



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Basecamp Antarctica
on board
M/V Ortelius
December 4 – December 16, 2022



M/V *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was 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 Mika Appel [Finland] and his international crew of 55 (12 Nationalities)

Including....

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| First Officer: | Sven Holzhausen | [Germany] |
| Second Officer: | Anika Albrecht | [Germany] |
| Third Officer: | Sander Witsenburg | [Netherlands] |
| Chief Engineer: | Guntis Dizbite | [Latvia] |
| Hotel Manager: | Stephen Bell | [Northern Ireland] |
| Assistant Hotel Manager: | Thijs de Lint | [Netherlands] |
| Head Chef: | Heinz Hacker | [Austria] |
| Sous Chef: | Ivan Ivanovic | [Serbia] |
| Sous Chef: | Norman Estrada | [Philippines] |
| Ship's Physician: | Shona Main | [U.K.] |
| Bosuns: | Philip Malang & Eniano Agarin | [Philippines] |
| Expedition Leader: | Sara Jenner | [U.K.] |
| Assistant Expedition Leader: | Adam Burke | [U.K.] |
| Expedition Guide: | Felicity Johnson | [Scotland] |
| Kayaking Guide: | Adam Harmer | [U.K.] |
| Camping Guide: | Matthew Hawkins | [U.K.] |
| Camping Guide: | Bjarni Ólafsson | [Iceland] |
| Expedition Guide: | Juan Berenstein | [Argentina] |
| Expedition Guide: | Ben Fredricks | [Netherlands] |
| Expedition Guide: | Bill Smith | [Scotland] |
| Expedition Guide: | Rebekah Beadle | [U.K.] |
| Mountaineering Guide: | Andy Perkins | [U.K.] |
| Expedition Guide: | Edelweiss Hauzer | [Argentina] |
| Mountaineering Guide: | Robin Beadle | [U.K.] |

Welcome you onboard!

Day 1: 4th December 2022

Embarkation - Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS position at 1200: 54°48'.6 S - 068°17'.8 W

Wind: WNW force 5. Sea State: Slight. Weather: Broken cloud.

Air Temp: +12.0°C Sea Temp: +12°C

At first a truck load of suitcases arrived from the airport and disgorged its contents onto the quayside at Ushuaia ...plastic, leather, fabric, blue grey, red and green of every shape and size. Heavy ones, light ones, extra bags and assorted bit and pieces. All loaded onto Ortelius via the narrow gangplank by guides and crew. No automated loading here, Amazingly, this was the way they did it in the 1400's...a chain of guides and crew passing the cases one to another! The cases were then wheeled to the cabins indicated on the luggage tags.



At first just a trickle of people, clutching camera bags and obviously eager to view the ship, ambled along the quayside. This slowly increased to a large group of passengers at the gangway well before the 4.00pm boarding time. Many nationalities were represented. Eventually the order to board was given and in groups of 10 we all handed in our passports at reception and followed the stewards to our cabins. Once settled the priority was exploration...wandering up and down from deck 3 to 6 and trying to orientate which direction was to the bow and which to the stern. Panic stations for one passenger who had picked up the wrong luggage at the airport but quickly the problem was quickly resolved in time by a taxi journey back to the terminal buildings. The quayside was a bustle of activity, trucks and buses servicing the many massive

Antarctic cruise vessels who had arrived early in the morning and were engaging in a fast turn-round to head back south.

The coffee machine in the bar worked overtime as guests chatted and started to introduce themselves to one another. First announcement was for a series of mandatory introductory meetings in the lecture room. The audience swaying gently from side to side with the movement of the ship as it slid through the not so rough Beagle Channel towards the infamous Drake Passage (Although staff assured us that conditions were not to be that bad!) First Sara our expedition leader then Stephen the hotel manager explaining the workings of his department, then an officer from the bridge with a lecture on safety. Passengers concentrated as members of the guide team demonstrated how to wear the lifejackets and the procedure adopted for the abandon ship routine. This was followed by a practice... first a loudspeaker announcement from the bridge to go to our respective muster stations in either the bar or restaurant to ensure we were wearing our lifejackets correctly and have lists checked before responding to the loud signal and announcement from the bridge to 'abandon ship' and proceed to lifeboats. All very exciting!

As all this was going on, Ortelius continued making her smooth way through the relatively calm waters of the Beagle Channel towards the expected turbulence of the Drake later in the evening.

Next 'captain's cocktails' in the bar where Captain Mika Appel gave a short speech introducing his key officers and toasting the voyage followed by Expedition Leader Sara introducing herself and her guide team. As each person spoke about their background and qualifications it was apparent that we were to be guided by an extremely diverse, well qualified highly experienced group.

This was followed by an excellent dinner.

More mandatory meetings followed...first the IAATO video covering all aspects of visiting Antarctica then the Zodiac briefing, how to get in and out of the craft at either the ship or shore and how to wear the Zodiac life vest.

The evening ended as we engaged in 'social interaction' in the quite busy bar... much excited chatter from everyone in anticipation of the next Oceanwide Expedition adventures.

Day 2: 5th December 2022

At Sea - Drake Passage

GPS position at 1200: 58° 04'.2 S - 064°47'.5 W

Wind: SW force 10. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: +2 °C. Sea Temp: +9 °C

During the early hours of the morning, we entered the Drake Passage, the notoriously rough, 500mile stretch of ocean separating South America and Antarctica. After many reminders of safety of moving around the ship in rough conditions; fingers out of doorways and stowing your equipment away properly overnight, many onboard managed to get a comfortable first night's sleep! Although the ship was rolling through the night, sea conditions were not too bad in the morning, although some may disagree! However, the morning did remain relatively quiet, with most staying in the comfort of their cabins. The only activity to take place was the muck boot collection in the lecture room, subsequently named the "vomitorium"...



