



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula Polar Circle Voyage

16 – 27 February 2020

M/V Plancius



MV *Plancius* was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and vicar Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named *Hr. Ms. Tydeman*. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.



Captain Artur Iakovlev

and his international crew

including:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Chief Officer: | Miia Holma | [Finland] |
| Second Officer: | Yaroslav Pyetukhov | [Ukraine] |
| Third Officer: | Martin Hansson | [Sweden] |
| Chief Engineer: | Teun van T Verlaat | [Netherlands] |
| Hotel Manager: | Alex Lebedev | [Ukraine] |
| Asst. Hotel Mgr: | Dragan Grujic | [Serbia] |
| Chef: | Charlotte Broekhuizen | [Netherlands] |
| Sous Chef: | Ivan Yuriychuk | [Ukraine] |
| Ship's Physician: | Claudio D'Ambrosio | [Italy] |

and

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Expedition Leader: | Ali Liddle | [UK] |
| Asst. Exped. Leader: | Céline Clément | [France] |
| Expedition Guide: | Tom van Hoof | [Netherlands] |
| Expedition Guide: | Régis Perdriat | [France] |
| Expedition Guide: | Stefanie Liller | [Germany] |
| Expedition Guide: | Joselyn Fenstermacher | [USA] |
| Expedition Guide: | Hélène de Meringo | [France] |
| Camping Guide: | Rustyn Mesdag | [USA] |
| Kayak Guide: | Alexis Bellezze | [Argentina] |
| Dive Team Leader: | Peter Webster | [UK] |
| Dive Guide: | Chloé Maréchal | [France] |
| Dive Guide: | Joe Brooks | [UK] |
| Dive Guide: | Will Gilbertson | [UK] |

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – 16th February 2019

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 54°53'S / 067°42'W

Wind: Variable 1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +7°C **Sea Temp:** +11°C

So here we are at last in Tierra del Fuego, at the bottom of the world. Well, from Ushuaia we'll be going south...a long way south. But for today, we ambled about this lovely Patagonian city, savouring the local flavours and enjoying the sights. Ushuaia marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but also the beginning – the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

During the summer this rapidly growing frontier town of 55,000 bustles with adventurous travellers. The duty-free port flourishes with tourism but also thrives on a sizeable crab fishery and a burgeoning electronics industry. Ushuaia (literally “*bay that penetrates to the west*” in the indigenous Yaghan tongue) clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote, setting. The rugged spine of the South American Andes ends here, where two oceans meet. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing on a whim. However, temperatures during the long days of the austral summer are relatively mild, providing a final blanket of warmth before heading off on our adventures.



For many of us this is the start of a lifelong dream. The excitement comes in different forms for each person, but even the most experienced of us must feel genuine excitement departing on a journey to the Great White Continent. Accordingly, most passengers arrived promptly at the port, ready to board the good ship *MV Plancius*, our home for this Antarctic adventure!

We were greeted at the gangway by members of our Expedition Team and our ship's doctor Claudio where everyone's health survey was reviewed and temperatures screened in order to keep all passengers and crew secure regarding the Coronavirus risk. After clearing the screening, we proceeded up the gangway where we met Hotel and Restaurant Managers, Alex and Dragan, and to be directed to our cabins with the assistance of the fabulous hotel crew. Once everyone had been approved for boarding, we all gathered in the lounge on deck five to begin our safety briefing. First was a video, entertaining but also clearly showing us what was important to pay attention to on the ship for our safety. Then we met our First Officer Miia, who with the crew and staff led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, including trying on our huge orange life jackets and walking to the lifeboat stations to become familiar with their locations.

We then had some time to adjust to our cabins, explore the ship, and take in the striking scenery of Ushuaia's mountainous backdrop before reconvening for our next briefing with Alex our Hotel Manager to learn more about our floating hotel/home for the next 11 days, and how life onboard will operate. This was followed by a few words from our Expedition Leader, Ali Liddle, and the rest of the Expedition Team who will guide us in Antarctica. Finally Ali introduced our Captain Evgeny who after some wise words of welcome, proposed a toast to our voyage.

Our first dinner onboard was a chance to chat with other guests and be impressed by what Chef Charlotte and her galley team will be offering us during the voyage. Just as we were finishing our meals, the wind dropped enough to make it possible to depart the pier, and so the engines were started... and we were off! Cruising away from a beautiful backdrop of Beagle Channel mountains we headed out towards open water, the first nautical miles towards the incredible journey ahead of us. Bon Voyage!

Day 2 – 17th February 2019

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake's Passage

GPS 12.00 Position: 57°01,4'S / 065°21,4'W

Wind: W 5-6 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +6°C **Sea Temp:** +9°C

A quiet morning in a place where many legends talk about strong winds and big swell. Grey light, a shy sun painting the immensity of this vast ocean, giving us the sense of life that we've been looking for. We are in search of this dream-- this day, and it is finally becoming real.



We start to familiarize our bodies with the never-ending tango between the ship and the waves, a strange love shared since forever, blessed by the wind. Wind means albatross... the most beautiful birds, are we are lucky to follow their performance from front row seats. They follow the waves very close, jumping from one side to the other without flapping a wing, almost touching the foamy peaks with the tips of their wings. They will be with us on this side of the world, called by the sailors as 'the furious fifties, the deadly forties of the Southern Ocean'.

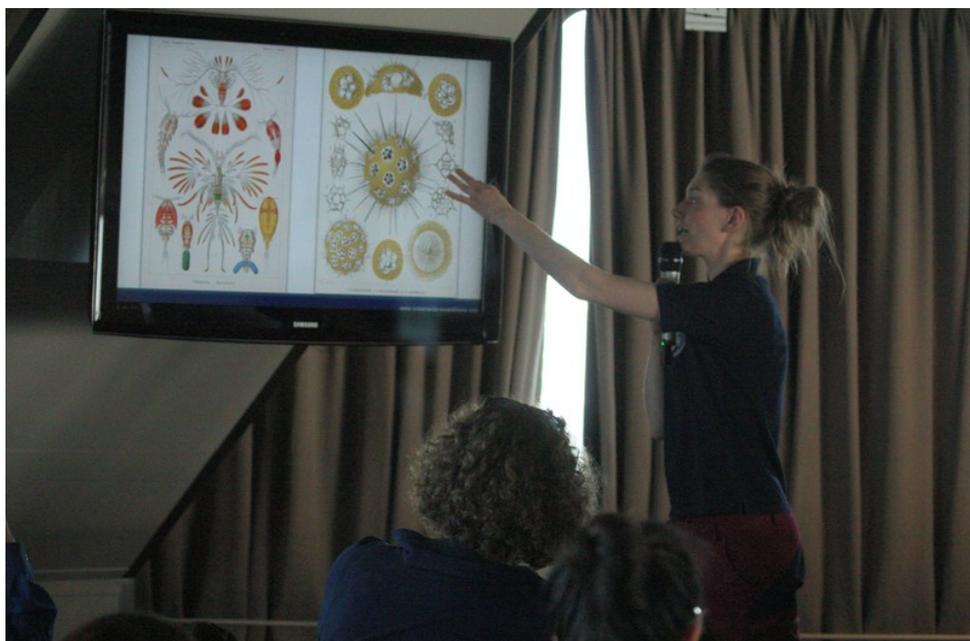


During the morning we had a very interesting lecture about the fabulous world of sea birds, given by Regis Perdriat, one of the bird specialists on this voyage as well as experienced expedition guide. Following that the dive guides gave a briefing to their group about how their activity would work for the voyage, meanwhile everyone on the ship continued to adjust to life on a moving platform. After the first lunch at the dining room we had the delivery of the rubber boots, an

important part of the equipment that we will use during this exploration trip.

After that we had another lecture about plankton and Drifting Life in the ocean with the characteristic sympathy and kindness of our French expedition guide Chloe Marechal. The last lecture of the day was from our Assistant Expedition Leader, Celine Clement about penguins and their adaptations to the harsh polar environment.

The end of the day brought the time for a recap, our daily moment to review what we have seen and done



during the day and to hear about plans for tomorrow. Tonight, Ali introduced the staff and shared that the seas would continue about the same, which was a relatively easy crossing. Finally Alex welcomed us into the dining room to celebrate the first day at the famous Drake Passage.

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake’s Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 60°58.2’S / 063°14.7’W

Wind: ENE 7 Sea State: Rather rough Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +5°C

A nice morning, first real sensations after a full day on this sea. Big swell, stronger wind, long hours of rolling start to affect some of the fellow explorers. A quiet lounge at 08:00 am, some empty spaces, many passengers at the cabin trying to adapt their bodies to this new environment.



This morning Ali offered us a new safety briefing about zodiac boarding, how to get into them, the ‘Three steps’ that the expedition guides will ask us to do every time we board the boats at the gangway to start any landing or zodiac cruise. It seems easy but it will be surprising how often we can forget the process... but they will remind us as many times as is necessary. It’s all about safety!

After that we started with one of the most important things before arriving to Antarctica: The vacuuming of all outerwear, backpacks and any other kind of equipment that we will introduce to this area. The reason? PREVENTION of any kind of Alien on this pristine environment—whether seeds or disease.





As we are doing all these activities, we are still traveling down south...

We are able to visit the Bridge and see how the officers and the watchmen work together to keep us on course and set up everything on the ship. We are in good hands. The first groups of passengers start to play some cards, painting, taking pictures of the sea birds around us and they move

from one deck to another moving more smoothly than yesterday. We are gaining our sea legs! Our ship slowly becomes our home, our safe cocoon in the south.

Many activities happened during the day-- Rustyn Mesdag, camping and expedition guide, gave us an excellent lecture about the Antarctic Treaty. The kayakers, divers, and campers had their introductory and safety briefings in different areas of the ship at various times, and then got their equipment organized—all they need to start everything a busy day tomorrow which we realize is coming ever closer. In fact we sighted our first frozen land—we passed between Smith and Snow Islands, part of the South Shetland Islands... Everybody is excited, wondering what the weather will be, asking for advice from the staff, asking for timings and it looks like this adventure is starting to become a reality. Everyone went to bed early... adventure is out there and everybody knows it!

Day 4 – 19th February 2019

Cuverville Island / Danco Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°40.2'S / 062°37.3'W

Wind: Variable 3 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +2°C



After 2 days in the Drake Passage, we got a lovely morning call early by Ali: "Good morning, the ship is surrounded by humpback whales!" Slowly everybody got dressed to go out and have a look. Then, some minutes later, we got the message that some orca had shown up around the ship as well! Plenty of people then went, a little more quickly, outside on different decks and

enjoyed the spectacle of humpback whales, orca, and fur seals in close proximity to each other and the ship. What a start to begin our polar exploration!

After breakfast we began our first excursion of the trip, a landing on Cuverville Island. The conditions were perfect. Almost no wind, a bit cloudy, but always some blue sky in between. The first Zodiac ride went well (no splashing!) and we reached our landing spot in great moods ready for our first shore briefing. Ali explained about the landing and what there was to see—gentoo colonies on both ends of the beach and a little later we would be able to make a small climb and reach a saddle on the hill to experience a spectacular view over the bay in almost a 360° angle. We had three hours to explore the area which made plenty of time to relax and take in all of the sights. The cute little penguin chicks were walking around curious and made a big fun show for us. On the beach we had a steady coming and going of penguins and we could easily watch these beautiful looking birds with their lovely orange beaks. The time went by fast, but we knew we would get another landing in the afternoon.



After a short lunch break, we got the chance to see another beautiful island in the scenic Errera Channel: Danco Island. After getting ashore, a big crowd of people went immediately up to conquer the hill on the island. The island is home for plenty of small penguin colonies spread all over, both near the beach and also along the slope and up on top too! The hike up was rocky and most people appreciated the chance to stretch their legs after the long hours at sea. The view again was spectacular, even if it wasn't possible to reach the top of the island—the 5-meter-rule limited our ability to access the “penguin-penthouse” on top of the hill.



Regardless, there was more than enough view and penguin mass to enjoy as it was so we continued watching the penguin drama unfold: feeding, walking, talking... and also some adults were molting already. Here and there we also saw skuas flying around checking out some food opportunities. Back down below, the walk on the



beach towards the penguin highway at the end was comfortable and allowed us nice views towards our kayakers and the divers.



At the end of the landing Ali offered us the opportunity of a polar plunge—meaning you get the chance to swim in Antarctic waters. Sounds exciting, but in reality it means +1°C temperatures plus really cold and lumpy stones to walk on with bare feet! But our unnamed heroes would stop at nothing to be able to claim the title of Polar Plunger. And so a surprising amount of apparently sane people got undressed and took advantage of the unique possibility to “enjoy” the fresh water. It was good fun for everybody and even the “dry” people enjoyed the spectacle

and offered the swimmers the chance to take the first Zodiac back to reach the warm showers of our temporary home Plancius. On the way back the expedition team gave us the chance to cruise by an ice flow to see a big leopard seal taking a nap.

