Storm-petrels. The only mammals that were seen was a pod of 6-8 killer whales of some kind. Unfortunately, they were only seen briefly.

At 19.48 the island finally appeared slowly, reluctantly almost, out of the murk. Our hopes were pinned on good weather for tomorrow, good enough for both ship and zodiac cruising. To quote from the book about the southern islands, “New Zealand’s southernmost subantarctic territory, the Campbell Island group lies 660 km south of Bluff, near the southern margin of the Campbell Plateau. Like the other two volcanic groups, Auckland and Antipodes Islands, it comprises a large main island, Campbell Island (11,268 ha) and several satellite islands, of which Dent (23 ha) and Jacquemart (19 ha) are the largest. The highest point is Mt Honey (569 m) on the south side of Perseverance Harbour. As at the Auckland Islands, the eastern side of the main island is heavily indented by fiord-like bays and inlets, the longest being Perseverance Harbour. High cliffs line much of the western side.

Campbell Island and its satellites are the eroded remains of a shield volcano of Miocene age, 6-8 million years old, embedded in continental crust. The volcanism was probably centred on the Dent Island-Northwest Bay area. Sea erosion has dismantled the western side of the volcano. The ancient Palaeozoic basement rock is composed of mica schist at least 450 million years old, some of which is exposed at Complex Point, Northwest Bay. Overlying the schist is a younger (Cretaceous-

Cenozoic) sequence of sandstone, mudstone, conglomerate and white cherry limestone, which forms spectacular cliffs above Northwest Bay.

During the ice ages of the last two million years, glaciers formed on the main island, leaving landforms such as U-shaped valleys, cirques and moraines. Post-glacial peat deposits mantle much of the land.”

Day 30 - Tuesday, February 12 - Campbell Island

GPS noon position: 52°33'S / 169°08'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +12°C, NW5

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 999

Sea condition: Smooth

“I now belong to a higher cult of mortals, for I have seen the Campbell Teal.”

- Simon Cook, paraphrasing Robert Cushman Murphy.

Today was EPIC!



Having spent the night cruising up and down the east coast of remote Campbell Island, things did not start out so well though. The wind was pretty strong and there was doubt about whether or not it would be possible to get off the ship. Whilst

decisions were being made numerous seabirds were wheeling around us, such as White-chinned Petrels, Southern Royal, Black-browed and Campbell Albatrosses (with the occasional Light-mantled Albatross) and Sooty Shearwaters. After checking options, we went into a sheltered area near North Cape, where conditions were better. The first wave of boats headed for Northeast Harbour and they soon came across a small group of the endemic Campbell Shags. Some on the water flew off at our approach but there was still a small group up on the cliffs for us to admire. Antarctic Terns, Red-billed and Kelp Gulls, very exciting Little Brown Jobs (NZ Pipits!) and some NZ Fur Seals were also noted. The second wave of boats was cancelled due to increasing winds but some of us on the ship got excellent views of Yellow-eyed Penguin.

A short distance away was Perseverance Harbour, site of a former weather station, now a research station. High up on the slopes tiny white dots were actually huge, nesting Southern Royal Albatrosses and there were many flying low over the water. Conditions were a bit breezy but it was possible to get us all off on a cruise. People in the first two boats out were lucky enough to see an excitable female Hooker's Sea Lion but not far away from it, on the surface, there were two Yellow-eyed Penguins. Not far away from them was a small cove and there were a few of the endemic and exceedingly rare Campbell Teal to be seen. Two ran up from the beach and into the vegetation but one swam right up to a group of boats. How lucky can you get???



Along the shoreline there were lots of pipits and on the shore at the base were our guests for the next few days, researchers from New Zealand. They were later formally welcomed aboard and introduced, at recap. In the next bay along the shoreline there were some very playful female NZ Sea Lions and it seemed that one of them only had eyes for Mark... (His name is Trevor! Per the scientists we picked up, that were stranded on the island.)



Ashore were more creatures - male sea lions and at least two male Southern Elephant Seals. Both kinds of gull were seen with chicks and there were plenty of squawking chicks around too. As time went on the cloud lifted, the low clouds rose and the temperature seemed to soar!

The harbour was more like a fjord, with steep slopes rising above the shrubbery. Here and there rock outcrops broke through the ground. It was marvellous to see green again! Not just tiny patches here and there but all over the island! It ranged from grassland, to megaherbs to tussock grass and very dense bushes. Many of the larger bushes down by the water were covered in white flowers. A group of Giant Petrels was spotted at the water's edge and, unusually, they didn't fly off when we approached. The reason was soon apparent - they were feeding on a dead seal. Another special sighting was not far around the corner - a big tree, which Delphine got very excited about! "The loneliest tree in the world" - a Sitka Spruce, the only tree for 270km.



All too soon it was time to return to the ship and once the boats had all been lifted aboard, we set off. There were dozens of Royal Albatrosses flying around the harbour, which was an extraordinary sight. Soon the entrance to Perseverence



Harbour beckoned and the open sea lay beyond. Here too there were many birds, mostly albatrosses and shearwaters. We had already seen numerous, huge, purple-topped jellyfish and the birds were snapping them up. As Ortelius continued to turn to the north, we encountered stronger winds and bigger waves. Initially it was extremely pleasant to be out on the bow and it made a nice change not to be frozen stiff.

What a day! Epic!

Day 31 - Friday, February 14 - The Snares

GPS noon position: 48°01'S / 166°37'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +13°C, VAR2

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 1019

Sea condition: Smooth

This morning was our last activity - and what an activity it turned out to be! The sky was overcast at dawn, and the seas were a little choppy when we received our wake-up call at 7:00am. We were sitting off the coast off The Snares, one of New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic islands, 178 nautical miles from our upcoming port of Bluff.



While we enjoyed our last regular breakfast on board Ortelius, the Expedition Staff dropped a zodiac and went to scout the shoreline to assess conditions and determine the best route for our final zodiac cruise.

Conditions were stable and Delphine made the announcement that the operation was a go and for Group B to get ready to board the zodiacs at 8:30am. There was a good size swell at the gangway and it was a short, bumpy, ride to the islands, but once inside the coves of the Snares the waters were calm and we drove our zodiacs into what looked like a perfectly landscaped garden, teeming with plant and animal life - many of them endemic to The Snares.



We immediately found ourselves next to several hundred small and easily spooked, Snares Penguins in their colony, perched on the steep slope of the granite islands. What a special experience, to be up close and personal with one of the world's most rare penguin species, found only on this island!



As we turned south and moved down the shore, at first glance the rocks seemed empty but suddenly there were fur seals everywhere we looked - adults, juveniles and a few pups - lazily enjoying the morning.



In the sky and on the water bird life was everywhere! Overhead hundreds of Auckland Shy Albatross soared silently overhead, while those in their next in the cliffs above squawked and nuzzled departing and returning partners. Juvenile Red Billed Gulls hovered over some of the zodiacs and the sea teemed with Diving Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters!



As we cruised the many coves, we spied more Snares Penguins, Snares Tom Tits, Skuas, a Snares Island Fern Bird and even a Canada Goose! We cruised down the waterway and turned a corner to suddenly find ourselves slowing floating through a natural cave, like The Tunnel of Love, on this Valentine's Day!

After 1 hour and 45 minutes exploring the shore, we returned to Ortelius amidst Penguins swimming in the water and Albatross floating near the ship.