For those that were up and about, it was a beautiful morning, the sun was shining, the swell measured 5-6 metres and the wind was hovering around 60 knots. The bonus of windy days is that there is often great bird activity! And today was no disappointment – we were graced with the presence of many different species, from the smallest of storm petrels and prions, to the largest of albatross, the wandering albatross. Other species spotted included the southern royal albatross, southern giant petrels, and cape petrels.



Conditions began to improve as lunch was served, with the dining room becoming progressively busier! During the afternoon, there was a buzz around the ship. Many enjoyed watching the crashing waves from the bridge, a blast of cool, fresh air behind the bar or watching the sea birds glide between the waves with a hot cup of coffee. After lunch, the kayak briefing was first on the schedule, shortly followed by the

mountaineering briefing.

As the activity briefings drew to a close, we had our first recap of the trip held in the bar. Expedition leader Sara gave a brief overview of tomorrow's plans and a much-anticipated weather update, followed by a sigh of relief by all as the seas were forecasted to be slightly calmer tomorrow. After Sara, expedition guide Bill kicked off the staff recaps with his "Thinking, Seeing, Doing" talk, much to everyone's delight!

After a delicious three course dinner, served by Stephen and the wonderful crew, it was time for the final mandatory briefing to take place - the camping briefing. This was an opportunity for everyone to investigate the camping gear supplied by the team and gain an insight of what it would be like to dig a little snow grave and sleep under the Antarctic stars!

Day 3: 6th December 2022

At Sea - Drake Passage

GPS position at 1200: 62°37'.7 S - 062°01'.5 W

Wind: WSW force 8. Sea State: Rough. Weather: Slightly overcast, bright

Air Temp: +0 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C



Most of us woke up to Sarah's enthusiastic wake up call: "Good morning, good morning, and good morning! Those who were not out of bed by that point were next woken up by the voice of the hotel manager Steven. To understand his Belfast accent fully was a bit difficult for many listeners, yet it was easy enough to pick out words such as: Breakfast, dining room, now.

This day was another sea day, the Drake Passage needs two days to cross. When we looked out over the open sea, we could see a stark difference to yesterday morning, that was that the skies were full of birds this

time. Birds such as Black browed albatross, prions, Cape petrels, Antarctic petrels, Wilsons storm petrels, giant petrels and gracefully soared around and over the ship, as if it was no effort at all. This sharp contrast in animal life this morning compared to our first morning on the ship was due to certain ocean currents, more specifically a phenomenon called the Antarctic convergence.

The Antarctic Convergence is a curve continuously encircling Antarctica, varying in latitude seasonally, where cold, Antarctic waters meet the relatively warmer waters of the sub-Antarctic. The Antarctic cold water sinks beneath subantarctic waters, the mixing of the two creates an up swell where nutrients from the ocean floor are brought up closer to the surface. As a result, this zone is very high in marine productivity and thus attracts more seabirds and whales compared to other areas.

Weather is quick to change in Antarctic waters, as we experienced quite calm sunny weather, then wind and snow and afterwards again calm conditions with relatively little wind. All within a span of 1 hour! To entertain and educate us during the voyage we had several lectures offered to us by the expedition team on topics of photography, penguins and the Antarctic convergence.

During the morning we also saw the first whales of the voyage. They were first spotted from the bridge at a distance. A few blows at a distance. Not long after

we saw more blows, and then more, many quite close. It was a mix of both humpbacks and fin whales, some only coming up for breath only about 300 meters away from the ship! While we enjoyed marveling out at these great leviathans, the bridge officer and helmsman on duty had to stay vigilant and make sure that no whale would by accident be hit by the ship, ready to take action at any moment and adjust heading in relation to the whales.

The first islands we saw belonged to the South Shetland island group. Those were Snow island and Smith island, the latter is named after William Smith, the British mariner who is credited for discovering this chain of islands. In the early evening the Antarctic Peninsula also came into view. Even more whales were spotted in the evening and the views were fantastic. It was almost like wind, weather, sun and whales conspired together to give us a warm welcome to Antarctica.



Day 4: 7th December 2022

Orne Harbour, Cuverville Island and Leith Cove

GPS position at 1200: '64°40'.4 S - 062°29'.6 W

Wind: Light. Sea State: calm. Weather: Sunny and blue skies

Air Temp: +1 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

Wow, there were very few words to describe the true beauty of today. Our first views of the morning were blue skies, smooth silky seas and occasional humpback as we cruised down the Gerlaiche Strait. We made great progress as Ortelius was able to lower the port and starboard gangways to get people off for their first visit to Orne Harbour.



The first day of activities was a stunner, with people trying to get to grips with what layers to put on and how to wear a lifejacket, but quickly the whole team left Ortelius for a range of activities from snowshoeing, Zodiac drives, kayaking and technical mountaineering.

The mountaineers summited Spigot Peak in good time. Everyone saw chinstrap penguins and Orne Harbour provided spectacular views as far as the eye could see.

The kayakers had fantastic conditions in the bay with brash ice and views of gentoo and the occasional chinstrap swimming and diving amongst the kayaks.



After short cruise over lunch we reached our next destination, Cuverville Island. The gentoo and chin strap penguins were plentiful here with people able to see the penguin highways, and multiple rookeries. The mountaineers practiced their skills enroute to the summit and the kayakers were greeted with pack ice and spotted a leopard seal hauled out basking in the sunshine.

