



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula

on board

m/v **Ortelius**

October 25 – November 14, 2022



© Sara Jenner

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. M/V *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 re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 108-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 12 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 44 (12 Nationalities)

Including....

First Officer:	Per Andersson	[Sweden]
Second Officer:	Anika Albrecht	[Germany]
Third Officer:	Eline Schuurman	[Netherlands]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	Stephen Bell	[Northern Ireland]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Thijs de Lint	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Ivanovic	[Serbia]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Phillipines]
Ship's Physician:	Veronique Verhoeven	[Belgium]
Expedition Leader:	Adam Turner	[UK]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Hella Martens	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Hazel Pitwood	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Regis Perdriat	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]

Welcome you onboard!

Day 1: 25th October 2022

Embarkation - Puerto Madryn, Argentina

GPS position at 1200: 42°45'.71 S - 065°01'.44 W

Wind: ESE force 1. Sea State: Calm. Port Weather: Sunny, scattered cloud.

Air Temp: +21 °C. Sea Temp: +13 °C

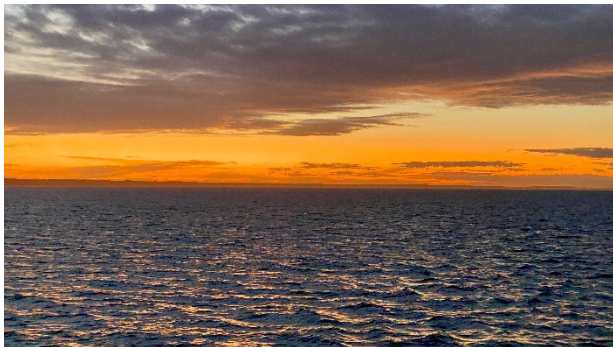
Our group descended on Puerto Madryn over the course of several days. A few early arrivals saw our ship, *Ortelius* arrive on the 23rd after a long repositioning voyage from her home port of Vlissingen in The Netherlands. Come embarkation day, most people had already caught their first glimpse of *Ortelius*, which was docked at the pier. Everyone enjoyed time to explore Puerto Madryn at their leisure ahead of boarding the ship.



Embarkation was set for 16:00 onwards. A handful of eager guests arrived ahead of time and enjoyed the sun while observing dock life. Once embarkation began, there was a steady flow of excited arrivals. The expedition team were on hand to greet us and assist with the scanning of luggage by the local port authority. Then it was time to climb the gangway and board our home for the next three weeks. While the crew and expedition team delivered luggage to cabins, we made our way to reception with passports at the ready to check-in with Hotel Manager Stephen Bell and his team. Then it was time to find our cabins and start settling in.

The Puerto Madryn harbour pilot boarded the ship at 17:00, and we pulled away from the dock at 17:35. Our adventure had begun! Many of us were up on deck for the departure and to see Puerto Madryn slowly fade away in our wake. The next stop was the Falkland Islands, two days sailing away.

As nice as it was up on deck, there was important business to be done. We were called to the Lecture Hall for important briefings by Expedition Leader Adam, Hotel Manager Stephen and ship's doctor Veronique. Then there came a mandatory safety and lifeboat drill conducted by the Chief Officer. At the end we were instructed to return to our cabins, put on warm clothes, and stand by for the sounding of the general emergency alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, we reported to our muster stations, either in the Dining Room or Bar, and were taken to our respective lifeboat stations. With the drill complete, many of us remained out on deck catching glimpses of seabirds and distant whale activity.



At 19:00 we were invited to the bar to enjoy a welcome aboard drink, before heading off to dinner at 19:30. There was a great atmosphere during our first meal onboard, created by the prospect of what lay ahead. It was a fantastic feeling to be underway at last. The day ended with a glorious sunset as we made our way towards the Puerto Madryn narrows and the open South Atlantic Ocean. We were about to enter a belt of latitude known as the "Roaring Forties". We hoped they would be kind to us!!

Day 2: 26th October 2022

At Sea

GPS position at 1200: 45° 44'.4 S - 063°16'.9 W

Wind: W force 3. Sea State: Light swell. Weather: Partly cloudy & sunny

Air Temp: +16.8 °C. Sea Temp: +15 °C



Today was our first full day on board *Ortelius* as we continued our journey towards the Falkland Islands. When we arose from our sleep and headed outside, we saw beautiful, calm seas and sunshine; perfect conditions to begin looking out for wonderful wildlife! Sure enough, even before breakfast we were enjoying views of some amazing animals. In terms of the birds, White-chinned petrels, Giant petrels and our first Black-browed albatrosses were seen. We also saw our first Pintado Petrel. Pintado means 'painted in Spanish. for the marine mammals, South American sea lions and South American fur seals swam past and a few separate small pods of the strikingly marked Peale's dolphin acrobatically leaped out of the water towards the ship. Numerous Sei whales were seen too, a sizeable species which grows up to 17m long and weighs up to 38 tonnes. We looked out for the blows of spray as they surfaced to breathe, watching their dark grey backs and curved, pointed dorsal fins curve back beneath the waves. This species is one of the fastest whales, capable of travelling at 25 km/h in short bursts!

Hotel Manager Stephen announced that the restaurant was open at 8am so we went to devour a delicious breakfast buffet. Afterwards, we were called to the lecture room for the introduction of our expedition team who described their roles, experience, and fields of expertise. Then came the mandatory zodiac briefing, giving us the knowledge that we needed to ensure safe operations such as how to use the sailor's grip, entering and leaving the zodiacs and putting on life jackets. After the briefing we received our muck boots, necessary for wet zodiac landings and walking ashore. We then enjoyed some fresh air back out on deck before lunch time at 12:30.

In the afternoon two lectures were provided in the bar. Marine mammal specialist Hazel spoke about the whales and dolphins we could see during the first part of our trip (including those we had already seen that morning!) and Ornithologist Regis gave his talk called 'The Fabulous World of Seabirds' giving us a wealth of information about these magnificent creatures, from the tiny storm petrels to the enormous albatrosses. Speaking of birds, more new species were seen for the trip during the afternoon, including Wandering albatross, Cape petrel (aka Pintado), Soft-plumaged petrel, Great Shearwater, Slender-billed prion and two Rockhopper penguins. Some very active Humpback whales were also observed breaching and slapping their tails on the water in the distance making their presence known with huge splashes!

As the day's activities drew to a close, we had our first Recap in the bar. Expedition Leader Adam told us the plans for tomorrow, Sara spoke about Falklands culture and Bill encouraged everyone to engage mindfully with the amazing natural world: looking, seeing, thinking, doing! Then it was time for dinner (there was certainly no risk of us going hungry on this trip!) Afterwards we enjoyed some relaxing quiet time or a sociable drink in the bar with fellow guests before heading to bed.



Day 3: 27th October 2022

At Sea & Grand Jason Island, Falklands

GPS position at 1200: 50°33'.5 S - 061°31'.3 W

Wind: NW force 5. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Slightly overcast, bright

Air Temp: +12.6 °C. Sea Temp: +10 °C



After breakfast Expedition Leader Adam called everyone to a briefing and announced the need for a change of plan. The weather forecast indicated severe weather in the area of the Falklands over the next few days. Winds expected to gust over 60 knots making landings on exposed beaches impossible, and the harbour at Stanley was scheduled to close. Plan B was to remain on course to the northern part of the Falklands but aim for a different island. The hope was that the weather would allow us to land at Steeple

Jason Island, home of the largest Albatross colony in the world. From there the intention was to head directly for South Georgia.

The weather continued to remain excellent with good visibility and a relatively calm sea state. Several whales were spotted, and cameras clicked as long lenses followed Petrels, Prions and Albatrosses that flew around the vessel. The lecture program continued with guests attending several informative talks in the morning. AEL Sarah ...'How to take photographs you are happy with!' Himanshu Seth...'Photo shutter speed for beginners' and EL Adam ...introduction to the Falkland Island ...a historical account.

Land came into sight during lunch, and *Ortelius* soon arrived off the dramatic albatross-lined shores of Steeple Jason. The air was filled with Albatrosses, and countless thousand white dots stretched like a gigantic collar around the island. Unfortunately, the weather conditions deteriorated quickly, and the increasing wind created a heavy 3 metre swell. Two Zodiacs were launched to check the possibility of landing. The result was a disappointing but obvious cancellation.



Ortelius repositioned to Grand Jason Island, a place that none of the expedition team had ever been to..... including Allan, the Falkland Islander. Conditions were much more favorable, and Zodiacs were launched to scout for a landing site. Four Zodiacs ran shuttles, transferring all guests to a rocky inlet where a scramble over some rocks was required. We followed a pole-marked trail through the massive clumps of Tussock Grass to an enormous colony of Black-browed Albatrosses and Rockhopper Penguins. Cameras click incessantly...wildlife photo opportunities everywhere... guests were delighted.



A call from the ship prompted everyone to return to the landing site and Zodiacs. Conditions had once again changed, and the wind was gusting strongly at Force 7 from NNW and the swell increased to 4 metres, a menacing height alongside the gangway. The next hour provided serious excitement for all as the Zodiacs transferred the returning guests. It was dark when the last boats were lifted onboard and plan B implemented due to the forecast of worsening weather...*Ortelius* set course for South Georgia.

Another memorable adventure filled Oceanwide Expeditions day!!!

Day 4: 28th October 2022

At Sea

GPS position at 1200: 51°19'.8 S - 057°48'.6 W

Wind: W force 6. Sea State: Heavy swell. Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +9 °C. Sea Temp: +10 °C

We started the day just off the north-east corner of the Falkland Islands. Overnight the weather had deteriorated slightly, and the ship was rolling quite a lot. Following the usual great breakfast, Allan gave a memorable and emotional talk about living on one of the remotest islands in the Falklands. Allan is a fifth generation Falkland Islander and a direct descendant of one of the original British settlers in 1840. His photographs of the landscape, wildlife and his adorable Labrador Bosun were enjoyed by everyone.

The weather steadily worsened throughout the morning which meant that getting around was more of a challenge. Regular announcements reminded us to take good care while moving about the ship, and to



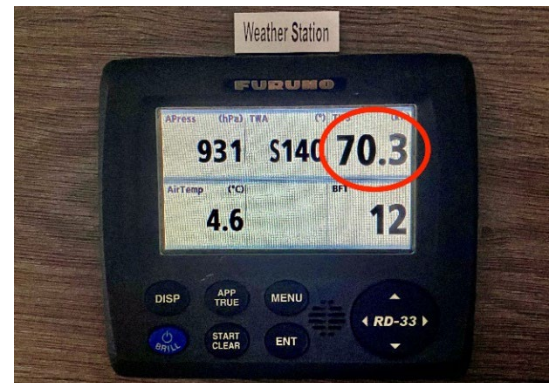
ensure that we always had at least one hand free for safety. There were also reminders to ensure all items in our cabins were secure, and to keep fingers out of door frames. The weather was forecasted to deteriorate further still.

