



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula Explorer's Voyage

6 – 16 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 **Evgeny Levakov**

and his international crew

including:

Chief Officer:	Francois Kwekkeboom	[Netherlands]
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:	Grujic Dragan	[Serbia]
Chef:	Charlotte Broekhuizen	[Netherlands]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Ship's Physician:	Valerie Fijen	[Netherlands]

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:	Chloé Maréchal	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Hélène de Meringo	[France]
Dive Team Leader:	Henrik Enckell	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	Michael Green	[UK]
Dive Guide:	Pete Webster	[UK]
Dive Guide:	Will Gilbertson	[UK]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – 6th February 2019

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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

Wind: Calm Sea State: Calm Weather: Clear Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: n/a

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 were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, 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 including the good doctors Valerie and Ninette where after filling out a health questionnaire and being screened for fever (so that we aren't subject to a coronavirus threat!) we were directed onboard to meet Hotel and Restaurant Managers, Alex and Dragan. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of the fabulous hotel crew. A little while after boarding we convened in the lounge on deck five to meet First

Officer Francois, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the crew and staff.

Shortly after our first briefing we departed the jetty of Ushuaia and entered the Beagle Channel with an escort of black browed albatross. We were able to enjoy the beautiful weather for a few moments until we were recalled to practice the abandon ship drill, including trying on our huge orange life jackets and walking to the lifeboat stations to become familiar with their locations.

We were then invited once again into the lounge where Hotel Manager Alex gave us an overview of our floating hotel/home for the next 10 days, 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. Bon 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. Later, the

stunning sunset in the Beagle felt like a good omen as we headed towards open water and our crossing of the Drake Passage!



Day 2 – 7th February 2019

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 56°21.1'S / 065°06.6'W

Wind: WSW 3-4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Clouds **Air Temp:** +7°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C



The first full day onboard *Plancius* welcomed passengers and crew with really moderate winds, a Drake Lake! Plus some fog which made conditions hard for birdwatching but many were probably very thankful for the easy seas.

After the smooth wake-up call from Ali, our expedition leader, Alex our Hotel Manager announced the breakfast buffet to be open. The queue at the buffet was not as long as one might have thought, as quite many of us were apparently experiencing what seasickness

was like despite the relatively calm water.

As the Drake Passage is a good place to observe seabirds, Regis invited us to attend his talk, an interesting introduction to these amazing birds and their adaptations to their harsh environment. At the same moment, the group of 30 divers on the voyage had their mandatory briefing with their four dynamic diving guides: Henrik, Michael, Will, and Peter.

At 11:00 we received our Muck Boots. To ensure a smooth operation in the small storage area, we were called deck by deck to the boot room to try them on and find the right size. All of the activity helped build an appetite for lunch which we enjoyed with fellow passengers getting to know each other.



During the afternoon we had two other lectures to prepare ourselves for the wonderful Antarctic Experience. Ali's lecture was about penguins-- all you needed to know before landing to appreciate these astonishing creatures and their funny behaviour. Later, Chloé's lecture was about Life Under the Sea, providing a good preparation for the divers.

Before dinner everyone got together in the lounge for our daily recap, the moment to explain more in depth about relevant topics, as well as the plans for the next day. Tomorrow was just another day at sea with a few briefings so there weren't too many plans to explain. However, the recap topics were about the circulation of the Southern Ocean. Tom showed a video about how Antarctica separated from South America and how the resulting currents keep Antarctica cold. Joselyn then explained a bit more about the Southern Ocean and about the Antarctic Convergence or Polar Front, and how the warm and cold waters meet and create a biological boundary under the water. She showed how the sea temperature changes as we get closer to the white continent, and we would probably pass the convergence area in the night. Recap will become one of the most important formats over the next couple of days to learn about our voyage and what we are seeing. All staff are definitely prepared to handle our questions and if time might be too short, they assure us they can always be found for more conversation after dinner in the bar.

Day 3 – 8th February 2019

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake’s Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 60°38.8’S / 061°03.2’W

Wind: WSW 6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Fog Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +5°C



A second full day at sea. As a matter of fact, there was also enough to do this day! After breakfast, we had a series of mandatory briefings. First, our Expedition Leader Ali showed us how to wear the lifejackets for the zodiac cruises and how to get on and off the zodiacs down the gangway-- something we were looking forward to doing after the long sea crossing. This safety briefing was followed by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) briefings. We learned about environmental

awareness, bio-security procedures, and the correct behaviour in Antarctica: no food ashore, cleaning our boots after each landing, and keeping the appropriate distance (5 meters!) from the wildlife.

Then, it was time to put into practice what we have just learned about biosecurity. We spent the rest of the morning vacuuming our outer clothing, backpacks, and camera bags. The expedition staff were on hand to help and advise how to get rid of seeds and dirt so that we aren't responsible for introducing an invasive species or disease to Antarctica.

The afternoon flew by as well, with interesting lectures. In the first one, Helene talked about invasive species and their impact in Antarctica and in the Sub Antarctic islands. The second lecture was on seals, presented by Steffi. We learned about the different types of seals living on the white continent and how well they have adapted to their extreme environment.



The lecture was nearly done when we got a call from Ali. The boat was surrounded by humpback whales and chinstrap penguins. We quickly went out on the decks to watch the wildlife, and got another surprise-- by this time, land was in sight! We could see Smith Island, an impressively mountainous and glaciated island in the South Shetland group.



The day ended in the lounge with our daily recap. Ali explained our plans for our first landing in Antarctica. We were due to go to Paulet Island. In order to explain the historical interest of the place and the complex story of the Nordenskjöld expedition, the staff made a funny theatre play. Then, Chloé finished with a small talk about the colossal squid, an endemic species of the Southern Ocean.

Day 4 – 9th February 2019

Paulet Island / Brown Bluff

GPS 08.00 Position: 63°30.2'S / 055°52.8'W

Wind: W 4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Clear sky **Air Temp:** +8°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C

It all started with an announcement earlier than usual. Ali informed us that the ship was approaching an ice floe with an Emperor penguin on it! Many of us then found ourselves outside, still a little asleep, to observe the rare bird. The conditions were perfect: almost no wind, sunrise brightness, a calm sea. The day started under very good auspices.



Breakfast and several coffees later... the expedition team is waiting for us at the gangway to take us to our first excursion in polar lands: **Paulet island**. And what a landing! From the ship, the island seemed to be covered with hundreds of thousands of small dots. As soon as we approached in the zodiac, each dot turned out to be a bird. This small piece of Antarctica is home to a gigantic concentration of Adélie penguins. Once we set foot on land, we followed the

instructions of Ali, our expedition leader, to make the most of our presence on the site while avoiding disturbing its numerous inhabitants.

