



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic peninsula

12th - 21st December 2021

M/V Plancius



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



Captain Torry Sakkariassen

and his international crew

including:

Chief Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Russia]
Third Officer:	Nino Cizmic	[Croatia]
Chief Engineer:	Daniel Liliac-Zajontz	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Oleksander Lyebedyev	[Ukraine]
Asst. Hotel Mgr:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Ivanovic	[Serbia]
Sous Chef:	Mihai Melinte	[Romania]
Ship's Physician:	Martin Kriz	[Sweden]

and

Expedition Leader:	Eduardo Rubio	[Guatemala]
Asst. Exped. Leader:	Pippa Low	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	George Kennedy	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Maricel Grilli	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Stefanie Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Laura Mony	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Photography Guide:	Juan Berenstein	[Argentina]

Dive Team Leader:	Mike Pumm	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Urban Reifler	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Gonzalo Sabattini	[Argentina]
Dive Guide:	André Fahrni	[Switzerland]
Kayak Guide:	Zet Freiburghaus	[Sweden]
Camping Guide:	Koen Jongerling	[Netherlands]

Social Science

www.happywhale.com

www.penguinwatch.org

www.penguinmap.com

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – 12TH December 2021

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 55°53'S / 067°42'W

Wind: SW 6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Part. clouds Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +9°C

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



Sitting in the bus, in front of *MV Plancius*, our home for the next 19 days, we are thrilled to be so close to get on the ship. Martin, our expedition leader for the voyage, called us in group to get onboard where we met Aleks, the hotel manager, and all his team. It was time for us to discover our cabins and the ship, which is quite of a maze...

Everyone was on board and for the first time we heard, on the PA system, an announcement. We had to meet in the lounge or the dining room for the security presentation. We all gathered in the lounge on deck five to begin our safety briefing. First was a video, entertaining but also clearly showing us what was important to pay attention to on the ship for our safety. Romano and Nino gave the different instruction in case something happen, even if it is unlikely, better safe than sorry. We were standing outside waiting for the ship to leave Ushuaia when the alarm announcing the SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill rung. Everyone went to their cabin picking their life jacket and gathering in their respective muster stations.

Let's the trip begin, *Plancius* was slowly leaving the port under Ushuaia's sunset. Even with the overcast weather, the light was beautiful. Shortly after, around 8pm, Alex called us in the dining room for our first dinner onboard. We could feel the excitement in the air while everyone was enthusiastically chatting waiting for the meal to be served. After dinner, some of us went to the lounge to enjoy the end of the evening, but most of us went directly to bed after an exhausting but oh long-awaited day. Knowing that we had a long crossing toward us, we went to bed hoping that tomorrow we will be out of the Beagle channel. The real journey just started, and everyone is excited to arrive in Antarctica.



Day 2 – 13th December 2021

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 56°23.5'S / 065°43.6'W

Wind: WNW 6 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Part. clouds Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +3°C



Eduardo woke us up with his first mysterious music which will be part of a quiz at the end of the trip. After our first delicious breakfast on the ship, all passengers were invited to attend the Expedition introduction and mandatory IAATO Briefing.

After a delicious lunch in the dining room, it was time for us all to go and collect our rubber boots in the boot room on deck 3. This was quite a challenge already because the Drake was a little shaky, but the staff managed to

distribute them swiftly, which reduced the time passengers had to spend in the lower decks to a minimum. These boots will be part of our landing equipment for the entire length of the expedition cruise. Divers and Kayakers then met with their respective guides to get a briefing on their coming activities.

During our first recap in the evening, Eduardo gave us information about the weather forecast for the next day, and the program for the next days as we cross the Drake. He also explained the bathymetry and the ocean currents in the Drake passage. Steffi then proceeded to introduce us to the world of albatrosses as we already started to have some visiting the ship, mainly black-browed albatrosses and Royal albatrosses, the world largest flying bird with its three-meter wingspan. Pippa explained to us the different boundaries and definitions of reaching Antarctica, especially the concept of the Antarctic convergence.



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Day 3 – 14th December 2021

At Sea to Antarctica – Drake's Passage

GPS 08.00 Position: 59°54.7'S / 061°59.6'W

Wind: NW 6 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C

Eduardo woke us up this morning with another mysterious music, and shortly after that Alex our hotel manager invited us to go and have breakfast. We all met afterwards in the observation lounge to carry out our Biosecurity. All passengers had to fight the shaky Drake and bring their outer layers, gloves, hats, backpacks, tripods etc. to vacuum them and inspect them for any potential sources of biological material like seeds or soil. This is done in order to avoid introducing invasive species to Antarctica which has a very special and delicate flora and fauna.



After a short break it was then time to attend the mandatory zodiac briefing during which our passengers got acquainted with the procedures of embarking and disembarking the zodiacs, how the gangway is operated, and how the landings take place. Again, we had to carry out this briefing in two groups in order to keep the gatherings to low numbers until we take our next Covid test, which we did in the early afternoon. Martin our doctor and George who is a nurse and the doctor's assistant ran the testing, assisted by Maricel and Pierre. The entire testing was carried out swiftly and all

passengers, crew and staff tested negative. We still enforce all the necessary measures to prevent any potential transmission like carrying masks in the public areas and washing and disinfecting hands as often as possible.

In the afternoon Koen gave a lecture on the "Brief History of Penguins". He went through the evolution of penguins and gave an introduction to the penguin species we hope to see in Antarctica. Pippa continued then with her lecture on "Marine mammals of Antarctica", which introduced us to the different species of seals, dolphins and whales we might encounter during our expedition. This very informative lecture focused on some species in particular like humpback whales with the interesting songs they produce. She finished her talk explaining the different ways in which our passengers can contribute to citizen Science projects like with the platform Happy Whale.



Before the daily recap in the evening Koen our camping guide gave the mandatory camping briefing. At recap Eduardo gave us the information about the weather forecast for the next day,

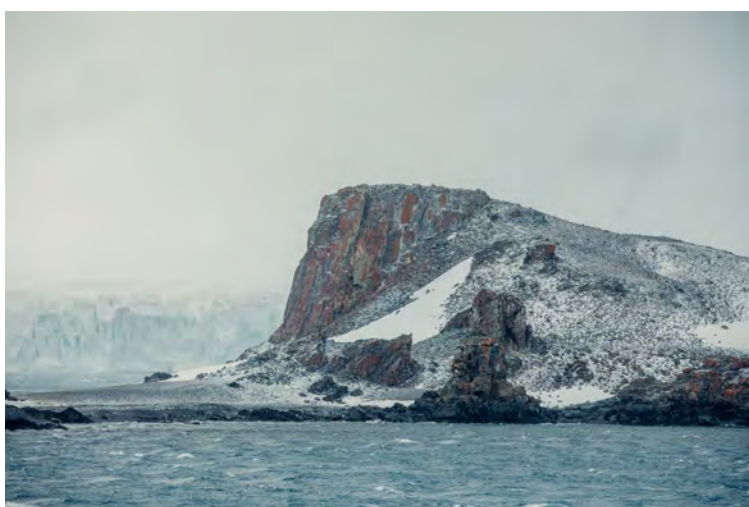
and explained his plans to visit Half Moon Island the next day in the South Shetland Islands, and then sailing down to Deception Island, but this plan A is of course weather dependant. Maricel gave us a briefing about snowshoes, Zet our kayaking guide gave a short introduction to kayaking, and Laura concluded the recap with her presentation on geology of Deception Island, which is a volcanic caldera.