At 10:15 it was Group A's turn to tour The Snares, but this time, in reverse. By lunch time we all got our chance to explore this lovely island, and what a Beautiful Day it was!

After lunch, it was time to pay the fiddler - or rather Sigi - for all the good times in the bar and souvenirs we purchased along this incredible 32-day

voyage. Then boots and life jackets were returned and we began to pack as we sailed towards our final destination, Bluff, New Zealand.

Day 32 - Tuesday February 15 - Bluff, New Zealand

GPS noon position: 46°36'S / 168°20'E

And so we have come to our final day. We arrived in Bluff at around 7.30 am. It seemed a little strange to go through customs clearance in our own Ortelius lobby.

As we headed for Invercargill airport or dispersed throughout New Zealand for our next adventure, many farewells were exchanged. Maybe we will meet again one day somewhere - even, perhaps, in polar regions on an Oceanwide ship!

*Total Distance Sailed from Ushuaia, Argentina
to Bluff, New Zealand:*

6410 Nautical Miles

Ortelius Lectures, Ross Sea 13 Jan to 15 Feb, 2020

- January 14: Birds of the Drake Passage and Antarctica (Simon Cook)
- January 15: Whales of the Antarctic (Gary Miller)
A selected Antarctic Peninsula History (Victoria Salem)
- January 16: Photography (Christian Engelke)
- January 18: The weird and wonderful glaciers of Antarctica (Heidi Sevestre)
Penguins (Simon Cook)
Story time: Leopard Seal encounters (Gary Miller)
- January 19: The Most Amazing Expedition of the Heroic Era? (Victoria Salem)
- January 20: Adélie Penguins: Past, Present and Future (Steve Emslie)
Living in Antarctica: Life at McMurdo Station (Mark Vogler)
- January 21: Seals of Antarctica (Gary Miller)
Shackleton's Forgotten Men (Victoria Salem)
- January 22: Toothed Whales (Simon Cook)
The Rise and Fall of Antarctic Sea Ice (Heidi Sevestre)
- January 23: Roald Amundsen Last of the Vikings (Victoria Salem)
The Life of the Adélie Penguin (Gary Miller)
- January 25: The evolution of Antarctic research stations (Steve Emslie)
Storytime: A winter on Svalbard (Christian Engelke)
- January 26: Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler? (Victoria Salem)
The truth about skuas (Gary Miller)
- January 27: Ernest Shackleton and the Nimrod expedition at Cape Royds, 1907-09
- January 29: Robert Falcon Scott's Antarctic Homes: Hut Point (1901-1904) and
Cape Evans (1910-1912)
- February 1: The Life Story of Emperor Penguins (Gary Miller)
- February 2: All about the Ortelius (Darrel Day)
- February 3: The Antarctic Treaty (Victoria Salem)
- February 7: SS Discovery (Captain Scott) (Simon Cook)
Penguin Bones and Isotopes: Citizen Science from the Ortelius (Steve)
- February 9: Adaptations of Penguins: How do they do that? (Gary Miller)
The First Antarctic Winter at Cape Adare (Borchgrevink) (Victoria Salem)
- February 10: Wintering at Australian Antarctic Station Mawson (Gary Miller)
Wintering at French Subantarctic Station Alfred Faure in the Crozet Islands
(Delphine Aures)
- February 11: Albatrosses (Simon Cook)
Climate Change vs Antarctica (Heidi Sevestre)
- February 13: Miscellany of Mermaids (Victoria Salem)
Tales of a Glaciologist (Heidi Sevestre)



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**?

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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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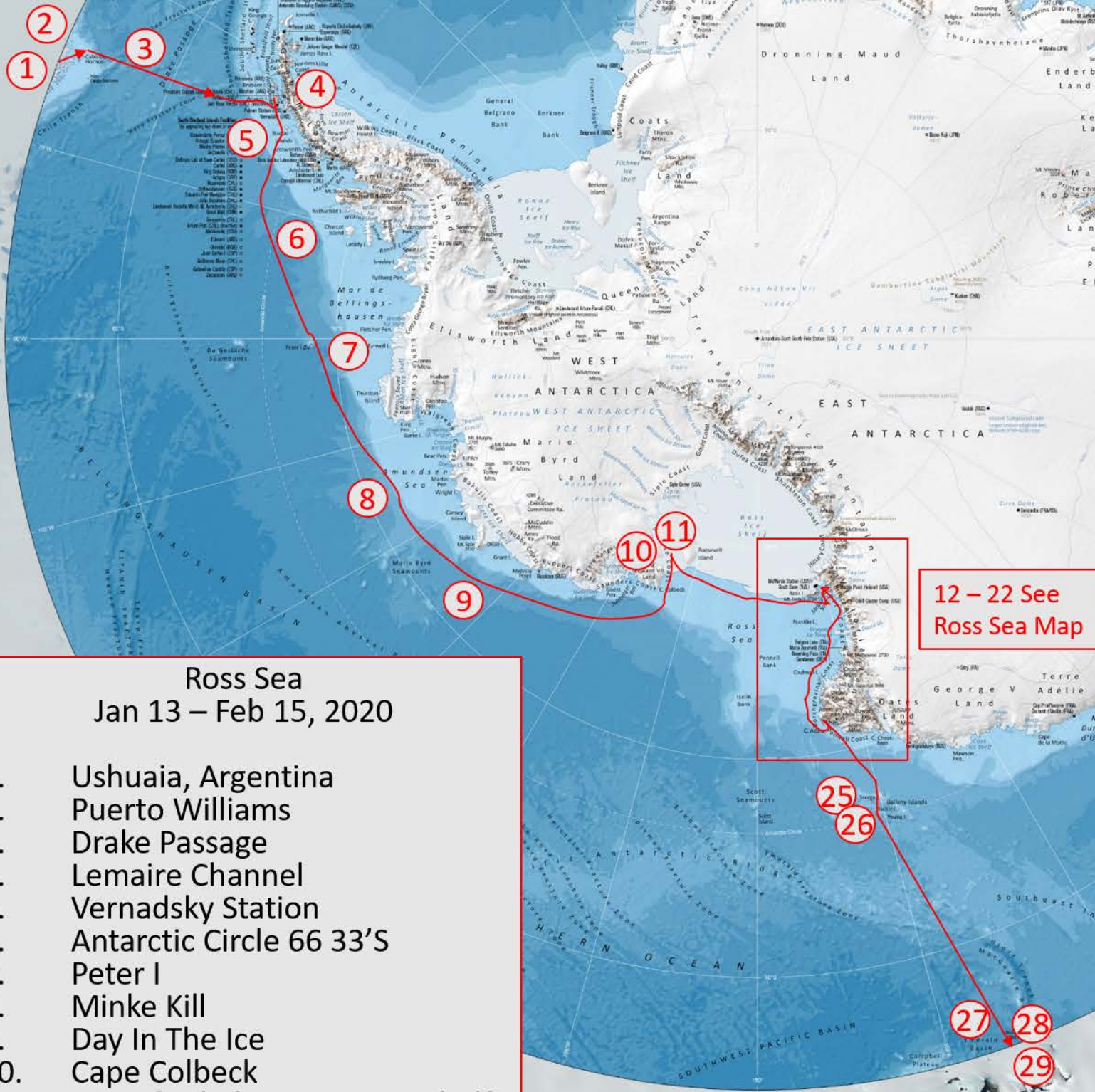
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

