

# **Bluff, New Zealand to Ushuaia, Argentina – Ross Sea with Helicopters**

**New Zealand – Campbell Island - Ross Sea - Amundsen Sea -  
Bellingshausen Sea - Peter I Island - Antarctic Peninsula - Argentina**

**16th February – 18th March 2020**

**On board the  
M/V Ortelius**



M/V *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was reflagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 125-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17,6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 13 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW

**Bridge Crew:**

Captain: Ernesto Barría (Chile)  
Chief Mate: Diederik Scholten (Netherlands)  
Second/Helicopter Mate: Andy Mangilit (Philippines)  
Third Mate: Luis Oroceo (Philippines)  
Third Mate: Laura Iacobenco (Romania)

**Expedition Team:**

Expedition Leader: Rolf Stange (Germany)  
Assistant Expedition Leader: Claudia Holgate (South Africa)  
Guide & Lecturer: Simon Cook (Great Britain)  
Guide & Lecturer: Shaun Norman (New Zealand)  
Guide & Lecturer: Gary Miller (Australia)  
Guide & Lecturer: Victoria Salem (Great Britain)  
Guide & Lecturer: Valentin Nivet Mazerolles (France)  
Guide & Lecturer: Mark Vogler (United States)  
Permit Holder: Darrel Day (Australia)  
Physician: Lise Van Turenhout (Netherlands)  
Observer: Phil Tisch (New Zealand)

**Hotel Staff:**

Hotel Manager: Michael Frauendorfer (Austria)  
Assistant Hotel Manager: Carlos Fernandez (Mexico)  
Head Chef: Heinz Hacker (Austria)  
Sous Chef: Ivan Ivanovic (Serbia)  
Cook: Pio Arevalo (Philippines)  
Cook: Franz Manreal (Philippines)  
Cook: Ferdie Santos (Philippines)  
Stewards: Perdana, Jervin, Marvin, Rey, Anecita, Lemuel, Marie Antonette, Ian, Glaiza, Jake, Angelica and Judy

**Deck Crew:**

Bosun: Neil Apawan (Philippines)  
Jay-Ar, Jabbar, Jaylor, Joe, Philip, Edfel, Mark, Dave

**Helicopter Crew:**

Chief Helicopter Pilot: Marcelo Yáñez (Chile)  
Helicopter Pilot: Felipe Bravo (Chile)  
Helicopter Pilot: Marcelo Lira (Chile)  
Helicopter Engineers: Mario Solano, Marcos Henriquez, Luis Aguilera (Chile)

**Engine Room Crew:**

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

## Day 1 – Sunday February 16 - Bluff, New Zealand.

**GPS noon position:** 46°35'S / 168°20'E

**Air temperature & wind speed:** +15°C, Various 1

**Weather conditions:** Overcast

**Barometric pressure:** 1000

**Sea condition:** In Harbour

From 1.30 pm the lobby of the Kelvin Hotel in Invercargill was packed with pre-embarking *Ortelius* passengers! Assistant Hotel Manager Carlos was busy checking off names; Dr. Lise was collecting medical questionnaires; Staff members Victoria, Simon and Mark were bustling around chalking Cabin Numbers on luggage. And indeed, despite the crowd, the operation went so smoothly that we were early boarding our buses. For the record – this is very unusual.

And so we took a scenic route to Bluff, allowing us a last opportunity to enjoy the mainland New Zealand scenery. Wind speeds at the port were somewhat stronger than they had been in town and we held on to our hats with difficulty as we stepped from the buses onto *Ortelius*' gangway, making our way to Deck 4 reception in order to check in. This will be our home for the next month.



Hotel Manager Michael greeted us warmly, handed us our cabin keys and then we were shown to our cabins by hotel staff and were able to spend the next hour unpacking and getting to know the ship layout. Finding the Bar and the all-important coffee/tea station was a significant moment.

With everyone safely embarked and all luggage on board, it was time for the mandatory Safety Briefing in the Lecture Room on Deck 3. Expedition Leader Rolf welcomed us on board, followed by Andy (3<sup>rd</sup> Officer) & Clouds (Assistant Expedition Leader) showing a film

which covered various safety aspects of living on *Ortelius*; Michael gave us a ‘virtual’ tour of the ship; Dr. Lise recommended we meet her to supply ourselves with seasickness medication – and then seven short blasts and one long blast on the ship’s horn signaled the start of the lifeboat drill.

We like to do this drill before we sail, so that everyone knows what to do in an emergency. First we returned to our cabins to fetch warm clothes and our bright orange SOLAS life jackets. Then we mustered in the Bar and answered to a roll-call of names. Finally, we were led out to our respective lifeboat-boarding areas on Deck 7, where we lined up. A lifeboat was open, so that we could have a peek inside – cosy!



We set sail towards the end of this drill, at first escorted by tugboat, heading out into challenging wind conditions and heavy seas – all part of the adventure. Watching the New Zealand pilot leave *Ortelius* after guiding us out of harbour was extremely exciting, as was the severe rolling of his vessel

(much worse than ours!). We now had some more free time to settle in, begin to feel at home and start developing our sea legs.

At 7 pm most of us gathered in the Bar to meet Captain Ernesto Barria and toast our Antarctic voyage. Sparkling wine and canapés were consumed (mainly - not too many ended up on the floor considering) and we met the ship’s Expedition Staff - who will be driving our





zodiacs, lecturing us on all aspects of Antarctica and accompanying us on land visits.



Dinner was at 7.30 pm prompt and although the dining room was not quite full to capacity, those who came into dinner

certainly enjoyed the culinary experience and also getting to know fellow-passengers. Most people decided on an early night after this, since all of us have had a long journey from home to Bluff. Having ‘Southern Ocean-proofed’ our cabins wherever possible (including the ABs closing the shutters over Deck 3 portholes), we headed for bed and a night of surprisingly rhythmic and even pleasant rocking and rolling – we certainly know we are at sea.



## Day 2 – Monday February 17 – At sea towards Auckland Islands.

GPS noon position: 49°14'S / 167°04'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +11°C, SE8

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 1011

Sea condition: Heavy swell, very rough



Sea conditions were rough when we woke up to our first morning on board *Ortelius*. Whilst this can be expected in the Southern Ocean, it meant that some passengers did not join us for meals very much today! Those capable of getting around were very careful always to save one hand (or even both) for the ship, especially when manoeuvring through doorways (watch those fingers in the door jamb!) and up and down stairways.

In order to accommodate somewhat uncomfortable seas, mandatory briefings were postponed until the afternoon and instead

Simon kicked off our lecture programme with *An Introduction to New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic Islands*. His talk focused on the birds we would find around Auckland and Campbell Islands, covering the larger sea birds (such as albatross and Giant petrels), rare penguin species (such as crested and Yellow-eyed penguins) and also land birds (such as pipits, teal and snipe).



By lunchtime the Bar was still mostly empty and there was certainly not a queue at the buffet, though those of us feeling up to it certainly did the food justice. For most it was siesta time after this, with *Ortelius* still rocking and rolling significantly. It was also a good moment to stand on the Bridge (all decks were closed, so windy was it!) or Bridge wing and take photos of the waves crashing onto our bow, as by 3 pm the height of the waves was steadily diminishing. Expedition Leader Rolf therefore decided to summon us

for the mandatory IAATO and Zodiac briefings in the Deck 3 Lecture Room at 3.30 pm. This information is essential for safe and legal operations everywhere on this voyage - from the New Zealand sub-Antarctic Islands to the depths of Antarctica itself.

During the next 45 minutes or so we learned how to keep these regions pristine and avoid disturbing the wildlife; as the same rules apply to the New Zealand sub-Antarctic environment as to Antarctica, so IAATO (International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators) regulations cover both areas. Equally important was a session on how to dress for polar conditions and keep safe and dry in zodiacs, whether when shuttling to shore or when cruising the coastline looking for wildlife.

And then the truly thrilling part of the afternoon was upon us: time for a Vacuum Party in the Bar! We all brought up our outdoor clothes to check them for any imported seeds or dirt and expedition staff helped us vacuum any 'old' gear – with a special focus on pockets, Velcro, pants cuffs, etc.

Having signed the biosecurity declaration forms, we descended to Deck 3 to pick up our rubber boots and zodiac life jackets. Now we are all set for the landing/zodiac adventures to begin tomorrow morning.



Dinner followed at 7 pm and we were in more sheltered waters by then, with outside decks reopened and Enderby Island lying just off the ship. Most people had an appetite by this stage and we enjoyed our venison or fish to the full, very appreciative of having reached a safe harbour after our day of rolling around.



The Bar was quiet after dinner – some of us were still suffering from jet lag, so an early night was again in order. We have activities coming up starting at 8.30 am tomorrow according to Rolf's briefing, so retiring to bed to be ready for zodiac boarding straight after breakfast was a priority. Sleep well!

## Day 3 – Tuesday February 18 – Auckland Islands, New Zealand.

GPS noon position: 50°32'S / 166°13'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +12°C, E2

Weather conditions: Drizzle

Barometric pressure: 1007

Sea condition: No swell, smooth



We awoke at 6.45 am today to Rolf's gentle tones, letting us know that it was time to get up and take a look outside at Enderby Island. There was still a fair amount of swell as we made our way to breakfast, but it wasn't cold outside. At 7.45 am a zodiac was lowered into the water and staff zoomed off towards shore in Sandy Bay to have a look at surf conditions on the beach. Unfortunately what we'd seen through binoculars on the Bridge was confirmed – too much swell for a landing on this relatively

exposed coast. However we soon moved on to Plan B, which was to reposition the ship within Port Ross and take a zodiac cruise from there.

Plan B worked just fine! 10 zodiacs were lowered as passengers headed for their cabins to put on waterproofs and life-jackets. Both gangways were used for loading, so it didn't take long for everyone to swipe their cards to 'off the ship' and we were on our way. The sea was smooth and we started off in fine weather, shading to drizzle and rain towards the end of our cruise (of about one hour and three-quarters), but there was almost zero wind or swell here – quite a difference from earlier today.





Zodiacs and their drivers took different routes round the island; whichever route we went, we all enjoyed seeing the red-flowering rata forests and densely-growing mega-herbs



scattered between tussock clumps. A number of New Zealand sea lions played around our zodiacs with amazing agility and the occasional Fur seal could be spotted – contemplatively scratching on the rocky beaches.

The most commonly spotted seabirds were Auckland Island shags perched on cliff faces above the ocean, and not at all disturbed by our approaching zodiacs – in fact they posed nicely for photos. There were Kelp gulls too, patrolling the beach, and some White-

fronted terns perched on boulders, preening. Close in to shore we could see and hear the land birds singing their hearts out – pipits and parakeets flitting through the trees, occasionally pausing on an outlying twig for a look out to sea.

Highlights for two or three lucky zodiacs were a fluffy Light-mantled sooty albatross chick on a nest right at the edge of the island; and a little further on, just emerged from ‘a forest fit for goblins’, a solitary Yellow-eyed penguin was standing sentinel, solemnly observing the scene before turning to waddle calmly back beneath the tree branches.



All too soon (despite the rain) it was time to return to *Ortelius* for our Moroccan chicken lunch with French fries. For some reason, sitting in zodiacs and

clicking camera shutters is hungry work! Fortified by our buffet lunch we took a hot drink and then headed back out on deck to watch as our ship sailed

southward along the east coast of Auckland Island, seeking the shelter of Carnley Harbour for more up-close sight-seeing. Soon we entered fog and for a while could no longer see land. It was definitely time for a siesta after an exciting morning!

Around 4 pm Rolf's voice over the PA system announced that we had emerged into clearer conditions and were now entering Carnley Harbour; Captain Ernesto intended to ship cruise right to the end (taking just over an hour) and we were encouraged to come out on deck to admire Auckland Island in all its glory. Rocky cliffs and bluffs, tumbling slopes of greenery, cascading waterfalls, creatures flying and swimming and pulled out on beaches...Armed with a camera and binoculars, out on deck was the right place to be standing!

To our joy, Rolf decided to launch zodiacs again when we reached the Western Arm of the harbour, and we all took off for our second zodiac cruise of the day. Once again, 10 zodiacs set off in different directions to explore and when we came back were able to report a range of quality sightings, all of them different.

It is difficult to pick out the highlights of the cruise, but they included: sea lions – swimming and climbing tussocked slopes; albatross flying and nesting on higher ground – many exhibiting pair-bonding rituals; Auckland Island shags everywhere; pipits and parakeets in twittery flight from tree to tree or along the rocky shoreline; an amazing cavern in Victoria Passage. The list goes on and on...

We got back just in time for dinner, which was far more lively an occasion than last night's. We have tomorrow morning at sea and so Rolf postponed our regular 'Recap & Briefing' session so that we could share drinks at the Bar and talk over our day before recharging camera batteries (with electricity) and bodies (with sleep) for our arrival at Campbell Island late morning tomorrow.



## Day 4 – Wednesday February 19 – Campbell Island, New Zealand.

GPS noon position: 52°32'S / 169°10'E

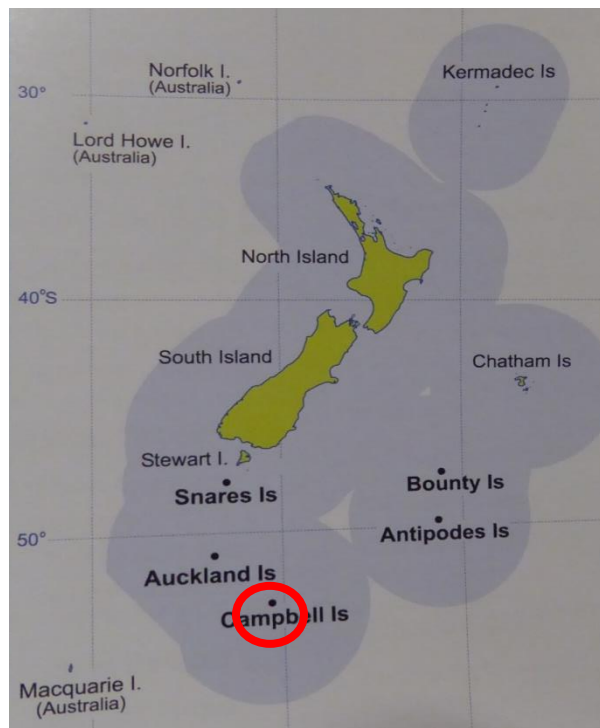
Air temperature & wind speed: +12°C, W3

Weather conditions: Mist

Barometric pressure: 996

Sea condition: No swell, smooth

Today started as every day will for the next month; I'm sure everyone will get used to Rolf waking us each morning with basic information on the day. Because we had left Auckland Island a bit later than expected, we were going to be still on our way to Campbell Island throughout the morning. This allowed for a Recap & Briefing after breakfast, to hear a bit about Yellow-eyed penguins from Valentin, a short review of our day at Auckland Island from Simon and a history lesson on Campbell Island from Victoria. Rolf finished off this busy Recap by briefing us with details on Campbell Island and our specific plans there.



Soon after the briefing, word came from the Bridge that we could see the island and were closing fast. Quickly we turned into Perseverance Harbour on the south end of Campbell Island. Immediately, conditions calmed and we cruised along the deep green of the Tussock grass and Rata forest fringe around the water line. In one direction a porpoising penguin, in another New Zealand Sea lions playing, and in the distance Beeman Cove, our appointed landing site. But first, a pasta lunch...





Shortly after lunch, the staff went ashore with the safety gear and our friendly neighbourhood Department of Conservation representative, Phil.

Everyone shuttled to shore over the next 45 minutes to start a fantastic walk up the boardwalk. On shore we were met with sandflies - the last annoying insects we'll see until we get to Ushuaia. Phil led the walk up the hill and into the mist. It never quite rained on us on the mountain, but the mist descended heavily a few times so we all ended up drenched. Despite this, in the end it was a fantastic outing. As soon



as we had left shore level, the sandflies disappeared and we continued on, relentlessly climbing up the sometimes precariously narrow boardwalk.



For the first 15 minutes we seemed to burrow our way through the grass trees (*Dracophyllum longifolium*), caprosma and hebe plants. Keen spotters also noted many tiny fungi and a few gentians close to the ground beside the boardwalk. Soon we emerged from the tall vegetation and onto the more open slopes dotted

with tussocks and megaherbs. Still mist clouded our distant views as we concentrated on where to put our feet and on the vegetation immediately around us.

Suddenly, as we came over a small rise, there sat, still and regal, a beautiful Southern



Royal albatross. We eventually determined that he or she had a tiny chick in the nest, but albatrosses are the zen masters of sitting quietly. In nearly three hours, our first albatross only stirred four or five times to rearrange its position. But even sitting still on the nest, it



was close and magnificent. Walking on, we saw another four or five birds also sitting on nests at various distances from the track.

Many passengers turned around at the ridge where the old boardwalk ended in a small square platform. Those who carried on to the top had a newer and slightly wider boardwalk to tread. Next to the boardwalk at one point we could see the

remains of a nearly-fledged chick, the skull and even an entire wing skeleton of which were visible beside an eroded old nest mound. Near the top, there was an exquisite field of daisies on the Macquarie Island cabbage, *Stilbocarpa polaris*. At the overlook, alas, there was nothing but cloud to see, but as we descended, a few of us managed to spot the very rare and endemic Campbell Island snipe. What an exciting addition to the trek!



Those folk who left the heights the latest were treated to considerable clearing of the view as we walked back down the boardwalk. As the mist dissolved, we could see Tucker Cove and eventually the main part of Perseverance Harbour and our good ship *Ortelius*. Even better, we could see more than a dozen nesting albatross with another dozen flying close overhead. It was a fantastic finish to the afternoon, and we were all back on board just in time for another delicious dinner; then we had some spare time for ourselves in the evening after a tremendous day.

## Day 5 – Thursday February 20 – At sea towards Balleny Islands.

GPS noon position: 55°21'S / 167°42'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +9°C, SW4

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 1002

Sea condition: Low swell, slight

This morning we woke up in the open ocean. Campbell Island was far behind us already and we still have several days to go to reach the Antarctic Circle and a possible stop and zodiac cruise at the remote Balleny Islands - weather conditions permitting - once we arrive.

There were gentle winds and a bit of swell, but we were still making decent speeds all day, without the ship pitching or rolling too much. Seabirds love these windy conditions. The whole day there was a constant stream of different tubenoses around the ship: Shy, Campbell, Southern Royal, Light-mantled and Black-browed albatrosses were seen, plus a great variety of petrels - Cape, White-chinned, Soft-plumaged, Grey-backed and Subtropical Diving. We even spotted an occasional prion!



In the morning, Gary presented his lecture on *Seals and Sea lions of the world*.

After a delicious buffet lunch, Victoria presented *Ernest Shackleton and the Nimrod Expedition at Cape Royds*, the famous British explorer's first expedition to Antarctica as leader

and his failed attempt to reach the South Pole. This was followed by Valentin shedding some light on the wonderful world of penguins with *What do we really know about Penguins?*

Before dinner we converged in the Bar for our daily Recap & Briefing, at which Rolf delivered the bad news that McMurdo Base has shut its doors to any outside visitors over fears of the Coronavirus. Disappointing indeed, but there is hope that New Zealand's Scott Base around the corner will offer us a visit.

Then the expedition staff presented several different Recap stories, kicking off with Gary on our visit to Campbell Island, followed by an overview of mega-herbs from our New Zealand Department of Conservation



representative, Phil. The Campbell Island snipe by Val and Mark's presentation on "weed" - seaweed and kelp that is - followed.



The recap ended with Clouds sharing some photos she took of two adorable rain-soaked silvereyes, huddling together on a tree branch near the landing site.



## Day 6 – Friday February 21 - At sea towards Balleny Islands.

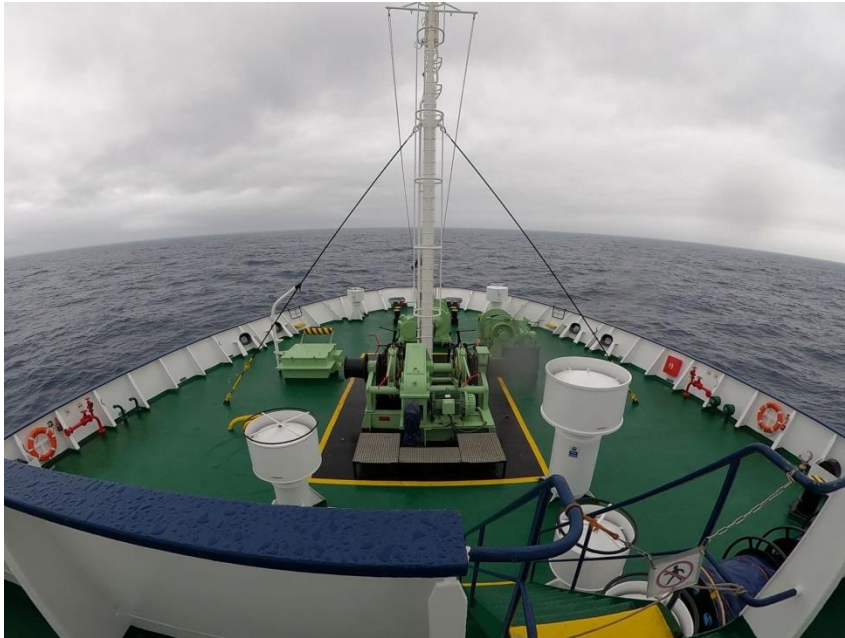
GPS noon position: 59°45'S / 166°48'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +8°C, NNW3/4

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 985

Sea condition: Low swell, slight

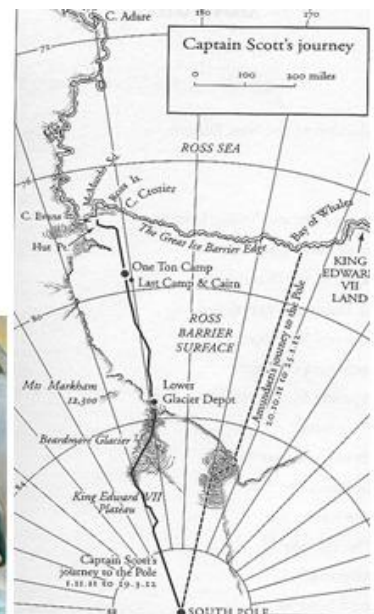


Another day at sea, but still a relatively calm day of travel, which has got us much closer to our goals. In fact it was a big day today. First, we crossed over the Antarctic Convergence and saw the sea surface temperature drop from a balmy 9° C that we have had since the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic islands, to a bit cooler at 4° C. It means we have moved into the biological province of Antarctic waters, which is also an area of great

productivity. A bit later in the day, we crossed south of the 60° south latitude—the political boundary of Antarctica. This boundary was chosen so that it encompasses most of the waters south of the convergence, but not much outside of that. So we entered Antarctica both politically and biologically today – we're truly there!

