



Antarctica - Learning and Discovery Trip

on board

m/v Hondius

**15th of February 2020 – 24th of February
2020**



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

Captain Remmert Jan Koster and his international crew of 74

including

Chief Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
Staff Officer:	Mikko Heikkila	[Finland]
Second Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Kirill Buriachek	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	Sergei Trifonov	[Estonia]
Hotel Manager:	DJ Nikolic	[Ukraine]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Rafael Szutikewicz	[Poland]
Head Chef:	Bawa Gaurav	[India]
Sous-Chef:	Sergiy Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Sanne van Tilburg	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Adam Turner	[United Kingdom]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	[United Kingdom]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Martin Berg	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Ross Wheeler	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Miriam Vermeij	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Daniel Höhne	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Gunilla Lindh	[Sweden]
Expedition Guide:	Pippa Low	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Gaby Pilson	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	David Begg	[New Zealand & Canada]
Kayak Guide:	Pete Gwatkin	[United Kingdom]
Kayak Guide:	Paul Ulrich	[Austria]
Camping Guide:	Ben Giunchi	[Argentina]

Camping Guide:	Marcel Paul	[The Netherlands]
Workshop Guide:	Sara Torres Ortiz	[Spain]
Workshop Guide:	Morgan Martin	[USA]
Videography Guide:	Myriam Casper	[Brazil]
Photography Guide:	Massimo Bassano	[Italy]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1: 15th February 2020

Embarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48'.6 S, 068°17'.8 W
Wind: NE2 Sea State: Port Weather: Cloudy
Air Temp: +9 °C Sea Temp: +12 °C

Finally, we arrived in Ushuaia! All of us came to this town in the very south of Argentina from everywhere around the world on an overcast day that was not too cold. Known as 'the End of the World', Ushuaia is just the beginning of our adventure as we will venture much further South to the great White Continent. For most of us this is a lifelong dream, and for many, this will be the seventh continent and last continent on the list to visit.



However, Ushuaia is not just a port for us; it is a beautiful city set in beautiful landscape. The mountains that rise up from the ocean behind the city are topped with snow, and the streets are buzzing with excitement for those about to embark on the voyage of a lifetime while a silent smell in the air makes it clear to us that winter is not far away anymore. In the morning, we strolled around Ushuaia's old roads, doing some last-minute shopping and grabbing a coffee before

embarking upon the expedition ship *M/V Hondius*.

Finally, it is 4:00pm and we are slowly making our way to our home for the next 10 days, *Hondius*. Whilst waiting to board, you could feel the excitement in the air. The expedition team greeted us at the gangway and their excitement for the upcoming journey was palpable. We were met at reception by DJ, the ship's hotel manager, where we then checked into our cabins with the assistance of our fabulous crew.



We had a little bit of time to get familiarised with the ship before we all convened in the lounge on deck 5 to formally meet our Expedition Leader, Adam, and our Hotel Manager, DJ, for the first time. They gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel with a lot of comfort, and a short introduction of the next couple of days. Then, we met

the chief officer, Matei, who led us through all the details of the required SOLAS briefing (Safety of Life at Sea).

One last time before dinner, we gathered in the lounge with a glass of Prosecco as it was time for the captain's welcome cocktail hour. We were introduced to our captain, Remmert Jan Koster, who toasted to a safe and amazing trip. At 19:30 we were welcomed to the dining room, where we sat at shared tables, making new friends and wondering what awaits us in the days to come.



Day 2: 16th February 2020

At sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°43'.2 S, 066°02'.5 W

Wind: SW6 Sea State: Slight Weather: Rain

Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: +10°C

Today was our first morning in the infamous Drake Passage. For some, it felt like the swell had woken them up like a baby in a cradle. However, there were some mixed opinions about this, with some much preferring the comforts of a bed on solid ground than at sea. Most people did come down for breakfast, though, which was a great start. After our first delicious breakfast onboard *Hondius*, we all had to meet up in the Lounge for the introduction of all the expedition staff.

After the introductions, Expedition Leader Adam gave us a mandatory IAATO briefing where we learned what we can do and, more importantly, what we can't do in Antarctica. We also been given the important basics for the zodiac operations, how to use the sailor's grip, and the use of the life vests that we have to wear when we leave the ship.



The briefing was followed by the handing out of the rubber boots. Many shoesizes flew around the room. Regardless of if you need a big size or small size, the expedition staff had a pair of boots with you in no time. Therefore, it also did not take very long until everybody had a pair and was ready to go for lunch.



In the afternoon, we had a full program filled with lectures and activity briefings. Martin lectured about his favourite topic, seabirds. Also, on the list was the biosecurity check, where everybody had to bring down their outer clothing, which was thoroughly checked by the expedition staff. All pockets had to be vacuumed and all Velcro straps were checked and cleaned with pincers to ensure that we don't bring any foreign species with us to the pristine White Continent.

After the biosecurity check, some of us headed to the lecture room for the kayaking briefing with Pete and Paul, and the camping briefing with Ben and Marcel, for those who had signed up for some adventurous activities in Antarctica.

To end the day, we had our first Daily Recap in the observation lounge. Here, we got to hear the plans for the next day from our expedition leader Adam while some of the expedition staff had some interesting topics to educate us all about to end the day.

Directly after dinner, we saw an amazing sunset over the Drake Passage, which we were very lucky to see due to the day's fog and low-lying clouds. In the evening, we had a lecture from Massimo and Myriam, where we were given an introduction to photography in Antarctica. Soon enough, it was time to head to bed to get some rest before yet another busy sea day on the Drake Passage.



Day 3: 17th February 2020

At sea, Drake passage

GPS position at 0800: 61°23'.8 S, 065°42'.9 W
Wind: NW2 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast
Air Temp: +4 °C Sea Temp: +7 °C

During the night, we sailed through the Antarctic Convergence and when you got on the outside decks, the cold chill in the air reminded you that we were sailing ever closer to the Antarctic Peninsula. We expected some more sea birds, but probably because of the calm sea, there were not that many birds, as many of the birds of the Southern Ocean depend on high winds to soar across the open seas. But most people felt very good due to the calm seas and most of us had a delicious breakfast. During breakfast there was an announcement about a contest: when will we see the first iceberg?

After yesterday's mandatory briefings, we had a day full of interesting lectures. We first gathered in the lounge to hear Gaby tell us about the glaciology. We learned about glaciers and ice so we are able to read the landscape when we will reach the White Continent. Just before lunch, Sara took us on a visual journey of the different penguins we can see and discussed the many adaptation penguins have to survive in such a harsh environment.



Then it was time for the lovely lunch buffet. During lunch, the fog came in and as we were completely surrounded by the fog, Pippa taught us about marine mammals of Antarctica. During Pippa's lecture, we learned how to identify different species of whales and dolphins while also getting a closer look in some scientific research programs.



In the afternoon, our two resident acoustics scientists, Morgan and Sara, told us about their research and how we can help them on our journey to Antarctica. During our voyage, we will all be able to see how they work and what they are able to record for future publication into scientific journals.

After all the ice and wildlife information, it was time for Massimo and Myriam to show us how we can make beautiful videos of all the things we will see the

coming days in their videography lecture. Before dinner, we gathered in the lounge to hear the plans for tomorrow. It will be a day everybody is waiting for, because after leaving Ushuaia it will be our first outing in the zodiacs or the kayaks.

After dinner's 4-course meal, the kayakers met up with their guides to get a close up look at a kayak, to get familiar with the seats and steering system, and to collect all of the kayaking gear.

For the rest of us, it was time to relax. As we sailed further south, the ship rocked throughout the night, but we got more and more excited for the adventures to come in the White Continent.



