



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula BASE CAMP Voyage

27 February 2020 – 09 March 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:	Cornelia Geri	[Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	Iain Rudkin	[UK]
Asst. Exped. Leader:	Pippa Low	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Tom van Hoof	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Felicity Johnson	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Stefanie Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Dorette Kuipers	[Netherlands]
Mountain Leader:	Mal Haskins	[NZ]
Mountain Guide:	Dave Mckinley	[NZ]
Kayak Guide:	Alexis Bellezze	[Argentina]
Camping Guide:	Rustyn Mesdag	[USA]
Camping Guide:	Celine Clement-Chastal	[France]

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – 27th February 2020

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 5°53'S / 067°42'W

Wind: rough Sea State: Rough Weather: Cloudy – light rain Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +9°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 Yamana / Yagan 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 Nelleke 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, Iain Rudkin, and the rest of the Expedition Team who will guide us in Antarctica. Finally, Iain introduced our Captain Artur Iakovlev 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 welcomed us into the dining room to celebrate the first day at the famous Drake Passage.

Day 2 – 28th February 2020

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 55°53.7'S / 065°51.8'W

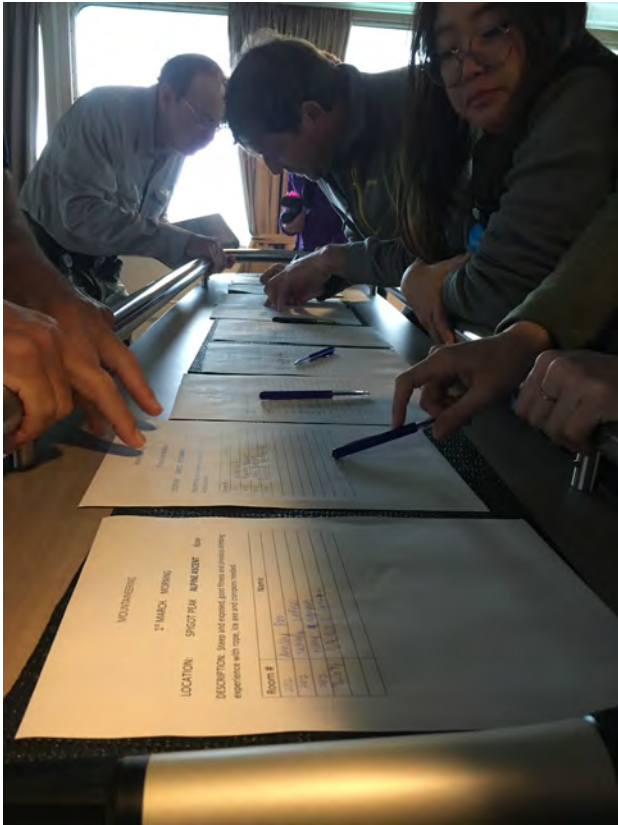
Wind: SW6-8 **Sea State:** rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +8°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C

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 the activity guides gave the Basecamp Activity Briefing, explaining all about Mountaineering, Kayaking and Camping and how their activities 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 signing up to all the activities and the delivering of the Rubber Boots, an important part of the equipment that we will use during this exploration trip.





Many things happening around, many questions to answer, everybody is excited!

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, Iain 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.

Day 3 – 29th February 2020

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 60°01.9'S / 063°37.6'W

Wind: N4 Sea State: moderate Weather: drizzle Air Temp: +7°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 Iain offered us the Mandatory IAATO Briefing and another 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, the kayakers, mountaineers and campers had 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 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 – 1st March 2020

Gerlach Strait / Danco Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°12.3'S / 061°27.8'W

Wind: NW 2 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

After our 2 days at sea and the deep hope that the rolling and pitching of our temporary home Plancius stops, we got a friendly wake-up call at 6:20 in the morning. Humpback whales around the ship.

We climbed out of our beds, dressed warm, grabbed the camera and headed to the outdoor decks. So lovely to see these gentle giants in the water so close to the ship. It feels like a miracle and a nice Welcome to Antarctica.

Due to our late arrival at Antarctica, we could not make the morning landing. The storm at the south coast of south America got its tribute. But no worries we enjoyed a beautiful ship cruise through the Gerlach Strait. Gerlach Strait is a perfect place to see wildlife and especially whales. The weather conditions were really nice and we enjoyed these first Antarctic sightings.





Dorette started with a small photography workshop which was highly appreciated and welcomed. Meanwhile, the Officers at the bridge brought us directly to Danco Island our afternoon destination. Danco Island is situated in the middle of the beautiful Errera Channel with grounded icebergs and a phenomenal panorama on the surrounding glaciers. Danco is home to hundreds or better thousands of gentoo penguins.

After lunch we got quick onto our first Zodiac ride. The weather was typical Antarctic moody. We had a low cloud cover, no wind, a glassy sea surface and

unbelievable beautiful light with some sunspot in the distance. We were speechless, yes this is what we were hoping for if not even more. The mountaineering group headed out to an ice climbing area on Danco Island, the Kayakers explored the surroundings of the Island and the rest of us, conquered the hill on the island while passing cute penguins.





The rookery is busy with the feeding parents and the cute little chicks that were constantly hungry. We saw them even chasing their parents when they expected more than the food delivery. Way too quick passed the time, and we headed back to our temporary home with a huge bunch of new impressions and already endless pictures of the flightless birds of Antarctica and ice in all its beauty.



At 18:30 we got our daily routine and met up in the lounge for our daily Re- and Precap with the expedition team. Ian explained the plans for tomorrow, Fiz explained us interesting facts about humpback whales and Steffi told us why snow can be read. It was hard to follow the briefing; the scenery was breathtaking and in between the little ice we spotted the humpback whales in real.

Unfortunately, the camping for the night was cancelled due to difficult conditions on the camping spots and a light drizzle rain with a breeze of wind. We want to be polar explorer but we also want to enjoy the fun on the next day. We learn our lesson it is hard to predict what happens. The good thing, there is a plan A, B, C...and tomorrow we are sure we just soak up this incredible atmosphere again.

We went to bed early and dream of our upcoming adventures.

Day 5 – 2nd March 2020

Brown Station, Skonkorp Cove / Neko Harbour

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°53.4'S / 062°54.0'W

Wind: WSW 4 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +2°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C

This morning the ones who were not occupied by either mountaineering or kayaking went on a zodiac cruise in Paradise Bay near the Argentinian research station Brown. On our first zodiac cruise of the trip we encountered Crabeater seals and some of us also saw a Leopard seal on an ice flow. We cruised among many different sized icebergs with nice colours. Some of the zodiacs and the kayakers encountered Humpback whales. After two hours cruising around in this Antarctic Paradise the wind started to pick up, and it was time to head back to the ship.





After a great lunch and a short sailing transit with spectacular views we arrived at Neko Harbour. Our first landing on the continent of Antarctica was a proper polar one. Ice covered the beaches and the zodiacs needed to push through. At Neko Harbour we visited a Gentoo Penguin colony. At this colony the chicks were really curious, many of us had great encounters with these little fluffy daredevils.





Halfway the landing there was suddenly an enormous bang, and there was a massive calving event of the nearby glacier. We were all ordered to leave the beach area as soon as possible and after a few minutes a tsunami wave hit the shore pushing the ice up a few meters. We all witnessed this natural power from a safe distance.



After heading back to the ship, Iain discussed plans for tomorrow during recap, Mal explained us why ice is white, blue or green and Pippa provided some more info about Crabeater seals. Meanwhile we passed numerous seals on ice flows and the occasional Humpback whales in the distance, together with the stunning views this made our day complete. After dinner there was good news for the campers who were signed up for this night, Rustyn and Celine had managed to find a spot safe enough for this night. So, 31 lucky souls disembarked Plancius ready for a nightly adventure on Antarctica.

Camping Paradise

We arrived at our campsite at 20.30pm, just in time to see large pieces of ice breaking from the glacier walls that surrounded the landscape.



The snow conditions were low, so most of the camp was a hard-compact ice, but flat and easy to walk around on. Everyone broke into groups to help dig out sleeping spots for the night and get our bivys ready for the night. It was dark by 21.30pm and we all realised we were going to be lucky enough to have a clear, star-filled night. It was cold, so as soon as everyone had their equipment settled, we all crawled into our bivys for the night (although no one could sleep due to the amazing spectacle of stars above us). It was a windless, quiet night and everyone slept warm and cosy. Our zodiac arrived just before 04.15am and we were all ready to go. The stars were still out as we packed our equipment got our life jackets on. We were back on the ship by 04.30am for a hot drink and shower.... and to get ready for a new day's activities.



Day 6 – 3rd March 2020

Lemaire/Petermann Island/Pleneau Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°59.7'S / 063°47.4'W

Wind: Variable 2 **Sea State:** smooth **Weather:** clear sky **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

After an early morning camping pick up Plancius sailed south towards our morning landings. On route to the landing sites this morning we sail through one of the most beautiful spots on the peninsula; The Lemaire Channel. In beautiful blue-sky conditions, we sail through this narrow channel with towering glacial peaks surrounding our little blue ship, passing incredible icebergs and porpoising penguins.

Our first landing site is Petermann Island; a small island situated at the South end of the Lemaire Channel, and home to a small Adelie Penguin colony- a new species for us. We walk over icy snow across the island to a rocky outcrop where we find moulting Adelie and Gentoo Penguins. We can also look over the beautiful landscape, both northwards to the Lemaire Channel, and south to large icebergs as far as we can see. We make our way back to the Plancius for a delicious lunch, and to enjoy the sunshine and views on deck.

While we have lunch, Plancius sailed North slightly to the afternoon activity at Pleneau Island, where we head out for a zodiac cruise in the 'Iceberg graveyard' surrounding the island. As we cruise through the staggeringly beautiful icebergs, we soak up the afternoon sunshine, and look for wildlife. Amongst the ice we find Crabeater and Leopard Seals resting on ice flows, and we have the opportunity to view these beautiful pinnipeds as they rest. The unmistakable sound of a

whales exhale as it surfaces can be heard amongst this incredible playground, and we find the source of this sound as we round an iceberg and find Humpback Whales resting at the surface. As we head back to the ship on the zodiacs, the sky displays incredible colours of blue, orange and pink as the sun sits low in the sky. Back onboard we are treated to a special Antarctic BBQ on the back deck of Plancius prepared beautifully by the fantastic galley and restaurant teams. For the campers, the BBQ is short, and soon they are heading back out to camp on Hovgaard Island for the night. For the rest, the evening is filled with music and dancing under the magnificent Antarctic sky.

Camping Hovgaard March 3, 2020

The camping night on Hovgaard started with a discussion on whether or not camping was possible at all. The grey clouds and predicted rain and wind made the camping guides wonder how the night might play out. But with everyone being very positive and enthusiastic it seemed that the team could handle it - and they decided to push forward. After all zodiacs delivered the campers ashore there was a briefing about our campsite and equipment.



It got dark quite quickly, so we were all racing to get our wind walls built for our bivy spots, but we had the bonus of getting a brief glimpse of the Southern Cross in the night sky directly above us. A real treat. As everyone settled into their bivys we could hear the resident Weddell Seal singing softly down on the beach below us. The night brought us only a slight bit of wind, but other than that it was a quite night for all. In the morning the entire team was in good spirits and broke down camp quickly and efficiently and got back to the ship for some hot coffee by 05.30am. It was a beautiful night that no one would ever forget.



Day 7 – 4th March 2020

Damoy Point/Jougla Point

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°52.4'S / 063°39.6'W

Wind: NE 4 Sea State: smooth Weather: partly cloudy Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: +1°C



Our next day in beautiful Antarctica starts with a morning landing in Damoy Point. The wind drops as we approach the island. The sun is visible in between nice clouds above the uncountable glaciers along our way. The Expedition Team heads out to prepare the landing and shortly after we get picked up. A short Zodiac ride later we



land on the nice sheltered Dorian Bay. Directly at the hut we see 2 little huts. One is built by the British to support the runway that was set up on the glaciers slope just above the hut. They used the runway to support stations further south. Besides the beautiful blue hut is a small refuge hut that was built by Argentinians.

We get a nice landing and could walk up to a nice outlook next to a small gentoo rookery. The views above Dorian Bay and the surrounding glaciers is really nice and we appreciate the chance for the small hike to stretch our legs. The mountaineers head out in a small group to reach a close by mountain and the kayakers explore the glacier walls around it. We sit down along the track and enjoy the Antarctic scenery and we are happy to be so privilege to be able to see this pristine beauty of nature. We rest and listen to the sound of the Antarctic.



At the end of the landing we get the possibility of a polar plunge. The bravest of the brave get their clothes off and head towards the sea to get a swim in the Antarctic waters.





The Antarctic waters are known for temperature up to $-1,9^{\circ}\text{C}$, as saltwater freezes on lower temperature. We are lucky and get warm $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$. So, most of the passenger used this unique experience and added up the tick on their bucket list. Some stayed in the water impressive long. The Expedition team brought us quick back to the ship to enjoy the warm waters of Plancius' showers.

The Hotel team charges our batteries with a nice lunch buffet and Iain, our expedition leader, informs us already about our afternoon landing. Actual we are super happy that we get a chance to get out as the weather forecast told us a different story. The expected 20-30 knots were actually just 13 knots. We got dressed and head out to Jougla Point in Goudier Bay.



It is a small outcrop with some colonies of shags, kelp gull and gentoos. At the beach are plenty of whale bones that were brought on shore by divers in the 90s. It is interesting to get an idea of the real sizes of whales. The gentoo chicks of the colony were quite lively and forgot regularly the 5m rule. So many passengers were inspected by the curious little birds. Unfortunately, the wind pick up and the conditions on shore were not the most beautiful and enjoyable, so some people decided a nice warm tea on the ship might be nice as well. We ended the landing a bit earlier, right in time to avoid the incoming rain.



At 18:30 we met up with the Expedition team for our daily recap and got the information for the next day. Our ship doctor Nelleke explained some interesting facts about swimming in cold waters and Felicity gave us more information on leopard seals, the apex predator of Antarctica.

During our dinner the expedition team went scouting for our opportunities to camp tonight. The weather does not look quite favorable. We have some wind and light rain, but we appreciate the effort. Good, we cannot change the weather, but this night we rather stayed on board and dream in our cozy warm beds about our upcoming adventures in the next remaining days on our expedition in Antarctica.