Back on the ship at recap Ali explained to us the plans for the next day, and Regis began an explanation on how to discover new penguin colonies based on looking for pink stains on the ice in aerial photography... but he was disrupted by the beautiful icebergs that kept passing by the lounge windows as the Captain navigated some narrow gaps between icebergs on our way to the camping location for the night. After having a good dinner—getting some fuel onboard



to help them through the night—30 brave campers took the chance to enjoy a night outside in the Antarctic air. We dropped our new friends at Leith Cove for the night and took off out of sight to give them a real wilderness experience. Good night to our campers, see you tomorrow! And for all of us, the quiet time before sleep was a good chance to reflect on our amazing first day, full of new experiences and impressions. We cannot wait to see what will happen in the next days!

For the campers at Leith Cove they could not have asked for better weather. The snow levels were low after having record high temperatures in Antarctica this season, but the sky had only some high light clouds and there was no wind. After all zodiacs delivered the campers ashore at 20.30pm, Rustyn straight away gave a briefing about our equipment and the area. The campsite was amazing - a small island directly surrounded by high glacier walls on three sides and a view of the bay just right in front. Half of us started putting together our bivy bags and sleeping kits, while the other half used the shovels to start digging our sleeping areas out for the night. After the work was done everyone stayed awake for quite awhile and absorbed the grandeur and breathtaking views that surrounded us. In the morning we had a 4.14am wake-up call and the entire team was in good spirits. We broke down camp quickly and efficiently and got back to the ship for some hot coffee by 05.00am. It was a cold and clear night, and one we would never forget.



Day 5 – 20th February 2019

Petermann Island / South to the Circle

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°57.2'S / 063°34.3'W

Wind: E 3 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C

This morning at dawn, our heroic campers appeared on board again. Rumours about this night under the southern stars (though hidden by clouds) evoked different sound atmospheres, calving glacier, big waves, and ... snoring.

Then, while many of us were finishing breakfast, Ali announced that a large group of killer whales were crossing at close range and that we would try to approach them. Their coffee being drunk in triple speed, the first passengers rushed to the deck to watch the incredible scene. First far away then very close, there were about twenty of them swimming



watch the incredible scene. First far away then very close, there were about twenty of them swimming

around the ship: young, females, and males with imposing dorsal fins. Some of them even swam along the bow and allowed themselves to be admired at close range through the transparent water.

Shortly afterwards, another equally dazzling spectacle was awaiting. The Plancius prepared to enter the Lemaire Channel. This narrow passage is famous for the beauty of the landscapes



that surround it. Once again, we were all outside to enjoy the panoramas, dark and dizzying cliffs sprinkled with snow overlooking this fine inlet dotted with icebergs. Once through, we arrived in sight of our first destination, Petermann Island. The gangway was set up and the merry-go-round of zodiacs begins, dropping us off on the island which-- in the early 1900s-- was the wintering place of the French explorer JB Charcot and his scientific team aboard the *Pourquoi Pas?*.

Petermann is home to colonies of gentoo and adélie penguins. The latter have a very short breeding season and so they have almost all left the island already. Only a few individuals remain here and there, to the delight of all of us, who are very happy to be able to observe another penguin species. A bit later in the landing Ali opened another path to enjoy a viewpoint overlooking the opposite side of the island— interesting sculpted snow banks and large icebergs out into the open ocean beyond. The weather began to close in so it felt more than comfortable to return to the ship anticipating a hot drink and satisfying lunch. As soon as we were back on board, the ship began its long descent towards our next goal: the Antarctic Circle. The afternoon was devoted to sailing towards this goal. This was an opportunity for everyone to sort out their photos, rest, and attend Tom's lecture about ice. In the evening, Ali presented us with the

programme for our next day, Hélène told us more about the life and work of JB Charcot, and Jos presented about PenguinWatch and HappyWhale—two different ways we can contribute to ongoing Citizen Science projects. Another busy day!

Day 6 – 21st February 2019

Detaille Island / Polar Circle

GPS 08.00 Position: 66°46.3'S / 066°57.3'W

Wind: NE 5-6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +1°C



Some of us woke up early to witness the magical moment when we crossed the Antarctic Circle. Most of us, however, stayed in bed and waited for the regular wake-up call at 7:15. After breakfast we were heading for Detaille Island to visit the abandoned hut of the British Antarctic Survey. Half of us went ashore first while the rest of us had a zodiac cruise near the island.

The hut was abandoned very quickly back in the days, and the men left everything as it was—even some underwear was still hanging above the long-dormant stove. Aside from visiting the hut, we could walk up to the viewpoint on top of the island to view the adelic penguin colony on the other side of the snow cliff.

When it started snowing this just felt appropriate for our visit south of the polar circle. During the zodiac cruise we encountered crabeater and fur seals hauled out ice floes while cruising among many fantastic icebergs.



The fog and mist and snow came and went and the flat light really made the blue of the icebergs glow. For the afternoon the decision was made to return north to give us an opportunity for more landings in the coming days and to celebrate again making our Furthest South below the polar circle. Amazingly, the fog and mist cleared and we were treated to spectacular Antarctic scenery underneath blue and sunny skies so we celebrated our crossing of the polar circle with hot chocolate with rum and whipped cream on the top deck. When the ship's horn sounded to mark the exact crossing, many pictures were taken and glasses were raised.



Day 7 – 22nd February 2019

Damoy Point / Stony Point

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°50.4'S / 063°37.4'W

Wind: NW 5 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +1°C

The weather was grey and low this morning but we were lucky, there was good light and little wind. We landed on Damoy Point this morning! A few years ago, this site was still used as a starting point to transfer supplies via fixed wing aircraft to the British Antarctic Survey bases. We disembarked the zodiacs on the beach in front of the cheery blue hut. This building served as a sort of waiting room during supply flight operations in the 70s and 80s and now has become a sort of historic museum as well as refuge shelter. We could free roam around the area to visit the gentoo colonies but many chose directly to put on a pair of snowshoes and climb up to see what used to be the runway for the flight operations.

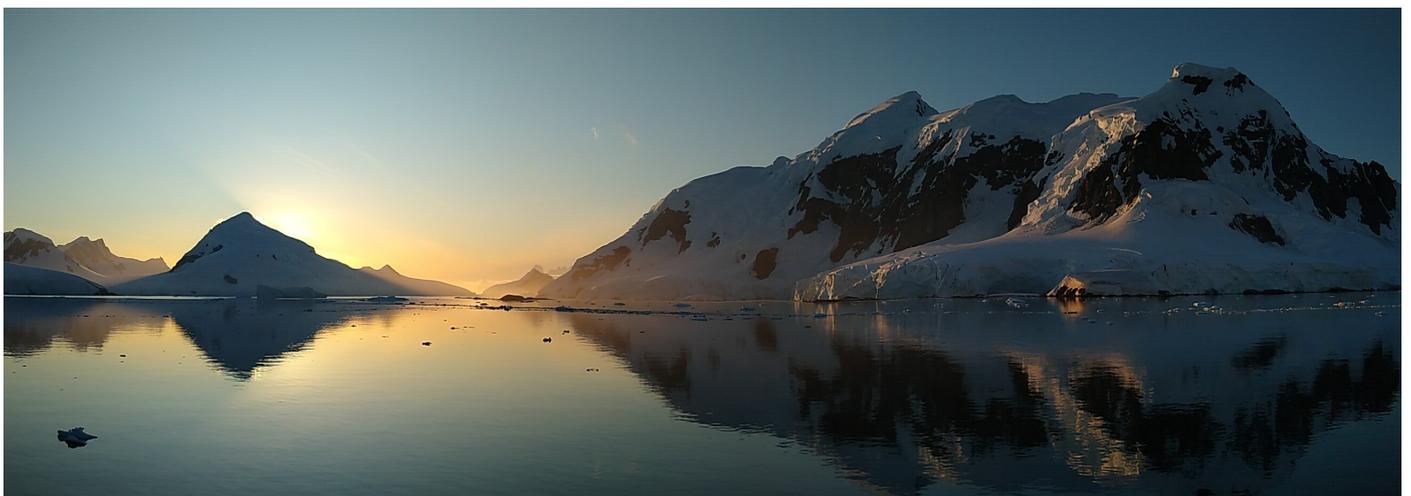


As we began the ascent of the snowy hill, we meandered along the path traced by Rustin, one of our guides for this outing. Though we were stopped from a farther walk at the top due to a crevasse, we still took advantage of a clear view of the bay and Port Lockroy before going down and across the valley to see a small colony of gentoo penguins on the opposite rocky peak. Many also took the time to visit the

refuge and to discover the living conditions of the former workers; the hut was complete with dime store novels, snow melter, and the all-important jar of Marmite! The time came to say goodbye to the cute and curious chicks, so we headed back to Plancius for lunch and then a scenic passage through the beautiful Neumayer channel. As the clouds dispersed, we enjoyed the beautiful light and the return of the sun. In the afternoon, we alternated zodiac cruising and landing at Stony Point, our first foot on the continent of Antarctica! The beach was occupied by a welcoming party of gentoo penguins and Weddell seals. Once we were onshore, many of us put our snowshoes back on to climb to the top of the hill and enjoy the spectacular view of the glaciers and the bay.



The Zodiac cruise allowed us to get close to many seals hauled out on ice floes— several crabeater and leopard seals, with backdrops of majestic craggy mountain peaks and crevassed icefalls... what a treat! The surrounding glaciers certainly offered their full range of blue color. A wonderful afternoon in Paradise Bay. To end this magnificent day in paradise, the crew had prepared an excellent barbecue on the aft deck. Hard to imagine a better way to enjoy the sunset and nightfall for those who had stayed to dance.



Day 8 – 23rd February 2019

Wilhelmina Bay / Foyin Harbour

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°34.2'S / 062°29.2'W

Wind: W 7 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: +1°C

Ali woke us up with her morning call at 7:15 a.m. and told us that the weather conditions were not great. There were 30 knots of wind and it seemed that our morning's plan all of a sudden became unsure. It seemed that after our perfect Antarctic day yesterday at Paradise Bay we obviously have to pay. BUT, we have our amazing Ali! She changed the plans immediately after realizing the ice and wind conditions at Orne Harbor, our



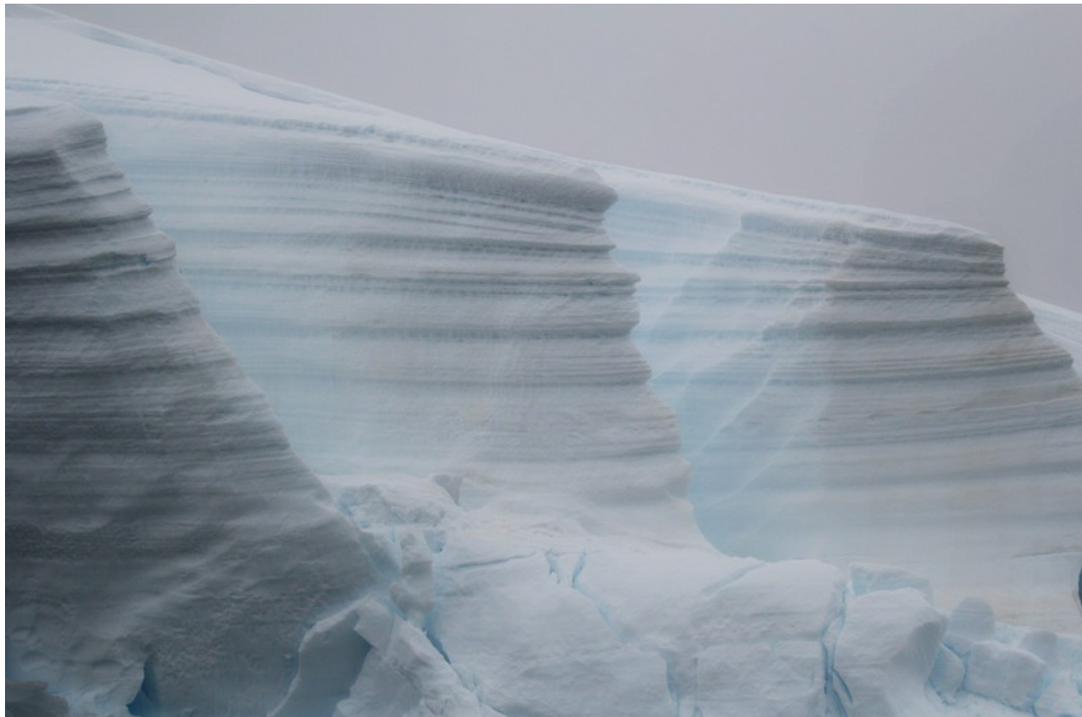
original landing point, were not safe. The Plancius then headed directly to Wilhelmina Bay (our afternoon destination) in the hope that this area would be more sheltered. We arrived around an hour later and the conditions improved. We had less wind, better visibility, and the sea was smooth and gentle. The whole ship went out then on a cruise all at once, ten zodiacs all at once (!), and right away we found some humpback whales.