Day 4: 18th February 2020

Anagram Islands & Port Charcot

GPS position at 0800: 65°12'.4 S, 064°16'.5 W

Wind: Light Sea State: Calm Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: +2 °C Sea Temp: +4 °C

After two days heading south through the 'Drake Lake,' we arrived at the Antarctic Peninsula with beautiful sunny skies and glassy, calm seas. In true expedition style, we planned to make a landing at the uncharted Anagram Islands, a location that was new for Hondius and the expedition staff. Due to swell conditions, we unfortunately could not make a landing, however, with perfect Antarctic summer conditions around us, we dropped the zodiacs and went for a cruise around the ice and the unexplored islands. This provided the ultimate welcome to Antarctica, with an abundance of wildlife and some truly stunning scenery under the summer sun. We were first provided excellent close up views of crabeater seals, followed by Antarctic fur seals, humpback whales and our first penguins!



The afternoon provided us all with the opportunity to finally stretch our legs at Port Charcot, the sight of the 1903-1905 overwintering French expedition led by famed explorer, Jean-Baptiste Charcot. This landing provided us with close-up encounters of gentoo penguins as well as a small number of chinstrap penguins. We had officially ticked off all three of the brush-tail penguins within the first day of our expedition in Antarctica (an achievement that is very rarely achieved).

As well as making a landing, we also went out on a zodiac cruise amongst the many towering icebergs found throughout the bay. Tucked amongst the icebergs were numerous species of seal, including crabeater, leopard and Weddell seals. Not only had we now seen all three species of penguin that we were hoping for but also all of the main true seal species as well. We were even treated to some excellent views of Antarctic minke whales and humpback whales from the zodiacs and from Hondius as we returned to the ship at the end of a very rewarding day for another informative recap lecture and dinner.



To end the perfect start to our Antarctic expedition, some of us even went out for a night of camping in the evening as the calm summer conditions continued into the ephemeral darkness of the Antarctic night.



After a full day of activities and back on *Hondius*, Ben and Marcel organized the camping for the adventurous people who dared to spend the night out in the wilderness and extreme conditions of Antarctica. We had the chance to have a good meal and time enough to get ready. The zodiac ride wasn't very short because the best spot the guides could find was on one of the small islands near Pleneau Island and the ship couldn't get closer due to the depth of the area. Once there the guides briefed us and we started to get ready digging holes and setting up the gear provided. Didn't take too long but as soon as the sun went down it started to get dark and colder. The timing could not be better, just when everybody was inside of the sleeping bags and after Ben and Marcel checked all us out to see if we were OK and put our boots in the correct way to keep them dry, the drizzle appeared and the temperature kept going down so it didn't take too long until it became snow and Antarctica showed to us how changeable, unpredictable and extreme can be. Around 4:15 was the wakeup call and the time to get ready for the pickup and as planned the zodiacs were ready loading us at 5 o'clock to go back to the safety and comfort of *Hondius* to have a warm shower but not before to enjoy the tasty Danish pastries made by the galley team and a hot chocolate at the bar.



Day 5: 19th February 2020

Vernadsky Station, Wordie House & Yalour Islands

GPS position at 0800: 65°13'.7 S, 064°14'.8 W

Wind: S3 Sea State: Calm Weather: Snowy

Air Temp: 1°C Sea Temp: 4°C

Once again, we awoke to find ourselves surrounded by the majesty of Antarctica: icebergs, penguins, and the odd humpback whale that floated past the ship as we glided under overcast skies towards our objective for the morning. The Argentine Islands are the location of Ukraine's Vernadsky scientific research station and Wordie House, the historic station that preceded it.



Originally built by the British, these two stations arguably represent the longest continually occupied station complex on the Continent. Wordie House was built in 1947 on Winter Island to replace an earlier structure that was washed away in a tsunami in 1946. In 1955, it was replaced by a larger base just a few hundred meters away on Galindez Island. This latter base was later named Faraday Station. In 1996 it was sold to the Ukraine Government for £1 on the



condition that Ukraine would continue a decade's old program of astrophysical observations.

The morning's program kept us fully occupied as we visited the base, where we received a warm welcome and went on a comprehensive tour of the facility. This was followed by a visit to the gift store and the famous "Faraday Bar" where shots of base-brewed vodka could be traded for cash or donation of a bra!



Then, there was a zodiac cruise around the islands and though the region's many channels, a great habitat for spotting crabeater seals.



Finally, we were able to walk through Wordie House, named after James Wordie, the geologist on Shackleton's Endurance Expedition. Wordie House has been restored to its original state complete with stocked food shelves, library and guitar propped against the wall. We almost expect the original inhabitants to clatter through the door after a day of research in the field.

During all this, the kayakers even found the time to embark upon thorough exploration of the area while also managing a tour of the station.

Then, it was back to the ship for the usual excellent and restorative lunch followed by a very short rest. Soon enough, however, it was time to once again board our trusty zodiacs for the afternoon's objective, the Yalour Islands. These small rocky islands are just across the Penola Strait from the Argentine Islands, tucked in close to the actual Peninsula. Ideal for a landing, zodiac cruising and kayaking.

Whilst the kayakers went off for a great paddle, half the remaining group zodiac cruised as the rest of our number went ashore for great viewings of adelic penguin colonies. Here, the penguin chicks were approaching their full size and frantically chasing their parents





around in order to get a feed of partially digested krill. This exercise, in addition to losing their fluffy chick feathers, would help them prepare for taking the plunge into the ocean, and adult life, in just a very few short weeks. Adding to the excitement were the ever-present skuas angling to snatch a chick to a premature end. If hectic penguin life was not enough,

there were a number of fur seals scattered around, observing the scene through half-closed eyes. Oh, but then there was the scene itself! A backdrop of scattered icebergs, glacier faces and the odd view of a granite peak through gaps in the cloud.

In the zodiacs there were other things to entrance a visitor: a massive iceberg arch through which the sea swell surged, humpback and minke whales, penguins in the water and on ice, weddel and crabeater seals on ice floes and even a curious leopard seal that followed the zodiacs back to the ship.



All of which added up to a complete day in Antarctica, though the activity wasn't over yet! After our evening recap, the action moved aft on deck 5 where we had our voyage barbeque and deck party featuring mouth-watering food, mulled wine, and music. The dancing was well under way when the cry "orcas" was heard for the first time. For the next long while, we were able to watch as a group of 'Gerlach Type B' orcas hunted a minke whale (successfully? we don't know) and chased penguins. There was a very large male with a distinctive staggering dorsal fin - a familiar sight in these waters. So, then it ended, a fabulous day in Antarctica... a land that never disappoints!

Day 6: 20th February 2020

Stony Point & Ships Cruise

GPS position at 0800: 64°54'.2 S 062°55'.1 W

Wind: Light Sea State: Calm Weather: Snowy

Air Temp: +2 °C Sea Temp: +4 °C

In Antarctica, even the best planned itinerary just doesn't go as expected. Soon after we woke up on our third day of excursions in Antarctica, we learned that our original plan of going to Waterboat Point and Gonzales Vidal Station wouldn't go ahead due to rapidly changing and challenging weather conditions. Luckily, Expedition Leader Adam and his team had alternative activities in store for us.



Instead of heading to Waterboat Point, we opted to make a landing at Sony Point, located in the heart of scenic Paradise Harbour. Here, we were given the opportunity to make a continental landing on the actual continent of Antarctica and we even got to cruise around in glassy calm waters and experience some magnificent wildlife in the bay.

On land there was a possibility of taking a walk up to a viewpoint and along the way, we could see some very cute Weddell seals snoozing in the snow. On the water we also had lots of entertainment as we meandered through brash ice on calm waters and no winds, making it a very enjoyable moment to be on the zodiacs experiencing Antarctica at its best. There were even some leopard seals were around checking the



visitors in their home and, if that wasn't enough, there were feeding whales close to the Argentinean station "Almirante Brown."



The morning wasn't finished, yet, however, as our hotel department had a surprise in store for us all. Hotel Manager DJ, Assistant Hotel Manager Rafa and Maitre'd Davor were wondering around on a zodiac with hot chocolate and whisky to keep us warm and happy while having one of the best mornings of our life.