Day 8 – 05th March 2020

Foyn Harbour/Orne Island

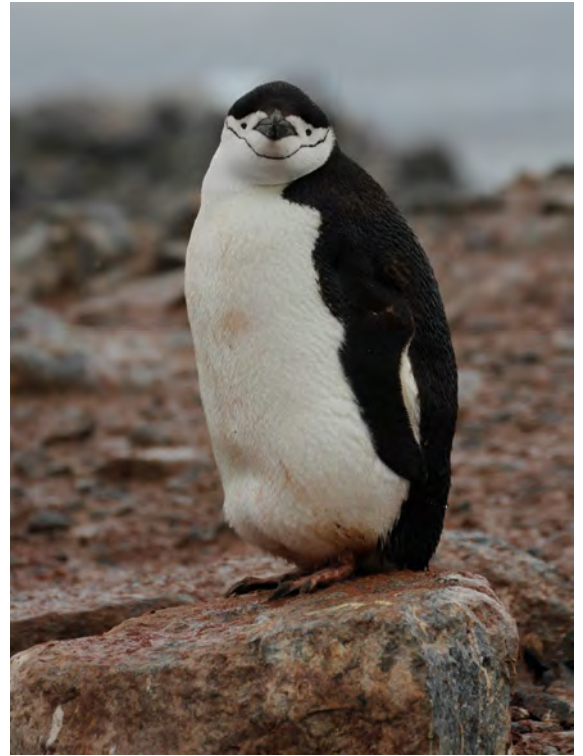
GPS 08.00 Position: 64°39.5'S / 062°29.2'W

Wind: NIL **Sea State:** calm **Weather:** rain fog **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

This morning we zodiac cruised Foyn Harbour, a place with a rich whaling history. This was the site where the whale oil factory ship the Governor was grounded at Enterprise Island after the crew threw a party to celebrate another successful season. They did not only throw a party but, accidentally, also a lamp in the storeroom filled with barrels of whale oil. The ship caught fire, but all crew were saved. During our cruise we visited the wreck and several water boats on the shore. During cruising most of us had an incredible whale encounter nearby the zodiacs, which warmed our hearts during this cold rainy morning.



After a nice lunch and heating and drying up a bit on the ship we sailed towards Orne Island for our afternoon program. The weather did not really change, it was still drizzling with rain when we boarded the zodiac. Getting out of the zodiac was a bit challenging as the coast was a rocky. At the landing spot we were welcomed by a couple of Fur seals trying to intimidate us. The main goal of this landing was to visit a colony of chinstrap penguins. The two days of rain, combined with the Penguin guano made it quite a slippery effort to reach the colony but we all managed to get close to the third main Penguin species of the Peninsula. Upon the way back we saw some Humpback whales bubble-feeding. When we were all back on the ship, more groups of Humpbacks showed up and we had a nice show while heaving our well-deserved hot coffee or thee in the lounge. After recap we had again a well-deserved meal and where hoping for some better weather for the next day, which will be the final expedition day in Antarctica.



Day 9 – 06th March 2020

Half Moon Island \ Yankee Harbour

GPS 08.00 Position: 62°34,9'S / 059°52,2'W

Wind: NW 4 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

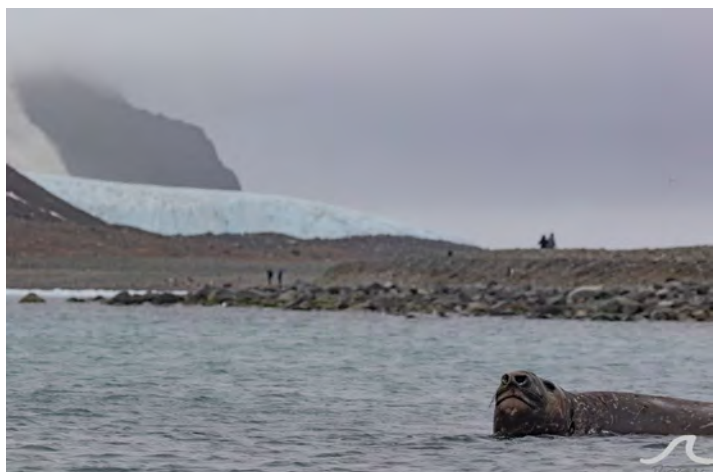
After our 07.00am wakeup call from Iain and a good breakfast, we all set out for our morning's destination - Half Moon Island. The zodiac ride in was a slightly windy and bumpy, but nothing we hadn't seen before at this before by this point. As Plancius anchored just off the coast of Half Moon, we at the glaciated peaks of Livingston Island.



Rough rock-formations give the island a very characteristic touch and have created many small niches and plateaus to host chinstrap-penguins (including one single resident Macaroni penguin, who we call Kevin), shags and gulls. The long-hikers headed off behind the Argentinian research station, to stretch their legs and get views of the surrounding mountains and glaciers. Along the route Fur Seals were scattered about, posing for photos and once in a while showing off their teeth, to remind us that they were not just beautiful, but also family tough. Meanwhile, for the passengers that had landed closer to the penguin colony, they had the added bonus of spotting a Leopard Seal in the shallow bay below, as well as an Elephant Seal relaxing and enjoying life on the beach. It was a great morning on Half Moon but after a few hours it was time to get back to the ship for a well-deserved lunch.



After lunch and a small break, we set out again for Yankee Harbour. As we arrived to our landing, a large Elephant Seal decided to join us only meters from our zodiacs. If that wasn't enough a juvenile Shag decided the Elephant Seal would be a good place for a rest, and hopped up for a rest on its back. After a minute or two the Elephant Seal decided that was enough and did what it could to get the Shag off, but the stubborn little Shag was determined to ride the Elephant Seal for a while longer, giving all of us a very entertaining show. Soon we all headed down to the beach for a walk towards the glacier. A Weddell Seal was laying on the icy beach near the penguins, posing for photos near the old sealers Tri-pots left on the beach from an era long gone. It was a great last landing. It was a little sad getting back into the zodiacs, knowing that once we got back on the ship it would be time to start heading back into the Drake... and back direction Ushuaia.



Back on the ship, and back in warm dry cloths we enjoyed recap and heard stories from staff. When Alex announced dinner, we were all more than ready after such a full day. But after dinner the fun continued with a game with the staff. All the passengers formed teams and had to guess which stories from the staff were true... or false. It made for some funny stories, some good laughs and a very fun end to the day.

Day 10 – 07th March 2020

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 60°13.1'S / 061°32.9'W

Wind: E 5 **Sea State:** moderate **Weather:** Cloudy 7/8 **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

As we began crossing back the Drake Passage, the pace of life on board has changed, we had a wake-up call from Iain early again but knowing this time there is no rush. We can stay a little bit more in bed and enjoy the first morning without any operation or landings ahead, 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 and Climatological History of Antarctica. After a quiet break Pippa offer us another interesting lecture about the History of Antarctic Whaling.

After lunch, Steffi gave us a fascinating lecture on the adaptations developed by the fauna of the polar regions: 'Weather extreme – How animals adapt to the Polar Regions'.

The day, once again enriching, came to an end with Iain's lecture about his personal experience on 'Overwintering in Antarctica'.

Once again, our EL Iain welcoming us to the lounge to present tomorrow's program during our daily re-cap. Alex, 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!

After dinner... The full Expedition Team in the lounge played the Antarctic Quiz! a fun evening of Antarctic Trivia.



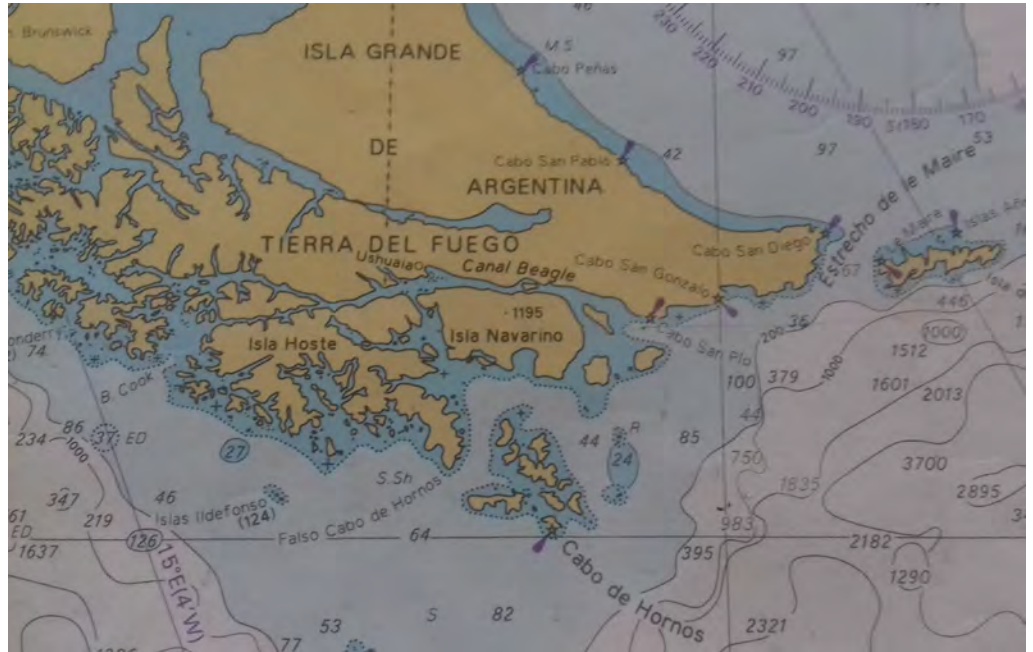
Day 11 – 08th March 2020

At Sea to Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 56°05.3'S / 065°32.9'W

Wind: SW 5-6 **Sea State:** Rather rough **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +5°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 a little bit 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 Iain about Science in Antarctica and Rustyn about Evolution of Equipment, what it was like to work and being involved in several field operations for the British Antarctic Survey and how the equipment evolved since the beginning of the exploration era.

Then after a short break for tea and cookies, Felicity talked about The Threats to Antarctic Marine Life and how we can help on the prevention of some of them.

After lunch We collected the Rubber boots in a challenging sea condition, with all the expedition staff involved making the task faster and smooth to everyone.

Mal started his last lecture on Climate Change – Anthropogenic Challenges and Opportunities. Another way to become an Antarctic Ambassador back home with all this new knowledge about interesting subjects like threats, pollution and consequences.

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 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. 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.

Day 12 – 09th March 2020

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:

1752 Nautical Miles

Furthest South:

64°91'S / 063°47'W

Mountaineering

Danco Island

Ice Ice Baby For those of us with rigid boots who had signed up for ice climbing we had a real adventure in store. It's not often that you can go climbing on the toe of an old glacier with the sea lapping at your feet and penguins and the occasional seal swimming beneath you!

Danco Island provides an amazing location to come to grips with a first introduction to Ice Climbing. Our venue has easy to moderate to hard ice climbing opportunities and a good slope to get all of our gear and equipment up and above the tide line.

Mal and Dave moved quickly up onto the ice wall above us to set anchor and top ropes whilst we put on our boots and crampons. The guides then gave a brief introduction to how to use the Ice tools and to position our feet and we quickly got into the swing of things!

Nature was also giving us a show with constant rumblings of ice cliff avalanches on the large peaks surrounding us and the sound of calving glaciers in the distance.

We all got the chance to give all the set routes a good whack with our ice tools before it was time to head back to the ship.

A very adventurous first shore landing for the Mountaineers.



Paradise

The snow conditions at this point in the season were reported to be lean – but the reality was even more dire. With no snow close to shore to speak of it was too hazardous to get the mornings team moving on steep terrain so close to shore with a rocky runout so the guides shifted us to a less intimidating landing site.

Of course, no plan is perfect and the Skua's above us were most indignant that we were wanting to play near them! Mal and Dave found a different way to approach the ice and we were finally able to put on our snowshoes and start walking up the gentle incline towards what looked like a reasonably interesting crevasse field.

These crevasses are always there to one extent or another but with no snow we can actually see them and see how deep they were. After carefully checking out a safe route we were able to access up onto the glacier above us. This allowed us to get up close and personal to the start of some truly impressive peaks and to poke our noses into and over the edge of a large Bergshrund.

We needed to cut our time short up here so we could again get back down safely through the crevasse field below us and negotiate the small rocky downclimb to the shore where Pippa and Felicity were waiting to pick us up and whisk us back to Plancius for an awesome lunch.





Neko Harbour

The low snow conditions again made getting to our glaciers a bit harder at Neko – we needed to move carefully past the moulting gentoo penguins AND over the slick surface that only a Penguin colony can produce!

After getting instruction on how to use out snowshoes and ice axes safely on the glacier we started a slow walk up toward a series of lookout locations. We came across a series of large crevasses much lower down on the glacier than the guides had seen previously and more concerning, long water runnels eating their way deep into the glacier – these runnels look almost like crevasses but are much safer to explore and Mal and Dave found a spot where we could look deep into the heart of the glacier where a long tunnel with water running out of it was easily accessible.

Whilst beautiful to look at, this does highlight just how fragile our glaciers are and how quickly they can change.

As we were heading back down towards the landing area and were stopped at a lookout position above the harbour, we witnessed an enormous calving about 1 km away from the landing site. The guides on shore had pulled everybody back and we watched the waves from the calving race towards shore where they picked themselves up and crashed onto the rocky beach. The sound from our high vantage point was incredible with the sound of all the ice on the shore being scrapped and dragged clearly audible as the minor Tsunami effect was occurring.



A quick descent back to the shore found us sorting out our equipment, packing it away and then it was again back to Plancius for recap and dinner.



Peterman Island.

On scouting Peterman Island, the crew noticed the snow slopes directly behind the emergency shelter were back to hard ice and likely to be very firm, so we headed to the righthand end of the island where we could land on the rocks.

The ascent was mostly rocky scrambling with a short snowfield at half height which necessitated a “fixed line”. We then had a short section of more sporty rock and some lovely Fungi and Lichen growths, both coloured compact spreading forms and some that resembled leaves or seaweed curls.

On the ascent we also passed by several Skua who treated us to some very stylish demonstrations of gliding and flying prowess without any dive-bombing antic that would have indicated proximity to nests or disruption.

At the summit we had views down to the sea on the opposite side of the island, with attendant icebergs and smaller islands. We descended a little to the north of our ascent line on somewhat easier ground, although we still needed to really focus on our footing and try to rock-hop in between lush thick carpets of wet 20-40cm thick moss lands. And back to the rocks for a timed-between-the-swells pickup.



Hovegaard

Hovegaard Island proved to be a perfect place for an introduction to Glaciers combined with the hilarity of walking in snowshoes for the first time for most.

A nice wee beach landing and a short hike up gentle snow to a broad spur where the snowfield transitioned into a broad, easy angled Glacier and seals to see.

Mal and Dave gave a briefing on the use of ice axes and how to fit and walk in snowshoes complete with the “Ministry of funny walks” method of walking backwards in your “Flipper feet”

At the glacier we broke out the rope and tied in at 5-6m intervals, keeping the line at skipping rope tension. This proved to be quite a smart move as during our tour up to the high ridgeline, the guides managed to “find” (Unintentionally popping through to knee depth) 3 crevasses, unseen on the surface.

Although small and relatively narrow, we were able to look in and see that they were significantly deep and spanned a fair distance in both directions, which made for an interesting discussion on formation, likely locations and consequences of crevasses.

We descended back down to the beach via a circle to the right our ascent line and boarded the Zodiacs and back to the Plancius where we were treated to a wonderful Barbeque on the rear deck followed by disco lights and dancing. Everyone had a great time and retired well-fed and tired.





Jabet Peak, Dorian Bay

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After a briefing on axe and crampon craft we roped up in two teams of 4 and headed off up the glacier, initially on a spur then into a rising left tending traverse towards the Col of Jabet peak in Glacial travel mode – i.e. with 5-6 metres between us to protect us from unforeseen crevasse encounters.

Right from the start we were keeping a “weather eye” out as the forecasts and our timing did predict very strong winds from late morning and we were making the rocky peak at the Col our main objective.