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

Antarctica



12 – 22 See Ross Sea Map

Ross Sea
Jan 13 – Feb 15, 2020

1. Ushuaia, Argentina
2. Puerto Williams
3. Drake Passage
4. Lemaire Channel
5. Vernadsky Station
6. Antarctic Circle 66 33'S
7. Peter I
8. Minke Kill
9. Day In The Ice
10. Cape Colbeck
11. Bay Of Whales – Ross Ice Shelf 78 32'S
- 12–24 See Ross Sea Map
25. Bellany Islands
26. Antarctic Circle
27. Campbell Island
28. The Snares
29. Bluff, New Zealand

Map legend

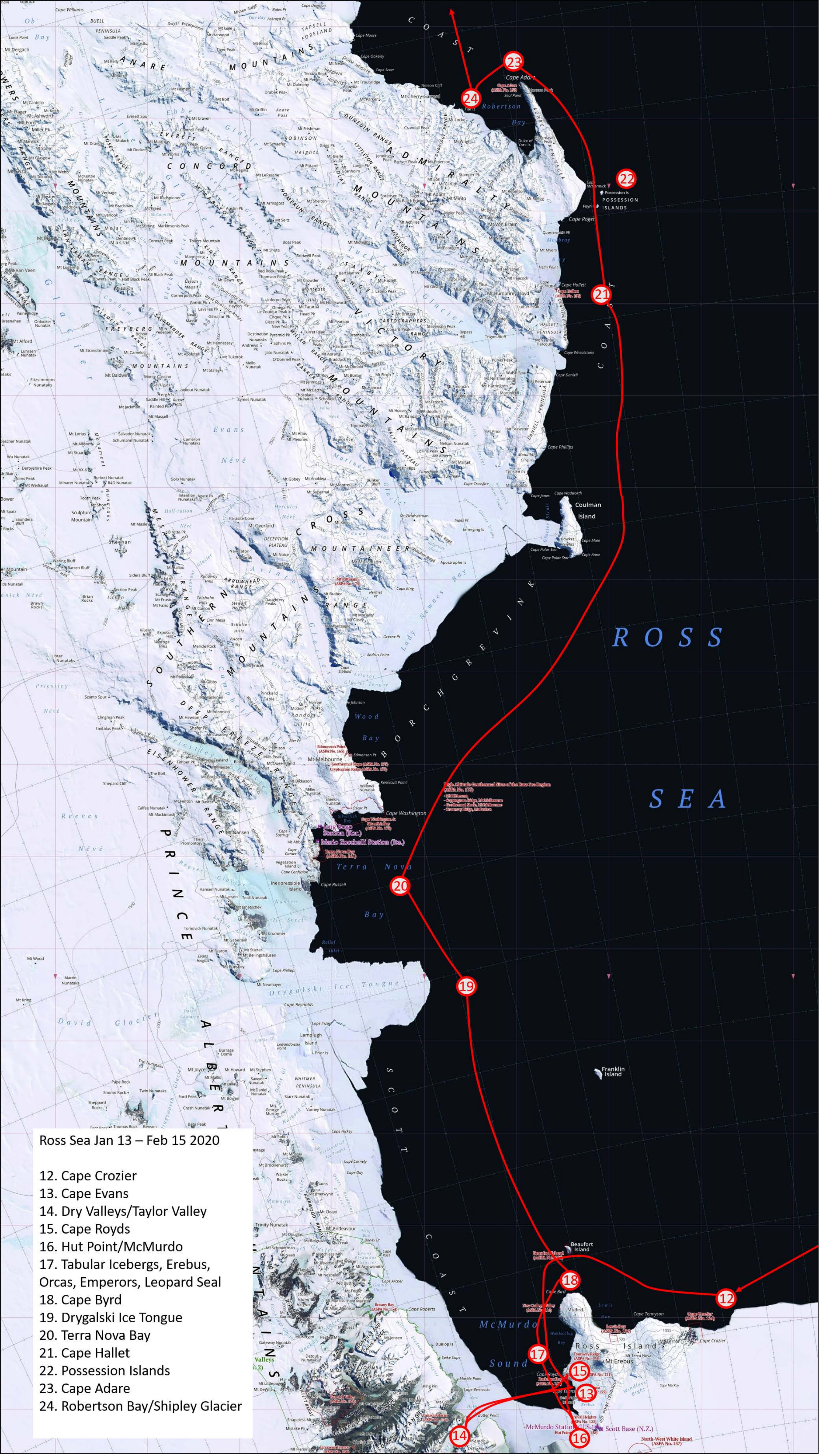
- Coastline
- Ice shelf
- Glaciated area
- Rock outcrop
- Elevation contour
- Elevation point
- Subglacial lake outline
- Regional boundary
- Mean features
- Station, year-round operation
- Station, seasonal operation
- Camp, refuge

Abbreviations

- C. Cape
- Gl. Glacier
- I. Island
- S.S. Ice Shelf
- Mt. Mount
- Mts. Mountains
- Nks. Nunataks
- Pen. Peninsula
- Ra. Range

Bathymetry

- 0 m
- 1000
- 2000
- 3000
- 4000
- 5000
- 6000
- 7000
- 8000



Ross Sea Jan 13 – Feb 15 2020

- 12. Cape Crozier
- 13. Cape Evans
- 14. Dry Valleys/Taylor Valley
- 15. Cape Royds
- 16. Hut Point/McMurdo
- 17. Tabular Icebergs, Erebus, Orcas, Emperors, Leopard Seal
- 18. Cape Byrd
- 19. Drygalski Ice Tongue
- 20. Terra Nova Bay
- 21. Cape Hallett
- 22. Possession Islands
- 23. Cape Adare
- 24. Robertson Bay/Shipleigh Glacier

John Altimus Cartographer, Sites of the Ross Sea Region
 (ASPA No. 070)
 - Mt. Erebus
 - Cape Royds
 - Hut Point
 - McMurdo Station
 - Terra Nova Bay
 - Drygalski Ice Tongue

Cape Byrd
 (ASPA No. 104)
Marie Zaslavskii Station (Rus.)
Terra Nova Bay
 (ASPA No. 105)
Edmondson Point
 (ASPA No. 165)
Edmondson Pt.
 (ASPA No. 166)
Edmondson Pt.
 (ASPA No. 167)
Edmondson Pt.
 (ASPA No. 168)

Beaufort Island
 (ASPA No. 106)
Cape Bird
 (ASPA No. 107)
Cape Byrd
 (ASPA No. 104)
Cape Crozier
 (ASPA No. 108)
Cape Hallett
 (ASPA No. 109)
Cape Hallett
 (ASPA No. 110)
Cape Hallett
 (ASPA No. 111)
Cape Hallett
 (ASPA No. 112)

Cape Royds
 (ASPA No. 113)
Cape Royds
 (ASPA No. 114)
Cape Royds
 (ASPA No. 115)
Cape Royds
 (ASPA No. 116)
Cape Royds
 (ASPA No. 117)
Cape Royds
 (ASPA No. 118)

McMurdo Station
 (ASPA No. 119)
McMurdo Station
 (ASPA No. 120)
McMurdo Station
 (ASPA No. 121)
McMurdo Station
 (ASPA No. 122)
McMurdo Station
 (ASPA No. 123)
McMurdo Station
 (ASPA No. 124)

North-West White Island
 (ASPA No. 137)

Delphine Aurès – Expedition Leader



Delphine has always been fond of travels to explore both the wonders of the natural world and the different cultures. During her scientific studies, she grew a definite passion for polar areas. In 1996 she was selected to be in charge of the long-term monitoring surveys of albatross, penguins, seals and orcas on remote Crozet Island, also becoming then the first woman to winter over at a French Polar station!