Penguins everywhere! Here were fat chicks drowsing under a blazing sun, and there was an adult feeding its young. We are immersed in their world. Our senses are activated: sight, hearing, smell ... The route established by the expedition team and marked by red poles showed us how to move through the bird colonies, passing near the remains of a stone hut that sheltered some Antarctic survivors, or out to enjoy a view of a lake filling the bottom of an ancient volcanic crater. And on its flanks, more and more penguins. Each person experienced the scene in their own way, even taking a seat in front of the native fauna, warming up the camera memory card, and immortalizing the first Antarctic selfie...

Back aboard the Plancius at midday, we regained our strength in anticipation of an equally exciting afternoon. After a navigation transit that allowed everyone to recharge their batteries both literally and figuratively, here we are again aboard the zodiacs, on our way to our second destination of the day. The icing on the cake is that it's no longer an island but THE White Continent! Shortly before the shore we slowed down as we approached an iceberg occupied by three leopard seals, and a group of penguins, all sharing space peacefully. Then after sneaking between rocks and icebergs we disembarked at **Brown Bluff**. This pebble beach overhung by imposing ochre-tinted cliffs is home to colonies of Gentoo and Adélie penguins. While some got to know curious gentoo penguin chicks, others enjoyed a view of a glacier or watched a sleeping crabeater seal out on the ice. Once again, the weather was perfect: a little wind, great sunshine, and still a calm sea. Ideal conditions for the afternoon event, the polar plunge. Once the excursion was at the end, the bravest of us got ready for an extreme swim. If some threw themselves without hesitation into the icy waves, others seemed more hesitant ...



In order to take full advantage of such favourable locations and conditions, the return to the vessel is deliberately delayed and so the regular daily recap is shortened to the essentials, namely the programme for the next day. We are already on our way to our next destinations. What a day!

Day 5 – 10th February 2019

Eckener Point / Portal Point

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°06.5'S / 061°16.6'W

Wind: N 3 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +1°C



This morning we sailed to Charlotte Bay and had a busy morning onboard during the sail to our afternoon destination. After breakfast we saw some superb humpback whale shows. We had a few glimpses in the distance at first, then a whole group that we watched very closely while they were feeding. The whales created a flow of water and a current of bubbles that encouraged the krill to rise to the surface, known as “bubble net feeding”. Once the krill were concentrated by the “net” of bubbles surrounding them, the whales would finish by lunging up through the surface, opening their mouths wide to feed and gulp down kilograms

of krill. We enjoyed the show for a long time, then finally moving on to leave the gentle giants to feed alone again. Then, with perfect timing, Chloe gave us a lecture about whales and their physiological adaptations which helped us understand some of what we had been seeing live and in person.

After a good lunch, we were instructed to dress up warm for our afternoon adventure. The weather had gotten a little worse through the morning but that did not stop us or the team from getting out to experience another part of Antarctica—a cruise of Eckener Point at the edge of Charlotte Bay. The boat was surrounded by icebergs that we were able to approach to observe all the shades of blue in the ice. Then we headed to a more sheltered area next to the land. The way to the sheltered bay was wet and windy, but we were happy to experience a real polar adventure.



We found a chinstrap penguin colony and Antarctic shag rookery which was even possible to see from the ship using the “pink carpet” method—their guano stained the rocks and so was visible from very far away. After viewing the colonies up close, we then crisscrossed the bay along impressive glaciers and looked for imaginary shapes in the ice sculptures around (like the cute baby elephant!)

After 2 hours in the waves and facing the glaciers, we were happy to warm up on the boat. But the day was far from being over. After a recap and a dinner buffet served early in the evening, we went out again to land at Portal Point—many of us were up for the challenge to get two excursions for the day and experience more true Antarctic weather! There were two short walks set up to different viewpoints, allowing us to enjoy a view of the bay and to take some nice souvenir pictures at the top.



A few chinstrap penguins and a fur seal approached and posed for more photos. After a wavy ride back to the ship, returning just before nightfall, the excitement was felt by everyone-- happy to share impressions and memories of this wet and cold day, but rich in emotions!

Day 6 – 11th February 2019

Cuverville Island / Stony Point

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°40.2'S / 062°37.8'W

Wind: N 3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C



After a good night's sleep we had an early wake-up call this morning. After breakfast we headed out to Cuverville Island, home of a big Gentoo penguin colony. Upon approaching the beach, we could already smell we were getting near. And indeed, fat chicks and adults were welcoming us. Strolling around towards the colonies we could see old whale bones on the

shore. A Weddell seal paid a visit and on the way back to the ship we had a small detour to enjoy the

Icebergs in the bay before heading back to Plancius for lunch. After lunch Plancius sailed to our second site for the day: Stony Point.



Here we had a split zodiac cruise and landing. Ashore we put on snowshoes to hike up the glacier to enjoy the view. On the lower part of the glacier there were two Weddell seals resting on the ice. We also did a zodiac cruise where some of us encountered crabeater seals, a leopard seal, and lots of fantastically shaped ice-bergs.

Getting back to the ship, we could smell that the BBQs on the aft-deck were already being fired up. The galley team provided us with a fantastic barbeque dinner, different kinds of meat, mulled wine, and great desserts—which all resulted in a big dancing party! While the ship steamed away for our next day's adventure a small group of humpback whales waved us goodbye with some blows and a final tail-dive.



Day 7 – 12th February 2019

Danco Island / Orne Harbour

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°43.3'S / 062°35.2'W

Wind: NE 7 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +1°C

After our well-deserved after-barbeque-dancing-rest, we got our daily friendly wake-up call by Ali. In front of our windows we saw a special Antarctic scene: brash ice covering the surface of the sea, moving around by the currents and in between some blue, shining icebergs. Danco Island with the cute gentoo penguins was just ahead of us. We boarded the Zodiacs and after taking some time to make way through



the chunks of ice we were dropped at the end of the beach. There was plenty of things we could explore here onshore. Some people went up to the top of the island and others stayed down below and the scenery along the beach.

On the way up to the top, we passed different sized colonies with plenty of lively chicks around. The cute little penguins were just leaving the protected environment of the nest, so it was easy to observe the life of these heartbreakingly sweet birds. After several stops, we enjoyed a fantastic view over the Errera Channel



and our temporary home Plancius. We used the time with the big view to take a deep breath and inhale this atmosphere. The cold wind eventually made the decision easier to go down again and explore the area around the beaches. We could see a leopard seal patrolling the beach in search of food. This top predator gave our

diver group on board the biggest present they were hoping for by joining in with their group in the water. The seal checked out the divers and snorkelers and spent almost an hour swimming with them... it was a once in a lifetime moment. Well, perhaps it was a nice experience for this animal as well!

The time on the beach with a lazy Weddell seal and fur seals was great and some passengers worked on their own little science project: How long does it take for a penguin to get up the penguin highway? The answer, there at Danco, was 13 minutes. So now it is official, the gentoo penguin is a much better mountainhiker than us!