Unfortunately for the afternoon we were not lucky enough to do landing or cruising due to the strong winds that went up to 57 knots, but of course the experienced team had a backup plan at the ready to fill the time before dinner, but guess what? A group of excitable humpback whales gave us a fantastic breaching show for over 20 minutes,



and everybody had a good time in the outer decks taking amazing pictures. Later on, Pippa gave a lecture about orcas so we could learn and understand more about them as they showed up before bedtime on the BBQ day.

Day 7: 21th February 2020

Whaler's Bay, Deception Island

GPS position at 0800: 62°59'.2 S, 60°33'.2W

Wind: NW6, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +4°C

We awoke on our final day of landings as *Hondius* approached Deception Island – the caldera of a live volcano into which we can sail. The volcano itself erupted some 4000 years ago; an explosive eruption, causing the volcano to collapse in on itself and form the water-filled caldera we see today. These days, to gain access to our morning's landing site, we sail through the entrance of Deception Island, known as Neptune's Bellows – an impressive sight to see as the volcanic rock towers above the ship on either side – the gateway to the bay within; Port Foster.



Inside the caldera, we land at a site called Whalers' Bay, a place steeped in history. Originally known as Hektors Whaling station, Whaler's Bay is where thousands of whales were processed for their blubber. Large boilers and oil tanks still remain; rusting and decaying, yet leaving a lasting reminder of the history of this iconic Antarctic locale. The site was later used as a British Antarctic Survey base, which included a runway, where the first flights over Antarctica began their adventures. Here, you can still see the remains of the accommodation buildings and the aircraft hangar.



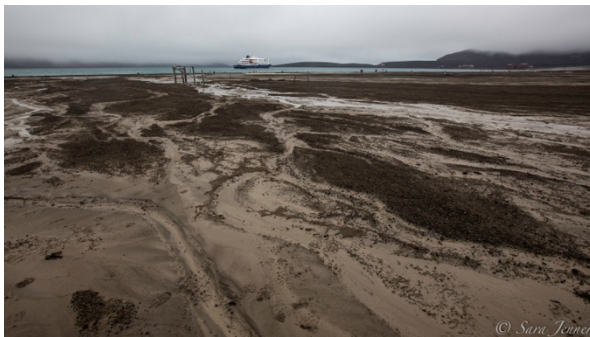
In the morning, we landed on a black ash and sand beach, where we were greeted with the sight of steam rising from the beach, and the smell of sulphur - indications that we're now inside an active volcano. We walked amongst the old remains of the whaling station and research base; and imagine what it must've been like for the whalers that lived here. Indeed, the morning's

overcast weather was the perfect match for the sombre feeling of this place.

We also walked up along the bay and up to a viewpoint known as Neptune's Window; a small gap in the crater wall looking out towards the Bransfield Strait and south to the Antarctic Peninsula. From here, we have fantastic views over Port Foster on one side, and out to the open ocean on the other, where we spotted some whales surfacing. While half of us are on shore here, the other half go on a zodiac cruise; where the zodiacs cruised through Neptune's Bellows, past towering rock stacks, and past the chinstrap penguin colony found to the south of the Bellows.



By mid-morning however, it was clear that the weather had other plans in store for us. Around the time we were meant to swap activities, the wind increased to a level which meant we had to cancel the landing and head back to *Hondius*. On the bumpy ride from the landing to the ship, however, everyone got quite wet in the zodiacs, giving us a taste of true Antarctic conditions for our last landing on the White Continent. By the time the last zodiac was back on board the wind was even gusting up to 45 knots!



Once back onboard, everyone was able to warm up again with a warm drink in the lounge before another delicious lunch was served from our fabulous galley and dining room team. During lunch, *Hondius* sailed north to our afternoon landing site on Livingston Island. Unfortunately, as we got closer, the wind got stronger; reaching speeds of 60 knots, stirring the sea up with a growing swell and breaking

waves. Due to these conditions we were unable to proceed with our afternoon activities and our adventures in Antarctica drew to a close.

As we were unable to get off the ship, the expedition team scheduled an afternoon of lectures instead. First, Ross gave us a fantastic lecture on the History of Whaling in Antarctica. He talked of the first sealers in the 1700s, followed by the whalers that came south in the early 1900s and began an era of incredible destruction, where over a 90-year period, over 2 million whales were slaughtered for their blubber. The scars of this time still remain, with remains of whaling stations like Whalers' Bay, and the varying recovery of the whale populations. After the International Whaling Commission Moratorium came into effect in 1986, banning commercial whaling around the world, scientists have monitored the growth of the Southern Ocean whale populations; some bouncing back well, like the humpback whale, and some taking a much longer time, like the blue whale.

Later in the afternoon, Laura gave a lecture on the geology of Antarctica and its formation. She told us of continental movements and how the meeting of great tectonic plates shaped the Antarctic continent.

As we leave the incredible continent of Antarctica, and head north, we have time reflect on our incredible adventure before settling in for another delicious dinner in the restaurant. What more could you ask for?



Day 8: 22nd February 2020

At sea, Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 59°51'.3 S 066°52'.8 W

Wind: SW 6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +3 °C Sea Temp: +7 °C

A cloudy sky greets us as we wake up to our first sea day on the Drake passage, making out way north towards Ushuaia. The sea state has somewhat calmed during the early morning hours, after a night of some “Drake Shake”-like conditions. As always, sea days on the *Hondius* are filled by an extensive education programme hosted by the expedition team. Following breakfast, an insight of the political aspects



of Antarctica was examined in a presentation of the Antarctic Treaty, its history and importance to all activities on the continent. This was followed by a presentation about the history of female adventurers in Antarctica, an often-overlooked aspect of Antarctic history, shadowed by the accounts of the male-dominated expeditions of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Expeditions.

With relatively calm seas, the dining room at lunch time filled up quickly and previous seasick nausea seemed to given way for healthy appetites once again.

With the full schedule of landings and zodiac cruises while at the Antarctic Peninsula, sea days are often a great time for reflection, contemplation processing of both emotional experiences and photographs. Many guests took the opportunity in the afternoon to process and share their photographs on the ship's computers and to discuss their experiences together in the ship lounge. In addition to this, the expedition team's educational program continued in the afternoon, where guests were invited to learn more about cloud observation and weather forecasting, giving an opportunity to relate what has been observed during our journey to more theoretical concepts. With a quick break in the programme so we could return all the boots that that kept us warm and dry during the wet Antarctic landings, by late afternoon, following on from the weather observation and forecasting lecture, the important and highly relevant topic of climate change was addressed in form of a factual based lecture followed by an opening up of the floor for questions and discussion.

The theme of educational programming followed into the daily recap, where we learned more about about the next day's plan from our expedition leader Adam, and even got the opportunity was given to learn more about navigation. Additionally, we were given a sneak peak of the acoustics workshop work that Morgan and Sara carried out throughout the voyage.



To wrap up the day, we enjoyed dinner in the dining room, along with a buzz of energy and laughter, the sharing of experiences, memories, and formation of new friendships. As per usual after dinner, many of us enjoyed a social drink in the lounge and even watched a beautiful slide show of the kayaking programme to cap off the evening.

With the sun once again setting in the horizon, it was time to retreat to the comforts of our cabins, reflect on another beautiful day on board and drift off to sleep before the forecasted overnight storm made for another sporty night in the infamous Drake Passage.

Day 9: 23rd February 2020

Drake Passage

GPS position at 0800: 56°06'.7S, 065°17'.8 W

Wind: W10 Sea State: Rough Weather: Rain

Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 10°C

We woke up for our last day in the Drake Passage, rocking steadily in the sea, thanks to the 4 to 5 meters swell around us. The wind was blowing unabated across the open ocean and most of the outer decks were closed for our safety. We knew we were getting closer to the tip of Patagonia when we started seeing albatrosses again. The usual black-browed albatrosses were flying effortlessly around the ship, using the strong winds to keep them afloat.