At 11:00 Jami Tarris of the Wild Focus photography group gave a fantastic presentation about Wildlife Photography. Jami's photos from all around the world were nothing less than breath-taking. Outside it was overcast and the visibility was reducing all the time. But that didn't stop us seeing

Peales Dolphins, Pintado Petrels, Diving Petrels, Sooty Shearwater and Giant Petrels in good numbers. And, of course there was the ever-present and by now familiar, Black-browed Albatross.

Following another delicious buffet lunch, Expedition Leader Adam gave a series of short mandatory briefings in the bar. These were the IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) Visitor Guidelines, Bio Security requirements, and a memorable video covering the South Georgia Visitor Guidelines with the familiar voice of Sir David Attenborough.

There was a dramatic worsening of the weather in the early afternoon. The impending storm that drove us out of the Falklands had caught up with us! More announcements were made reminding us to take extreme care while moving around the ship. Restrictions were placed on the outer decks, which were very wet and slippery. The heavy rolling made it very dangerous outside. By 15:00 the wind was blowing steadily at 50-60 knots, gusting to over 70 knots. The wind speed indicator on the bridge showed this numerous times. The swell was a mesmerizing 5-6 meters. Reports from the Falklands about horrendous conditions there confirmed that we were right to make a run for it.



Later in the afternoon Hella gave a very informative talk on Pinnipeds while trying to remain upright. This was a fantastic introduction to the various seal species that we hoped to encounter on our expedition. The motion of the ship was getting to Hella, but she soldiered on and pulled off a superb presentation despite feeling unwell.

After a short recap in the bar, dinner was served by some very well-balanced waiters, as the sea state continued to roll the ship. The Captain changed course slightly to reduce the heavy rolling during dinner service. This allowed most people to keep their dinner on the plate!

Day 5: 29th October 2022

At Sea – Scotia Sea

GPS position at 1200: 52°30'.1 S - 050°33'.2 W

Wind: WSW force 8. Sea State: Very rough. Weather: Partly cloudy, sunny

Air Temp: +6.6 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

As a new dawn broke on *Ortelius*, a multitude of sea birds gracefully rode the high winds around our vessel, blissfully unaware of the many people onboard who had struggled through the night, unable to sleep due to the rolling and pitching in the rough seas. The dining room slowly and only partly filled up for breakfast, and for everyone's safety hotel manager Stephen decided that all meals today would be served by the hotel staff to avoid guests walking about and falling over.



On the bridge, the Captain mentioned that the wave height peaked at around 10 metres during the night! But the good news was that throughout the day the wind speed was expected to decrease, and with that the swell and waves should ease. We were informed that until further notice all decks apart from deck 6 were closed for safety reasons.

During the morning Theo Allofs from the Wild Focus Photography Group gave a wonderful presentation on 'Landscape and Composition'. Beautiful photographs of some of the most incredible places on our planet were presented by Theo, which was another reminder of the task

we have as humans to protect, respect, and reconnect with Mother Earth.

To protect the biodiversity in South Georgia and to avoid the introduction of any invasive plants or animals, the biosecurity guidelines which allow us to set foot on land are very strict. In preparation some time was reserved this morning for the initial cleaning and inspection of all our equipment. Armed with brushes and paperclips we searched for the tiniest pieces of mud, grass, or seeds. For those with little patience it can be a frustrating task. But as a team we all helped each other to reduce time on a very scrutinous inspection.

For those of us who were up and about, the bridge and deck 6 were a wonderful place to be. The seas had calmed down a little, the sun was peeking through the clouds and many seabirds were following us. Some of the highlights were Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross and Wandering Albatross.

Following another beautiful lunch served by the hotel and expedition staff, Hazel gave a very interesting lecture entitled 'Humans and Whales; from Whaling to Worship', which covered the relationship between humans and cetaceans throughout history and different cultures. She also talked about the history of whaling and when we turned to cetacean conservation.

Later in the afternoon Bill gave a beautiful perspective on the meaning of the sea in paintings in his lecture. His words always gave us food for thought.



After an informative recap in the bar, where Sarah showed us the different wingspans of birds, and Hella and Bill talked about respectively 'knots' and the 'stability and endurance' of the *Ortelius*, we all enjoyed dinner in the calming seas. Many of us were happy at the prospect of catching up on some sleep, while South Georgia is slowly approaching. One more day at sea...!

Day 6: 30th October 2022

At Sea - Scotia Sea

GPS position at 1200: 53°18'.1 S - 043°19'.5 W

Wind: W force 6. Sea State: Rough. Weather: Scattered cloud, sunny

Air Temp: +6 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

After a couple of days of rough seas, we were all happy to wake up to calmer conditions today. Word quickly spread around the ship that we had crossed the Antarctic Convergence (the biological boundary of Antarctica) during the night. With the outside decks reopened we were able to head outdoors to enjoy the amazing seabirds which were still accompanying *Ortelius* as we continued our journey. These included five different species of albatross; Grey-headed, Black-browed, Light-mantled sooty, Southern Royal and Wandering. These large, impressive birds gave fantastic views, gliding by at eye level and giving great opportunities for capturing some photographs. Additional birds for the morning included Blue and Kerguelen petrels.



In the bar, Assistant Expedition Leader Sara gave her brilliant lecture regarding penguins, giving us a wealth of information about these iconic animals accompanied by her beautiful photographs. Speaking of photography, Theo Allofs from Wild Focus gave his inspiring presentation entitled 'Light and Landscapes'. Throughout the morning we travelled across waters which were uniformly deep and flat, reaching over 2000m. Deep, open ocean is the habitat of beaked whale species which primarily feed on squid and so it is likely a whale which quickly appeared near the bow was a member of this group of marine mammals. It surfaced just once and then vanished, meaning identification was impossible.

After buffet lunch served by our friendly dining room crew it was time for a biosecurity session. Hoovers and paperclips at the ready, we vacuumed our pockets and de-fluffed our Velcro to ensure no sneaky seeds or other biohazards were hiding in the outdoor gear we would be wearing ashore tomorrow. By the time we had finished this important process, *Ortelius* was travelling through waters where the depth was varying, generally a good place to look for large whales as cold, nutrient rich waters from the deep



is driven upwards to the surface. Sure enough, it wasn't long before the blows of large whales were spotted, and we enjoyed good views of Fin whale and Humpback whale feeding in the same vicinity. A pod of Pilot whales, including females with calves, were seen briefly and our first iceberg was spotted in the distance directly ahead! At 16:00pm we passed by Shag Rocks, marvelling at the ragged peaks and considerable number of birds within this area (mainly tricky to identify Prion species!) Having enjoyed these wonderful wildlife sightings guests went to the lecture room for the final talk of the day, provided by Expedition Leader Adam, regarding South Georgia.

As ever, a delicious dinner awaited us this evening and, just when we thought the day couldn't get better, dessert was tiramisu! Expedition and deck crew made sure the windows were blacked out and curtains drawn to minimise the risk of birds being disorientated by the lights of the ship. It was soon time to head to bed to ensure we were well rested for tomorrow's exciting plans: we would finally be arriving at South Georgia!

Day 7: 31st October 2022

Grytviken & Jason Harbour, South Georgia

GPS position at 1200: 54°17'.2 S - 036°28'.9 W

Wind: W5. Sea State: Slight. Weather: Overcast, snow showers

Air Temp: +3 °C. Sea Temp: +6 °C

There was early morning excitement as guests lined the rails for their first sight of South Georgia. It was a wild and windy scene that greeted us. By 09:30 we were off King Edward Point, the administrative center for South Georgia. A Zodiac was launched to collect the Government Officer, who came onboard to conduct the necessary bio-security inspections. When disembarkation was announced, we queued up for the final inspection. Great news! *Ortelius* passed with flying colors and was credited for being the best ship of the season so far.



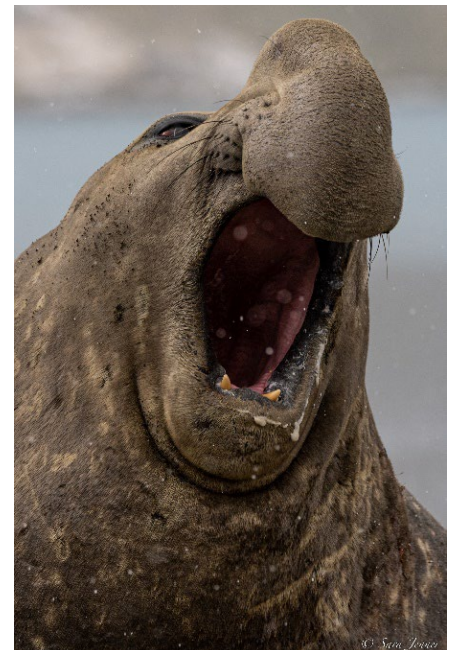
The Zodiacs took us ashore to the remains of Grytviken, a whaling station established by Carl Anton Larsen in 1904. The word Grytviken is Norwegian for 'Pot Cove' and was named after sealers trypots found at the site. Guests were delighted, having seen lots of photographs in presentations onboard, that the reality did not disappoint. The rusting ruins of the station was surrounded by magnificent snow-covered rugged mountains dominated by Mt Duse and Mt Hodges.

An assortment of photogenic convoluted metal shapes, strange complex structures and massive oil tanks lined the shore. Inherently interesting wreckage, fur seals and elephant seals were everywhere. Photographers snapped Kelp gulls at the harbor area and a few captured shots of the South Georgia pintail. The tiny South Georgia pipit delighted birdwatchers. It was a magical place, and the gently falling snow only added to the wonderful atmosphere.

The most striking feature of the whaling station was 3 decaying whale catchers rammed dramatically onto the beach in front of the factory. One with harpoon gun in the bow and crows nest on the foremast. These are named *Petrel* (standing alone), and *Dias* and *Albatross* (side-by-side). In a far worse state was the sad remains of the *Louise*, one of the first vessels to bring construction materials for Grytviken, which lay poking from the water at the other side of the bay.

First stop for many was the beautifully kept Whalers Cemetery containing Sir Ernest Shackleton's grave. To the right of the 'The Boss' lies a commemorative plaque and the ashes of Shackleton's loyal Lieutenant Frank Wild. Staff poured out glasses of Whisky and Bill reminded everyone of the astonishing Shackleton story, prior to proposing a toast. One of the 64 graves contains the remains of Felix Artuso, an Argentinian submariner accidentally shot during the conflict in 1982.

Guests then wandered freely through the station and enjoyed the magnificent displays in the South Georgia Museum, once the Managers Villa. The full-sized model of the James Caird used by Shackleton on his epic voyage from the Weddell Sea to Point Wild on Elephant Island, and onwards to South Georgia was a highlight. This drove home the superb accomplishment of navigating safely across such perilous seas.