Day 4 – 15th December 2021

Half Moon Island / Deception Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 62°35.1'S / 059°53.4'W

Wind: W 8 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +2°C **Sea Temp:** +0°C



The initial plan was to carry out our first landing in Half Moon Island in the Southern Shetland Islands. The weather forecast predicted some wind that could reach the limits of what we can carry out our zodiac operations in. But because Half Moon Island is crescent shaped and lays in the lee of Livingston Island, we decided to approach the island in order to check the conditions. Unfortunately once on site the wind was over 30 miles per hour, with gusts of wind over 40 miles per hour, so we had to cancel our first landing.

Eduardo, our expedition leader, had planned to have a second landing on Deception Island, which is a volcanic caldera offering some shelter within the crater. But half way towards Deception Island it was clear that the wind and the sea conditions were too rough and would not allow us to make our landing, so Eduardo decided instead to head straight towards the Antarctic Peninsula through the Bransfield Strait in order to look for shelter. Crossing the Bransfield Strait was still a very rough undertaking, but once we reached the Peninsula the sea calmed down and we managed to get a little rest from the heavy seas. Antarctica was at sight at last, and we spent the evening cruising along this amazing landscape and photographing our first icebergs in a beautiful twilight.



During our cruising hours we had the pleasure to listen to a series of talks. The first one was from George on photography during which he gave us information not only on the different settings to use for different situations, but he also insisted on the different ways to compose a beautiful

picture, especially asking yourself what emotions you would like to trigger with your pictures. Koen then gave us a presentation on camping, on how to prepare before going ashore, on how to assemble your sleeping bags, and on what equipment



Day 5 – 16th December 2021

Cuverville Island / Neko Harbour / Stony Point

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°40.4'S / 062°31.8'W

Wind: NNE 1 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C

Today we woke up to the mysterious music played by Eduardo and to beautiful views of the Antarctic Peninsula with its glorious peaks and endless glaciers. After our breakfast we were invited to join the activities on Cuverville Island. The wind conditions were very good and our kayakers and divers got their gear ready as well.



This is our first landing and our first encounter with penguins, and our guides have set up two observation points on opposite sides of the landing in order to observe two colonies of gentoo penguins. Very quickly our passengers realise that if you stay low and quiet, the penguins will actually come up to you and check you out, as they are quite curious little animals. We were also able to observe skuas flying around the colonies waiting for some penguins to leave their nest. On one occasion

one skua managed to steal an egg and ate it on front of some of our guests. There were also some snowy sheath-bills around the colonies looking for bits and scarps. Everybody was so excited by our first encounter with penguins that they took lots of photographs. There were some pretty strong catabatic winds coming from the hills, but they made for very interesting photographic opportunities. Every now and then the sun would peek through the clouds, and the colors would change drastically.

After this successful landing we all got back on the ship to a delicious lunch.

In the afternoon we had another activity on our agenda, and after repositioning the ship we landed in Neko harbour where we had another unforgettable encounter with gentoo penguins. We got to spend a long time with them.



Back on the ship we attended Eduardo's recap during dinner, giving priority to the campers who were going to spend the night on the ice. After a quick dinner, Koen, Juan and Maricel took a large group of 40 campers plus 20 scouts to Stony Point, the place where they would spend the night. Our scout passengers had a ceremony on land after which the 20 additional passengers were taken back to the ship. The ship then moved away and left the campers on their own. Our scout passengers obviously had a lot of experience camping and they built some very elaborate snow shelters for the night.

Dive 1: Cuverville Island (Check Dive)

GPS: 64°40,5S / 62° 37,3W

Divetime 35min

Max Depth 23fsw / 7m

This was our "check dive". What that really means is that we did a weight check before descending. We were over a shallow bottom so that if anyone was seriously over weighted, they could not sink down to a dangerous depth. John-Aaron and I were both fine, so I returned to the surface to grab my camera from the boat, and we descended again.

The dive was over a cobble and sand/mud bottom. Close to the island a rock wall went from the surface to a depth of about 10 feet (3m). I collected animals (under permit) for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, and took photographs of the bottom, animals, and other divers. I brought up eight sample bags with animals in them from various points in the dive.

One of the interesting animals we saw was salp. This is a chain of genetically identical animals living in a colony. It was about 10 feet (3m) deep, and I took a photograph of John-Aaron looking at it. We also found a grouping of sea stars clinging to the base of the vertical rock wall, which I photographed. (Jeffrey Bozanic)



Kayaking Cuverville

The first kayak tour started in protection from the southern wind. We saw all the gentoo penguins coming down from the colony to go out to feed. We saw all the grounded icebergs and decided to try to paddle around the island. On the backside of Cuverville the wind picks up to gusts over 30 knots that did push the kayak backwards.

Dive 2: Neko Harbour

GPS: 64° 54,7S / 62° 55,2W

Divetime 20min

Max Depth 44fsw / 13m

We were supposed to dive the shore at Neko Harbor, but there was too much loose pack and brash ice pushed against the shoreline by the wind, so it was unsafe to do so. Even if you can enter through the loose ice, it is dangerous as the wind can compact it further, making it impossible to push through to the surface from below. So we went to Plan B.

Plan B was diving an iceberg. Our dive guide staff selected an appropriate chunk of ice, and off we went. The water was quite green (probably phytoplankton), and visibility was only about 6-8 feet (2-2.5m). Besides the plankton, visibility might have been reduced by underwater melting of the iceberg, causing fresh water to mix with sea water. It was interesting to see the erosional melt patterns on the subsurface ice, and to slide beneath the rounded edges of the iceberg so that there was a ceiling above us. We found a rock frozen into the ice. When the berg melts more, this piece of rock will drop to the bottom, far from where it was originally deposited. That ought to confuse future geologists! (Jeffrey Bozanic)



Kayaking Neko

Beautiful day at Neko. Almost no wind at we kayaked down the bay. Highlights where the 2 calvings from the glacier and paddle in the brash ice.

Camping at Stony Point

Camping in Antarctica sounds extreme and intense and we ordered nothing less for our group of campers. Starting out with a long ride from the ship to our landing site we already could experience some of the winds that we could expect that nights. At our camping area the snow was quite soft and we kept falling through until our knees. Snowshoes were considered but after some excellent team work we carved out several paths throughout our icy neighborhood which made it possible to move around with relative ease.



We shared Stony Point with the scout group this evening who organized an extra ordinary ceremony on the ice to announce and celebrate the promotion of some of their members. The scout group had created a separate area with certain paths where they were able to realize the ceremony.

For the campers the night started smooth with little wind which gave everybody enough time to find a good spot and dig their hole to sleep in. The holes were built in all sorts and shapes. Some deep within the snow bank and others with high walls standing on top of the ice. After the holes were dug the beds were made soon after and preparations were made to go to bed.



After the ceremony was done, some of the participants were taken back to the safety of the ship although most scouts choose to endure this adventure of sleeping out on the ice. We had some visitors coming by who tried to find a way to sleep with us on the plateau but seeing that the Gentoo penguins and Weddell Seal are no expert climbers they had to move on to find another piece of ice to rest on for the night. Later that night the ice cold wind started picking up so everybody found there refuge inside there duck out hole. We were about to get a taste of

the life of an early Antarctic explorer camping out on the ice.

The next morning we had an early wakeup call to get ready for our pick up time at 6:30. Many people were already up beforehand packing up their gear due to the ice cold winds that we had felt throughout the night. For many people this meant it was an experience of a life time.... but also the only one. With the tide getting lower and lower the zodiacs had a difficult time reaching the landing area but In the end we were able to get rescued and were taken back safely to our home for the past few days, the Plancius.