After dinner a very excited group of campers set off for their night on the Leith Cove. The lighting was amazing as they dug their beds out for the night.





Days like this in Antarctica are super special when they are like this and everyone has had a superb first day of activities, lets pray the weather sticks around like this for a few extra days.

Day 5: 8th December 2022

Gerlache Strait, Lemaire Channel, Pleaneau, Lemaire Channel

GPS position at 1200: 65°06'.3 S - 065°00'.6 W

Wind: SW force 5. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Partly cloudy

Air Temp: +0 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

The campers in Leith Cove spent a tranquil night in their sleeping bags and coffin shaped holes in the snow under Antarctic skies. Some slept soundly – others less so. In any event, all were back on board for coffee and a welcome breakfast on board.

Ortelius then sailed out of Paradise Harbour under cloudy skies and southwest down the Gerlache Strait. We entered the



famous Lemaire Channel, sheer precipices of rock and snow towering over 900m above us. The Lemaire is nicknamed the Kodak Gap, and plenty of us were out on deck to take in the spectacle. While the Captain and his crew expertly navigated us around huge chunks of ice and through brash ice, the hotel team served up boozy hot chocolate on the bow. Even the most

bedbound of the previous night's camping team couldn't resist that combination!

As we emerged at the south westerly end of the Lemaire, it was clear there were many icebergs floating around. Our anticipated landing at Port Charcot was choked with icebergs and brash ice so the Zodiacs wouldn't be able to get to shore. We switched plans (a frequent occurrence in these parts) to nearby Pleneau Island. Here we had something for everyone – the kayakers with Adam paddled around small icebergs near the landing site. They checked out penguins and seals a plenty. The mountaineers with guides Andy and Robin traversed the island from one side to the other. Andy even jumped into a small crevasse to demonstrate how the guests can pull someone out. Coincidentally, this type of crevasse is known in France as a “whale's throat”!



Back on the shore, a wonderful array of wildlife was observed. Plenty of gentoo penguins, even a few of the rarer Adelle penguins. A few broken penguin eggs were spotted, food for the watchful marauding skuas. Perhaps the highlight were the young elephant seals, waving their tail fins in the air and interacting with their siblings and the inquisitive nearby gentoo.



Embarking once again on Ortelius, we then sailed north back through the Lemaire Channel. We had intended to camp again back at Leith Cove. Once again, nature intervened. Winds between 35 and 40 knots made Zodiac operations impractical. Just as the last enthusiastic passengers were leaving the bar late that evening, a humpback whale passed just 30 meters away from the ship. An awesome end to another great

day in Antarctica.

Day 6: 9th December 2022

Brown Station and Zodiac Cruise near Neko Point

GPS position at 1200: 64°59'.3 S - 063°03'.0 W

Wind: Variable 2-3. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Sunny with broken cloud

Air Temp: +0 °C. Sea Temp: +6 °C

We woke up in Paradise Bay and 'Base Brown', an Argentinian research base. It was built in 1951 and was able to hold 17 staff. In 1984 after a doctor who had spent 6 months, working mostly solo which had left him in a poor mental state, was ordered to stay another 6 months as the replacement doctor had turned up too ill to work. This pushed the doctor to far. He walked back into the base and set fire to it! The whole base burnt to the ground. He was arrested and was sent to jail.

Questionably a better place to end up rather than an empty research base?



The mountaineers left at 6.30 heading to 'Conesa Point'. A dynamic approach to assessing the risks involved in the activity was really applicable this morning. Poor visibility meant that just before the team were going to leave the boat, they almost had to put a stop to the activity. It looked like the fog would prevent them being able to drive the zodiacs to the site. They got kitted up with their fingers crossed in the hope that the fog would lift and luckily it did!



Reminding us all that it's so important to remain flexible with plans to keep things safe in these challenging environments.

After the fog and a few snow showers the weather cleared a little to leave a really atmospheric morning. A lovely zodiac ride and tricky landing lead to a stunning secluded spot. The team really enjoyed the snow shoeing across the

glacier to gain a great vantage point. The team did really well with the steep accent.

Meanwhile the kayakers with Adam spent the morning negotiating icebergs and pack ice. Light winds and sunny spells gave great conditions. They were rewarded with crab eater and Weddell seals.



The rest of the team were able to climb a small peak overlooking Base Brown which gave great view across the bay. Of course, there were plenty of gentoo penguins to chat to on the way.

On the way back to the ship folk were able to go seal spotting with the cutest little seal pups.



In the afternoon everyone piled into the Zodiacs for a tour towards Neko Bay. Another crab eater seal was happy to pose on an iceberg for 'our viewing pleasure' and some awesome bird life; snow petrels, Wilson's storm petrels, imperial shags and the odd snowy sheathbill.

After another lovely dinner, the campers started their preparations for and overnight stay, but despite continued efforts from the team there were just too many setbacks to

be able to use the site. Safety and conservation are so important when trying to make the right choices. The hunt for the next camping venue continues.



Another really successful day on the awe-inspiring Antarctic peninsula.