After another amazing breakfast in the dining room, we all gathered in the lounge to see some of the bigger waves around us slamming against the bow of the ship. Alternatively, some of us chose to either cosy up with a book in the lounge or take the time to have a chat with our fellow passengers. Some of our number took the conservative route, however, and decided to go straight back to our cabins to ward off any lingering feelings of sea sickness.

At 9:30 am, we were called in the lecture room for the first lecture of the day. Marcel and Ross gave us some interesting information about the environmental impact of cruising ships and took us on a behind-the-scenes tour of *Hondius*. Soon after this lecture, our favourite acousticians, Morgan and Sara, showed us the sounds and data they gathered during our adventure and compared this information with the videos they took at the penguin colonies.

Just like the previous nine days of our voyage, many of us felt that the morning flew by and, before we knew it, we were called down for our last buffet lunch by our beloved hotel manager, DJ. Thankfully, by this point, the seas had calmed and we could enjoy the delicious meal prepared by our galley team.



After our usual 1:00 to 2:00 pm nap, we all went back to the lecture room to listen to Adam talk about the other adventure options that Oceanwide offers for polar travellers. After an amazing

trip down to Antarctica, some of us were dreaming of visiting the other side of the world: the Arctic. Finally, for our last lecture of the voyage, Ben introduced the history of the Beagle Channel, especially the native peoples that living along the coastlines of Tierra del Fuego long before the arrival of European sailors in the 1500s. The history of these populations is fascinating and Ben's lecture helped us realized how the culture and people of Patagonia are inextricably linked to the places we travel through today.

At that time, we were slowly making our way into the entrance of the channel, where more stunning seabirds welcomed us to the Beagle's safe waters. Like all good things, however, our trip can't last forever. By the early evening, our voyage was officially drawing to a close when we got called to the lounge for our last recap. We shared a glass of Prosecco and cheered with the captain to a wonderful voyage, before we sat back to enjoy the voyage slideshow, thanks to the talents of both Massimo and Myriam. Finally, we enjoyed another dinner and the dining room was buzzing with conversation, sharing memories of the past few days. Before going to bed, we finally saw the first light of the civilization. It was such an emotional journey and a perfect way to end this voyage.



Day 10: 24th February 2020

Disembarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48'.6 S, 068°17'.8 W

Wind: W3 Sea State: Port Weather: Partly Cloudy

Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 10°C

During the late hours of the previous evening, the M/V *Hondius* pulled into its berth in Ushuaia. Some of our number took the opportunity to venture out into the bustling city streets of Ushuaia for a drink or simply to stretch our legs, while others busied themselves with packing and preparing to disembark from the ship that became our home over the last ten days.

By the early morning, however, it was time to get ready to leave our adventures behind. With our bags packed and left out in the hallway, we headed down to the restaurant one last time for yet another scrumptious breakfast. After breakfast, we gathered up our hand luggage, and awaited the announcements that called us down to the pier to disembark.

Once on the pier, we picked out our luggage, boarded our buses and taxis and waved a fond farewell to the *Hondius* and her crew. As we made our way to the airport, or simply into town for an extended stay in Tierra del Fuego, we bring with us the endless memories of time well-spent in Antarctica, while silently planning our next trip to the Arctic or elsewhere in the polar regions.



Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour, and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1572.11 nautical miles

Furthest South: 65°13',711S

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



18th February 2020 (AM)

Anagram Islands

The kayakers had already made all their safety preparations and tested their equipment during the crossing of the Drake Passage. The morning of the 18th (our first down in Antarctica) had all the makings of a classic morning with light winds, plenty of ice, incredible views (high mountain peaks covered in snow) and whale spouts not far from the ship. Twenty-eight eager kayakers awoke all mad keen to paddle on the very first outing. After making plans for the day at the morning meeting the kayakers all went down to the zodiac deck to make the appropriate adjustments to the footrests of their kayaks. Once adjusted the kayaks could be craned down to the water and received by the zodiac safety drivers waiting below. From this position the drivers picked up all the kayakers from the shell doors and drove them away from the ship towards one of the small islands in the Anagram group. Once everyone was in their kayaks Paul (kayak guide) led the group island hopping taking in some penguins and Fur seals along the way. After this Pete (kayak guide) led the team out into the ice for some individual and group pictures plus a view of a Crabeater seal hauled out on the ice. The time had vanished so quickly the kayakers had to make their ways back to the zodiacs and return to the ship in time for lunch and a turnaround prior to the possibility of kayaking in the afternoon at Port Charcot.







18th February 2020 (PM) Port Charcot

As Hondius put down the anchor in Port Charcot the afternoon also had all the prospects of being a classic for the kayakers paddling amongst the iceberg graveyard with both Minke and Humpback whale blows reverberating across the water. Not long after the lunchtime meeting the fifteen kayakers were soon disembarked and making their way towards a glacier front via a few scenic icebergs. They then paddled parallel to the vertical ice cliffs until they reached the rocks of the landing area. Here the kayakers were entertained by a number of large groups of Gentoo penguins entering the water on mass and at quite a pace. After the fun of the running/diving penguins the kayakers made their way around the coastline past some Fur seals and out into some exposed swell. Everyone did a great job of managing to control their kayaks up to a place they could turn down wind and run with a tail wind towards the iceberg graveyard. The promises Pete and Paul made to the group regarding the high level of 'WOW factor' were delivered in full and some. The grounded icebergs were all truly spectacular in color, design and stature. One of the most magnificent places on the earth to paddle and the kayakers were able to do so in sunshine and without any wind. With only a few minutes remaining Paul spotted some Humpback whales close to the ship and quickly guided the team to a well-positioned vantage point. Perfectly orchestrated the whales surfaced only meters away from the kayakers and puffed and sucked their way into the distance. What a finish to a truly incredible day on the water.





19th February 2020 (AM)

Vernadsky

The bright blue skies of the previous day had been replaced by a more subtle and moody early morning light. With only light winds to contend with the morning at Vernadsky offered both kayaking and vodka drinking (for those that wished to sample both). Paul navigated the two zodiacs (by GPS) to the hidden entrance of the channel where the kayakers had planned to board the kayaks. Once the kayakers were on the water some Fur seals hauled out on the rocks provided the first wonderful distraction of the day. This also gave time for a small sailing vessel to clear the entrance of the channel making way for the paddlers. The group headed down the snow capped narrow channel towards the Wordie Hut. At the front of the hut the kayakers had views to the ice cliffs as well as over towards some small snow slopes behind a bay filled with floating ice sculptures. This provided ample opportunity for many pictures to be taken and much posing in front of the ice. With time pressing the team continued on through narrow channels until they exited close to the landing site at Vernansky research station. The research base formerly named 'Faraday' by the Brit's was sold to the Ukraine for the vast sum of 1 British pound. The base now produces scientific data and of course really excellent quality Vodka. The kayakers all went back the ship in search of more comfortable clothing (from their cabins) and returned to the base via water taxi to sample some of the best home brew Vodka produced in Antarctica.







19th February 2020 (PM) Yalour Island

By the afternoon the winds were up to around 13 knots and a constant swell existed around many of the islands. The visibility was good and there was plenty of broken pieces of ice in the water as well as some colossal towering bergs away in the distance. A group of 10 kayakers plus the Doctor got onto the water close to the ship in the shelter of a small island that the main party had landed on from the opposite side. Pete led the small group along the side of the rocks towards some Fur seals whilst Paul brought up the rear driving the safety zodiac. 1 extra zodiac stayed with the group in case of medical emergencies elsewhere. Hugging the coastline towards the landing area the kayakers were able to view many of the Adelie penguins on the rocks above. From the shelter of the landing area the group moved out into the bergy bits and sea swell. The journey was an exciting one for most but when the coverage of ice in the water became too thick Pete changed course in the direction of some clear water behind the adjacent island situating a Shag colony. After only a few minutes of observations at the colony it became clear the kayakers were not alone. For the next 20 minutes the kayakers were transfixed by the antics of a small Leopard seal that had taken quite a shine to one of the kayakers. Leaving the seal behind the kayaker's final destination for the afternoon was an immense and fragile looking iceberg quite some way off in the distance. The berg consisted of a large archway over 30 meter's high and multiple rotten ice towers that also appeared to have only a short future ahead of them. No sooner than Pete had started his safety briefing for viewing the berg at a safe distance one of the huge towers fracture in half sending hundreds of tons of ice to the water below. The kayakers all did a great job paddling the 2km to a safe vantage point in order to take some incredible pictures before finally climbing back on board the zodiacs, destination Hondius, what an incredible afternoon.