Day 6 – 17th December 2021

Skontorp Cove - Paradise Bay / Danco Island

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°49.9'S / 063°01.3'W

Wind: SW 5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C

Eduardo woke us up again with another mysterious song that will be part of the trivia at the end of the trip. After a wonderful breakfast we all boarded our zodiacs to have a cruise through the magnificent landscape of Scondorp Cove in Paradise Bay. As the name indicates it is an idyllic place surrounded by mountain peaks, glaciers, and the cove is only partially filled with sea ice. It is located very close to the Argentinian Brown Base, but unfortunately due to Covid we are not able to visit the station. During our cruise we were able to observe the glaciers, and we found a Weddell seal resting at the surface of the water. There were some crab-eater seals on land as well just hauled out on the snow. The birdlife in this area was very interesting, as in addition to the nesting blue-eyed shags and Antarctic tern, there were several snow petrels flying very close over our heads. Towards the end of the cruise the wind picked up and we hurried back to the ship in order to warm ourselves before heading to lunch.

While some of the passengers were doing the zodiac cruise, some other adventurous passengers went on a kayak tour with Zet and they got to explore the coastline up close and personally. Our divers were also active and they had a 30 minute dive.

Right after lunch we carried out another Covid test and we were all pleased to learn that the entire ship remained Covid free. We then started to board our zodiacs again, but this time for a landing on Danco. There are several gentoo penguin colonies here spread over the steep hill. The snow was still quite soft so we used snow shoes to make it to the upper colonies. The effort was really worthwhile because not only did we get to see the penguin highways and the colonies, but the views of the bay and the glaciers from higher up were simply breathtaking. On the lower colony some passengers spotted a leopard seal which was stealthily cruising in the water checking out the penguin colonies.

At the end of the landing most of the passengers participated in the polar plunge, some dressed in Christmas outfits. It takes a little bit of courage because the water is quite cold, but it is an unforgettable experience, and all the participants did not regret doing it. As a reward, hot chocolate with rum was waiting for our guests upon re-embarkation on Plancius, which warmed their hearts. This was another unforgettable day in this incredible wilderness of Antarctica.



Back on the ship and after feeling warm again, we then attended Eduardo's recap about the program and the weather forecast for tomorrow. After the delicious dinner some passengers still stayed in the lounge socialising and enjoying the beautiful landscapes. Before going to bed we were lucky enough to spot a pair of humpback whales which were feeding very close to the ship and stayed for about half an hour with us.

Dive 3: Shack Wall, Paradise Bay

GPS 64°54,7S / 62° 55,2W

Divetime 30min

Max Depth 60fsw / 20m

This was a beautiful wall dive. Visibility was approximately 50 feet / 16m. There was kelp anchored to the rocks with large leaves. There were some other type of plant that was neon orange in color. An abundance and variety of sea stars. Large white worms. Many salps were seen during the dive with multiple segments so that they were at least a couple of feet long. Also seen during the dive were amphipods and a couple of very small fish which were less than 2 inches in length. While conditions were calm during the dive, there was a surface current and choppy wind waves, so getting



back to the zodiac was challenging and depleted much of my stamina. Gonzalo the Dive Guide lifted in this conditions two divers incl. the equipment out from the water in this rough conditions, the dive was peaceful, colorful, beautiful and very zen. (Kim Cardenas)

Dive 4: Danco Island

GPS 64°44,9S / 62° 38,7W

Divetime 40 min

Max Depth 37,8 fsw / 12.6 meters

The goal of the dive was to reach a 40-minute maximum time set by the dive guides after comparatively shorter dives. We saw kelp, the famous ugly Antarctica fish (as coined by Pierre), and limpets, and recovered a surface marker buoy lost by a diver. Underwater, we decided via wet notes to ascend after 40 minutes and snorkel with the penguins nearby. At the surface, we moved the zodiac closer to the shore, where we saw a leopard seal. We tried to determine if the leopard seal was hunting before we jumped back in the water. We tried to use Eric to bait the leopard seal but unfortunately the seal wasn't feeling very inquisitive and so we did not see him or her underwater. (Ashley Stewart)



Kayaking Danko

Strong group of paddlers who wanted to go for a long paddle, but did not take long before the beauty of the day and chances to take pictures was more important. We all got great pictures of

gentoos, an Adelie and a chinstrap before it was time to get Back and get changed for the polar plunge.

Day 7 – 18th December 2021

Lemaire Channel / Peterman Island/ Port Charcot

GPS 08.00 Position: 65°06.3'S / 065°59.4'W

Wind: SW 3 **Sea State:** Ice **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** +2°C **Sea Temp:** -1°C

Our day started really early with an announcement from our Expedition Leader saying that we will start crossing the Lemaire Channel soon. Even if it was tempting to stay in our warm bed, we all headed to the back and front decks to admire the beautiful landscape. Around 7am, we started to enter the strait under great weather conditions, even if there was some fog. We had doubts about the ice conditions inside the channel and we were prepared to turn around in case the narrowest



point would be blocked. However, the luck stayed on our side, and, as we continued, we realized that it was possible to transit the whole channel without problem.

Unfortunately our initial plan to do a landing on Peterman Island could not be carried out because of the amount of sea ice, so the captain and Eduardo decided to continue our way down to Port Charcot and to just do a ship cruise, in order to take advantage of the incredible views of the surrounding mountains and glaciers, as well as to take advantage of the pancake ice to observe the

numerous seals that were hauled out. We found a large group of about 20 crab-eater seals hauled out together, and we saw a minke whale very close to the ship.

It had snowed during the previous night, and we used the opportunity to have a snowball fight on



the upper deck, right behind the bridge. Our group of American scouts carried out a ceremony on the bow of Plancius to honour their members during the crossing of the Lemaire Channel.

Once at Port Charcot and after an early lunch we started our zodiac cruise in order to maximise our time on the water. The weather conditions were perfect: no wind, flat sea, a little cloudy but still some sun peaking through. There were very impressive icebergs across the entire area, and there were many penguins spread out in the water cleaning themselves on the surface. Shutting down the zodiac engine actually allowed us to be visited by these rafts of penguins and they stayed with us for quite a while, until a minke whale appeared close by, and we decided to go and have a closer look. It was swimming very close to shore and into relatively small bays, which probably meant that there was krill around. Halfway through the cruise when the wind picked up a little we got a call from the bar-zodiac in which our hotel manager Alex was visiting every single zodiac in order to offer us some hot beverages. This was very much appreciated by both our guests and the zodiac drivers, and it gave the courage and motivation to continue on our expedition through the ice.

Pippa then spotted a leopard seal close to a large tabular iceberg, and we took turns to get a closer view of this magnificent predator. But we did not stay longer than 10 minutes in total in order to



not disturb it. Everybody got a good look at the leopard seal, and our photographer Juan took some impressive pictures. We found a group of gentoo penguins in which there were a couple of chinstrap penguins and even an Adelie penguin, and some passengers even got a picture with the three species.

On the way back to Plancius we were lucky to come across 3 minke whales which were slowly swimming along the ice edge, and they passed very close to our zodiacs. It is quite uncommon to see minke whales together and swimming so slowly and relaxed, so we were very lucky. These are the only baleen whales which stay all year long in Antarctica.

Back on the ship during recap, Pierre gave us a short presentation about Antarctic minke whales, and Juan did a recap on photographs taken during the camping.

Up on returning to our ship, we enjoyed our traditional BBQ night, an activity in which we enjoyed very much the fine food prepared by Khabir and his staff. While eating, we were surrounded by the wonderful landscapes of the channels around us. The day ended with our ship sailing through the Lemaire Channel, but the sea was a little rougher than on the way South.

Dive 5: Port Charcot

GPS 65°04,3S / 64° 02,4W

Divetime 45min

Max Depth 33fsw / 10m

Plancius was surrounded in pack ice today. We took a Zodiac to shore, pushing through the loose ice. There was a good sized lead of ice-free water close to shore and zero wind, so we opted to dive. Some of the group dove an iceberg others dove the bottom near the shore. We had to contend with a moderately strong current throughout the dive.