First thing this morning in our ongoing lecture series, Victoria related to us the history of Robert Falcon Scott in Antarctica (*Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler?*). There was a bit about his early history, but then a lot more about the *Discovery* Expedition and his fateful *Terra Nova* Expedition. There was lots of food for

### Captain Robert Falcon Scott – HERO? Or BUNGLER?





thought about the men on the expedition and their various personality traits. Interestingly, Victoria pointed out many instances where different men wrote differing opinions in their diaries about Scott and his decisions. But the outcome remains the same after every telling. Scott and four others died on their return from the South Pole, after discovering that Amundsen had preceded them there.

Our wildlife watch during the day was not as fruitful as we may have hoped, but we still had several White-headed petrels (with a few albatrosses too among others) and at least two sightings of Pilot whales. Just before lunch, the expedition team erected our emergency tent on the heli-deck, to check that it was in good condition and that everyone knew how to set it up. That's a good sign that we are getting closer to big operations in the next few days.

After lunch, Simon told us about the albatrosses of the world, paying special attention to the ones we are seeing in the Southern Ocean now. And a little later we had our first talk from Clouds, to give everyone some general tips on photography. So there was plenty to keep everyone busy and entertained.



Our Recap & Briefing today started with Simon telling a tale, but also announcing that at least five dead penguins floated by this afternoon – which was surprising news. Then Phil showed us a video about New Zealand's plan to remove the pigs, cats, and rats from Auckland Island and their even more ambitious plan to remove most of the pests from mainland New Zealand by 2050. Gary explained the Antarctic Convergence - that place where the north-running cold Antarctic surface waters collide with the south-running Sub-Antarctic surface waters. They fold down against each other at their 'convergence', to return to where they came from as mid-water currents. Because there is so little mixing of the two bodies of water, Antarctica is very isolated from the rest of the world's oceans. It's one reason Antarctica is as cold as it is.

Rolf finished up with his usual briefing about our voyage. We have now passed the 1000 nautical mile mark on our trip so far, and we expect to get to the Balleny Islands on Sunday morning. We're making good time and to celebrate our crossing into Antarctica, Michael called a Happy Hour in the Bar during recap. To top off the day, just as we were being summoned to dinner, the call went out—'iceberg'! Our first of this voyage! We really are nearly there.

## Day 7 – Saturday February 22 – At sea towards Balleny Islands.

GPS noon position: 64°14'S / 166°16'E

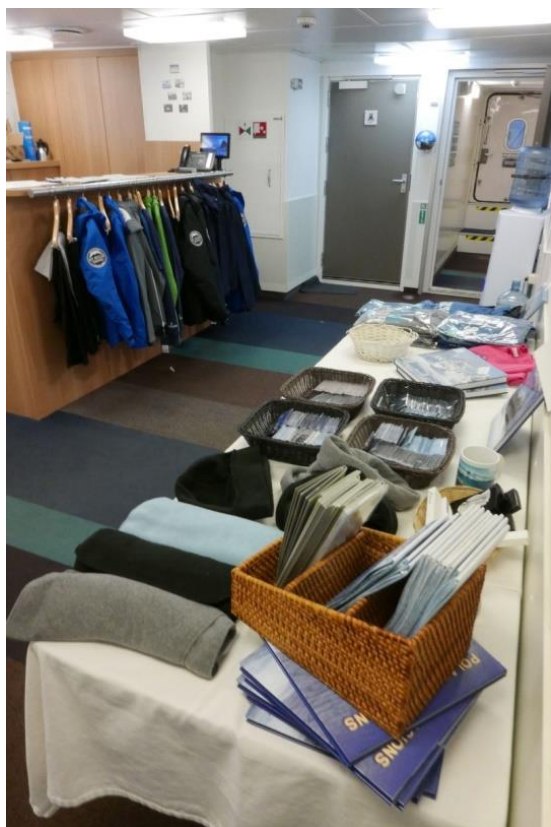
Air temperature & wind speed: +3°C, NW4

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 976

Sea condition: Low swell, slight

Sea conditions were sufficiently stable when we awoke this morning at 7.45 am for those of us living on Deck 3 to experience a whole day on the Southern Ocean with full daylight instead of closed shutters! An overcast day improved generally as it progressed, despite Rolf's threats of a falling barometer in the morning.



There was a small flurry of excitement at 10 am when Hotel Manager Michael announced the grand opening of the *Ortelius* shop in reception. A number of Antarctic-themed items are on offer in our floating hotel and when we fancy treating ourselves to a postcard, patch, sweatshirt, book, etc. there is a list on which to record the purchase. The day of reckoning is still nearly four weeks away!

After this gentle start, we gathered in the Lecture Room at 10.30 am to hear Victoria's talk on *The First Antarctic Winter – at Cape Adare (Borchgrevink, 1898 – 1900)*. Unusually for this particularly well-informed group of passengers, Carsten Borchgrevink was not well-known to most.

He built the very first hut on the Antarctic Continent and was the first to spend a winter here; as we hope to approach his Cape Adare base in a few days' time, the moment seemed right to learn more about his 'British Antarctic Expedition' (funded by a British newspaper magnate, but consisting mainly of Norwegians). This expedition succeeded in its mission to prove that it WAS possible to survive a whole year in Antarctica, and also did some good basic science; but "*In many respects, Borchgrevink was not a good leader*", as scientist Bernacchi wrote





in his diary in a number of different ways! Still, he paved the way for future Antarctic exploration and can be said to have kick-started the race to the South Pole...

Conveniently, just as Victoria was dealing with a few questions at the end of her lecture, *Ortelius* passed a fair-sized, interestingly-weathered iceberg (around 11.40 am). So we must be going in the right direction!

The next eagerly-awaited event was of course lunch; at 12.30 pm we again heard Michael's dulcet tones and hastened to the buffet for our veal, herb roesti and green beans. Not having to cook or wash the dishes allows us to gain maximum pleasure from each meal.

After a short siesta we gathered in the Lecture Room again to hear Shaun talk about his weeks at Cape Adare back in the mid-1970s. At the end of his season as Assistant Base Commander at Scott Base, he enjoyed the

enviable experience of camping here and helping to repair the Borchgrevink Hut, which was not then in very good condition and seemed to have had artefacts plundered over the decades. Even more exciting, he got to climb the bluff and repair Hanson's grave, whilst admiring stunning views of the beach and ice below. As this is an Antarctic Specially Protected Area now, few other people have enjoyed this privilege and it was great to hear his tales and see his photos.

Another case of convenient timing was the 4 pm call from Simon on the Bridge to head



out on deck with binoculars and camera to admire some Humpback whales in front of the ship. These proved very good value, waving flippers and fluking quite a few times as well as steadily revealing their progress through the ocean by their characteristic blows.



Poor Phil. Our New Zealand Observer was just about to embark on the first lecture of our 'Story-time series' in the bar after tea and cake...when Simon did it again! This time he was tremendously excited as he had caught sight of a BLUE WHALE. Everyone abandoned Phil (who was just warming to his theme - describing his time as a ranger in the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands); instead, we all rushed to catch a glimpse of the biggest animal ever to live on earth. Captain Ernesto kindly slowed down and turned the ship so we had a chance to catch sight of that exceptionally long, blue-grey back and small fin. Well, some of us saw it and some of us didn't, but then we caught sight of a couple of (only

slightly smaller) Fin whales too. Apparently there were some Pilot whales sighted this morning, and so it has definitely been a Whale of a day...

Phil will have to speak another day since now we were heading for Recap & Briefing time once again, at which the atmosphere was most convivial. Simon (unsurprisingly) talked about whales, Gary (views from Zodiacs) and Victoria (history) about the upcoming Balleny Islands and Valentin the whys and wherefores of seabirds flying around ships. Then Rolf rounded up with a briefing on tomorrow's potential Sturge/Buckle Island activities at the Ballenys, and we happily adjourned to dinner, followed maybe by a nightcap in the bar to celebrate our approach to the Antarctic Circle.



## Day 8 – Sunday February 23 – Balleny Islands, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 67°10'S / 164°10'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -1°C, NNE5

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 966

Sea condition: Confused swell, slight

Excitement mounted this morning as we approached the rarely-seen and rarely-visited Balleny Islands. It was still snowing, so the decks and fittings were covered with it; visibility was greatly reduced too. It was after breakfast when we approached Sturge Island, and on the way we had already logged Cape, Antarctic and Mottled petrels – plus a Light-mantled albatross. Once in position near the island a couple of scout boats



went off into the snow to see what opportunities were on offer. A zodiac cruise had initially been decided on, but only three boats had been loaded when the operation was aborted. Conditions at the gangway had worsened and loading boats was no longer deemed safe. So once all of us and all the boats were back on board the *Ortelius*, we set off in a northerly direction for Buckle Island to see if conditions were better there.



During the end of lunch the ship sailed through a large patch of brash ice and on it were numerous Crabeater seals; a Light-mantled albatross flying over the ice was an especially incongruous sight! The sea was flat calm, so this time all of us were able to get into the boats for a zodiac cruise around Sabrina Island and Chinstrap Islet. There was a surprise waiting for us on the beach by the giant rock stack, which was estimated to be nearly

80 metres high. The surprise was in the form of an immature King penguin (white rather

than orange ear patches) and it had probably come ashore to moult – a long way from home.

Other inhabitants of the beach included almost 20 fat weddell Seals, some of which looked curiously at us as we drifted past them. Occasionally one would look up or lazily stretch a flipper.



There was one on an ice floe close to the beach too and, since s/he was fast asleep, we were able to make a close approach. Most of the penguins that we saw were Adelies, but there were also small numbers of Chinstraps – both species were the first for the trip. A lot of them were adults in moult, but others could be seen walking up or down the narrow

trails on the icy slope between the beach and the nesting areas. The cliffs at the northern end of the beach had Cape and Greater Snow petrels flying in front of them, so we lingered long in order to enjoy everything that was going on.

Several boats were led towards Chinstrap Islet by two large, rotund, Humpback whales. Rather than feeding however, they seemed to be on their way to somewhere, swimming steadily. It was very exciting to be so close to such large creatures! Just off the islet there were brief views of a large Leopard seal in the water, no doubt waiting for an unwary penguin to swim by. Care had to be taken by us too, due to the, at times, large swell and waves on the exposed corner of the islet. However, all too soon our time was up and we were on our way back to the ship. Shortly after setting sail another expedition

ship passed us in the ice. No time for us to linger though – there was soon a delicious buffet dinner to enjoy; and the wine was on the house, which put us in a convivial mood for the rest of the evening too.



## Day 9 – Monday February 24 – At sea towards Cape Adare.

GPS noon position: 68°59'S / 167°51'E

Air temperature & wind speed: 0°C, SE2/3

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 966

Sea condition: Low swell, slight

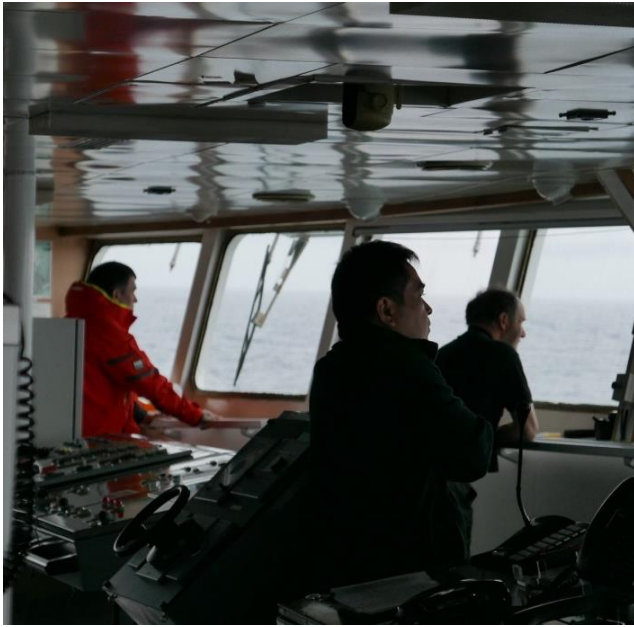


Once again, the decks were covered with snow this morning. After breakfast there was a mandatory helicopter briefing, which was introduced by our Chilean pilot friends. We were planning to have a “practice run” in the afternoon, but during lunch the wind increased

and so too did the height of the waves. There was more snow as well! The outside stuff was postponed, so instead we stayed inside and listened to Phil talking about his life as a Ranger in Kiwiland. Simon was secured in his cabin so that he couldn't interrupt again (with a whale sighting) and empty the room. Pesky naturalists!

Yesterday evening's Humpback show was described by one person as an 'ocean explosion'. Whilst there were many fewer whales today, there *were* six different species. They were: Antarctic Minke, Humpback, Sei, Fin, Sperm and Killer! The last two were the most interesting and exciting but, frustratingly, all six species were only seen briefly and only by a few people. The Sperm Whale was a solitary animal and, judging by its size, was probably a male. Spotted by the watchman on the Bridge, it was some way off and was resting at the surface, re-oxygenating. This 'logging' process can take up to 30





minutes and, if seen well, the forward-angled spout from the left side of the head is distinctive. Unless one is looking at a Northern Bottlenose whale in the North Atlantic, that is!

The Killer whale sighting was even briefer, but the two animals were, at least, much closer. Mostly only a bit of the back and the large dorsal fin was seen, but one whale (they are actually the largest member of the dolphin family) did pass very close to the bow. It was not far below the surface and the bold black-and-white pattern could be clearly spotted. As we travel further south, we may

see more and, given good views, we may be able to tell what type they are. There is the Type A, which is seen all around Antarctica, the large Type B (Pack Ice Killer whale) and the type C (Ross Sea Killer whale). There may well be lots of Minke whales too.

The number of bird species is now very low, but some of the sightings today were dramatic and exciting: Sooty Shearwaters, Mottled and Cape Petrels and Southern fulmars were all seen in low numbers. Also 'gracing our table' was the stupendous, elegant and majestic Light-mantled albatross, of which several were seen. However, the bird that performed the best was the Antarctic petrel. A group of three stuck with the ship from 1 pm until at least 6 pm, providing exceptionally close views and photographic opportunities. Finally on birds, at Recap Simon mentioned that yesterday's King penguin presumably came from the large colonies on Macquarie Island, 900 nautical miles/1,035 statute miles/1,656 kilometres away. However, he then showed a picture of one on Nightingale Island, in the Tristan da Cunha group and, going south, the nearest source (South Georgia) was 1,400 nm/1,610 sm/2,576 km away!

We ended the day by looking forward to and hoping for fine weather tomorrow at Cape Adare, with its Adelie penguins and Borchgrevink's hut. The hut is notable for being the only 'first building on any continent' that it is possible to visit. And so to dinner and to bed. By tomorrow morning we will be in the Ross Sea.





## Day 10 – Tuesday February 25 – Cape Adare, Robertson Bay, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 71°38'S / 170°06'E

Air temperature & wind speed: +1°C, SE1

Weather conditions: Sunny

Barometric pressure: 978

Sea condition: Low swell, smooth

A cloudless blue sky, ice-covered mountains, sea like glass, glinting glaciers, broken brash ice and titanic tabular icebergs greeted us this morning when we threw back our curtains! On the western side of Robertson Bay were the Transantarctic Mountains and the highest visible peak was Mount Minto, at 13,655'/4,163m. Nearby was something much smaller - another expedition ship, which, of course, gave way to the mighty and powerful *Ortelius*! Shortly after the promised 05.45 wake-up call, the staff were out in two zodiacs to see if a landing at Cape Adare was possible. From the ship we could see that the beach was fringed with big blocks of ice; Borchgrevink's



hut was clearly visible and there were many Adelie Penguins on show. These charming creatures were noticeable in another way too – their heady aroma. It was so powerful that it came in through the Bar door and went all the way down the stairs to deck 3! The news

from the scouts though was not good – on the western side of the point there were no gaps in the washed-up ice and on the north side a big swell was running.



Plan B was to do the helicopter 'dry run' that had been postponed due to yesterday afternoon's bumpy and windy weather - so that is what we did. We were called by helicopter group to the bar in all of our gear and then checked off at the muster area. Then we were taken out onto the heli deck to one of the two waiting choppers. There

was the chance to go first into one of the 5-seaters (2 aircraft) and then into the deliciously lime green 'India', the smaller 4-seater. It took a little while to get everyone through this process, but by late morning we had all become familiar with the aircraft and the embarkation/disembarkation process – including the all-important converting of our life jackets from automatic (green) to manual (5 mm+ of red showing). Evidently, we don't want our life jackets to inflate inside a helicopter!



The weather was still perfect for flying, so instead of waiting until after lunch for our scenic flight, we commenced straightaway. Once all three helicopters were up and running the system ran like clockwork – it was tremendously exciting! Getting in with the rotors turning was just the beginning – after buckling up and after the doors were closed we were cleared for take-off. The flights lasted for 20 minutes or so and the ship was close

to shore, so we were soon flying over the first of several glaciers. The ship looked like a toy, but the landscape was immense.

Flying at a fairly low altitude, the jumbled seaward ends of the glaciers disintegrated into a mass of huge crevasses, with towers and walls of ice piled high all around. Deep down



in the voids the ice was dark blue. Up and over we went, marvelling at the ice below us.



At times we flew through canyons, with cliffs of ice on either side. Nearer the sea it was possible to see huge tongues of glacial ice extending out into the water; icebergs had broken off and were drifting away. From above all we could see of the ice under the water was an intense blue colour. Truly outstanding!

All too soon we had landed back on the ship, but today's activities weren't over yet! There was also a chance to go out for a zodiac cruise to the wall of a nearby glacier. From the ship - which was a little way away - the glacier didn't look very high, but from short

range in a zodiac, the ice wall seemed to tower over everything. We were thus able to put the landscape and icescape into perspective. This made us appreciate our flight even more and realize how lucky we were to have been able to get the helicopters airborne in such beautiful conditions. The



weather here is not always so benevolent. And then there was evening ship-cruising off

Cape Adare and an extraordinary sunset. What a day!



## Day 11 – Wednesday February 26 – At sea towards Terra Nova Bay.

GPS noon position: 72°22'S / 171°14'E

Air temperature & wind speed: 0.5°C, SE1

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 976

Sea condition: No swell, smooth



The early birds amongst us had to be really early today to see the dramatic sunrise colours over Moubray Bay. Distant mountains and the clouds above them were a delicate shade of pink. Over to the east the sun was just peeping above the top of a bank of cloud. The ship was surrounded by sea ice so

we were going quite slowly. A possible objective had been Cape Hallett, but there was so much ice between us and the land that it was decided to press on instead in the direction of Terra Nova Bay.

During breakfast a supply ship passed us, heading north. For such a small, antiquated vessel the name *Beijing Ocean Leader* seemed somewhat grandiose and incongruous. China is building a new base to the south and the ship had probably been there to help with the work. As we steamed along all eyes were on the ice in search of wildlife, of which



there was little! At one point the captain took the ship over to see a group of Crabeater seals and not far away we got very close views of a Weddell seal. During the morning information meeting Simon pleaded for help in spotting the near-mythical Ross seal (which Gary claims to have seen in the late nineteenth century). As an added incentive,



three valuable rewards were offered: a free cruise.....brochure, dinner of choice with Simon or, lastly, two dinners with Simon.

The afternoon was much quieter in terms of both ice and wildlife, with the most numerous species being Adelie penguins and Crabeater seals. A gnarly, old, eroded tabular iceberg looked interesting, so we went over to have a look at it. Clearly visible were layers of ice from deposited snow, huge cracks, icicles and

numerous holes, caverns and caves. Some of the latter were blue and they have a very interesting story (here follows one of Simon's fascinating narratives; it is up to you, dear Reader, to decide as to the factual accuracy of such accounts, Ed).

*“Icebergs like this are a recent phenomenon and are linked with increasing numbers of Blue whales, following the cessation of whaling. The whales come down to Antarctica at the beginning of summer and scoop out these caves with their large and powerful pectoral flippers. They then lay their eggs in them, which are blue, of course. It is this reflected colour that makes the ice look blue. In stormy weather the eggs are in danger of being swept away and lost forever, so the females lie across the entrances to the caves to protect the eggs. Then the extra heat from their bodies helps the eggs to hatch much sooner than would otherwise have been the case”.*



During the afternoon we were in open water so many of us, including the usual season ticket holders, gathered in the Lecture Room for Victoria's splendid “Robert Falcon Scott's Antarctic Homes”.

What none of the attendees knew was that a pod of Killer Whales swam by (see disclaimer above, Ed). Luckily, just after the presentation finished another group appeared ahead of the ship and many of us got the chance to see them. They were even



close enough for photographs, which showed that they were the large Type B, or Pack Ice Killer whale. They are found all around Antarctica.

Later on there was the usual Recap & Briefing, with contributions from

Gary and Victoria on Inexpressible Island, a place we hope to see tomorrow, where Scott's Northern Party under Campbell over-wintered in a hastily-dug ice cave for SEVEN MONTHS in 1912; they survived and then WALKED the 200 miles to Cape Evans, crossing the Drygalski Ice Tongue. Ships were definitely made of wood and men of steel in those days.



Finally, an item of late news: down on the bow a hatch cover was opened, revealing a huge, empty, cavernous space. The crew are looking into it.



## Day 12 – Thursday February 27 – Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 74°55'S / 164°06'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -3°C, S4/5

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 987

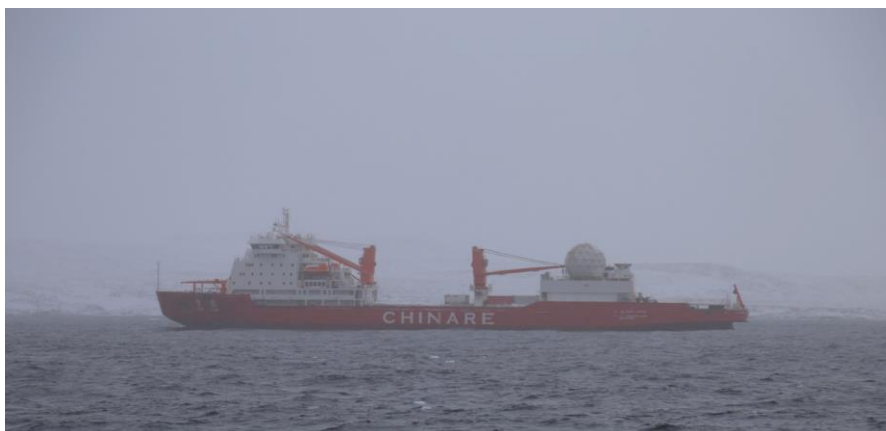
Sea condition: Moderate swell, moderate



Overnight we had smooth sailing south down the Ross Sea coast towards Inexpressible Island in hopes of a landing. However, at sunrise we began to feel a significant increase in swell and the wind picked up to about 25 knots. Visibility dropped to almost nothing and we found ourselves surrounded by a heavy fog, with lots of big snowflakes swirling around the ship. A landing became less and less probable as the weather seemed to close in more and more. So Gary gave us a lecture on the *Life History of Adelie penguins* –

informative and useful as we expect to be having quite a few of them around us for some time.