Day 7: 10th December 2022

Orne Islands and Danco Point

GPS position at 1200: 64°40'.0 S - 062°36'.8 W
Wind: Light Air. Sea State: Calm. Weather: Sunny
Air Temp: +0 °C. Sea Temp: +4 °C



We woke up to another beautiful Antarctic morning and were treated to a stunning view from the bridge of the mountaineers' proposed glacier trek, which was planned to start from a landing at Georges Point. However, our plans were in put in doubt because of low water, pack ice and wildlife density, issues that had forced the cancellation of the previous night's camping. The mountaineering team conducted a recce to confirm whether or not the trek could proceed, and it was decided that unfortunately on this occasion it would have to be cancelled and the trekkers would join the main landing at Orne Island. Wildlife has been subjected to increasing pressure, for example the gentoo penguins are behind schedule nesting,

laying and hatching their eggs due to the large quantity of snow this season covering their regular breeding sites. They have had to look for alternative snow free places to breed, and it is important we don't add to their problems by disturbing them. We need to be aware of the potential impact of our activities on the increasing populations of penguins and Weddle seals at Georges point, and to be mindful that we do not contribute to the spread of avian flu for example.

A large iceberg had split. It was unstable and liable to further fracturing, which meant that Ortelius couldn't reach the ideal drop off point, and the Zodiacs had to take a circuitous line to reach the landing on Orne Island. Drifting ice proved to be a problem for the Zodiacs throughout the morning. Despite this the main group was landed safely and everyone had the opportunity to visit the colonies of chinstrap and gentoo penguins, and also to observe skuas and seals and enjoy the breath-taking scenery along the length of the island. Everyone was transferred back to Ortelius in the nick of time before the ice blocked access to the boats.

Meanwhile, the kayaking group successfully circumnavigated Orne Island, and enjoyed seeing the gentoo and chinstrap penguins, seals and huge icebergs.

With everyone back on board Ortelius and the occasional humpback whale in view from the ship we moved to Danco Island, where the main group headed on snowshoes up a slope that offered an elevated view of the surrounding islands and icebergs, and provided more opportunities to observe colonies of Gentoo penguins.

The mountaineers went to investigate the possibilities for climbing on the nearby ice cliffs but were frustrated by excessive snow and deteriorating conditions in the strong sun. They adopted a flexible approach and took advantage of the opportunity to climb on shoreline ice boulders and enjoy some technical instruction amidst the fantastic coastal scenery. The kayaking group passed by on their circumnavigation of Danco Island.



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After the day's activities we sailed to Dorian Bay, rounding Damoy point as we neared our objective and successfully landed the camping party whilst being treated to stunning views of Mount Jabet, the final technical mountaineering objective of the trip.

Day 8: 11th December 2022

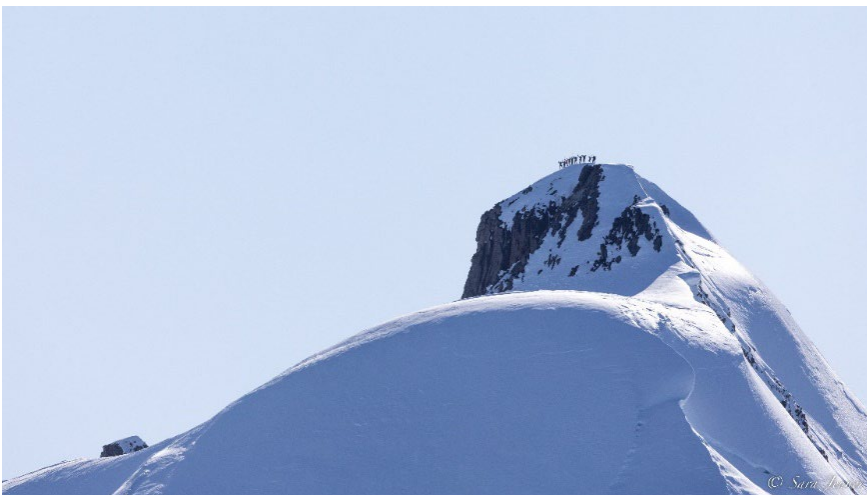
Dorian Bay, Damoy Point and Flanders Bay

GPS position at 1200: 64°53'.2 S - 065°38'.6 W

Wind: Light air. Sea State: Clam (glassy) Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: 0 °C. Sea Temp: +8 °C

Activity on board Ortelius started very, very early on the morning of the 11th December. Eight mountaineers and two mountain guides were awake before 3.30 in the morning. Before 4 is morally wrong, but sometimes immorality can be fun. After a spartan breakfast of coffee and cake, they were ashore at Dorian Bay and set off on their mission towards Mount Jabet.



The snow conditions were perfect for climbing. Starting on snowshoes, they switched to crampons about halfway up, and after three hours they were on the summit, looking like tiny penguins from the shore. The views from the summit were spectacular. One guest wrote *"It was EPIC and the highlight of my trip"*.



Meanwhile the campers on Damoy Point had spent a chilly night under the polar skies. The Zodiac team whisked them back to Ortelius for coffee and a welcome breakfast. The kayak team headed by Adam had a perfect morning on calm water around Dorian Bay, seeing vast numbers of gentoo penguins.

The campers and the rest of us came ashore at Damoy Point where we were able to see the Argentinian and British huts. We were even able to go inside the latter, where we saw antique foods still in their original packaging, including spam and Bird's Custard. Sheathbills tapped on the window of the hut, eager to get in for more food to supplement their diet of penguin eggs.

In late morning, we headed to Flanders Bay for some real exploration. The area had only been surveyed twice before in 1910 and 1913, so with a sense of pride, we did the third in 2022. As a bonus, the scenery was magnificent, with the twin peaks of Cap Renard dominating the skyline. Cruising with Zodiacs to witness the surveying work, we were also treated to sightings of leopard seals.