This was a beautiful bottom, with many animals and lots of kelp. Starfish, limpets, sea cucumbers, sponges, sea stars, amphipods, isopods, and even small fish were plentiful at this site. (Jeffrey Bozanic)



Kayaking Port Charcot

A day that never often happens in the northern part of the peninsula. The bay was full of sea ice. We worked our way along floating pieces of ice and did a good landing on a quite small floating sea ice.

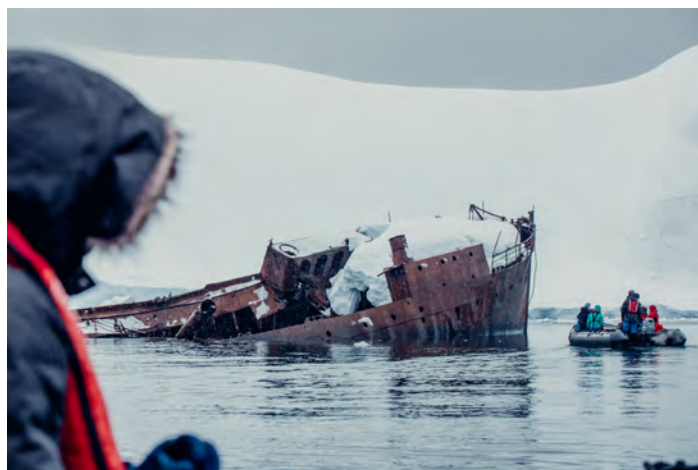
Day 8 – 19th December 2021

Foyn Harbour / Portal Point

GPS 08.00 Position: 64°33.6'S / 061°59.5'W

Wind: NW 2 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Part. Clouds Air Temp: +3°C Sea Temp: 0°C

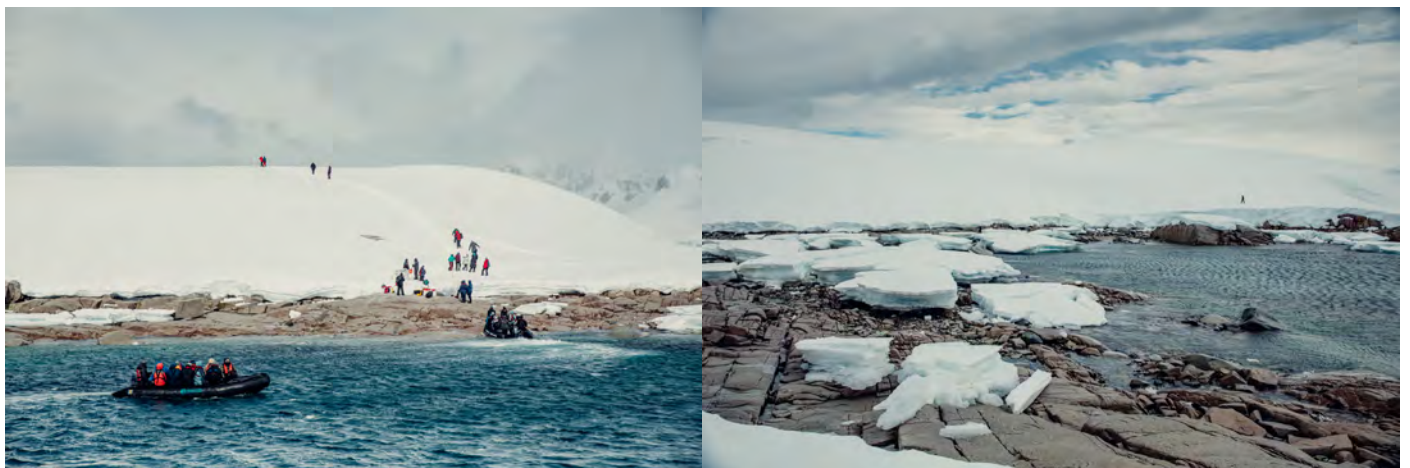
For our final day Eduardo woke us up quite early, at 6am, in order to maximise our time on the Peninsula, as the weather was forecasted to get worse throughout the end of the morning. So after a quick breakfast we all jumped into our zodiacs for a zodiac cruise in Foyn Bay. The kayakers did not go out because it was a little too windy, but our divers did not want to miss the opportunity to dive on the sunken wreck of the *Governoren*, an old tanker



which caught fire back in the days.

The wind was quite chilly, but our adventurous passengers ventured out and we got to see blue-eyed shags, skuas, and several Antarctic terns which were perched on the structures of the wreck which were sticking out of the water. As the wind picked up, we decided to return to Plancius at about the time we had planned to, and had an early lunch.

Even though we had to make our way back North towards the Drake, Eduardo and the captain had a joker up their sleeve in case the weather would play along. They decided to attempt a short landing at Portal Point which would constitute a continental landing. Upon arrival, the wind conditions were relatively good, with some catabatics blowing from land towards the sea. So we started our landing, and even though the landing area was rocky and tricky, our zodiac drivers mastered the landing and our passengers got safely on land.



The views from the top of the hill were beautiful and to our surprise we met somebody ashore who is part of a team of explorers who is camping in the area, and who are attempting to cross over to the Weddell Sea skiing their way through. We provided them with some fresh fruit, teabags and biscuits and wished them a successful expedition. Towards the end of the landing the wind had picked up and we all got soaked on our way back to Plancius. But this experience was definitely worth it, and we were all so grateful for this last opportunity of the trip to set foot on the continent.

Back on Plancius, we attended the Recap where Eduardo told us the plans for the following two days crossing the Drake, and gave us information on the rough conditions we were expecting. During that time we had already entered the Bransfield Strait and the sea was already quite rough. George gave us a recap about Antarctic ambassadorship, looking for ways to increase the impact that our passengers can have on people once they are back home. Pippa gave us some more information on how our passengers can contribute to citizen science projects like Happy whale by submitting the photographs they have taken of humpback whale flukes.

Every body felt quite exhausted but was filled with joy to have had the incredible opportunity to visit this untouched continent. We enjoyed another delicious dinner and most of us went straight to bed in order to escape the rolling of the ship.

Dive 6: Governoren Wreck, Foyn Harbour

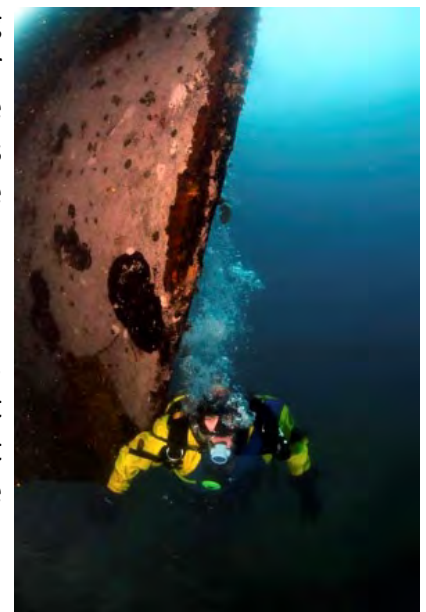
GPS: 64° 27,7S / 61° 51,9W

Divetime 45min

Max Depth 35fsw / 11m

This wreck lies partially submerged, with the bow proudly projecting above the surface. We started our dive at the bow, and worked our way aft on the starboard side. When we reached amidships, we crossed over the rail and explored the vessel interior. The deck was devastated, with little structure untouched by the fire that sank the vessel. It must have been terrifying to the sailors aboard.

We swam the port side back to the bow, and then swam away from the wreckage. Even off the wreck we found numerous artifacts... bottles, drinking glasses, a fender, and many things I couldn't recognize. Many of the objects on the bottom were whitish-blue. It took me a few minutes, but I finally we realized they were whale bones. Vertebrae, ribs, a skull. We suspect the coloration is from some type of bacteria coating the bones. (Jeffrey Bozanic)





Kayaking Foyen Harbour

Early morning Kayaking. We made our way between the small islands to protect us as much as we could from the wind. When we turned in on the last stretch toward the Govenoren we got strong winds hitting us and we all got very cold and were all happy to return to the ship and go directly to the breakfast.