In order to share her passion with the greater audience, Delphine then worked several years as a reporter, with her articles and photographs published in various newspapers and science, nature and travel magazines. She also wrote and hosted a series of Canal Plus TV documentaries in which she revealed the daily life of some of the remotest communities in the world!

Meanwhile, Delphine has never ceased since 1998 to visit the Arctic and the Antarctic, leading expeditions for tourists and scientists, sports and events. She also worked as a musher on Svalbard during a winter and came back to France with a retiree husky! Both now live on an island off the coast of Brittany in France.

Christian Engelke – Assistant Expedition Leader



Since his first vacation to Norway in 1996, Christian has suffered severely under the quite widespread “Polar Fever”.

He has been exploring both the mountains and coastal regions of Norway, Sweden and East Greenland by feet, on skis and in his sea kayak.

2008, still studying Industrial Engineering, Christian moved to Svalbard. Finally, after nearly three unforgettable years and experiences at 78 degrees North, he moved “down South” to Tromsø in Northern Norway where he finished his Master’s

degree in “Technology and Safety in the High North”.

In the meantime, Christian and his family have been calling the Lofoten Islands their new home.

Since 2009, Christian is working as a freelance guide all year around. First around Svalbard and Greenland, and since 2014 also towards the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia. He sees himself as a generalist and loves both the minimalistic landscape and quietness, wildlife encounters, and especially the heroic history of the high latitudes. Thus, Christian cannot wait for his first time sailing towards the magnificent Ross Sea region.

When Christian is not in the very high latitudes, you probably find him playing around in his sea kayak off the Norwegian coast in wind and waves.

Seven Emslie – Expedition Guide



Dr. Steve Emslie is a marine ornithologist and professor in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology, University of North Carolina Wilmington. He studies not only living seabirds, but also the fossil record of birds and their paleoecology.

After completing his Ph.D. in 1987, he spent three years as a biologist for Point Reyes Bird Observatory at the Farallon Islands, California, supervising volunteers and assisting in research on 13 species of seabirds and the northern elephant seal.

He first went to Antarctica in 1991 to help with penguin and skua research at King George Island and soon began developing his own research program, especially on the Adélie Penguin. Using a variety of interdisciplinary techniques, Dr. Emslie and his students have been investigating the ecology and diet of these penguins, past and present, and the impact of climate change by sampling well-preserved and often mummified remains from the cold, dry Antarctic environment that range in age from hundreds to thousands of years old.

He also has designed and teaches a unique undergraduate course on Antarctica, 'Antarctic Ecology, Geology, History, and Policy' (BIO 367) and with Honors students has developed K-12 curricula on polar studies that are available on his website, along with blogs from his previous research trips, at <https://itsweb02.uncw.edu/penguins/>

Steve never gets tired of going to Antarctica and has spent numerous seasons at international stations and bases in the Antarctic Peninsula, the Ross Sea, and East Antarctica. He also has spent four seasons in a field hut on King George Island where he helped with studies on the Adélie, Gentoo, and Chinstrap penguins. He is looking forward to visiting new places on this voyage and sharing his experiences with you.

Simon Cook - Expedition Guide



Simon shares the same family name as the illustrious 18th century explorer, Captain James Cook.

In addition to seeing many of the places visited by Cook, Simon has travelled extensively to all four corners of the globe.

With particular interests in photography, cetaceans and ornithology he has been to over 100 countries, been mesmerized by three-quarters of the world's species of whales and dolphins and has seen well over 1,000 species of birds from ships and boats.

A passion for polar regions has taken him on ships to high northern latitudes in several different countries (Russia, Canada, Greenland and Svalbard) as well as many voyages to the icy continent of Antarctica.

He has also had numerous photographs reproduced over the years and has recently had articles published about cetaceans in the North Atlantic and birding around the world from ships and boats. A former manager with an international bank, Simon now spends so much time at sea that he can almost be classified as a marine mammal.

A great sense of adventure combined with a great deal of enthusiasm means that Simon is frequently on the lookout for wildlife, which he is only too pleased to point out to and discuss with others!

Gary Miller – Expedition Guide



Gary's love of the polar regions began over 40 years ago when he studied polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba for his MA in Zoology.

He also studied bowhead whales and gray whales in Alaska and Mexico, and then desert bighorn sheep in Arizona for a PhD in Ecology.

His life moved south when in 1986 he began research on Antarctic penguins and skuas.

Starting with 6 summers of research on Ross Island, deep in the Ross Sea, he has visited Antarctica in 31 of the past 34 years - including 10 summers and a winter at research stations studying South Polar Skuas and Adélie, Gentoo, Chinstrap, Royal, King and Emperor Penguins

For the past 25 years Gary has joined ship-based tours where he enjoys sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm and experience with passengers from all over the world. In that time his trips include 6 tours through the Ross Sea and other parts of East Antarctica.

Gary is one of the most experienced naturalist/guides working today.

Victoria Salem – Expedition Guide



Victoria has always been fascinated by the colder places on our planet and has been travelling professionally in Northern Europe, the Arctic and Antarctica regularly for the past 16 years, though not to the total exclusion of hotter climes!

She has worked in expedition cruising for 27 seasons at both ends of the earth and many places in between, focusing on history, culture and exploration.

She specialized in Old Norse literature and Viking history at undergraduate level and

holds a Graduate Certificate in Antarctic studies from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Since graduating from Cambridge University with a degree in Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic/English literature, Victoria has lived and worked in seven different countries, though her home is now in London and Hastings, UK; when on shore, she enjoys working as a volunteer guide in art galleries, conservation centres and history museums. Her hobbies include travel (in all continents), choral singing, reading & theatre.

A recently-purchased canal boat allows for relaxed, leisurely travel along the UK waterways network when NOT on ships, which is proving both fun and therapeutic.

Heidi Sevestre – Expedition Guide



Heidi Sevestre is a Glaciologist and International Fellow of The Explorers Club. Born in the French Alps, she received her PhD in Glaciology from the northernmost university in the world, in Svalbard (Norwegian high Arctic) and the University of Oslo.

Heidi regularly joins and leads expeditions in the polar regions, and in the highest mountains on Earth. Her field of expertise focuses on ice dynamics, and her research made the cover of Science magazine in 2017.

Beside academia, Heidi is an avid science communicator and educator. She volunteers for many organisations and schools across the world and is the host and author of two series of science documentaries for national French television. She has taken part in documentaries for National Geographic, BBC, ITV, CBC and Time Magazine.

Heidi also works closely with the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative, an American/Swedish NGO involved in science policy. Today, Heidi is preparing for her next two projects. Climate Sentinels, a one-of-a-kind science expedition in Svalbard that will take place in April 2020. With three other female scientists, she will spend four weeks travelling across the main island of the archipelago to better understand how atmospheric pollution can affect the melting of snow and ice, while reducing their carbon footprint as much as possible.