After an excellent morning *Ortelius* left the anchorage at 1.30 and sailed to Jason Harbour for an afternoon landing. Guests negotiated a dense concentration of seals as they explored the beach and tussock grass behind the shore. A small and interesting hut erected in 1909 stood just a short distance from the Zodiac landing site. The hut retained the original corrugated iron roof and wooden planked table, complete with carved names and dates of ships and people who had visited the bay. The super days activities ended with a Halloween BBQ, scheduled for the helideck, but held in the dining room as the weather outside was cold and damp, with wind gusting ferociously.

Day 8: 1st November 2022

Fortuna Bay & Stromness

GPS position at 1200: 54°08'.9 S - 036°48'.4 W

Wind: NW force 6. Sea State: Slight. Weather: Variable

Air Temp: +5.5 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

We awoke to find that *Ortelius* had moved a short distance along South Georgia's rugged coastline and was approaching Fortuna Bay. Outside it was windy and the sea was rough, but conditions improved dramatically the further we went into the bay. At 07:30 the expedition staff took two Zodiacs and went off to scout the long beach for a landing site. At first, the swell breaking on the beach looked like it might prevent us landing. But a sheltered spot was found tucked in behind a very small rocky promontory near the west end of the beach, and the landing was a go! After a hearty breakfast, we donned our outdoor gear and awaited the 8:30 announcement that disembarkation could begin. Outside we were greeted by sleet showers and cold gusts coming off the mountains, which frenzied the surface of the water. The Zodiac drivers advised us to "batten down the hatches" for the ride ashore.



A fantastic morning was spent at Fortuna Bay, home to a sizeable King penguin colony which sits at the foot of the mountains a kilometer or so inland from the beach. The showers subsided, allowing the sun to peep through from time to time. The colours of the Kings on the green vegetation, and the contrast of fresh snow on the black mountains made for stunning photos. Around the landing site were hundreds of Elephant and Fur seals, and King penguins at every turn. All living in tolerance of each other. The morning passed very quickly, and before we knew it the time had come to return to the ship for lunch.

As we departed Fortuna Bay, the clouds parted to reveal South Georgia in all its glory. As we headed around the coast towards Stromness Bay, we marveled at the towering mountain peaks and vast glacial terrain before us. With the open sea came strong offshore winds and a gentle swell, reminding us that the mighty Southern Ocean is always present. Turning in to Stromness Bay *Ortelius* once again found shelter and quieter waters off an abandoned whaling support station. The rustic collection of buildings and stunning backdrop of mountains was a sight to behold.

The Zodiacs landed us on a shingle beach, near the edge of the 200-metre exclusion zone around the station. This vital safety measure is in place to protect visitors from asbestos and debris lifted off the crumbling buildings by the wind. The ever-present and now familiar Fur seals greeted us on the beach, and the first Snowy Sheathbills of the voyage were spotted. A good leg stretch was on offer this afternoon, and a large group set off inland with Expedition Leader Adam, bound for Shackleton's Waterfall. Some 2.3km later, they arrived at this famous South



Georgia landmark. A powerful and moving reading of Shackleton's description of how they negotiated the waterfall, was done by fellow guest Mike Davies from England. This brought so much meaning to the spot we had arrived at.



For those not on the hike, the Stromness area offered the rare opportunity to roam freely. The expedition staff reminded us of the hazards associated with Fur seals, and the importance of keeping distance from all wildlife. The need to observe the exclusion zone around the station was also emphasized. Exploring the Stromness plain in our own time with the sun on the landscape was a real treat. A small colony of Gentoo penguins was found on the side of a hill inland from the station, where skuas lingered and harassed the poor penguins. Some of the Gentoos were seen to be incubating eggs, which the skuas were waiting to snatch given half a chance.

We finished our Stromness landing at around 18:00. Captain Ernesto then took *Ortelius* the short distance around the corner into the next bay to the north, so we could view Leith Harbour whaling station from the ship. In the opposite direction and just around the corner to the south of Stromness was another bay and another whaling station called Husvik. This area was clearly the hub of South Georgia whaling operations. A briefing on tomorrow's activities followed, then Hotel Manager Stephen's Irish-accented humor announced that dinner was served.

Day 9: 2nd November 2022

Gold Harbour & Ocean Harbour

GPS position at 1200: 54°37'.5 S - 035°56'.2 W

Wind: E force 1. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Overcast, snow

Air Temp: +4.7 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

What a day!

We started with an early wake up call for the 'diehard and dedicated' among us, as our expedition team got prepared for a landing during the first hours of the day. Unfortunately, the landing had to be delayed because of weather conditions. A few hours later, the wind decided to drop and to let us land at Gold Harbour. There, under low clouds and falling snow, we stepped in a perfect concentrate of what South Georgia can offer. This, our guides explained, is the heaviest concentration of wildlife on the island.



The beach was so packed with seals that the first part of the trail away from the Zodiac landing site was up a small, shallow riverbed. This allowed us to avoid disturbing harems of Elephant seals, isolated moulting King penguins and aggressive male fur seals. The latter were holding their territories while waiting for females to arrive. The route opened by our guides led us to the highlight of the morning: an impressive King penguin colony with towering mountains and the hanging Bertrab Glacier as a backdrop. Our senses were alive and tingling as we stood in complete awe, watching and listening and taking in the magical scene before us. At times the continual snow grew heavy, turning the black sand white. Fat adult King Penguins arrived from the sea, calling for their chicks, who heard and answered them. To us, their calls all sound the same. But each one is unique, allowing adults to find their chicks in this vast, noisy crowd.

After lunch, as we cruised the South Georgia coastline towards our next destination, Regis gave us more details about the life of King penguins with his lecture.

Then it was time to “jump” in the zodiacs again for a landing on Ocean Harbour, a tiny, sheltered bay, surrounded by some spectacular folded rock mountains. Landing on a sandy beach, we encountered the usual seals and had to keep our distance from highly sensitive nesting Giant petrels. This beautiful place was home to the New Fortuna Bay whaling station until 1920, when it was dismantled, and the materials used to extend Stromness Station. There were plenty of relics for us to explore, including an old steam locomotive used to transport coal and other goods to the station from the jetty. Those who went further afield found a small collection of whalers graves nestled into a gentle hillside. Those with a birding eye found Antarctic Terns along the small river, and many endemic South Georgia Pintails that ran around the green areas like rabbits.



As the sun disappeared behind the mountains, we took one last chance to admire the beauty of this lovely place, before boarding the Zodiacs and heading back to *Ortelius*. On the way out the drivers swung by the wreck of the sailing ship *Bayard*, which had laid at its current position since before the First World War. It was fascinating to see how tussac had reclaimed much of the deck space, and nesting Blue-eyed shags were now the crew!!! Historically and photographically, this was a tremendous thing to see.

Back onboard there was just enough time for a quick briefing on the next day’s activities, before heading off to dinner. There was a distinct buzz in the restaurant, as we chatted excitedly about the unforgettable experiences shared today. What a day!

Day 10: 3rd November 2022

St. Andrew’s Bay & At Sea

GPS position at 1200: 54°26'.1 S - 036°10'.3 W

Wind: WNW force 3. Sea State: Slight. Weather: Broken cloud, sunny

Air Temp: +8.5 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

As the wake-up call came some of us were already outside on deck enjoying the views of the vast colony of King penguins that awaited us at St. Andrew’s Bay. After breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs and headed ashore. We were awestruck by the scale of what met us - 3 glaciers tumbling down from craggy peaks to a vast plain that King penguins, Skuas and Seals call home. The lofty peaks of the Allardyce mountain range, each fringed with clouds added to the dramatic landscape laid before us. St Andrews is home to an estimated 150,000 pairs of King penguins, plus chicks of varying ages.



As we landed the expedition staff briefed us on a few safety and behavior points for our visit. Depositing our lifejackets, we followed the marked route passing large family clusters of Southern Elephant seals. The occasional joust between the large male beach masters and males that entered their territory was a spectacular sight. En-route to the main colony we were helped across a river by staff and ship's crew - the river flows from the Heaney and Buxton glaciers at the back of the

plain. The Cook glacier was at the beach as recent as the 1980's and has now retreated a large distance inland leaving a lagoon where some of the young penguins huddle in their creches. The glacial retreat has now increased the size of the area available for the King penguins to occupy.

The terminus for our walk was a viewpoint where we could appreciate the vast scale of the King penguin colony and see marauding Skuas on the lookout for any opportunity to snatch a meal. The sun came out and lit up the magical scene in front of us. Dramatic lenticular clouds hovered over distant mountains providing a spectacular backdrop for our photos.

Near to the landing site the whistling of South Georgia pipits could be heard, and some South Georgia pintails were seen resting among scattered molting penguins. The Pintails were of particular interest to fellow guest Pieter van der Luit and expedition guide Allan who were on a personal challenge to see the endemic ducks at every landing site. They achieved a 100% strike rate while in South Georgia, which is testimony to the rat eradication program. Southern Giant petrels rested on the sand nearby and a vast amount bobbed around in the calm waters of the bay, suggesting a recent feeding opportunity for these vultures of the sea. As the morning drew to a close, we headed back to *Ortelius* for our lunchtime dining pleasure. We were able to enjoy a last view of the colony from the water and again appreciate what a special morning we'd had in great weather with blue skies.



We got underway towards our next stop over lunchtime and could feel the ship beginning to move as the wind quickly increased. We could see outside that the sea was becoming rapidly rougher.

Early in the afternoon as we were on the way to Gold Harbour our Expedition Leader Adam and Captain Ernesto called us to the lecture room for a briefing. They gave us the news that owing to the movement of some severe weather systems that were racing towards South Georgia, the difficult decision had been made to leave the island early. Staying would be a waste of time and would impact our time in Antarctica. The movement of a severe low-pressure system and the presence of a giant tabular iceberg would affect our journey south, so to ensure safe passage and to achieve our intended activities in Antarctica we should get going straight away. We could see how the conditions outside had changed quickly and after Captain Ernesto explained the weather to us, we could see the reasons why the decision was taken. After all, we were visiting some of the most remote places on earth that are known not only for the amazing wildlife and scenery but also because of the severe weather.

We enjoyed a lecture by Hella on seals in the afternoon and the day quickly passed as we reflected on some amazing experiences on South Georgia.

Day 11: 4th November 2022

At Sea

GPS position at 1200: 54°58'.8 S - 040°17'.9 W

Wind: NW force 8. Sea State: Rough. Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +3.5 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

With South Georgia slowly receding in the distance, we awoke to immediately feel the physical indications of what kind of day lay ahead. The lurching and juddering of the ship hinted at the poor weather and sea conditions outside. The wind was quite ferocious, the vessel whipping up dramatic white caps on foaming crests of huge waves.