We entered Terra Nova Bay as a heavy snow continued to fall, all but obscuring Inexpressible Island and the surrounding landscape. We had hoped to make our first landing in Antarctica at the location where Scott's Northern Party was forced to endure a winter in an ice cave. With the weather so poor and the driving wind



biting cold, it was hard for any of us to imagine how they could have survived in these conditions through the long Antarctic winter.

Then, suddenly, like an apparition, a Chinese cargo ship appeared from the fog

as we slowly sailed further into the bay.

Captain Ernesto sailed slowly deeper into Terra Nova Bay until we could see land and the bare rocky strip where the Italians had located Mario Zucchelli Base. There was a surprisingly large collection of red and blue buildings and roads, all very neat and tidy and in the process of closing down for winter.



We sailed further north for another half hour to get a look at the German Gondwana base. As we turned around, Rolf announced that we were going back towards Zucchelli Base for a look at the back bay behind it, hoping for calmer weather.



We were in luck! As we turned the corner into Tethys Bay, the swells eased and the wind died down.

Rolf announced a zodiac cruise around the bay, where we saw lots of Weddell seals, a large Leopard seal in the water and a few handfuls of moulting Adelie penguins on the shoreline. After one and a half hours and a very pleasant outing, we returned to *Ortelius* for a late dinner, with big smiles on our faces.

As we sailed out of Terra Nova Bay the skies cleared and Antarctica showed us her sunset in all its glory, with colours from golden, yellow, pink, ochre and violet shading to blue, as large tabular icebergs floated along the horizon.

The day ended early for some while others stayed up late, witnessing this miraculous sight, and hoping for a chance to spy the Drygalski Ice Tongue as we sailed past around 1 am.





## Day 13 – Friday February 28 – McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 77°30'S / 166°01'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -9°C, S4/5

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 983

Sea condition: Moderate swell, moderate

Well, for once it seemed that when the wake-up call came it was sunny outside and it could be all systems go. Alas, this was not to last. We were just entering the McMurdo Sound area as we got up for breakfast and the conditions were a little rough, but OK. First we sighted Beaufort Island as we headed south. As we got closer in, we then spotted Cape Bird, at the north end of Ross Island. By this time it was clear that we were going to have to play a waiting game and hope for less wind. Antarctica is fickle!

Meanwhile, after breakfast we gathered in the lecture room for a presentation from Victoria on the tragic tale of Shackleton's Ross Sea party. First though, a little news from Rolf about the conditions and our hopes for the day. The weather forecast indicated the possibility

of a small calm area right in the south of McMurdo Sound, though looking out of the windows where we were told a different story: the wind was clearly blowing too hard for



Shackleton's Forgotten Men.

The Ross Sea Party, 1914 - 1917



us to get into zodiacs. The sea had built up to a substantial froth and with the temperature around -10° C, conditions were too difficult to attempt a landing.

Nonetheless, our good Captain Ernesto took the ship in close enough to Cape Royds for us to catch a glimpse of Shackleton's hut and then past Cape Barnes to Cape Evans, where we had a good look

at the lie of the land, in particular Scott's *Terra Nova* hut and Windvane Hill. Immediately to the south we could see Inaccessible Island, Tent Island and Big and Little Razorback Islands - all of which were landmarks and welcome sights to the early explorers returning to the warmth and safety of their home at Cape Evans.



Meanwhile the Erebus watchers were keeping a constant watch on the clouds and the higher slopes. Finally we were treated to a brief glimpse of the top of this famous volcano—and was that a wisp of steam emanating from her peak? Indeed.

After a good long lingering look at Cape Evans, we moved on towards Hut Point. In the past four weeks, all the sea ice has blown out of the end of McMurdo Sound so we easily motored in very close to Hut Point to get a good sighting of the *Discovery* Hut. So near, and yet so far. Conditions never did improve enough for us to be able to see the insides of any of these iconic buildings today.



Instead, we devoted ourselves to inspecting McMurdo Station from the ship, then sailed on past Observation Hill to take in Scott Base. Off the very tip of Hut Point Peninsula, we had a full panorama of Scott Base and the western end of the Ross Ice Shelf, with lots of equipment and the ‘Willy’s Field’ landing strip for aircraft in the distance. Farther to the west we could still see White Island and Black Island, but after that everything disappeared into the mist. Between Ross Island and the mainland, the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf is not the huge ice barrier described by Ross. Here, the shelf



stands a mere three to four metres high out of the sea. Towards the east it will be taller than the ship, at 30-40 metres. Eventually, as the time for recap and dinner crept closer, it

was clear that we would not be going ashore today. We turned aside to meander in the area overnight and prepare for further landing attempts tomorrow.

At Recap & Briefing, after more weather forecasts from Rolf, we heard a short tale of Observation Hill from Simon, an overview of navigating ships in ice from Gary, and a thorough description of the Beaufort Wind Scale from 'Clouds'. After dinner, as we each settled into our usual evening routine, we had a fascinating display of grease ice forming on the sea as the



winds continued to whip the surface into a frenzy. It's surprising how tiring it can be standing in the cold and wind on deck whilst enjoying Antarctic landscapes (natural and man-made) and hoping for a break in the weather. We all went to bed in the hopes of being able to land in the coming days at some of the sites we had glimpsed and photographed from *Ortelius* today.



## Day 14 – Saturday February 29 – Dry Valleys, Ross Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 77°33'S / 165°44'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -11°C, SSE 7

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 983

Sea condition: Ice



“Good Morning Everyone!” from the northernmost point of Ross Island - Cape Bird. Hope for the best and be prepared for the worst is a good philosophy to adopt when sailing in such a unique and remote place as the Ross Sea. From when Rolf started our day by announcing that the wind speed was around 20 knots, it appeared later that it had never stopped building up since that moment.

In the meantime, we were planning to give a landing at Cape Evans another go, this time hoping for more than an outside view of Scott’s hut. Unfortunately only the weather (and the ice) decide how things turn out here, and when we arrived back at the *Terra Nova* hut, there was a wind speed of more than 40 knots displayed on the little bridge screen (with which all of us are now familiar). What better occasion could there be to learn more about “*Human survival in the cold*” and never to underestimate the effect of wind chill, as explained (together with many other

In the meantime, we were planning to give a



intriguing aspects of the subject) by Chris Johnson during his wise and well-documented presentation.



Rolf and the Captain together decided to look at ‘the bright side of (McMurdo Sound’s) life’ - towards the west coast of the bay, where the TransAntarctic Mountains were spotlighted by sun, as if inviting us to sail closer. And that one decision completely changed the story of our day.

It was as if the Ross Sea had decided to test our perseverance in these past few days and finally to reward us with one of the most spectacular

Antarctic days that most of us had ever experienced. For, all of a sudden, we were floating in the middle of an ice-pancake-coated sea.

The scene was lit by rays of sunlight with dark clouds forming a backdrop, to create a perfect contrast of light with dark in these polar waters. By this time we were all outside, to enjoy the present moment and to testify to the beauty of mother nature. And we couldn’t imagine that this was merely the beginning of our amazing journey through today...



We had now fully accepted this invitation to get further into the sea ice and were reaching the first large, dense ice floes. And there, just in front of us were standing the majestic Dry Valleys. When the words ‘Dry Valleys’ came up during a short briefing given by Rolf, a general frenzy grabbed everyone on board ship and the sparkle in passengers’

eyes was as bright as the sparkle of the sunlight on sea ice.



The reconnaissance flight was the first to leave the heli-deck, and as if they had just been waiting for the right moment, three Emperor penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) immediately jumped out of the water not so far from *Ortelius*, to check us out and greet us with their characteristic



trumpeting call (though we thought it was Gary at first!). That was what we call ‘a lifer’ for most of our keen birders, definitely needing to be celebrated at some point later on.

We were suddenly in another world! A 15-minute flight up into the Taylor Valley was spectacular – we were, of course, being flown by our amazing and enthusiastic Chilean pilots - and we got to appreciate the many formations and textures of sea ice the valley itself. And it appeared that these

from above before progressing through the valleys were not so dry after all, but covered by a fresh layer of snow - which was certainly unexpected and another instance of our good fortune.

Our landing was close by the Canada Glacier, with the Commonwealth Glacier not so far away. We were offered the opportunity to walk in a loop starting from the helipad and continuing on to the glacier front - with a partially snow-covered Crabeater seal mummy to marvel at on the way – until we reached a lookout point at the top of a hill. There was no wind at all in one of the coldest places

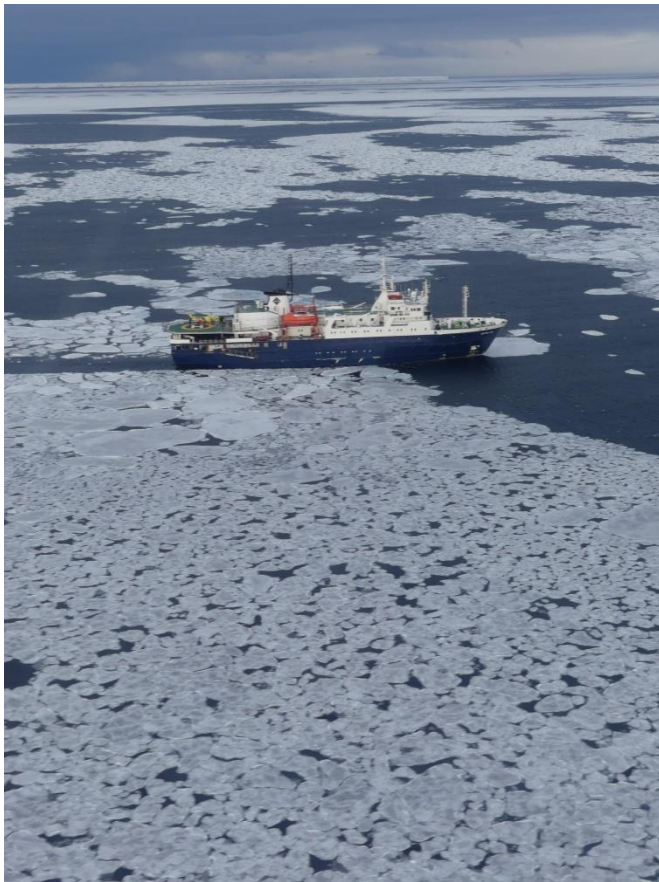


on earth, where we have been given this amazing chance to appreciate our first Antarctic landing to the full, and where we have set foot on the Seventh Continent (maybe the last one missing for some of us). Epic !



You never know what is awaiting you on a real ‘expedition day’. And this day turned





out to be ‘a day to die for’ for everyone. And it seemed as if it was meant never to end; we were later all united – on the outer decks as well as in our thoughts - to witness a magnificent ‘golden hour’, during which the setting sun hit the surface of the pancake ice for a glorious hour or so just after dinner.



None of us was really keen on going to bed and we lingered out on deck until late (occasionally dipping into the Bar for a warming hot chocolate), enjoying passing icebergs and the oranges and pinks and purples of the evening until the last rays of light hit the colossal Mount Erebus – around 10 pm – flooding its peak a gorgeous pink. It was well worth waiting up for. AMAZING.



## Day 15 – Sunday March 1 – McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 77°07'S / 167°00'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -8°C, SE 5

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 975

Sea condition: Moderate swell, moderate

Another day in Paradise. How many people can actually say that they awoke in front of the legendary Mount Erebus – clearly visible all the way to the top (once again) on a glorious morning? Well WE did. What an excellent start to the day, just before having our breakfast. But of course there is always a balance between pain and pleasure, and this delightful moment didn't last for too long. An announcement was made by our



captain, reminding us to hold on tight as we moved around the ship, since the wind was AGAIN reaching 50 knots (with some gusts at 60 knots) as we once again approached Cape Bird (which is definitely not proving a really welcoming place for us right now).

However, as expedition cruising is always a matter of carefully assessing our options and opportunities, we continued making our way towards the other side of the sound. How could we not succumb to the temptation of at



least TRYING after our glorious day yesterday? In the meantime, Shaun was on in the Lecture Room to tell us more stories about the highest offshore mountain of Antarctica – Mount Erebus



(3,794m) - and his adventures both whilst climbing it and whilst at the top, helping scientists try to extract liquid lava from the crater!

Well, a certain iconic living being of the area decided to shorten Shaun's presentation a bit, being announced around 10:30 am by Simon from the bridge - "We have Orca in front of the ship". A whole pod - between 15 and 20 individuals - was surfacing at the 12:00 and 09:00 o'clock position from the ship. And after a closer examination, these Orca revealed themselves to be the famous 'Ross Sea Orca', with a very narrow and recognizable eye-patch (also known as 'Ecotype C' or even *Orcinus orcas glacialis* in Latin). Great to see them, especially when we realize that we can only have the chance to watch this rare marine mammal in this particular part of the world!



As we needed at least four hours of navigation to reach the western side of McMurdo Sound, this provided us with another perfect opportunity - after lunch - to learn more about life in McMurdo Base from one slightly weird summer resident, our dear Mark 'la moustache'.



This turned out to be an interactive presentation, punctuated by relevant facts and scientific tidbits, to be continued with a second part...which was originally planned to start right after a cup of tea and a little cookie; but spectacular views

of the TransAntarctic Mountains and a rather massive tabular iceberg - named A43 - led us all outside for a bit of fresh air instead. We continued to appreciate the seemingly endless front of this monumental piece of ice (several kilometers long) for some time, as Captain Ernesto carefully navigated us parallel to it and along its entire face.





And we hit a PANCAKE PARTY again shortly afterwards, as planned by our expedition leader. “*Where is my maple syrup?*” exclaimed Gary in his best American accent. We were going through many different ice formations – a perfect ice lesson – and some of the small pancakes were piling up to create larger ones and eventually reached as much as five metres in diameter. *Ortelius*’ purpose was clear as we headed on into more solid, rectangular blocks of sea ice – penguin territory coming

up, in which we were looking for the icing on the cake, or should we say for the Emperor penguin on the ice floe?

All eyes and binoculars were scanning the flat horizon to distinguish the first vertical silhouette:- “*There are six of them just in front of us!*” came the cry and we went closer, trying to make our way through the labyrinth of ice. The Emperors stayed put on the floe, being admired closely by most of us from the bow, occasionally flopping



down from their standing positions to toboggan a short distance. We were lucky to spot some more parades of Emperor penguins in the same vicinity, giving us a final score of between 30 and 40 penguins in total. Not bad at all!



And then our day finished just as it had begun, with the *Ortelius* sailing back towards Mount Erebus, which saluted us with a wisp of smoke (or maybe it was a scrap of cloud?) from its crater.

## Day 16 – Monday March 2 – Cape Evans, Ross Island, Antarctica.

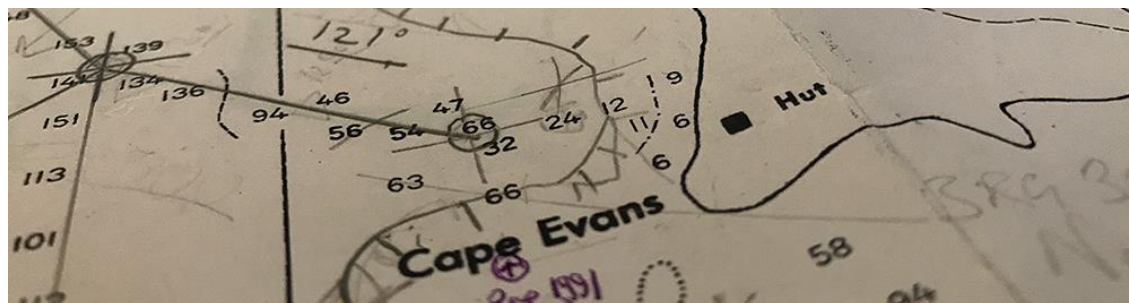
GPS noon position: 77°38'S / 166°23'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -17°C, ESE 7

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 973

Sea condition: Low swell, slight



*“Let’s have a look at the inside and not only at the outside of this hut”*

said Victoria at the beginning of the day. And she was right - seeing the inside of an Antarctic explorer’s hut means you get to know and understand his expedition much better. Standing where Scott and his men had lived, worked and played would really add another dimension to our understanding of the Antarctic history we have heard and read so many stories about. Just as determined as the early polar explorers, we were not ready yet to give up on our chance of visiting the Cape Evans hut.

Today’s 20-knot wind seemed much more promising for a zodiac operation compared to what we’ve had on previous days. However, a little further assessment of conditions was needed from the Bridge between 8 and 9 am; all of us were holding our breaths at this time, but



happily our zodiacs were finally launched and passengers did finally get to shore and were able to enter Scott’s *Terra Nova* hut this morning. Phew...

After getting the green light the expedition staff spun into action. Once the door of the hut had been opened by Phil & Victoria, other staff members donned waders and began to grab the incoming zodiacs and, with all team mates in position, the first group of passengers was

able to walk in the footsteps of Sir Robert Falcon Scott. It was actually our second landing by zodiac, though the first one felt as if it had been a month ago. Time to be back on track and remember to face the driver and spin our legs seawards without kicking anyone if possible...

A short briefing was given upon arrival, explaining the amount of time allowed ashore, including the ten or so minutes inside the hut, carefully followed up by Victoria herself chasing away those with a guilty conscience (though she was there to answer questions and point out key areas as well as



acting as policewoman!). How fantastic and unreal was the experience of exploring those cubicles and living areas filled with gear and food and furniture - with our own eyes?



*“Don’t forget to visit the stables”* came the constant refrain as we negotiated our way past oozing seal blubber and Adelie penguin eggs, and took in the pony stalls and their contents – feed boxes,

Emperor penguin skins, a wooden wheelbarrow, a bicycle, a dead sledge dog and a stove for warming pony fodder.



What we were now experiencing first-hand, helped by all of those very passionate talks previously given by Victoria, combined to enable us to absorb every single detail and to appreciate fully this opportunity to enter into a very real Antarctic world - from another era, but somehow very homely and immediate as well.



Most of us had the opportunity to climb Windvane Hill and enjoy the scenic outlook from the foot of the cross erected

to the memory of the three men who died from Shackleton's Ross Sea Party (1916). And the remainder of our shore-time was devoted to strolling around the perimeter of the hut



and the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA), enjoying the atmosphere of the piles of equipment still here to remind us vividly of all the early-twentieth-century polar explorers who came here before us.

From the smiles on everyone's faces as we returned to *Ortelius*, it was easy to see what an amazing experience visiting Cape Evans had proven; and we were thankful that we could all be safely back on board around 12.45 pm, just in time for lunch

and without the increasing wind speed having cut our operation short.

Our day was already made and in some respects we didn't need anything else; however, we wanted to make the most of the afternoon too, and so set off again for Hut Point, hoping the weather would turn out better than the forecast. But the weather conditions were pretty wild as we arrived back in front of McMurdo Station, and Rolf had to come on the PA system again to say that at this stage in the day

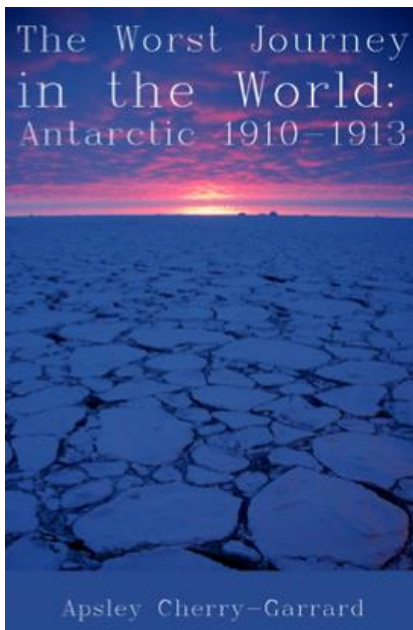


and at this place in McMurdo Sound, we did not have any possible options to head out again.

That didn't prevent us from appreciating a fantastic natural phenomenon from the ship; we found ourselves surrounded by sea smoke that was swept away by the wind, with long, wispy streaks of grease ice shooting over much of the surface of the sea. "Winter is coming!" said Gary wisely, quoting Captain Ernesto (and incidentally, *Game of Thrones*); indeed, the sea fog indicated that the sea was losing heat significantly and it wouldn't be long



before the first pancakes of ice reappeared here too.



Then it was time to gather in the Bar for the traditional Recap & Briefing before dinner. This was to be our last day in McMurdo Sound and we were now moving on eastward, aiming to sail by Cape



Crozier – site of the Emperor penguin rookery made famous by Apsley Cherry-Garrard's *Worst Journey in the World* -

around midnight.



## Day 17 – Tuesday March 3 – At sea towards Bay of Whales, Ross Sea.

GPS noon position: 77°02'S / 173°19'E

Air temperature & wind speed: -13°C, S7

Weather conditions: Cloudy, fog

Barometric pressure: 971

Sea condition: Moderate swell, rough



You will of course remember that we were supposed to sail along Cape Crozier late last night, right? Hopefully, Uncle Gary's announcement

of the poor visibility prevailing outside prevented the night owls from staying awake too long and being disappointed. Well, like every expedition plan A, there was a chance for this one to turn into plan B, even C or D. And it was quite a surprise that at breakfast-time we were STILL in the vicinity of Cape Crozier, as the sea was too rough and the visibility too limited to allow *Ortelius* to sail away at a good speed (we were in fact reduced to five knots).



We were not sheltered by Ross Island anymore, but were now facing the wide open Southern Ocean and its furious wind - that was reaching more than 60 knots in the morning. Rolf, Michael and the captain respectively had to remind us always to keep TWO hands for the *Ortelius* whenever possible, to take one plate at a time during meals (as always, there was enough food!) and not to go outside on the

open decks. It was that kind of day indeed, when the deck crew had to pass through every cabin to close the porthole covers.