We stayed on in Flanders Bay for the evening, where the al fresco barbecue and Antarctic dance party were on the menu for the evening. An open bar and great food cooked up by Stephen and his team for our dining pleasure was a good combination. Stephen and Expedition Leader Sara kicked off the dancing, and we were treated to the sight of Expedition Guide Bill cavorting in his kilt and yellow muck boots, and newly engaged couple Andy and Chelsea in their penguin suits.

Apparently, the party went on into the small hours, a great end to an action-packed day in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Day 9: 12th December 2022

Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island and Portal Point

GPS position at 1200: 64°31'.5 S - 061°55'.9 W

Wind: Light Air. Sea State: Calm (glassy) . Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +1.0 °C.

For many the morning started with some fairly blurry eyes from the partying the night before. But the effort to get out of bed was rewarded with a zodiac cruise of Foyn Harbour and round Enterprise Island.

Foyn Harbour is the resting place of the whale processing ship, the Governoren. The nature of the site landings and the inhospitable landscape meant it was almost impossible to establish whale processing factories on land, so ships were developed into whale processing plants. The Governoren was one of the largest of these and in one season could collect 22,000 gallons of whale oil. The precious oil was then shipped over the world where it was used for everything from lamps, margarine to medicines. On January the 27th 1915 the annual end of season party was in full swing on the ship. It is thought that someone accidentally knocked a table, which knocked off an oil lamp setting fire to the ship. They were unable



to put out the fire, so the captain decided to run the ship aground to give the crew chance to escape. His plan worked and all the crew made it to land and were rescued by another whaling ship.

Our morning Zodiac cruises took us through the 'iceberg graveyard' with enormous icebergs in all directions. Huge cracks, caves, different patterns and colours made for some stunning views.

Teams saw Weddell and Leppard seals, Antarctic Terns, Kelp gulls and the odd gentoo. The stunning and intimidating cliffs on the island made for a really memorable journey.



Meanwhile the early morning glacial trekking team made their way up to a southerly summit on Enterprise Island, descended to a col overlooking the wreckage of the Governoren, then a circular route round the island taking in some steep descents.

After another tasty lunch provided by our 'Conga' starting head of hotel and his team, we arrived at Portal Point. A more relaxed approach for the

afternoon. A gentle walk around the bay with places to sit and watch the Crab eater seals on the beaches and bergy bits below. There were many snowball fights and the occasional 'snow angel' too. A really pleasant afternoon.

This afternoon Adam and Adam also took some of the crew kayaking! He took 10 crew out in the sea kayaks where they saw penguins, seals and plenty of icebergs. For some of them this was there first time in a kayak and for some it was their first time seeing penguins and seals close up.

Back on ship the daily recap had some great information about the survey research that was carried out yesterday mapping sections of Flanders bay. Adam, Ben and Anika, the second mate, had put in a late shift to be able to collect plenty of reliable and useful data.



Another great day exploring this incredible area of Antarctica.

Day 10: 13th December 2022

Whalers Bay, Deception Island and Half Moon Island

GPS position at 1200: 62°36'.1 S - 059°53.6 W

Wind: NE force 3. Sea State: Calm Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: 0 °C. Sea Temp: +7 °C

The day started with an early wakeup call from Sara so everyone could enjoy the views as Ortelius sailed through Neptune's Bellows into Whaler's Bay at Deception Island. After breakfast everyone was driven by Zodiac to a beach landing in the bay and people were able to wander along the shore to inspect the relics of the old Norwegian whaling station that was abandoned after the volcanic eruption in 1969. Blue eyed cormorants could be seen close by. Many of the party enjoyed a walk up to Neptune's window, which offered a fantastic panorama of the island as well as a view out over the ocean towards the Antarctic Peninsula. Finally, before departing the island, over 70 brave guests and several members of staff took part in the much-anticipated challenge of the Polar Plunge, and enjoyed an icy dip in the Antarctic waters.



As Ortelius headed towards Half Moon Island, Juan's excellent talk on photo editing was brought to an abrupt close by an announcement that Orcas had been spotted.



Thanks to the manoeuvring of the ship everyone could enjoy an extended viewing of 10-15 Type B Gerlache Orca, distinguishable by their large eye patches, stained yellow by algae. 2 or 3 fin whales were also seen in addition to the humpbacks spotted earlier, so it made for a fantastic day of whale watching.

Our final landing in Antarctica was made at Half Moon Island. It was sad to realise that the number of chinstrap penguins here was so depleted, and that there was so little evidence of successful breeding, although at least one egg was spotted being incubated. There was also a Weddell seal hauled up on the rocks.

Our exit from Antarctica was made through the beautiful and impressive English Strait, and as is traditional our departure was announced by a long blast on the ship's horn as we passed the Fort William lighthouse.

Day 11: 14th December 2022

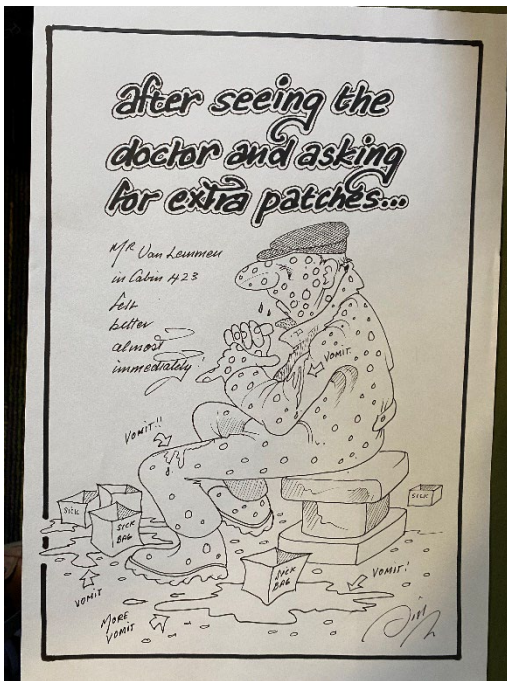
At Sea – Drakes Passage

GPS position at 1200: 59°42'.7 S, 062°17'.9 W

Wind: N Force 7-8. Sea State: Moderate. Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: +7°C. Sea Temp: +7°C

A day of relaxation and white spots behind the ear on the neck for most passengers. A great feeling to wake up in the morning without the stress of tumbling out from under a warm duvet to dress in muck boots, thick underwear and Gortex for another day of hectic adventure activities in an icy environment.