The with them was magical! The whales showed no sign of disturbance and it actually seemed they were interested in our presence. The whales were diving for food and after the dive they rested at the surface and actually checked out our boats and us. The two whales were slightly differently sized and one had a significant injury to its dorsal fin and was covered in barnacles. Both whales spent a lot of time swimming around the Zodiacs and with every dive it was hard to suggest where they would come up next.



Every Zodiac got close encounters and we heard and smelled the blow of the whales up close and personal. The drivers just turned the engines off and deeply enjoyed these unique and special moments. How privileged we were to experience their presence in such close proximity with the feel of pure unity and no impact towards the

animals. Some of us were close to tears and we would lie if it would not be a once in a lifetime moment for each and every one of us. After around 1.5 hours the whales actually went to sleep right next to us. Whales sleep just around the water surface. Unbelievable-- how many can say, "A whale fell asleep right next to me!"?



Eventually we left our new friends alone for a peaceful sleep and went for a cruise further around the bay and enjoyed the brash ice, bergy bits, and actual icebergs that have calved off the unaccountable glaciers surrounding the bay. Finally we went back to the ship and enjoyed a quick lunch during our short transfer to Foyen Harbor, where we would make our afternoon excursion. The weather was again on our side and the wind speed around 12-13 knots made it possible to explore the scenery with some islands, a few little channels, and an impressive wreck. The ship *Governøren* was an old whaling and cargo vessel in action around the turn of the 20th century.





In 1915, at the end of a successful season, the whalers were enjoying a party and during the fun the ship unfortunately caught fire. The ship was full of whale oil in wooden barrels and so made a good source for a really big fire. The quick-thinking captain decided to ground the ship in order to save the lives of the crew as well as the valuable cargo. And so this was the very spot where we found the ship now. One hundred and five years of rusty history telling stories about former parties and lessons learned in cold seas. Next to the ship we met some French people that used the sheltered bay for their yacht and some kind of film-making on an ice flow. We could just imagine how hard it must have been to cross the Drake Passage with such a small boat. However, not our problem, we have our Plancius! So we headed out further to explore the history and wildlife of Foyen Harbor, cruising around to see chinstrap and gentoo penguins, blue-eyed shags, and different types of seals. Even when the weather turned a bit cold and miserable, we enjoyed every single moment.



During recap Ali told us that we will head north towards the South Shetland Islands, so we could get the chance of two more landings during our last day in Antarctica. We were happy with the news and tried not to think about the coming night with a weather forecast that showed potential for 30 knots of wind. We will be in our beds while we pass the Bransfield Strait separating the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula and we hope that this time the forecast isn't right and maybe the winds will not be so bad.

We went to bed early with the memories of our unique and special whale encounter in our dreams. Sometime reality is creating the best dreams.

Day 9 – 24th February 2019

Whaler's Bay / Half Moon Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 62°59'S / 060°33'W

Wind: ENE 4 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Snowing **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C



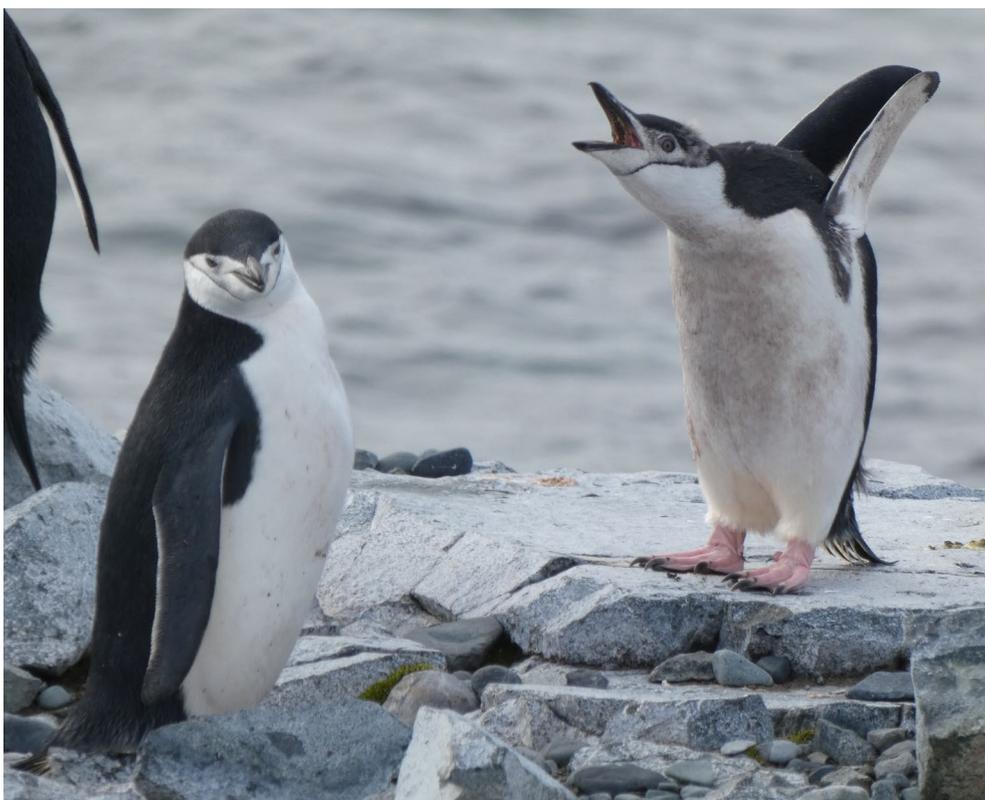
We awoke this morning to Ali's wake-up call at 6:45am in order to enjoy the view at the entrance of the Deception Island caldera. Though the view began only in the fog, to our great surprise the view cleared and everything was white-- a nice fresh coat of snow covered the mountains around us. We were lucky, the big blue sky was there. We dressed warmly and landed quickly in Whaler's Bay, near the old buildings, boilers, and tanks leftover from the historic whaling era. The whaling station was actively occupied until

1931, when oil prices dropped and that activity stopped. The site was not abandoned, however, and the British began to use the site—at first strategically during WWII then eventually as a British Antarctic Survey base for flight logistics and meteorological observations. A large aircraft hangar was built and used for many years but in 1969 and 1971 eruptions destroyed the Chilean science base further inside the caldera and forced the evacuation of the British base as well. Now Argentina, Chile, and Spain run summer-only bases inside the caldera, monitoring seismic activity for future eruptions. And once again, fur seals are used have returned to rest and relax around the old station site which is still littered with debris including whale bones. During our visit, we also enjoyed a short walk to the Neptune's Window viewpoint.





Deception Island is indeed still a volcanic crater-- the seismic activity is still visible today. As we were leaving at low tide, we could see a steaming mist over the beach: thermal activity below the sand was warming the water, even bubbling up in some places. Then it was back to *Plancius* for lunch time, and we sailed three hours to our final landing of the trip at Half Moon Island. This crescent-shaped island is home to a small Argentinean scientific base and a colony of chinstrap penguins.



The disembarkation was a bit delayed by a very strong swell at the shore but finally the staff radioed to the gangway that we would go ahead with the landing and the staff got us safely ashore—even mostly dry! For our last excursion, the weather was relatively mild and we took full advantage of the island and the penguin colony. Most of them were moulting, as the breeding season was coming to an end. A leopard seal was also trying to hunt a penguin near the beach. A few gentoo and fur seals were resting on the site, plus one young elephant seal on the beach—a new species! A few photos later, we were saying our goodbyes to Antarctic lands and back on board the Plancius, our heads full of pictures and stories... and ready to face the Drake.

Day 10 – 25th February 2019

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 60°20.7'S / 061°44.9'W

Wind: SE 3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

As we began crossing back the Drake Passage, the pace of life on board has changed—no wake-up call from Ali and the opportunity to enjoy our bed a little longer than usual. And so this morning, a rare sight compared to most other days of the voyage: the corridors and lounge are empty at first light.

It must be said that the grandiose landscapes of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetlands have faded away to make way for the immensity of the Southern Ocean. After the call announcing the opening of the doors of the dining room for breakfast, the ship came to life again and a lovely sunny calm day was waiting for everyone on deck.



Soon after, Tom opened a new series of conferences that will liven up our two days of crossing before arriving in Ushuaia. He offered a presentation on the geological history of the Antarctic continent.

At the end of the morning, Ali tackled a subject that is all too rarely mentioned, that of women in Antarctica, whether they have been wives of explorers (often in the shadow of their famous partners but nevertheless so important) or women scientists and explorers themselves. After lunch, Jos shared with us some special moments in her life, stories and images from her time working and living during both summer and winter at two of the US science bases—McMurdo and South Pole stations. Finally, Steffi gave us a fascinating lecture on the adaptations developed by the fauna of the polar regions.

The day, once again enriching, came to an end with Ali welcoming us to the lounge to present tomorrow's program. Our hotel manager discussed a few practical points concerning our return to port, and bringing the bad news that bills will eventually have to be paid! Rustyn then gave a presentation about the evolution of gear and equipment used during polar expeditions, and Celine finished out by sharing some new news about flying penguins and demonstrated why penguins waddle—they can't use their knees!

Day 11 – 26th February 2019

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 56°05.2'S / 065°32.5'W

Wind: W 7 **Sea State:** Rather rough **Weather:** Rain showers **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C

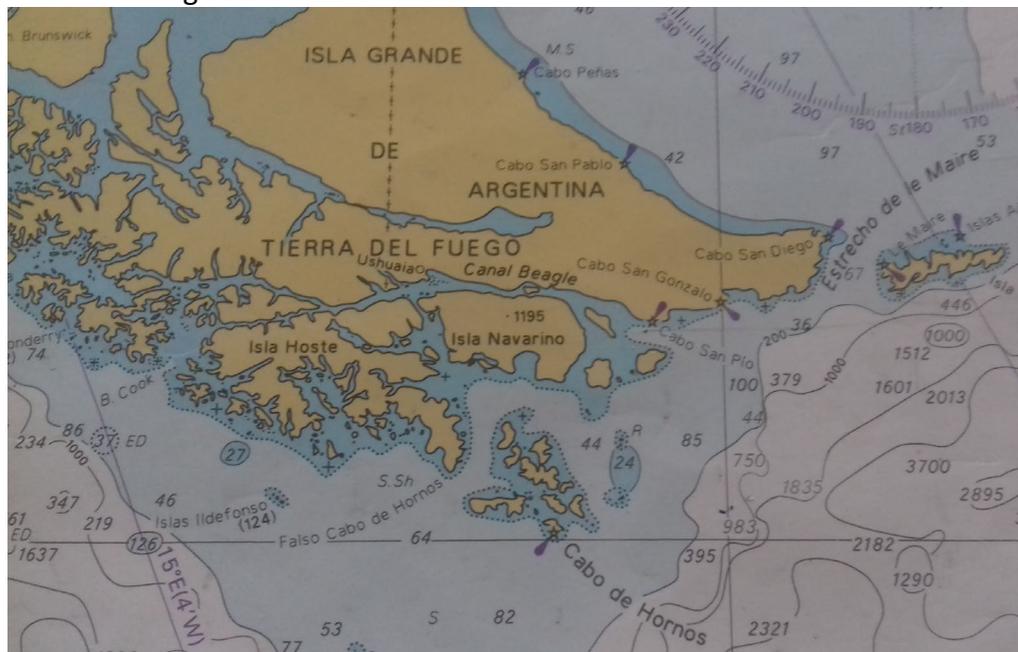
This morning we could definitely feel that there was some more motion in the ocean. As predicted the wind and swell had increased overnight and as the morning progressed the wind began to whip up the waves and throw mist and spray into the air. Very atmospheric to see but not always so nice to feel. It did seem, however, that most folks were up and about and well able to put their seaworthy legs to work. We had another full day ahead with lectures and tasks to take care of. First was an excellent lecture by Helene and Regis about their time on the French SubAntarctic island of Kerguelen, what it was like to live at various field huts as well as the diverse types of monitoring work they were doing, involving king penguins, elephant seals, albatross, plants, and even non-native cats and beetles.

Then after a short break for tea and cookies, Alexis gave an interesting talk about the native peoples of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, and recommended an extremely engaging account of establishing the first European homestead and living among the Yamana and Ona peoples, written by Lucas Bridges: "The Uttermost Part of the Earth". After a short break Alexis then offered a workshop where he explained the culture around the well-known South American drink mate. He, with his gringa assistant Joselyn, demonstrated how to



correctly execute the ritual as well as which tools and herbs to look for at the market. After a morning of having the outer decks closed due to the rough seas, at lunch there was finally land in sight—the Beagle Channel was waiting for us. After another couple hours we were in the protection of the outer islands including Cape Horn, and so the swell dropped and we could finally emerge and feel the fresh air and get our first scents of leaves and soil wafting on the wind. During afternoon the divers shared with us some

images and stories from their experiences on the trip, what an amazing world exists there underneath the surface of the sea! And then the last equipment-based task, after the kayakers and divers have returned and organized all of their kit, the staff finally announced it was time to return the rubber boots. Thanks to our faithful waterproof companions that kept us dry and upright (mostly!) during our many outings into the harsh Antarctic environment. But perhaps not too many tears were shed because now our cabins were entirely free for us to begin the monumental task of packing all of our exploded belongings back into our small traveling cases. Bon chance!