Fortunately, our Expedition Team is full of resources and rough weather provided a perfect opportunity to share our knowledge and our thoughts with each





other and passengers – who also know a great deal about, and enjoy discussing, this region of Antarctica; also a series of documentaries was launched, starting with Part I of a four-part saga on Carsten Borchgrevink, in the Bar.

Later in the afternoon, our penguinologist Gary shared his experiences of the Emperor penguin's life, telling us about the whole cycle of the bird, with photos from various colonies (out of 54 known today in total) that he has been lucky enough to investigate. Not too long after that, La Moustache of Mark appeared again for the second part of his life at McMurdo, and

the dude took advantage of tea time to bait the most 'gourmet' of us into eating sweet things we didn't really need...Yummy! The deck crew were also full of resource and energy at this time, being outside on deck to thaw the frozen bow with hammers, shovels, brute force and courage.



We still have a long journey ahead of us, with many nautical miles of sailing to attain our schedule on time. Rolf – who always tells it as it is - had to warn us during our evening briefing that lots of sea days were coming and that the ice conditions were not looking especially favourable for a close navigation of the Ross Ice Shelf:- *“Let's see what tomorrow brings*

*and be optimistic!”* In the meantime, we were about to live another kind of adventure anyway, temporally speaking...



## Day 18 – Wednesday March 4 – At sea towards Bay of Whales, Ross Sea.

GPS noon position: 77°44'S / 172°23'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -6.5°C, SW5

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 979

Sea condition: Slight swell, Ice

We awoke in the early morning to find ourselves surrounded by pancake ice as far as the eye could see, and slowly sailing through a thickening, freezing ocean, heading for the Bay of Whales. It was a cold, icy morning and we found the Bridge windows iced over – on the INSIDE. Bridge Officers decided to close outside decks for as long as necessary and the ABs had a tough job of it, chipping ice and snow from all the slippery surfaces. The sun beaming on layers of white crystals produced an impressive sparkle however and we enjoyed the spectacle of *Ortelius* clad entirely in white in the sunshine!



As it was an 'expedition day' we didn't have any specific landings planned, but Rolf and the expedition team were constantly assessing ice and weather conditions along the way and determining what, if any, activities we might be able to do - weather permitting. It was cold outside at -4°C, with 25 knot winds blowing.



After breakfast we headed to the Bar for a special guest lecture by Julian Dowdeswell, Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute; he presented his informative and fascinating “*An Introduction to Ice*”.

The wind and the ice conditions hadn't improved by the afternoon, slowing our sailing speed through the Ross Sea considerably (down to about five

knots), as the pancake ice thickened. The captain was concerned that dangerous growlers and multi-year ice might lurk unseen in the midst of the thickening icy surface, so we proceeded cautiously. It was a pleasant and gentle afternoon sailing through the ice - a welcome rest for many, after our cold and busy day at Cape Evans the day before.

At recap, Rolf informed us that we might arrive at the Bay Of Whales late in the evening or in the early morning hours, depending on ice conditions as we proceeded south, with the goal of an early morning helicopter flight over the Ross Ice Shelf, and maybe even a landing, if weather permitted. Dinner was moved up to 6:30 pm as many of us were planning on an early night. However, by 10 pm we could see the Ice Shelf on the horizon with a large, black front looming above it, diminishing our hopes somewhat. The ice continued to thicken and the temperature dropped as we headed off to bed. It was apparent that an Antarctic winter was indeed approaching. Tonight we would cross the International Date Line, and awaken again to a second go at having March 4<sup>th</sup> tomorrow – a bit weird!



**STOP PRESS:** We heard once more from Rolf before settling down for the night. After discussion both with pilots and Captain Ernesto, it had been decided that there were two important reasons to turn north immediately rather than hanging around and hoping for the best – increasingly thick ice was slowing us down enormously and a formidably dark, descending cloud layer was moving directly into place over Bay of Whales. Sadly, a heli-flight/landing on the Ross Ice Shelf was not to be. Well, there's nothing to be done about the weather – Antarctica is a hard task-mistress – and we resignedly ordered a nightcap from Jake in the Bar to cheer ourselves up before retiring for the night.

## Day 19 – Wednesday March 4.2 – In the Ross Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 77°16'S / 164°52'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -12°C, WSW6

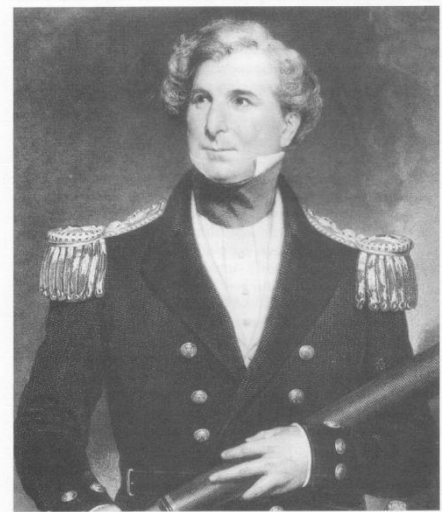
Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 979

Sea condition: Slight swell, ice

Breakfast time arrived slightly earlier than usual for a sea day - at 7.30 am on this our second March 4<sup>th</sup> and Sandra's birthday AGAIN; at this stage we were waiting for Clouds to reprint our daily programme since today's activities needed revising to bring them up-to-date.

Rolf took the opportunity of the rearranged timetable to call Recap & Briefing in the Bar at the unusual time of 10 am; it was slightly strange not to be clutching a glass of wine or a beer and eating potato chips, but we adapted quite well. After our Expedition Leader had explained why *Ortelius* cannot sail any closer to the Ice Shelf, the rest of the team turned to other matters. Gary entertained us with some Adelie penguin calls, whilst also explaining the serious science behind his tantalising line suggesting it's best to call home first before returning to the nest...And Victoria treated us to a rather mammoth double session on what happened in Antarctica this week during the Heroic Age (rather a lot and not all pleasant), followed by a summary of the juicy parts of James Clark Ross' life. Reaching the North Magnetic Pole and discovering the Ross Sea must have been significant moments indeed, and perhaps especially the New Year of 1842 - when Captain James Clark Ross dressed as a lady and became the belle of the ball on the sea ice...



The rest of the morning passed peacefully, if somewhat icily; our trusty ship sported icicles, the ocean was crusted with ice pancakes and the sea smoked as it froze – all rather beautiful. The Bridge was a popular place to position oneself, from which to enjoy the seascape in warmth and comfort and although generally

cloudy, the sun put some effort into shining occasionally through the gaps.

Michael called us to lunch as usual at 12.30 pm, but (and this is going to become a regular routine) interrupted us again after 30 minutes to announce that the ‘old’ ship’s time was now 1 pm, but then that it had immediately jumped forward to 2 pm! We have quite a few days of this to go before we attain to Argentinean time, though we’ve agreed that it’s much better to skip an hour during the day than during the night, when we would really notice the lack of sleep after a while.



After a curtailed siesta, Victoria summoned us to the Lecture Room at 3 pm for the next in her series of talks – ‘*Brutally unsubtle*’: *The life of Roald Amundsen - ‘the Last of the Vikings’*. She had so very much to say about this famous Norwegian explorer (please note that this was NOT a British expedition!) that Part II was intentionally postponed until after 4 o’clock teatime (scones were ‘the sweet of the day’). At 4.30 pm we re-assembled and discovered that Roald Amundsen did indeed get to the South Pole first; more surprisingly, it seems that he could have been among the group of men to see the North Pole first too, though whether this prize could have gone to Frederick Cook (1908) or Robert Peary (1909) earlier still remains a controversial subject. But Amundsen was certainly a skilled, well-organized and determined polar explorer, for all his individual quirks.

From 6 – 7 pm a Happy Hour was held, as we had already done enough recapping and briefing this morning. The Bar was buzzing with life and we kept Jake busy right up to dinner time. Clusters of passengers continued to



converse with enthusiasm throughout dinner and on into the evening, as ever. And tomorrow breakfast returns to its ‘sea day’ hour of 8 am. Sleep well.

## Day 20 – Thursday March 5 – In the Amundsen Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 74°48'S / 155°04'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -4°C, S4

Weather conditions: Sunny

Barometric pressure: 976

Sea condition: Slight swell, ice



We had a day at sea today, so this meant that we had a day full of lectures. After breakfast Valentin gave us a fascinating lecture on seabird tracking and research – *Southern Seabirds & New Technologies*. In his youth, Valentin worked for some time on Crozet Island doing seabird research, so he was absolutely the right person to explain seabird tracking to us, with wonderful animations.

Before long it was time to head back to the restaurant for another great meal - how do the chefs manage to come up with so many different kinds of soup?! As we are travelling in an easterly direction we lost another hour today, so our 1pm became 2pm, right in the middle of lunch - professionally announced as usual by Hotel Manager Michael; this way we can't lose track. And we did not have to worry that this would cut into our nap-time, as the early afternoon lecture had been pushed back to 3:30pm.

The whales, however, didn't receive the memo that a lecture was about to begin. A pod of Minke Whales was spotted close to the ship and the call came through the PA system. Our guest lecturer, John Shears, was about to begin his lecture on the Antarctic Treaty, but whales always trump a lecture. Everybody rushed outside to have a look at them (most of us did get a glimpse, but only a lucky few got photos!), resulting in John's lecture being delayed by 15 minutes. Eventually, once the whales had disappeared into the distance, John began his lecture covering the Antarctic Treaty and some of his experiences conducting Treaty inspections in Antarctica. There were lots of questions from passengers

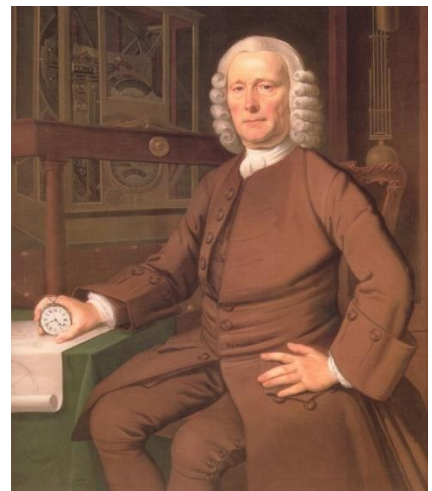




afterwards, all interested to try and understand how this beautiful, remote, unique part of the planet is governed.

A short break followed, allowing guests to get a cup of coffee and enjoy a muffin, before Clouds delivered her lecture on how the problem of Longitude was solved back in the eighteenth century, this time in the Bar. In travelling east, we had crossed the international date line and we have consequently been losing (and will continue

to lose) an hour every day for the next few days. Clouds gave a detailed explanation of the time zones and international date line, followed by the story of John Harrison and how he developed the world's first chronometer to keep time accurately at sea, thus enabling mariners to determine their longitude. James Cook, in fact, used Kendall's first watch on one of his voyages, which was a replica of Harrison's original invention.



Half an hour

later we had our daily Recap & Briefing, with Gary chatting about the Minke Whales we've seen today, Simon telling us one of his (enthalling) recap stories, and Val explaining how the (now extinct) Great auk and the penguin got their names.



Another delicious dinner was served – surf & turf for meat and seafood lovers - before we were free either to go to the Bar for a chat and a bit of relaxation, or head down to the Lecture Room for a documentary - the next episode of the Borchgrevink saga.



## Day 21 – Friday March 6 – In the Amundsen Sea & in the Ice, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 73°25'S / 151°08'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -1.5°C, SW3

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 969

Sea condition: Smooth, ice

What a spectacular day, though the way in which it developed was a little unexpected! So much for sailing as quickly as possible in the direction of Peter I Island, our next specific targeted spot for sightseeing. After nearly three weeks on board *Ortelius* together, I suppose we should no longer be surprised about what Antarctica has up its sleeves for us...

A few days ago, the question “*Will we see more ice?*” was generally answered by Rolf and the Bridge Officers with a “*Most likely yes, but we don't know where, when or how much*”. Well, now we know that on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at around 73° S and 151° W there was a lot of ice! Anyone who happened to wake up in the early morning and take a glance out of a port-hole immediately got out of bed, dressed warmly and headed out on deck (via the coffee machine) because it was absolutely gorgeous outside. At around 5 am there was a beautiful orange glow in the sky and *Ortelius* had been almost brought to a stop by some impressive ice. It was a great time of day for photographers, but rather a long time still to go until breakfast...



Well, Captain Ernesto and the Bridge Officers had to make some tough decisions rather quickly. The solution they came up with was to turn west for a while in order to get out of the ice and go around it. And that's what we spent the day doing – sailing through glorious ice at various stages of development and thickness, earnestly seeking an opening. Just like the explorers of old in fact!

We really did experience every kind of sea ice and many hours were spent out on deck, with much blowing on hands and running in for hot drinks in between bouts of drinking in the spectacle. Meanwhile, quite a lot was going on inside too. At 10 am Simon treated us to his talk on *Toothed Cetaceans* in the Lecture Room; in this he covered many facts

about Orca, Sperm whales and Beaked whales, which we may see at any time in the Southern Ocean.

Soon after this it was lunch time (and yes, we did lose another hour!). It was pork and potato wedges today, which slipped down nicely. Since Claudia had had the foresight to put the first afternoon lecture on at 3.30 pm we still got a bit of a siesta before adjourning to the Lecture Room to hear Guest Speaker Kitty Martin talk about *Magnetics in Antarctica 1898 – 1988*.



Kitty used to run the geophysical survey company responsible for processing the British Antarctic Survey's aeromagnetic work, so she was in a strong position to tell us about the study of magnetics in Antarctica from the heroic era and on into modern times, with a focus on the long drawn-out search for the South Magnetic Pole. Even when Darrel

interrupted her to announce several Blue whales ('very big mammals' was how he described them at first...) ahead of the ship and there was a near total rush for the door, Kitty remained calm and collected (indeed, she saw in the desertion a future story to tell people, as who can compete with the largest animal ever to have lived?). After feasting our eyes on whale blows and maybe just the hint of a back and fin from the front deck, we were back in our seats and she picked up from where she had left off. It was quite a tale and there were some rather searching questions from the audience afterwards. Then those of us who had not managed to intercept the coconut cookies earlier (Jake had brought them to the Bar at 4 pm, during the whale-watching) headed upstairs for some refreshment and then out on deck again to examine the thickness of the ice.

The last lecture of the day was held in the Bar at 5 pm, by Gary. This was a heart-warming and personal account of what it was like to live for a whole year at Mawson, an Australian Base on the Mawson Coast of Antarctica. Passengers and staff are strictly divided into those who would love to overwinter in Antarctica and those who wouldn't...Gary obviously enjoyed it.

And so, time for dinner (duck with red cabbage for the carnivores tonight) and for those who were keen on history, Part 3 of the Borchgrevink documentary in the Lecture Room. Just one more night to go. By the time we went to bed we seemed to have left the sea ice behind and be back on track NE once more. I bet the captain hopes that's the last we see of it!





## Day 22 – Saturday March 7 – Amundsen Sea, towards Peter I Island.

GPS noon position: 72°10'S / 153°55'W

Air temperature & wind speed: 0°C, NW3

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 958

Sea condition: No swell, slight

We awoke to...no sea ice! Or almost no sea ice; there were some streams of loose pack, but the captain managed to dodge round them successfully. And by lunchtime and for the entire day there were icebergs of all shapes and sizes lining the horizon – hundreds upon hundreds of them and very majestic. It was difficult to tear ourselves away and go to lectures as the sun was shining all day too, wow. Only 10,000 photos were taken on *Ortelius* today...



At 10 am Clouds presented *Ice, wind and waves: An introduction to Antarctica and its climate*, which left us all much more knowledgeable about this unique part of the world and its weather patterns by 11 am; it's good to have a climate specialist on board, though Clouds is also a birder and Assistant Expedition Leader of course.

After lunch (well attended) it was time for something a bit different: for a few days now there will be workshop sessions running in the afternoons in tandem – this was just Day One. Dafila Scott was to be found in a corner of the Dining Room (plates etc. had already been cleared away...) offering an art workshop for which passengers have been encouraged to sign up (more details to come when the log writer has had the good fortune to be there!). Meanwhile, in the Bar, Darrel Day was running a Navigation workshop – no GPS required; passengers worked with Darrel to record a position on a chart, then to



mark a way-point to plot a course from A to B, whilst taking magnetic variation into account. Not a bad introduction to this useful skill...These two workshops were also well attended and raised a lot of interest.

And for those not able to get a place on the first workshops? Well, plenty of icebergs out there and glorious light on them too. Captain and officers turned the ship in order to visit one particular monster berg, which had a huge arch carved out of it, plus a blue ice cave. Other bergs surrounding us seemed to sculpt out outlines of whole cities (some with crumbling towers) against the sky and then we began to notice how many animal shapes could be spotted, all gleaming white in the sun or shadowy blue on the opposite side. As the afternoon progressed part of the sky



turned an ominous black, which made for an even more dramatic backdrop, against which individual bergs were spot-lighted. This was the second day of AMAZING ice (glacier ice as opposed to sea ice this time, which is much better for the Bridge watch provided they keep an eye on their radar and make good use of their binoculars so as to give them a wide berth).



Late afternoon brought a technical presentation from the Scott Polar Research Institute's (SPRI) Julian Dowdeswell: *Beneath the waves: the seafloor signature of past ice sheets*. Another well-attended event in the Bar – thank you Julian, for presenting quite complex information in an appealing way.

Talking of well-attended events: the last one of the day was Recap & Briefing in the Bar. Simon showed us images of different kinds of ice; Val talked about diving animals (with his customary charming animations) and Julian/Clouds worked together to depress us about the effect sound pollution in our oceans may have on whales, then amuse us with an irreverent take on this worrying theme enacted by some Australian comedians.

Time for dinner and Part 4 (the final part) of the Borchgrevink documentary – this time WITH POPCORN. Delicious, even if we didn't NEED it! We remained afterwards quite some time in the Lecture Room, discussing the events of this little-known, late-nineteenth -century expedition and its important (though largely unacknowledged) influence on ensuing Antarctic expeditions. And so to bed...



## Day 23 – Sunday March 8 – Amundsen Sea, towards Peter I Island.

GPS noon position: 70°45'S / 141°20'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -1.5°C, SE 4/5

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 958

Sea condition: Moderate swell, moderate



Bridge-watchers did not see much wildlife around this morning, although we managed to spot a few Prions and Blue petrels fluttering about.

After breakfast Rolf presented his lecture

*Plate Tectonics - Part I* in the Lecture Room, then offered a short coffee break or a few minutes for a cup of tea before continuing with Part II. Part I dealt with how the theory behind Plate Tectonics evolved over the years, leading to our current understanding of the subject and its spreading and subduction zones. Then Part II moved on to apply this



Today was another day at sea on our way towards Peter I Island. The morning was clear, but strong winds continued to blow. We passed a few icebergs, but we not on the same scale as the iceberg parade we had yesterday.



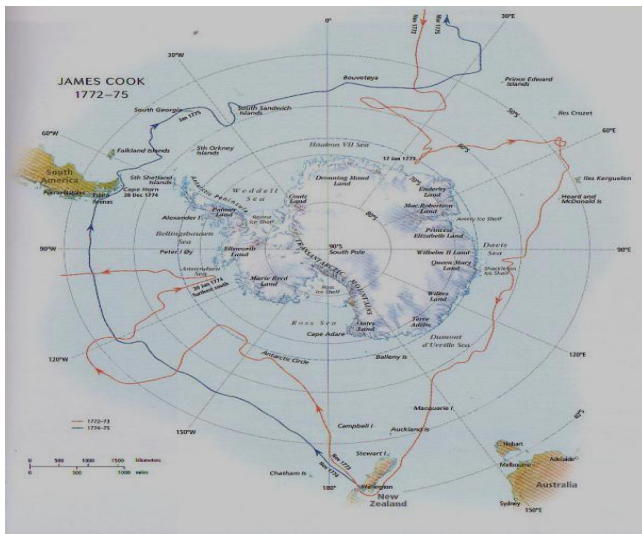
theory to Antarctica, describing its plate boundaries – the Drake Passage being one of the most complex areas of plate boundary on our planet. Strangely, according to our modern understanding, Antarctica is the fifth largest continent (which most of us knew), but the tiny rock group near South Georgia known as Shag Rocks is apparently by the same definition

a mini micro-continent in its own right!

At lunch Michael announced that we did NOT have a time change today (after three days of moving our clocks forward) as we've temporarily caught up with our longitude. It will all start again tomorrow!

After lunch it was an afternoon of workshops; Dafila Scott once again ran her art workshop in the Dining Room, while Darrel reviewed basic navigation in the Bar.

After tea our resident Antarctic Legend, Shaun, regaled us in the Bar with his experiences of *Dog Sledging in Antarctica* - and then told us of his surprise to learn years later that he'd had an Antarctic glacier named after him - the Norman Glacier, on Stonington Island!



Recap & Briefing featured Rolf on weather and ship speed, Mark on Ross Sea area place names, and Victoria on the famous Captain Cook, who was the first man ever to cross the Antarctic Circle as well as being one of the very first explorers to understand how to prevent scurvy amongst his men; what a pity his methods were later forgotten...

That night, following dinner, some of us socialized in the bar, while others went to Movie Night in the Lecture Room to watch

the documentary *Our Rising Oceans* - complete with popcorn supplied by Uncle Darrel!

As we headed for bed, we thought that maybe the sea was treating us a touch more gently than earlier in the day, but it was quite a frisky night again.



## Day 24 – Monday March 9 – Amundsen Sea, towards Peter I Island.

GPS noon position: 69°08'S / 130°50'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -2°C, S5/6

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 971

Sea condition: Moderate swell, rough



Today was definitely a closed-port-hole-covers day on Deck 3! It was a rocking and rolling night and there weren't quite as many people around at breakfast as usual – partly due to seasickness, but also because it seemed a good opportunity to get a bit of extra sleep to compensate for a rather lively night of wave action...

Gary thoughtfully moved his talk on *Whales of the Antarctic* from the Lecture

Room to the Bar, since the back of *Ortelius* is definitely a better place to be than low down and towards the front on a day like this. He managed to keep us sufficiently absorbed in his tale of cetacean lives largely to discount the ship's rolling, and by lunchtime we had become quite accustomed to it, with more people out and about than earlier - though the Bridge definitely contained fewer passengers keeping an eye out for Gary's whales than usual and outside decks remained closed for much of the day (apart from Bridge Wings); which made watching the brave deck crew cleaning outside windows all the more fun!