Really nice then to lie drowsily in bed a bit longer and savour the gentle rolling of Ortelius as we ploughed our way steadily across the Drake. The sea was not so bad today according to our guides... a relief to many anxious souls who had imagined pre-voyage violent action, mountainous rollers and cascades of spray. Though some passengers were definitely suffering from the ship's rolling.

Bjarni our ever-enthusiastic Icelandic guide delivered the first lecture of the day...an account of the discovery of the Shetland Islands and the commercial history of Deception Island followed a presentation from by Felicity, her crystal clear Scottish tones capturing the attention of her audience as she explained current global threats to marine life.

All muck boots were collected and returned to store then staff retired to the aft deck hanger to pack the 'Survival Night' sleeping bags and return them to the hold store.

After over-indulging in the usual superb lunch, the afternoon entertainment / educational session began with Andy talking about avalanche and rescue.

This was so relevant given that everywhere we had been we had seen signs of avalanches on the mountains surrounding our landing sites and during the landing at Damoy, the climbing group has a grandstand view of a spectacular very powerful avalanche sweeping down from a summit to spread out in billowing clouds of snow across the icefield below. It had been a reminder to everyone that this landscape, whilst incredibly beautiful, had hidden menace for those who were unwary and who had not the benefit of our safety conscious highly experienced guides.

Late afternoon Bill delivered a highly informative talk on Ortelius. Outlining its history, explaining its ice class rating, construction and operational features and leading us on a photographic tour of the secret places on the vessel. Those interesting areas, the catering department and engine room, which were out of bounds to passengers due to Health and Safety considerations.

Recap before dinner as usual with a briefing from Sara, then Felicity talking about 'Happy Whale' and Bill using examples from the artists Turner and Breugel to explain the meaning of the sea in paintings of the sea.

Ortelius continued making good progress across the notorious Drake Passage towards South America. Then the highlight event as Sara identified a sighting of Orca off the port bow as the highly elusive type D...Whoopie another exciting Oceanwide Expeditions moment. The challenge was to capture them on camera.



What a day!

Day 12: 15th December 2022

At Sea - Drakes Passage

GPS position at 1200: 55°44'.9 S, 065°50'.6 W

Wind: SW5. Sea State: Slight Weather: Cloudy

Air Temp: +3°C. Sea Temp: +12°C

This was the final full day on the ship and sadly there was talk of embarkation logistics. However, there was still plenty of activity both on board and in the sea with dusky dolphins and pilot and fin whales being sighted. Cape Horn was also just about visible as we can sailed north.

The sea was very kind to us, and the wind and swell had dropped since yesterday so on board we could enjoy a very interesting lecture from Adam about life on Antarctic research stations both during the summer and overwintering. This was followed by a very thought-provoking lecture from Felicity, Sara and Bill about the different factors threatening the Antarctic, concluding with suggestions about how we can help preserve this truly specular environment and how to get involved with Citizen Science Projects. It made us all very feel very privileged to be able to visit Antarctica and the importance of becoming Antarctic ambassadors.

The entertainment continued with a pub style quiz to see who had been paying attention during the lectures and re-caps as well as testing how well everyone knew the staff team. The winning team receiving a signed carton from Bill.

At Captain's cocktails, the Captain thanked all the guests for bringing such good weather on the trip. Those experienced Antarctic visitors commented this trip had the best weather ever.

Stephen, the hotel manager, then called us for the last time to go to the restaurant for our 'dining pleasure'. As every meal had been excellent throughout the trip it was great to have the opportunity to thank all the catering and hotel team for all their hard work.

Day 13: 16th December 2022

Returning to Ushuaia

GPS position at 0800: 54°48'.6 S - 068°17'.8 W

Wind: W force 1. Sea State: calm. Weather: fine

Air Temp: +7°C. Sea Temp: +7°C



We arrived at the Pilot Station in the Beagle Channel at dinner time and docked in Ushuaia just after midnight. *Ortelius* had successfully completed a very memorable Antarctic voyage! 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.

Memories will continue long after disembarkation as most people had a great number of photos to sort through.



© Juan Berenstein



© Juan Berenstein

Thank you all for such a memorable voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1773 nautical miles
Furthest South: 65°06'.3 S 065°00'.6 W

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Mika Appel,
Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, 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.

Basecamp Antarctica Flanders Bay and Anvers Island Ortelius Dec. 2022

1. Orne Harbour
2. Cuverville Island
3. Paradise Harbour
4. Lemaire Channel
5. Pleneau Island
6. Base Brown
7. Neko Harbour
8. Orne Island
9. Danko Island
10. Damoy point
11. Flanders Bay
12. Foyen Harbour
13. Portal Point
14. Whalers Bay
15. Half Moon Island



Sara Jenner – 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.