The ship was well inside the Beagle Channel by 5pm when we arrived at the pilot station to pick up our navigator that will take us safely all the way into port. The last major event of the day wasn't a recap this time but Captain's Farewell—a chance to gather together to hear a few final words from our Captain Artur and raise a glass to a successful voyage as well as in gratitude to all of the seen,

and unseen, crew members who made this trip possible. We adjourned to enjoy one last evening meal where the galley team showed us again how fortunate we've been to enjoy their amazing delicacies for so many days. Then we were approaching Ushuaia at night, with lights shining, welcoming us back to solid ground. The announcement came that the ship was cleared and a few hardy souls went ashore to get a taste of Ushuaia by night, an exciting prospect as the Argentines normally begin dinner around 11pm so we had arrived just in time!

Day 12 – 27th February 2019

Disembarkation - Ushuaia

This morning, at last, would be a dry landing. The last 10 days have taken us on a remarkable journey to Antarctica and allowed us a glimpse of life in this remote and sometimes inhospitable place. We will all have different memories of our trip but whatever the memories, whether it was the gentoo penguins at Danco or the sight of icebergs for the first time they are memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

1963 Nautical Miles

Furthest South:

66°51'S / 066°49'W

Your Expedition Team!



**On behalf of everyone on board we thank you for travelling with us
and wish you a safe journey home.**



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA POLAR CIRCLE VOYAGE (PLA30)

Kayaking Log

17th FEBRUARY – 27th FEBRUARY 2020

Kayak Guide – Alexis Bellezze (AR)



Participants:

Samuel Maldonado
Sebastiaan Bragt
Robert Hutchison
Duncan Phillips
Robert Baird
Robert Karmouche
Gabriele Morhart
Marije Wesche

Sara Maldonado
Michael Hutchison
Barbara Hutchison
Gayle Phillips
Robbie Cullenward
Deborah Karmouche
Martin Kaminski

Cuverville Island

19th FEBRUARY 2020 (AM)

The kayakers first opportunity to get onto the water came about during the expedition first landing on Antarctic Peninsula at Cuverville Island. A beautiful spot close to Ronge Island and the Errera Channel in the other side. It was a full zodiac of all 13 kayakers plus Alexis Bellezze (guide) and Marlon (Zodiac Crew Driver). We had the best weather conditions, we were able to do a nice trip around the icebergs and had a nice contact with some different kind and size of ice.

This icebergs were drifting around us, moving away and coming again to interact with us. We were part of it, drifting and paddling in the ocean, being involved by this massive natural landscape surrounding us for the first time. We followed the bergy bits from very close but safe distance, we enjoyed the views of the shapes and the colors they project to us. We were being paddling more than an hour and a half in a complete silence having fun and learning how is to do kayaking in this environment.

DANCO ISLAND

19th February 2020 (PM)

Beautiful Antarctic weather conditions. Today was a VIP session with Barbara and Robert as the special guests. Barbara was, as usual, always ready for an adventure. It was the second chance to appreciate the landscape of one of the most visited places, Danco Island. Hundreds of gentoo penguins were around the landing area.

We paddled in a completely quiet bay, looking for icebergs. Everything was in motion. Many ice packs. Many different ice sculptures around us. We were doing ice gardening till we finally got to an iceberg with a leopard seal. We were very close it. It was a special

moment to take unique pictures and see it from different spots. The kayakers started to feel more comfortable with the paddling techniques, using the gear, and how it feels inside the cockpit..



PETERMANN ISLAND

20 February 2020 (AM)

After a super morning crossing the Lemaire Channel watching the ancient mountains around us, the hanging glaciers, the sunrise in between them, the silence. We prepare ourselves for a windy and cold morning at Petermann Island. Definitely the group had a fantastic kayaking experience. We were paddling for more than one hour. We managed to be close to the shore, having fun close to the penguin colonies, watching them jumping into the water. Was a special technique paddling, dealing with moving through a lot of ice, with penguins swimming around us, and ice packs moving with different speed, currents flowing around big icebergs, and the ship drifting far away from us. Beautiful.

The weather was cold and windy all the time. We face that and we did it well. We felt the cold and we decided to come back to the ship. Wonderful.





ANTARCTIC POLAR CIRCLE Detaile Island 21st February 2020 (AM)

The first time for all of us in the extreme South, at the Antarctic Polar Circle. Foggy morning. Some gusts of wind. Tabular icebergs and a lot of growler icebergs around. The place was quiet and we experienced the vacuum sensation to be far away from the Southern continent out in the middle of the water. Everything was calm but demanded our concentration on paddling. The ocean let us paddle but it was not easy, with the waves increasing after 40 minutes of paddling. We saw a group of crabeater seals swimming and some of them even sleeping in the water.

Our turning back to the ship was just in time. Barbara was there of course. The rest of the group had a great experience. Everybody happy after real Antarctic kayaking conditions!





DAMOY POINT 22nd FEBRUARY (AM)

Everybody was ready that morning. Was cold. But all of us were looking for a whale. Everybody was checking the ocean for that. We decided to head to the glacier on the shore and paddle alongside of the shore line. We were searching for whales but we didn't see any. We landed, and visited the historical hut and continued to the other side of the bay heading to Port Lockroy, but the wind and the waves in that area were at the safety border line so we came back to the ship after more than an hour. Nice and good kayaking! This time we realized the size of our adventure. Was difficult for the zodiac to do it because of the ice.

PARADISE BAY STONY POINT 22nd FEBRUARY (PM)

We celebrate life together. To have the chance to be immersed in this beauty. There are no words to explain what we saw this afternoon. I hope all of you remember this feeling for ever... Paradise Bay taught us, in some way, that we humans should go back to the basics and protect our environment. It's all about that. From now, all of you dear fellow kayakers will become Antarctic Ambassadors, that means to protect this place and these things with real actions. This. Do you agree? I hope so.

Best kayaking session of the trip!





FOYN HARBOUR 23rd FEBRUARY (PM)

During the morning we saw the humpback whales dancing around us so this afternoon I felt as a guide free to do a different kayak session. We paddled around the wreckage of the *Guvernøren*, and here is the story:

*‘Just 800 miles away from shipwrecked Endurance was the Guvernøren. Once a cattle carrier, the ship eventually functioned as one of the largest whaling factory ships of her time. On January 27, 1915, the *Guvernøren* was at sea, performing her duties as a floating factory.*

*At the time, building whaling facilities on land in Antarctica wasn't always feasible. Enormous ships like *Guvernøren* became ideal carriers of everything needed for hunting and harpooning whales. Additionally, when the whales were brought aboard, the ships provided a space for flensing – the removal of blubber – and separation of other usable parts of the whale.*

*Because floating factories like *Guvernøren* were designed as places for the whaling process from start to finish, the crew was capable of rendering entire whales into oil and other valuable commodities. These factory ships also carried large boilers with enormous tanks for holding and storing the finished oil until the vessel reached its final destination.*

*In terms of capacity, the *Guvernøren* was known for once producing more than 22,000 gallons of oil. The Norwegians considered the ship a leader among factory ships and one of the most technically sophisticated.*

Guvernøren's last mission

As this particular 1915 whaling mission wrapped up, the crew threw a party (as was standard practice aboard floating factories) to celebrate the success of a long and laborious mission hunting and processing whales, and the anticipated journey home. Because Guvernøren's working decks were designed for flensing, and not for dancing and partying, the celebration was held below decks.

Someone, perhaps while dancing too boisterously, knocked a lamp off a table and the ship caught fire. The Guvernøren was of course full of thousands of gallons of whale oil, ready and waiting to be hauled back to Norway. This oil fueled the fire, causing it to quickly grow out of control.

Although resulting in the terrible loss of whale oil and of a historic ship, the captain set Guvernøren aground and the entire crew of 85 were able to escape, only to watch the blazing ship burn to ruin. None of the crew members were injured by the fire; all were rescued by another whaling vessel.

The end of Guvernøren's journey

Today, the wreckage of the Guvernøren lies in wait for the occasional Antarctic cruise visitor to Foyen Harbor. The rusting remains, leftover wooden flensing boats, and old whale oil barrels remind us of the ship's long history, and what must have been a massive economic loss and setback to the industry during its time.

Since then, the wreckage has become home to the region's Antarctic terns, providing somewhat of a symbol of the commercial and natural intersection of Antarctica's rich history. And also, possibly serving as a warning of the dangers of partying near fire aboard what was essentially an enormous steel barrel full of fuel oil! '

The kayaking was interesting, we paddled close to the divers, we went into a channel where we saw a big piece of ice falling into the water... everybody finally understood why we never must be so close even to the 'solid cliff of ice'... you never know!





SOUTH SHETLANDS ISLANDS SUB ANTARCTIC DECEPTION ISLAND 24th FEBRUARY (AM)

Our final kayaking was in a volcano's caldera, at Deception Island. We went to the entrance of the island, and after that we paddled until we were at the base of the Neptune's Window where we landed and hiked up to the top. We saw the beautiful panorama of the volcanic bay, the remains of the whaling station and boats, fur seals on the shore, and we could detect the sulfuric smell of this still active volcanic island. It was the perfect final kayak excursion in this wild part of the world.

It was a real pleasure to guide all of you and be part of this group. A solid group, enthusiastic, all the time. Thank you for letting me share all of these beautiful moments with you, I'll be waiting for you back here in Antarctica or in Patagonia, my home.

Romel and Marlon and I wish you the best and safe return to your families and homeland.

- Alexis Bellezze – OEX kayak guide







PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019/20

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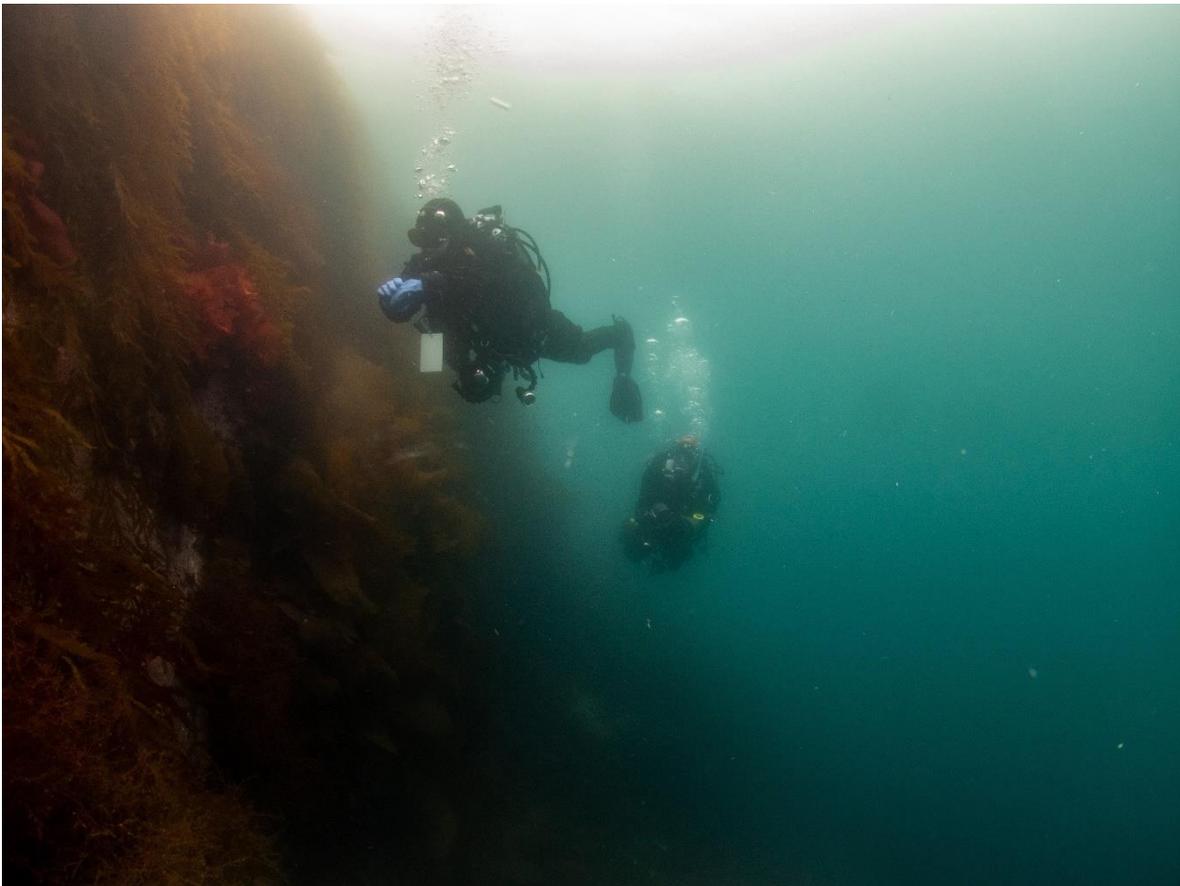
WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