20th February 2020 (AM)

Stony Point

Hondius moved into position within Paradise Bay for the morning landing around breakfast time. Hopes and confidence levels amongst the kayakers for a morning activity were all high given the perfect conditions surrounding the ship and the landing area. For all 28 kayakers the opportunity for a stunning paddle and a chance to set foot on the continent resulted in the second 'kayaking full house' of the expedition thus far. In light winds and good visibility, the kayakers were transferred to the opposite side of the bay from the landing area and got onto the water. Once assembled, Paul took some group pictures then led the group around a large iceberg then onto the shoreline. From here the group paddled amongst some (grounded) small ice sculptures weaving their way along the coast. Those at the back of the group were alerted by the blow of a Humpback whale surfacing a little way behind Paul's kayak. Reports vary from the kayakers closest to the scene but speculative estimates suggest 3-5 meters distance. The kayakers next made their way to a nearby island and a Gentoo rookery. The last part of the paddle was only a short distance from the shore to the waiting 'booze cruise' zodiac driven by the hotel team. Hot chocolate with an option for a shot of whisky for all then it was off for a continental landing for all 28 kayakers. Ten minutes of picture taking and for many a celebration of their 7th continent before it was time to return to the comforts of the ship.







21st February 2020

Deception Island

The early (05.30) morning landing at Baily Head was not an option due to the large swells at the beach. The kayakers were therefore full of energy and enthusiasm for an opportunity to kayak inside the outer rim of an active volcano. Hondius entered Deception island through Neptune's Bellows at breakfast time and put down the anchor in Whalers bay. Conditions, although not perfect, remained manageable at 12 Knots. The kayak guides had offered two options for the morning's aquatic excursions. The first of these was a straight kayak and the second was a kayak/polar plunge combo. Both groups combined the first part of the route joining up zodiacs and finding shelter behind a stretch of beach close to some Fur seals. Once everyone was on the water the group moved their way towards the landing area using their rudders and plenty of right-sided paddling to keep the kayakers close to the beach. The team all did a great job managing their kayakers in the windiest conditions they had experienced thus far during the expedition. Most of the group paddled past some old disused pieces of metal left in the water during the end of the whaling era. And some paddled over them! With some word of advice and encouragement from Paul the kayakers stuck on top of the pieces of junk were able to paddle off and join Pete with the remainder of the group. Pete and Paul had been keeping in touch with the bridge and their suspicions had been confirmed that the wind had in fact risen to a level (20 Knots) that the kayaking would have to be cut short. A plan was made for Paul to escort the group past the Fur seals and towards the historical buildings whilst Pete helped the safety drivers get the kayakers linked up and delivered back to the ship. Within five minutes

the wind was blowing 25 Knots and looking to increase. By the time the kayakers were making their way back to the ship the wind was gusting 30 Knots and rising. The main landing and cruising groups had both also been canceled and all guests were very quickly all back on board.





Ushuaia 680nm

Learning & Discovery Antarctic Voyage

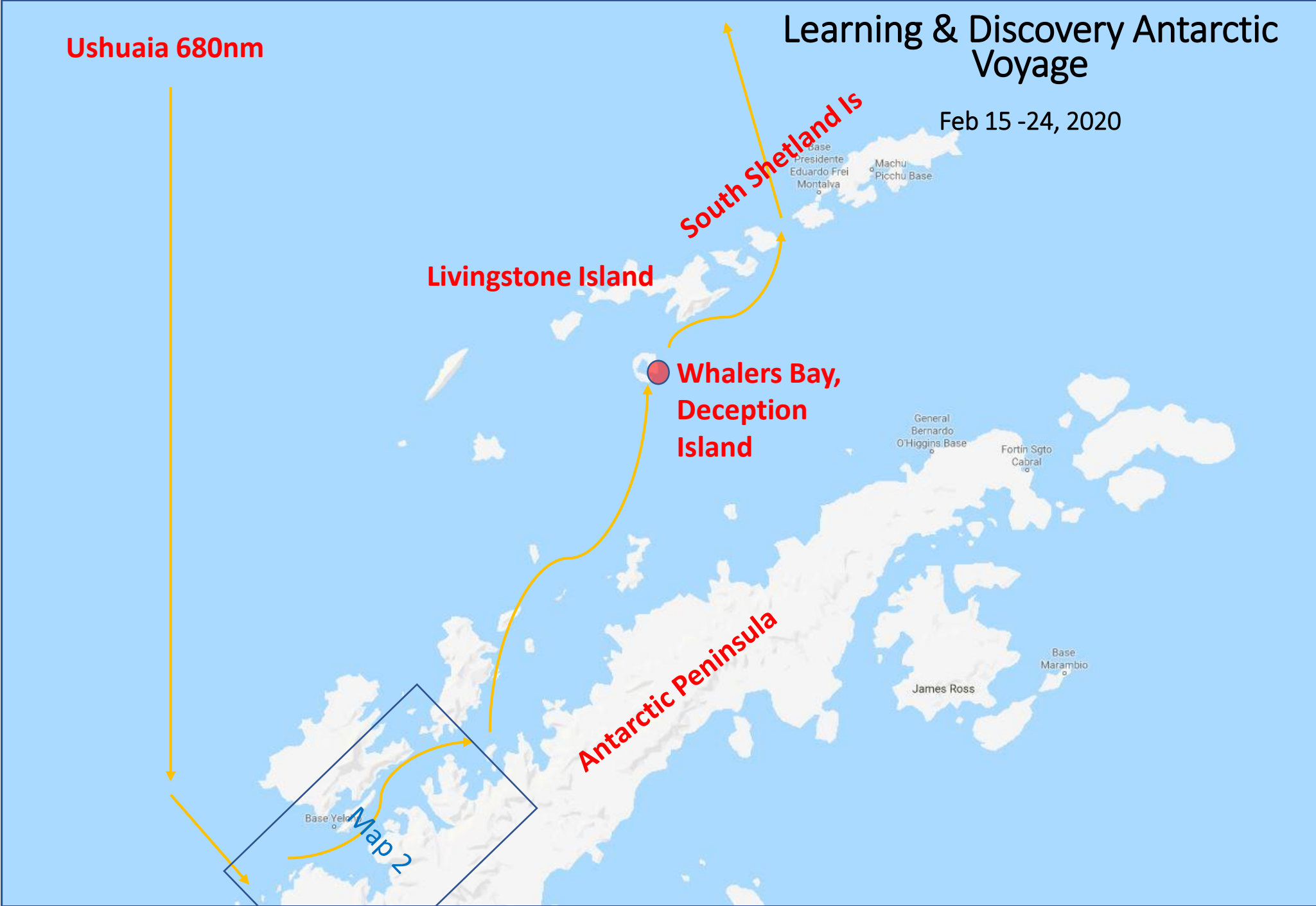
Feb 15 -24, 2020

South Shetland Is

Livingstone Island

Whalers Bay,
Deception Island

Antarctic Peninsula



Map 2

Voyage Itinerary

Feb 15: Depart Ushuaia, Beagle Channel.

Feb 16: At sea, Drake Passage.