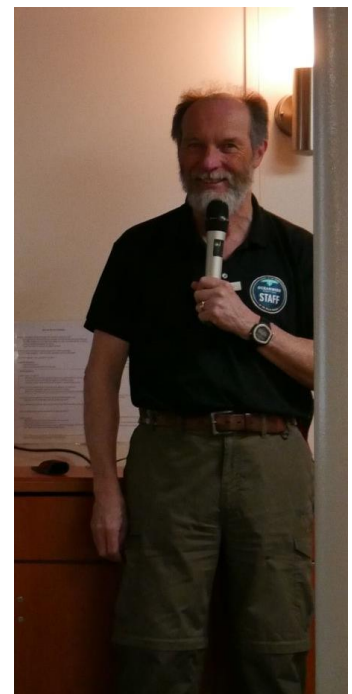
The lunch buffet offered us Chinese-style pork with rice and we lost an hour whilst eating it, as often seems to happen these days (though to be fair, there was no time change yesterday!). At the new 3.30 pm Dafila Scott and Darrel Day repeated their art and navigation workshops respectively, which was greatly appreciated by those who had signed up to attend. The most enthusiastic of the artists keep on coming and enjoy learning a bit about Antarctic art generally, but also some water-colour painting and drawing techniques which enable us all to produce a most satisfying 'artwork' in a



relatively short time. Maybe some of us will have gained enough encouragement from these sessions to continue on our own when we get home.

The ship was either moving a bit less by teatime, or we had got more accustomed to the motion. Either way, the turn-out in the Bar for Simon's SS *Discovery* talk showed that most folk felt restored by their earlier siestas. We heard a brief account of the former whaling industry in Dundee, followed

by a photographic tour of this famous ship – as it had been restored from the era of the '*Discovery* Investigations' (1925 onwards). Robert Falcon Scott's famous ship was never very well adapted to scientific work and it was soon superseded, but it was interesting to learn about its second lease of life; almost as fascinating as to be shown the very cabins in which Scott and Shackleton had slept (you can tell this log was written by a Historian). Incidentally, this museum in Dundee (Scotland) has now been completely refitted and the new museum facilities render a visit there even more rewarding than before.



We gathered in the Bar half an hour before dinner as usual, for our daily Recap & Briefing. Rolf kicked it off as



ever with information as to how the weather forecast could be affecting our ship's speed over the next few days. Of course we know that weather predictions in Antarctic regions are notoriously unreliable, but we do seem to have the opportunity of increasing our average speed as we head towards Peter I Island, which will all be for the good. Arrival is expected to be the day after tomorrow in the afternoon – though no guarantees! And just the right topic to take us up to dinner was an in-depth account of the history and medical background to

scurvy; thank you Victoria and Lise for your graphic and educational recap...

After a convivial dinner (and Lise had told us exactly what we should order to prevent scurvy!), there was something new on offer in the Bar. The 'Ortelius Choir' had put together a programme of choral music and singalong ditties, holding an informal concert for about half an hour from about 8.40 pm. A big thank you to Giles for



conducting us so ably and choosing the music. It was good to see so many passengers and staff turning up to encourage this performance of ship-grown talent (and bar-tender Jake was of course a captive audience!); the choir has been practising on alternate



evenings for some time and those who had passed by the Lecture Room during rehearsals at the beginning of the voyage were pleasantly surprised by the melodious harmonies produced three weeks later! There were sea shanties and folk songs for the rest of us to join in on too and all in all, singing proved as much of a stimulant as the alcohol that was purchased at the Bar late into the evening – nothing like a cultural event shared by

everyone to get us socialising and chatting until late.



Meanwhile, those of us who popped out on deck for fresh air spread the word that there was the most glorious, orange full moon rising at 11 o'clock to the ship's bow. It seemed huge and its craters were clearly delineated. A mystical experience with which to end the day indeed. Here's

hoping for a few more hours of deep sleep tonight, since sea conditions continue to improve and we still have a few more days of time changes to weather.



## Day 25 – Tuesday March 10 – Amundsen Sea, towards Peter I Island.

GPS noon position: 68°54'S / 118°54'W

Air temperature & wind speed: -0.5°C, N2/3

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 960

Sea condition: Low swell, slight

The weather behaved better today, although still cloudy for much of the time. However, despite some fog during the afternoon, there were also moments when the sun briefly pierced through the cloud cover and there was little swell and a relatively smooth ocean.



This morning's entertainment, as we sailed on towards Peter I Island, took the form of a two-part lecture by Victoria – *Douglas Mawson and the Home of the Blizzard*. In this epic tale, we heard about a lesser-known explorer (he SHOULD be more famous!), who was essentially interested in furthering the knowledge of the human race and NOT in being first to achieve something grand.

Having gained his Antarctic experience with Shackleton, at 29 years old, Mawson led this expedition to a sector of the Ross Sea opposite Australia which linked two previously-explored areas (by Scott and Drygalski respectively); he established one base on Macquarie Island and two on the Antarctic Continent and devoted two years to survey work and scientific endeavour. Although most of his men came out of their Antarctic experience in one piece, Mawson's own small party of three encountered an unexpected crevasse and only Mawson himself managed to survive the experience and (literally) crawl back to base alive – barely.

Grateful that, unlike Mawson, WE didn't need to eat dog liver ourselves (which is toxic to humans), we adjourned for lunch. Today was a red-letter day – NO TIME CHANGE, though we have a few more to go before equalizing with Argentina.

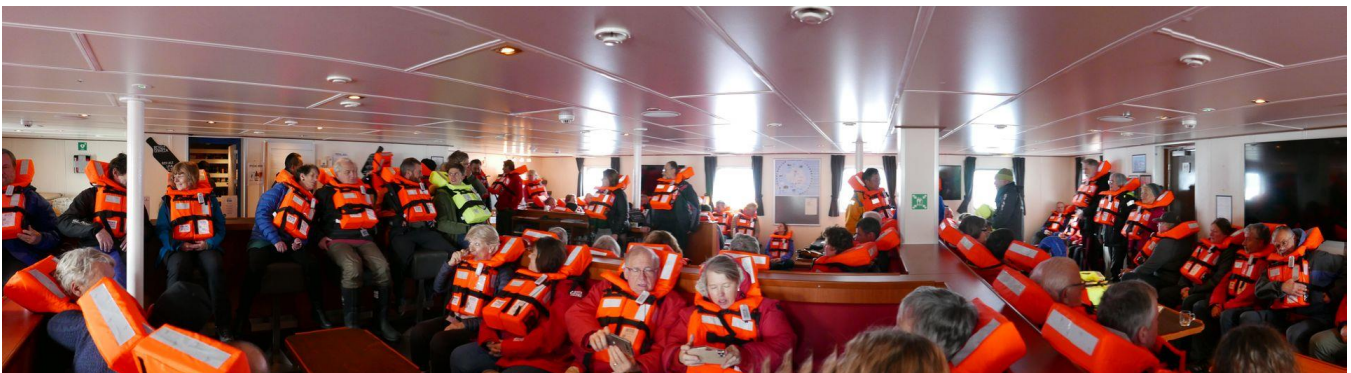
The Bridge is proving a regular 'office' for some of us – a place from which we can enjoy to the full the experience of being at sea in the Southern Ocean. A core of about 20



people can be seen staring dreamily through the Bridge windows at various stages of the day, rising and falling with the *Ortelius*' motion lost in their own thoughts, or checking out the chart, screens and instruments, exchanging an occasional word with the Bridge Team members on watch.

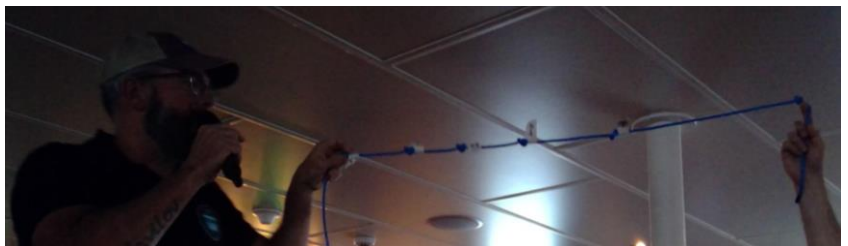
The two workshops (Art and Navigation) ran again this afternoon – they have proven extremely popular and we owe many thanks to Dafila Scott and Darrel Day for continuing to offer them. There was an additional event at 4 pm and it included everyone on board; there was an Abandon Ship drill like we had upon first boarding *Ortelius*, though this time all crew as well as passengers participated. It didn't take too long and Michael soon declared himself satisfied with the super-duper new automatic check-in system and thanked us for our time, after which we were able to take off our huge, sexy, orange life jackets and enjoy tea-time as usual.

The Bar was crowded again at 5 pm, when Valentin presented *Overwintering as an Ornithologist at Crozet Island*. A fascinating experience (all those birds!), and Val obviously appreciated it and brought it to life again for us. The weather systems on islands around Antarctica can be even more changeable and harsh than on the continent itself it seems; interestingly, many listeners were jealous of Val and wished THEY could go and spend some time there.



Recap & Briefing gave Val the opportunity to speak some more and tell us about Penguin Watch – an Oxford University project in which we can participate in Citizen Science and help count penguins from home! Then Mark demonstrated bird wingspans using a piece of rope. Even Snow petrels (featured by Gary and yes, he CAN do their call!) are bigger than they seem, and as for the albatrosses, well, the biggest of them has a wingspan wider than Mark and Val with outstretched arms combined...

It was a quiet evening in the Bar and round the ship. We are not used to having 24 hours in a day anymore and it seems we needed to go early to bed to compensate!



## Day 26 – Wednesday March 11 – Bellingshausen Sea – towards Peter I Island.

GPS noon position: 68°47'S / 106°57'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, NW2/3

Weather conditions: Cloudy

Barometric pressure: 961

Sea condition: Moderate swell/Moderate

A hearty breakfast was taken by all on this foggy morning, which was heading for some sun, but not quite getting there; and then most of us met in the Bar (since the Lecture Room was rocking and rolling a bit too much) for another lecture by Valentin, entitled *Foraging behaviour of Southern Ocean Seabirds*. Perhaps the most surprising fact to emerge from this was that the total quantity of fish consumed by the world's sea birds is equal to the total amount of fish caught by the global fishing industry! No wonder over-fishing affects nature. Food for thought indeed.



Sea conditions neither worsened nor improved as the day wore on, and it wasn't until the evening and dinner-time that the ocean became much smoother. But first came lunch and several different types of pasta and salad to choose from – accompanied by a time change again today; so 1 pm again became 2 pm and the afternoon really whizzed by! Darrel held yet another Navigation workshop at 3.30 pm; people are still signing up, it would seem. There were so many questions that he

was still going long after the planned hour was up.

Decks were partially closed in the afternoon, though there were still areas open where you could walk, get some fresh air and admire the views – the Bridge wings and Deck 7 for one, where there were plenty of Deck walkers out for some laps behind the Bridge. The sea was fairly lumpy, giving rise to some unexpected accelerations and hill-climbs! And of course the Bridge itself had its usual quota of stalwarts helping to keep watch. Not so many birds around again today – it seems



some areas of ocean are less productive than others.



There was an impressive turnout in the Bar to hear Dafila Scott make a presentation at 5 pm on *Peter Scott – the story of Captain Scott's son*. She spoke of her father in straightforward language, highlighting different areas of his full life, but making especial reference to his love of art (from which he earned his bread and butter) and the environmental work he undertook later

in life, such as founding the World Wildlife Fund. She showed a number of images from his wildlife reserve/sanctuary at Slimbridge and really brought the man to life. Robert Falcon Scott had left a last message to his wife asking her to interest their son in nature and this certainly worked out according to plan and more! It was partly Sir Peter Scott's interest that prevented a Convention for the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities being ratified in 1981,

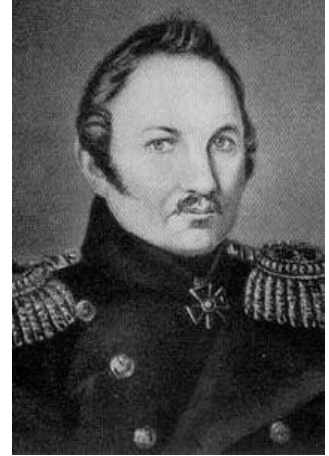


which would have opened the floodgates to exploitation of the planet's last pristine wilderness.

Soon after this it was Recap & Briefing time. Victoria took us through some of the history of Peter I Island (very rarely seen and even more rarely landed on), followed by Rolf with some



up-to-date information. We should be arriving by midnight tomorrow. With current ship speeds, the sea conditions we have been experiencing and the continuing appearance of yellow and red splodges on our weather forecast charts, Rolf explained that the potential to zodiac cruise or land on Peter I Island is simply not there. However, Captain Ernesto will try to hold the ship in the vicinity to have as close a look as possible, though visibility may not be very helpful. And this is certainly closer than Peter the Great got to his eponymous island! Even its discoverer, Bellingshausen, didn't manage to land there.



Rolf also looked ahead to the last week of our voyage. The news is NOT what we wanted to hear. Because of the afore-mentioned weather conditions and ship speed we have no choice but to set course from Peter I Island straight towards the Beagle Channel and Ushuaia. This is a great shame and disappointment as we were hoping to touch on the Antarctic Peninsula, but it is also a part of the true experience of Antarctica, which is NOT like visiting Disneyland...

We headed down for dinner (sorry if we were a bit late, Michael!) discussing this turn of events. Sad, but not entirely surprising as Rolf has been keeping us up-to-date with our



mileage regularly and circumstances have not conspired to deliver us everything we had hoped. Still the adventure is not over yet, even if the landings are; though handing in our passports to Michael and Carlos earlier in the day certainly reminded us that the 'real world' (whatever that may mean in these uncertain times) is looming ever closer.

And the evening did indeed offer us one more unusual experience, as well as the opportunity to watch the next part of *Life in the Freezer*! Around 10 pm some of us became aware that *Ortelius*' engine had stopped – it was suddenly much quieter. Captain Ernesto decided to call those interested to the Bar to learn what was happening; it turned out that Engineers needed to carry out some maintenance, which would take about an hour. No need to worry! And so, while the Engineers are hard at work, sweet dreams to all passengers... We should still reach Peter I Island by the end of tomorrow. Sleep well.

## Day 27 – Thursday March 12 – Bellingshausen Sea, Antarctica – Peter I Island.

GPS noon position: 68°43'S / 096°17'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, NE3

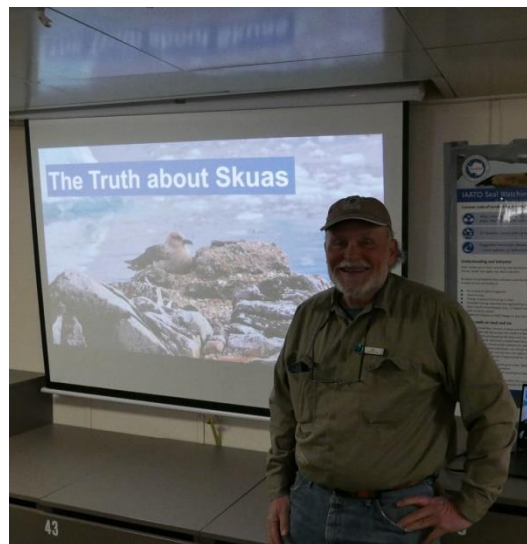
Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 958

Sea condition: Low swell, slight

Today was a day of slightly calmer seas, which was good news and enabled Gary to deliver his talk - *The Truth about Skuas* - in the Lecture Theatre. It seems that their reputation is much-maligned and their chicks are quite as cute as penguin chicks!

Although they can be aggressively opportunistic predators, they are intelligent birds and it was rewarding to learn a bit more about their life-cycle.



The rest of the morning passed swiftly, occupied by getting out on deck for some fresh air or standing in the warmth of the Bridge and ocean-gazing. Apparently at least one Southern Royal albatross was spotted - the reward for those who keep long watches.

The highlight of lunch was DEFINITELY the profiteroles. They are so small and dainty and delicious! Trouble was that we all took two...to help us recover from the shock of the (now usual) lunchtime lurch from 1 pm to 2 pm.

By popular demand, several episodes of *Life in the Freezer* were shown in the Bar during the afternoon. These kept those of us not wanting to doze before nightfall awake (the time change can be confusing to the body clock) and amused until tea-time with muffins.

Recap & Briefing took place in the middle of a 'Happy Hour'. Shaun and Mark kept up the 'edutainment', with an account of five different poles at each end of the earth (Shaun) and the people behind the place-names in the Amundsen Sea (Mark). Then Rolf told us that we are nearing Peter I Island, though it will be dark when we arrive. Therefore we can expect to receive an early wake-up call tomorrow, so that we can go out on deck and be among the few thousand people who have ever seen the island first-hand...

## Day 28 – Friday March 13 – In the Bellingshausen Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 68°16'S / 089°42'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +2°C, E6/7

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 959

Sea condition: Heavy swell, rough



‘Good Morning’ came the call at 6 am. Peter I Island is close! The really keen island-spotters leapt out of bed and were

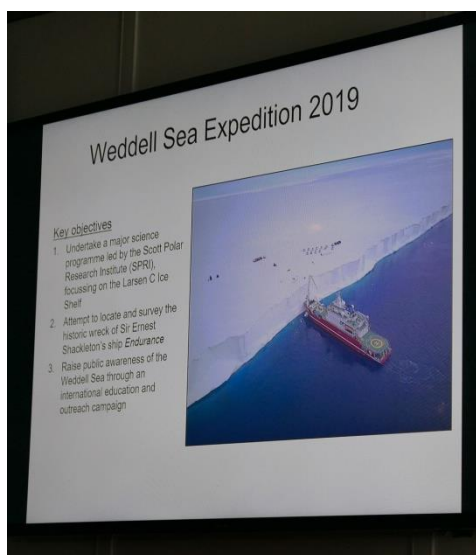
out on deck in a flash, peering through the cloud cover at the horizon ahead of our bow. The more restrained passengers took their time to wake up and emerged more slowly. Certainly, this elusive speck-in-the-ocean could be seen and photographed, with an impressive iceberg blocking one end. The resulting photos may not be of award-winning status, but prove beyond doubt that we were HERE. The weather did not encourage us to linger out on deck – in fact most people took their photos from just outside the Bar and rushed back in again. Thank you to our captain for getting us as close as he could.

And so we turned north-east and set sail for Argentina, our final destination. Seas were sufficiently rough to move all lectures to the Bar and it proved an extremely historical morning. Victoria kept our imaginations busy with a talk on *Ernest Shackleton and the greatest expedition of the Antarctic Heroic Age*. Although just about everyone on board has heard of this amazing story of adventure and survival in the face of huge challenges, it was good to have it laid out before us as a whole and certainly made us grateful to be on *Ortelius* in the 21<sup>st</sup> century rather than *Endurance* in the early 20<sup>th</sup>! We were also grateful to be given a coffee break in the middle.



The Southern Ocean was not especially kind to us today and there was considerable movement of the ship from strong waves and ocean swell as time went on. Trouble is, since the rock and rolling prevents us from sleeping at night, we have a tendency to nod off during the day – still, only one more time change to go after Michael had called this one. By afternoon siesta time, no amount of

rolling and pitching was going to stop us from getting a bit of shut-eye, though an alert minority turned up enthusiastically to Darrel's navigation workshop as always.



There was shortbread for tea and most of us were in the Bar to enjoy a cuppa and a chat with fellow passengers, which meant all of the biscuits disappeared in record time. Afterwards, attendance was excellent for the last lecture of the day, which featured Julian Dowdeswell and John Shears (of SPRI) with their joint presentation on *The Search for Endurance - The Weddell Sea expedition*. As a follow-on from Victoria's presentation this morning it was an amazing bit of reportage; unsurprisingly, there were many, many volunteers to join them on this epic geographical and scientific

venture. John gave us the details of their voyage, with Julian chipping in with details of the science achieved on board and how the results are shaping up since their return. As the automated underwater vehicle (AUV) sent down to film the wreck failed to return there will need to be a second trip, using a fully-fledged icebreaker vessel this time. Presumably the AUV couldn't surface to reveal whatever was filmed because of heavy sea-ice cover. I think we'd ALL like to be there when *Endurance* finally yields up its secrets; watch this space... and SPRI's website in a few years' time.



There were so many questions after this talk that Recap & Briefing had to be delayed a few minutes. But that was okay as the Bar was already open! Gary started us off with a PS on skuas – all about the revenge of the penguin in fact, with a surprising number of incidences when he had observed adult penguins attacking skuas and even deliberately killing their chicks. Wow. Victoria came on with a famous quotation from TS Eliot connected with the Shackleton crossing of South Georgia – it fairly sends shivers down your spine. Then Rolf gave us a short summary of how far we have got since leaving Peter I Island, indicating that we will have to wait and see how much progress we can make in these fairly rough sea conditions (if weather forecasts prove correct).

And so it was dinner time – hare for some and salmon trout for others. And this time the choir refused to be put off by the behaviour of the Bellingshausen Sea and met in the Lecture Room afterwards, despite having trouble standing upright! A very satisfactory recording of some of the songs performed a few days ago was achieved, rounding the day off nicely.

## Day 29 – Saturday March 14 – In the Bellingshausen Sea, Antarctica.

GPS noon position: 65°49'S / 083°47'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +3°C, N4/5

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 956

Sea condition: Heavy swell, rough



The night may have been short for many of us tucked away on the *Ortelius*. She did a bit of rolling and rocking through the night, which continued into the morning. Wake-up call came at the usual 7.45 am, with Michael exhorting us to make our way slowly and carefully to breakfast, as the doors were now open. We had a full programme offered for the day ahead, so we all appreciated being fed and watered first.

However, our scheduled lecture by Clouds had to be postponed - she's lost her voice. The sea conditions also made it prudent to change the lecture venue to the Bar so as to entice more people to join. Gary filled in with a talk: *Seasonal prevalence of viral antibodies in Emperor Penguins*. It was much more entertaining than it sounded! Gary told us about his year with Emperor penguins and how he was able to capture and get samples from 400 adults and 200 chicks over the winter, in order to determine how many penguins were affected by viruses. The most exciting part was seeing how to catch and handle an Emperor penguin.