Slowly we headed back to the ship and set sail

towards Orne Harbour, our afternoon destination.

After arrival Ali and her team scouted the area and unfortunately the ice situation on the steep ridge was not ideal. So we got the chance to enjoy the bay by Zodiac. But often the Plan B stands for "Better": the cruise was full of wildlife sightings! We saw 2 leopard seals and fur seals on the ice. And plenty of chinstrap and gentoo penguins moving around in the bay. We found more fur seals hanging out at the rocks at the base of the icy slopes, with a highlight of seeing a penguin "staircase". There was a deep rockdrop from the colony into the ocean and we saw them climbing down until the last bit when they had to jump into the water. Not all dives were executed gracefully... some looked like a belly-first smash into the water, or even a bad attempt at flying. We enjoyed the scenery and give a lot of respect to these little creatures for the fun and joy they are delivering us.

The end of the cruise was topped out by a group of humpback whales that passed by our Zodiacs. What a privilege to watch! Another fantastic day full of new experiences came to an end. We are happy and grateful to be here.

Day 8 – 13th February 2019

Whaler's Bay / Half Moon Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 62°59.0'S / 060°33.5'W

Wind: WSW 4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

After a night a little agitated by the wind and the waves, we were able to enjoy a beautiful arrival in the crater of Deception Island. This island of volcanic origin was a major site for the whaling industry at the beginning of the 20th century.



We landed on a beach along which many remains of historical buildings illustrate this era. There are still many artifacts in place on the ground, as well as entire buildings or rusty steel tanks that were used to store the oil extracted from the whale fat. The last eruption of the crater in 1969 put an end to this industry. In addition to the visit around the buildings, we enjoyed a beautiful walk to the viewpoint at Neptune's Window—a gap in the

crater's wall offering a clear view outside the crater.

Back aboard the Plancius for lunch, we sailed 3 hours to our final destination Half Moon Island.

This site is home to several colonies of chinstrap penguins, plus a few scattered gentoo penguins and fur seals enjoying a bath in the bay or a rest on shore.

Just to remind us how lucky we had been with the weather, Antarctica reminded us how quickly she can change. After the beautiful blue sky in the morning, we had to cover ourselves from the rain during the afternoon. Still, we all wanted to take advantage of this last excursion to an Antarctic site and of course get close to the penguins once again.



Once we were well and truly wet, and satisfied with our final pictures of penguins and seals, we finally went back on board to warm up with a hot drink and listen to the recap of the day including a video on the

history of Deception Island as well as an explanation of the plants, lichens, and mosses that we had seen during the landings.

The sad news now was that it was time to set sail for Ushuaia. The good news however was that the weather forecast looks relatively mild for our return across the Drake!



Day 9 – 14th February 2019

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 60°32.0'S / 061°31.0'W

Wind: ENE 3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast, mist **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

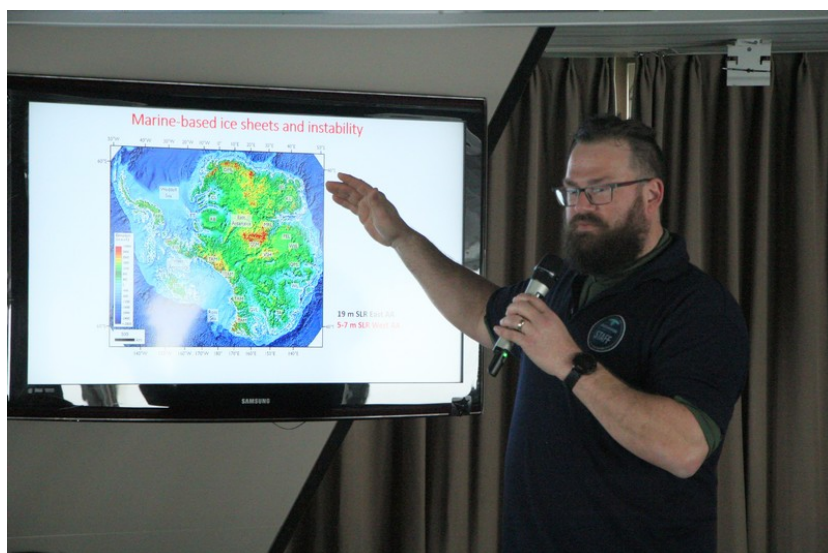


This morning, habits changed. No disembarkation. Since last night, we've begun our return to Ushuaia. The Drake passage, so often feared, seems for the moment to want to remain relatively calm, which is not exactly a disappointment. In other good news, there was no wake-up call from Ali. On this Valentine's day, we enjoyed a few more minutes of sleep before having breakfast in a dining room that has been remodeled for the occasion.

We are slowly getting used to the rhythm of cruising in sea day mode, and looked forward to several talks as well as some quiet time to nap or sort through the hundreds (thousands?!) of photos taken.

Tom got the ball rolling with a presentation on the geology of the Antarctic region and how ice is being affected by different sources of warming temperatures. Then it was Ali's turn to talk about the women of Antarctica—whether it was the ones the men left behind or those that were blazing trails of their own as scientists and current day explorers.

In the afternoon, as the ship continued to travel on a reasonable sea, Céline discussed how the travels of seabirds and seals are followed at sea, how the results are used to better understand their life stories (how deep do penguins dive, what do seals eat?) as well as how to protect them. Surprisingly it is possible that the animals themselves are doing research—elephant seals can help scientists understand different conditions in the ocean-- such as currents and temperatures-- that humans are



otherwise unable to experience and research. Finally, Steffi presented about different adaptations developed by animals living in extreme environments in order to survive in such conditions.

The day ended with the traditional daily recap. Régis told us more about the intelligence of birds and the sometime complex skills that certain species have developed. Hélène answered the question that many have already asked themselves: Why on earth is the ice sometimes so blue?

After yet another excellent meal by the galley team, just at the end of the meal an announcement was made: considering our good progress and the mild weather forecast, the captain plans to bring us closer to Cape Horn tomorrow for a glimpse at the very tip of South America. Another way to liven up our last day at sea!



Day 10 – 15th February 2019

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 56°47.1'S / 066°04.6'W

Wind: NE 5 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +8°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C

It was a relatively mild evening with calm seas but despite that it seemed that it was a quite morning with a few people still feeling a bit affected by the motion of the ocean. Nevertheless, the day's schedule was full of lectures. To begin Helene and Regis spoke about their experience of living and working at the French research station complex on Kerguelen Island in the Indian Ocean sector of the sub-Antarctic. They saw both summer and winter conditions there, researching the native animals (king penguins, elephant seals, albatross) as well as trying to understand the impacts of non-native and even invasive species (rabbits, cats, beetles).



Joselyn provided another glimpse of station life with her talk about working at McMurdo and South Pole stations for the USA program. The logistics to make science happen in the Antarctic are complex but it seems that those that want to be there and do the work are definitely interested in experiencing a different life and climate! One of the experienced divers, Becky, gave a presentation also about how to improve techniques for underwater photography as well as technical tips on how to process the images and footage afterwards.