Those who ventured onto the bridge were treated to the spectacular sight of *Ortelius* rising over the massive crests and plunging violently into the troughs of the next wave, creating a wall of water which rose to bridge height like an enormous white fan from the bow. Tons of water cascaded in swirling lines across the foredeck and poured out through the scuppers.

The outside decks were closed for the safety of guests, so all entertainment and activities were inside today. The lounge was relatively quiet as many guests chose to stay in their cabins. To be horizontal in bed was the safest option for many. The doctor was busy dispensing seasick patches and giving advice to those who felt unwell in these conditions.

Theo Allofs of the Wild Focus Photography Group started the lecture programme at 09:30 with an educational presentation on Wildlife Composition. Despite the difficulties associated with moving around the ship, Theo's presentation was well attended and very well received.

At 11:30 Bill delivered his highly informative presentation entitled "Ortelius...the running of the ship and its secret places". It was interesting to learn about the construction of the vessel, how the bow and stern thrusters operate for maneuvering in harbour, how the stern thruster is used to create a lee in rough conditions for Zodiac operations, to have anchoring techniques explained, and last but not least, an outline of the complexities of the supply, storage and delivery of the much-praised catering operation.

In the afternoon, Adam our highly experienced Expedition Leader, gave a fascinating and superbly illustrated account of his time working on South Georgia, which included over-wintering. It was clear that the year was an endless cycle of memorable adventures, and wildlife encounters in possibly one of the most scenic places on earth.

The many gaps at tables during meals indicated that quite a number of guests were opting to 'lie low' during the rough weather, rather than struggle and stumble along the corridors and face the prospect of food. Oceanwide expeditions are dynamic exciting experiences where flexibility is the key... plan A becoming plan B... and often plan B becoming C. With weather dictating things, it is all a matter of luck!

Day 12: 5th November 2022

At Sea

GPS position at 1200: 56°14'.1 S - 044°12'.1 W

Wind: W force 7. Sea State: Rough. Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +2.6 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

After a bumpy night it was no surprise that we awoke to Expedition Leader Adam's wakeup call at 7:45am and found conditions remained much the same outside as they were yesterday. For our second consecutive day at sea, large swell meant the outer decks were closed again, but we could enjoy looking out for birds from the comfort and safety of the bridge. It was a fantastic place to be in between the day's varied and interesting lecture programme. The first talk of the day was from Assistant Expedition Leader Sara who gave an insight into her amazing time spent working on board the South Georgia Fishery Patrol Ship, m/v *Pharos SG*. Expedition Guide Martin followed later in the morning, giving a presentation about his experience monitoring, and ringing albatrosses when he lived in the Falkland Islands.



Blue petrels and Southern fulmars whizzed by the ship like a flurry of snow whilst Cape petrels, with their black and white chessboard plumage across their backs, soared to and fro at the bow. At least they were enjoying these high winds and big waves! Occasionally a White-chinned petrel or Giant petrel would accompany the ship too and we were glad to briefly see a Black-browed albatross and Light-mantled Sooty albatross. The birding highlight of today was arguably Antarctic petrels which gave wonderful views as they were gliding along at eye level as we looked out from the bridge. These birds breed at various locations around the Antarctic coastline but,

remarkably, also breed up to 250km inland on snow free areas of rock.

After lunch Hazel gave the second part of her lecture about cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) describing the species we might be lucky enough to see in the Drake Passage and Antarctic Peninsula. Rough conditions unfortunately made it difficult to actually spot any of these animals today, but we hoped to be able to use this new knowledge over the coming days as we continued towards Antarctica. Those who were up and about and not feeling the ill effects of the tumultuous waters enjoyed some quiet time reading or playing card games. The Expedition Team's recap rounded off the day's scheduled activities and it was then time to enjoy the dining pleasure of our evening meal in the restaurant. Afterwards, some guests chatted over a few drinks in the bar whilst others headed off to their cabins to get an early night of sleep.

Day 13: 6th November 2022

At Sea

GPS position at 1200: 58°31'.9 S - 049°21'.4 W

Wind: WNW force 8. Sea State: Rough. Weather: Foggy

Air Temp: +2.7 °C. Sea Temp: +6 °C

As a new dawn broke, most of us woke up from a slightly calmer nights' sleep, in comparison to the previous nights. The wind and waves were still causing *Ortelius* to pitch and roll quite heavily, and the outer decks remained closed, but more people were up and about to face the third consecutive day at sea as we continued the long passage from South Georgia to Antarctica.

After breakfast Hazel started off with the first lecture of the day on Antarctic Krill and its' importance in the Antarctic ecosystem. Her talk was interrupted near the end because we were approaching a giant



tabular iceberg, designated A76. It's currently the world's largest free-floating iceberg at around 160 km (100 miles) long and 25 km (16 miles) wide. This makes it almost equal in size to the entire island of South Georgia. A76 broke away from the Filchner–Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica in mid-May 2021. As it slowly appeared through the dense fog, we were confronted by a seemingly endless ice cliff estimated to be up to 150ft high. The fact that only 10% of an iceberg sits above the water made it impossible for us to appreciate the overall size of this colossal beast. For the best part of an hour we sailed parallel with the iceberg.

A magnificent Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross graced us with its presence, soaring across the bow of the *Ortelius*, as everyone looked on in complete awe from the temporarily opened outer decks. The big swell crashing against the massive wall of ice was rebounded, causing a very confused sea state for the ship to navigate through. It made the spotting of growlers (small but dangerous chunks of ice) a challenge for the bridge crew. It was hard not to be impressed by the raw power of nature and the ocean. Hardly ever does anyone get the opportunity to witness the biggest iceberg on Earth. Overall, it made for an immensely humbling and spectacular sight. It brought to mind a verse from 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.....

And then there came both mist and snow, and it grew wonderous cold.
And ice mast high came floating by, as green as emerald.

The Wild Focus Group gathered in the Lecture Room at 10:30 for a photo critique session with their group leaders. The wealth of photographic experience and technical expertise within this group was always something to admire. The morning passed quickly, and before we knew it Hotel Manager Stephen's comical Irish tones rang out over the PA system, inviting us to lunch. Or as he so eloquently puts it – "The restaurant is open for your dining pleasure".

After another delicious lunch everyone gathered once again in the lecture hall for a mandatory biosecurity check upon approach of the Antarctic Peninsula. After the scrutinous inspection on arrival in South Georgia, we all knew what was expected of us. Hoovers and paperclips at the ready, our gear quickly passed the test, so that we didn't have to spend a prolonged amount of time in the pitching and rolling lecturing space in the bow of the vessel. Soon enough after, the *Ortelius* became a quiet, peaceful space as most retreated to their cabins for an afternoon nap. Only a few remained up and about to enjoy some quiet reading time.

In the afternoon, Adam gave a wonderful account of Shackleton's incredible leadership on his Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition aboard 'The Endurance'. The expedition managed to survive the loss of their ship in the middle of the Antarctic pack ice at a time when there was no chance of contacting the outside world, let alone of being rescued. This journey would be remembered by generations as the greatest feat of survival in the history of exploration.

During recap, Hazel wound up her "Absolutely Krill-iant" talk and some more questions from the Q&A box were answered, before enjoying our evening meal.

Day 14: 7th November 2022

At Sea – passing Elephant Island

GPS position at 1200: 61°28'.2 S - 055°11'.8 W

Wind: NW force 9. Sea State: Rough. Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: +1.7 °C. Sea Temp: +6 °C



For those making an early visit to the bridge, there was the exciting news that we had crossed the 60th parallel of latitude during the night. Since this marks the geographical boundary of Antarctica, we had officially arrived in the 'Great White South'.

At last, land! Immediately after breakfast the vast menacing glaciers and black rock mass of Elephant Island loomed on the distant horizon. Spray flew from the bow as *Ortelius* smacked into the

storm-tossed seas. The wind was as strong as the day before... clearly no letup in conditions on this leg of the voyage. Each day so far had been difficult for those who felt the effects of sea sickness, many had remained in their cabins but today was different as they clambered the stairs excitedly to the bridge and lined the rails photographing the dramatic looking island.

Now we could really visualise what it must have been like for Shackleton's men who were stranded there. Having just arrived at Elephant Island after a rough crossing in reverse from South Georgia, we were all in awe of the seamanship of those who helmed the tiny *James Caird* in such conditions. Everyone could visualise how it must have been as every detail of the *Endurance* story was fresh in our minds from Expedition Leader Adam's superb lecture the day before.

Sara's lecture 'Women in Antarctica' was cancelled as a result of being so close to the island, but at 10.45 the Wild Focus photo group continued with another well attended photo critique session in the lecture theatre.

Crew members kept a sharp look-out for 'growlers' from the bridge, with the vessel's speed reduced, as the sea in the area was dotted with these decaying lumps of hazardous ice. These low chunks of ice were very hard to spot in the heavy swell.

At 14.00 Regis gave a highly entertaining and educational illustrated account of his year working as a research technician on the isolated and beautiful Kerguelen Island in the lower Indian Ocean.



At 16.00 Hella delivered a complex Sea Ice lecture which explained ICE origins in detail and outlined the ecological importance of Sea Ice in the Arctic and Southern Ocean.

At 18.30 Adam presented the plans for the next day, firstly reporting a favorable weather forecast and the welcome news that a landing in snow on the beach beside the glacier at Brown Bluff was planned for the morning. A large colony of Adelie penguins beckoned to be photographed.

Sara and Bill gave light hearted but informative answers to a couple of the questions from the ? box in the bar. Sara...women wearing muck boots and miniskirts in Antarctica. Bill.... responded humorously but seriously to a question from the previous day ... 'What is the Polar Divergence and explain it in detail?'

Bill then gave a Snowshoe briefing for the Brown Bluff landing... explaining in detail the following days operation with stage-by-stage photos illustrating clearly how snowshoes were fitted to boots. Later in the evening a number were laid out on the floor of the lecture room on deck 3 to allow guests to try out boot fitting.

It was early to bed for most as the next day the expedition was back on the programme track and it promised to be rather exciting.

Day 15: 8th November 2022

Antarctic Sound & Devil Island, Antarctica

GPS position at 1200: 63°42'.6 S - 056°50'.5 W

Wind: SW force 7. Sea State: Slight. Weather: Overcast.

Air Temp: +3.3 °C. Sea Temp: +6 °C

Today turned out a true expedition day! We were woken slightly ahead of plan. Hoping to land at Brown Bluff in Antarctic Sound, we eagerly went to breakfast while the expedition team sent their scout boats to check on the landing site. Unfortunately, the Antarctic weather reared its unwelcome head and the weather window we enjoyed for a short period deteriorated. The staff were ashore ready for us, but as the first two Zodiacs made their way to the shore, Captain Ernesto decided the conditions at the gangway were too hazardous to continue. The conditions at the beach also began to deteriorate with a difficult extraction of the team from the beach back to the ship.