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



Dive Log, MV Plancius
Antarctica – Polar Circle Voyage
16th – 27th February 2020



Divers: Josef Ritter, Shannon Lockhart, Michael Hutchison, Rob Hutchison, John Grayem, Matthew McLaurin, Anna Sievers, Nadja Kueppers, Heinke Teichmann, Florian Schwarz, Karin Aggler, Ben Felder, Maria Fiala, Andrea Leiser, Petra Felder, Barbara Gfeller, Esther Gamboni, Marc Philipp Anders, Andrea Wettstein, André Fahrni

Dive Staff: Peter Webster (Dive Team Leader), Chloé Maréchal, Joe Brooks & Will Gilbertson

Dive 1: 19th Feb AM, Cuverville Island, S 64°40.886, W 062°36.911

After a long voyage across the Drake Passage, our arrival at Cuverville Island on the morning of the 19th brought good weather conditions, and we were excited to finally get in the water for our first dive in Antarctica. With light winds, and a calm sea, we loaded and launched the dive boats from Plancius and made our way a short distance towards the shore, under the impressive cliffs on the east side of the island. There we found a small rocky bay, with some scattered ice floes (including one with a snoozing leopard seal). It took us a while to get used to kitting up in the small zodiacs, and checking that we had correct weighting etc. once in the water, but eventually we were good to go and set off to enjoy our first dive in these icy waters. Visibility was OK, although slightly murky, but it was a pretty dive site that changed from a rocky slope to more of a wall as we swam along. There was a wide variety of small life on the seabed, typical of the Antarctic environment, including limpets, amphipods and sea stars. After a good dive we gracefully (!) climbed back into the Zodiacs and although a little cold, we headed to shore to set foot on land and enjoy the penguins.



Dive 2: 19th Feb PM, Rongé Island, S 64°44.672, W 062°39.321

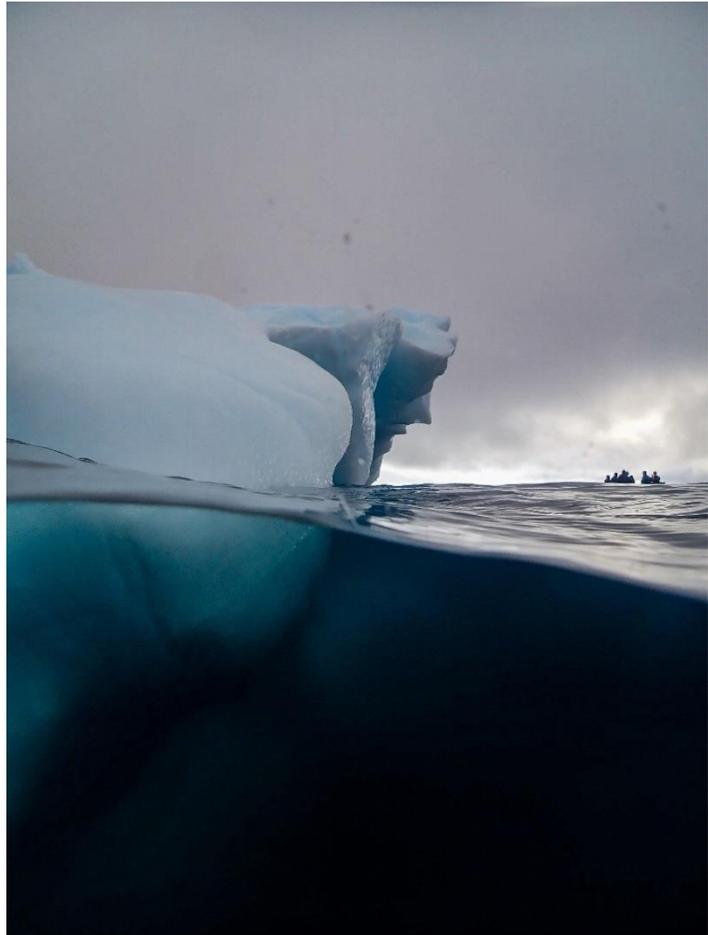


In the afternoon, we sailed a short distance away from our morning landing to Danco Island, where the other passengers were going ashore. For the diving, we decided to take the zodiacs past some huge icebergs, to the Southern end of nearby Rongé Island. We took the dive boats right up to a huge sheer rockface, where we then dropped into the water and slowly descended down a steep wall. There was thick kelp growing on the rocks, and numerous *Labidiaster* sea stars along with colourful sponges and sea squirts brightening up the wall. After swimming a good length of the

wall we slowly made our way to the surface and back to the boats and weaved our way back through the icebergs to Danco Island where those of us who were warm enough went for a quick walk on shore before heading back to the ship for a well earned drink in the bar!

Dive 3: 20th Feb AM, Petermann Island, S 65°10.885, W 064°09.205

The next morning, we had a more leisurely start, as before reaching our landing/dive site we sailed through the spectacular Lemaire Channel. Here, the weather was quite pleasant with light winds and most of the mountains clear which made for spectacular views of the fantastic landmark. By the time we reached Petermann Island the clouds had closed in and it became quite cold and wet. Nonetheless, we donned our drysuits and headed to the far side of the island to look for a suitable site. As far as we know, the place we chose had not been dived before. There was a large, smooth piece of ice trapped against a steep rocky wall where we dropped into the water, and although the visibility wasn't great, we were still able to admire the spectacular underwater view of the iceberg, with all the shapes, textures and melt channels forming a surreal experience. Back on the zodiacs, with some wind and rain, everyone was pretty cold, so we went back to the ship for a good lunch and to begin our journey South towards the Polar Circle.



Dive 4: 21st Feb AM, Detaille Island, S 66°52.004, W 066°47.219

Early in the morning, we were given a wake-up call to tell us we were passing the Antarctic Circle. We were now in deepest Antarctica! We were all excited that we managed to make it as far South as Detaille Island, and after negotiating the large amounts of ice we got the zodiacs launched and weaved our way through icebergs to the dive site, which was a steep wall right next to the island. We also had Crabeater and Fur seals playing around the ice as we made our way over. As the snow fell, we got kitted up and rolled off the boats. Underwater, we found a steep rocky wall which was scoured by the ice in the shallows, but became much richer with life as we went deeper. With colourful sponges, numerous anemones and a few fish there was plenty to see – and we surfaced surrounded by chunks of ice before climbing back into the zodiacs. From here, some went ashore to view the historic hut and other chose to get back into the water for a snorkel amongst the ice! A super morning in a very special place.



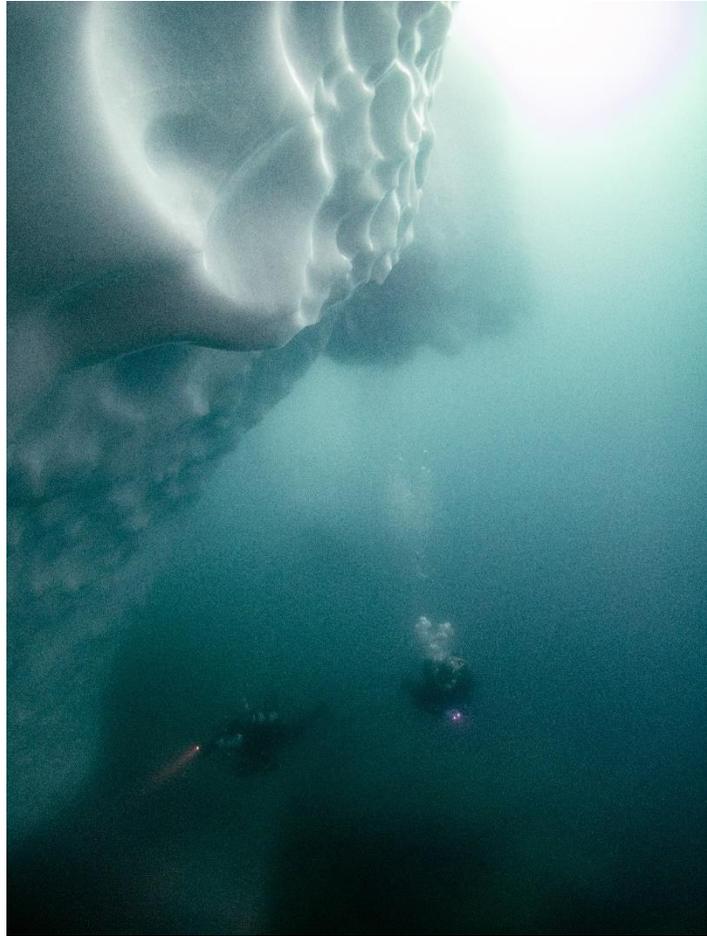
Dive 5: 22nd Feb AM, Damoy Point, S 64°48.618, W 063°30.660

After another spectacular transit through the Lemaire Channel, we arrived at Damoy Point in the Neumayer Channel at around 9am, with atmospheric dark clouds hanging over the mountains. With our 3 boats again loaded full of divers, we went to find a suitable site, hoping for a dive-able piece of ice. We found a medium sized glossy berg that appeared to be grounded in around 15-20m of water, in front of the huts where we would later go ashore. Visibility today was much better than the previous iceberg, so we were able to appreciate even more the strange sculptures created by the melting ice. As we descended to where the ice sat on the sea bed we saw the usual variety of small invertebrates living on the rocky bottom. After the dive, most of the group went for a stroll on shore before returning to the ship for a good lunch.



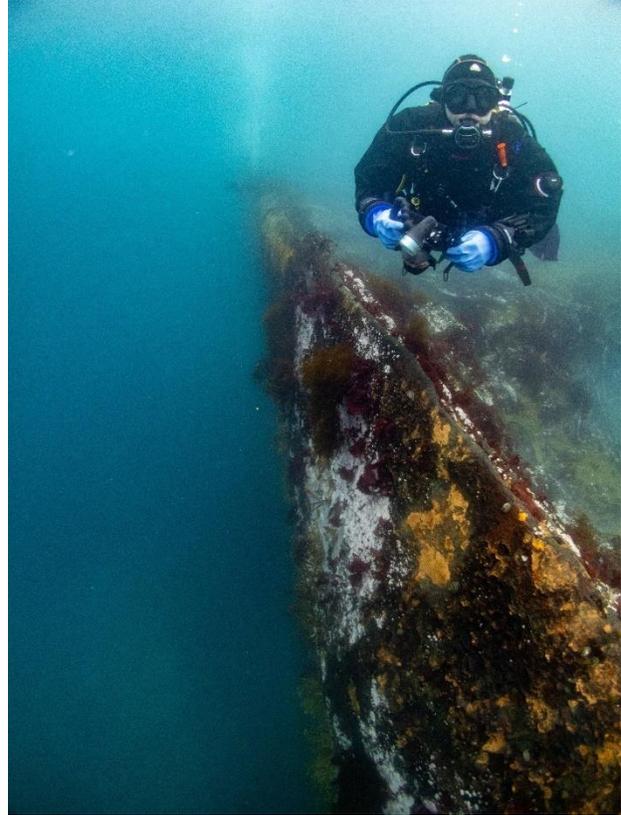
Dive 6: 22nd Feb PM, Paradise Harbour, S 64°54.661, W 062°55.772

In the afternoon, we sailed into the sheltered Paradise Harbour and anchored the ship off a rocky promontory called Stoney Point. We set off in the zodiacs in search of a dive site, encountering Leopard and Crabeater seals on the way. We chose a free-floating berg in the middle of the bay for our dive, and even from the surface we could see the bright blue ice dropping down into the depths. After kitting up we dropped into the water to explore the complex shapes, caves and textures of this beautiful berg – whilst watching our buoyancy in the >100m water! After the dive we quickly climbed from the zodiac onto the ice to experience the unique feeling of standing on top of an iceberg! We then slowly made our way back to the ship – visiting seals on the way, snorkelling or going on land for a walk on the continent. We finished off a perfect day with a BBQ on the back deck of Plancius in warm Antarctic sunshine.



Dive 7: 23rd Feb PM, Goveroren (Foyen Harbour), S 64°33.0 W 062°01.0

After a morning of spectacular whale watching, we were lucky enough to find calm enough conditions at Foyen Harbour to go out for a dive on the wreck of the Governoren – a whaling factory ship sank in 1915. As we approached in the zodiacs, we could already see the bow of the ship protruding from the water near the shore, and the deck slowly sloping down into the water. Thankfully the visibility was also excellent today, allowing us to get a really great view of much of the wreck underwater. As we swam past the hull, we saw all manner of life growing on the rusty metal – sponges, tunicates, algae and even a few fish. At the stern we could see the beautifully intact propeller, and then as we worked our way along the deck, we saw the boilers used for rendering the whale fat with bones still inside, and the wooden storage barrels for the fat. There was even a small iceberg trapped against the side of the wreck to top things off! After exploring the wreck for as long as we could, we got back the zodiacs and straight home to the ship to warm up after a super dive.