Adam Burke – Assistant Expedition Leader



Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

Felicity Johnson – Expedition Guide



Felicity is a marine biologist, commercial skipper and guide with a strong passion for marine mammal conservation. Working on the water for almost 10 years, she has gained a range of experience in marine mammal research, including cetacean entanglement studies, biopsy collection and analysis, and photo identification projects across the planet.

Most recently she has moved to live and work in Vancouver, Canada, where she is a captain and field researcher for Simon Fraser University. The project is investigating the strategic interactions between Bigg's killer whales and their pinniped prey in the Salish

Sea. Alongside this, she is an Education Coordinator for Ocean Youth Academy, a non-profit dedicated to connecting youth with the oceans, creating lessons all about the life underneath the surface and the changing climate.

Growing up in Scotland, Felicity discovered a love for the outdoors during childhood holidays to the coast and hills of Scotland. She began by teaching sailing during the school holidays and then went on to study marine biology at university.

During her Master's degree, Felicity gained certifications as a commercial skipper, marine mammal observer, advanced diver and a wilderness first aider. During this time, marine pollution grabbed Felicity's attention and has since believed it is her professional and personal responsibility to apply her knowledge and skills to contribute to ocean conservation by organising events, talks and clean ups to help spread awareness of the changing climate.

Adam Harmer – Kayak Guide



Adam has been paddling for over 20 years and this includes on all seven Continents. He calls the mountains and the Ocean his home.

Currently Adam lives in North Wales UK. He spends much of his life training and assessing outdoor instructors around the world.

Whether that is sea kayaking in Canada or Chile or raft guides and instructors on rivers in Africa.

Adam is also more than happy when he is working at home, where he shares his passion and extensive outdoor experience in training outdoor professionals and guides.

A previous winner of the Yukon 1000, the Worlds Longest Kayak race, first descents in Africa and South America and coaching under the Golden Gate Bridge and Antarctica so some of his highlights.

Adam also loves sharing the outdoors with people, sharing the interaction of nature, the sounds of waves crashing or seeing something special means the world to Adam.

He has two children and loves taking his family on 'Outdoor Adventures'

Matt Hawkins – Expedition Guide



Matt is lucky enough to be one of the 'Expedition Guides' for Oceanwide Expeditions.

He has been playing in the mountains since childhood. He has fond memories of his dad taking him for hikes in the hills and learning to rock climb, first indoors, then on the sea cliffs of Pembrokeshire and the Gower.

He and his climbing partner booked an instructor to take them for winter climbing in Scotland when they were only 16 years old. This was the birth of his passion for climbing in the snow and ice.

Since, he climbed all over the UK and Europe with a few trips further afield, but the winter is the time of year he enjoys the most.

In his 20's he took up kayaking and canoeing. Again, this passion has led him to some stunning parts of the world.

He is now based in North Wales and works as a full-time professional mountaineering instructor and paddling coach. He heads up to Scotland to teach ice/mixed climbing and mountaineering in the winter.

As part of his work, he spends a good amount of time delivering a range of hill walking, climbing and mountaineering instructor courses and assessments. At last count he has dug and stayed in over 35 snow holes! Despite that, he still loves it.

He is an extremely experienced, passionate, and driven outdoor professional. He takes great pride in all his work and continually try to push his delivery to new levels.

Bjarni Ólafsson - Expedition Guide



Bjarni was born in Reykjavík, Iceland a country with large amount of untouched wilderness, right on the doorstep of the Arctic. When he was a child he was always fascinated in subjects such as history and nature. Iceland being one of best places for nature and wilderness enthusiast he became very interested in hiking and exploring the highlands of Iceland. Every summer he makes sure to devote ample time to explore the solitude of the Iceland's remote regions.

In university, he chose to study history and is now close to completing a masters in medieval history at the university of Iceland. At university a lot of his focus was devoted to the history of Greenland, especially the Viking settlements on the west coast of Greenland. That later turned out to be a great starting point for exploring more history related to human habitation and expeditions in the Arctic.

He started to guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in 2017 on trips in his native Iceland. After that he moved on to also guiding in Greenland, North-Norway and Svalbard alongside his studies.

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ben Frederiks - Expedition Guide



Discovering Spitsbergen in 2013 was like a dream coming true for Ben. During his studies in marine biology, he conducted fieldwork which took him to the world's most Northern settlement: Ny-Ålesund. Here he fell in love with the Arctic Archipelago, he has been returning to the Arctic ever since.

In the past, Ben worked on different scientific topics: Arctic shipping and the effect of oil spills in Arctic Regions. A topic with an increasing importance due to the rising levels of shipping activity in the northern waters.

Besides the topics mentioned above he is very interested in the northern history such as the old whalers and the age of explorers, do not be shy to ask anything about it!

His main topics are in the fields of polar biology, ecology, and history. This makes these remote regions a perfect place for him to work, because it is filled with all of it!

Back home in the Netherlands Ben does something completely different. Since his university graduation he used to work as an offshore hydrographer for the Dutch government, surveying shipwrecks and underwater structures. Currently Ben works for the Netherlands coast guard as mission commander on the patrol aircraft, flying daily over the North Sea.

Whenever he has a few weeks off, he tries to travel back to the North. He has surely been bitten by the polar bug and can't wait to start another polar adventure! On a last note: Ben speaks English, German and Dutch.

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.

Rebekah Beadle – Expedition Guide



Rebekah has been sharing her delight in in all things outdoor and environmental for over 20 years. After completing her PhD in Geography, she moved to the hills of the Lake District in the UK to work in environmental education.