Another ship had waited all day yesterday at Brown Bluff waiting for an opportunity to land, but we had no luck. Adam explained to us that we would head for Devil Island and try for plan B there.



As we repositioned to Devil Island, we had a very interesting lecture from Sara on 'Women in Antarctica'. During our sail through the Antarctic Sound, we encountered a large stretch of sea ice. Following Hella's earlier presentation on sea ice we were able to see with our own eyes how much life is connected to it. A Fur seal, several Crabeater seals, a Leopard seal, and numerous species of birds in high quantities were observed. After lunch we arrived at Devil Island and began our approach to the site of the intended landing which was nestled within a bay on the northern coast.

As the ship entered the channel to the east of Devil Island the expedition team set off to look for a landing site. The regular landing by the Adelie penguin colony was blocked by ice and the wind was very strong there, so the team went to the opposite side of the island - a small saddle separating two higher peaks indicating the direction to the colony. After cutting some steps in the ice and securing a rope to aid everyone up the steps we were taken ashore. A short walk over the saddle led us to a beautiful view of the Adelie colony and the mountains in the background. Shortly after our arrival we received news that conditions at the ship had deteriorated and after a short



time this was followed by the landing site being affected. The captain required our return to the *Ortelius*, so we made our way back to the landing site and boarded the Zodiacs for a bumpy and wet ride back to the ship.

After drying off we had a short recap and heard of the exciting plans that lay ahead tomorrow, hoping that we would gain the break in the weather we were all hoping for. Hotel Manager Stephen called us to our dining pleasure and many of us got an early night ready for tomorrow.



Day 16: 9th November 2022

Brown Bluff & Paulet Island

GPS position at 1200: 63°34'.1 S - 055°47'.7 W

Wind: W force 1. Sea State: Slight. Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: -3.9 °C. Sea Temp: +5 °C



It was a very early start for us all this morning as we had a pre-breakfast shore excursion. Yesterday, challenging sea conditions with heavy swell had meant it was impossible to go ahead with our planned landing at Brown Bluff. Today we were back at Brown Bluff for a second attempt at going ashore here and with conditions considerably better we were excitedly embarking Zodiacs by 4:30am. Everyone

agreed it was well worth getting up for, especially as this was a continental landing. After quickly exiting the vessel in the swell at the shore we got our bearings and walked up the stony beach. We had ventured into a beautiful vision of Antarctic wilderness; thousands of Adèle penguins were gathered here to breed, along with some Gentoo penguins!

Huge boulders of tumbled ice were strewn along beach giving a beautiful scene for photographing the penguins waddling to and from the sea to the colony. Other birds present included Snowy sheathbills, Antarctic skua and Kelp gull with Snow petrels seen, and heard, flying high above us where they were nesting in crevices in the snow-free areas of rock. The early morning light cast a soft glow over the scene as we admired the penguins, it was truly a wonderful start to the day and a very welcome experience that we surely all deserved after so many rough sea days previously! Shortly before leaving a Leopard seal was even observed patrolling for penguins to prey on! After a few magical hours ashore, it was time to head back to *Ortelius* for breakfast.



The bridge team then skilfully manoeuvred the ship so we could continue onwards to our next destination: Paulet Island. Along the way we were treated to breath-taking scenery with glossy, calm waters and towering tabular icebergs. We looked out for penguins on the bergs, mainly spotting Adèlies, but we also saw one Chinstrap penguin. The impressive sight of Paulet Island, dusted with a fresh frosting of snow, came into view just before lunch time.



We enjoyed our midday meal whilst the Expedition Team went ashore to prepare the landing site for us. Fuelled for the afternoon, we boarded the Zodiacs and headed off to enjoy the incredible view of the 100,000 pair strong Adèlie penguin colony. Not only this species, but also some Gentoo penguins, Antarctic shag (aka blue-eyed cormorant) and some very relaxed Weddell seals who were peacefully sleeping, waiting for the tide to rise. A few hours and hundreds of photographs later we reluctantly left this stunning location. Thankfully, we still had calm waters, brilliant sunshine and the incredible gauntlet of giant icebergs

to traverse along as we made our return journey along Antarctic Sound. Captain Ernesto spotted a lone Antarctic Minke Whale; it was moving quickly but some of us were lucky enough to see it surfacing as it travelled away.



Then it was time to join the Expedition Team in the bar for the daily recap followed by dinner. There was a joyful atmosphere in the dining room, reflecting the wonderful day we had shared in Antarctica; days like this are surely what we all came to the frozen continent hoping to experience!



Day 17: 10th November 2022

Half Moon Island, Edinburgh Hill & Discovery Bay

GPS position at 1200: 62°33'.0 S - 059°58'.2 W

Wind: W force 6/7. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Broken cloud, bright

Air Temp: +0.4 °C. Sea Temp: +5 °C

At least today, the breakfast and day's activities started at a "normal" time. Guests emerged on to a deck bathed in sunshine illuminating the stunning penguin site of Half Moon Island set against its magnificent backdrop of snow-covered jagged mountains.



Like previous days the wind was gusting strongly – 40 to 50 knots at times and *Ortelius* motored around to the lee side of the island to seek a degree of shelter. The landing operation started at 8.30 with the usual 2 boats carrying guides to scout the proposed landing site and marking safe routes to the penguins and identifying no-go areas before the guests disembarked the vessel for yet another adventure. Conditions were ideal for photography, long lens cameras clicked incessantly capturing images of the delightfully appealing "chin-strap penguins and a few lounging seals. Guides searched the

colony for a glimpse of its most unusual regular resident...a lone Macaroni penguin nick-named "Kevin", but no luck, he was not to be seen. The wind steadily increased in strength during the landing with the waves dumping hard on the beach and conditions difficult at the gangway. The Captain and Expedition Leader Adam correctly cancelled the operation as the deteriorating weather conditions became a safety concern, and everyone who had landed returned to the water's edge to board Zodiacs for a wet ride back to *Ortelius*.

Ortelius headed out in squally conditions towards Edinburgh Hill, an extremely scenic unusual dramatic basalt outcrop of dark rock rising to a great height above the snow-covered landscape.

From there *Ortelius* voyaged into the enormous expanse of Discovery Bay to enable staff to check out possible landing sites. No luck, as wind and waves were crashing onto the land so the course was set for Greenwich Island. The Captain radioed the Chilean base named Arturo Prat for permission to land on the empty beach, some distance from the buildings. This was approved by the station commander, so staff manned 2 Zodiacs for yet another scouting mission...conditions were marginal but pressure was on and it was decided to try another landing.

Unfortunately, during this operation, the wind increased in strength and the wave action on the steep beach became rather violent. Once again the operation was cancelled and the four boat loads who had managed to land were returned to the vessel.



Recap at 6.30 – was again a totally informative highly educational session. Regis used his brilliant sense of humour to outline the different methods used to count penguin colonies...his description of the 'pink colour' method had passengers laughing. Sara provided an interesting perspective and astonished everyone when she used a team of helpers to deploy a length of tagged string through the lounge bar area, corridor and out across the deck to illustrate the length of various species of whale.



It was another very eventful day with perceptive individual guests expressing their appreciation for staff and crew who they observed were working long hours in extremely difficult weather conditions to deliver a stimulating excursion programme. It was clear to all that strong winds every day were responsible for plans being changed so often and that the team of Expedition guides were responding to the task magnificently.

Day 18: 11th November 2022

Deception Island

GPS position at 1200: 62°49'.3 S - 060°03'.8 W

Wind: W force 7/8. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Snow

Air Temp: +0.5 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

To make the most of our final day in the South Shetlands and trying to get ahead of the strong winds that were once again predicted for later in the day, we were awoken at 04:15 am by Adam. He urged us to come to the bridge and outer decks at 04:30 as we would sail through the very narrow, spectacular passage called 'Neptune Bellows', into the flooded caldera of well-known Deception Island. The

volcano of the island is still active, and geothermal activity is still present inside the caldera. Sea water temperatures of 70°C (150°F) have been recorded. Around 5 am all expedition staff were ready to receive us at the landing site of Whaler's Bay, where we were able to spend most part of the early morning. Bleached whale bones, rusted oil tanks, and other artifacts from 20th-century whaling remain on the volcanic, black-sand beach, along with old buildings from a British scientific station evacuated after the 1969 eruption.

A few Chinstrap, Gentoo and even a couple of Adelie penguins were sighted. Along the long stretch of black, volcanic beach we were able to find large patches of krill, which are often seen here in the shallows, fried by the higher water temperature. A Fur seal was seen at the far end of the beach. Everyone was able to go for a long walk and head up to the viewpoint at Neptune's Window, looking out on the Bransfield Strait. For those hardy souls amongst us, it was possible to do the polar plunge from the beach before heading back to the *Ortelius*.

Around 8 am everybody was back onboard to enjoy a well-deserved breakfast. *Ortelius* continued with a ship cruise to the far end of the bay to see if a second landing could be managed later in the morning. But strong winds were picking up already and it was decided to move out of Deception Island to try and find more shelter at other locations.

Out in the Bransfield Strait we encountered several Fin whales, the second largest animal on the planet, which is not a very common sight this early in the season and in this area. One of the individuals even graced some of us with a very up-close look of the vessel.



From the upper deck the animal could be seen turning around underwater from about 10 meters distance, creating a lot of excitement for those of us fortunate enough to be on the bridge.

The rest of the morning and early afternoon turned into expedition mode, as we passed several potential landing sites hoping to get ashore one last time. By now the wind had picked up considerably again however and any of the locations where we had hoped to do a final landing before starting our journey across the Drake Passage, sadly turned out to be too exposed for any activity. So the bow of the *Ortelius* turned North as we started our journey through the English Strait towards the Drake Passage.

During recap the rolling of the ship started to increase again and many of us retreated to our cabins without dinner once more. The forecast was decreasing winds and waves for the next two days, so hopefully the rest of our journey would be giving us some respite.

Day 19: 12th November 2022

At Sea – Drake Passage

GPS position at 1200: 59°35'.7 S - 062°12'.6 W

Wind: NW force 7. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Lightly overcast

Air Temp: +2 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

Today was our first full day heading back Northwards across the Drake Passage. This expanse of water between Cape Horn at the tip of South America and the Antarctic Peninsula is renowned for being rough and having high winds, but we actually got off quite lightly compared to some of the conditions we experienced earlier in this voyage! It wasn't quite calm enough to be classed as a 'Drake Lake' but we were all hardened seafarers now after some very rough days nearer the start of the trip.

With a tinge of sadness at the fact we would not be going ashore again, we returned our muck boots this morning after breakfast. The Expedition Team were grateful that we had done such a good job of

cleaning them! Shortly afterwards Assistant Expedition Leader Sara and Guides Regis and Hazel joined forces to present a lecture regarding human impacts on the polar regions and wildlife. The difficult topics of plastic pollution, entanglement, and bycatch of wildlife in fishing nets and other issues gave us pause for thought; we considered things we could do to help when we got home such as reducing our use of plastic and eating only sustainably sourced seafood, if we choose to consume it.