Soon the conditions showed us the wisdom of being in crampons as it became very firm underfoot with a few narrow but deep crevasses and just a cm or two of cold dry snow on top of blue ice. Mal and Dave brought the crew closer in to them and began to “short-rope”, a guiding technique designed to arrest a minor slip before any momentum can build up.

On nearing the Col and the large Bergschrund (a crevasse that separates the glacier from the upper mountain), we stopped the group and created an anchor to clip into with ice screws while Mal climbed up to investigate the Bergschrund.

His first impressions and words can't really be repeated (or it may have been the wind). This was followed by giggling laughter. Always a good sign. Enough to say the Bergschrund was significantly wide and deep (maybe 30m). We broke out the second ice axes, we'd had the team carry and the guides lead up to the Col and created ice anchors to belay the teams up.

From there it was a gingerly walk on hard ice along the ridge crest and then up blue snow free ice next to the rocks to the high point. With some spectacular short roping down the ridge to get back down to the Col. From the top there were amazing views across Dorian Bay and over to Port Lockroy.



The descent off the Col required double ice screw anchors and Mal & Dave Lowered the crew down the steep section to where it was safe to go back to short roping before downclimbing themselves. Then it was back to glacial travel and Dorian by for a late pick up and lunch



Foyn Harbour

It was a wet and gloomy morning that presented itself to us as we were gearing up for our mornings mountaineering excursion. However, a wee bit of rain and low cloud never stopped mountaineers in the past and so off we went.

Dave and Mal selected a landing site that gave us the chance to climb slowly up and over a series of crevasses before arriving at our high point overlooking the wreck of the Govenor Orn. We could see the kayakers and zodiac cruisers below us moving around the Harbour.

Our Guides were keen to see if we could do a trip where we started in in place and finished in another – however the low snow conditions again prevented this from happening as the lean snow was melted back to the hard ice below making it too dangerous to traverse this terrain wearing snowshoes.

So instead we again made our way back over the crevasses we had crossed and passed, back to the shore where again our zodiacs were waiting to take us back to Plancius via a much closer inspection of the Wreck that we had seen beneath us only an hour before.





Georges Point

Time for a glacier interaction and snowshoeing adventure. With a short hike up the rocks to the snout of the glacier where we donned snowshoes and roped up for glacier travel. Due to the warm temperatures in the last few weeks the lower section of the glacier was exposed ice with just a few patches of snow.

However, the serrated edge bars and hinged teeth on the snow snows gave us good secure purchase. We also very soon appreciated the precaution of being roped up, even in a mostly visible landscape. Mal wandered over and gave one of the snow patches a wee prod, and low and behold, a crevasse!

Not the small, narrow and relatively shallow type one would usually expect this close to the toe of a broad glacier, but a quite wide and very deep chasm that spanned up and down the hill for some distance. An interesting feature probably developed over quite a long period of time due to Antarctic conditions on a slow-moving ice sheet following in two subtle directions.

From here we gained some height into the Neve (permanent snow) zone and headed towards a bergshrund feature below a col, near a rocky promontory. Here we found another large icy crevasse, but this one had the benefit of a well bridged and filled side that allowed us to stand to the side and look/photograph in. Quite spectacular.

Back down the glacier we again found the benefit of the spikes on the snowshoes, especially with the team having mastered the technique and having confidence in their skills.



Half Moon Island

We only had a small team out on ½ moon Island for our last morning in Antarctica. We accessed the tow of a very old and retreating glacier and began our climb slow to the top. With again snowshoes on our feet and serious slope beneath us our guide Mal, used a technique called short roping to get us safely through the steeper sections of the glacier before reaching the Bergshrund right at the top.

The bergshrund is where the glacier is pulling away from the mountain and we could look down in towards the slowing heart of the glacier.

We climbed up and off the glacier and finished our final mountaineering trip by walking along the broad low summit of ½ moon island finding some spectacular lookouts before returning back to the shore and rounding the island to the main landing site.

Kayaking

As is common at the beginning of a Basecamp kayak trip, many passengers worry about timings, clothing, the perfect spot, how many layers they have to wear, if it is cold outside, or if it's going to be wet during the kayaking experience... Many questions and nothing better than to put all your gear on and find it out by yourself.



After a safety briefing, we were explained how everything works, including clothing and operation procedures, we finally set eight groups of 14 people plus a guide, Alexis Bellezze from Argentina, that will operate during the morning and afternoon of the next days. This Antarctic Basecamp was for all of us and this time we visited different areas less exposed to the wind in the middle of the Antarctic Peninsula.



The next days will belong for us for ever. We were able to paddle in different places like Danco Island, Paradise Harbour (Argentinian Brown Station), Neko Harbour, Petermann Island, Pleneau Island, Damoy Point, Jugla Point and finally our two trips in an incredible raw at Foyu Harbour...

We enjoyed the quiet silence of Danco Island with Gentoo penguins jumping and swimming around us, we felt the supreme power of nature in the incredible scenario of Skontorp Cove and the glaciers around Paradise Bay, the crystal waters under the sun breaking through the surface and showing us the rocks of the bottom of the ocean, so close; the extreme beauty of Neko Harbour in an ocean full of growlers of ice that came from the calving glaciers of one of the most overwhelming surroundings of the Antarctic landscape. We paddled close to the shore of Petermann Island, with an ocean full of currents and wildlife; we had in front of us the most beautiful iceberg art collection at Pleaneau Island a wonderful afternoon with the sun close to the horizon spreading a full rainbow of colours that changed during the hours; Damoy Point in a windy day, making the morning more exciting and giving us the opportunity of being in the middle of the polar plunge during our disembark and our visit to the Damoy hut; we finally had the real Antarctic wind force when we cancelled the challenging Jugla Point afternoon session and we navigate close to the Norwegian "Governorem", the old whaling ship that collapsed after a big fire that started accidentally at the end of a hunting during November 1927, we were able to stay quiet and in silence floating around the remains of the wreck vessel to continue our trip in a narrow channel close to the small icebergs to finish in front of the boats that belonged to the same ship. An outstanding experience for all of us.





We saw Antarctic terns, humpback whales, crabeater seal, Weddell seals, leopard seals, cormorants, sheathbills around the huts and penguin colonies; Gentoo, Adelie and chinstrap penguins from a special spot, our quiet kayak. Kayaking means freedom of operation, silence, being closer to the water, the environment. It offers a unique perspective and the opportunity to understand from the bottom of the glaciers and cliffs the real scale of Antarctica's mountains, glaciers and surroundings.



Word from Alexis: It was a pleasure for me, as your guide, to have the chance to introduce you to this part of the world who belong to all of us, and depend on us, our actions and their consequences. From now, think about keep this pristine continent as it is. That could be the best way to behave knowing that is HOME and its fragile and need of an eco-friendly action from humans every day.



Enjoy Life. Respect others. Leave no trace. Come back home with a good message to your friends and family... nature rules the world.

Your Expedition Team!



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



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Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

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Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



PRIZES



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GIFT VOUCHER

for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher

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UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT

WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 02 June 2020. The photography contest runs from 03 November 2019 until 02 May 2020.

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

1st March

Danco – Ice

Ice Ice Baby For those of us with rigid boots who had signed up for ice climbing we had a real adventure in store. It's not often that you can go climbing on the toe of an old glacier with the sea lapping at your feet and penguins and the occasional seal swimming beneath you!

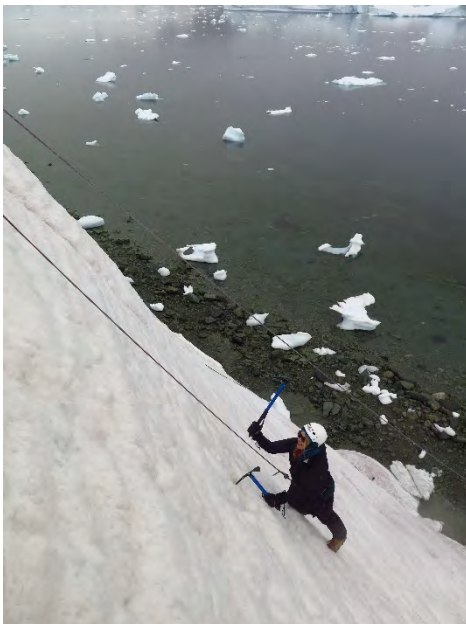
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2nd March

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Of course no plan is perfect and the Skua's above us were most indignant that we were wanting to play near them! Mal and Dave found a different way to approach the ice and we were finally able to put on our snowshoes and start walking up the gentle incline towards what looked like a reasonably interesting crevasse field.

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A quick descent back to the shore found us sorting out our equipment, packing it away and then it was again back to Plancius for recap and dinner.



3rd March

AM

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The ascent was mostly rocky scrambling with a short snowfield at half height which necessitated a “fixed line”. We then had a short section of more sporty rock and some lovely Fungi and Lichen growths, both coloured compact spreading forms and some that resembled leaves or seaweed curls.

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Although small and relatively narrow, we were able to look in and see that they were significantly deep and spanned a fair distance in both directions, which made for an interesting discussion on formation, likely locations and consequences of crevasses.

We descended back down to the beach via a circle to the right our ascent line and boarded the Zodiaks and back to the Plancius where we were treated to a wonderful Barbeque on the rear deck followed by disco lights and dancing. Everyone had a great time and retired well-fed and tired.





4th March

Jabet Peak, Dorian Bay

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From there it was a gingerly walk on hard ice along the ridgecrest and then up blue snow free ice next to the rocks to the high point. With some spectacular shortroping down the ridge to get back down to the Col. From the top there were amazing views across Dorian Bay and over to Port Lockroy.

The descent off the Col required double icescrew anchors and Mal & Dave Lowered the crew down the steep section to where it was safe to go back to short roping before downclimbing themselves. Then it was back to glacial travel and Dorian Bay for a late pick up and lunch





5th March

Foyn Harbour

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Dave and Mal selected a landing site that gave us the chance to climb slowly up and over a series of crevasses before arriving at our high point over looking the wreck of the Governor Orn. We could see the kayakers and zodiac cruisers below us moving around the Harbour.

Our Guides were keen to see if we could do a trip where we started in in place and finished in another – however the low snow conditions again prevented this from happening as the lean snow was melted back to the hard ice below making it too dangerous to traverse this terrain wearing snowshoes.

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Back down the glacier we again found the benefit of the spikes on the snowshoes, especially with the team having mastered the technique and having confidence in their skills.



6th March

½ Moon Island

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The bergshrund is where the glacier is pulling away from the mountain and we could look down in towards the slowing heart of the glacier.

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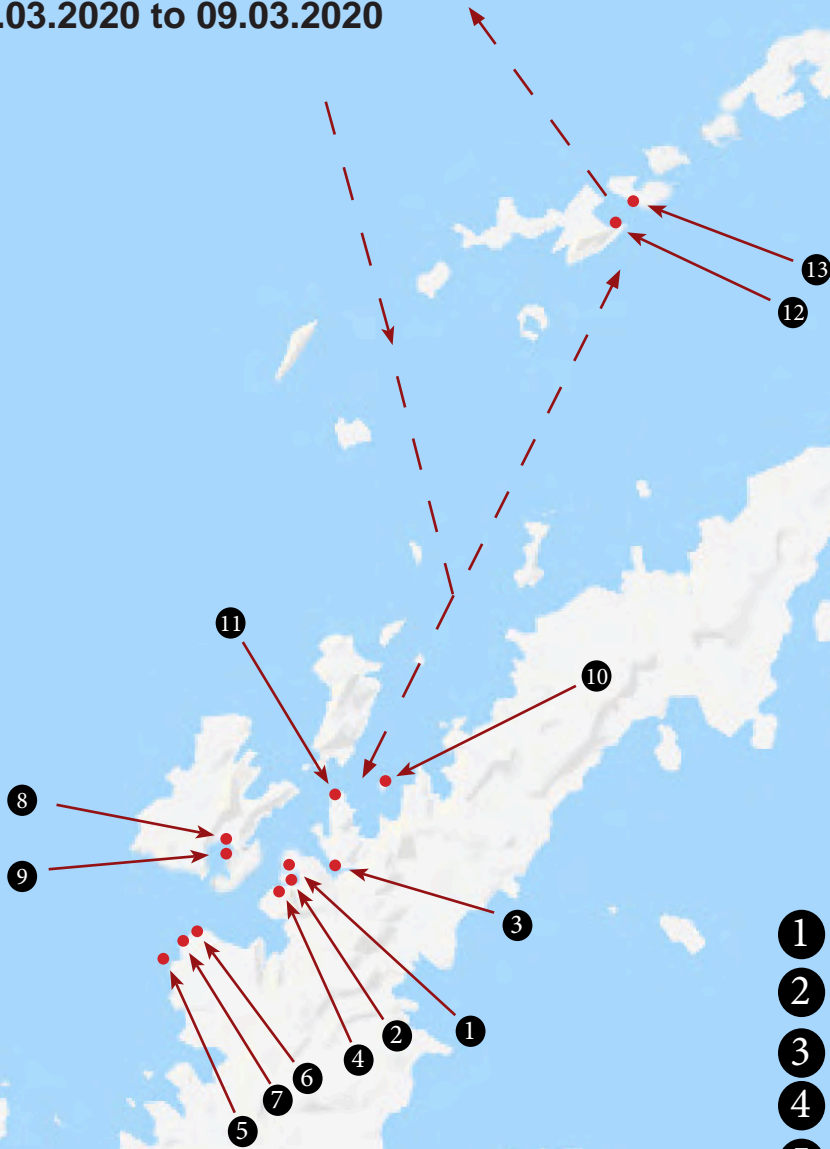




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Antarctic Base Camp Expedition
M/V PLANCIUS
27.03.2020 to 09.03.2020



- ① Danco Island
- ② Paradise Harbour
- ③ Neko Harbour
- ④ Camping Paradise
- ⑤ Petermann Island
- ⑥ Pleneau Island
- ⑦ Camping Hovgaard
- ⑧ Damoy Point (polar plunge)
- ⑨ Jougla Point
- ⑩ Foyen Harbour
- ⑪ Orne Islands
- ⑫ Half Moon Island
- ⑬ Yankee Harbour