Kayaking Portal point

Last Kayak of the trip and maybe should have been canceled due to strong wind and big swell. But we managed a little outing to feel the how strong mother nature can be in Antarctica.

Day 9 – 20th December 2021

Sea day toward Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 61°44.2'S / 062°47.1'W

Wind: W 5 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Part. clouds **Air Temp:** +8°C **Sea Temp:** 0°C

Eduardo woke us up this morning to a rough Drake, and not many passengers dared to show up at breakfast. The ship was rolling so much that people were gliding across the dinner lounge on their chairs, and glasses of water kept tipping over.

Our staff nevertheless continued the program with a series of very interesting lectures. Steffi started off with her lecture on Adaptations to the Polar Environment in which she explained the different anatomical and physiological adaptations that animals living in these areas have gone through in order to thrive. Koen gave then a lecture on the Exploration of Antarctica in which he went through the history of the Explorers of the white continent.

Right after yet another mouthwatering lunch, our passengers were asked to return their boots to the boot room, and we managed to carry out this mission with utmost efficiency. This was then followed by another Covid testing of all passengers, staff and crew, and we were all happy to hear that the result was that everybody on board is still negative.

The rough sea conditions in the Drake did not allow us to get out on the outer decks. But most passengers had taken their precautions and had taken their seasickness medication, so more and more passengers were present during the lectures in the observation lounge. In the afternoon Maricel gave a lecture on Seabirds, the research that is being carried out on Antarctic seabirds, the threats they face, as well as the ways in which we all can contribute in our daily lives to a reduction of our impact on their lives.

After dinner we were privileged to attend a lecture given by Jeffrey Bozanic who organised the American scout trip, and is a scientific diver who has worked for many years in American Research stations in Antarctica. It was a breathtaking account of all the incredible things he has achieved throughout his career. His message to the audience, especially to the young, is that it is important to have a critical mind, to ask questions, and to look for answers.



Day 10 – 21st December 2021

Sea day toward Ushuaia

GPS 08.00 Position: 57°21.6'S / 065°13.5'W

Wind: WSW 8 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +6°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

Today we were woken up by Eduardo's enigmatic music and by the heavy rolling of the ship in the Drake shake. The conditions at sea are quite rough and it is the heaviest rolling we have experienced during the entire voyage.

It was surprising to see how many passengers had braved the conditions and had showed up in the observation lounge for the series of lectures that were about to take place during the morning. Pierre started off with a lecture on humpback whales. He explained how to identify a humpback whale, talked about their characteristics, their impressive migrations from their breeding grounds to their feeding grounds, their songs, and the empathy they show when protecting other animal species when they are attacked by killer whales. George then gave a lecture about the Antarctic Treaty system in which he explained the different mechanisms in place to regulate how Antarctica is managed between all the member nations to the Treaty, and also touched on how CCAMLR works in order to manage Antarctic marine life resources.

We then had lunch in quite tricky conditions with heavy waves which made it quite a challenge to stay seated in one place trying to hold on to our glass of water and our cutlery. But we all took it with an excellent sense of humour.

After lunch, the young representatives of our group of American scouts presented themselves, their activities, how their involvement in scouting has shaped their lives, and the different projects they carry out.

Eduardo gave a lecture on Surviving the Anthropocene, a very interesting talk out the age we are living through in which we human beings shape our planet and have an important and lasting impact on our environment and on the climate of our planet, as well as on ways to reduce our impact. His talk was followed by the highly anticipated Plancius Quiz, animated by our camping guide Koen. The quiz touched on all the lectures and recaps that have taken place during this voyage and tested our passenger's recollection on all the information provided. The winner of this competition was the group named "Chainsaw", and they took home the magnificent prize of a bottle of Prosecco.



After our last delicious dinner together, we all came back to the observation lounge to view the slideshow that our young photographer Juan had put together. It was quite emotional to witness all at once all the beauties and adventures we have all shared together during these past 10 days. Eduardo then gave his farewell talk, thanking the entire crew and his team for this very successful expedition. We all lingered in the lounge chatting and exchanging experiences and memories. It is a voyage that has marked each and every one of us forever.

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

1718 NM

Furthest South:

65°03'S / 064°03'W

Your Expedition Team!



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

André Fahrni – Dive guide



André grew up in Switzerland – a country used to snow and the cold but not a very obvious place to dive. In 1999 it happened anyway: Even though it was in the warm waters of Indonesia he started to dive and fell in love with the underwater world.

Becoming a dive instructor a few years later opened the door for André to work and live abroad. So he did on the Philippines, Maldives and Sweden.

It was 2012 when this passion brought him to Antarctica. First as a guest and ever since as a dive guide for Oceanwide Expeditions. He probably spent more time

diving or supervising other divers than being on shore.

Since the opening in 2017, he is co-owner of a dive shop and dive school in Zurich. So today his enjoying working as a guide as well as leading a business and bringing his own clients to the Oceanwide Expeditions family.

The team spirit within the crew, the mind-blowing beauty of Antarctica and the priceless experiences he can help to offer to the guests are only two reasons to come back over and over again.

André is a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, Emergency First Respond Instructor and holds several Specialty Instructor certifications. He is also a certified Trimix diver and recently fell in love with his Horizon Semi Closed Rebreather.

Eduardo Rubio - Expedition Leader



I describe myself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for sharing nature with others.

After studying physics, I got my PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position I became a lecturer of physics and Astronomy as well as a guide in expedition cruise ships. In 2018 I decided to become a full-time guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic and in the Arctic.

My interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips I have undertaken, I offer lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), about our Universe, and the mysteries of our ocean's depths, to mention some. At sea, besides being an engaged guide and lecturer, I love to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore. In every trip I made, I always aim to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live. Born in Guatemala (1978), I speak English, Spanish and German.

George Kennedy – Ship's doctor assistant



George is an anthropologist and political scientist currently studying at the Australian Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science. He has a keen interest in cultural identity and contemporary geopolitics in the polar regions. His current research focusses on the complex dynamics between indigenous, scientific and political stakeholders in their pursuit of environmental protection in Antarctica and the Arctic.

In his practice as an anthropologist, George has worked predominantly with community development organisations in Latin America. His work has focussed on identifying collaborative solutions to support environmental conservation and sustainable tourism in Patagonia and the Amazon basin.

Prior to his work in anthropology, George served as a paramedic in Australia, still occasionally throwing on the uniform to work with Ambulance Victoria in Melbourne.

Second only to expedition cruising, George's great passion is motorcycle travel. He has ridden from Mongolia to India, around Australia, and most recently from Patagonia to Mexico on his Kawasaki KLR650.

Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide



Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic

Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenty's Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top of diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina. He is embarking on his first Antarctic Expedition Cruise with Oceanwide Expeditions.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying outdoors and on the mountains. His hobbies are trekking, camping, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country

on holidays. Nowadays he enjoys discovering new landscapes around the end of the Andes chain with his friends.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in tourism for more than 5 years in Ushuaia and has amazing skills related to guest management, being a sociable and talkative person. He speaks natively Spanish, English and some German as he did an exchange back in 2014 after finishing high school.

Going to Antarctica has been a lifetime dream of his, as being born at the southernmost city in the world and the nearest city to the white continent really set the path for the years to come. He plans on starting a Polar career learning from every aspect, from wildlife to history, and someday become an Expedition expert.

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he choose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

Laura Mony – Expedition Guide



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

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

curiosity about the climate phenomena that govern our planet.

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

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

Maricel Grilli - Expedition Guide



Maricel grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she studied biology and later completed her PhD at Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

Her research project on the ecology of brown skuas led her to spend 4 summer seasons trapping birds at King George Island, where she was caught by that peaceful and wild place.