Wildlife sightings were quiet throughout the day despite having good conditions for spotting marine mammals. Some lucky guests who were up and on watch early this morning saw some Humpback whales, but nothing was seen during the rest of the day. There were some birds to be observed though. In particular it was lovely to once again be seeing albatrosses, including Grey-headed, Black-browed and Light-mantled Sooty, two of which flew by together right next to the ship on the starboard side in the late afternoon. Blue petrel and White-chinned petrel were also seen.



At 17:00 it was time for Happy Hour in the bar! We celebrated the voyage with our fellow guests, enjoying half priced drinks and at 17:30 an auction was held to raise money for South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT). The atmosphere in the bar was raucous with excitement as various items were sold including artwork, glassware and homeware and some brooches/badges. In total, over £3,000 was raised in support of SGHT for the benefit of conservation work to protect the natural and historic heritage of this special place. We extend our grateful thanks to everyone who successfully bid on items and to those who chose to donate independently.

Shortly after the auction we headed to the dining room to enjoy our delicious evening meal before heading to the bar or getting an early night. Tomorrow would be our last full day of the trip and we hoped the seas would remain calm so that we might spot some whales or dolphins!

Day 20: 13th November 2022

At Sea – Drake Passage

GPS position at 1200: 56°00'.1 S - 067°05'.7 W

Wind: S force 2. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +12 °C. Sea Temp: +12 °C

We awoke to find that *Ortelius* was making rapid progress north across what the crew and staff call a “Drake Lake”. Having toughed it out through at least three hurricane force storms during the voyage, it was astonishing to see the most notorious body of water in the World in such a quiet and gentle mood. The sun shone down from a near cloudless sky, illuminating a very placid Drake Passage. How typical, that as the voyage nears its end, the weather decided to behave!!!!!! The Expedition Leader’s good morning announcement told us that the outside air temperature was already 12° Celsius, confirming that we had crossed the Antarctic Convergence and returned to a more temperate region.

After a relaxed breakfast. We were invited to join Hella in the bar for a short presentation about how whales could help fight the climate change battle we are currently experiencing globally. For some it was hard to drag ourselves away from the open decks and glorious weather, but for those in attendance Hella gave an interesting and thought-provoking lecture. For those out on deck, there was the usual bird life for these latitudes, but sightings were at first sporadic due to the lack of wind.



The faint outline of land appeared on the horizon ahead of the ship. For those crew and staff members familiar with the shape, it was instantly recognisable as Cape Horn. Bird life increased as we closed in on this incredibly wild place. But something was wrong! There we

were in the Drake Passage, approaching the one place that struck fear into the hearts of Mariners for centuries, and there was no wind. It was extraordinary to see Cape Horn under such mild and gentle conditions. Captain Barria spoke with the Chilean Navy personnel based at Cape Horn and gained permission to approach within 3 nautical miles.

Ortelius gently rolled on towards “The Horn”, as preparations for disembarkation quietly progressed below decks. At 11:00 in the bar some of the Expedition Team did a joint presentation about the Citizen Science Program, and how we could help. Having visited one of the most pristine environments on Earth, many of us were heading home with thoughts on how we could do our bit to protect it.

As we approached the 3-mile limit off Cape Horn, Expedition Leader Adam called us to the open decks to enjoy this remarkable sight. He gave a brief overview of the topography and history, finishing with a recital of a moving poem dedicated to the lost mariners, which accompanies an albatross-shaped memorial on Cape Horn. All too soon, it was time to eat again, and Hotel Manager Stephen was announcing that the restaurant was open for our lunchtime ‘dining pleasure’.



The afternoon began with Allan inviting us to the bar to hear all about the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901-03, which is often labelled as ‘The Greatest Escape’. Having visited Paulet Island and seen Larsen’s hut, one of the key sites in this remarkable story of fortitude and survival, it was fascinating to get an overview of the whole expedition. Rarely has misfortune and good fortune played such large parts in the same story.

The great weather continued, and many of us enjoyed the warmth of the sun on our faces after the piercing cold of Antarctica. The outer decks were busy all afternoon with guests making the most of the conditions. Land was constantly visible off the port side as we made our way around to the entrance of the Beagle Channel, and the ship had a never-ending escort of seabirds. This airborne parade was simply magical.

At 16:00 there was a pub style quiz in the bar with questions relating to the voyage. Teams varied from 2-6 people, and some were very creative with their team names. Fun was had by all. At 18:15 we congregated in the bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails, and a viewing of the expedition slideshow produced by expedition team member Martin Anstee. This exciting reminder of a memorable journey was later available for all to save to mobile devices.

Day 21: 14th November 2022

Disembarkation, Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54° 48'.6 S - 068° 17'.9 W

Wind: N force 1. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Broken cloud

Air Temp: +13°C. Sea Temp: +12.5°C

We arrived at the Pilot Station in the Beagle Channel at 01:00 and docked in Ushuaia just before 06:30. *Ortelius* had successfully completed her first Antarctic voyage for the 2022/23 Season! The crew and Expedition Team handled all the luggage on to the dock, and at 08:00 it was time for disembarkation. The voyage was over, and it was time to go our separate ways. Fond farewells were exchanged on the dock, as our band of intrepid adventurers dispersed and began the long journey home.





Thank you all for such a memorable voyage, for your company, good humour, enthusiasm, and patience when the weather decided we should do something different. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

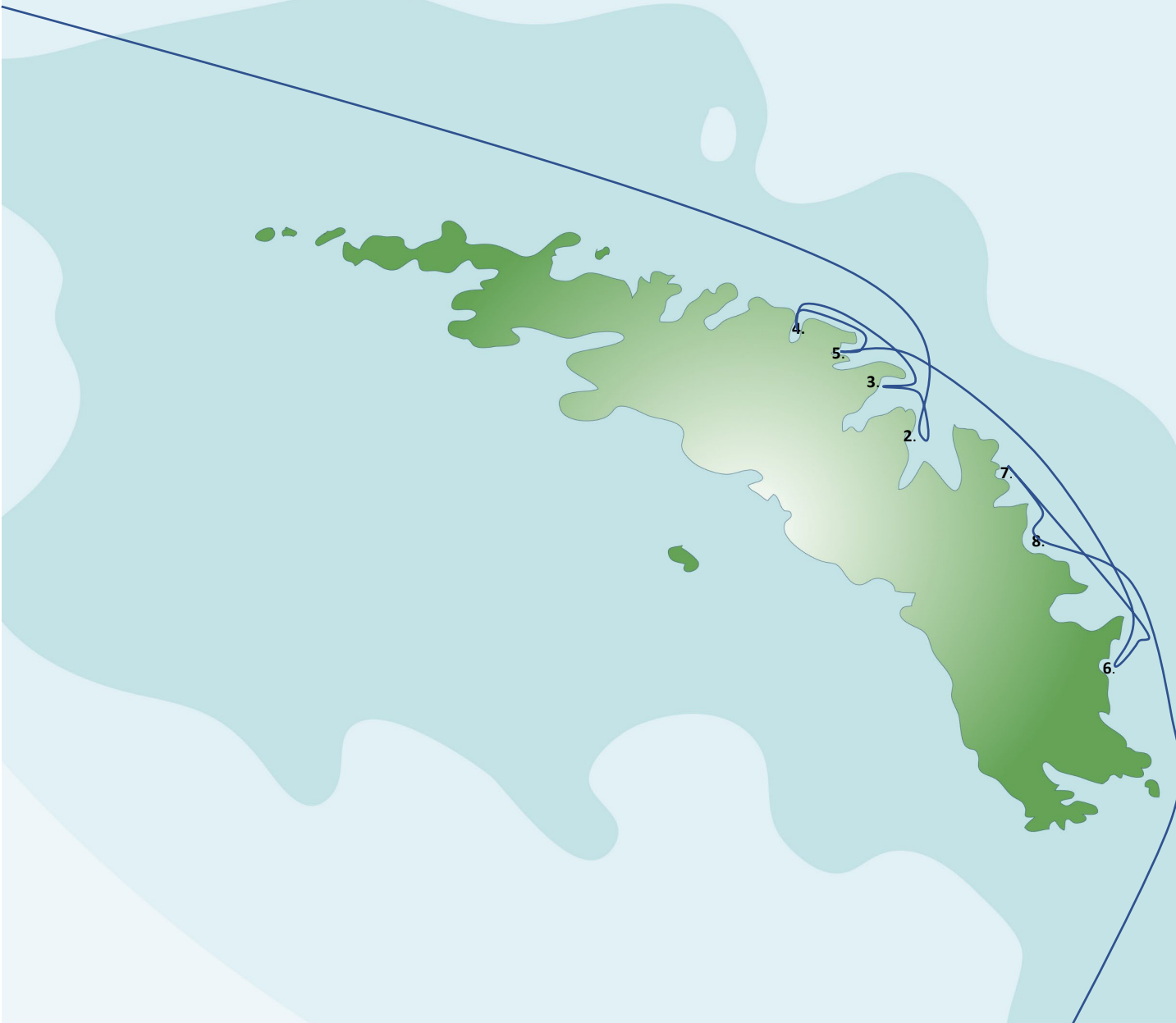
Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3778.5 nautical miles
Furthest South: 63° 48'.4 S - 057° 30'.6 W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Adam Turner, Hotel Manager Stephen Bell and all the crew and expedition staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you! We look forward to seeing you again on one of our ships for another adventure.