Just after lunch Ali announced that we had already approached within the allowed 3-mile-limit of Cape Horn so everyone put on coats and went out on the bow to see the most southerly point of land before the great Southern Ocean, full of seafaring history. Not many ships are allowed to approach nor is the weather



often calm enough to be in this stretch of water so it was clear that our luck for this trip was still on our side. After a nice few moments observing the Cape, we had to continue on our way to make the rendezvous with the pilot at their station in the Beagle Channel.

We still had a few things to look forward to this afternoon however. The divers gave an excellent talk to us, sharing the results of all their dives—what incredible photos! It

was amazing to see small windows into the special underwater world that they were able to glimpse... it's easier to understand why anyone would struggle to dress in so many pieces of gear and equipment after seeing some examples of what is there to be seen under the water. Finally though, there was clear evidence our wonderful voyage was coming to an end... we came together in the lounge for Captain's Cocktails, an opportunity to hear a few words from our Captain about the trip and to celebrate him, the expedition team, and rest of the crew who have worked so hard to deliver a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us. We toasted everyone for a job well done, even the passengers because without them and their flexibility and good attitudes the voyage would not be enjoyable or even possible to begin with! Once in the calm waters of the Beagle Channel it was even more possible to believe that we would be onshore tomorrow, and so it was perhaps easier to bring ourselves to begin packing and preparing for the next part of our unforgettable journey.



Day 11 – 16th February 2019

Disembarkation - Ushuaia

After picking up the pilot at 2am we approached Ushuaia in the early morning hours, ready to disembark for the final time. No zodiac ride to shore this morning, it will 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. Bon voyage!

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

1833 Nautical Miles

Furthest South:

64°54.8'S / 063°00.0'W

Your Expedition Team!

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





Dive Log, MV Plancius
Antarctic Explorers Voyage
6th – 16th February 2020



Divers: Kevin Mead, Pamela Hollich, Ruthmarie Conner, Donald McClelland, Gary Kieft, Colleen Wheeler, Lorne Sprackman, Robert Frank, Shari Brand, John Castracane, Arthur Vaccarino, Peter Alexander, Martin Wallis, Ryan DeSpain, Darrel Seale, Jeffrey Leech, Kitrina Godding, Ronald Levine, Caleb Leake, Paul Holbrook, Faith Ortins, Becky Schott, Charlotte Fentress, Chad Everson, Erika Everson, Connie Levine, Alexander Reznicek, Michael Williams, Caitlin Bailey, Christopher Eriksen, Kelly McGraw, Julie Brock, Kelly Pritchard, Debra Kennamer

Dive Staff: Henrik Enckell (Dive Team Leader), Michael Green, Peter Webster & Will Gilbertson

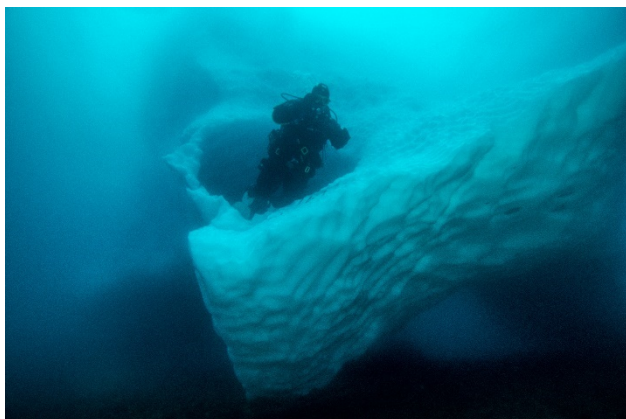
Dive 1: 9th Feb PM, Brown Bluff, S 63°31.258, W 056°52.516

After a morning of spectacular sunshine and penguins on land, we were excited to finally get in the water to see another side of Antarctica. For the first dive, we had to get used to the operation of diving from zodiacs off a ship which was new for many. It was also a good chance to check all our gear and weighting for the icy waters of Antarctica. The site we chose was a shelving rocky shore below the towering cliffs of Brown Bluff. Although the visibility wasn't great, there were some interesting critters to be found, including invertebrates such as salps, typical of the Antarctic environment. We were also lucky enough to see snoozing leopard seals on the ice floes nearby (unfortunately they were too lazy to come and play with divers today). Still in glorious sunshine, we made our way back to the ship and to the bar to toast our first dive in Antarctica!



Dive 2: 10th Feb PM, Eckener Point, Ice dive S 62° 25.781, W 061°36.293

After a morning watching Humpback Whales feeding, we stopped to make a dive. After kitting up we enjoyed a short zodiac ride to the site. The dive team chose an appropriate piece of ice for us to dive around. The visibility was around 60ft which helped us enjoy being on this majestic iceberg. The ice was grounded so it wasn't moving too much so we enjoyed the Cathedral like structures under the water. The little amount of light streaming into the water emphasized the blue of the ice. Soon it was time to return to the surface where we found it cold and windy but soon the drivers had us back at the ship. A great dive on a great berg.



Dive 3: 11th Feb AM, Cuverville Island, S 64°40.886, W 062°36.911

As we finished our breakfast, Plancius anchored just off the rocky cliffs of Cuverville Island. The diving boats found an excellent wall at the base of the cliffs with a wide variety of invertebrate and fish life, and also some beautiful bergy bits to enjoy near the surface. The snorkelers also enjoyed exploring the beautiful sculptures of ice before heading the shore and watching the penguins go to and from the beach in the shallows. With a lovely dive site, snorkeling and another spectacular landing spot in good weather, a great morning in Antarctica was had by all.



Dive 4: 11th Feb PM, Stoney Point, S 64°54.661, W 062°55.772

In the afternoon, we sailed into Paradise Bay anchored off Stoney Point. A small group of us dived off the rocks marked by an old beacon. The bottom was rocky and gently sloping down to beyond 20m. Visibility was again great, and there was plenty of life to be seen, probably fed by the swirling current that seemed to be moving around the rocky island. Sponges, shrimp and many drifting salps injected plenty of colour along the rocky slope. After the dive we got back the ship in good time for a BBQ on the back deck of Plancius.



Dive 5: 12th Feb AM, Danco Island (Ice dive), S 62°43.483 W 062°35.295

We woke to a beautifully calm morning in Antarctica, as we approached Danco Island. As we loaded the boats with gear, we watched large amounts of brash ice and small bergs drifting past the ship. A large group of divers and snorkelers went out to get some underwater views of this spectacular icy seascape.



On one of the floes that we were diving on, a large leopard seal appeared during the dive, checking out the zodiacs and divers. Eventually we had many people snorkeling and the seal curiously playing and investigating everyone and the boats. It remained with us for an unusually long time whilst remaining good tempered. An unusual and very special encounter with Antarctica's apex predator.