Since 2015, she has lived in Patagonia, where she continues to research bird ecology and their conservation issues. There, most of the year, she combines work on the computer with outdoor life

in the beautiful Andean mountains and lakes.

Every summer Maricel returns to Antarctica to enjoy its beauty and discover new places. She looks forward to sharing what she has learned and her love and respect for this wonderful place with you.

Martin Kriz – Ship's doctor



Dr Martin Kriz, senior consultant in surgery and full time member of American College of Surgeons FACS, completed his initial training in Lund Sweden at the University Hospital and subsequently, in Helsingborg County Hospital, where he specialized in cancer surgery and emergency surgery.

Currently he works in his own private practice and at the University Hospital in Lund Sweden.

Besides his specialization in surgery, he is also a specialist in Hyperbaric and Naval Medicine and a diving physician accredited by the EDTC (European Diving Technology Committee). He is also Specialist in Aero and Space Medicine, AME (aero medical examiner) accredited by the Swedish Transport Agency.

Dr Kriz has extensive surgical experience and has also worked as a surgeon internationally, in such places as Africa as head surgeon in an Kenyan rural hospital, jeep doctor for The Swedish Rotary Doctors, and in Afghanistan, where he spent a year as head of the Swedish military medical division within ISAF. He works as well as a diving physician for the Swedish Armed Forces. He worked as a surgeon in Bangladesh at Emirates Friendship Floating Hospital and at Friendship hospital in Shyamnagar 2019.

He has been invited to go to Mongolia in the autumn of 2013 and 2014 to operate and instruct local surgeons in surgical techniques.

Dr Kriz has been working as chief surgeon and SMO, senior medical officer, in St Helena, British Overseas Territories, on several occasions until recently one of the most remote places on earth. He is married and has one son. All his life he has been backpacking all over the world with his camera. He plays golf badly, skies downhill quite well and is a quite experienced scuba diver.

Mike Pumm - Dive Team Leader



Mike was born in Switzerland 1987, he is owner and dive instructor of a dive company in Central Switzerland. He dives in surrounded lakes several times a week where he prefers technical diving but cave diving as well.

Few years ago, he and his wife got the chance to live abroad and manage a dive resort in Roatan, Honduras.

Since they are back in Europe, he prefer diving in polar regions. His first time in Antarctica was 2016, when he joined a trip with Oceanwide

Expeditions as a guest and got infected with the „polar bug“.

From then on, he enjoys every trip few times a year as a dive guide with Oceanwide Expeditions - no matter if Arctic or Antarctic as long as it is cold and icy.

Now, he is really looking forward to this journey with you as dive guide and dive team leader.

Pierre Gallego - Expedition Guide



Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique. He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

Pippa Low – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

Stefanie Liller - Expedition Guide



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

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

Urban Reifler – Dive Guide



Urban Reifler is married and father of two children. He grew up on a farm near Lake Constance in Switzerland.

Even as a child, he spent a lot of time outdoors and was interested in nature and ecological relationships. So it was appropriate that he first learnt the profession of a farmer.

After his practical training, he studied at the University of Agronomy.

The underwater world has fascinated him since his childhood. In 1999 he took his first diving course. The enthusiasm was great and did not let him go.

He was in the water at every opportunity and continued to train in recreational diving. Since 2018 he has been a diving instructor and since 2020 he has been running his own diving school together with his son, who is also an enthusiastic diver. Urban particularly enjoys diving in local lakes and rivers. When he is not instructing, he devotes himself to underwater photography. Everything can - nothing must, with this attitude he would like to enjoy many more dives and infect others with his enthusiasm.

His main occupation today is working at Lake Constance as a vocational school teacher and is involved in the training of young farmers.

Zet Freiburghaus - Kayak Leader



Zet is a former successful member of the Swedish national kayak team who after his active career has travelled around the world.

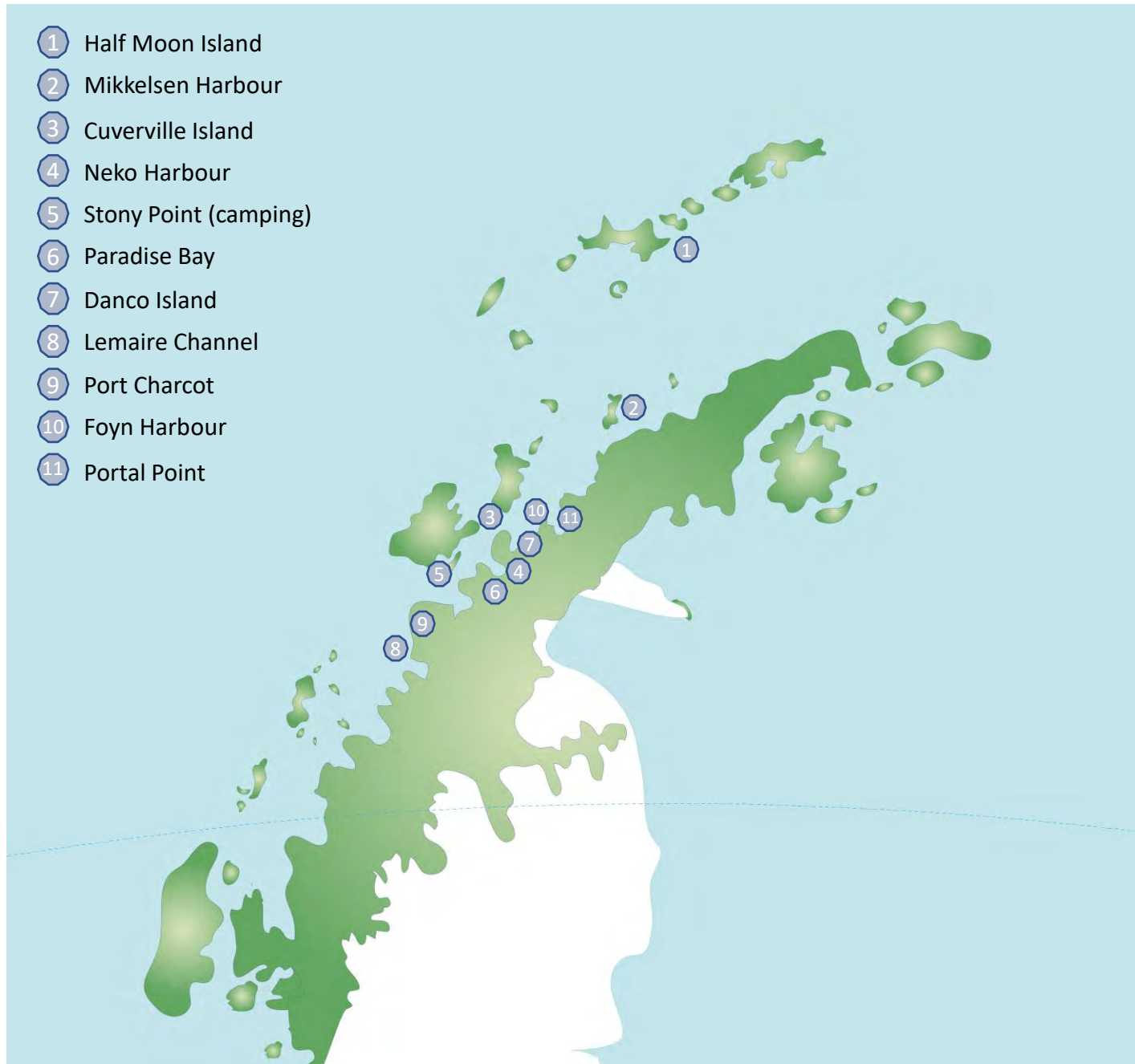
Just last year he hiked and rode a horse in the Tien Shen mountains of Kyrgyzstan and explored big parts of Ethiopia, where he saw the Ethiopian wolf and were standing on the rim on an active volcano.