Dive 8: 24th Feb AM, Whaler's Bay, Deception Island, S 62°59.325, W 060°33.443

The morning began with Plancius sailing through the narrow gap of Neptune's Bellows into Whaler's Bay in the Deception Island caldera. With a fresh coating of snow, it looked quite spectacular. We could immediately see the large scale remains of the whaling industry on the shore, but our objective was to find signs of this area's history underwater where many whale bones are known to be scattered. We dropped into the water near the entrance to the bay. Some of us found some wall sections to swim along whilst in other areas the bottom was flatter and siltier – however there were numerous whale bones to be found, half buried in the seabed, along with small anemones and tube worms living on and around them. On the surface, conditions were great with sunshine and light winds which made for a perfect post-dive trip ashore to look around this strange place.



Dive 9: 24th Feb PM, Half Moon Island, S 62°35.878, W 059°53.689

For our final afternoon of activities in Antarctica, we anchored at Half Moon Island, a small low-lying rocky island with fantastic views across to the glaciated Livingston Island. Although quite windy, the sun was out and visibility looked good, so we dropped in on the southern side of the island under some rocky outcrops with a penguin colony. The sea bed was a rocky slope, with large amounts of kelp swaying in the swell. We had hoped to maybe encounter fur seals at this site – however, they did not appear to be present in as large numbers as at other times. Instead though we were treated to an encounter with an even bigger marine mammal, a huge leopard seal! It was definitely curious of the divers and the zodiacs as it took turns investigating the groups of divers around the site, getting very close in some cases – perhaps too close for comfort for some! After this unexpected and incredible end to our final dive, we got back into the zodiacs and left the seal to continue with it's hunt for penguins, whilst we returned to the ship to stow away our gear before crossing the Drake Passage.



Thank you to all the divers for making this trip in the Antarctic so entertaining and exciting for everyone. It has been a pleasure having you on-board and we hope to dive with you all again in the near future. All the best from Peter, Will, Chloé and Joe. Thanks to Florian for log photos!





OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA (PLA30)
Kayaking Log
17th FEBRUARY – 27th FEBRUARY 2020

Kayak Guide – Alexis Bellezze (AR)



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Beautiful Antarctic weather conditions. Today was a VIP session with Barbara and Robert as special guest. Barbara, as usual, always ready for adventure. Second chance to appreciate the landscape of one of the most visited places, Danco Island. Hundreds of Gentoo penguins around the landing area.

We paddled in a complete quiet Bay, looking for icebergs. Everything was in motion. Many ice packs. Many different ice sculptures around us. We were doing ice gardening till we finally get to an iceberg with a leopard seal. We were very close it. Was a special moment to take unique pictures and see it from different spots. Kayakers started to feel more comfortable with the paddle techniques and inside the cockpit and the gear.





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After a super morning crossing the Lemaire Channel watching the ancient mountains around us, the hanging glaciers, the sunrise in between them, the silence. We prepare our selves for a windy and cold morning at Petermann.

Definitely the group had a fantastic kayaking experience. We were paddling per more than one hour, we managed to be close to the shore, having fun close to the penguin colonies, whatching them jumping into the water. Was a technique paddling, dealing across a lot of ice, penguins swimming around us, ice packs moving with different speed, currents around big icebergs, the ship far away from us drifting. Beautiful.

The weather was cold and windy all the time. We face that and we did it well. We felt the cold and we decided to come back to the ship. Wonderful.



ANTARCTIC POLAR CIRCLE

Detaille Island

21st February 2020 (AM)

First time for all of us on the extreme South Antarctic Polar Circle. Foggy morning. Some gusts of wind. Tabular icebergs and a lot of growler icebergs around. The place was quiet and we experienced the vaccum sensation to be far away from the South Continent. Everything was calm but demanding our concentration on paddling. The ocean let us paddle but was not easy, waves increasing after 40 minutes of paddling. We saw a pot of crabeater seal swimming and some of them sleeping in the water.

Our turning back to the ship was just in time. Barbara was there of course. The rest of the group had a great experience. Everybody happy after real Antarctic kayaking conditions!





**DAMOY POINT
22nd FEBRUARY (AM)**

Everybody was ready that morning. Was cold. But all of us were looking for a whale. Everybody were checking the ocean for that.

We decided to head till the glacier on the shore and paddle along side of the shore line. We were searching for whales but we didn't see any. We landed, visited the historical hut and continue to the other side of the bay heading to Port Lockroy, but the wind and the waves in that area were in the safety border line so we came back to the ship after more than an hour.

Nice and good kayaking! This time we realize the size of our adventure. Was difficult for the zodiac to do it because of the ice.

**PARADISE BAY
STONY POINT
22nd FEBRUARY (PM)**

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In terms of capacity, the *Governoren* was known for once producing more than 22,000 gallons of oil. The Norwegians considered the ship a leader among factory ships and one of the most technically sophisticated.

Governoren's last mission

As this particular 1915 whaling mission wrapped up, the crew threw a party (as was standard practice aboard floating factories) to celebrate the success of a long and laborious mission hunting and processing whales, and the anticipated journey home. Because *Governoren's* working decks were designed for flensing, and not for dancing and partying, the celebration was held below decks.

Someone, perhaps while dancing too boisterously, knocked a lamp off a table and the ship caught fire. The *Governoren* was of course full of thousands of gallons of whale oil, ready and waiting to be hauled back to Norway. This oil fueled the fire, causing it to quickly grow out of control.

Although resulting in the terrible loss of whale oil and of a historic ship, the captain set *Governoren* aground and the entire crew of 85 were able to escape, only to watch the blazing ship burn to ruin. None of the crew members were injured by the fire; all were rescued by another whaling vessel.

The end of *Governoren's* journey

Today, the wreckage of the *Governoren* lies in wait for the occasional Antarctic cruise [visitor to Foyen Harbor](#). The rusting remains, leftover wooden flensing boats, and old whale oil barrels remind us of the ship's long history, and what must have been a massive economic loss and setback to the industry during its time.

Since then, the wreckage has become home to the region's Antarctic terns, providing somewhat of a symbol of the commercial and natural intersection of Antarctica's rich history. And also, possibly serving as a warning of the dangers of partying near fire aboard what was essentially an enormous steel barrel full of fuel oil! ‘

The kayaking was interesting, we paddle close to the divers, we went into a channel where we saw a big piece of ice falling into the water... everybody finally understood why we never must be so close even to the 'solid cliff of ice'... you never know!





**SOUTH SHETLANDS ISLANDS
SUB ANTARCTIC DECEPTION ISLAND
24th FEBRUARY (AM)**

Our final kayaking was in a Volcano Caldera, Deception Island. We went to the entrance of the island, and after that we paddle till the base of the Neptune's window, we landed and hiked till the top. We saw the beautiful and volcanic panorama of the place, the remains of the Whalers station, fur seals on the shore, some Whalers boats and we sulfuric smell of this still active volcanic island.

Perfect last kayaking on this wild part of the world.

Was a real placer to guide all of you and be part of this group. A solid group, enthusiastic, all the time.

Thank you to let me share all this beautiful moments, Ill be waiting for you here or in Patagonia, my Home.

Romel, Marlon and I wish you the best and safe return to your families and homeland.

Alexis Bellezze – OEX kayak guide







OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

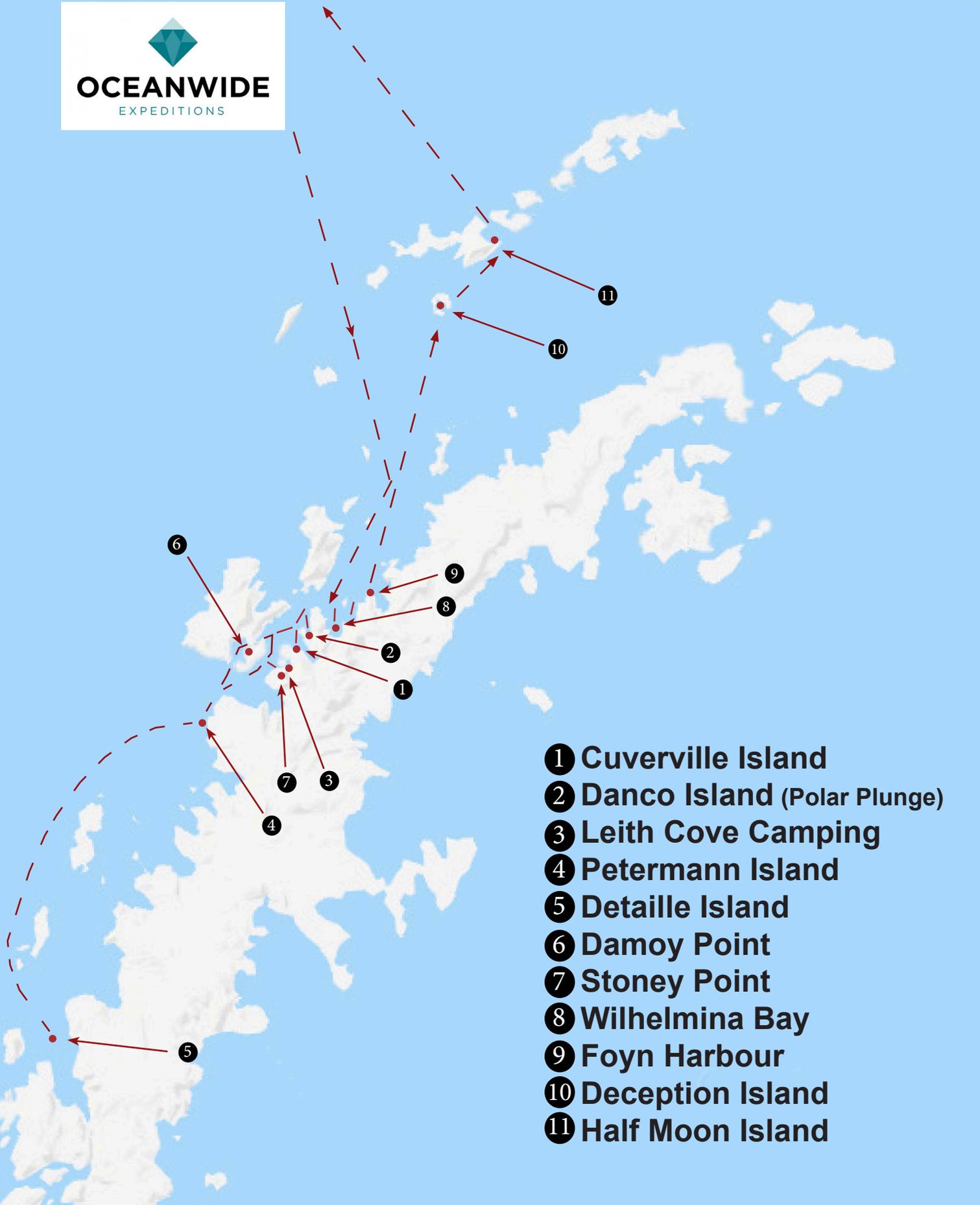
Camping night
Feb 19, 2020
Leith Cove

For the camping night on the Leith Cove we could not have asked for better weather. The snow levels were low after having record high temperatures in Antarctica this season, but the sky only had some high light clouds and there was no wind. After all zodiacs delivered the campers ashore at 20.30pm directly followed by Rustyn's briefing about our and equipment and the area. The campsite was amazing - a small island directly surrounded by high glacier walls on three sides and a view of the bay directly in front. Half of us started putting together our bivy bags and sleeping kits, while other half used the shovels to start digging our sleeping areas out for the night. After the work was done everyone stayed awake for quite awhile and absorbed the grandeur and breathtaking views that surrounded us. In the morning we had a 4.14am wake up call and the entire team was in good spirits. We broke down camp quickly and efficiently and got back to the ship for some hot coffee by 05.00am. It was a cold and clear night, and one we would never forget.