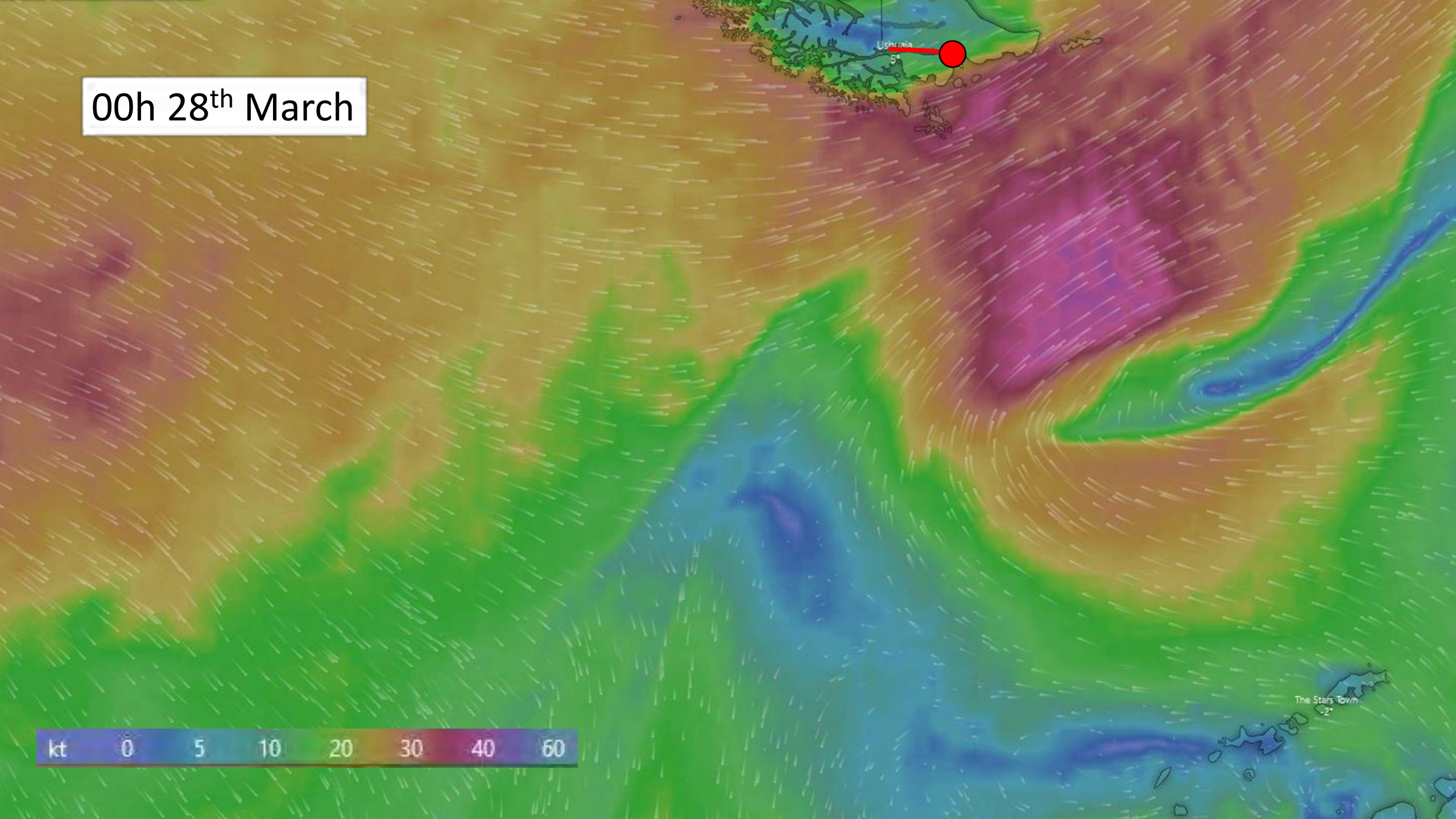


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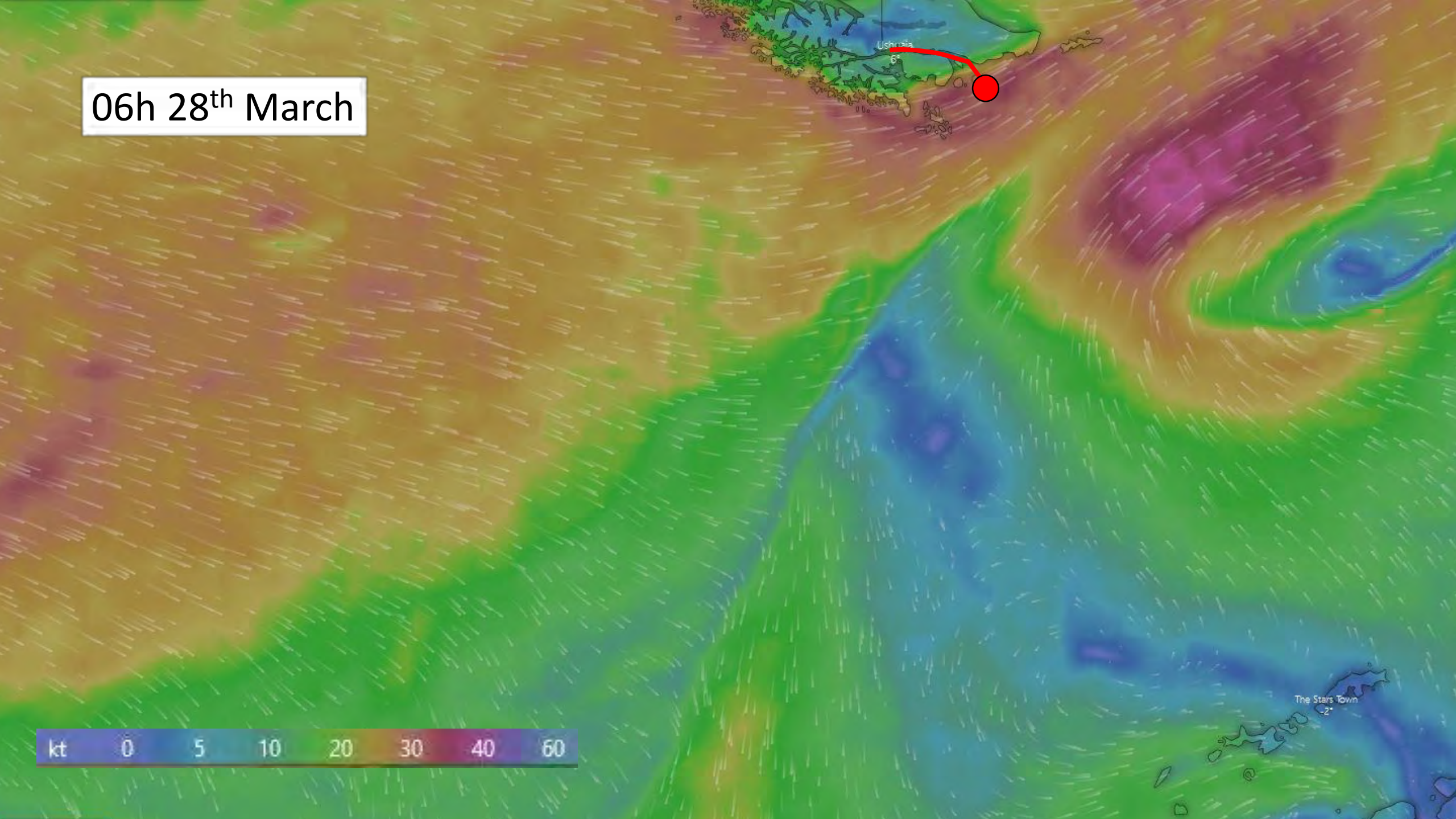
00h 28th March



Uchiruaia
5°

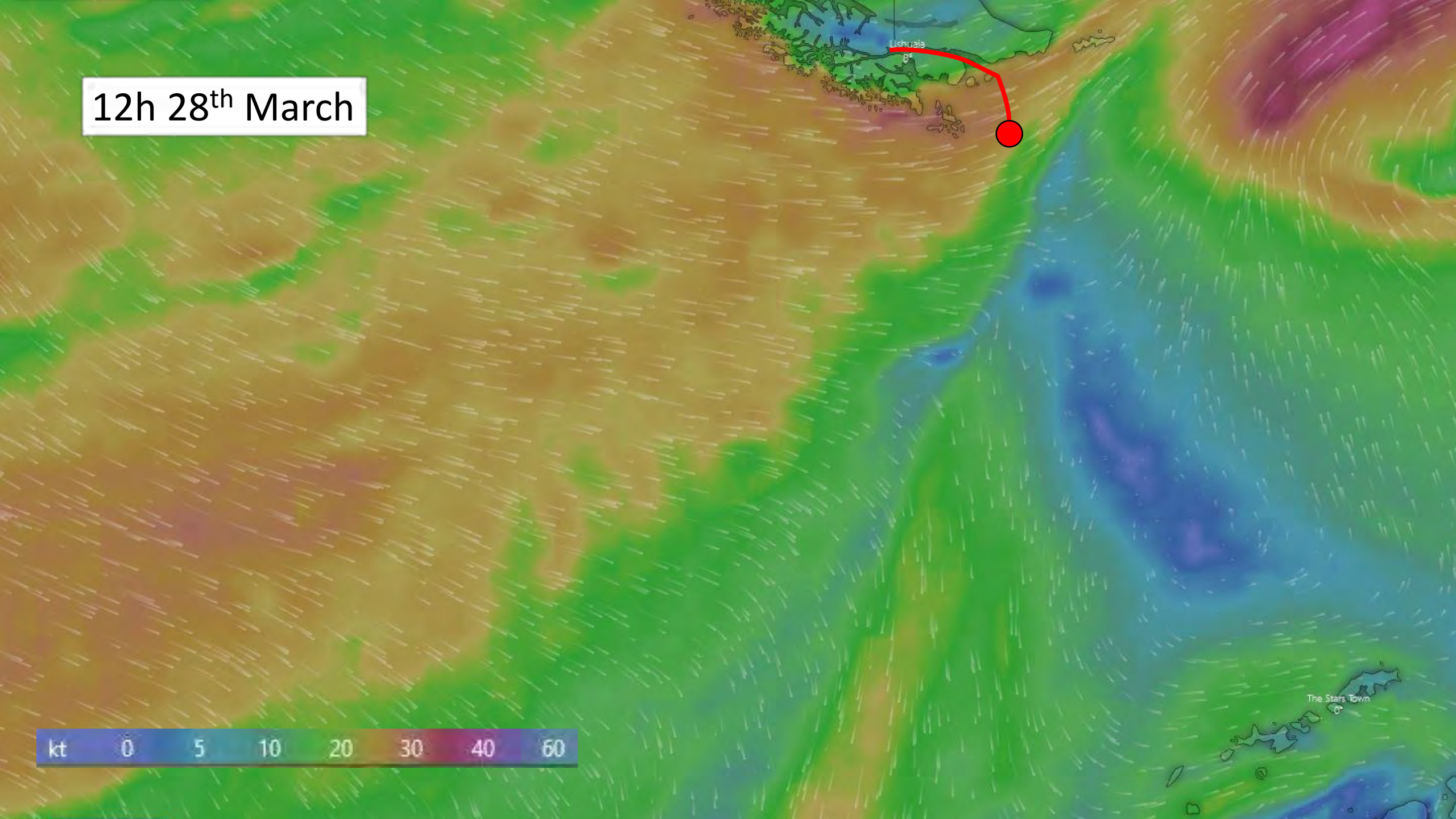
The Stars Town
2°

06h 28th March



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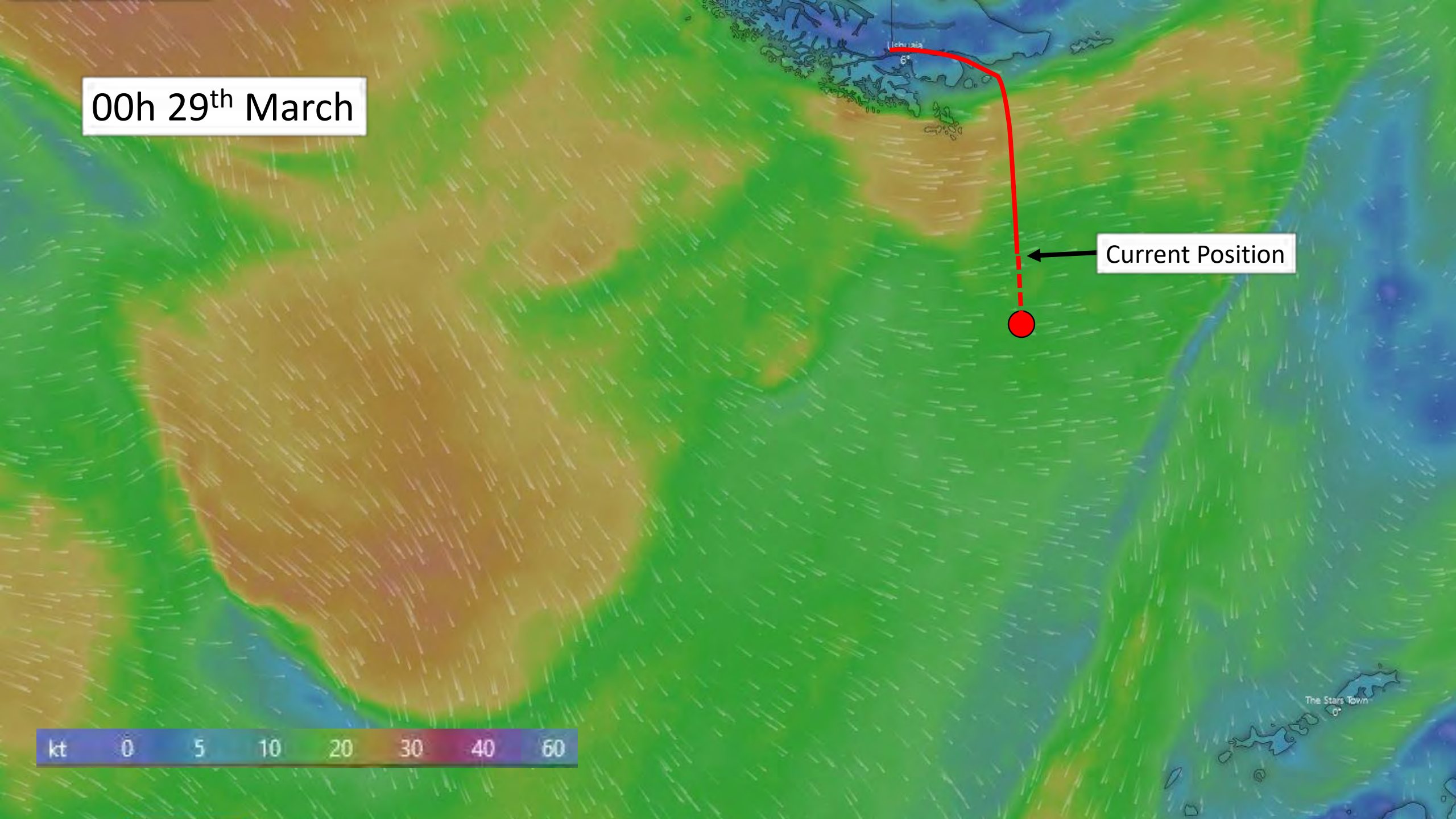
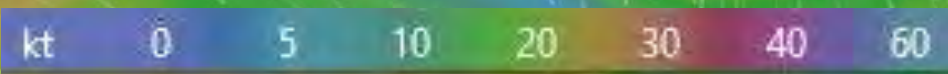
12h 28th March