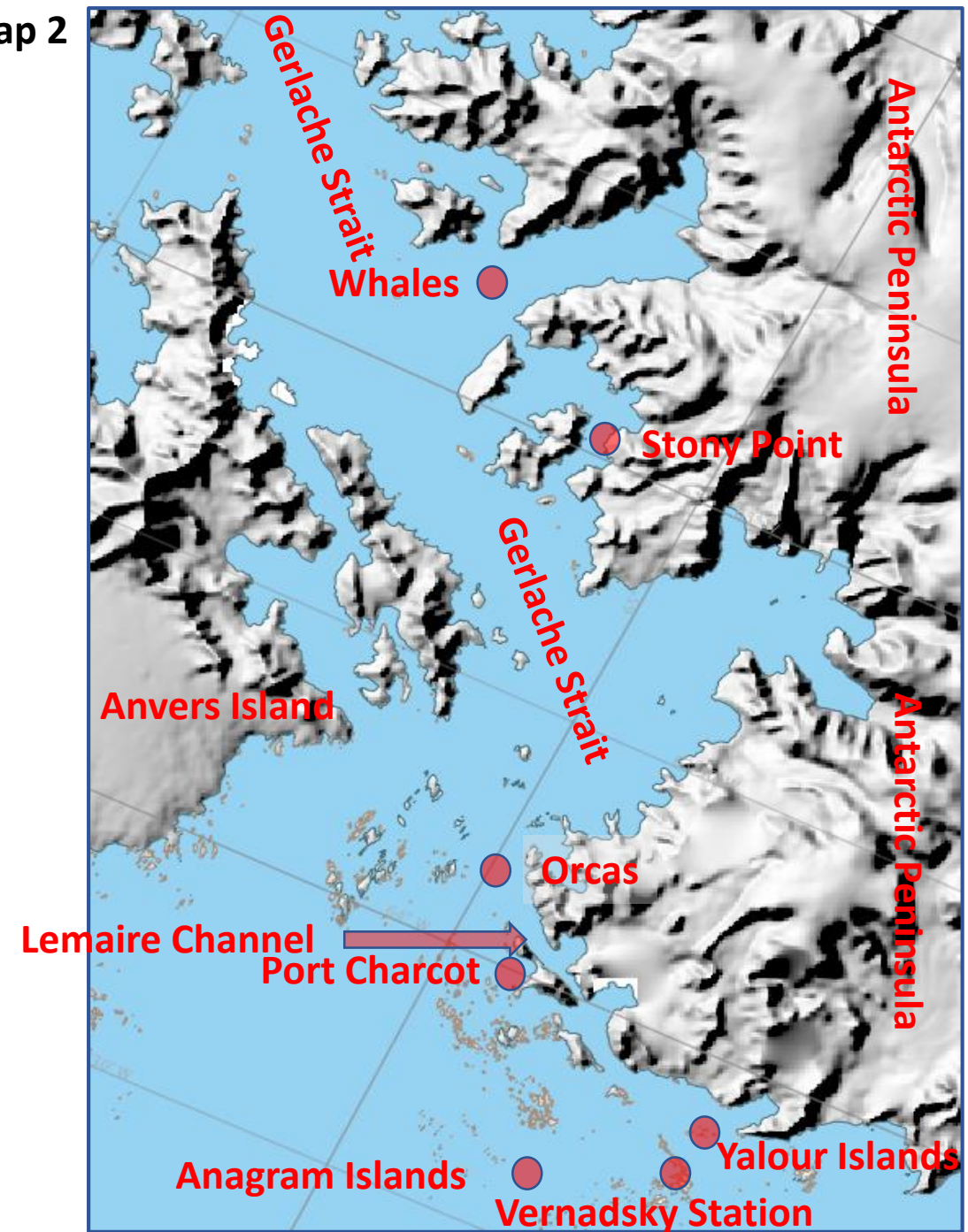
Feb 17: At sea, Drake Passage, arrive Antarctic waters.

Feb 18: Anagram Islands and Port Charcot, camping near Port Charcot.

Feb 19: Vernadsky Station and Yalour Islands, BBQ and orca sighting.

Feb 20: Stony Point and Whale watching in Gerlache Strait.

Feb 21: Whalers Bay, Deception Island.



Species list: Birds and marine mammals of the Antarctic region										
		15-feb	16-feb	17-feb	18-feb	19-feb	20-feb	21-feb	22-feb	23-feb
English	Latin									
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				X	X	X			
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>									X
ALBATROSSES										
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X	X						
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X						X	X
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	X	X	X						
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>		X	X					X	X
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			X						
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		X							
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X				X		
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>			X						
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>			X				X	X	
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>			X						
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				X	X				
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>					X				
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						X			
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X						X
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>									X
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>									X
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X	X						X
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>			X						
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>								X	
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax (atriceps) bransfieldensis</i>	X			X			X		X
Pale-faced Shearbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X	X				
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X								X
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				X	X	X	X		
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>				X	X		X		
Dolphin Gull	<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>	X								
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X	X		X	X	X			
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X								
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				X	X		X		
Marine mammals										

Whales										
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>				X	X	X			
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	X			X	X	X	X		
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>			X						
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>					X	X			
DOLPHINS										
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>									
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	X								X
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>									X
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				X	X	X			
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>				X	X	X			
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>				X	X	X			
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>				X	X	X	X		
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>									X

Adam Turner, FRGS - Expedition Leader



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

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

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

across the UK with his search dog Charley.

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

Adam studied at Middlesex University and often gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and he now works as guide and Consultant.

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

Sara Jenner - Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Martin Berg - Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Ross Wheeler - Expedition Guide



Ross lives in a small town in Cornwall, which is located in the south western corner of the UK. As he grew up in a coastal town he has always been fascinated by marine wildlife and the marine environment.

Having completed an undergraduate degree and masters degree in environmental sciences / conservation biology at Plymouth University he then went on to use his passion and education to work as an environmental consultant and researcher in the coastal and marine field.

This progressed into the offshore sector where he worked as a marine mammal observer and passive acoustic monitoring operator in the offshore seismic and renewable industry sectors. This role took him to a wide range of areas throughout the North Atlantic, Central Africa and Southern Africa where he conducted marine mammal and sea bird surveys aboard various survey vessels. After a few years in this industry he then moved into the environmental compliance side of the cruise ship industry where he continues to work for six months of the year today. Whether he is working on ships around the world, volunteering for conservation based organisations or travelling in his 'time off' he is constantly seeking opportunities to photograph wildlife in their natural environment.

Feel free to ask him any questions about marine mammals, seabirds or anything environmentally related with the shipping industry.

Miriam Vermeij - Expedition Guide



During her youth she travelled a lot with her parents and sister in Europe. Miriam developed an interest in nature at a young age and lots of time was spent outdoor, exploring local insects and plants. Following her interests she followed an environmental science study and got a degree with a specialisation on soil pollution. Nowadays she is a self-employed environmental planning officer.

From 1999 the travelling outside Europe started. With her husband Marcel, she travelled all around the world. In 2006 they went to the Antarctic and there the passion for the poles started. The first contact with the Arctic was in 2011 and after another trip in 2013 she came back as field assistant on the Dutch polar expedition (SEES) in 2015 and to the Dutch polar station in Ny Alesund in 2016. Since 2017 she has been guiding in the Arctic, followed by the Antarctic in 2018.

In Holland Miriam is a nature guide since 2003. First in the local forest and since 2008 also in one of the largest national parks in Holland: De Biesbosch. There she is guiding school kids and adult groups on walking and boating trips. She is also part of the board that manages the local forest.

Daniel Höhne - Expedition Guide



A well photographed picture is more than just looking at it again and again. It is emotional and unforgettable passion and a story behind.

Most of the past years it was more my hobby to get outside and take nature photos. But today it is my profession and beside working as a fulltime guide I work also for newspapers and magazines.

Taking people hand by hand outside and show them what to see and what outside can be felt is one of the greatest things for me to do. It is even more important and necessary to understand our ecosystems and for that reason I try to take people out in the wilderness. To understand why things in nature happen and what our part as humans is in different environments. We only can protect what we really know and love.

I studied Geography and Geology in the south of Germany, Tübingen. Since then I was fascinated by the power and sensibility of our white and cold ecosystems. Combined with nature photography I am self-employed within different kinds of guiding nature and photography journeys.