1. Grand Jason Island

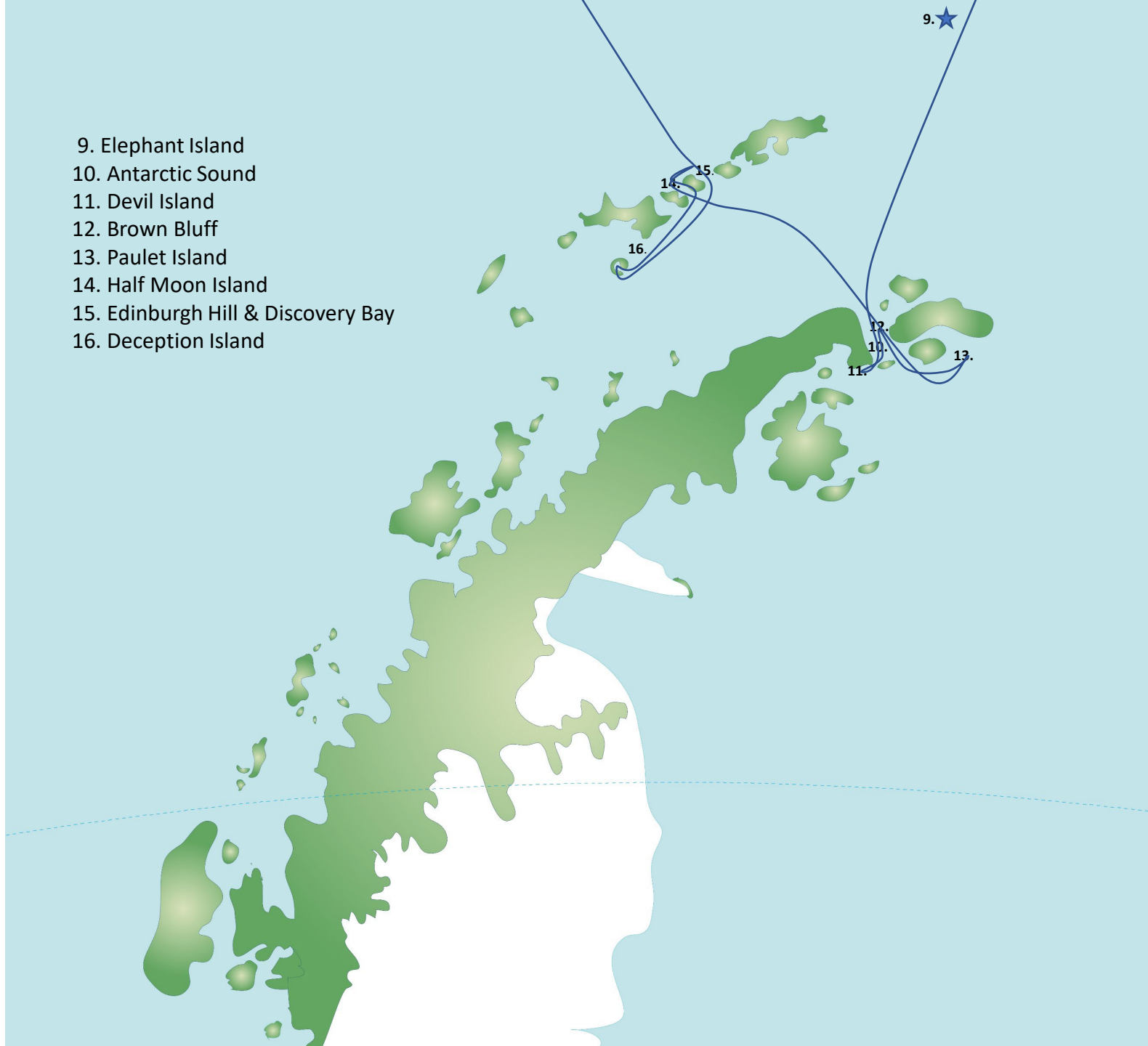
1.





- 2. Grytviken
- 3. Jason Harbour
- 4. Fortuna Bay
- 5. Stromness
- 6. Gold Harbour
- 7. Ocean Harbour
- 8. St. Andrew's Bay

- 9. Elephant Island
- 10. Antarctic Sound
- 11. Devil Island
- 12. Brown Bluff
- 13. Paulet Island
- 14. Half Moon Island
- 15. Edinburgh Hill & Discovery Bay
- 16. Deception Island



Adam Turner - Expedition Leader



Adam was brought up in countryside of Essex, England. He began sailing at the age of 9 and began working on the local river aged 12 before leaving school.

By 16 he had a small fishing boat and was working on boatyards and taking tourists to see the local seal colonies as well as helping out on the local Lifeboat.

Adam then joined HM Forces and was posted to Northern Ireland and in the UK, he also served in Kenya as a boat operator. In 2002 Adam joined the Police and spent several years on a specialist unit working across the UK

with his search dog Charley.

Since being a young lad Adam had dreamt of working in the Antarctic like his Uncle had done in the late 1980's, and in 2014 Adam left the Police to work as Boating Officer for British Antarctic Survey at King Edward Point, South Georgia where he spent just over a year.

Adam studied at Middlesex University and often gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, while working as a guide and Consultant.

In 2020 Adam began working fulltime for Oceanwide Expeditions as Field Operations Manager.

Adam holds a commercial masters certificate and instructs in several marine disciplines, he enjoys diving, climbing, kayaking and outdoor activities.

Sara Jenner – Assistant Expedition Leader



For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born. Ever since Sara has been travelling the globe in search of wild and remote places and has spent many

months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents and she has travelled extensively in the polar regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Falklands, South Georgia, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, when she decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

During 2020-2021 she worked extensively on a leopard seal identification project and took the opportunity to fulfil a lifetime dream of visiting South Georgia in winter by working on the M/V Pharos, which is deployed by the South Georgia Government as a fishery patrol vessel.

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.

Hella Martens – Expedition Guide



Born in The Netherlands and raised by adventurous parents Hella became infected with the travel virus and a deep fascination for animal behaviour and the natural world early in her childhood.

When 5 years old she drew and wrote a small booklet on the life of an Orca family, unaware of the life journey she would embark on 20 years later.

A BSc. degree in Wildlife Management, Policy and Education led her into the realm of the oceans' giants. Passionate about the threats our planet and its inhabitants are facing, her belief is that education is the most powerful tool to create ambassadors for the natural world. Since 2004 Hella has studied cetaceans in Scotland, the Canary Islands, Canada, Australia and Mexico. She has worked as a naturalist in New Zealand and lived and worked in the Azores for 4 years as a whale watching guide and lecturer. Hella has also been trained and contracted as an offshore marine mammal observer in the seismic industry.

In 2016 her biologist's dream was fulfilled by being able to explore the polar regions of our planet. After two polar winters leading whale watching and northern light excursions in Northern Norway, Hella's year is currently divided between guiding expedition cruises to the European and Russian Arctic and to Antarctica as a lecturer, zodiac driver and kayak guide. Time off is spent traveling, outdoors or enjoying the quiet French countryside with her family and furry creatures.

Hazel Pittwood - Expedition Guide



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. A childhood spent pond dipping, bug hunting and exploring the countryside and coast nurtured her love of the natural world.

She has worked in practical conservation and community engagement roles for a variety of habitats, including heathland and coastal nature reserves. Hazel also has experience surveying rare protected species and is a trained wildlife rescue volunteer and marine mammal medic

Whilst she is broadly learned about the natural world, Hazel has specialised in marine mammals and seabirds since 2014. At that time she began volunteering as a marine mammal and seabird surveyor, collecting sightings data regarding these animals for UK based conservation charities. In 2017 she worked on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months, delivering talks and leading wildlife watching sessions out on deck.

Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise ships for over three years. This role has taken her to Norway and Svalbard, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, the Faroe Islands, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and Central America. She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

The polar regions host an incredible diversity of seabird and marine mammal species and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide



Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has just spent a month in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day.

Bill Smith - Expedition Guide



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 58 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

As Bill lives in the North-west of Scotland he is President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee and former Chieftain Assynt Highland Games.

Bill is an Honorary Member Assynt Crofters Trust and recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.

Regis Perdriat - Expedition Guide



Regis has always been passionate about nature and wildlife conservation.

After a master's degree in Ecology, he first specialized in seabird rehabilitation after oil spills for BirdLife France. Then he joined the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, studying endangered species.

In Brittany he worked seven years for the Sept-Iles National Nature Reserve, driving zodiac, counting seabirds and seals in this wild and protected archipelago.

His polar experiences go as far back as 2007, when he spent 15 months working as a field researcher studying the seabirds and marine mammals of the remote Kerguelen Islands, a French subantarctic territory.

In love with those isolated environments he carried out several fieldwork missions in subantarctic islands. He finally joined the management team of French Southern and Antarctic Lands and became Head of the Southern Lands National Nature Reserve.

He now proposes his experience as a freelance biologist for scientific expeditions and share his passion for birds as often as he can. His last expeditions took him to North-East Greenland, Central Asia or Antarctic Peninsula.

Looking for him? Try outside, you should find him and his binoculars searching for birds or whales.

Allan White - Expedition Guide



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands, where his family have lived for 7 generations. At the age of 10 his parents took him to England, where he completed his high school education.

He joined the British Army aged 17 and served in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period. He then completed tours of duty in Northern Ireland, Cyprus with U.N. peacekeeping forces, and with the British Forces garrison in the Falklands. After 7 years service, he left the Army to return home. After a few years working as a Port & Tour

Agent, he pursued a career in expedition cruising. During 12 years at sea, Allan escorted travelers to all 7 continents and more than 120 countries, completing over 140 shipboard expeditions along the way. These have taken him to the Geographic North Pole, continental Antarctica, and many areas in between. Over 40 of his voyages have been to Antarctica, with many also taking in South Georgia and other remote Southern Ocean islands. His polar regions experience also includes over 30 Arctic voyages. Between 2003 and 2014, Allan and his wife Jacqui owned and operated Pebble Island Lodge in the Falklands, completing 11 consecutive seasons of accommodating international visitors and conducting 4x4 off-road tours. Having sold the business, they enjoyed a period of travel before taking over the management of privately owned West Point Island in the Falklands. Between 2016 and 2021 they completed 5 seasons of sheep farming and hosting expedition cruise vessel visits on this remote island, where they were the only residents.

Allan is an experienced guide, competent all-weather small boat operator with a Powerboat Instructor background, and a keen amateur naturalist. Today he makes his home in the Falklands with his wife Jacqui and their Labrador Bosun.

Veronique Verhoeven – Ship's doctor



No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

....but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer too.

For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career.

That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

25th October 2022
Day 1 – Embarkation, Puerto Madryn

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage!

Tea/coffee is available in the Bar located on Deck 6.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:30+/-

Ship safety briefing, in the Lecture Room on Deck 3. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket.

All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which is either the Bar on Deck 6 or the Restaurant on Deck 4, please check your cabin room card to see which station you are assigned to.

18:30+/-

The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days. This will take place in the Bar on Deck 6.

This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktail**.

19:30

Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters.

Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!