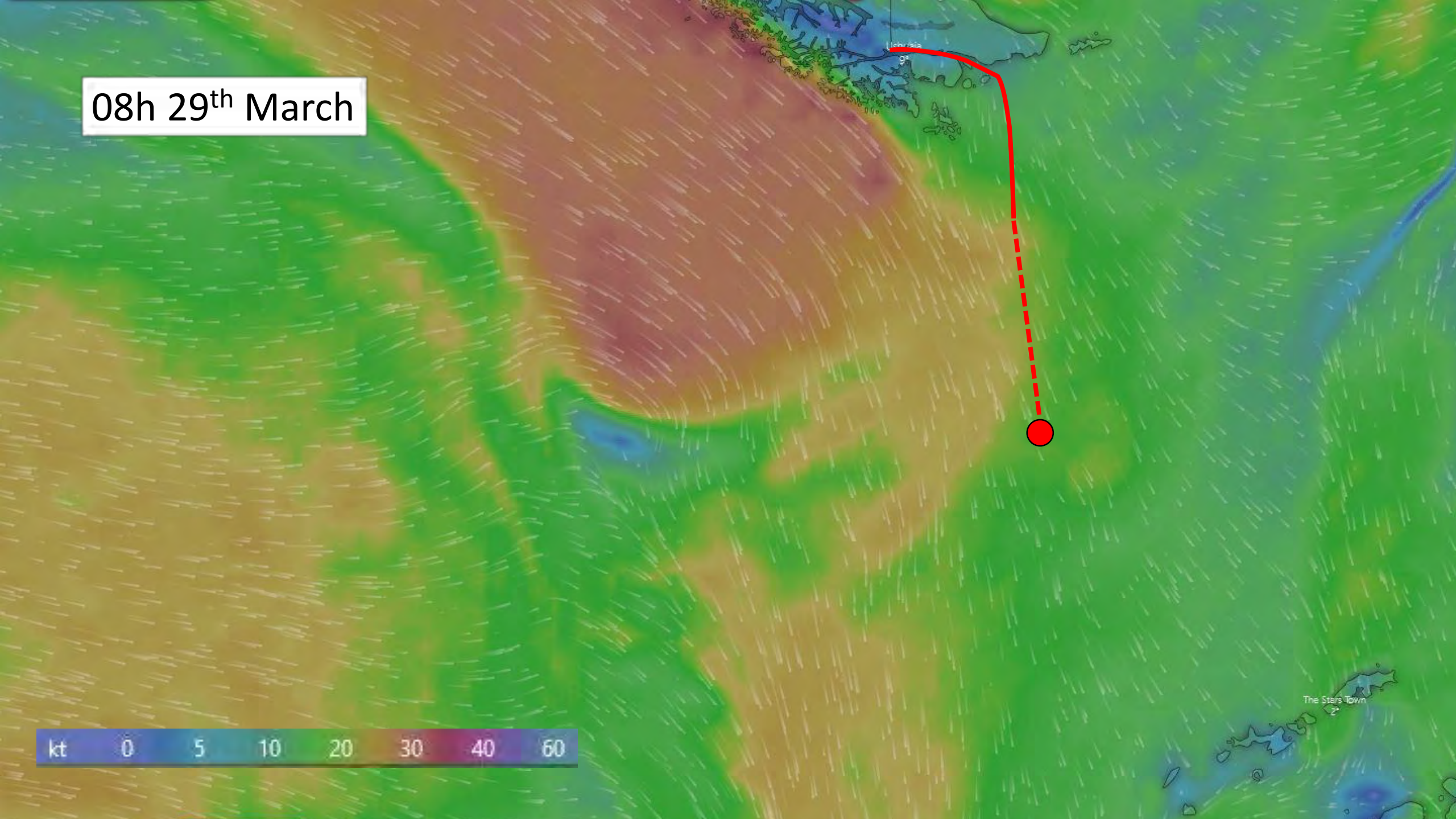
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00h 29th March

Current Position



08h 29th March

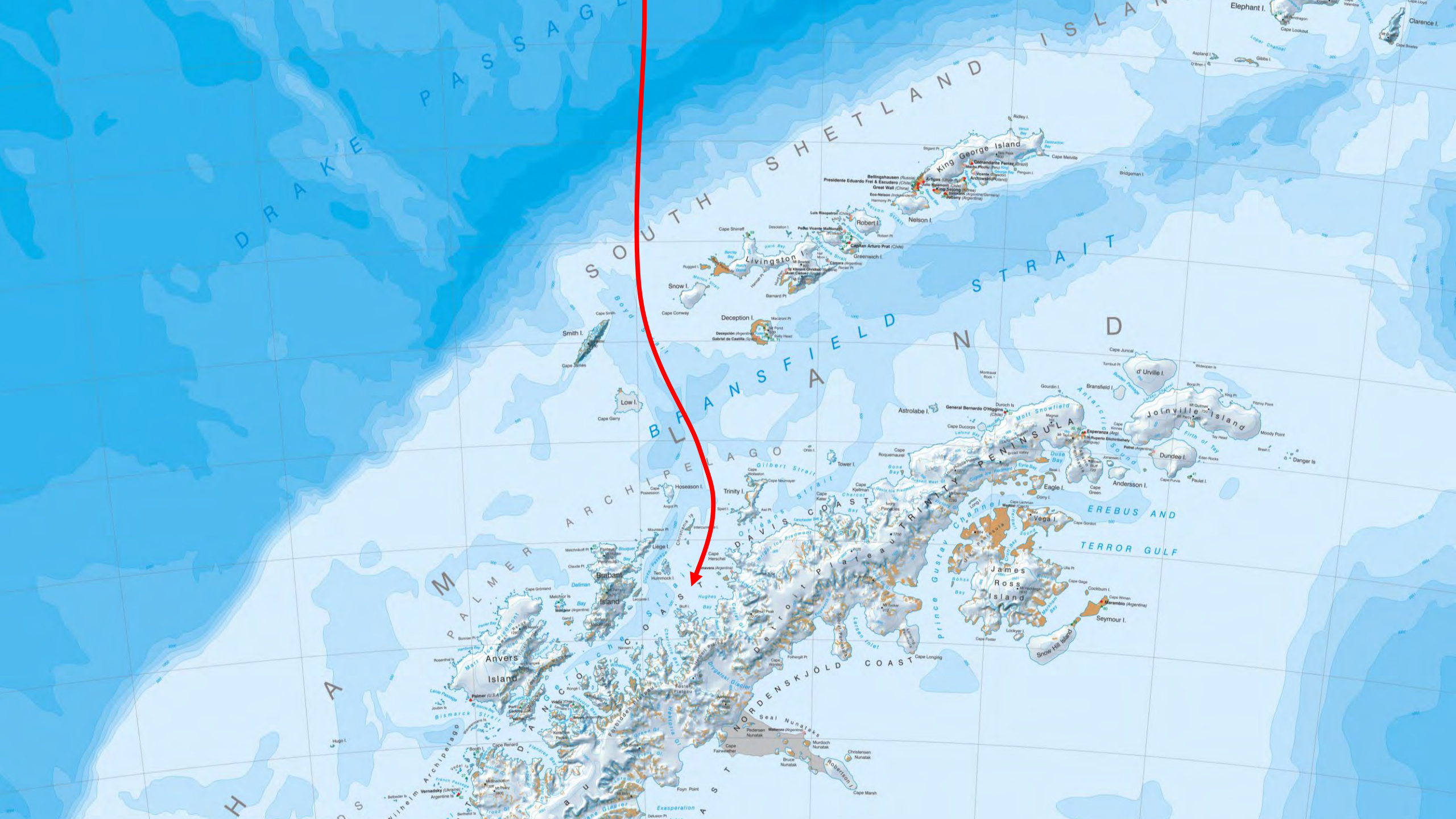


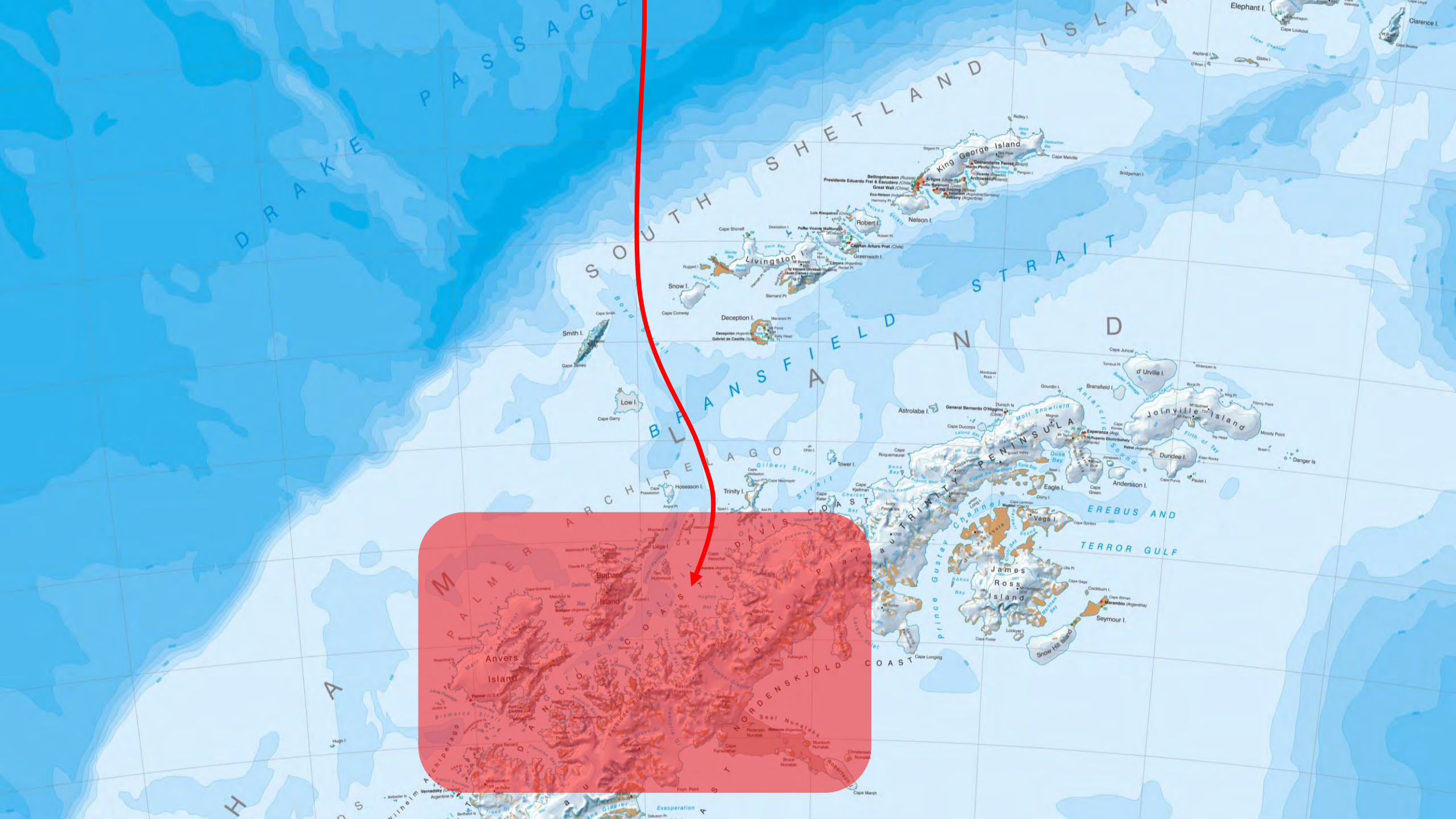


OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Daily Plans 29th February

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Daily Plans 1st March

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Danco Island

Leith Cove

Errera Channel, Danco Island & Leith Cove

Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Brown Station, Neko Harbour & Stony Point

Continental Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Brown Station, Neko Harbour & Stony Point

Continental Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Brown Station, Neko Harbour & Stony Point

Continental Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Daily Plans 2nd March



Brown Station, Neko Harbour & Stony Point

Continental Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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EXPEDITIONS



Stony Point

Lemaire Channel

Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Pleneau Island

Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Stony Point

Lemaire Channel

Petermann Island

Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Pleneau Island

Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Daily Plans 3rd March

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Damoy Point

Hovegaard Island

Lemaire Channel

Lemaire Channel to Damoy Point

Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



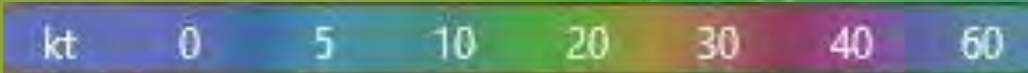
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Morning