His sharp eyes and great experience in nature implies he rarely misses an animal.

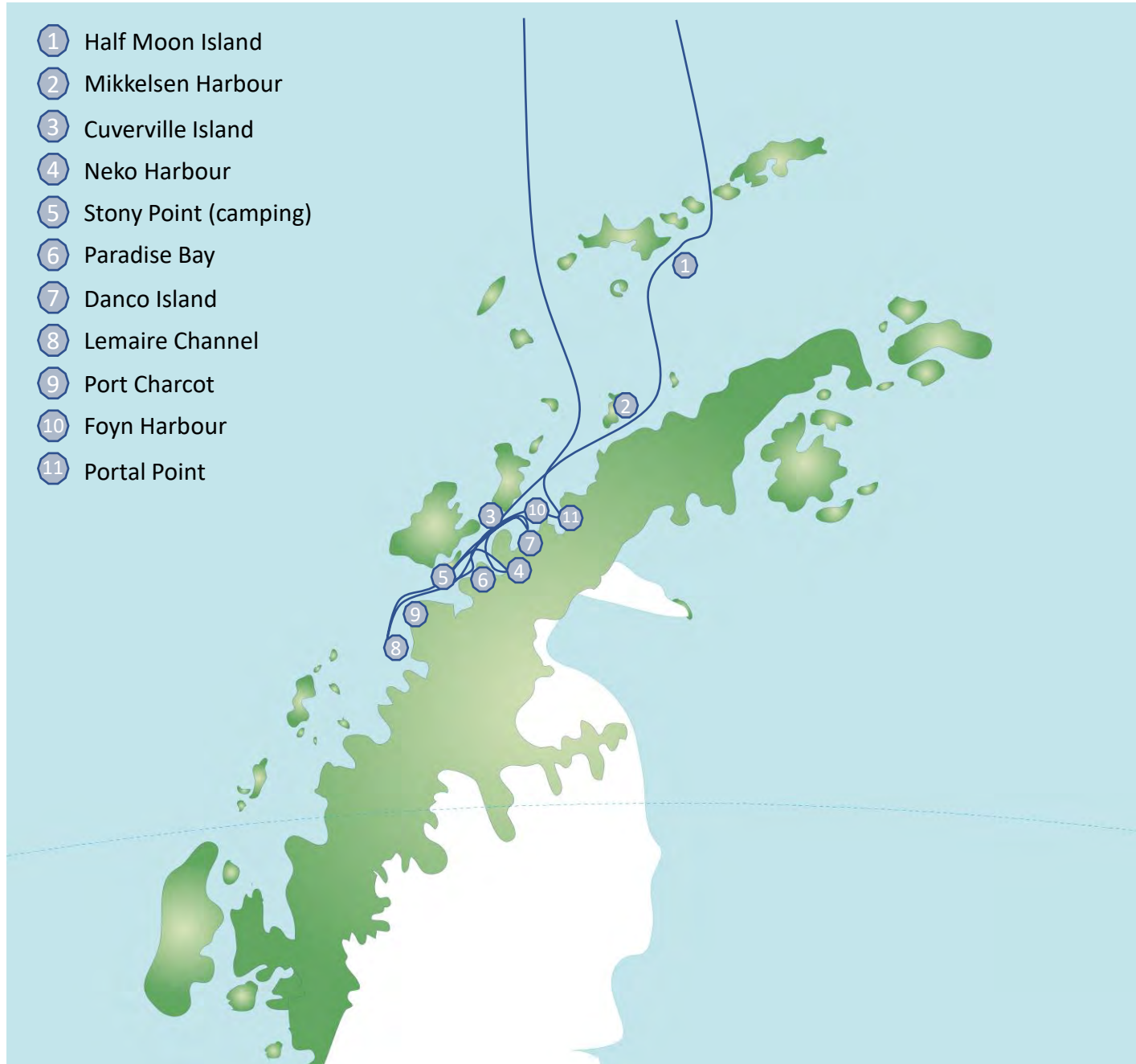
Zet has a Master of Science in Biology from Lund University.

Today he works as a guide with the whole world as his office. Zet is new to the Oceanwide crew and very excited to share his enthusiasm and energy on board our vessels this season.

- ① Half Moon Island
- ② Mikkelsen Harbour
- ③ Cuverville Island
- ④ Neko Harbour
- ⑤ Stony Point (camping)
- ⑥ Paradise Bay
- ⑦ Danco Island
- ⑧ Lemaire Channel
- ⑨ Port Charcot
- ⑩ Foyn Harbour
- ⑪ Portal Point



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Antarctic Peninsula
Ushuaia
Sunday 12th December 2021

Welcome on board!

Your luggage should already be in your cabin. Please check that you are not missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does NOT belong to you or your cabin mate please tell a member of staff or crew.
Feel free to explore the ship. Tea and coffee are always available in the Lounge on Deck 5

~1715 Mandatory Safety briefing and Lifeboat drill.

ALL passengers must attend this very important safety briefing and drill.

~1800 Approximate sailing time.

After departure, we would like to invite you for a welcome from Expedition Leader **Eduardo Rubio** and an introduction to the ship by Hotel Manager **Aleks Lyebvedev**.

~1830 Red group, please come to the Lounge (Deck 5).

~1900 Blue group, please come to the Lounge (Deck 5).

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

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

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

- 0730 Your first **Wake up call** from your Expedition Leader, Eduardo. Good morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.
- 0930 **Blue group. Expedition introduction & IAATO Briefing.** Please join Eduardo and the expedition team in the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a further introduction to the voyage and your expedition team. These are mandatory briefings for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage.
- 1100 **Red group. Expedition introduction & IAATO Briefing.** Please join Eduardo and the expedition team in the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for a further introduction to the voyage and your expedition team. These are mandatory briefings for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage.

When not in the mandatory briefings, we encourage you to spend some time on deck to see some of the seabirds that can be found in this area and maybe spot some whales or dolphins. It is also a chance to get your 'sea legs' and get used to life on board Plancius.

- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Rubber boots.** This afternoon we will hand out your rubber boots. **Please listen for announcements – we will call you in groups.** The boot room is on **deck 3, forward.**
- 1530 **Diving Briefing.** Please meet Mike and the dive team in the dining room for your mandatory dive briefing.
- 1630 **Kayaking Briefing.** Please meet Zet in the dining room for your mandatory kayaking briefing.
- 1800 **Red Group.** Please join Eduardo and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1830 **Blue Group.** Please join Eduardo and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the **Daily Recap.** This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

- 0730 **Wake up** call from Eduardo. Good morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.
- 0900 **Red Group - Zodiac Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage. It will outline our Zodiac operations on board Plancius. Please join Eduardo in the **Lounge**.
- ~0945 **Blue Group - Zodiac Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing for all passengers who wish to go ashore during this voyage. It will outline our Zodiac operations on board Plancius. Please join Eduardo in the **Lounge**.
- ~1030 **Biosecurity.** We will begin our biosecurity procedures on board which will involve vacuuming your outer clothing, particularly velcro fastenings as well as camera bags and back packs. You then need to sign a bio-security declaration. We will call you to the Lounge in groups so **please listen for announcements**.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Covid Testing.** We will run our day 3 covid testing after lunch. We will call you in groups to the dining room– **please listen for announcements**.
- Providing we all test negative, we will lift the colour group separation. Masks will remain mandatory.*
- ~1500 **Brief History of Penguins.** Please join Koen in the Lounge for his lecture on the evolution of penguins and an introduction to the penguin species we hope to see in Antarctica.
- ~1600 **Marine mammals of Antarctica.** Please join Pippa in the Lounge for her lecture on the marine mammals of the Antarctic ocean.
- 1700 **Camping briefing.** If you have pre-booked camping, please join Koen in the dining room for the mandatory camping briefing.
- 1815 **Daily Recap.** Please join Eduardo and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the This is where we look back upon our day and towards future plans.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

0630 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo. Good morning!