Daily programmes will be displayed around the ship and on TV screens.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

26th October 2022
Day 2 – At Sea

07:45	Wake-up call
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
09:15	The Expedition Team welcomes you to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 for staff introductions. This will be followed by the MANDATORY Zodiac briefing; attendance will be checked.
11:00	The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to the Lecture Room, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you!
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
14:00	Please join Hazel in the Bar for her presentation about Cetaceans of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.
16:00	Regis invites you to the Bar for his lecture titled 'The Fabulous World of Sea Birds'.
18:15	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! This is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

27th October 2022
Day 3 – Steeple Jason

07:45	Wake-up call
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
09:30	Sara invites you to the Bar for her presentation about 'Photography- How to take pictures you are happy with'.
11:30	Please join Adam in the Bar for an 'Introduction to the Falkland Islands'.
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00	Please join Martin in the Bar for a presentation about Birds of the Falkland Islands.
TBC	We hope to take you ashore at Steeple Jason, but exact timings will be determined by our arrival time to the Falklands so listen to announcements. Please do not approach the gangway until you have been called.
20:15	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for daily recap.
20:30	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

29th October 2022
Day 5 – At Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30 Hazel invites you to the bar for her lecture titled 'From Whaling to Worship': Human's relationship with Whales and Dolphins.
- IMPORTANT-** During the course of the morning we ask that you spend some time doing the first self-audit checks and cleaning of your outdoor clothing and bags in preparation for going ashore in South Georgia. Between **10:30-12:30** there will be a boot cleaning station set up in the lecture room and paper clips and brushes for cleaning Velcro, bags etc. **Please take time to do this, there will be a detailed staff inspection the following day.**
- 11:00 Theodor Allofs from the Wild Focus Photography Group would like to invite you to the bar for his presentation 'Landscape and Composition'.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 14:00 Please join Sara in the bar for her lecture about Penguins.
- 16:30 Bill invites you to the bar for his presentation titled 'Painting of the Sea'.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

29th October 2022
Day 5 – At Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30-11:30 **IMPORTANT-** During the course of the morning we ask that you spend some time doing the first self-audit checks and cleaning of your outdoor clothing and bags in preparation for going ashore in South Georgia. Between 09:30-11:30 there will be a boot cleaning station set up in the lecture room and paper clips and brushes for cleaning Velcro, bags etc. **Please take time to do this, there will be a detailed staff inspection the following day.**
- 11:00 Theo Allofs from the Wild Focus Photography Group would like to invite you to the bar for his presentation 'Landscape and Composition'.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 14:00 Hazel invites you to the bar for her lecture titled 'From Whaling to Worship': Human's relationship with Whales and Dolphins.
- 16:30 Bill invites you to the bar for his presentation titled 'Painting of the Sea'.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

CLOCKS WILL GO FORWARD 1 HOUR OVERNIGHT, PLEASE ADJUST YOUR PHONES AND WATCHES ACCORDINGLY.

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Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

30th October 2022

Day 6 – Heading towards South Georgia

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30 Please join Sara in the Bar for her presentation about Penguins.
- 11:15 Theo Allofs from the Wild Focus Photography Group would like to invite you to the Lecture Room for his presentation 'Light and Landscapes'.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 13:30 During the course of the afternoon you will be called deck by deck for the **MANDATORY South Georgia Biosecurity**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the Expedition Staff to check.
- Please ensure everything is clean before proceeding to the lecture room and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:30 Please join Adam in the Lecture Room for an Introduction to South Georgia.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

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OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Sunrise 04:41
Sunset 19:38

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

31st October 2022

Day 7 -Grytviken and Stromness

07:45	Wake-up call.
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
TBC	<p>On arrival we have to clear customs with the Government Officer. Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the gangway as a part of the biosecurity procedure, this can be a timely process so please be patient. We hope to land you near the two shipwrecks in front of the museum, you can then roam freely and visit the Church, museum, post office, and gallery. During the course of the morning, we will do a toast to the 'The Boss', Sir Ernest Shackleton, at the graveyard, you will be advised as to exact timings when you land.</p>
	<p>IMPORTANT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please wear face masks inside all buildings and use the hand sanitiser provided.• Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings• You can use Pounds, Euros and Dollars, but credit cards (excluding AMEX) are preferred.• Do not sit/lie down or place any items on the ground• Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore.
13:00-14:00	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
15:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at Stromness, please listen for announcements for exact timings.
19:00	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:30	Dinner will be served.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Sunrise 04:38
Sunset 19:40

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

1st November 2022
Day 8 – Fortuna Bay and Stromness

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 07:00 | Wake-up call. |
| 07:30-08:30 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 08:30+/- | We hope to take you ashore at Fortuna Bay, please listen for announcements for exact timings. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 15:00+/- | We hope to take you ashore at Stromness, please listen for announcements for exact timings. |
| 19:00 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap. |
| 19:30 | Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4. |

Sunrise 04:36
Sunset 19:42



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

2nd November 2022

Day 9 – Gold Harbour and Ocean Harbour

- 03:30 Wake-up call. Pastries, fruit, and juice will be available in the Bar.
- 04:00 We hope to take the 'early- birds' ashore at Gold Harbour.
- PLEASE NOTE:** If the weather is not favourable, we will not do the early morning landing, therefore there will be a wakeup call at 06:30am instead.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 for those who didn't go ashore early. There will be a shuttle available for those who wish to return from the landing site for breakfast.
- 08:00 We hope to take all remaining guests ashore at Gold Harbour.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 14:45 Regis will give a lecture about King Penguins in the Bar.
- 16:30+/- We hope to take you for a landing at Ocean Harbour, please listen to announcements for exact timings.
- 19:30 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Sunrise 04:34
Sunset 19:44

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

3rd November 2022
Day 10 – St Andrews and Gold Harbour

06:30	Wake-up call.
07:00-08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
08:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at St Andrews, please listen for announcements for exact timings.
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
15:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at Gold Harbour.
19:00	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:30	Dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

4th November 2022
Day 11– At Sea

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 07:45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08:00-09:00 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 09:30 | Theo Allofs from the Wild Focus Photography Group would like to invite you to the Lecture Room for his presentation 'Wildlife Composition'. |
| 11:30 | Hella would like to invite you to the Bar for her presentation about Antarctic Whales. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 14:00 | Adam invites you to the Lecture Room for a presentation about his time overwintering in South Georgia whilst working for British Antarctic Survey. |
| 16:30 | Bill invites you to the Lecture Room for his presentation about our ship, the Ortelius. |
| 18:15 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap. |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |

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Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

5th November 2022
Day 12 – At Sea

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 07:45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08:00-09:00 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 09:30 | Sara invites you to the Bar for her presentation about her time working on the South Georgia Fishing Patrol Ship while the rest of the world was in lockdown! |
| 10:30-12:30 | Wild Focus Group Only - Please submit your 5 chosen images with Jami and Theo for the image critique session the following day, they will be in the Lecture Room to facilitate this. |
| 11:30 | Martin invites you to the Bar for a presentation about his experience monitoring Albatross in the Falkland Islands. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 14:00 | Hella welcomes you to the Bar for her presentation on Antarctic Whales. |
| 16:30 | Please join Allan in the Bar for his presentation 'The Colour of Whaling'- an examination of the whaling in South Georgia and the Falkland's through some graphic, colour images. |
| 18:15 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap. |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |

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Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

6th November 2022
Day 13 – At Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30 Hazel invites you to the bar for her presentation 'Absolutely Krilliant!'- An insight into the cornerstone species of the Southern Ocean - Krill.
- 10:30 The Wild Focus Group tour leaders invite you to the Lecture Room for a photo critique session.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 13:30 During the course of the afternoon you will be called deck by deck for the **MANDATORY Antarctic Biosecurity** in the Lecture Room. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check.
- Please ensure everything is clean before proceeding to the Lecture Room and remember to sign the self-declaration form once you have been checked by the Expedition Team.
- 16:00 Adam welcomes you to the Bar for his lecture 'A tale of Endurance'- an overview of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

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Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

7th November 2022
Day 14 – Approaching Antarctica

PLEASE NOTE CLOCKS WILL GO BACK BY ONE HOUR OVERNIGHT.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 07:45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08:00-09:00 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 09:30 | Sara invites you to the Bar for her presentation about ‘Women in Antarctica.’ |
| 10:45 | The Wild Focus Group tour leaders invite you to the Lecture Room for a photo critique session. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 14:00 | Regis invites you to the Bar for a presentation about his experience overwintering in the Kerguelen Islands. |
| 16:00 | Hella invites you to the Bar for her presentation about Sea Ice and its Ecological Importance. |
| 18:30 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap. |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |

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Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

8th November 2022
Day 15 - Brown Bluff and Antarctic Sound

- 06:30 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00 +/- We hope to take you ashore at Brown Bluff, please listen to announcements for exact timings.
- 12:30 -13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- An Expedition Afternoon in Antarctic Sound, please listen for announcements.
- 18:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

9th November 2022
Day 16 - Brown Bluff and Paulet Island

- 04:30 Wake-up call. Pastries, fruit and juice will be available in the bar.
- 05:00 We hope to take you ashore at Brown Bluff for a continental landing.
- 08:30-09:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 14:00 +/- We hope to take you ashore at Paulet Island, please listen to announcements for exact timings.
- 18:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

10th November 2022

Day 17 – South Shetland Islands, Half Moon Island

07:00 Wake-up call.

07:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

08:30 +/- We hope to take you ashore at Half Moon Island.

We hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of the activity, please wear your swimwear underneath your expedition clothing. We provide the towels, please do not bring them from your cabins.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4

An Expedition Afternoon in the South Shetland Islands. Activities will be dependent on weather conditions, please listen to announcements.

18:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

11th November 2022

Day 18 – South Shetland Islands, Deception Island

04:15 Wake-up call. Fruit, pastries, and juice will be served in the bar.

04:30 We will sail into Deception Island, we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation.

The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.

05:30 We hope to take you ashore at Whalers Bay in Deception Island.

We hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of the activity, please wear your swimwear underneath your expedition clothing. We provide the towels, please do not bring them from your cabins.

08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4

An Expedition Afternoon in the South Shetland Islands. Activities will be dependent on weather conditions, please listen to announcements.

18:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

12th November 2022
Day 19 – Drake Passage

07:45	Wake-up call.
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:30	The Expedition Team will collect your rubber boots in the Lecture Room, please ensure they are clean before returning them. We will call you deck by deck, please listen to announcements.
10:30	Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for a presentation about 'Human Impacts in the Polar Region'.
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00	Adam invites you to the Bar for his lecture, 'The Quest for the South Pole'.
17:00	HAPPY HOUR in the Bar - Half priced drinks!
17:30	There will be a charity auction in aid of South Georgia Heritage Trust in the Bar. A collection of unique, one off, items and experiences will be auctioned, please give generously!
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

13th November 2022

Day 20 – Approaching the Beagle Channel

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| 07:45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08:00-09:00 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 09:30 | Hella invites you to the Bar for a short presentation about how whales could help fight the climate change battle we are currently experiencing globally. |
| 11:00 | Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for a joint presentation about 'Citizen Science: How we can all help'. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 14:00 | Allan would like to invite you to the bar for a presentation about the "The Swedish Antarctic Expedition; 1901-03 - The Greatest Escape". |
| 16:00 | There will be a Pub Style Quiz up in the Bar (questions relating to the voyage). Please make teams of 2-6 people, think of a team name, and bring a pen! |
| 18:15 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices. |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

14th November 2022
Day 21 – Ushuaia

- 06:30 Wake-up call.
Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before going to breakfast.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00 We invite those guests going straight to the airport to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the bus with you going to the airport.
- 08:15 We invite all other guests to disembark. You can either choose to take your luggage with you into town or you can place it in the luggage truck which will take it to a storage facility in Ushuaia, if you choose this option, you will need to pick your luggage up by 14:00.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Ortelius, we wish you safe onward travel, and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.