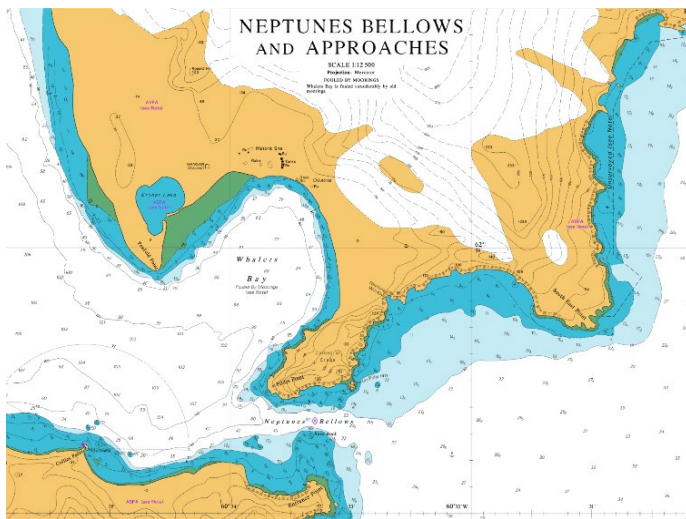
Dive 6: 12th Feb PM, Orne Harbour Wall, S 64°37.580, W 062°33.116

After lunch, we made our way into the sheltered bay of Orne Harbour. This fantastic peaceful spot made for a pleasant zodiac cruise and diving for those who were keen. We dropped in on an excellent, fairly steep wall under the towering cliffs near the entrance to the bay. On the cliffs there were penguins, and other seabirds, whilst under the water there was much life to be seen and once again, we were very lucky with the visibility. A slow cruise back to the ship through the ice rounded off a brilliant day in Antarctica.



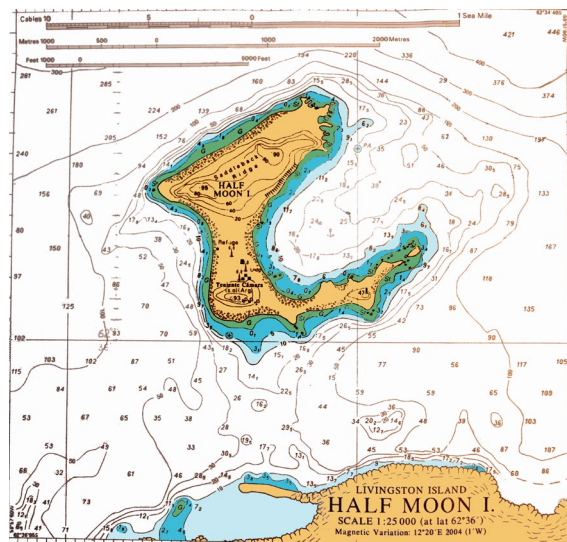
Dive 7: 13th Feb AM, Whaler's Bay, Deception Island, S 62°59.325, W 060°33.443

The morning began with Plancius sailing through the narrow gap of Neptune's Bellows into Whaler's Bay in the Deception Island caldera. 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 and unfortunately found that the visibility was poor which made this a challenging dive (but was also a reminder of how excellent the visibility had been at other sites!). Those who persevered with the low visibility did manage to find some of the whale bones scattered or half buried in the sediment, 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 8: 13th Feb PM, Half Moon Island, S 62°35.878, W 059°53.689

For our final afternoon, heavy rain set in as we prepared for our last dive of the trip. We anchored at Half Moon Island, a small low-lying rocky island with views across to the glaciated Livingston Island. We dropped in on the southern side of the island under some rocky outcrops with a penguin colony. Visibility was better than the morning dive, but still didn't match the excellent vis of earlier in the trip. The seabed here was quite flat, so we spent our time exploring looking for macro life in amongst the boulders. One group was buzzed briefly by a fur seal on the surface, but it wasn't interested in playing for longer, and the snorkellers also managed to see a fur seal. After the dive we went straight back to the ship to de-kit and secure all our gear in preparation for 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 Henrik, Michael, Peter and Will.