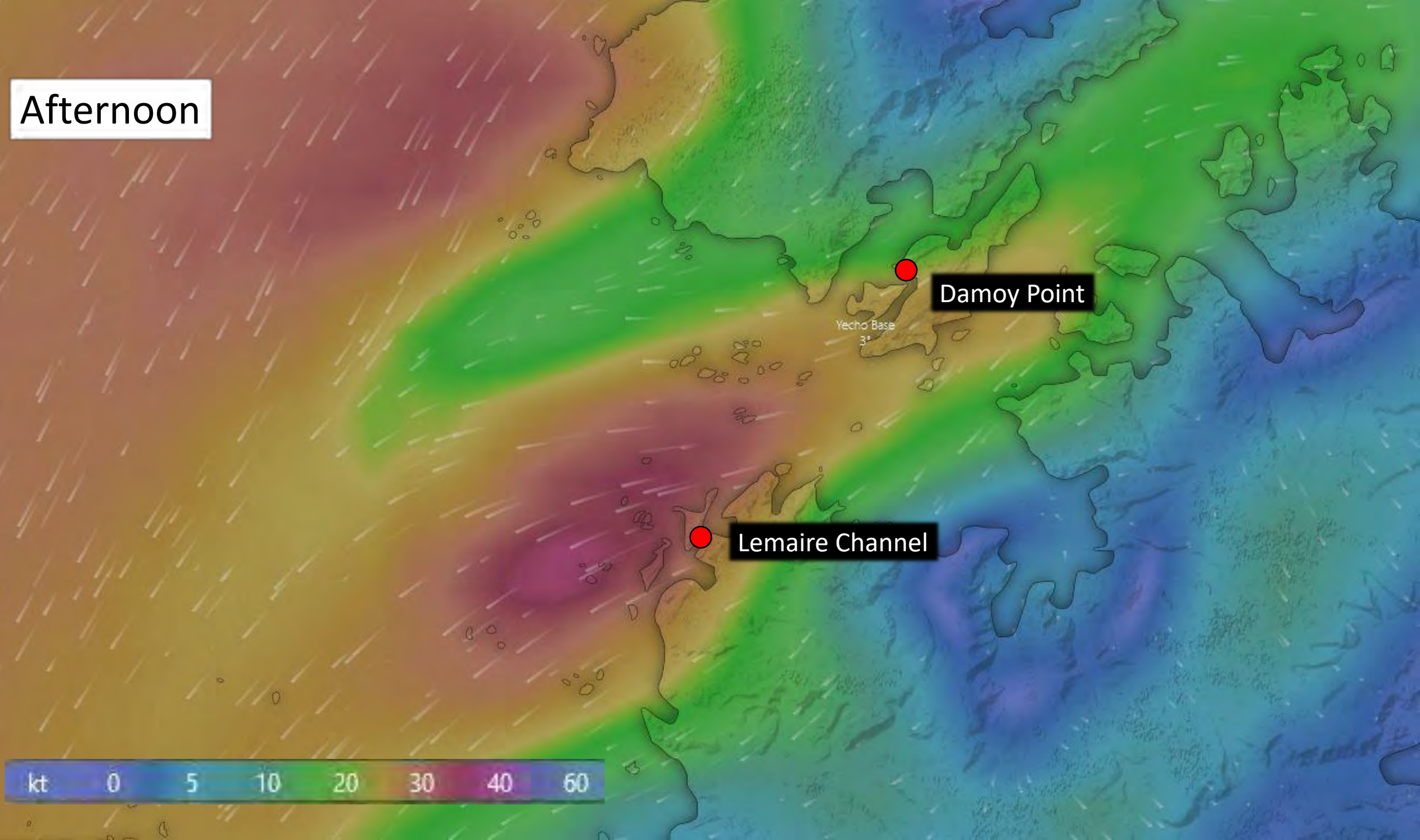
Damoy Point

Lemaire Channel

Yecho Base
2°



Afternoon



Damoy Point

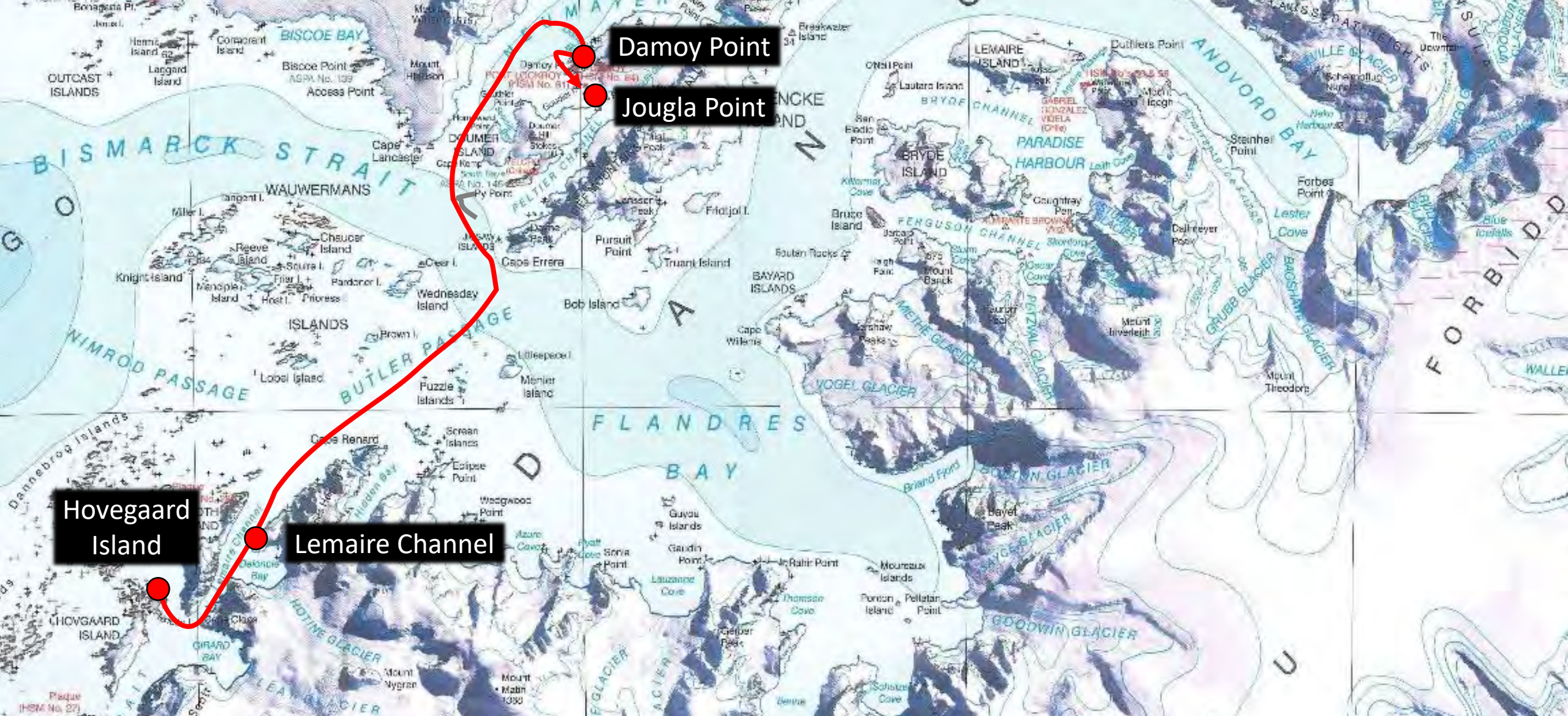
Lemaire Channel





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EXPEDITIONS

Daily Plans 4th March



Damoy Point

Jougla Point

Hovegaard Island

Lemaire Channel

Hovegaard Island to Damoy Point

Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Neumayer Channel, Foyen Harbour & Orne Islands

Cruising, Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS



Damoy Point

Neumayer Channel

Orne Islands

Foyen Harbour

Neumayer Channel, Foyen Harbour & Orne Islands

Cruising, Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping



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Daily Plans 5th March

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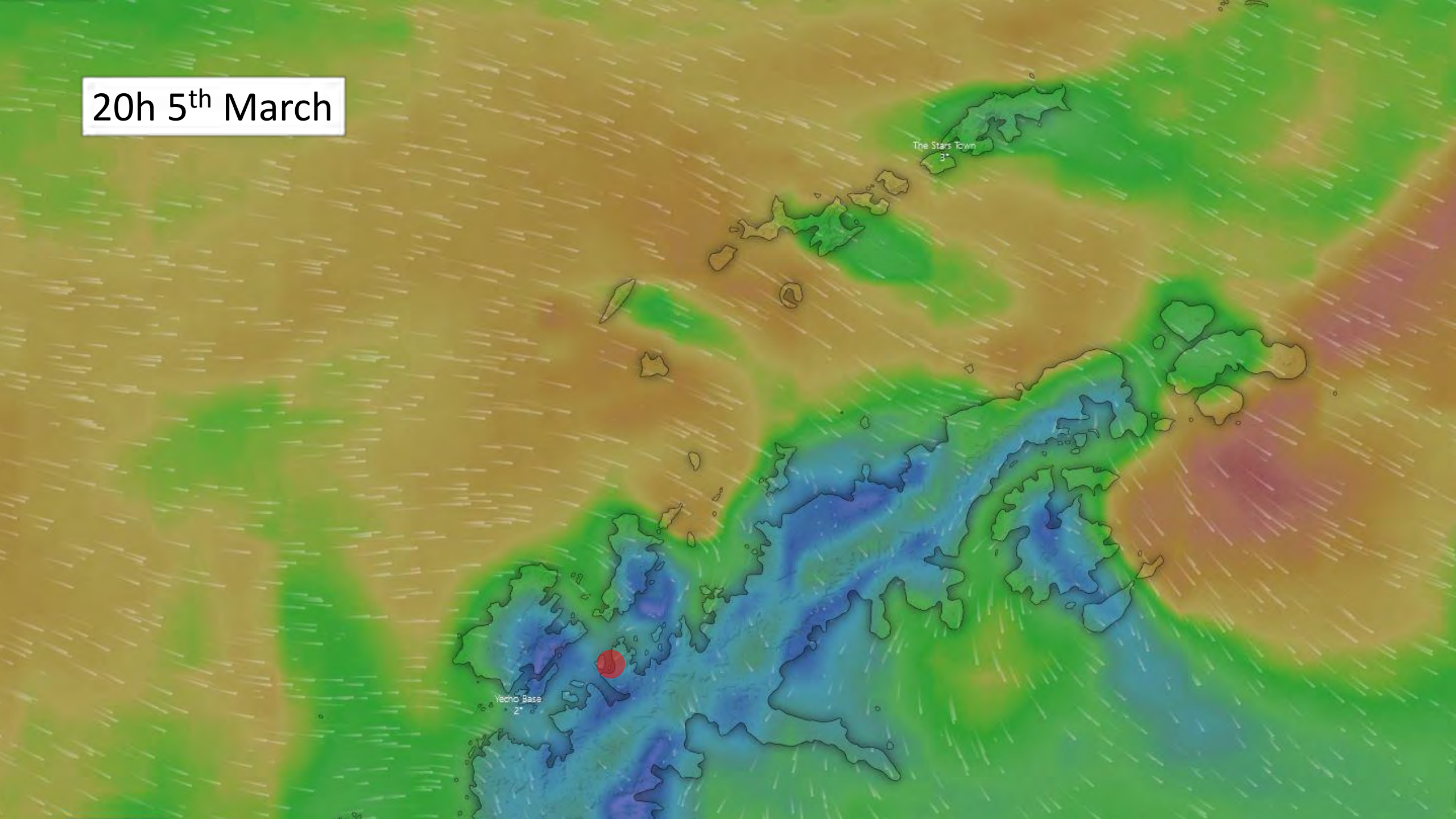
Neumayer Channel, Foyen Harbour & Orne Islands

Cruising, Landing, Mountaineering, Kayaking & Camping

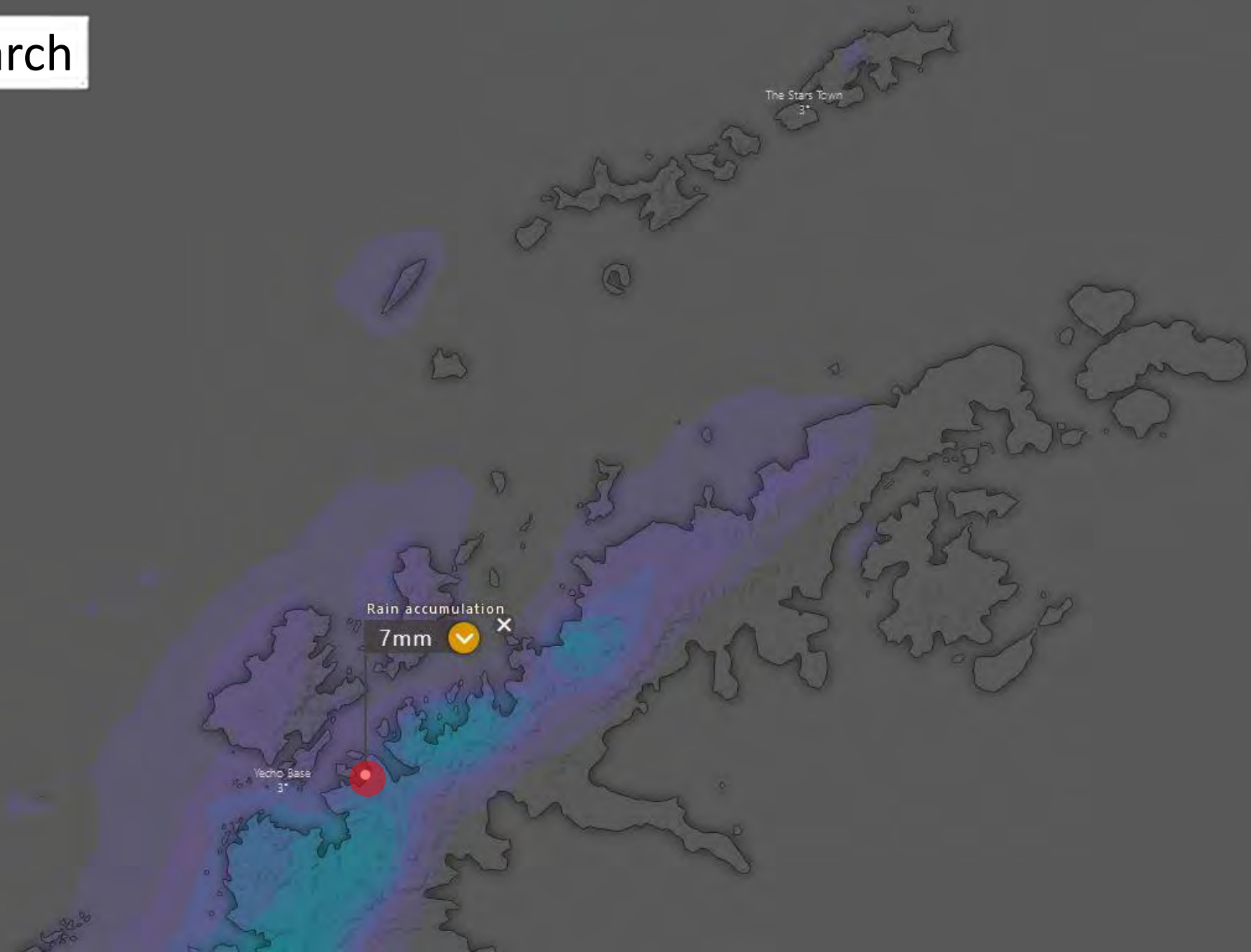


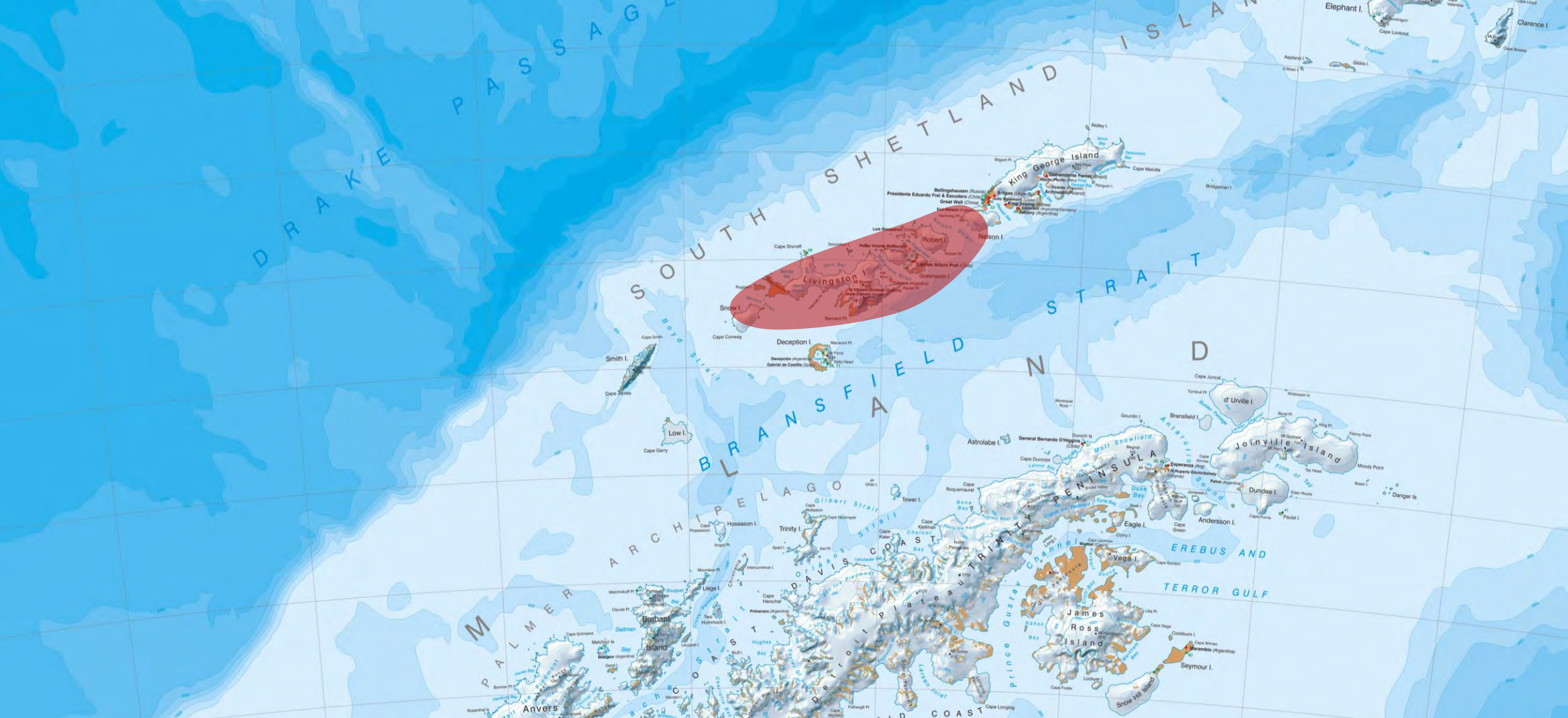
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20h 5th March