Her second project, The Last Tropical Glaciers, aims to focus on the last icy giants found between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. Millions depend of these glaciers for drinking water, irrigation, sanitation and hydroelectricity. These glaciers are unfortunately on the frontline of climate change and are projected to disappear in the next few years or decades. The Last Tropical Glaciers aims to bring together scientists and communities to raise awareness on the importance of ambitious climate targets to preserve the cryosphere.

Mark Vogler - Expedition Guide



Mark graduated the prestigious UCLA Film School and is a published travel writer and photographer. In college he became a NAUI certified diver and went on to work on film productions and underwater film crews, shooting sharks on location in the Bahamas.

In 2006 Mark heard the call of the ice and ventured to Barrow, Alaska to see the frozen ocean.

In 2011 he then went South, sailing below the Antarctic Circle, where he developed an acute case of Polar Fever. In 2012, he

returned to the Arctic, exploring the east coast of Greenland and sailed deep into Scoresby Sund, the largest fjord system on earth, resulting in his first published polar piece, "Greenland's Iceberg Parade: The Greatest Show On Earth", published by international shipping industry magazine, Marine Commerce.

In 2015, Mark was sent on assignment to the Antarctic peninsula with international Digital Travel Magazine, Man About World, to pen "Antarctica: The Ultimate White Party".

Since then Mark has built his polar credentials, earning his STCW-95 certification at the California State University Maritime Academy, trained with US Coast Guard in maritime safety, and become certified in wilderness first aid.

Mark has explored and photographed both the east and west coasts of Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, Canadian Arctic, Alaska, the Antarctic Peninsula, ventured into the Weddell Sea, and in 2017, he semi circumnavigated the Great White Continent, on a 32 day sail from New Zealand to Argentina with Oceanwide Expeditions Ross Sea Itinerary.

Following the Ross Sea expedition, Mark returned to the Ross Sea and spent the first 3 months of 2018 with the National Science Foundation at McMurdo Station, the United States Antarctic Research Station in the Ross Sea, and is on standby to return there to winter-over in Antarctica in 2020.

During the 2018-2019 Antarctic season he was an expedition guide in the Antarctic Peninsula, Falklands and South Georgia. He then spent the Arctic Season of 2019, guiding in Svalbard on Oceanwide's newest ship, Hondius.

Mark is thrilled to join the expedition team with Oceanwide Expeditions, and to share with their guests his love and passion for Antarctica and Polar Travel.

Darrel Day – Permit Holder



A native of Australia, Darrel Day, first traveled to Antarctica the summer of 1999 on a mountaineering expedition. Since then he returned every summer and built his life around Antarctica. In 2003 he bought Spirit of Sydney yacht and has been supporting the most amazing expeditions ever since: including documentary makers from Discovery Channel's Globetrekker, Animal Planet's "Steve Irwin The Croc Hunter", an HBOs VICE episode, scientists from Oregon

State University Marine Mammals Institute (tagging Humpback Whales), University of British Columbia (Orca study), HBO Munchies (First ever cooking show filmed in the drake) and many others! Other expeditions have included National Geographic photographers, mountaineers, dry suit divers and kayaking expeditions including Andrew Mc Cauley's epic sea kayaking expedition in Antarctica.

Darrel has sailed over 200,000+ nautical miles while supporting over 70 expeditions to Antarctica, as well as 13 to South Georgia, and countless journeys to Cape Horn, Chile. With the Spirit of Sydney, Darrel has enthusiastically supported more first ascents of mountains within Antarctica than any other yacht, making him the most successful Antarctic yacht captain team in mountaineering support to date.

With all this experience gathered in Antarctica over the years, now his company and team have grown, and aside from his expeditions with Spirit of Sydney every season, he is currently managing and consulting within companies like Oceanwide, Cookson's Adventures, Pelorusx. He designs some of the most incredible Antarctic operations including helicopters, submersibles, superyachts and ski-mountaineering.

Darrel is a leader in his industry, a full voting member of the International Association of Antarctic Tourist Operators (IAATO) and is a longstanding committee member on both the Membership, Yacht and Field Staff Committees.

With nearly two decades of experience in Antarctica involved in yacht expedition support, permitting, lecturing, expedition staff work, consulting for aviation projects, expedition ships and super yacht voyages Darrel truly enjoys sharing his knowledge of Antarctica with others and working in a field he loves. As a man who does what he loves he is a joy to adventure with.

Veronique Verhoeven – Ship's Doctor



No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

...but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer, too.

For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career.

That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.



Embarkation

Monday, January 13, 2020

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.

As soon as all passengers are onboard, there will be a **Mandatory Safety Briefing in the Lecture Room (Deck 3)**. **ALL PASSENGERS** are **required** to attend. A roll call will be conducted. Please stand by for announcements for exact time. **We will conduct the mandatory Lifeboat Drill right afterwards. Please listen for the Alarm.**

c. 18.30 We would like to invite you to the **Bar** on Deck 6 for an **Introduction to the Ship** by Hotel Manager Sigi, followed by a general introduction to our expedition by Expedition Leader Delphine Aures, and the expedition team.

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.*



Towards the Drake Passage

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 0900.
- from 09.30 It is now time to collect your **rubber boots** and **life jackets** from
onwards the lecture room (deck 3). We will **call you deck by deck**, please listen for announcements.
- 11.00 Please join **Simon** for a talk about the **Birds of the Drake Passage** in the **lecture room** (deck 3).
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- from 14.30 Vacuum party at the bar (deck 6)! you will need to **vacuum clean**
onwards your **outer gear** (and backpacks, tripods, etc.) to avoid transporting seeds and other foreign materials to Antarctica. Again, we will call you **deck by deck**.
- 18.00 Meet our **Captain** and the team for a **welcome toast** and our first **Recap** of this voyage.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.

*Today we will be in the open sea.
Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall
when the ship starts to move with the swell.*



Drake Passage

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 0900.
- 09.00 - 10.00 Wildlife watch deck 6 behind the bridge: for those interested in identification of seabirds or just to enjoy a bit of fresh air in pleasant company!
- 10.30 Please join Gary for a talk about the **Whales of Antarctica** in the **lecture room** (deck 3).
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join Victoria for her talk: "**A selected Antarctic Peninsula History**" in the **lecture room** (deck 3).
- 17.00 - 18.00 Wildlife watch deck 6 behind the bridge: for those interested in identification of seabirds or just to enjoy a bit of fresh air in pleasant company!
- 18.30 Recap in the bar! Come and hear facts or stories from the team and feel free to ask any questions!
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.

Beware that we will adjust wildlife watch timings to sea conditions and wildlife presence! Stand by for announcements!



Drake Passage

Thursday, January 16, 2020

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 0900.
- 09.00 - 10.00 Wildlife watch deck 6 behind the bridge: for those interested in identification of seabirds or just to enjoy a bit of fresh air in pleasant company!
- 10.30 Please join Delphine for a **mandatory** IAATO and Zodiac briefing in the lecture room on deck 3 (everyone must attend; that is even for those who have been visiting Antarctica before!)
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join Christian for a non-technical talk about **photography** in the **lecture room** (deck 3).
- 18.00 Briefing about tomorrow's plans and recap, in the bar!
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.

Great things have small beginnings.