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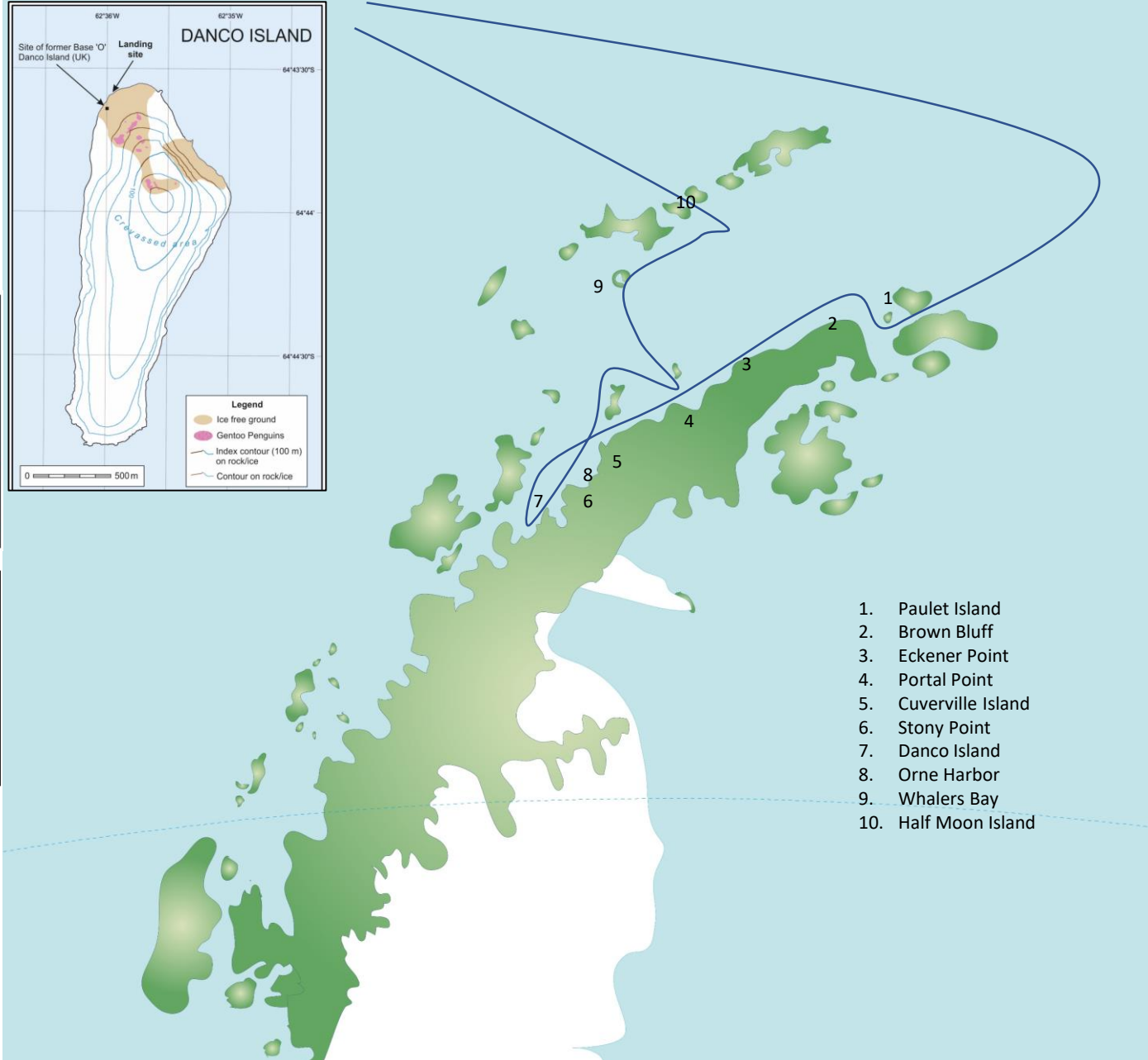
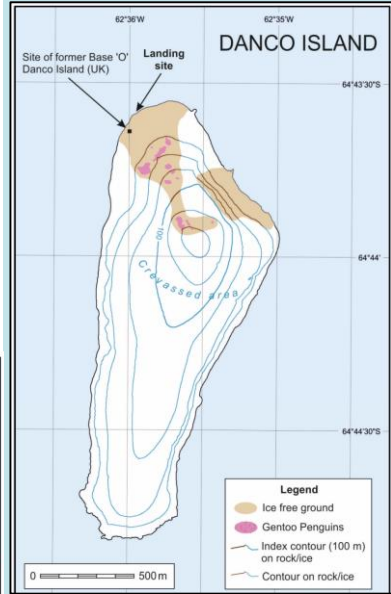
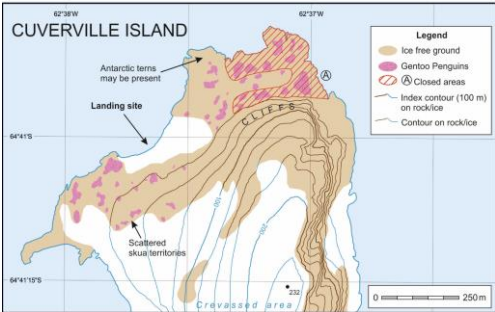
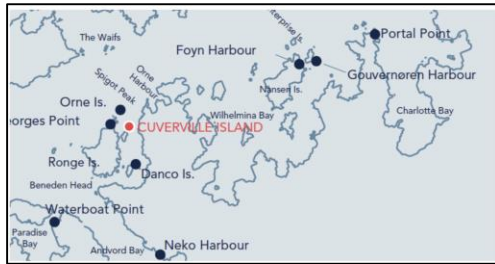
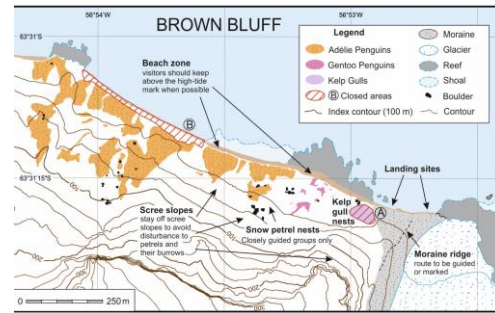
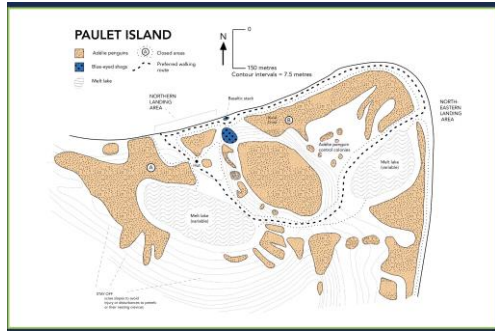
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Read the terms and conditions of the contest on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms

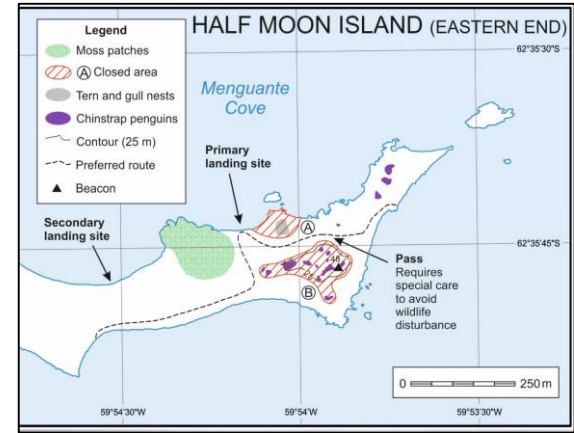
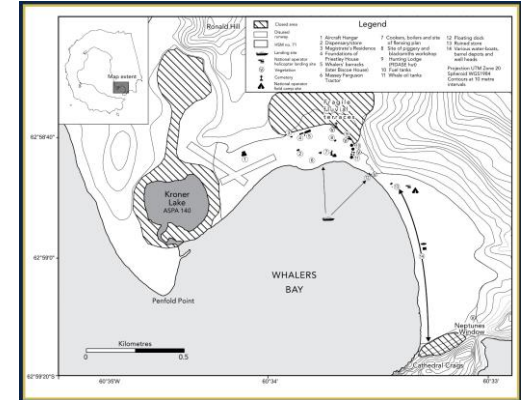
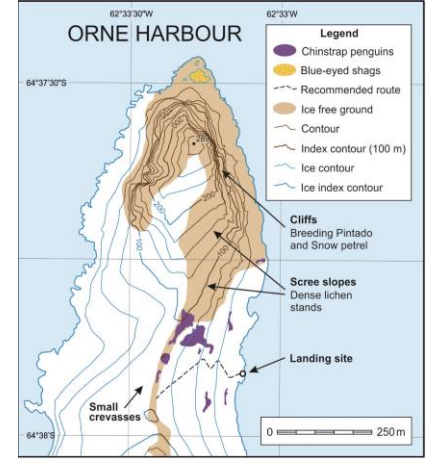
How to become a citizen scientist

- Send your whale and seal pictures to www.happywhale.com
- Analyse satellite images of Antarctica, looking for penguin colonies, via www.penguinmap.com
- Count Penguins on camera trap images on www.penguinwatch.com
- Send your ice and glacier pictures (past and present) to www.recognice.org and hashtag your images on social media #recognice
- On your next voyage, in any ocean, carry out your own seabird survey and send it to Michael.schrimpf@stonybrook.edu or visit <http://michaelschrimpf.weebly.com>