Lunch was as tasty as ever and the seas didn't let up a bit as the day wore on. We were making progress, inching our way up the map toward the north-east. We won't enter the Drake Passage proper until tomorrow, but there will be little difference in the state of the sea. The weather forecast suggested that we might get a little easing of the wind as the





day wore on, but it wasn't noticeable. Those standing vigil on the Bridge did at least see more birds than before, gliding round the ship. There were a few of the big albatrosses, such as the Wandering and a Southern Royal, but also several of their smaller cousins - the Black-browed, Grey-headed, and the Light-mantled. The Southern Fulmar, which was so common around Peter I Island a couple of days ago, was less common but still present, as were Cape petrels, Southern Giant

petrels and Mottled petrels. The overall numbers are increasing some as we move northward and toward the convergence.

Soon after lunch Darrel gave the final workshop on navigation. Hopefully now, all of us could find our way with a map and a compass (and maybe a GPS!) across the wide open seas. Later in the day Julian gave us an interesting talk on: *Ice and Modern Environmental Change*; we hope to get the second climate change-themed lecture tomorrow, when Clouds gets her voice back... Julian's presentation started with what we know about the retreat of glaciers around the world, and then went on to describe how modern techniques of satellites, drones, gravimeters and more can tell us how whole continents are losing ice, by measuring its thickness. Julian showed us how different areas of ice loss will contribute to sea level rise and how thermal expansion also contributes to it. Finally he ended with a series of predictions for the future from models. We were shown both the best case and worst case scenarios; a reasonable prediction is that our fate is likely to fall somewhere between the two. He ended with a clear explanation of some of the challenges to come—and plenty for us to think about.



So another day faded away. The internet started to come back to life and we began to get an inkling of how the world outside our *Ortelius* bubble has changed over the past month. It seems our challenges are not over – from Antarctic environment to world environment!

The day ended with a screening of *The Loneliest Mountain* - a lovely film about the first ascent of Mount Minto, the highest mountain in northern Victoria Land. We saw this mountain from Robertson Bay (near Cape Adare) when we spent our first day in the Ross Sea, on the edge of the continent. As we made our way back to our cabins for the night we reflected that tomorrow's another day; and tomorrow should also be another 300 nautical miles closer to Argentina.

## Day 30 – Sunday March 15 – Bellingshausen Sea/Drake Passage.

GPS noon position: 63°05'S / 078°09'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +4.5°C, WNW8

Weather conditions: Overcast

Barometric pressure: 954

Sea condition: Heavy swell, rough



Well! That was an interesting night. Quite a few of us got up this morning already thinking about going back to bed for a while when the ocean eased up a bit, though it didn't really! This is turning into a memorable crossing indeed as we get into the famous Drake Shake at last. At least we have some experience now of heavy swells and strong winds...

advisory came through from Rolf (and later the captain on the Bridge) to walk around with even more care than usual, always holding on and to stay in our cabins if we felt unsure of our footing. However, Victoria was in the Bar to entertain the more agile history fanatics and to fill us in on some of the lesser-known explorers with *A Selected Antarctic History from 1897 – 1937*. In this she covered the expeditions of the Belgian Gerlache, Swedish Nordenskjöld, French Charcot and Australian/British Rymill. She also pointed out that one reason these expeditions are not so famous is that nothing went horribly wrong and they (nearly) all got home safely!



A selected  
Antarctic history,  
1897 - 1937



De Gerlache (Belgian)  
Nordenskjöld (Swedish)  
Charcot (French)  
Rymill (British)

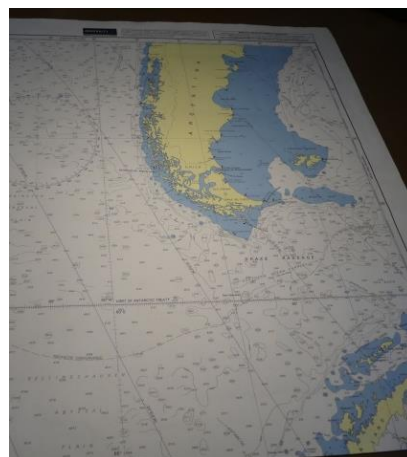


People lingered over a coffee for a chit-chat after this, then headed up to the Bridge to have a look for albatross and other specialists in dynamic soaring. Over the day we chalked up a fair number of species – including Grey-headed, but also the great Wandering albatross, mesmerically circling the ship and at times passing astonishingly close to Bridge windows.

For the first time on this voyage, Michael announced that the usual buffet lunch had turned into a plated service, so we all sat down and let the Dining Room staff take the strain of feeding us; as ever they did a good job and the Nasi Goreng went down well. The great news is that we have FINISHED with time changes, so we had a full-length afternoon again (maybe to catch up on sleep). For obvious practical reasons the SPRI auction we have been looking forward to has been postponed for smoother seas, so the afternoon was passed quietly and we look forward to the auction preview, art workshop display and the auction itself tomorrow instead.

Still, Valentin's lecture remained on the programme, with his talk on *The Wandering Albatross* delivered in the Bar at 3.30 pm – a good time to be hearing about this noble bird as we hope to be seeing more and more individuals and species riding the winds as we get further into the Drake Passage.

Rolf's charts at Recap & Briefing were still full of bright reds, oranges and yellows, so although we hope to be racing ahead of the next incoming weather system, it doesn't look as if it's going to be a smooth ride for the last couple of days of the voyage. Yet amazingly, we are more or less on



schedule; the Bridge officers are doing a great job of turning *Ortelius* onto a temporarily more stable course during meals, then resuming straight as an arrow for the end of the Beagle Channel. Recaps today were on Drake the Man (Victoria) and another of Simon's stories...which never seem to run out.

Dinner time and still no sign of a quieter ocean really. There was a decidedly Austrian influence on the menu tonight, so Head Chef Heinz was obviously enjoying himself. And to round off the day, at 9 pm Michael broadcast the Kenneth Branagh *Shackleton* film on the TVs in our cabins. We lay there in comfort and soaked it all up!



Then turned out the light and settled down for another bumpy night; but if Sir Francis Drake survived it, so can we and at least we have tablets to amuse ourselves with in the wee small hours.

## Day 31 – Monday March 16 – In the Drake Passage.

GPS noon position: 60°13'S / 072°08'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +7°C, NW6

Weather conditions: Partly cloudy

Barometric pressure: 973

Sea condition: Heavy swell, moderate

We are continuing at full speed for Ushuaia and the best that can be said of sea conditions today is that they are not getting any worse! There was no significant change to the rocking and rolling, though maybe a slight easing up at times in the afternoon.



As Clouds' voice had returned, she treated us to *Too hot to handle: the global carbon experiment* after breakfast. In this climate change talk she explained how the term 'global warming' has become inappropriate in the light of recent observations and scientific analysis: although many places in the world ARE becoming hotter, the centre of Antarctica is cooling! Current and future research needs to focus on how to

handle increasing incidences of violent storms, fires, etc. globally. She ended by projecting some extreme scenarios for our planet, and asked if with 1m rises in sea level possible by 2100, we can afford NOT to take action?

As yesterday, Michael and his team were offering a plated lunch, so we sat down and waited to be served in the Dining Room. The extra work this makes for our dining room staff is offset by fewer 'accidents'.



For those of us who had given up on the hope of a siesta, it was great to hear an announcement that Deck 4 aft was open for us to get fresh air and enjoy the antics of the many albatross and Giant petrels soaring round *Ortelius*. It was also extremely entertaining to try and film the degree to which the ship was listing and wallowing in the waves – plenty of pillars and fittings to brace ourselves against in order to try and take action shots! This kept a number of us busy through the afternoon.

The other major activity today was provided by the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI). The Dining Room provided the ideal venue for an auction preview; special items with an Antarctic flavour going up for auction at 5 pm were available for viewing from 2.30 – 3.30 pm. It was useful to find out what would be on offer so that we could allocate our budgets accordingly! It was also a great opportunity for those who had been involved in Dafila's art workshops to display the fruits of their labours if they so chose - and fun for us all to see what they had been up to. What a talented bunch we are.

Later, Shaun offered us a presentation on *The South Pole Route* in the Bar. This relatively-new road seems to work very well for transporting essential, heavy items to Amundsen-Scott Base on the polar plateau; and we learned the reasons for its success.



Finally, the moment for the SPRI auction arrived, and with it Happy Hour at the unusual, earlier time of 5 pm. The lots on offer were many and varied – from pins and tea-towels and notelets to major publications (many signed by the author), limited edition prints and original artworks. Dafila Scott contributed two water-colour

paintings (of the *Discovery* and *Cape Evans* huts), which raised pleasing sums to go towards establishing an educational bursary in perpetuity for the study of Antarctic science (social or physical) at SPRI. This was a 'feel-good' project for participants and attendees alike and it was great entertainment too (thank you to Darrel, John and Julian).

Recap & Briefing time was upon us once again – with an update from Rolf as to our Ushuaia-ward progress and light recap contributions from Mark (exactly how long does that famous moustache take to freeze?!) and Simon (the stories never run out).

And it was again time for dinner, after which the *Ortelius* choir held a music practice, followed by the documentary *Chasing Ice: the Extreme Ice Survey* in the Bar.

Unfortunately, as bed-time approached the motion of the ship got worse; so lying horizontal has to be the best plan. We are becoming (albeit reluctantly) somewhat expert at 'Drake-proofing' our cabins, having got in plenty of practice whilst in the Ross, Amundsen and Bellingshausen Seas! And equally good at wedging ourselves into our beds; counting penguins (rather than sheep) is highly recommended to aid nodding off, but make sure you have some soporific reading material to hand just in case you wake in the night.



## Day 32 – Tuesday March 17 – In the Drake Passage.

GPS noon position: 56°54'S / 066°04'W

Air temperature & wind speed: +8.5°C, WNW6/7

Weather conditions: Overcast, rain

Barometric pressure: 992

Sea condition: Heavy swell, rough

This morning started differently; not with better seas, sadly, but after his morning greetings over the PA, Rolf summoned us all to a meeting in the Bar in 15 minutes...

It was a somewhat subdued (sleepy and unwashed!) group which awaited Captain Ernesto's appearance. What will happen next in the crazy real world of spreading Covid 19 (aka: Coronavirus) is beginning to become a matter of reality rather than the mere shifting sands of rumour. This time tomorrow we should be in Ushuaia, where we had hoped to disembark, rebook flights if necessary and somehow make our way(s) home.

The news was rather disheartening, but reflects the new reality of the world back home. Argentina's decision to close her ports and doors on the outside world means that *Ortelius* cannot reach Ushuaia before the new deadline - at least as our latest directive reports. What will happen next is yet unknown. We hope that we can refuel and resupply the ship and sail on to try another port. And so the story unfolds.



Guest lecturer Richard Turvey's 10 am talk on *Abraham Ortelius: the Man, his Maps, Mercator and More* was postponed (or cancelled – time will tell). Instead, the

wonderful and classic documentary *Around Cape Horn* was shown in the Bar and proved a delightful distraction from the world's woes. Johnson Irving took the footage as a young sailor on a four-masted schooner, *Peking* – one of the last sailing ships ever to round Cape Horn. Later he added the commentary and the result is enchanting.

Lunch was plated and served once again and although Captain Ernesto tried, it was difficult to stabilize the ship and rather a lot of soup and water etc. sloshed around. Afterwards many passengers headed for the Bridge to watch *Ortelius'* dramatic and

splashy progress north. One hand for the ship has now turned into two hands for the ship. Moving around became sufficiently risky that many of us decided, after enjoying the view for a while, that bed was the best place to be. It was certainly the safest. An afternoon siesta eluded most of us though, since we slip and slide head to toe constantly. Never mind – by this evening we should be entering more sheltered waters.



A Miscellany of Mermaids

Being a historical account of their origins, an examination of the evidence for their existence, their appearance in literature/art and some natural history



Victoria's *Miscellany of Mermaids* talk was also postponed/cancelled (husband and wife in one day!) as it was better not to encourage people to wander around the ship. So the afternoon passed in reading and sudoku and speculation. The only other planned activity to take place was a not-very-informative briefing (though not Rolf's fault!) before a late buffet dinner, BBQ style (WITH FREE WINE); by then we were nearing the Beagle

Channel and were better able to keep our balance.

The Bar was still open in the evening, though most of us have paid our bills now (rather a shock!) and are having to re-learn how to use cash! To pack or not to pack? That was the question. And who knows what tomorrow will bring? Will we set sail together towards unknown adventures? Will some be allowed to disembark and fly home? We have to wait until tomorrow (or tomorrow and tomorrow...) to find out.



With much speculation, the residents of *Ortelius* - crew, staff and passengers alike - settled down to what should have been our last night of the voyage on board together.

What an interesting trip it has been. Goodnight.

**Day 33 – Wednesday March 18 – Ushuaia, Argentina.**

GPS position: 54°48'S / 068°17'W

And so we have come to our final day. We arrived in Ushuaia in the early hours of the morning. Who knows what the future will bring?

*Furthest South: 78°13'S/167°12'W  
(Bay of Whales, Ross Sea)*

*Total Distance Sailed from Bluff, New  
Zealand to Ushuaia, Argentina:  
6447 Nautical Miles*



*From all of us here on Ortelius - Captain,  
Officers, Staff and Crew - thank you for  
travelling with us and we wish you a safe  
journey home.*



## Ortelius Lectures, Ross Sea 16 Feb to 18 March 2020

- February 17: *An Introduction to New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic Islands*  
(Simon Cook)
- February 20: *Seals and Sea lions of the world* (Gary Miller)  
*Ernest Shackleton and the Nimrod Expedition at Cape Royds*  
(Victoria Salem)  
*What do we really know about Penguins?*  
(Valentin Nivet Mazerolles)
- February 21: *Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler?* (Victoria Salem)  
*Albatrosses of the World* (Simon Cook)  
*Tips and tricks to better photos: A photography primer*  
(Claudia Holgate)
- February 22: *The First Antarctic Winter – at Cape Adare (Borchgrevink, 1898 – 1900)* (Victoria Salem)  
*Cape Adare* (Shaun Norman)
- February 24: *My time as a Ranger in the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands*  
(Phil Tisch)
- February 26: *Robert Falcon Scott's Antarctic Homes* (Victoria Salem)
- February 27: *Life History of Adelie penguins* (Gary Miller)
- February 28: *Shackleton's Forgotten Men* (Victoria Salem)
- February 29: *Human survival in the cold* (Chris Johnson – Guest Lecturer)
- March 1: *At the top of Mount Erebus* (Shaun Norman)  
*Living in Antarctica: Life at McMurdo Station, Part I* (Mark Vogler)
- March 3: *The Life of an Emperor penguin* (Gary Miller)  
*Living in Antarctica: Life at McMurdo Station, Part II* (Mark Vogler)
- March 4.1: *An Introduction to Ice* (Julian Dowdeswell - Guest Lecturer)
- March 4.2: *“Brutally unsubtle”: the life of Roald Amundsen – “the Last of the Vikings”* (Victoria Salem)
- March 5: *Southern Seabirds & New Technologies* (Valentin Nivet Mazerolles)  
*The Antarctic Treaty* (John Shears - Guest Lecturer)  
*Longitude: a solution to an age-old problem* (Claudia Holgate)
- March 6: *Toothed Cetaceans* (Simon Cook)  
*Magnetics in Antarctica 1898 – 1988* (Kitty Martin – Guest Lecturer)  
*Wintering at Australian Antarctic Station Mawson* (Gary Miller)
- March 7: *Ice, wind and waves: An introduction to Antarctica and its climate*  
(Claudia Holgate)  
*Beneath the waves: the seafloor signature of past ice sheets*  
(Julian Dowdeswell – Guest Lecturer)
- March 8: *Plate tectonics* (Rolf Stange)  
*Dog Sledging in Antarctica* (Shaun Norman)
- March 9: *Whales of the Antarctic* (Gary Miller)

- The SS Discovery* (Simon Cook)
- March 10: *Douglas Mawson and the Home of the Blizzard* (Victoria Salem)  
*Overwintering as an Ornithologist at Crozet Island*  
(Valentin Nivet Mazerolles)
- March 11: *Foraging behaviour of Southern Ocean Seabirds*  
(Valentin Nivet Mazerolles)  
*Peter Scott: the story of Captain Scott's son*  
(Dafila Scott – Guest Lecturer)
- March 12: *The Truth about Skuas* (Gary Miller)
- March 13: *Ernest Shackleton and the greatest expedition of the Antarctic Heroic Age* (Victoria Salem)  
*The Search for Endurance - The Weddell Sea Expedition*  
(John Shears & Julian Dowdeswell – Guest Lecturers)
- March 14: *Seasonal prevalence of viral antibodies in Emperor penguins*  
(Gary Miller)  
*Ice and modern environmental change*  
(Julian Dowdeswell – Guest Lecturer)
- March 15: *A Selected Antarctic History from 1897-1937* (Victoria Salem)  
*The Wandering albatross* (Valentin Nivet Mazerolles)
- March 16: *Too hot to handle: the Global Carbon experiment* (Claudia Holgate)  
*The South Pole Route* (Shaun Norman)

## **ANTARCTICA.**

### **GENERAL EXPLORATION:**

***Let Heroes Speak: Antarctic explorers 1772 – 1922*** by Michael H. Rosove – contains chapters on the great and the forgotten heroes of Antarctic exploration.

Chapters in chronological order on:- **James Cook, Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, Sealing and Early Scientific Voyages, John Biscoe, John Balleny and the Enderby Voyages, Jules S.-C. Dumont d'Urville, Charles Wilkes, James Clark Ross, Whaling, Sealing and Scientific Voyages, Henryk Johan Bull, Adrien V. J. de Gerlache, Carsten E. Borchgrevink, Robert F. Scott, Erich D. von Drygalski, Otto Nordenskjold, William S. Bruce, Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Ernest H. Shackleton, Roald Amundsen, Wilhelm Filchner, Douglas A. Mawson & John L. Cope.**

“An excellent introduction to Antarctic history”.

“***Let Heroes Speak*** is an excellent detailed account of the early explorers of the Antarctic continent and their accomplishments prior to the advent of the technological age that began in the late 1920s.”

“A set of excellent synopses of the journeys on and around Antarctica, from the time of Cook’s second voyage to the death of Shackleton.”

“Rosove gives the reader a feeling for the explorers’ motivations and the hardships they had to face by using their own words – the words of pioneers who were truly heroes. Highly recommended. “

***The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery, and Adventure in Antarctica’s Peninsula region*** by Joan N. Boothe (2016). Deals specifically with Antarctic Peninsula, so very relevant to our trip.

***Antarctica, a Biography*** by David Day. A fairly comprehensive look at Antarctica, with lots of history, exploration and science included right up to 2012.

## **SHACKLETON:**

***Endurance*** and ***Shackleton's Boat Journey*** by **F A Worsley** – An easy and fascinating read by a great supporter of Shackleton.

***Shackleton*** by **Roland Huntford** – Very detailed and well-researched account of Shackleton's life and expeditions. But bear in mind Huntford's obsessive debunking of the Scott myth when considering his objectivity over Shackleton.

***Shackleton – A Life in Poetry*** by **Jim Mayer** – A recent publication by a personal friend (check for my name in the acknowledgements!). An interesting, new approach to Shackleton and his life via both the poetry he loved and the poetry he wrote. Sheds new light on Shackleton the man, the poet & the explorer.

## **SHACKLETON'S ROSS SEA PARTY:**

***Shackleton's Forgotten Men*** by **Lennard Bickel** – A fascinating account of the fate of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party, who were laying supporting depots for his Antarctic crossing; he never came, but they completed their appointed task at great cost.

Also try:-

***Polar Castaways: The Ross Sea Party of Sir Ernest Shackleton*** by **Richard McElrea**.

***The Ross Sea Shore Party 1914 – 17*** by **Richard W. Richards**.

***The Lost Men: The Harrowing Saga of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party*** by **Kelly Tyler-Lewis**.

## **NOVELS (FICTION) ON ANTARCTICA:**

***Antarctica*** by **Kim Stanley-Robinson** – a sci-fi, futuristic, political novel set against a backdrop of one version of a future Antarctica. Highly recommended.

***Skating to Antarctica*** by **Jenny Diski** – a compelling account of a journey to Antarctica and an inner journey of the spirit.

***Mrs Chippy's Last Expedition*** by **Caroline Alexander** – a cat's eye view of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition!

***Victim of the Aurora*** by **Thomas Keneally**. A historical murder mystery on a British South Pole expedition in 1909, with a predatory, villainous victim.

***Everland*** by **Rebecca Hunt**. In 1913, three explorers row a dinghy to an uncharted island which they name 'Everland'. But their adventure soon turns disastrous, ending up in a desperate struggle for survival. Hollywood makes a film of the tragedy and one hundred years later, two scientists and a field assistant depart for a centenary expedition to Everland. Soon, their trip starts to echo the 1913 excursion...what will be their fate?

***My Last Continent*** by **Midge Raymond**. There is a romance about faraway, desperate places, about isolation, about ice and snow. Add penguins and you have an elegant love story about the Antarctic and the creatures, humans included, who are at home there. Half adventure, half elegy, and wholly recommended.

## SCOTT & AMUNDSEN READING LIST:-

**Scott's Last Expedition/The Voyage of the Discovery** – very well-written and readable account by Scott himself.

**Captain Scott by Ranulph Fiennes** – A much easier read than Huntford's tome (see below); sets out to debunk the debunking of Scott and vindicate his heroic reputation. Extremely (obsessively?) pro-Scott. Also very interesting – draw your own conclusions!

**The Worst Journey in the World by Apsley Cherry-Garrard** – A wonderfully written account of Scott's last expedition, with emphasis on Cherry-Garrard, Wilson & Bowers' winter journey to Cape Crozier for emperor penguin eggs.

**The Last place on Earth/Scott and Amundsen by Roland Huntford** – very detailed and well-researched account of Scott and Amundsen's famous race to the Pole. A great supporter of Amundsen and a great debunker of Scott. Very interesting, though extremely (obsessively?) anti-Scott.

**Roald Amundsen by Tor Bomann-Larsen** – A thorough account of the life and expeditions of the famous Norwegian explorer.

**Cold Recall – Reflections of a Polar Explorer, edited by Geir O Kløver** – a book created to accompany a *Fram* Museum Exhibition; light on commentary, but containing many original photos and facsimiles of documents.

**The South Pole by Roald Amundsen** – This book chronicles the epic journey of Amundsen and his team of hand-picked men from its conception to its triumphant conclusion.

**My Life as an Explorer by Roald Amundsen** – described as '*more of a suicide bid than an autobiography*' when it first came out in 1927. A Norwegian newspaper stated "*...this book might be small, but the man is nevertheless big.*" Should petty controversy be divided from great deeds?