Sir Francis Drake (1540 – 1596)



Antarctic Peninsula

Friday, January 17, 2020

Today we are aiming at the following activities:

- * A ship navigation through one the most scenic narrow channels of the Peninsula, the Lemaire channel**
- * A zodiac cruise in the labyrinth of the Argentine Islands**
- * A visit of a scientific station, Vernadsky (Ukraine)**

Beware that our success will partly depend on ice and sea conditions encountered and that all timings below are for guidance only, please stand-by for announcements.

05.30 Wake-up call announcement regarding the conditions as the ship should start the app. one hour navigation of Lemaire Channel, located between Booth Island and mainland.

07.00 Breakfast buffet is ready for you in the dining room until 0800.

App.08.00 The ship should be in position off the Argentine Islands near Vernadsky station

08.15 Group A to the gangway

09.00 Group B to the gangway

12.30 Lunch buffet is open in the restaurant for one hour

Afternoon: Navigation South , enjoy the outside decks and stand by for announcements regarding wildlife or ice!

18.30 Recap with the expedition team in the bar.

19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



Tonight (the night from January 18 to January 19)
we will continue our time adjustment across the several
time zones until New Zealand:

**When going to bed tonight,
move your clocks back one hour!**

Bellinghausen Sea
Crossing the Antarctic Circle
Saturday, January 18, 2020

- 07.45 Wake-up call
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 0900.
- 10.00 Please join **Heidi** for her presentation '**The weird and wonderful glaciers of Antarctica**'.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Simon** for his presentation '**Penguins**' in the lecture room.
- 18.15 Expedition team's **recap**, in the bar!
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.
- 21.00 "**Story telling in the bar**": Come and join the expedition team for some polar circle stories!

*Beyond 40°S there is no law,
beyond 50°S there is no God.*

Whalers Saying



Tonight, we will continue our time adjustment across the several time zones until New Zealand:

**When going to bed tonight,
move your clocks back one hour!**

**Bellinghausen Sea
Peter the First Island**
Sunday, January 19, 2020

07.15 Sunday **Wake-up call**

07.30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 08.30

09.00 Please join the helicopters pilots from DAP and Delphine for a **mandatory** helicopter safety briefing, in the lecture room (everyone must attend; that is even for those who have been flying in Antarctica before!).

This will be followed by a “**practice run**” between 10.00 and 12.30.
Check your helicopter group on the list posted by reception and at the bar.

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.

15.30 Please join **Victoria** for her presentation “**Shackleton’s Endurance Expedition - The most amazing expedition of the Antarctic Heroic Age?**” in the lecture room.

Please stand by for announcements regarding time for the daily briefing and details on the approach of Peter the First Island.

19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Bon appetit!



Bellinghausen Sea en route to the Ross Sea

Monday, January 20, 2020

- 08.00 **Wake-up call.** Meanwhile, **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00
- 10.30 Please join **Steven** for his presentation "**Adelie Penguins: Past, Present & Future**", in the lecture room.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Mark** in the lecture room for his talk on "**Living in Antarctica - McMurdo Station**".
- 18.15 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Bon appetit!

**He who commands the sea
has command of everything**

Themistocles



*None of us knows anything about boats
until we have built or owned at least three;
by that time,
we begin to realise how very little we really do know*

William Atkin

Amundsen Sea en route to the Ross Sea Tuesday, January 21, 2020

- 07.45 **Wake-up call.** Good morning Ortelius!
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 10.30 Please join **Gary** for his presentation about the “**Seals of Antarctica**” in the lecture room.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her tale about “**Shackleton’s forgotten Men**”.
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Bon appetit!
- 21.00 **Movie night** (part II) in the cinema!

Tonight (21. to 22.01.), we will continue our time adjustment across the several time zones until New Zealand:

**When going to bed tonight,
move your clocks back one hour!**



All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recess of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible.

T.E. Lawrence

Amundsen Sea en route to the Ross Sea Wednesday, January 22, 2020

- 07.45 **Wake-up call.** Good morning Ortelius!
- 08.00 The **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 10.00 Please join **Simon** in the lecture room for his lecture about “**Toothed whales**”.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Heïdi** for her presentation about the “**Mysteries of Antarctic sea ice**” in the lecture room.
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.
- 21.00 **Movie night** (part III) in the cinema!

Tonight (22. to 23.01.), we will continue our time adjustment across the several time zones until New Zealand:

When going to bed tonight, move your clocks back one hour!



“The ice is coming”

Captain Ernesto Barria

Amundsen Sea en route to the Ross Sea

Thursday, January 23, 2020

- 07.45 **Wake-up call.** Good morning Ortelius!
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 10.00 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her lecture:
“Brutally unsubtle: **The life of Roald Amundsen** - the Last of the Vikings”
- 11.30 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 1). Please see for the sign-up sheet at Reception.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Gary** for his presentation about “**The Life of Adelie Penguins**” in the lecture room.
- 17.00 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 2). Please see for the sign-up sheet at Reception.
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Bon appetit!
- 21.00 **Movie night** (final part IV) in the cinema!

Tonight (23. to 24.01.), we will continue our time adjustment across the several time zones until New Zealand:

When going to bed tonight, move your clocks back one hour!



*For sheer downright misery give me a hurricane, not too warm,
the yard of a sailing ship, a wet sail and a bout of sea sickness*

Apsley Cherry-Gerrard

Amundsen Sea en route to the Ross Sea

Friday, January 24, 2020

Beware that today's timings might change if ice conditions are favourable for wildlife sightings.

- 07.45 **Wake-up call.** Good morning Ortelius!
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 10.00 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her lecture:
"Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler?"
- 11.30 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 3). Please see for the sign-up sheet at Reception.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.00 Come and join **Dumpling making** workshop for **Chinese New Year's** today.
- 16.30 Please join **Steven** for his presentation about **"The evolution of Antarctic stations"** in the lecture room.
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Bar.
- 19.00 **Special Dinner** tonight!
- 21.00 **Storytime** with the Expedition team in the Bar!



*The ice was here, the ice was there, the ice was all around.
It cracked and growled and roared and howled
like noises in a swound.*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge
From the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*

Amundsen Sea en route to the Ross Sea

Saturday January 25, 2020

- 07.45 **Wake-up call.** Good morning Ortelius!
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 10.00 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her lecture:
“Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler?”
- 11.30 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 4). Please see for the sign-up sheet at Reception.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Steven** for his presentation about **“The evolution of Antarctic stations”** in the lecture room.
- 17.00 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 5).
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Bar.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is ready!
- 21.00 **Storytime** with the Expedition team in the Bar!

Tonight (25. to 26.01.), we will continue our time adjustment across the several time zones until New Zealand:

When going to bed tonight, move your clocks back one hour!



*...for countless ages the wind-swept snow
has drifted over these deserts,
with never a footprint to break its white surface...*

Captain Robert Falcon Scott

En route to the Ross Sea Sunday, January 26, 2020

- 07.45 **Wake-up call.** Good morning Ortelius!
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 10.00 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her lecture:
“Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler?”
- 11.30 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 4). Please see for the
sign-up sheet at Reception.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.30 Please join **Gary** in the lecture room for his lecture:
“The truth about skuas”
- 17.00 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 5). Please see for the
sign-up sheet at Reception.
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the Lounge.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served!
- 21.00 **Storytime** with the Expedition team in the Bar!