Antarctic Polar Circle Voyage

M/V PLANCIUS - PLA30

16.02.2020 to 26.02.2020



- ① Cuverville Island
- ② Danco Island (Polar Plunge)
- ③ Leith Cove Camping
- ④ Petermann Island
- ⑤ Detaille Island
- ⑥ Damoy Point
- ⑦ Stoney Point
- ⑧ Wilhelmina Bay
- ⑨ Foyn Harbour
- ⑩ Deception Island
- ⑪ Half Moon Island

Species list: Birds and marine mammals of the Antarctic region

| English | Latin | 16-feb | 17-feb | 18-feb | 19-feb | 20-feb | 21-feb | 22-feb | 23-feb | 24-feb | 25-feb | 26-feb | 27-feb |
|-----------------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Emperor Penguin | <i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adelie Penguin | <i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i> | | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Gentoo Penguin | <i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i> | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | | | |
| Chinstrap Penguin | <i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i> | | | | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Magellanic Penguin | <i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Rockhopper Penguin | <i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wandering Albatross | <i>Diomedea exulans</i> | | X | X | | | | | | | | | X |
| Northern Royal Albatross | <i>Diomedea sanfordi</i> | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Royal Albatross | <i>Diomedea epomophora</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-browed Albatross | <i>Diomedea melanophris</i> | X | X | X | | | | | | | X | X | |
| Grey-Headed Albatross | <i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Light Mantled Albatross | <i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i> | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Giant Petrel | <i>Macronectes halli</i> | X | X | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Southern Giant Petrel | <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Fulmar | <i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i> | | | X | | | X | X | X | | | | |
| Cape Petrel (Pintado) | <i>Daption capensis</i> | | | X | X | | | | | X | | | |
| Antarctic Petrel | <i>Thalassoica antarctica</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snow Petrel | <i>Pagodroma nivea</i> | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | |
| Soft Plumaged Petrel | <i>Pterodroma mollis</i> | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Petrel | <i>Halobaena caerulea</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White-chinned Petrel | <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i> | | X | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Sooty Shearwater | <i>Puffinus griseus</i> | X | X | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Great Shearwater | <i>Puffinus gravis</i> | X | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Antarctic Prion | <i>Pachyptila desolata</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Fairy Prion | <i>Pachyptila turtur</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slender-billed Prion | <i>Pachyptila belcheri</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i> | | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | X | |
| Black-bellied Storm-Petrel | <i>Fregetta tropica</i> | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Grey-backed Storm-Petrel | <i>Oceanites nereis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Diving-Petrel | <i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i> | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag | <i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i> | X | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Antarctic Shag | <i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Pale-faced Sheathbill | <i>Chionis alba</i> | | | | X | | | | X | X | | |
| Chilean Skua | <i>Catharacta chilensis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| South Polar Skua | <i>Catharacta maccormicki</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | | X | | |
| Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua | <i>Catharacta antarctica</i> | | | | X | X | | | X | X | | |
| Dolphin Gull | <i>Larus scoresbii</i> | X | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Kelp Gull | <i>Larus dominicanus</i> | X | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| South American Tern | <i>Sterna hirundinacea</i> | X | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Antarctic Tern | <i>Sterna vittata</i> | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Arctic tern | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | | | | | | | | X | | | |

Marine mammals

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Southern Right Whale | <i>Eubalaena australis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Minke Whale | <i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i> | | | | X | | | X | | | | |
| Humpback Whale | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Blue Whale | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fin Whale | <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strap-toothed Whale | <i>Megaplodon layardii</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long Finned Pilot whale | <i>Globicephala melas</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Killer Whale | <i>Orcinus orca</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Hourglass Dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peale's Dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dusky Dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leopard Seal | <i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i> | | | | X | | | X | X | X | | |
| Crabeater Seal | <i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i> | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Weddell Seal | <i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i> | | | | X | | | X | X | | | |
| Southern Elephant Seal | <i>Mirounga leonin</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| Antarctic Fur Seal | <i>Arctocephalus gazella</i> | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Southern Sea Lion | <i>Otaria flavescens</i> | X | | | | | | | | | | |

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Ali Liddle - Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley.

Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore

the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

Céline Clément - Assistant Expedition Leader



Celine was born in the south west of France, in the vineyard region of Bordeaux. She grew up with a passion for travel, the natural world especially ocean wildlife... and wine!

Celine was initially Research Manager at the Department of Geography of the University of Bergen, Norway, investigating fisheries management issues in the Barents Sea. Since 1998, various contracts for France's national scientific research center (CNRS) have led this cartographer to participate in fifteen scientific missions in the Arctic (Northern Norway, Bear Island, and Spitsbergen) and Antarctic Peninsula. This work was primarily conducted as part of research programs funded by the French Polar Institute (IPEV) and focused on the adaptations of polar seabirds to changes in their environment. She knows all the ins and outs of capturing, bird banding, biometric measurements, blood sampling, and activity recorders.

During the same period, Celine has been a hiking guide in Spitsbergen and has regularly accompanied cruises in the Polar Regions, which has given her a taste for science outreach programs.

She currently works as Scientific Mediator and ensures the coordination and the carrying out of communication events in scientific culture. Member of the Board of APECS France, the national committee of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, she contributes to communicating the latest scientific discoveries in the polar world.

Tom van Hoof - Expedition guide



Tom is geologist with a biological background. He studied palaeontology at the University of Utrecht. He fell in love with the polar regions when visiting the University of Svalbard in 2000 as a PhD student studying Climate Change. During his PhD research he spent a lot of time doing fieldwork all over the world. After finishing

his PhD at Utrecht University in the Netherlands he spent a year as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Arizona. When getting back to the Netherlands he got a job at the Dutch Geological Survey, working as a consulting palaeontologist. Here he got the chance to start organising geological sampling expeditions in the Arctic again. After fifteen years working for the Survey and doing fieldwork in the polar regions, Tom started a geological consultancy company in 2018 where he applies his knowledge of fossils in commercial projects for the subsurface energy industry. He combines this worldwide consultancy work with expedition guiding, as he loves to be out in the wild and share his knowledge of rocks.

Regis Perdriat - Expedition Guide



A biologist by training, Regis has always been passionate about nature.

After a master's degree in ecology and a scientific mediation diploma, he rapidly got involved in the actions of the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (Birdlife France), where he specialized in seabird care and their rehabilitation after oil spills. Then he joined the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust studying endangered species. In Brittany he worked for the Sept-Iles Nature Reserve.

In 2008, Regis overwintered on the Kerguelen archipelago (very remote French sub Antarctic islands) as an ornithologist, studying populations of penguins, albatrosses and elephant seals. Regis fell in love with those isolated environments and carried out several fieldwork missions in Crozet and Kerguelen. He finally joined the management team of the natural heritage of French Southern and Antarctic Lands, based on Reunion, and became Head of the Southern Lands Nature Reserve, implementing its environmental policy.

Back in France since 2016, he now proposes his experience for scientific expeditions and shares his passion for birds as often as he can. His last expeditions took him to North-East Greenland, to the steppes of Kazakhstan or to the Antarctic Peninsula. Looking for him? Try outside, you should find him and his binoculars searching for birds or whales.

Stefanie Liller - Expedition guide



Steffi Liller was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1978. After completing her apprenticeship as a biology lab technician at the Paul-Ehrlich Institute in Langen, Germany, she earned a degree in Biology and Meteorology at the Universities of Darmstadt and Freiburg in Germany. Alongside her studies and her love of nature, Stefanie developed an interest in and a passion for skydiving. This eventually changed from being a hobby to her profession. While working at drop-zones and indoor skydiving facilities throughout central Europe, Stefanie enjoyed sharing her passion for the sport with other people.

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveler by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Joselyn Fenstermacher - Expedition Guide



As an undergraduate, Joselyn studied behavioral ecology and conservation biology, going abroad to Ecuador and Tanzania completing hands-on, research-based semester courses studying the local flora, fauna, and conservation attitudes.

She has worked all over the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, and with all manner of critters including fish, brown bears, desert tortoises, and endangered birds. Over the past many years, she has also been working in Antarctica, beginning with several seasons supporting the scientific research at two U.S. science

bases (McMurdo and South Pole). More recently she has served as guide and education coordinator on expedition voyages to the Falklands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula as well as in the Indian Ocean and around the UK and Scandinavia.

When back in the U.S. Joselyn spends most of her time in the Big Bend region of far western Texas where she has fallen in love with the Chihuahuan Desert. She works seasonally for the National Park Service as a bio-technician and interpretive Park Ranger and completed her Master of Science botanical research there on Big Bend flora in 2007. Since then, she has continued investigating a small group of relatively unknown cacti, becoming a recognized regional expert.

Joselyn is passionate about learning more about the world around her, and sharing that passion with others- hoping to inspire a broader appreciation for, and understanding of, the fascinating world we live in.

Hélène de Méringo - Expedition Guide



Born in 1982 in Brittany (France), Hélène is passionate about nature and wildlife from an early age. That's why she studied biology and ecology to stay close to her interests.

After a year in Montreal, she graduated her master degree with an internship in Madagascar. The following year she enjoyed some experiences in Guinea, working with Chimpanzees in a conservation center, and then got involved in an educational program in France and in a natural park in Quebec.

In 2008 she overwintered on the Kerguelen archipelago (a very remoted island in sub-Antarctic) as a volunteer biologist, for the French Polar Institute. There she really discovered albatrosses, elephant seals and penguins, and found a real interest for cold ecosystems and wild lands.

For few seasons after this experience, she worked for the natural reserve of French southern and Antarctic territories and returned several times on Kerguelen and then in New Zealand to work on invasive species.

Since 2012, she has joined the CNRS (National Center of Research Science) as a member of a research team on the impact of introduced animal species on the islands. This work has led her to regularly participate in missions in the Pacific Ocean to work on seabirds nesting in remote islands.

At the same time, she becomes eco guide during summer seasons, on sailing boats in the Mediterranean Sea to train volunteers to count and study whales and dolphins.

In 2019, she began joining expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula with Oceanwide expedition to become a polar guide on expedition ships. H  l  ne lives in the south of France near the sea.

Rustyn Mesdag - Expedition Guide



Rustyn was born in Seattle, Washington where he grew up in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

He quickly discovered his love for snow and ice which led to climbing and then travelling abroad. After working as an alpine guide in the United States, in 2004 he relocated to Patagonia where he started a guide service outside of Torres del Paine National Park.

For 15 years he has been leading climbers, travellers and trekkers through the most extreme terrains of Southern Chile.

Aside from the guide service, he operates an equipment rental centre, backpackers' hostel and conducts daily lectures to eager Patagonian backpackers looking for tips and pointers about trekking in the wild. He also moonlighted as a travel writer, focusing on Southern Chile, and for many years he published an English-speaking travellers newspaper in Patagonia and this led to his first trip to Antarctica - writing about his experiences there.

Always looking for the next adventure, Rustyn now finds himself working for Oceanwide Expeditions and helping others explore this incredible region. When Rustyn isn't travelling or working in the outdoors, his other passion is his love for old motorcycles and long rides through Southern Chile and Argentina.

Rustyn is fluent in English, Dutch and Spanish and is more than happy to sit and spend time discussing world travels, alpine climbing and the in's & out's of cold weather equipment management

Alexis Bellezze - Kayak Guide



A Polar and Patagonia kayak expedition guide with expertise in wilderness adventure, long haul travel and mountaineering in the Nahuel Huapi National Park, Limay River and Lake District.

Professional background in the Army and Air Force, a degree in Veterinary Medicine (Domestic, Farming, Equine and also Wildlife Rescue and Rehab, Trauma and soft tissues surgeon) which compliments his outdoor expedition work as a Paraglider pilot, Trekking guide, CPR and Wilderness First Responder senior instructor in Argentina and Chile

He loves nothing more than being in the outdoors, especially if there is a chance to camp or see wildlife, but most importantly relishes the chance to share this with likeminded people.

Peter Webster, Dive Guide



Peter is from Scotland. His background is in marine science and conservation. He has a degree in conservation biology and an MSc in marine and fisheries ecology. He is currently studying for an MSc in digital mapping. After working as a diver for several years Peter was offered the position of Field Diving Officer with the British Antarctic Survey in 2012. He then spent the next 16 months in the Antarctic, stationed at Rothera Research Station, on the peninsula where he managed the dive operations and a team of scientific divers working on a wide range of

research on climate change, ocean acidification, and increased seabed disturbance by icebergs. As well as diving Peter also spent several months in the Antarctic deep field working in aircraft operations, depot laying, and meteorological work whilst living in tents in conditions below -30oC. Upon returning Peter worked in UK fisheries management and conservation, something he remains passionate about.

Peter has completed several thousand dives from sites including Scotland, Antarctica, Iceland, Patagonia and the South Pacific He considers Antarctic diving as some of the best as there really is still so much to discover. Peter is an avid photographer and will often be found wandering the ship decks with camera at the ready and is always happy to chat about photography.

Chloé Maréchal - Dive Guide



Chloé is a passionate diver fascinated by marine life and exploration. She earned a European master degree in Marine biodiversity and conservation and loves to share her expertise for the marine environment. In April 2013, she was selected as the 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater scholar. She spent a year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields, getting very different experiences in marine science and in the diving industry. Diving and science are not her only passion; she enjoys exploring new countries and discovering new cultures. She has been diving on all continents and living

in more than 20 countries.

Chloe now lives in northern Norway just above the polar circle. When she is not onboard, she can be found underwater: observing the ocean's inhabitants, searching for forgotten wrecks or mapping and exploring undiscovered underwater cave passages.

Joseph Brooks – Dive Guide



Joe is a lover of the great outdoors growing up on the small Scottish Island, Bute, he had many adventures in the Scottish countryside and waters.