Plancius Exploration trip to Antarctica February 2020



1. Paulet Island
2. Brown Bluff
3. Eckener Point
4. Portal Point
5. Cuverville Island
6. Stony Island
7. Danco Island
8. Orne Harbor
9. Whalers Bay
10. Half Moon Island



Species list: Birds and marine mammals of the Antarctic region

		6-feb	7-feb	8-feb	9-feb	10-feb	11-feb	12-feb	13-feb	14-feb	15-feb	16-feb
English	Latin											
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>				X							
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				X							
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			X		X	X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			X		X		X	X			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X										
Southern Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>											
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>											X
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>											
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>											
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X		X						X	X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X									
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>											
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	X	X	X						X	X	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>			X	X							
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>											
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				X			X				
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>											
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>											
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>									X	X	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>									X	X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>											X
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>											
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>											
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>									X		
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>			X						X		
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>			X								
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>									X		
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X										
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Pale-faced Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X		X	X	X			

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Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X										
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				X		X	X	X			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X										
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X			
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	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	X				
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			X		X	X	X	X			
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>											
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>								X			
Strap-toothed Whale	<i>Megaplodon layardii</i>											
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>											
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>											
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>										X	
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>											
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>											
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				X		X	X				
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>				X	X	X	X				
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>					X	X	X				
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>											
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



English

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.

Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin im sogenannten "Camp" wie auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zuständig für den Bereich Bildung des Umweltamtes und teilte ihre Zeit zwischen Klassenzimmer und Naturschutz. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt betrieb. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, um zu wandern, Ski zu laufen und die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert sind. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

Ali arbeitet bereits seit vielen Jahren auf allen Schiffen der Oceanwide-Flotte, sowohl in der Antarktis wie auch der Arktis. Sie ist vor kurzem von Northumberland in England auf die Isle of Skye in Schottland gezogen, wo sie zur Zeit eine alte Kate renoviert. In ihrer Freizeit genießt sie die unglaublichen Wandermöglichkeiten der Insel.

Ihr besonderes Interesse gilt der Natur und der Tierwelt: dieses Wissen und ihre Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen teilt sie gerne mit Euch.

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.

Deutsch

Regis, ein Verhaltensbiologe, hat eine Leidenschaft für den Schutz von Tieren und die Bewahrung des Naturerbes. Er hat sich schon früh auf Seevögel spezialisiert. Zunächst befasste er sich mit der Pflege von Seevögeln nach Ölkatastrophen, später mit bedrohten Arten. Er hat 2008 auf den abgelegenen Kerguelen überwintert und dort Albatrosse, Pinguine und See-Elefanten studiert. Er verliebte sich in diese isolierten Habitate und arbeitete im Management-Team, das das Umweltschutz-Rahmenprogramm für die französischen Antarktisgebiete entwarf. Als Feld-Ornithologe hat Regis unter anderem in Kasachstan, Südafrika und Grönland gearbeitet. Er berät wissenschaftliche Expeditionen, gibt seine Kenntnisse über Vögel weiter und ist ein begeisterter Naturfotograf. Wenn Ihr ihn sucht, sind Eure Chancen auf den Außendecks am größten – von dort aus sucht er mit dem Fernglas nach Vögeln und Walen.

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.

Im grundständigem Studium hat Joselyn Verhaltensökologie und Konservationsbiologie studiert. In praktischen Forschungssemestern in Ecuador und Tansania hat sie sich mit der lokalen Flora, Fauna und der Naturschutzhaltung beschäftigt.

Sie hat in den gesamten USA, inklusive Alaska und Hawaii, mit allen Sorten von Viechern gearbeitet, unter anderem Fische, Braunbären, Wüstenschildkröten und gefährdete Vögel. Im Laufe der letzten Jahre hat sie begonnen auch in der Antarktis zu arbeiten. Zu Beginn mehrere Saisons als Unterstützung für wissenschaftliche Forschung an den beiden amerikanischen Forschungsbasen (McMurdo und Südpol). In jüngerer Zeit hat sie als Guide und Bildungskoordinatorin auf Expeditionsreisen zu den Falklandinseln, nach Südgeorgien und zur Antarktischen Halbinsel, sowie im Indischen Ozean und rund um England und Skandinavien, gearbeitet.

Zurück in den USA verbringt Joselyn den Großteil ihrer Zeit in der Big Bend Region des äußersten Westens von Texas, wo sie sich in die Chihuahuan Wüste verliebt hat. Sie arbeitet als saisonale Biotechnikerin und interpretative Park Rangerin für den Nationalparkservice. 2007 hat sie ihren Master of Science mit Forschung zur Botanik der Big Bend Flora abgeschlossen. Seitdem hat sie ihre Untersuchungen einer kleinen Gruppe relativ unbekannter Kakteen fortgesetzt und wurde zu einer anerkannten regionalen Expertin.

Joselyn lernt leidenschaftlich gerne Dinge über die Welt um sie herum und teilt diese Leidenschaft mit anderen in der Hoffnung eine breitere Dankbarkeit und besseres Verständnis für die faszinierende Welt in der wir leben zu erzeugen.

Chloé Maréchal - Expedition 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 spends 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. Chloé 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.

Chloé ist eine leidenschaftliche Taucherin mit einer Faszination für Meeresleben und Exploration. Sie hat einen Masterabschluss in Marinerbiodiversität und Naturschutz und liebt es ihr Wissen über den Meereslebensraum zu teilen. In April 2013 hat sie das 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater Stipendiat bekommen. Sie verbrachte daraufhin ein Jahr Seite an Seite arbeitend mit den derzeitige führenden Experten in Unterwassergebieten und erhielt so einen breiten Hintergrund in Meereswissenschaften und der Tauchindustrie. Tauchen und Wissenschaft sind nicht ihre einzige Leidenschaft. Sie liebt es auch neue Länder zu erkunden und neue Kulturen zu entdecken. Sie hat auf allen Kontinenten getaucht und in mehr als 20 Ländern gelebt. Chloé lebt mittlerweile in Nordnorwegen, unmittelbar oberhalb des Polarkreises. Wenn sie nicht an Bord ist, dann kann man sie Unterwasser antreffen. Dort beobachtet sie die Bewohner des Ozeans, sucht nach vergessenen Schiffswracks oder kartiert und erkundet Unterwasserhöhlen.

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.

Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader



Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first dive masters to bring tourists diving in Antarctica.

Henrik has been diving for over 25 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR. He runs the IART (International Association of Rebreather Trainers) Regional Office for Northern Europe and is a member of the IART Board of Advisors.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters *General von Steuben* and *Wilhelm Gustloff* in the Baltic and *HMS Victoria* ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

His interest for both the ocean and space has engaged him in projects with the European Space Agency (Mars500 project) and the SeaSpace Exploration and Research Society (Project Poseidon) among other adventures. He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia.