Amundsen's memoirs attacked just about every other contemporary explorer; nevertheless, this is a tale of great adventure.

**The Last Viking: The Life of Roald Amundsen by Stephen R. Bown** – This account unravels the life of the man who stands head and shoulders above the majority of explorers. In 1900 the four great geographical mysteries remaining were the Northwest Passage, the Northeast Passage, the South Pole and the North Pole. Amundsen claimed all four prizes within 20 years. This is a thrilling literary biography and a cracking good story.



# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019/20

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

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE WORTH A € 1000 GIFT VOUCHER?

## 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.



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**GIFT VOUCHER**

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 500 gift voucher**

for Oceanwide Expeditions



**€ 250 gift voucher**

for Oceanwide Expeditions

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](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)



# Antarctica



17  
16  
15  
18

14

13

12

11

5 - 10 See  
Ross Sea Map

4

3

2

1

## Ross Sea Feb 16 – Mar 18, 2020

1. Bluff, New Zealand
2. Campbell Island
3. Auckland Islands
4. Balleny Islands
- 5.-10. See Ross Sea Map
11. Sea Ice/Bay of Whales
12. Amundsen Sea
13. Bellingshausen Sea
14. Peter I
15. Drake Passage
16. Beagle Channel
17. Porto Williams
18. Ushuaia, Argentina

**Map legend**

- Coastline
- Ice shelf
- Glaciated area
- Rock outcrop
- Elevation contour
- Subglacial lake outline
- Regional boundary

**Bathymetry**

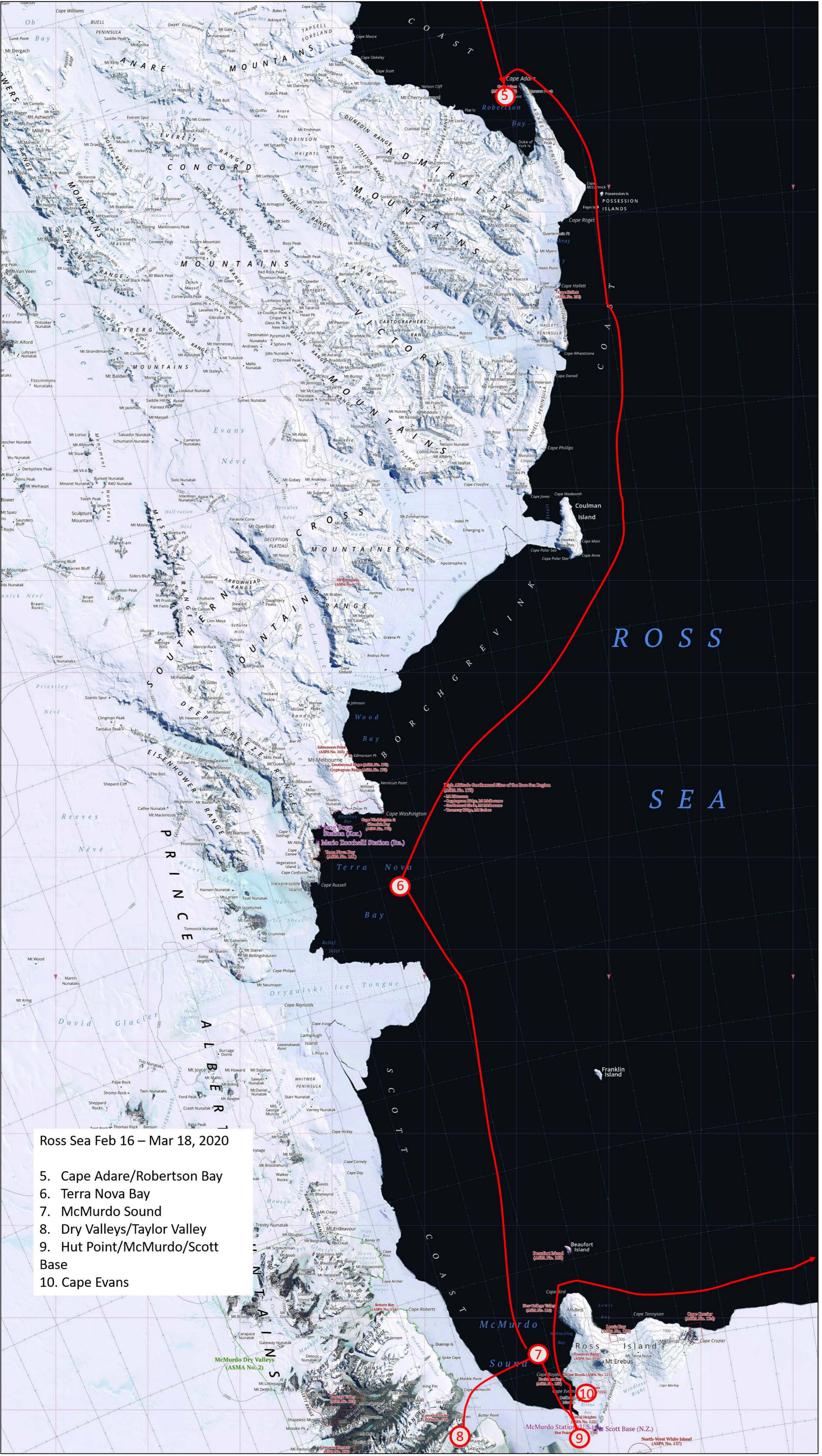
- 0 m
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- 4000
- 5000
- 6000
- 7000
- 8000

**Abbreviations**

- C. Cape
- Gl. Glacier
- I. Island
- I.S. Ice Shelf
- Mt. Mount
- Mns. Mountains
- N. Narrows
- Pen. Peninsula
- Ra. Range

**Main facilities**

- Station, year-round operation
- Station, seasonal operation
- Camp, refuge



Ross Sea Feb 16 – Mar 18, 2020

- 5. Cape Adare/Robertson Bay
- 6. Terra Nova Bay
- 7. McMurdo Sound
- 8. Dry Valleys/Taylor Valley
- 9. Hut Point/McMurdo/Scott Base
- 10. Cape Evans

Peak Altitude Confirmed Sites of the Ross Sea Region  
 (ASMA No. 179)  
 -Whitman  
 -Cryogenian Range (ASMA No. 180)  
 -Thamesy Ridge, Mt. Adams

Edmondson Point (ASMA No. 165)  
 Geothermal Site (ASMA No. 178)  
 Cryogenian Range (ASMA No. 180)

Marie Zucchelli Station (Ita.)  
 Terra Nova Bay (ASMA No. 181)

McMurdo Dry Valleys (ASMA No. 2)

McMurdo Station (U.S.)  
 Scott Base (N.Z.)

North-West White Island (ASMA No. 157)



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## Rolf Stange - Expedition Leader

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Rolf was born in Germany in 1973 and the polar latitudes, initially in the North, have always had a magical appeal to Rolf, since childhood days, when he went as close to the North Pole as Denmark together with his parents. In 1997, he went to Spitsbergen for the first time; his first Antarctic season was in 2001-2002. Until today, he has never lost the desire go North and South again. More than 170 expedition cruises in the Arctic and the Antarctic have followed until now – and it is safe to assume that more are still to come ...

Rolf studied geography and geology in Münster and Bonn. He was on board when Oceanwide Expedition went into the Ross Sea for the first time in 2013 and he is returning to this amazing part of the continent now for the fourth time.

Rolf is at home in Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen) and Dresden (Germany).

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# Claudia Holgate - Assistant Expedition Leader

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Claudia, or “Clouds” as she is known on the ship, is a Polar guide with a passion for sharing her knowledge and experience. Claudia, a South African native, has worked at all levels in government, for the United Nations, as an independent environmental consultant and as an academic, but being an expedition guide is the best job by far. She has an MSc. and a Diploma in Higher Education, and considers herself to be a general naturalist, able to speak authoritatively many natural history subjects, from climate and geology to birds and marine biology. Her research has focussed on climate change and she will

point out some of the changes that we are seeing during our journey. Claudia’s contribution to geographical research, teaching, outreach and exploration lead to her being elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS).

Claudia’s has been working in the polar regions for 12 years and she still never tires of the White Wilderness and she will tell you that each trip is different and special in its own way.

Claudia is also a Critical Care flight paramedic and when she is back home in South Africa, she teaches doctors and nurses courses in Advanced Cardiac, Paediatric and Trauma Life Support and is currently working on a PhD in Emergency Medicine through the University of Cape Town. In her time off, Claudia loves going into the African bush, photographing, hiking and birding, as well as, doing community work as part of Soroptimist International (Johannesburg club).

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# Simon Cook - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Shaun Norman - Expedition Guide

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Growing up in South London, Shaun credits the Boy Scouts for the valuable training it provided for his future outdoor endeavours. While at his first job in London as an insurance broker, Shaun applied to and was accepted by the British Antarctic Survey. Shaun went on to spend more than 25 summers and three winters in Antarctica working at Stonington, McMurdo, the South Pole and Deception Island. He began by transporting scientists to work areas by dog sled and went on to do a five-month, 1,500-mile South Pole traverse as the senior mountaineer and safety officer.

Shaun then spent three summers with the New Zealand Antarctic Program as the deputy leader at Scott Base and the leader of the Mount Erebus Volcano Expedition, initiating routes to the inner crater rim. He later completed multiple trans-Antarctic meteorite hunting expeditions for the US National Science Foundation. In addition to his extensive experience in Antarctica, Shaun has also been a mountaineering guide throughout the world including locations such as Mount Everest, Denali National Park, East Africa, Russia and Europe. He rates his 39 summits of New Zealand's tallest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook (3765m), as a significant achievement. Shaun resides in New Zealand where he loves his role as grandfather to five, while continuing his world travels with his beautiful wife Judy.

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## Gary Miller - Expedition Guide

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

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

His life moved south when in 1986 he began research on Antarctic penguins and skuas. Starting with 6 summers of research on Ross Island, deep in the Ross Sea, he has visited Antarctica in 31 of the past 34 years

- including 10 summers and a winter at research stations studying South Polar Skuas and Adélie, Gentoo, Chinstrap, Royal, King and Emperor Penguins.

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

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



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# Victoria Salem - Expedition Guide

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Victoria has always been fascinated by the colder places on our planet and has been travelling in Northern Europe, the Arctic and Antarctica regularly for the past 12 years.

She has worked in expedition cruising for 20 seasons at both ends of the earth and some places in between, focusing on history, culture and exploration.

She specialized in Old Norse literature and Viking history at undergraduate level and holds a Graduate Certificate in Antarctic studies from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

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

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# Valentin Nivet-Mazerolles - Expedition Guide

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Valentin was born in the Haute-Savoie region of the French Alps. When he was a child he dreamt of becoming an ornithologist and travelling the world. This dream came true in 2008 when he took part in a project to band birds in the North of Spain.

Since then he has been involved in various wildlife conservation projects all over the world. For instance, leading regular scientific expeditions in the semi-arid steppe of Central Asia for 10 years. Valentin has also been a conservation ranger in the Jura Forest National Reserve in Europe

studying - among other species - the Capercaillie, the Golden Eagle & the Eurasian Lynx (not a bird).

A life defining moment for Valentin was when he overwintered for 15 months on the French subantarctic Crozet Islands in 2014 – living among wandering albatrosses and king penguins - as an ornithologist-ecologist for the French Polar Institute, what opened the polar world gates to him.

He renewed the islander life with a month in autonomy with 1 co-worker on one of the Falklands islets to monitor the fauna. Valentin is also photographer, author of naturalistic books and articles. Expedition guide in polar and tropical regions since 2017, that's allows him to find the balance between sharing and escaping into the wilderness.

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# Mark Vogler - Expedition Guide

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

In 2006 Mark heard the call of the ice and ventured to Barrow, Alaska to see the frozen ocean. In 2011 he then went South, sailing below the Antarctic Circle, where he developed an acute case of Polar Fever. In 2012, he returned to the Arctic, exploring the east coast of

Greenland and sailed deep into Scoresby Sund, the largest fjord system on earth, resulting in his first published polar piece, "Greenland's Iceberg Parade: The Greatest Show On Earth", published by international shipping industry magazine, Marine Commerce. In 2015, Mark was sent on assignment to the Antarctic Peninsula with international LGBT Travel Magazine, Man About World, to pen "Antarctica: The Ultimate White Party". Since then Mark has built his polar credentials, earning his STCW-95 certification at the California State University Maritime Academy, trained with US Coast Guard in maritime safety, and become certified in wilderness first aid.

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

Most recently, Mark spent the first 2 months of 2018 with the National Science Foundation at McMurdo Station, the United States Antarctic Research Station in the Ross Sea, and is on standby to return there to winter-over in Antarctica in 2019.

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## Darrel Day - Permit Holder

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A native of Australia, Darrel Day, first travelled to Antarctica the summer of 1999 on a mountaineering expedition. Since then he returned every summer and built his life around Antarctica. In 2003 he bought Spirit of Sydney yacht and has been supporting the most amazing expeditions ever since: including documentary makers from Discovery Channel's Globetrekker, Animal Planet's "Steve Irwin The Croc Hunter", an HBO's VICE episode, scientists from Oregon State University Marine Mammals Institute (tagging Humpback Whales), University of British Columbia (Orca study), HBO

Munchies (First ever cooking show filmed in the drake) and many others! Other expeditions have included National Geographic photographers, mountaineers, dry suit divers and kayaking expeditions including Andrew Mc Cauley's epic sea kayaking expedition in Antarctica. Darrel has sailed over 200,000+ nautical miles while supporting over 70 expeditions to Antarctica and South Georgia, and countless journeys to Cape Horn, Chile. With the Spirit of Sydney, Darrel has enthusiastically supported more first ascents of mountains within Antarctica than any other yacht, making him the most successful Antarctic yacht captain team in mountaineering support to date. With all this experience gathered in Antarctica over the years, now his company and team have grown and he is currently managing and consulting within companies like Oceanwide. He designs some of the most incredible Antarctic operations including helicopters, submersibles, superyachts and ski-mountaineering. Darrel is a leader in his industry, a full voting member of IAATO and is a longstanding committee member on both the Membership, Yacht and Field Staff Committees. With nearly two decades of experience in Antarctica Darrel truly enjoys sharing his knowledge of Antarctica with others and working in a field he loves. As a man who does what he loves he is a joy to adventure with.



## Embarkation

### Sunday 16 February 2020

#### **Welcome on board!**

Your luggage will have been delivered to your cabin. After we are all onboard, please check and notify Reception if you are missing anything or have luggage that does not belong to you.

While we are embarking please feel free to explore the ship. The Lounge/Bar is located on Deck 6, where you will find the tea and coffee station.

Customs and Immigration clearance

As soon as everyone is onboard we will need to clear customs and immigrations. This will be held in the bar (Deck 6) Please listen for announcements.

~16h00      **Welcome** by the Hotel Manager, Michael Frauendorfer **Lecture Room (Deck 3). Followed by the Mandatory Safety Briefing for ALL PASSENGERS.** A roll call will be conducted.  
**We will conduct the mandatory Lifeboat Drill right afterwards. Please listen for the Alarm.**

19h00      We would like to invite you to the **Bar** on Deck 6 for the Captain Ernesto Barría's Welcome cocktail.  
Expedition Leader, Rolf Stange, will also give a **Welcome briefing** and an introduction to the Expedition staff.

19.30      **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room located on **Deck 4** behind **Reception**. Bon appétit!

*Tonight, we will enter the Southern Ocean  
Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall  
when the ship starts to move with the swell. Please do not hold door  
frames and keep one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself.*



## At Sea

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 08h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room (Deck 4)**
- 09h30 **Mandatory IAATO** and Zodiac Briefing (Lecture room Deck 3)
- ~10h30 **Vacuum Party** - We will be doing biosecurity in the bar on deck 6. We will call you by deck and request that you bring all used OUTER gear, walking poles, tripods, and backpacks for inspection and cleaning. Please check your clothes, especially Velcro and pockets, for any seeds before coming to biosecurity  
At the same time we will be calling decks to come to the lecture room (Deck 3) to collect boots and zodiac life jackets
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 15h30 Join Simon for a lecture on **New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic Islands** (Bar deck 6)
- 18h00 Join Rolf and the team for our **Daily recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*Today, we will be in the Southern Ocean*

*Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship moves. Please do not hold door frames and keep one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself.*

## **Enderby Island**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

- 06h45 **Wake-up** call  
07h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room (Deck 4)**  
08h00 **Biosecurity** for those guests who missed it yesterday (**Bar deck 6**), you will disembark after biosecurity.

This morning we hope to offer a zodiac landing at Enderby Island, where we have the possibility of seeing the Brown skua, New Zealand pipit, New Zealand sea lion, Northern Giant petrel and Yellow-eyed penguin. Dominant vegetation includes rata forest and mega-herbs such as the Campbell Island carrot. This will be a **wet landing on a sandy beach** and we hope to be able to offer a walk across the island (A large part of this is on a boardwalk) to a viewpoint on the other side.

- 08h30 **Disembarkation** for deck 3  
08h45 **Disembarkation** for deck 4  
09h00 **Disembarkation** for deck 5

13h00 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

This afternoon we hope to be able to ship's cruise past Auckland Island. Depending on the weather conditions.

18h30 Join Rolf and the team for our **Daily recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*A forest fit for goblins: the twisted trunks of southern rata trees form an open understorey near Sandy Bay, Enderby Island.  
In summer, their fallen crimson flowers redden the forest floor.*

*Andris Apse*



## Campbell Island

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The Campbell Islands form the Southernmost part of New Zealand and it is the closest piece of land to the antipodal point of the United Kingdom, and Ireland, meaning that the furthest away city is Limerick, Ireland. The Island reaches 500m at its highest point and one has a chance to see rare endemic species such as the Campbell Island teal (The world's rarest duck), Snipe and Southern Royal Albatross.

07h45 **Wake-up** call

08h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room (Deck 4)**

09h30 Join Rolf and the team for our **Daily recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.

### Expedition morning

Join us on the outer decks as we look for wildlife

12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

### This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Campbell Island

14h00 **Disembarkation** for deck 4

14h15 **Disembarkation** for deck 5

14h30 **Disembarkation** for deck 3

18h30 Join Rolf and the team for our **Daily recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*After a week's work both on land and in Perseverance Harbour we left on January 6, having seen Campbell Island in all sorts of weather – rain, fog, hail, sunshine, gales – except calm weather. It is the storms which give the island its character. My last impression of Campbell Island from the rolling deck of the Galathea is of a succession of pillars of smoke rising as from warm and comfortable home; but it was the waterfalls being whipped upwards by the storm.*

*Magnus Degerbol of the 1952 Galathea Deep Sea Expedition*





**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

## The Port of Ushuaia

Wednesday 18th March, 2020

07h15 **Wake-up call**

07h30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room for one hour

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*We will let you know as soon as we have any news. Please listen for announcements*



## At Sea

Friday 21st February 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 08h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room (Deck 4)**
- 10h30 Join **Victoria** for a lecture on **Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Hero or Bungler?** (Lecture room deck 3)
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h30 Join **Simon** for his presentation on **Albatrosses** (Lecture room deck 3)
- 16h30 Join **Clouds** for her talk on **Tips and tricks to better photos: A photography primer** (Lecture room deck 3).
- 18h00 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** on yesterday's activities (**Bar deck 6**).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, the furrow followed free: we were the first that ever burst into that silent sea.*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

Today, we will be in the Southern Ocean  
Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship moves. Please do not hold door frames and keep one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself.



## At Sea

Saturday 22nd February 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up** call
- 08h00 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room (Deck 4)**
- 10h30 Join **Victoria** for her talk on **“The first Antarctic winter – at Cape Adare (Borchgrevink, 1898 – 1900)”** (Lecture room deck 3).
- 12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 14h30 Join Shaun for his presentation on **Cape Adare** (Lecture room Deck 3)
- 16h30 **Storytime series.** This is a series of personal, fun and interesting talks detailing individual experiences of some of the team. Join **Phil**, our NZ Observer for his presentation on **his time as a Ranger in the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands**
- 18h15 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*I must go down to the sea again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gulls way and the whales way where the wind's like a whetted knife.....  
John Masefield*

Today, we will be in the Southern Ocean  
Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship moves. Please do not hold door frames and keep one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself.



## ***EXPEDITION DAY at the Balleny Islands***

Sunday 23rd February 2020

Let's try and be among the lucky few to ever see the  
Balleny Islands!

Please listen for announcements regarding our potential  
activities when we get close to the Balleny Islands.

07h15 **Wake-up** call

07h30 **Breakfast** buffet will be served in the **Dining Room (Deck 4)**

12h30 **Lunch** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

18h15 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*One of the Balleny Islands was sighted on 12 January 1899. Louis Bernacchi, a young Australian physicist, said: 'One sight in bad weather of that sinister coast is enough to make a landsman dream for weeks of shipwrecks, perils, and death. I can imagine no greater punishment than to be "left alone to live forgotten and die forlorn" on that desolate shore.'*



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea en route to Cape Adare

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

07.45 **Wake-up call**

08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room

10.00 Please join the helicopters pilots from DAP and the expedition team for a **mandatory** helicopter safety briefing, in the lecture room (everyone must attend and roll call will be taken; that is even for those who have been flying in Antarctica before!).

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

14h30 Helicopter operations “**practice run**”

- We will go through a dry run of helicopter operations.
- Please check your helicopter group on the list posted by reception.
- Each group will be called, in turn, and will gather in the Bar. The groups will then be taken out to the helicopters, have a chance to take photos and get familiar with the operations.
- You will need to bring your zodiac life jacket and dress warmly, as you will be going outside.
- We anticipate that it will take approximately 20minutes per group, so you will only need to come when your group is called

18h15 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.