*Their perpendicular walls towered above our masts;
they overhung our ships, whose dimensions seemed ridiculously
diminutive compared with these enormous masses.
One could imagine oneself in the narrow streets of a city of giants.*

Jules Dumont d'Urville
(fearing his ships would be crushed by heaving icebergs)

Bay of Whales

Monday, January 27, 2020

Expedition Night & Morning

Stand by for announcements around our furthest South position

- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 11.00 **Navigation Workshop** with **Darrel** (Group 6). Please see for the sign-up sheet at Reception. There are still some **empty spaces**.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 15.00 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her presentation:
“Ernest Shackleton and the Nimrod Expedition at Cape Royds (1907-1909)”
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served!
- 21.00 Darrel presents the **documentary** “The Ice Bridge” in our **Cinema**.

Tonight (27. to 28.01.), we will continue our time adjustment across the several time zones until New Zealand:

When going to bed tonight, move your clocks back one hour!



*Swans of weird shape pecked at our planks,
a gondola steered by a giraffe ran foul of us,
which much amused a duck sitting on a crocodile's head...
all the strange, fantastic shapes rose and fell in stately cadence
with a rustling, whispering sound
and hollow echoes to the thudding seas*

Frank Worsley, Shackleton's navigator
(describing icebergs)

Cape Crozier, Ross Ice Shelf

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Last night we jumped a day ahead,
crossing the international date line westwards!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.

We are hoping to be doing helicopter operations around the Ross Ice Shelf off Cape Crozier, Ross Island. Please listen for announcements, we keep you updated about our exact plans.

13.00 **Lunch buffet** will be available as long as needed regarding our operations today 😊

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

20.30 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her presentation:
“**Robert Falcon Scott’s Antarctic homes: Hut Point (1901–04) & Cape Evans (1910–12) “**



*Swans of weird shape pecked at our planks,
a gondola steered by a giraffe ran foul of us,
which much amused a duck sitting on a crocodile's head...
all the strange, fantastic shapes rose and fell in stately cadence
with a rustling, whispering sound
and hollow echoes to the thudding seas*

Frank Worsley, Shackleton's navigator
(describing icebergs)

REVISED PROGRAM

Cape Evans, Ross Island Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Last night we jumped a day ahead,
crossing the international date line westwards!

- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 09.15 Please join **Victoria** in the lecture room for her presentation:
“Robert Falcon Scott’s Antarctic homes: Hut Point (1901–04) & Cape Evans (1910–12) “
- 10.30 **Mandatory Briefing** about the Antarctic Historical Huts Visitor Guidelines and our intended landing at Cape Evans.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** will be available as long as needed regarding our operations today 😊
- TBA We are intending to go ashore at **Cape Evans**. We will keep you updated. Please listen for announcements.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served!



Dry Valleys, Antarctic continent
OR Cape Royds, Ross Island
Thursday, January 30, 2020

If the weather allows, we wish to offer you a helicopter landing at the dry valleys.

If not possible, we will aim for a zodiac landing at Cape Royds.
Please stand by for announcements regarding operations, timings and briefings!

- 07.15 **Wake up call and update on the plans according actual weather**
- 07.30 **Breakfast buffet**
- 12.00 **Lunch buffet** will be available as long as needed regarding our operations today 😊
Thank you all Galley and Restaurant Team!
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served!



Great God! This is an awful place.

Robert Falcon Scott (1912)

**Cape Royds, Ross Island
Ice Edge, McMurdo Sound**

Friday, January 31, 2020

07.45 Wake-up call!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.

from We are intending to go ashore at **Cape Royds** to visit **Shackleton's**
approx. **hut**. Please listen for announcements. Our plan is to start with "Hut
09.00 Group B", followed by Group C and A.

13.00 **Lunch buffet** will be available for one hour.

This afternoon we will be sailing **McMurdo Sound** in the search for **wildlife** along the edge of the **fast ice**.

18.30 Meet your guide team in the bar for the daily **Recap**.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!



*All I say is,
if you wish to see nature robed in her mantle of might,
look at a storm at sea;
If you want to see her robed in her mantle of glory,
look at a sunset at sea.*

Sir Ernest Shackleton, aged 17

Cape Crozier, Ross Ice Shelf

Saturday, February 01, 2020

We are hoping to be doing **helicopter** operations around the **Ross Ice Shelf** off **Cape Crozier**, Ross Island. Please listen for **announcements**, we keep you updated about our exact plans. If we go ahead, we will start with “Helicopter Group 1” today.

- 07.15 **Wake-up** call and **update** about our plans.
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00.
- 13.00 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.
- 18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served!



Terra Nova Bay

Sunday, February 02, 2020

Today we will be approaching Terra Nova Bay. We will adjust our program depending on the presence of fast ice, possible wildlife and local wind conditions.

Wake up call will come as usual when necessary and at the latest at 07.45

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00

Enjoy the morning to catch up on your travel notes or editing your photos. Remember that you are very welcome to share your pictures and video with everyone on the computer in the bar!

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

Stand by for announcements as we hope to be approaching the Drygalski Ice Tongue

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

*The great hurrah about wild animals is that they exist at all,
and the greater hurrah is the actual moment of seeing them.
Because they have a nice dignity, and prefer to have
nothing to do with me,
not even as the simple objects of my vision.
They show me by their very wariness what a prize it is
simply to open my eyes and behold.*

Annie Dillard - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek



Wood Bay, Victoria Land

Monday, February 3, 2020

Today we do not know yet what kind of adventure we will share, but it shall not be a regular Monday in the office! Please stand by for announcements and updates. If we use the helicopters, today we will start with Helicopter Group 1.

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary and at the latest at 07.45!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

“Wood Bay is bounded by Cape Johnson and Aviator Glacier Tongue on the north and Cape Washington on the south, along the coast of Victoria Land. Discovered in 1841 by Capt. James Clark Ross, and named by him for Lt. James F.L. Wood of the ship Erebus.”

Geographic Names of the Antarctic



Cape Hallet, Victoria Land

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Today we are aiming for an outing by Cape Hallet, depending on the sea ice, swell, wind and cloud ceiling conditions. Please stand by for announcements and updates!

If using the helicopters, we start with *Helicopter Group 1*. If going out by Zodiac, we start with *Zodiac Group A* (followed by *Zodiac group B*).

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary and at the latest at 07.45!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

***I have often had the impression that to penguins,
man is just another penguin –
different, less predictable, occasionally violent,
but tolerable company when he sits still
and minds his own business.***

Bernard Stonehouse in his book 'Penguins'



Cape Adare, Adare peninsula

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Today we are aiming for a landing at Cape Adare, although the exact activity will be depending on sea ice, swell, wind and cloud ceiling conditions. Please stand by for announcements and updates!

If using the helicopters, we start with **Helicopter Group 3**. If going out by Zodiac, we start with **Hut group B** (followed by *Hut group C, then Hut group A*)

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary and at the latest at 07.45!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

***Antarctica left a restless longing in my heart
beckoning towards an incomprehensible perfection forever
beyond the reach of mortal man.
Its overwhelming beauty touches one so deeply
that it is like a wound.***

Edwin Mickleburgh, *Beyond the Frozen Sea*



Robertson Bay, Victoria Land

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Today we are aiming for a helicopter scenic flight in and around Robertson Bay, depending on sea ice, swell, wind and cloud ceiling conditions.