My hot spots are Iceland, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctica and Germany. Most of my time I spend in Iceland for exploring and working in unique places and feel the strength of the old Viking land.

Gunilla Lindh - Expedition Guide



Gunilla has been living and working in the cold regions of the planet for most of her life. Originally from Sweden, she spent her youth in the Swedish wilderness, skiing, hiking and exploring remote Scandinavian regions before moving to Scotland, where she lived for 10 years.

After spending her 20s obtaining a degree in business management and enjoying a brief career in asset management, Gunilla experienced a life-changing couple of months in Nepal. That led her to a new career path, and in 2013 she re-trained as and started full-time work as a glacier, hiking and expedition guide based in

Iceland and Greenland. Gunilla has spent time living and working with Inuit hunters in East Greenland, working in expedition logistics out of a shipping container in North East Greenland, leading ski, glacier and mountain traverses in Iceland, Greenland and Northern Norway, as well as guiding expeditions on-board tall ships around Antarctica.

These days, Gunilla splits her time between expedition ships in Svalbard and Greenland in the summer months, guiding expeditions and lecturing, and in Antarctica and South Georgia in the austral summer. Time between the Arctic and Antarctic season she spends travelling the world capturing nature and wildlife with her camera and learning more about the planet we call home.

Pippa Low - Expedition Guide



Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 10 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and the polar regions. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

Upon completion of her degree, Pippa has worked as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant on various research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research.

After working in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica as a research assistant, she fell in love with Antarctica. Pippa now works as a full-time guide and assistant expedition leader in both the Arctic and Antarctica. In-between seasons, she still finds time to work on research projects.

David Begg - Expedition Guide



David is an IFMGA Mountain Guide based in the Canadian Rockies. From early days in New Zealand, he has always been fascinated by nature. David holds a BSc in Botany though his career has been in guiding. He owned and operated Yamnuska Mountain Adventures, Canada's premier mountain school, until he and his partner, Maria sold it in 2010 to become polar guides.

David now spends up to 5 months a year working as a lecturer and guide in both Antarctica and the Arctic. Passionate about everything polar he loves to share experiences and knowledge.

Pete Gwatkin - Kayaking Guide



Pete originally trained as an engineer but has made a number of career changes over his working life that have included... sports development work, community education, social work, university lecturing as well as running his own bespoke mountaineering and kayaking business.

Pete lives in the highlands of Scotland close to the National Training Centre for Outdoor Adventurous Activities where he is employed as a kayaking guide.

Pete has attained the highest UK kayaking and mountaineering qualifications and is now a technical advisor to educational authorities. Pete is a qualified first aid trainer and also lecturers at The University of Edinburgh on the postgraduate MSc programme in outdoor education.

Pete started kayaking as a boy of 15 in a wooden framed canvas kayak. These first tentative kayak strokes in a craft that he built with his father were to provide the inspiration for a lifetime of adventure in the outdoors. During this time Pete has kayaked in many places throughout the world on both rivers and on the sea.

Paul Ulrich - Kayak Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Let us all have a great trip in unique Antarctica!

Ben Giunchi - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Marcel Paul - Expedition Guide



From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups on trekking's to Austria, Switzerland, England and Scotland. His own travels over the last 20 years brought him to all 7 continents together with his wife Miriam. With his interest in (exploration) history and as keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time

the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that is keeping him indoor most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge from the area by working with the scientists. He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he went to the Dutch polar station in Ny-Alesund, again as field assistant.

Living next to one of Europe's biggest wetland reserves, the Biesbosch in Holland, weekends are often spent on his boat with his camera close by. Since 2017 he has been guiding in the Arctic, followed by the Antarctic in 2018.

Sara Torres Ortiz - Workshop Guide



Sara Torres Ortiz is a researcher at the University of Southern Denmark where she finished her master studies on Animal Behaviour and Bioacoustics in 2016. She is originally from Spain, where she completed a BSc. in Oceanography at the University of Cadiz.

Sara works on many different research projects involving animal behaviour and bioacoustics, both in the field and in the lab. When she first began her work in Denmark in 2013 she assisted with training groups of grey seals, cormorants, and parrots that participated in hearing and/or cognition tasks. During her time with Montpellier

University in 2016 she collaborated as a co-investigator and assistant in researching the sensory abilities of whales in the field in Spain and Iceland. Additionally, Sara has worked with bottlenose dolphins at Dolphin Adventure in Mexico, both in a training and in a research capacity. Through an ongoing project she is studying the behaviour and communication of wild harbour porpoises using drones.

Currently, Sara is pursuing both a bachelors in psychology with National University long distance education (UNED) and a PhD with the Max Planck institute in Loro Parque working with cognitive abilities in parrots and dolphins.

Morgan J. Martin - Workshop Guide



Morgan is a visiting scientist at the University of Southern Denmark. She has an MSc in Marine Science from the University of San Diego, California, and a BSc in Biology from the University of New Orleans, Louisiana. Morgan recently finished her PhD in Zoology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. From 2015 - March 2019, she was based in Namibia, southern Africa, conducting her PhD research on the underwater acoustics of two species of wild African dolphins: Heaviside's dolphins and dusky dolphins.

Her PhD research is the first to show that a toothed whale (Heaviside's dolphins) can produce two distinct types of echolocation clicks, which questions what we currently understand about how toothed whales produce biosonar. Currently, Morgan has been working on a sound production study of communication sounds used by harbour porpoises as well as conducting a fieldwork season with Sara Ortiz in Patagonia to record the behaviour and underwater vocalizations of Commerson's dolphins and Peale's dolphins. Morgan has conducted marine mammal related acoustics research on four continents and is looking forward to joining the crew of the *Hondius* and adding Antarctica to the list!

Myriam Casper - Videography Guide



Myriam is a photographer, editor and documentary filmmaker. Photography and teaching are her main passions.

Traveling since very young age, she grew up in four nations: France, Brazil, Portugal, England and today she lives in Canada.

Myriam formed her skills and developed an incredible passion for B&W photography and hand printing in the darkroom of Stamford College, on the North Side of London. From years spent amid the vibrancy and drama of Brazil her approach to photograph people and to become part

of their own lives come very naturally, making lifestyle and humanity her strongest topics for storytelling.

After moving to Canada, Myriam discovered more passions, nature and wildlife. Hiking the beautiful mountains of British Columbia, and observing animals by distance, became a sacred routine.

To follow her background, she built a career preparing students to one of the biggest industries in Vancouver, the Film Industry. For the last 17 years she mentored 3.600+ student's short films and animations covering areas such as composition, layout, editing and storytelling.

And then she visited Antarctica... It's there that her inspiration finds new "lymph" watching the Nature's wonder of icebergs and wildlife in the cold. Myriam understood that remote places of Earth have much to say to her as a filmmaker and photographer. The Polar Regions became her field of preferences and creativity.

Myriam speaks fluent English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Massimo Bassano - Photography Guide



Massimo started his career as traveller crossing the Ionian Sea from the south of Italy, his homeland, to Greece (his potentially genetic roots) by sailboat at the age of 15. That experience it has been the milestone of his life. From that beginning he has been crossing all the oceans on a sailboat ever since, and sometimes even solo. But the “bug” of traveling did not stop on the water. Thanks to his ocean knowledge, Massimo got a job as a fixer for National Geographic which opened a new vision for his career path, and so he

decided to become documentary photographer for the Society. In this way, his passion for human culture, history and wildlife became the reason to travel more.

After 30 years and 83 countries explored at all levels for Nat Geo, he still loves to travel and explore. His passion for photography is the key to open connections with people and Mother Nature, especially in remote places on Earth as Antarctica, the Arctic, the deserts and the Oceans. A passion that he does not keep just for himself but share as much as he can teaching photography & storytelling in all fields of this fantastic art. From private workshop up to University level, Massimo’s passion is contagious. He loves to be out there, being witness with his camera of the multi aspects of our beautiful planet.

Massimo speaks fluent English, Spanish and Italian. Conversational French and Swahili, and he is learning Portuguese.