Rain 5-6th March





South Shetland Islands

Landing



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Half Moon Island

Half Moon and Greenwich Islands

Landing



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Half Moon Island

Greenwich Island

Half Moon and Greenwich Islands

Landing



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Half Moon Island

Greenwich Island

Drake Passage



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Daily Plans 6th March



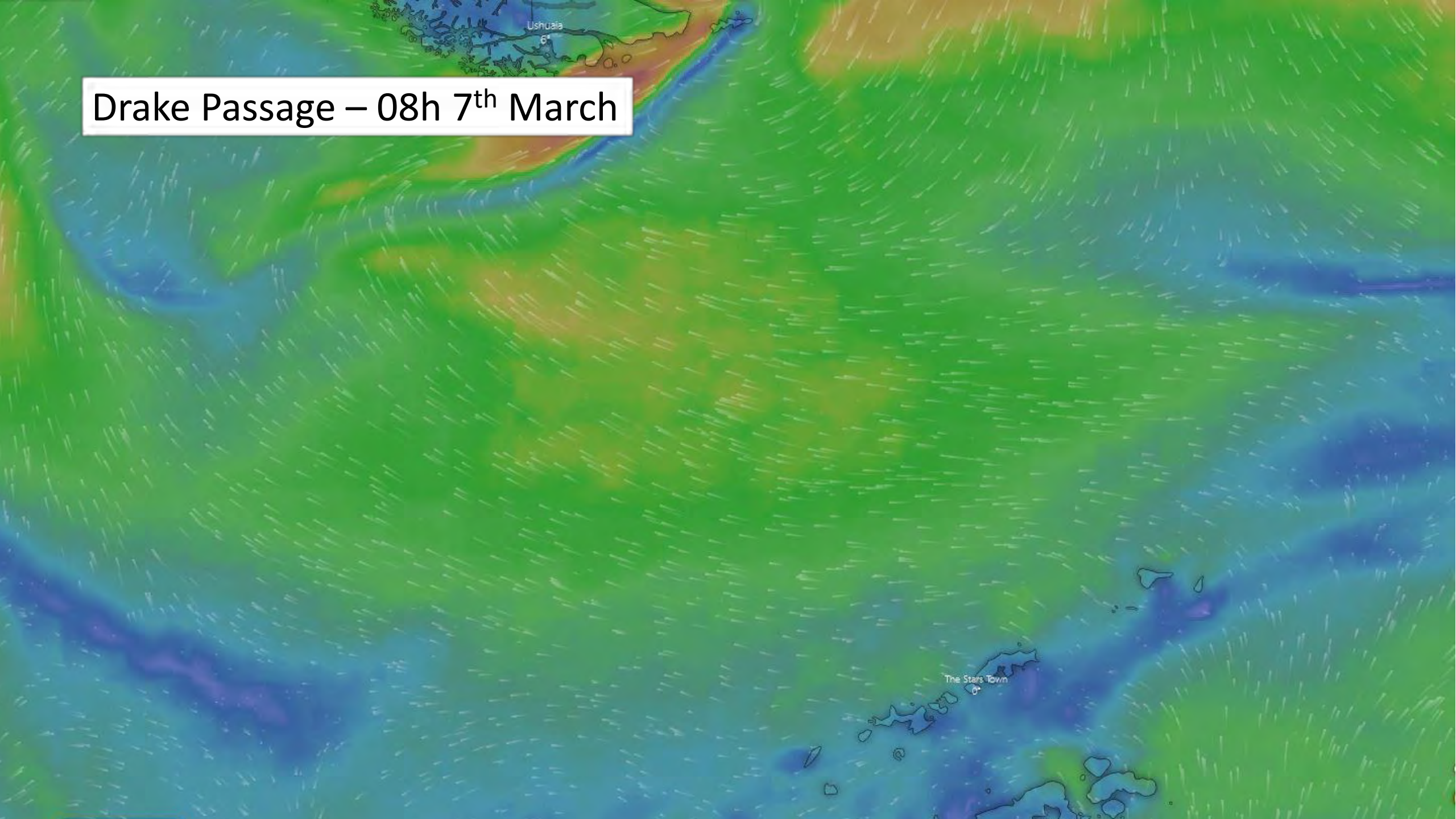
Half Moon Island

Greenwich Island

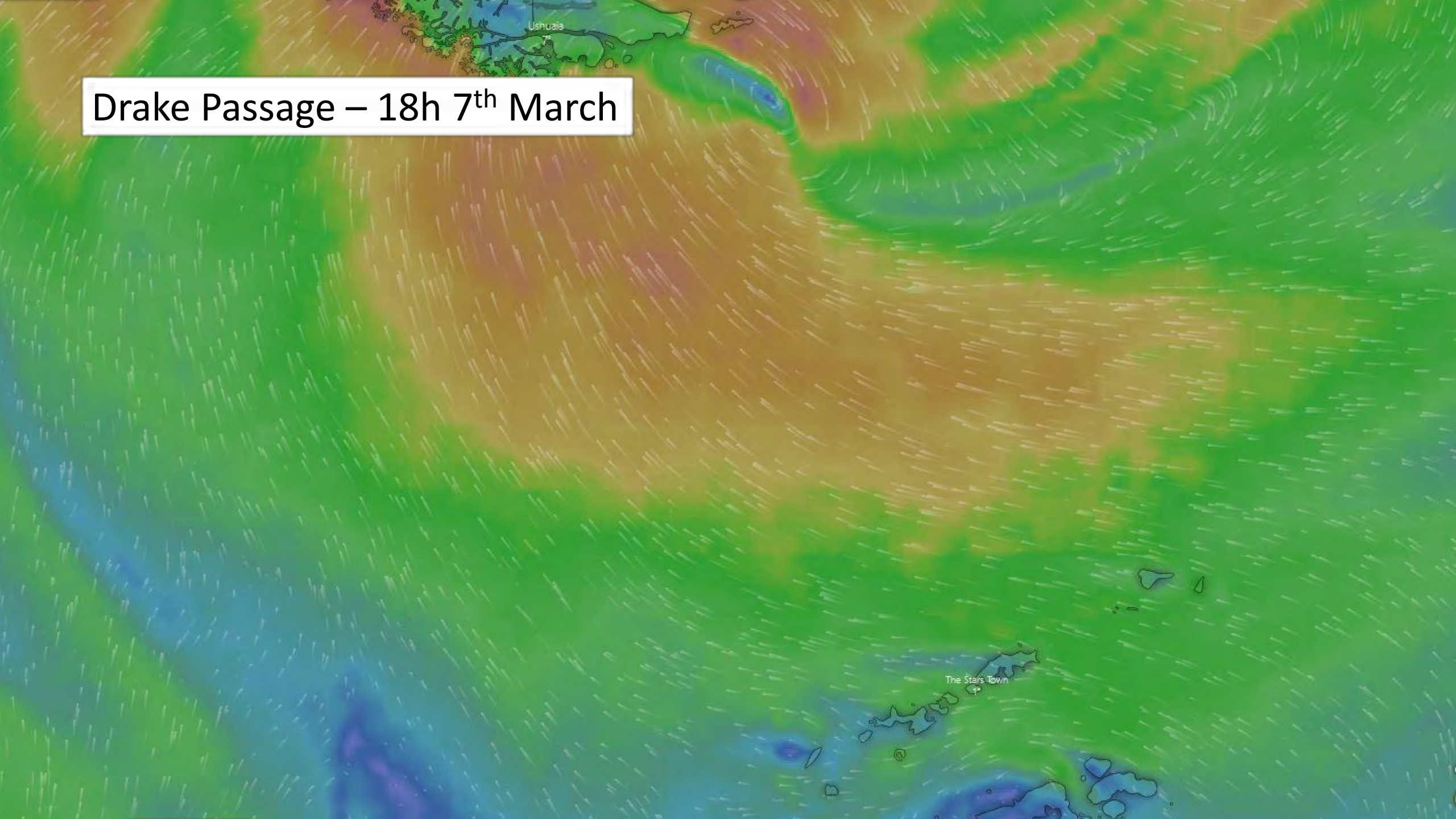
Half Moon Island and Yankee Harbour, Greenwich Island

Landing

Drake Passage – 08h 7th March



Drake Passage – 18h 7th March



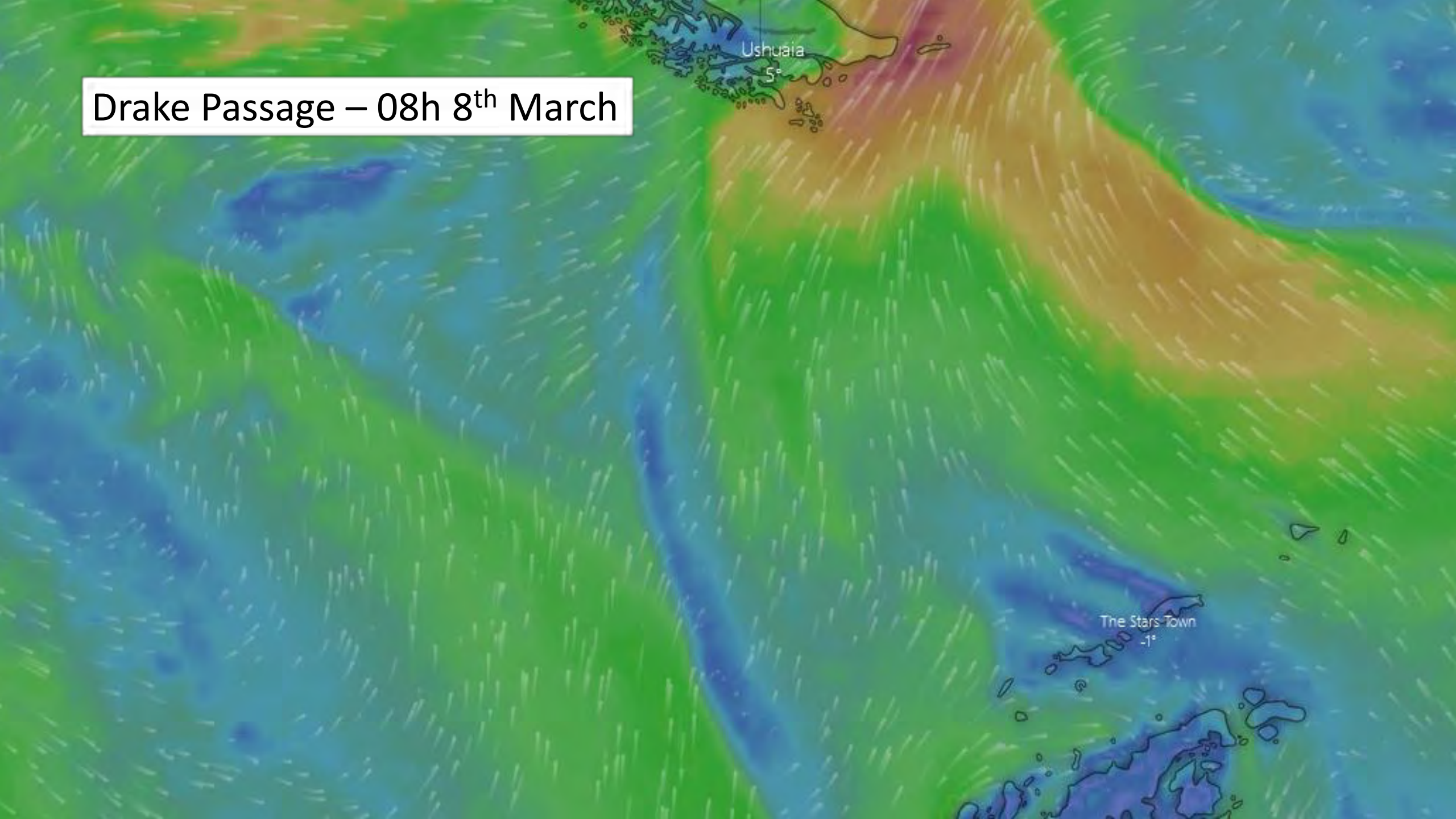


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EXPEDITIONS

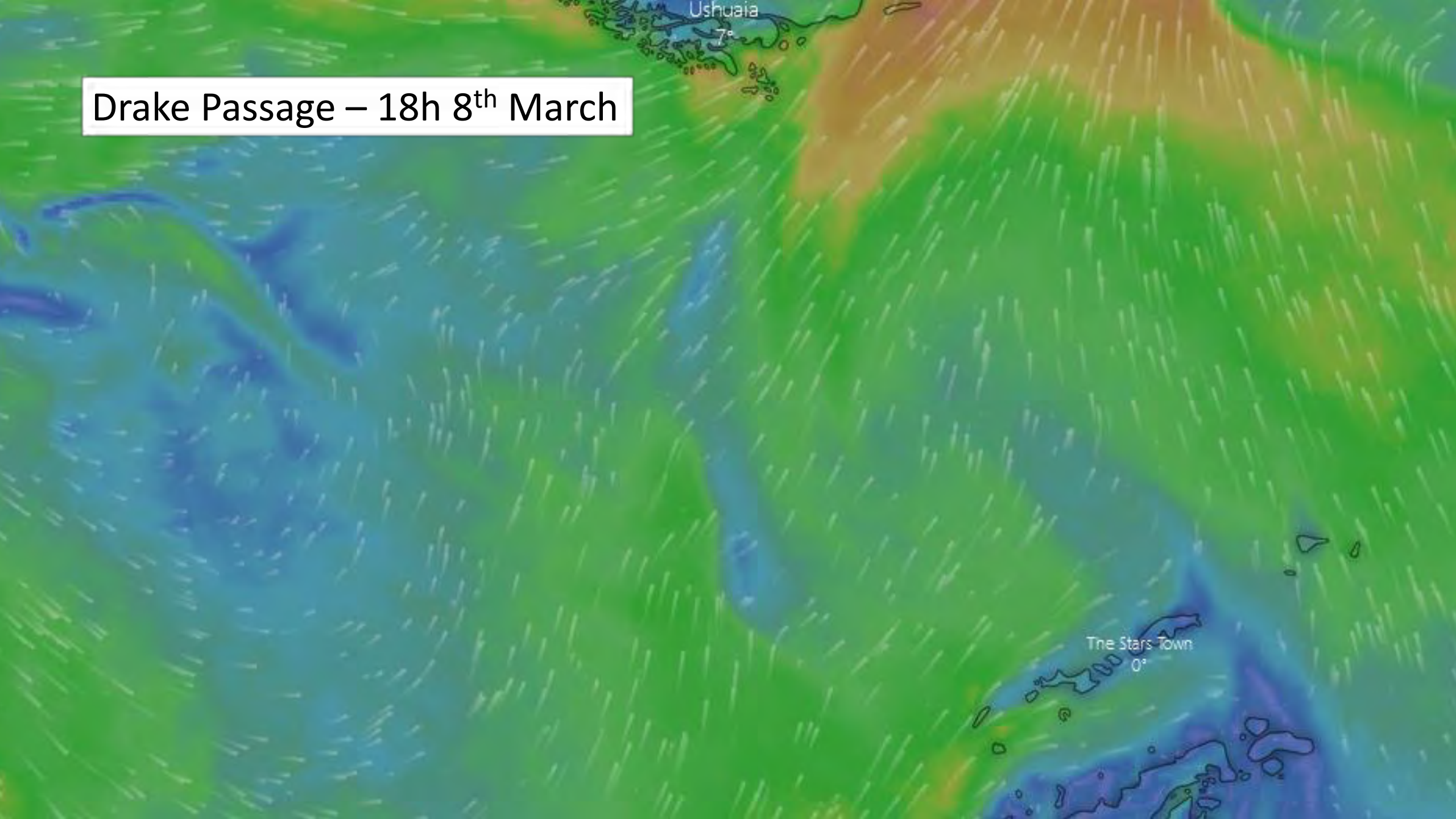
Daily Plans 7th March

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Drake Passage – 08h 8th March



Drake Passage – 18h 8th March



Iain Rudkin - Expedition Leader



A love for travel alongside a passion for mountains, wild places and photography has allowed Iain to fulfil many a childhood dream.