0700 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.

This morning we hope to land at Half Moon Island – home to nesting chinstrap penguins and surrounded by beautiful Antarctic scenery.

~0800 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team in the boot room to get your gear ready.

~0830 **Kayakers** – Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room).

~0830 **Half Moon Island Landing. Please listen for announcements** – we will call you to the zodiac boarding area.

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

1430 **Camping Briefing.** Campers – please meet Koen in the Lounge for a mandatory camping briefing.

This afternoon we hope to sail into Deception Island and land at Whaler's bay – an old whaling station and area of geo-thermal activity inside an active volcano.

~1600 **Neptunes Belows.** We will sail through the opening to the caldera Deception Island at approximately this time – **please listen for announcements.**

~1615 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team in the boot room to get your gear ready.

~1700 **Kayakers** - Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room).

1700 **Whaler's Bay landing.** We hope to land at Whaler's bay this afternoon. **Please listen for announcements.**

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appétit.

After dinner, please join Eduardo and the expedition team in the Lounge for the daily recap and briefing for tomorrows plan.



Antarctic Peninsula

Cuerverville Island & Neko Harbour

Thursday 16th December 2021

0700 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo. Good morning!

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

This morning we hope to land at Cuerverville Island, home to one of the largest Gentoo Penguin colonies on the Peninsula.

0830 **Divers** - please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

0900 **Kayakers** – please meet Zet on deck 3 aft (behind the dining room).

0900 **Cuerverville Island landing.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

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

This afternoon we hope to land at Neko Harbour, in Anvers Bay. The site has a very active glacial front and nesting Gentoo penguins.

1500 **Divers** – please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

1530 **Kayakers** – please meet Zet on deck 3 aft (behind the dining room).

1530 **Neko Harbour landing.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

1830 **Daily recap.** Please join Eduardo and the Expedition team in the Lounge.

1900 **Buffet Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Please let the campers go first. Bon appétit.

2000 **Campers** – Please meet Koen at the gangway, dressed and ready to go for your night on the ice!

0700 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo. Good morning!

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

This morning we plan to do a Zodiac cruise at Skontorp Cove in Paradise Bay. Boasting incredible scenery and glacial views, with nesting Gentoo Penguins, Antarctic Cormorants, and occasional seals resting on the ice.

0830 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

0900 **Kayakers** – Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room), dressed and ready to go.

0900 **Zodiac cruise.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

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

1330 **Day 5 Covid Test.** We run our next round of covid testing this afternoon. Please listen for announcements, we will call you in groups to the **library**.

This afternoon we hope to land at Danco Island. The island is home to large colonies of Gentoo penguins and surrounded by spectacular Antarctic Scenery. If conditions allow, we will also offer a hike to the top of the island. Please follow the marked route and give penguins right of way at their highways.

1500 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

1530 **Kayakers** – Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room), dressed and ready to go.

1530 **Danco Island Landing.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

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

1930 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. Bon appétit.

After dinner, please join Eduardo and the Expedition team in the Lounge for the daily recap.



Antarctic Peninsula

Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Port Charcot

Saturday 18th December 2021

0645 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo. Good morning!

This morning we hope to transit through the Lemaire Channel (ice conditions depending). A narrow strait to the Southern Peninsula, with steep glacial cliffs on either side, amid rugged peaks rising 1000m high – it is well worth getting out of bed for!

0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.

This morning we plan to do a split zodiac cruise and landing at Petermann Island. Home to nesting Adele and Gentoo Penguins. The first zodiacs will go to shore to land, and the rest will go on a cruise – we will swap halfway through the morning.

0900 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

0900 **Kayakers** – Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room), dressed and ready to go.

0930 **Split zodiac cruise & landing.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

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

This afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise at Port Charcot in Salpetriere Bay. The bay is known as an ‘iceberg graveyard’ – filled with towering icebergs, surrounded by astounding scenery, with the chance of whales, seals and lots of penguins.

1430 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

1500 **Kayakers** – Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room), dressed and ready to go.

1500 **Zodiac Cruise.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

1900 **Daily recap.** Please join Eduardo and the expedition team in the Lounge for our daily recap.

1930 **Special Dinner** on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room) – wrap up warm ;)



Antarctic Peninsula

Foyn Harbour & Portal Point

Saturday 18th December 2021

0530 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo. Good morning!

*This morning we plan to do a pre-breakfast zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour.
Pastries, coffee and juice will be available in the lounge before.*

0600 **Divers** – Please meet the dive team on the zodiac deck to get your gear ready.

0630 **Kayakers** – Please meet Zet on Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room), dressed and ready to go.

0630 **Zodiac cruise.** Please listen for announcements for zodiac boarding.

0900 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room.

*The plan for our landing at Portal Point will be dependent on weather and ice conditions.
Please standby for announcements.*

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

1830 **Daily recap.** Please join Eduardo and the expedition team in the Lounge for our daily recap.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining room.

This evening we will sail into the Drake passage, and we expect some rough seas. Please secure your belongings and take your seasick medication as required.



Antarctic Peninsula

Drake Passage

Monday 20th December 2021

- 0730 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room.
- 0930 **Adaptations to the Polar Environment.** Please join Steffi for her lecture on the incredible adaptations of Antarctic animals.
- 1100 **Exploration of Antarctica.** Please join Koen in the Lounge for his lecture on the intrepid stories of exploration on the white continent.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the dining room.
- 1430 **Boots.** This afternoon we will collect your rubber boots. Please listen for announcements, we will call you in groups.
- 1530 **Seabirds.** Please join Maricel for her lecture on the seabirds of the Southern Ocean.
- 1700 **Covid testing.** We will run our last round of covid testing for the trip in the dining room. Please listen for announcements, we will call you in groups.
- 1830 **Daily recap.** Please join Eduardo and the expedition team in the Lounge.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Bon appétit.

After dinner, please join us in the Lounge for a special guest lecture: Scientific Diving in Antarctica.



Antarctic Peninsula

Drake Passage

Tuesday 21st December 2021

0730 **Wakeup** call from Eduardo.

0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining room.

0930 **Humpback Whales.** Please join Pierre in the Lounge for his lecture on these ocean giants.

1100 **The Antarctic Treaty System.** Please join George in the Lounge for his lecture exploring the emergence of Antarctic governance.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining room.

After lunch, we would like to take payments of your bills. Please listen for announcements.

1500 **Surviving the Anthropocene.** Please join Eduardo in the Lounge for his lecture on the impact of human activities on the biosphere and the future of Planet Earth.

1630 **Plancius Quiz.** Please join us in the Lounge for an afternoon of fun and trivia on our incredible adventure to Antarctica.

1815 **Final Recap & Slideshow.** Please join the Expedition Team and Captain Sakkariassen in the Lounge to toast our successful expedition to Antarctica.

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



Antarctic Peninsula

Disembarkation - Ushuaia

Tuesday 21st December 2021

0630 **Your final wakeup** call on Plancius from Eduardo!

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

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

0700 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room.

~0800 All passengers leave the ship. Please listen for announcements.
Please make sure you have all your belongings.

There will be multiple buses on the pier to collect you. Please pay attention to which bus you need to get on for your destination.

- Airport bus: please **collect your luggage** and place it on the bus.
- Luggage drop off bus: please **collect your luggage** and place it on the bus.

If you leave your luggage at the drop off for the morning - you will need to pick up your luggage before 1400.

On behalf of all the Staff and Crew on board Plancius we thank you for travelling with us. We wish you a safe, easy journey home.