His interest in diving from a young age lead to him training as a commercial diver in 2009 at the Professional Diving Academy. Working as a diver has taken Joe around the world from projects including construction of a bridge across the Thames river for the London Olympics, scallop diving around the Hebrides in Scotland and assisting in the creation of an

artificial reef in New South Wales, Australia.

Joe now lives in Glasgow where he is employed as a senior instructor delivering maritime emergency training.

Will Gilbertson – Dive Guide



Will has always been driven towards exploring the outdoors and there is plenty of scope for this in his native Scotland. The underwater world in particular has always fascinated him and he first started diving in 2005 on moving to Aberdeen to study Zoology at University.

Since then, he has dived extensively around the coast of Scotland and has been involved in instructing with the Aberdeen University Sub Aqua club and driving small boats to access the many wreck and scenic dives around the Scottish coast.

After finding the Scottish waters not quite cold enough, Will travelled to Iceland to dive the hydrothermal chimneys and continental rifts, before first joining Oceanwide for a voyage to Antarctica on board Ortelius in 2015 and the Arctic the following year in Greenland and Spitsbergen.

Will still lives in Aberdeen and after graduating from University, he spent 2 years researching the ecological effects of invertebrates and microbes in marine sediments for a Masters of Philosophy. After a few years delivering training to offshore personnel in marine search operations, sea survival and helicopter escape, Will returned to a more scientific role; he currently works for a craft brewery as a microbiologist.



Polar Circle Expedition

Ushuaia

Sunday 16th February 2020

Welcome on board!

Your luggage should already be in your cabin. Please check that you are not missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does NOT belong to you or your cabin mate please tell a member of staff or crew.

Feel free to explore the ship. Tea and coffee are always available in the Lounge on Deck 5

~1715 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Drill** in the Lounge. **ALL** passengers **must** attend this very important safety briefing.

~1800 Approximate sailing time. As we leave Ushuaia, we recommend that you enjoy the views from the outside decks.

The Bridge and Bridge wings will be closed this evening.

~ 1815 **Lifeboat drill.** Please listen for alarms and announcements and make your way to the Muster Station, the Lounge, on Deck 5.

~1845 After our departure, we would like to invite you to the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Ali Liddle** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Alex Lebedev**. Afterwards Captain **Artur Iakovlev** invites you to join him for a welcome drink in the Lounge, where you will also meet the Expedition Team.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on Deck 3 (behind reception). Bon appétit!

If you think you may require sea sickness medication then please take it at this time! Dr Claudio will be available in the lounge after dinner if you require any additional medication or advice.

Tonight, at around midnight we will be in open waters. Please secure your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) in your cabin, keep at least one hand free to hold on to the ship and be careful with the heavy doors.

0730 Your first Wake Up call from your Expedition Leader, Ali. Good Morning!

0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

During the morning we will be sailing South in the Drake Passage. Take some time to get your 'sea legs' and enjoy the seabirds that will follow us on our voyage.

1000 **Seabirds.** The Drake Passage is a great place to see Southern Ocean seabirds. If you would like to find out more about the species we might see and how they are adapted to life at sea then please join **Regis** in the **Lounge** for his presentation about Seabirds.

1000 **Divers.** Please meet with **Peter** and the dive team in the **Dining Room** for your dive briefing.

1130 **Boots.** We would like to give you your rubber boots. We will call you by deck to come to **Boot Room on Deck 3** and collect your boots. Please bring your Antarctic socks!

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Penguins!** We will be seeing lots of penguins on our voyage. If you would like to find out more about these fantastic birds then please join **Celine in the Lounge.**

1630 **Drifting World.** The basis of all life in Antarctic life is found in the sea. **Chloe** will tell you more about the life in the oceans. This will be in the **Lounge**

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

0900 **Zodiac Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage. It will outline our Zodiac operations on board Plancius. This will be followed by a mandatory **IAATO briefing** which outlines the guidelines regarding our expedition to Antarctica. Please join Ali in the Lounge.

1000 **Campers.** Please meet Rustyn in the Dining Room for a briefing about your night out in the snow.

We will begin Bio-security procedures on board which will involve vacuuming your outer clothing, particularly Velcro fastenings as well as camera bags and back packs. You then need to sign a bio-security declaration. We will call you to the Lounge by Deck number/cabin number so please listen for announcements.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

Bio security procedures will continue in the Lounge. Don't forget to sign with the staff!

1500 **Antarctic Treaty.** If you would like to find out more about the Antarctic Treaty that was mentioned in the IAATO briefing this morning then please join **Rustyn** in the Lounge.

1630 **Kayakers.** Please meet Alexis in the Dining Room for a briefing about your activity.

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.



Polar Circle Expedition

Cuverville Island and Danco Island

Wednesday 19th February 2020

0700 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

~0830 **Cuverville Island.** We hope to be able to take you ashore on Cuverville Island where there are large colonies of Gentoo penguins. Please follow the red marker poles and respect the 5 metre rule to give the penguins the right of way. Enjoy your time on shore!

Kayakers: please listen for announcements regarding your kayak time.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1430 **Danco Island.** This island is home to large colonies of Gentoo penguins so we hope to be able to take you ashore to spend time with these Antarctic residents. If conditions allow, we will also offer a hike to the top of the island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at their Highways.

At the end of the landing we will offer you the chance to do a **Polar Plunge**, an Antarctic swim. We'll bring the towels; you bring the insanity!

Kayakers: Please listen for announcements regarding your start time.

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Buffet Dinner** is available in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

2015 **Campers please be ready at the gangway to go ashore for your night of camping!**

0715 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

After breakfast we should be at the northern end of the Lemaire Channel ready to transit through this scenic narrow channel. Enjoy the views from the outer decks.

TBA Petermann Island. After navigating the Lemaire Channel we hope to go ashore on Petermann Island. On shore we will find Gentoo penguins but also a small colony of Adélie penguins as well. Staff will mark the route to the penguins with red poles and maybe a longer walk along the island ridge. Please stay on these marked trails as there are known crevasses and snow overhangs at the edge of the island.

1300 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

Sailing to the Polar Circle!

After lunch we need to start our navigation to the Polar Circle. We expect to pass many icebergs along the way so enjoy the views as we sail south.

1600 **Ice.** We have already seen many icebergs and glaciers in Antarctica. If you would like to find out more about ice and how these features are formed then please join **Tom in the Lounge.**

1815 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

We aim to cross the Polar Circle in the early morning but this will depend on our speed through the night and any ice we might encounter.

Sunrise is approximately 0540

0715 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

TBA **Detaille Island.** We hope to be able to take you ashore on Detaille Island where there is a historic hut and a chance to find some more Adelie penguins. Due to limits on numbers on the island and in the hut, we will do this in 2 groups. The hut was formerly a British Antarctic Survey base known as 'Base W' which was used between 1956 and 1959. It is a museum so please do not touch any of the artefacts in the buildings.

The first 4 or 5 boats will go to shore to visit the island and the hut then the next 4 or 5 boats will go on a zodiac cruise. We will swap on the shore. Both groups will do both activities.

1300 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

Expedition Afternoon!

Again, our plans for the afternoon will depend on the ice conditions we find in Crystal Sound during the morning. We hope to be able to offer a zodiac cruise around the icebergs in the area. Please listen for announcements regarding our activities.

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Dinner** is served! Bon appétit.

We hope to be at the entrance to the Lemaire Channel at 0545. If you would like to enjoy the navigation of this channel once more then feel free to join us on deck. If the conditions are spectacular, I may wake you!

- 0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0900 **Damoy Point.** We hope to take you ashore at Damoy Point where there are lots of Gentoo penguins around the point as well as some fantastic Antarctic scenery. We will offer you the chance to enjoy the penguins and also take a guided walk up to the top of the ridge which was once used as a runway for planes taking scientists further into Antarctica. There is a small historic hut. Please check with the guides before going in.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Paradise Bay.** We plan to do a split landing/Zodiac cruise at Stony Point and Paradise Bay. This will be a continental landing with stunning glacial views and a Zodiac cruise in with glacier views, icebergs and maybe some whales. We will take half of you ashore first and the other half out in the Zodiacs for a cruise. We will swap during the afternoon.
- 1900 **Special Antarctic Dinner** is served. Please dress warmly!! Bon appétit.

0715 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

0830 **Orne Harbour.** This morning we hope to take you ashore in Orne Harbour, which is another continental landing where we will try to take you on a walk to the Chinstrap penguin colonies on the ridge. The slope is quite steep so please take care as you walk.

For this we will do a split landing and cruise so the first 4 or 5 boats will go to shore and then the next boats will go cruising. Both groups will do both activities.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1430 **Foyn Harbour.** This afternoon we hope to take you out on a Zodiac cruise around Foyn Harbour where we will find the ship wreck of the Governøren, an old whaling factory ship that went on fire in 1915 after a crew party....! There are small islands, glaciers and usually icebergs as well.

We will do this zodiac cruise in two groups.

Deck 4 please come to the gangway at 1430

Deck 2, 3, 5 and 6 please come to the gangway at 1600

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.



Polar Circle Expedition

Whaler's Bay and Half Moon Island

Monday 24th February 2020

0645 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

At 0700 we will be approaching the entrance to Deception Island known as Neptune's Bellows. It is a narrow entrance and quite dramatic. If you are on the Bridge please keep quiet as the navigation is challenging. Thank you!

0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

0830 **Deception Island.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Whaler's Bay on Deception Island. You can explore the whaling station remains but please do not enter any of the buildings. We will offer a walk to the crater rim known as Neptune's Window. **Please follow the shore line** and then the red marker poles. Do not walk inland to the historic remains. There may be some Fur seals long the beach. Please keep your distance from them and if they come towards you just stand still.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Half Moon Island.** For your final landing we hope to be able to take you ashore at Half Moon Island where there are colonies of Chinstrap penguins and views of some beautiful glaciers on the nearby Livingston Island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at the penguin highways.

1830 Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

**There will be no wake-up call this morning!
But Alex will wake you at 08:00 for breakfast!**

- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 **Geological History of Antarctica.** With so little snow in Antarctica this summer we saw a lot of rocks! If you would like to find out more about the geological history of the continent then please join **Tom in the Lounge.**
- 1115 **Ice Maidens.** **Ali** will give a presentation about women in Antarctica, some of the women behind the famous explorers and women who have made their mark on the continent. This will be in the **Lounge.**
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Life at the South Pole.** **Jos** spent time living and working at Scott Base at the South Pole and also at McMurdo Station. If you would like to find out more about life at the bottom of the earth then please join her in the **Lounge.**
- 1645 **Weather Extreme.** Polar animals have had to adapt to life in environments that have extreme weather conditions with freezing temperatures and storm force winds. **Steffi** will explain more about their adaptations to life in the Polar Regions. This will be in the **Lounge.**
- 1830 Please join **Ali** and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.**
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

- 0745 Wake up call from Ali. Good morning everyone, good morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0930 **Living on the edge: Kerguelen.** Both Regis and Helene have both spent time living and working on Kerguelen Island, a sub Antarctic island. If you would like to hear more about life on a very remote island then please join them in the **Lounge**.
- 1100 **Yamana: The people of Tierra del Fuego.** As we approach the South America once again please join Alexis to find out more about the people who made the land of fire their home. After the presentation he will give a Mate workshop and allow you to sample the traditional Argentinean drink.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Diving in the Polar Regions.** If you would like to find out more about what it takes to be a cold water diver and see some of what the divers experienced during this voyage please join the Dive Team in the **Lounge**.
Kayaking in Antarctica. Alexis will also talk about the Kayaking operations in Antarctica.
- 1700 **Rubber Boots.** At this time, we invite you to the boot room to return your rubber boots. We will call you by deck.
- 1815 **Captains Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition Team and Captain Iakovlev in the Lounge to toast our successful expedition to Antarctica.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

0700 Your final Wake-up call on Plancius from Ali!

0730 Breakfast Buffet is served in the Dining Room for one hour.

As you leave your cabin for breakfast please place your large **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door and return your key rings and card holders to Reception. You can keep your personal cards. You may leave your hand luggage in your room but please place it on the floor so the hotel staff can start to change the bed linen.

Your luggage will be moved from the Ship to the pier.

Please ensure you collect it from the pier prior to leaving!

~0845 All passengers leave the ship. Please listen for announcements.

Please make sure you have all your belongings.

- If you are taking the airport bus: please collect your luggage and place it on the bus.
- If you have an afternoon flight: You can have your luggage stored. Please bring it to the luggage truck on the pier and it will be taken to **Avenida Maipú 1226**. This building is located past the service station and approximately 350 m to the left as you leave the pier. ***You will need to pick up your luggage before 1400.***
- If you are staying in Ushuaia: You are free to leave the pier on foot with your luggage by the customs control entrance. Taxis can be found opposite the entrance to the pier.

***On behalf of all the Staff and Crew on board Plancius we thank you for travelling
with us.***

We wish you a safe, easy journey home.