Equally at home in his native Scottish mountains as in the polar regions, Iain has been fortunate enough to be able to combine his enthusiasm for the wilderness with a real-life job - a privilege not lost on him!

This 'work' has led him to over winter three times in Antarctica, climb unclimbed peaks as well as getting covered head to toe in penguin guano...it's not all glamorous!

Pippa Low - Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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.

Felicity Johnson – Expedition Guide



I am a marine biologist, skipper and guide with a strong passion for marine mammal conservation. Working on the water for 6 years has allowed me to observe a wide variety of marine life in their natural environment.

During my master's in Marine Biology at University of Southampton, I gained certifications as a marine mammal observer, advanced diver and commercial skipper.

I have worked in the marine conservation and research field in Scotland, South Africa, New Zealand, and Canada.

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.

Dorette Kuipers - Photography Guide



As a director Dorette produces documentaries and as commissioning editor she's responsible for many programs (mainly art programs as the Dutch Antique Roadshow) at the Dutch Public Broadcasting company AVROTROS. Dorette used to be a teacher in audio-visual skills while nowadays she's more focusing on using smartphones to make photos and to film.

Dorette loves to be on the water (liquid or frozen;). In Holland she has two small boats; one for the canals of Amsterdam, one to sail with. All her sports are water related (rowing, swimming, sailing, skating and skiing). She prefers to travel in 'cold area's' and has visited both the Arctic and the Antarctic. Being again the photography guide on the Plancius means for her the ideal

combination of visiting her favorite landscape with supporting passengers in making visual stories of their 'once in a life time-trip'.



Mal Haskins

New Zealand

IFMGA / NZMGA

Mountain and Ski Guide



I've been calling the mountains and high ranges of the world my home now for the last 20 years. I really enjoying sharing my passion and enjoyment being outdoors with others so guiding was a natural progression for me. I work in various parts of the world in both summer and winter conditions taking people mountaineering and skiing and call Wanaka, New Zealand my home.

Over the years I've had a number of very memorable expeditions and have had the opportunity to summit a few of our 8000m Peaks, Lhotse (8516m) and Manaslu (8156m).

I had the chanceto come down to work and experience the Antarctic Peninsula a few years ago and have been coming down each season now for the past 3 years.

I find all mountain ranges around the world special but with Antarctica there is extra magic – the wildlife, amazing glaciers, weather and the people you meet on these journeys – it's an experience you can't match anywhere else in the world.

I'm looking forward to sharing my joy of the mountains with you in this special place.

Dave McKinley - Mountain Guide



Dave McKinley is an IFMGA Climbing and Ski Guide with 25 years of professional experience.

He lives in the small town of Twizel, just south of Aoraki/Mt Cook with his wife, 3 kids (when they're home) and 4 dogs and spends much of the year sharing adventures in the NZ Southern Alps with guests. Either mountaineering or Heliskiing/touring.

Dave has worked and climbed in NZ, Europe, Alaska, Nepal, Tibet and South America including ascents of Everest, Lhotse, Manaslu, Denali (which with his last name of McKinley originates his nickname of "Narly") and Aconcagua amongst many others.

He is passionate about sharing his experience and joy in exploring the more remote parts of our world with people and, having a previous life as a chef, he has a belief that guiding is a part of the "hospitality" industry at its heart.

Dave has also been involved in the Search and Rescue aspect of the outdoors environment, and in particular with the use and deployment of dogs in Avalanche and wilderness/Open Area searching.

Dave is a guide with a strong skill-set and an even stronger desire to enable and assist others to engage and learn from our natural and wild spaces.

Dave McKinley - Mountain Guide

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.

Rustyn Mesdag - Camping 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

Céline Clément – Camping guide



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, outdoor activities... and wine!

As student, she was part of a Sea Rescue Unit which gave her a good knowledge of navigation and first aid as well as a deep respect for the ocean.

Celine was then 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 around twenty 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 works for Oceanwide Expeditions since 2007.

When she is in France, she currently works as Scientific Mediator and teaches in high schools. She ensures the coordination and the carrying out of communication events in scientific culture and contributes to communicating the latest scientific discoveries in the polar world.



Basecamp Antarctica

Ushuaia

Thursday 27th February 2020

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** 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 **Iain Rudkin** 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 Nick 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.



Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp!

Friday 28th February 2020

0730 Wake up call.

0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3).

Basecamp Activity Briefings. This morning we will be running our basecamp activity briefings. If you plan on participating in Mountaineering, Kayaking and Camping, please ensure you come along to learn more about the activities and sign up process.

0930 Please join Mal and Dave in the Observation Lounge (Deck 5) for the Mountaineering briefing. If you have brought them, please bring your mountaineering boots along with you to be checked.

1100 Please join Alexis in the Observation Lounge for the Kayaking briefing.

1145 Please join Rustyn and Celine in the Observation Lounge for the Camping briefing.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3).

1400 **Basecamp Activities Sign up.** This afternoon we will call you to the Observation Lounge by letter group – please see group lists at Reception and outside the Lounge. This process will be explained further in the morning briefings. **Please listen out for announcements.**

If the weather conditions are good, we would like to give you your Rubber Boots this afternoon. We will call you by Deck so please listen for announcements. Bring a pair of socks with you!

1830 Please join Iain 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.



Basecamp Antarctica

Ushuaia

29th February 2020

- 0730 Wake up call.
- 0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room.
- 0930 **IAATO Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage. It will outline the guidelines regarding our expedition to Antarctica. **Please join us in the Lounge.**
- 1130 **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. **Please join us in the Lounge.**
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 This afternoon we will begin our 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.**
- Rubber Boots.** This afternoon we will give out your rubber boots from the boot room which is on Deck 3 forward. We will do this by deck so please listen for announcements. Please bring your socks!*
- 1830 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and explain plans for tomorrow. There may also be stories from staff.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
- 2100 Please join us in the Lounge for an evening talk.



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Basecamp Antarctica
Errera Channel & Danco Island
Sunday 1st March 2020

0730 Wake up call.

0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room.

This morning we will be Ship cruising through the Gerlache Strait and in to the Errera Channel. This will be your first glimpse of Antarctica and a fantastic opportunity to spot whales.

Kayakers for this afternoon please listen out for announcements to collect your gear.

1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.

1330 **Mountaineers** meet Mal and Dave near the Boot Room on the starboard side, dressed and ready to go.

1400 This afternoon we plan to land at **Danco Island**. This is a small island in the Errera Channel with spectacular views of the surrounding Antarctic scenery, and a nesting site for Gentoo Penguins. Please listen for announcements to make your way to the gangway.

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

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

2000 **Campers** please be ready to go ashore for your night of camping! But please listen for announcements before making your way to the gangway. Remember: You will collect your sleeping kits at the Boot Room and please remember to use the toilets onboard before leaving!



Basecamp Antarctica

Brown Station & Neko Harbour

Monday 2nd March 2020

- 0700 Wake up call.
- 0730 Breakfast Buffet is served in the Dining Room.
- 0830 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot room, on the starboard side, dressed and ready to go.
- 0900 This morning we plan to Zodiac Cruise and/or Land at **Brown Station** in **Paradise Bay**. The bay is filled with beautiful glaciers with the ever-present chance of seal and whale encounters, as well as incredible icebergs.
- 0900 **Kayakers** please meet Alexis in the lounge, dressed and ready to go.
- 1230 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot room, on the starboard side, dressed and ready to go.
- 1400 This afternoon we plan to land at **Neko Harbour**. This will be a **continental landing!** From the landing site we will offer a walk past the Gentoo penguin colonies and their penguin highways to reach a viewpoint over the glacier.
- 1400 **Kayakers** please meet Alexis in the lounge, dressed and ready to go.
- 1830 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our daily re-cap.
- 1900 Buffet Dinner in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
- 2015 **Campers** please be ready at the gangway to go ashore for your night of camping!



Basecamp Antarctica

Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Pleneau Island

Tuesday 3rd of March 2020

- 0700 Wake up call.
- 0730 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room.
- 0900 We will transit through the beautiful **Lemaire channel**, please join us on deck to enjoy the fantastic scenery.
- 1000 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot Room, starboard side, dressed and ready to go.
- 1030 This morning we plan to land at **Petermann Island**. This is home to a small Adelie Penguin colony with incredible views over to the peninsula.
- 1030 **Kayakers** please meet Alexis in the Lounge.
- 1300 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot Room, starboard side, dressed and ready to go.
- 1500 This afternoon we plan to Zodiac cruise around **Pleneau Island**. Here there is an 'Iceberg graveyard' with the chance of seal and whale encounters.
- 1500 **Kayakers** please meet Alexis in the Lounge.
- 1830 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our daily re-cap.
- 1900 Tonight will be a special Antarctic Dinner... You may have to dress warmly!
- 2015 **Campers** please be ready at the gangway to go ashore for your night of camping!



Basecamp Antarctica

Damoy Point & Expedition Afternoon

Wednesday 4th March 2020

- 0600 We will be transiting Northwards through the Lemaire channel.
- 0700 Wake up call.
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.
- 0900 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot room, starboard side. Dressed and ready to go.
- 0930 This morning, we hope to land at **Damoy Point** where there is a small British based that was closed in 1990's. If it is not too windy and we feel it is good conditions, we hope to give those who would like the offer of an Antarctic Swim. Please listen for announcements in the morning. If the Polar Plunge is possible, please wear your swimwear under your expedition clothing, and bring your sense of adventure!! We will provide the towels.
- 0930 **Kayakers** please meet Alexis in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

Expedition Afternoon

This afternoon we hope to offer an activity, dependent on conditions. We will keep you updated throughout the day.

- 1830 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap**.
- 1900 **Buffet Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.
- 2000 **Campers** please be ready at the gangway to go ashore for your night of camping!



Basecamp Antarctica

Foyn Harbour and Orne Islands

Thursday 5th March 2020

- 0715 Wake up call.
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.
- 0800 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot room, starboard side, dressed and ready to go.
- 0830 **Foyn Harbour.** This morning we plan to Zodiac cruise around the islands and visit a ship wreck call the Governoren. There is also the chance of encounters with Humpback whales, Seals and Penguins.
- 0830 **Kayakers (1st group)** please meet Alexis at the gangway, dressed and ready to go.
- 1000 **Kayakers (2nd group)** please meet Alexis at the gangway, dressed and ready to go.
- 1230 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Mountaineers** please meet Mal and Dave near the Boot room, starboard side, dressed and ready to go.
- 1430 **Orne Islands.** This afternoon we plan to land at Orne Islands. Here there is a Chinstrap Penguin colony, and beautiful views of the Gerlache Strait.
- 1830 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our **Daily re-cap.**
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room.
- 2000 **Campers** please be ready at the gangway to go ashore for your night of camping!



Basecamp Antarctica

Half Moon Island & Greenwich Island

Friday 6th March 2020

0700 **Wake up call.**

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.

0900 **Half Moon Island.** This morning we plan to land at Half Moon Island, a small crescent shaped island in the South Shetland Islands, with a Chinstrap Penguin colony and the chance to have a longer walk before heading into the drake!

1230 **Buffet Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1400 **Greenwich Island.** This afternoon we plan to land on Greenwich Island where we hope to see some Fur and Elephant Seals, as well as some interesting geological and glacial landscape.

After we are all back on board, we will start to sail into the Drake Passage. Please secure your cabins and valuables.

If you would like seasick medication then meet Dr Nelleke in the Lounge, please listen for announcements.

1830 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our **daily re-cap.**

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

2030 **Please join Dorette and the Expedition team in the Lounge for a look back at our adventures this week...**



Basecamp Antarctica

Drake Passage

Saturday 7th March 2020

- 0730 Wake up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.
- 0930 Please join Tom in the Lounge for her lecture on the **Geological and Climatological History of Antarctica**.
- 1100 Please join Pippa in the Lounge for his lecture on the **History of Antarctic Whaling**.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 Please join Steffi in the Lounge for her lecture on **Weather Extreme – How animals adapt to the Polar regions**.
- 1630 Please join Iain in the Lounge for his talk on **Overwintering in Antarctica**.
- 1815 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our **daily re-cap**.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served! Bon appétit.
- 2030 **Antarctic Quiz**. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a fun evening of Antarctic Trivia.



Basecamp Antarctica

Drake Passage

Sunday 8th March 2020

- 0730 Wake up call.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.
- 0930 Please join Iain & Rustyn in the Lounge for two short talks on **Science in Antarctica** and the **Evolution of Equipment**.
- 1100 Please join Felicity in the Lounge for her lecture on **Licence to Krill – Threats to Antarctic Marine Life**.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 This afternoon we will **collect your Rubber Boots** and any rental gear. Please ensure your boots are clean when you return them. We will call you by deck, please listen for announcements.
- 1430 Please join Mal in the Lounge for his lecture on **Climate Change – Anthropogenic Challenges and Opportunities**.
- 1600 Please join Alexis in the Lounge for his lecture on **The life of Yamanas, the canoe Indigenes of Tierra del Fuego**.
- 1800 Please join Iain and the Expedition team in the Lounge for our **final recap and farewell toast** to our voyage with Captain Artur.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served! Bon appétit.



Basecamp Antarctica

Ushuaia

Monday 9th March 2020

0700 Your final Wake up call.

As you leave for breakfast please place your large **check-in luggage** outside your cabin door and return your key rings and card holders to Reception. 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.

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

Your luggage will be moved from the Ship to the pier. Please ensure you collect it from the pier prior to leaving!

~0830 All passengers leave the ship. Please make sure you have all your belongings

- If you are catching 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. Travel safe.