He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions during almost 20 years and he was one of the first persons to take people diving on expedition vessels in these remote, challenging and many times undived waters.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and is working in the automotive industry when not travelling to the polar regions. He has lived and worked in Tokyo, Japan for two years and he is currently living in India with his wife, his three teenage daughters and his 5-year-old son.

Michael Green - Dive Guide



I have always loved the Sea and so joined the Navy as soon as I left School. In the Navy I became a diver and have enjoyed diving and instructing all over the world.

I joined Oceanwide Expeditions three years ago as a dive guide and have led and guided both in the Arctic and the Antarctic. I love both equally. Antarctica is one of the most special places on this planet in my opinion.

I am in my third year of a photography art degree and love seeing your photos they are all fantastic and capture different aspects of what we are going to see.

If you need any help with your camera or your photos just ask. White balance is a favourite as our cameras aren't used to an all-white background.

I look forward to helping you get the most from your

holiday so please don't be frightened to ask any questions you may have.

My only tip for your trip is to take the time to look, then see and most importantly think.

The nicest moments are when you can be quiet and relaxed, stop listen to the silence and think where you are. Not many people get to do what you are doing so savor every second.

I look forward to helping you have a safe adventure here in the Antarctic.

Ich habe schon immer das Meer geliebt und bin daher der Marine beigetreten, kaum dass ich mit der Schule fertig war. In der Marine wurde ich Taucher und hatte seither das Vergnügen überall auf der Welt zu tauchen und zu unterrichten.

Vor drei Jahren habe ich begonnen für Oceanwide Expeditions als Tauchguide zu arbeiten und habe seither sowohl in der Arktis als auch der Antarktis geguided und geführt. Ich liebe beide gleichermaßen. Meiner Meinung nach ist die Antarktis der speziellste Platz auf unserem Planeten.

Ich bin im dritten Jahr eines Fotografie Studiums und liebe es eure Fotos zu sehen. Sie sind alle fantastisch und fangen verschiedene Aspekte dessen ein, was wir sehen werden.

Wenn ihr irgendwelche Hilfe mit eurer Kamera oder euren Fotos braucht, fragt mich einfach. Weißabgleich ist ein Favorit, da eure Kameras nicht an einen komplett weißen Hintergrund gewöhnt sind.

Ich freue mich darauf euch, euch dabei zu helfen, dass beste aus euren Ferien herauszuholen. Zögert daher nicht mir jegliche Frage zu stellen, die euch auf der Zunge liegt.

Mein einziger Tipp für euch ist es, sich die Zeit zu nehmen zu Schauen, dann zu Sehen und am wichtigsten zu Denken. Die schönsten Momente sind es still zu sein, innezuhalten und auf die Stille zu hören und darüber nachzudenken, wo man sich befindet. Nicht viele Menschen haben die Gelegenheit zu tun, was ihr tut, so genießt jeden einzelnen Moment.

Ich freue mich darauf euch dabei zu helfen ein sicheres Abenteuer hier in der Antarktis zu erleben.

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.

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.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Ushuaia

Thursday 6th 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 **Evgeny Levakov** 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 Valerie 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 Henrik 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 **Ali 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 The briefings will be followed by 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 **Invasive Species on Islands.** We have talked about the threat of invasive species in Antarctica. **Helene** spent time working on the sub Antarctic island of Kerguelen and will tell you more about the invasive species there and around the world. This will be in the **Lounge**.
- 1645 **Seals.** We hope to see several species of seals during this voyage. If you would like to find out more about these marine mammals then please join **Steffi 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.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Antarctic Sound

Sunday 9th February 2020

0700 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!

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

~0830 **Paulet Island.** We hope to be able to take you ashore at Paulet Island, which is home to over 100,000 Adélie penguins. There is also a historic hut that was used by the Nordenskjold Expedition over 100 years ago. Please follow the red poles to the hut and colony. Please try and follow the 5-meter rule with penguins – there will be lots of chicks walking around!

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

~1530 **Brown Bluff.** We hope to make our first Continental landing on Antarctica! The beach is backed by high, volcanic 'tuff' cliffs creating a spectacular back drop to the landing site. We will visit the Adélie penguin colony and also a small colony of Gentoo penguins. Please give penguins right of way on the beach, follow the red poles and remember your 5-meter distance rule.
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!

1900 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.

1930 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.

Expedition Morning in the Gerlache Strait!

During the morning we will be sailing south in the Gerlache Strait. There will be icebergs and we may see some whales during our navigation.

1000 **Whales.** We hope to see some more whales during our voyage. If you would like to find out more about these incredible marine mammals then please join **Chloe in the Lounge.**

1200 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Valdivia Point.** We hope to take you out on an icy zodiac cruise along the glaciers near Valdivia Point. Please listen for announcements regarding our timings for this.

1730 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.

1800 **Buffet Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

~1900 After dinner we hope to be able to take you ashore on Portal Point and out on a Zodiac cruise in Charlotte Bay. Once again, please listen for announcements!



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Cuverville Island and Paradise Bay

Tuesday 11th 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 respect the 5 metre rule and give the penguins the right of way. Enjoy your time on shore!
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **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.
- 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 **Special Antarctic Dinner** is served! Bon appétit.



Antarctic Explorer's Voyage

Danco Island and Orne Harbour

Wednesday 12th February 2020

- 0730 Wake Up call from Ali. Good Morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0900 **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.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is available in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Orne Harbour.** This afternoon we hope to take you ashore in Orne Harbour where we will take you on a short walk to the Chinstrap penguin colonies on the ridge. The slope is quite steep so please take care as you walk. This is another continental landing so enjoy your visit to the Antarctic continent! There will be an option for a zodiac cruise if you feel the steep slope is not for you.
- 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.

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

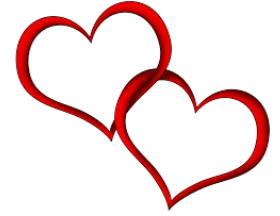
1500 **-Half Moon Island.** For your final landing we hope to be able to take you ashore at Half Moon Island where there are colonies of Chinstrap penguins and views of some beautiful glaciers on the nearby Livingston Island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at the penguin highways.

18~~30~~¹⁵ Please join Ali and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**. This is where we look back upon our day.

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



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



**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.**
- 1100 **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 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Tracking Marine Mammals and Seabirds.** In recent years certain species have been used to help scientists collect oceanographic data. **Celine** will tell you more about this fascinating topic. This will be 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.

- 0730 Wake up call from Ali. Good morning everyone, good morning!
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 0900 **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 remote island then please join them in the **Lounge**.
- 1015 There will be a presentation in the **dining room** about underwater photography given by Becky Schott, one of the divers. You are all welcome to attend.
- 1115 **Life at the South Pole.** Jos spent time living and working at Scott Base at the South Pole. If you would like to find out more about life at the bottom of the earth then please join her in the **Lounge**.
- 1230 **Buffet 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**.
- 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 Evgeny 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.