Today we shall start with ***Helicopter Group 3.***

Please stand by for announcements and updates!

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary and at the latest at 07.45!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

Happiness is only real when shared

from "Into the Wild"



At sea towards the Balleny Islands

Friday, February 7, 2020

We have xx nm to reach the Balleny Islands

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary and at the latest at 07.45!

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 09.00

Simon SS Discovery (Captain Scott)

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

Steve Penguins bones and isotopes: Citizen science from the Ortelius

18.00 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

Happiness is only real when shared

from "Into the Wild"



A true expedition day at the Balleny Islands Saturday, February 8, 2020

Let's try and be among the lucky few to ever see the Balleny Islands and cruise around some of them! All timings and details below are for guidance only. We will keep you posted through the day by announcements.

05.15 **Wake-up call!**

Early birds 'pastries available at the bar at this time

App.0600 **Zodiac Group B** to the gangway for a zodiac cruise South of Buckle Island

App.0730 **Zodiac Group A** to the gangway for a zodiac cruise South of Buckle Island

07.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **08.15**

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

Our afternoon program will depend on our morning activities.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

***A journey is a person in itself,
no two are alike.
And all plans, safeguards, policies
and coercion are fruitless.
We find after years of struggle
that we do not take a trip,
a trip takes us.***

John Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)



At sea in the Southern Ocean
Sunday, February 9, 2020

REVISED PROGRAM

Happy Sunday onboard Ortelius! If we do not have a valid reason to wake you up earlier than breakfast you might enjoy a bit of a sleep in 😊

- 08.00** **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **09.00**
- 10.30** **Gary** presents “**Adaptations of penguins**”
- 12.30** **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.
- 15.00** Victoria presents “**The first Antarctic winter – at Cape Adare (Borchgrevink, 1898 – 1900)**”
- 18.00** Auction for the **New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust**. Come and bid for your favorite items to help raise money for **the conservation of the historical huts of the Ross sea!**
The 25 unique items will be on display in the bar between **17.00 and 18.00**
- 19.00** **Dinner** is served!
- 20.45** Looking into the future! **Heïdi** invites you **in the bar** to learn about her forthcoming **Climate Sentinels Expedition** in Svalbard.

***If it is possible to imagine a piece of rotting beef,
odiferous cod fish and a canvas-backed duck
roasted together in a pot,
with blood and cod-liver oil for sauce,
the illustration would be complete.***

Dr. Frederick Cook on the “*Belgica Expedition*” on what penguins taste like



At sea in the Southern Ocean
Monday, February 10, 2020

Happy Monday onboard Ortelius! If we do not have a valid reason to wake you up earlier than breakfast you might enjoy a bit of a sleep in 😊

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **09.00**

10.30 **Gary** is sharing facts and stories of his **Wintering at Australian Antarctic station Mawson**.

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

15.00 **Delphine** is sharing facts and stories of her **wintering at French Sub Antarctic Station Alfred Faure**, in the Crozet Islands.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

***I now belong to a higher cult of mortals,
for I have seen the albatross***

Robert Cushman Murphy



At sea towards Campbell Island
Tuesday, February 11, 2020

- 07.45 Wake-up call.
- 08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **09.00**
- 10.30 **Simon** will take you into the world of **Albatrosses**.
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.
- 15.30 **Heidi** invites you to learn more about **Climate Change**.
- 18.15 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.
- 19.00 **Dinner** is served!

***The ice and the long moon-lit polar nights,
with all their yearning,
seemed now like a far-off dream from another world;
a dream that had come and passed away.
But what would life be without dreams.***

Fridtjof Nansen in "Farthest North"



Campbell Island
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Sunrise is at 06:36 and sunset at 21:15

Today we are aiming for Zodiac activities around Campbell Island. Please stand by for announcements and updates!

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary, and at the latest at **07.00!**

07.30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **08.30**

If conditions allow, we will be offering a Zodiac cruise along the Northeast coast of Campbell. Timings below are for guidance only, please stand by for announcements.

08.30 Helicopter Group 5, 6, 7 to the gangway

08.45 Helicopter Group 1, 2, 3 to the gangway

09.45 Helicopter Group 4 to the gangway

12.30 Lunch buffet is ready for you.

If conditions allow, we will be offering a Zodiac cruise into the inner coves of Perseverance Harbour in the afternoon. Please stand by for announcements.

18.30 Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

***Who would believe in penguins,
unless he had seen them?***

Conor Cruise O'Brien



At sea towards the Snares
Thursday, February 13, 2020

Sunrise is at ~06:50 and sunset at ~21:10

- 07.45** **Wake-up call**

- 08.00** **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **09.00**

- 10.30** **Victoria** invites you to her “**Miscellany of Mermaids**”.

- 12.30** **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

- 15.30** **Heïdi** invites you to her “**Tales of a field glaciologist**”.

- 18.15** Please join the **Expedition team** for the daily **Recap** in the bar.

- 19.00** **Dinner** is served!

The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.

Rachel Carlson



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Happy Valentine to you all *At the Snares Islands*

Friday, February 14, 2020

Sunrise is at ~07:00 and sunset at ~21:05

Today we are aiming for a Zodiac cruise by the unique wildlife of North East Island. Please stand by for announcements and updates!

Wake-up call will come as usual when necessary, and at the latest at **07.00**

07.30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until **08.30**

If conditions allow, we will be offering a Zodiac cruise where crested penguins are present. Timings below are for guidance only, please stand by for announcements. Dress with your waterproofs, and warmly enough to be seated in Zodiacs for near 2 hours 😊

08.30 **Zodiac Group B**, please make your way to the **Gangway**

10.30 **Zodiac Group A**, please make your way to the **Gangway**

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you.

14-16.00 Please come to **settle your account** at **Reception !**

17.00 At this time please bring your **lifejackets** and **rubber boots** to the expedition team on deck 3, **lecture room**.

18.30 Please join the us for our **farewell toast** in the bar as well as **disembarkation information**.

19.00 Our last special **Dinner** onboard is ready!

***Once you had been to the white unknown you
could never escape the call of the little voices.***

Frank Wild



Bluff, South Island, NZ

Saturday, February 15, 2020

We should be alongside the pier at around 07.00 this morning. Customs and clearance officials will board the vessel upon arrival. Please stay clear of the outside deck 4 during the approach to the pier and the mooring operation.

06.00 Wake-up call

06.30 Your **check-in luggage** needs to be **outside your cabin** at this time. Please make sure to **attach the proper coloured ribbon to your check-in luggage**

Red tag -> **Airport**

Green tag -> **Invercargill (Kelvin Hotel)**

White tag -> **Bluff (central)**

No tag -> Ikarus Group

06.30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room until 07.30.

Please **stand by for announcements** as you will be called to the bar to receive your passport and go through clearance after breakfast. We will call those of you who go to the **airport first**.

Please **do not disembark** the ship before we are cleared. Remember that **NO food** is allowed to take ashore.

App. **08.30** **Bus** for the **airport** is ready to depart.

App. **08.45** **Bus** for **Bluff (central)** and **Invercargill (Kelvin hotel)** ready to depart.

App. 09.00 Ikarus Bus ready to depart

Thank you! Safe Travels!

***We shall not cease from exploration,
and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started,
and know the place for the very first time.***

T.S. Eliot