Laura Mony - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Sanne van Tilburg - Ship's Doctor



During the voyage, Sanne will be your medical doctor. With experience at the intensive care unit and the emergency department in the Netherlands and abroad, she will help you with medical issues during your voyage.

In 2018 Sanne worked six months at the emergency department in the Academic hospital of Surinam. Here she was forced to work with limited resources, but she was still able to provide suitable medical care.

In her spare time, she enjoys festivals in the Netherlands. Not only as a visitor, but also as a medical doctor at the first aid post.

In the last decade Sanne started with travelling throughout the world, and visited six continents in the meantime. Hiking was one of the favourite activities throughout the trips. A good example is the O-trek in Torres del Paine national Park in Chile, where she hiked for eight days with only a backpack and a tent.

Antarctica is the 7th continent she visited, and also the 5th continent on which she gained medical experience! Sanne is looking forward to combine travelling and being out in nature, with her passion for providing good medical care. Don't hesitate to ask her any questions you might have during the voyage.



Saturday 15th February

WELCOME ABOARD!

Boarding and departure from Ushuaia

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

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

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| ±17.15 | Welcome briefing in the observation lounge (deck 5).
Expedition Leader Adam and Hotel Manager Dejan will introduce you to the life on board the Hondius. |
| ±18.00 | Departure of the Hondius. Please stay off the bridge during this time.

This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing for ALL passengers. Presence will be checked. |
| 19.00 | Captains welcome cocktail in the observation lounge. |
| 19.30 | Dinner is served in the Dining room (deck 4). |

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

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



Sunday 16th February Into the Drake Passage!

- 07:45 Wake-up call
- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room.
- 09:15 The Expedition Team welcomes you to the Lounge for a staff introduction, followed by a **mandatory** IAATO briefing which covers safety and wildlife regulations in Antarctica. Attendance is compulsory and will be checked.
- Directly following the IAATO briefing we are handing out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to the boot room on Deck 3. Bring your thick socks to find the best sized boots for you!
- 11:30 Kayakers will meet Paul and Pete in the Lecture Room for their **mandatory** kayaking briefing.
- 12:30 Lunch will be served in the Dining Room.
- 14:00 Join Martin in the observation lounge for his lecture: *Seabirds – Masters of the Sea and Sky*.
- 15:00 Biosecurity. Join us on Deck 3 for the **mandatory** biosecurity check. Please bring all your outdoor clothing and gear with you for inspection. We will call you deck by deck, so stand by for announcements. This event is compulsory for everyone onboard and attendance will be checked.
- 17:00 Ben and Marcel will brief those who have signed up for camping. Please note that this is a **mandatory** briefing for those of you who have signed up for camping. Please meet in the Lecture Room, deck 5.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for our daily recap. This is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and our plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.
- 21:00 Massimo and Myriam welcome you to the lounge for an introduction to photography in Antarctica.

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



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Monday 17th February Heading Further South!

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|-------|---|
| 07:45 | Wake-up call |
| 08:00 | Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room |
| 09:30 | Gaby welcomes you to the lounge for her presentation about Glaciology. |
| 11:00 | Sara welcome you to the Lounge for her lecture about Penguins. |
| 12:30 | Buffet Lunch in the Dining Room |
| 13:30 | Pippa invites you to the Lounge for her lecture about Marine Mammals of Antarctica. |
| 15:00 | Please join Morgan and Sara in the lounge for an introduction to Acoustics in Antarctica |
| 16:30 | Massimo and Myriam welcome you to the lounge for an introduction to videography in Antarctica |
| 18:15 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Observation Lounge for our daily recap. |
| 19:00 | Dinner will be served in the Dining Room. |
| 20:30 | All kayakers - meet Pete and Paul on Deck 3 to receive your kayak gear. |

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



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Tuesday 18th February Anagram Islands and Port Charcot

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 08:30 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul at the forward shell door.
- 09:00 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing on the Anagram Islands.
- 09:15 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around the Anagram Island.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the morning.

- 12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room.
- 14:00 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul at the forward shell door.
- 14:30 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Port Charcot.
- 14:45 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Port Charcot and the Iceberg Graveyard.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the afternoon.

- 18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap and briefing.
- 19:00 A buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room.
- 20:30 Tonight we hope to take the campers ashore, please listen for announcements
- 20:30 Myriam and Massimo would like to invite you to the Lecture Room for a presentation on Smart phone photography.

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



Wednesday 19th February

Vernadsky Station, Wordie House and the Yalour Islands

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30–08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul in the lecture room.
- 09:00 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Vernadsky Station.
- 09:15 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise to Wordie House.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the morning.

- 12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room.
- 13:30 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul in the lecture room.
- 14:30 We ask **Yellow** & **Green** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at the Yalour Islands.
- 14:45 We ask **Red** & **Blue** Groups to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around the Yalour Islands.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the afternoon.

- 18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 A special Antarctic Dinner (Dress Warmly!)

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



Thursday 20th February Water Boat Point and Orne Islands

- 06:45 Wake-up call
- 07:00–08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 08:30 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul in the lecture room.
- 08:30 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Water Boat Point.
- 08:45 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Water Boat Point

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the morning.

- 13:00 Lunch buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 14:00 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul in the lecture room.
- 14:30 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Orne Island.
- 14:45 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Orne Island.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the afternoon.

- 18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner

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



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Friday 21st February Whalers Bay and False Bay

- 07.15 Wake-up call
- 07:30 We will sail through Neptunes' Bellows – the entrance into Deception Island.
- 08:00 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul in the lecture room.
- 08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 09:00 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Whalers Bay.
- 10:00 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Whalers bay.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the morning.

Polar Plunge!

This morning we will offer the chance to do the Polar Plunge. If you would like to take an Antarctic dip, wear your swimmers under your expedition clothes. We will provide the towels.

- 12:30 Lunch buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 14:00 Kayakers meet Pete and Paul in the lecture room.
- 14:30 We ask Groups **Red** & **Blue** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at False Bay.
- 15:45 We ask Groups **Yellow** & **Green** to be ready at the shell doors on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around False Bay.

Please note that all groups will switch activities midway through the afternoon.

- 18:30 Join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for our daily recap.
- 19:00 Your dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

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



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Saturday 22nd February The Drake Passage

No wake-up call. Sleep in!

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 09:30 David welcomes you to the lounge for his lecture about the Antarctic Treaty, a topic highly relevant to this voyage.
- 11:15 Join Sara in the lounge for her presentation “Women in Antarctica”.
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14.00 Gaby and Marcel welcome you to the lounge for their presentation about cloud formations and weather forecasting.
- 16:00 Martin welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture “Climate Change – Past, present & future”.
- 17:30 This afternoon we will gather your rubber boots on Deck 3. If you have rented any gear, we will also collect that at the same time. Stand by for announcements, we will call you deck-by-deck. *Please make sure that your boots are clean and dry when you return them.*
- 18:30 Please join your Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap and briefing.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

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



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Sunday 23rd February The Drake Passage & Beagle Channel

No wake-up call. Sleep in!

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Dining Room.
- 09.30 Ross and Marcel welcomes you to the lecture room for their presentation about the Hondius and the Environmental regulations behind our Antarctic Expedition.
- 11:30 Join Sara and Morgan in the lounge for their Acoustic Workshop Round Up.
- 12:30 Lunch will be served in the Dining Room.
- During the afternoon we ask you to settle your accounts at the reception. Please stand by for announcements.*
- 14:00 Adam welcomes you the lecture room where he will introduce you to some of the other destinations which OceanWide is going to.
- 15:00 Ben welcomes you to the Lounge for his lecture about the Beagle Channel.
- 18:15 Join us in the Lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Remmert Koster and a showing of the trip's slideshow.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

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



Monday 24th February Disembarkation - Ushuaia

07:15 Wake-up call

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

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

08:30-09.00 Disembarkation.

There will be buses waiting at the dock for those who requested a transfer to the airport.

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