19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

***Some few whales and large flocks of Cape pigeons were seen ; but the elegant white petrel, which seldom goes to any distance from the main pack, had, to our great satisfaction, quite deserted us.***

***James Clark Ross (Voyage of discovery)***



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Cape Adare

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

- 05h30 **Wake-up call**
- 05h45 **Breakfast snack** in bar
- 06h30 Zodiac disembarkation **Green Group**
- 06h45 **Breakfast buffet** will be served in the restaurant. This will be extended to allow the Green group a chance to eat breakfast on their return
- 07h15 Zodiac disembarkation **Blue Group**
- 08h00 Zodiac disembarkation **Yellow Group**
- 08h45 Zodiac disembarkation **Orange Group**
- 12.00 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 14h00 **Ship exploration** in Robertson Bay
- 14h30 **Helicopter operations “practice run”**
- We will go through a dry run of helicopter operations.
  - Please check your helicopter group on the list posted by reception.
  - Each group will be called, in turn, and will gather in the Bar. The groups will then be taken out to the helicopters, have a chance to take photos and get familiar with the operations.
  - You will need to bring your zodiac life jacket and dress warmly, as you will be going outside.
  - We anticipate that it will take approximately 20 minutes per group, so you will only need to come when your group is called
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*And so he is the most restful mountain in the world, and I was glad when I knew that our hut would lie at his feet. And always there floated from his crater, the lazy banner of his cloud of steam.*

*Apsley Cherry-Garrard writing about Mt Erebus*



***EXPEDITION DAY***  
***at Cape Hallett and Surrounds***  
Wednesday 25th February 2020

Today we are aiming to explore Cape Hallett and the surrounding area. Our activities will be dependent on the sea ice, swell, wind and cloud conditions. Please stand by for announcements and updates!

07h45      Wake up call

08.00      **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

12.30      **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

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

19.00      **Dinner** is served!

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

**Bernard Stonehouse in his book 'Penguins'**

## ***Terra Nova Bay, Inexpressible Island***

Thursday 27th February 2020

- 07h45     **Wake up** call
- 08.00     **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant
- 10h00     Join **Gary** for his presentation on the “**Life history of Adelie Penguins**”.
- 12.30     **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.
- Zodiac landing - Timing to be announced (TBA)**  
We plan to offer a zodiac landing at Inexpressible Island, where Scott’s Northern Party spent some time. It is a very scenic landscape and, depending on conditions, we hope to be able to offer a walk.
- TBA     Zodiac disembarkation **Green Group**
- TBA     Zodiac disembarkation **Blue Group**
- TBA     Zodiac disembarkation **Yellow Group**
- TBA     Zodiac disembarkation **Orange Group**
- 18.30     Please join Rolf and the Expedition team for the daily **Recap and Briefing** in the bar.
- 19.00     **Dinner** is served!

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

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



## ***Cape Evans***

Friday 28th February 2020

- 07h45      **Wake up** call
- 08.00      **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant
- 10h00      Join Rolf for a briefing on today's planned activities, followed by **Victoria** for her presentation on "**Shackleton's forgotten Men**".
- 12.30      **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.
- Zodiac landing - Timing to be announced (TBA)**  
We plan to offer a zodiac landing at Cape Evans, the timing will depend on our arrival time and landing conditions.
- TBA      Zodiac disembarkation **Blue Group**
- TBA      Zodiac disembarkation **Yellow Group**
- TBA      Zodiac disembarkation **Orange Group**
- TBA      Zodiac disembarkation **Green Group**
- 18.30      Please join Rolf and the Expedition team for the daily **Recap and Briefing** in the bar.
- 19.00      **Dinner** is served!

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

Frank Worsley, Shackleton's navigator  
(describing icebergs)



## ***Expedition day in McMurdo Sound*** Saturday 29th February 2020

We will be exploring McMurdo Sound, looking for opportunities to go ashore. Our activities today will depend on wind and weather conditions, so please listen for announcements.

07h45      **Wake up** call

08.00      **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

12.30      **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

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

19.00      **Dinner** is served!

*“Antarctica is still very difficult to reach. The most isolated continent, it must be earned, either through a long, often uncomfortable ship voyage, or an expensive airplane flight. Weather and Ice - not clocks or calendars set the schedule.”*

Antarctica - Lonely Planet Travel Guide (1996)



## ***Expedition day in McMurdo Sound***

Sunday 1 March 2020

We will be exploring McMurdo Sound, looking for opportunities to go ashore. Our activities today will depend on wind and weather conditions, so please listen for announcements.

07h45 **Wake up** call

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

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

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

*“Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun, the land looks like a fairy tale, Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak - crevassed wild as any land on our globe, it lies, unseen and untrodden”  
Roald Amundsen after discovering the Queen Maud Range in  
1911.*



## ***Cape Evans and Ross Island*** Monday 2nd March 2020

06h45 **Wake up** call

07h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

*Depending on weather and ice conditions, we will attempt a zodiac landing at Cape Evans. Please listen for announcements.*

08h15 Zodiac disembarkation **Blue Group**

09h00 Zodiac disembarkation **Yellow Group**

09h45 Zodiac disembarkation **Orange Group**

10h30 Zodiac disembarkation **Green Group**

12h30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

*Depending on ice and weather conditions, we will attempt a second landing at Ross Island. Please listen for announcements.*

18h30 Please join Rolf and the Expedition team for the daily **Recap and Briefing** in the bar.

19h00 **Dinner** is served!

*It is most remarkable how the outlook can change from a very favourable one in a couple of days ... Conversation now entirely fails or is purely concerned with winds and drifts.*

*Reginald W James - Shackleton Expedition*



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea en route to The Ross Ice Shelf

Tuesday 3 March, 2020

- 07.45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10.00 **Guest Lecture:** Please Join Julian Dowdeswell, Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute, for his lecture on **“An introduction to Ice.”**
- 12.30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 14h30 Please join **Gary** for his lecture on **“The life of an Emperor Penguin.”**
- 16h30 **Storytime:** Please join **Mark** for the second part of his **“Life at McMurdo Station.”** in the Bar (Deck 6)
- 18h15 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

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

***We will be in the open ocean, so we expect to have some movement on the ship. Please keep on hand for the ship and be careful when out on the open decks***

## ***Expedition day - Ross Ice Shelf***

Wednesday 4 March 2020

Today we should be approaching the Ross Ice shelf. We will assess ice and weather conditions before deciding what activities we are able to offer.

07h45 **Wake up** call

08.00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

10h00 **Guest Lecture:** Please Join Julian Dowdeswell, Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute, for his lecture on **“An introduction to Ice.”**

12.30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

**Afternoon activities:** Please listen for announcements

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

19.00 **Dinner** is served!

*As we approached the land under all studding-sails, we perceived a low white line extending from its eastern extreme point as far as the eye could discern to the eastward. It presented an extraordinary appearance, gradually increasing in height, as we got nearer to it, and proving at length to be a perpendicular cliff of ice, between one hundred and fifty and two hundred feet above the level of the sea, perfectly flat and level at the top, and without any fissures or promontories on its even seaward face. What was beyond it we could not imagine; .... It was an obstruction of such a character as to leave no doubt upon my mind as to our future proceedings, for we might with equal chance try to sail through the Cliffs of Dover, as penetrate such a mass.*

*(James Clark Ross, 28. January 1841)*

## ***Expedition day - Ross Ice Shelf***

Wednesday 4 March 2020 (Number 2)

### **Updated**

07h30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

10h00 Please join Rolf and the Expedition team for the daily **Recap** and **Briefing** in the bar.

12h30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

13h00 **Clocks move forward by one hour** (i.e. 13h00 becomes 14h00)

15h00 Please join Victoria for the first part of her lecture ***“Brutally unsubtle: The life of Roald Amundsen - “The last of the Vikings”***

16h30 **Victoria** will continue with **part 2 of her lecture on Amundsen**, after everyone has had tea and cookies.

19h00 **Dinner** is served!

***And yet, there is only one great thing, the only thing,  
to see in huts and on journeys:  
The great day that dawns, and the light that fills the world.***

***Inuit Poem***

## ***Expedition day - Ross Ice Shelf***

Wednesday 4 March 2020

We are hoping to reach the Ross Ice Shelf in the **early morning**. As soon as we have assessed conditions, we are hoping to offer a scenic flight or short landing. Please listen for announcements

We will begin with helicopter group 3 followed by 4, 5, 6, 7, 1 and 2

07h15 **No Wake up call**

07h30 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant

10h00 **Documentary:** *“Life in the Freezer; The bountiful sea.”* In the lecture room (Deck 3).

12h30 **Lunch buffet** is ready for you in the Restaurant.

13h00 **Clocks move forward by one hour** (i.e. 13h00 becomes 14h00)

**Afternoon activities:** Please listen for announcements

18h30 Please join Rolf and the Expedition team for the daily **Recap** and **Briefing** in the bar.

19h00 **Dinner** is served!

***And yet, there is only one great thing, the only thing,  
to see in huts and on journeys:  
The great day that dawns, and the light that fills the world.***

***Inuit Poem***





## At Sea

Thursday 5th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Valentin** for his presentation on “**Southern Seabirds and new technologies.**” The evolution of technologies in animal tracking offers new perspectives and allows some amazing discoveries on birds and mammals in Antarctica
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 13h00 **Clocks move forward by one hour** (i.e. 13h00 becomes 14h00)
- 15h30 **Guest lecture**: Please join **John Shears** for a presentation on the **Antarctic Treaty**
- 17h00 Please join Clouds for her presentation on “**Longitude: A solution to an age-old problem.**”
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

*The land was gone, all but a little streak, away off on the edge of the water, and down under us was just ocean, ocean, ocean - millions of miles of it, heaving and pitching and squirming, and white sprays blowing from the wave-tops, .....and we had the sky and the ocean to ourselves, and the roomiest place I ever did see and the loneliest*

*Mark Twain -Tom Sawyer Abroad*

*We will be in the open ocean, so we expect to have some movement on the ship. Please keep on hand for the ship and be careful when out on the open decks*

## At Sea

Friday 6th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Simon** for his presentation on **“Toothed Cetaceans.”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 13h00 **Clocks move forward by one hour** (i.e. 13h00 becomes 14h00)
- 15h30 **Guest lecture**: Please join **Kitty Martin** for her presentation on **“Magnetics in Antarctica 1898-1988.”** The study of magnetics from the heroic era to the late 80s, including the drawn-out hunt for the Magnetic South pole. Kitty ran a geophysical survey company responsible for processing the British Antarctic Survey’s aeromagnetic work (Lecture room deck 3).
- 17h00 **Story-time**: Please join **Gary** as he recounts his experiences working at Mawson station (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h00 Documentary: Borchgrevink part 3 (Lecture room, deck 3)

*Often I feel I go to some distant region of the world to be reminded of who I really am. there is no mystery about why this should be so.*

*Stripped of your daily routines ... you are forced into direct experience. Such direct experience inevitably makes you aware of who it is that is having the experience.*

*Michael Crichton, 1988*

*We will be in the open ocean, so we expect to have some movement on the ship. Please keep on hand for the ship and be careful when out on the open decks*

## At Sea

Saturday 7th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Clouds** for her presentation on “**Ice, wind and waves: An introduction to Antarctica and its climate**” in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 13h00 **Clocks move forward by one hour** (i.e. 13h00 becomes 14h00)
- 15h30 **Art Workshops: Dafila Scott** will be running art workshops in the **restaurant**. Space is limited but Dafila has agreed to conduct a number of workshops in the coming days. Please sign up at reception.
- 15h30 **Navigation workshops (1hr):** Over the coming days, **Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops in the bar. We can take 8 people per workshop. Please sign up at reception.
- 17h00 **Guest lecture:** Please join Julian Dowdeswell for his lecture “**Beneath the waves: the seafloor signature of past ice sheets**” (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h00 **Documentary:** Borchgrevink part 4 (Lecture room, deck 3)

*Beyond this monstrous berg Davis took the ship cautiously into the mist, steering carefully among icebergs and pack-ice. The ship's battle to break through the pack-ice had extended into its second week, and with only endless pack found in those places where Wilkes had recorded land, Mawson feared that heavy ice conditions this season – or apparently endless ice cliffs rising direct from the sea – might prevent them from landing on the continent at all.  
Douglas Mawson – the life of an explorer by Lincoln Hall*

## At Sea

Saturday 7th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Clouds** for her presentation on “**Ice, wind and waves: An introduction to Antarctica and its climate**” in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the restaurant for one hour.
- 13h00 No time change today!**
- 14h30 **Art Workshops: Dafila Scott** will be running Art workshops in the **restaurant**. Space is limited but Dafila has agreed to conduct a number of workshops in the coming days. Please sign up at reception.
- 14h30 **Navigation workshops (1hr): Group 1: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops in the bar. We can take 8 people per workshop. Please sign up at reception.
- 15h30 **Navigation workshop (1hr): Group 2** with Darrel in the bar.
- 17h00 **Guest lecture:** Please join Julian Dowdeswell for his lecture “**Beneath the waves: the seafloor signature of past ice sheets**” (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h00 Documentary: Borchgrevink part 4 (Lecture room, deck 3)

*Beyond this monstrous berg Davis took the ship cautiously into the mist, steering carefully among icebergs and pack-ice. The ship's battle to break through the pack-ice had extended into its second week, and with only endless pack found in those places where Wilkes had recorded land, Mawson feared that heavy ice conditions this season – or apparently endless ice cliffs rising direct from the sea – might prevent them from landing on the continent at all.*  
*Douglas Mawson – the life of an explorer by Lincoln Hall*



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea

Sunday 8th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Rolf** for his presentation on **“Plate tectonics - Part 1”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 11h30 Please join **Rolf** for his presentation on **“Plate tectonics - Part 2”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 NO TIME CHANGE TODAY!**
- 15h00 **Art Workshops: Dafila Scott** will be running Art workshops in the **dining room**. Space is limited, but Dafila has agreed to conduct a number of workshops in the coming days. Please sign up at reception.
- 15h00 **Navigation workshop: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops **in the bar**. We can take 8 people per workshop. Please sign up at reception.
- 17h00 **Story-time**. Please join Shaun as he regales us with his experiences of **“Dog Sledging in Antarctica”** (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap and briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h00 **Documentary: Our rising oceans** (Lecture room, deck 3)

***“An Antarctic Expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life.”***

***Apsley Cherry-Garrard***



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea

Monday 9th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Gary** for his presentation on **“Whales of the Antarctic”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **Clocks move forward by one hour** (i.e. 13h00 becomes 14h00)
- 15h30 **Art Workshops: Dafila Scott** will be running Art workshops in the **dining room**. Please sign up at reception.
- 15h30 **Navigation workshop: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops in the **bar**. Please sign up at reception.
- 17h00 Please join Simon for his presentation on **“The SS Discovery.”** Simon will take you on a virtual tour of Captain Scott’s ship (**Bar deck 6**)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing (Bar deck 6)**.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- After dinner:** The Ortelius choir will give a short concert in the **bar**
- 21h15 **Documentary: Antarctica (IMAX)** (Lecture room, deck 3)

*There are many other beautiful sea-birds, but the most beautiful of all are the Snowy petrels, which approach nearer to the fairies than anything else on earth.*

*Aspley Cherry-Garrard.*

## At Sea

Tuesday 10th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Victoria** for her presentation on “**Douglas Mawson and the home of the blizzard**” in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **No time change!**
- 14h30 **Art Workshops: Dafila Scott** will be running Art workshops in the **dining room**. Please sign up at reception.
- 14h30 **Navigation workshop: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops **in the bar**. Please sign up at reception.
- 16h00 **Abandon ship drill**. We will include passengers in the drill so please listen for announcements.
- 17h00 Please join **Valentin** for his presentation on “**Overwintering as an Ornithologist at Crozet Island.**” (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary: Frozen Planet part 2** (Lecture room, deck 3)

*Some of us are over the seasick stage and no longer want to die.  
Hartford, after 10 days aboard Nimrod, with Shackleton.*

Please take care when moving around the ship, as we are in the remotest part of the world. Please do not hold door frames and keep one hand (Preferably 2) for the ship and one hand for yourself. Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship moves.



## At Sea

Wednesday 11th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Valentin** for his presentation on **“Foraging behaviour of Southern Ocean Seabirds”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **Time Change: Please move your clocks forward by 1 hour (At 13h00 the time will become 14h00)**
- 15h30 **Navigation workshop: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops **in the bar**. Please sign up at reception.
- 17h00 Please join **Dafila Scott** for her presentation on **“Peter Scott: the story of Captain Scott’s son.”** (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary: Frozen Planet part 3** (Lecture room, deck 3)

*Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun the land looks like a fairy tale. Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak, crevassed, wild as any land on our globe, it lies, unseen and untrodden.*  
*Roald Amundsen.*

Please take care when moving around the ship, as we are in the remotest part of the world. Please do not hold door frames and keep one hand (Preferably 2) for the ship and one hand for yourself. Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship moves.





**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

**Expedition Day at Peter I Island**  
Thursday 12th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Gary** for his presentation on **“The truth about Skuas”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **Time Change:** Please move your clocks forward by 1 hour (At 13h00 the time will become 14h00)
- 16h00 **Documentary:** *Life in the Freezer part 4* (Lecture room, deck 3)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

**After Dinner:** We will be getting close to Peter I Island. Please listen for announcements.

***“I felt as though I had been plumped upon another planet or into another geologic horizon of which man had no knowledge or memory.”***

**Admiral Richard E. Byrd - *Alone* (1938)**

Please take care when moving around the ship, as we are in the remotest part of the world. Please do not hold door frames and keep one hand (Preferably 2) for the ship and one hand for yourself. Please ensure your belongings are secure and will not roll, slide or fall when the ship moves.



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea

Friday 13th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Victoria** for her presentation on “**Ernest Shackleton and the greatest expedition of the Heroic Age**” in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **Time Change: Please move your clocks forward by 1 hour (At 13h00 the time will become 14h00)**
- 15h30 **Navigation workshop: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops **in the bar**. Please sign up at reception.
- 17h00 Please join **Julian Dowdeswell and John Shears** for their presentation on “**The Search for endurance - The Weddell Sea expedition.**” (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary:** Life in the freezer part 6 and 1 (Lecture room, deck 3)

***....the test of man's willingness to pull back from the destruction of the Antarctic wilderness is the test also of his willingness to avert destruction globally. If we cannot succeed in the Antarctic, we have little chance of success elsewhere***

**Professor Bruce Davis**

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## At Sea

Saturday 14th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Clouds** for her presentation on **“Too hot to handle: Global Climate change”** in the Lecture room, deck 3.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **Time Change: Please move your clocks forward by 1 hour (At 13h00 the time will become 14h00)**
- 15h30 **Navigation workshop: Darrel** will be giving navigation workshops in the bar. Please sign up at reception.
- 17h00 Please join **Julian** for his presentation on **“Ice and modern environmental change.”** (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary: The loneliest mountain** (Lecture room, deck 3)

*The three great elemental sounds in nature are the sound of rain, the sound of wind in a primeval wood, and the sound of outer ocean on a beach. I have heard them all, and of the three elemental voices, that of the ocean is the most awesome, beautiful and varied.*

**Henry Beston**

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# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea

Sunday 15th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Victoria** for her presentation on “**A Selected Antarctic History from 1897-1937**” (Bar, deck 6).
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 13h00 **No time change!**
- 14h30 **Auction Preview (Dining room)** The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) will be having an auction onboard. the items for auction will be on display from 14h30 to 15h30
- 14h30 **Art workshop display (Dining room)** Some of the artwork by guests produced during the art workshops on this voyage will be on display for us to admire.
- 15h30 Please join **Valentin** for his presentation on “**The Wandering Albatross.**” (Bar deck 6)
- 17h00 **SPRI Auction:** Please join us for the SPRI auction which will raise funds for Polar research at the Institute (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary: Chasing Ice: The Extreme Ice Survey** (Lecture room, deck 3)

*To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams.*

**John Muir**

## At Sea

Monday 16th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Clouds** for her presentation on **“Too hot to handle: The global carbon experiment”** Clouds will chat about climate change; the science, observations and some new fascinating research (Bar, deck 6).
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 14h30 **Auction Preview (Dining room)** The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) will be having an auction onboard. the items for auction will be on display from 14h30 to 15h30
- 14h30 **Art workshop display (Dining room)** Some of the artwork by guests produced during the art workshops on this voyage will be on display for us to admire.
- 15h30 Please join **Shaun** for his presentation on **“The South Pole Route.”** (Bar deck 6)
- 17h00 **SPRI Auction:** Please join us for the SPRI auction which will raise funds for Polar research at the Institute (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary:** Chasing Ice: The Extreme Ice Survey

*“All I say is, if you wish to see Nature robed in her mantle of might,  
look at a storm at sea;  
If you want to see her robed in her mantle of glory, look at a sunset at sea.”*  
*Shackleton. Aged 17*



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## At Sea

Tuesday 17th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 **Documentary: *Around Cape Horn***. This delightful movie is narrated by Johnson Irving, who took the footage as a young sailor on a 4 mast Schooner, the *Peking*, as they rounded Cape Horn. An expedition team favourite.
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 15h30 Please join **Victoria** for her presentation on “**A Miscellany of Mermaids.**” (Bar, deck 6).
- 17h00 **Boot and zodiac life jacket collection.** Please listen for your deck to be called.
- 18h30 Please join for a cocktail in the bar, deck 6.
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)

***In memories we were rich. We had pierced the veneer of outside things. We had suffered, starved and triumphed, grovelled yet grasped at glory, grown bigger in the bigness of the whole. We had seen God in his splendour, heard the text that nature renders. We had reached the naked soul of man..***

Sir Ernest Shackleton

## At Sea

Monday 16th March, 2020

- 07h45 **Wake-up call**
- 08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room
- 10h00 Please join **Clouds** for her presentation on **“Too hot to handle: The global carbon experiment”** Clouds will chat about climate change; the science, observations and some new fascinating research (Bar, deck 6).
- 12h30 **Lunch buffet** is open in the dining room for one hour.
- 14h30 **Auction Preview (Dining room)** The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) will be having an auction onboard. the items for auction will be on display from 14h30 to 15h30
- 14h30 **Art workshop display (Dining room)** Some of the artwork by guests produced during the art workshops on this voyage will be on display for us to admire.
- 15h30 Please join **Shaun** for his presentation on **“The South Pole Route.”** (Bar deck 6)
- 17h00 **SPRI Auction:** Please join us for the SPRI auction which will raise funds for Polar research at the Institute (Bar deck 6)
- 18h30 Join Rolf and the team for a **recap** and **briefing** (Bar deck 6).
- 19h00 **Dinner** is served in the dining room (Deck 4)
- 21h15 **Documentary:** Chasing Ice: The Extreme Ice Survey

*“All I say is, if you wish to see Nature robed in her mantle of might,  
look at a storm at sea;  
If you want to see her robed in her mantle of glory, look at a sunset at sea.”*  
*Shackleton. Aged 17*



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

## The Port of Ushuaia

Wednesday 18th March, 2020

07h45 **Wake-up call**

08h00 **Breakfast buffet** is ready for you in the dining room for one hour

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*We will let you know as soon as we have any news. Please listen for announcements*

*"Its blowing so many knots, it's almost a macrame"  
Sir Rod Ledingham*