Her passion for wild and remote mountains has taken her to many places including Greenland, Kenya, India and Nepal. She has enabled many individuals to safely explore or reach their goals in remote destinations. She is a qualified UIMLA mountain leader.

Alternating between the hills of the Lake District and the French Alps, she is always keen to be out and active – be it walking, mountaineering, skiing, climbing, orienteering, fell running or mountain biking. With her background in environmental education, she has a strong interest in exploring and seeking to understand more about the areas that she is passing through.

Andy Perkins – Mountain Leader



Andy Perkins is an IFMGA mountain guide living in Chamonix at the foot of Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain. He has been climbing and skiing since he was a teenager and has worked as a qualified mountain guide for over twenty years.

His "normal" work is as a guide in the European Alps. In the summer he guides climbing and mountaineering clients from all over the world. In winter he works with off piste skiers in and around lift-served ski resorts and by using ski touring equipment to access more remote spots. It's in that capacity

that he discovered the magical combination of mountains and ocean, initially through ski sail trips in Arctic Norway. He has pursued that fabulous formula with trips to Iceland and Greenland over recent years.

Here are three highlights from his mountain experience:

- 17 days on Cerro Kishtwar's north face in the Indian Himalaya . Intensity of experience is his goal in personal climbing, and this one had it in spades.
- 2 rescues on Denali, the second of which earned him the Denali Pro Award and an Award for Bravery from the US Department of the Interior.
- Skiing in Arctic Norway with his wife Lise, 60 years after his dad was pioneering there in the 1950's. Mountains run in the family!

He speaks fluent English and French and basic German and Italian.

His aim as a guide is to share his love of the wild places of the world and to maximise his clients' potential - to exceed their expectations of what they're capable of. This often means taking on new skills as well as sharpening existing ones. The big grins when someone finally "gets it", whether skiing or climbing, makes his job as a guide a real joy.

Edelweiss Hauzer - Expedition Guide



Eddie was born in Alta Gracia, Córdoba, Argentina in 1991. A lover of learning, enthusiast, and optimistic. A young person who works for her dreams, with high energy levels and endurance. She has always had a deep love for the outdoors, nature, and a keen interest in the environment.

When she finished the university, she decided to travel around Latin-American. Started her journey from the Argentinean north, going to Bolivia, Peru, and going through the Amazonas River on an amazing adventure onboard a ferry boat. During her time in Brazil, she worked with a little travel agency, selling voyages, guiding and interpreting their landscape until she settles on a new destination, Ushuaia, the end of the world and the beginning of everything.

There she discovers the Antarctic tourism industry which allows her to share her passion and her interest in environmental conservation and started to prepare herself to get into it.

As soon as she arrived, Ushuaia, its lakes, mountains, forest, and its surrounding areas blew her mind. She began to dive and fell completely in love with the sport and the emotion of sharing it, so much so that she decided to make it her life. She as a dive master has worked with Beagle Buceos in Ushuaia and she was part of Atlantic Dive Club Social diving through the west coast of Ireland.

Nowadays she is part of the family of polar expedition guides where she is decided to work to offer unforgettable experiences to guests, crew, and staff, to leave a mark not only on human relationships but also regarding how important it is to take care of the environment.

Robin Beadle - Mountain Guide



Robin's love of the outdoors began at a young age in the Peak District, UK, and this interest progressed to rock climbing on his local outcrops. During his time as a mechanical engineer he made frequent personal trips to the Alps, and mountaineering expeditions to Peru, Africa and the Indian Himalaya, including the first ascent of Kharcha-Kund North Ridge.

He climbed Broad Peak as a guide during the first British professional expedition to the summit of an 8000m peak.

Since qualifying as an International Mountain Guide Robin has spent much of his life guiding, teaching and leading climbs and tours throughout the European Alps in summer and winter, with worldwide expeditions or UK based activities at other times. He is a professional and thoughtful guide who loves to share his experience with others who are seeking their own adventures. His strong interest in expedition guiding has seen him lead expeditions to Antarctica, Arctic East Greenland, Svalbard and Iceland as well as to the highest peaks on earth. He has climbed in the Himalaya, Karakoram, South America, Africa and most recently to Kyrgyzstan, and led groups to the summits of Everest and Mount Vinson, and to the South Pole on ski. As well as exploratory mountaineering in East Greenland, Robin has made 4 ski ascents of Gunnbjornsfjeld, the highest peak in the Arctic, the first British ski descent from the summit, and several other first ski descents in Greenland.

Closer to home in the English Lake District Robin continues to enjoy his lifelong passion for traditional British rock climbing, but is a keen mountain sports all-rounder and has recently taken up mountain biking in his spare time. He derives immense satisfaction and pleasure from introducing people to wilderness and mountain areas in a safe and challenging way.

Shona Main – Ship's doctor



Shona is an Emergency, Intensive Care and Expedition Doctor registered in the UK and NZ. Interested in the delivery of medical care in austere environments she's had the privilege of working and travelling in over 40 countries.

Her expeditions have taken her to the mountains, jungle, desert and the seas and she provides cover for multi-day sports events around Europe. In 2014 she led the APEX 4 international altitude research trip. Other voluntary roles have included projects in the Philippines, India, Uganda and at home in youth development in the UK. After embracing the New Zealand lifestyle she's now back in the UK and can be found micro-adventuring with spritely dips at any opportunity.

Other pursuits include being an RYA Day skipper, PADI open water diver, ex-international lacrosse player and basic free-fall parachutist. Experience of Search and Rescue in the Highlands led to her recently completing her mountain leader training and she dabbles in sea kayaking, cycling and climbing along the South Coast. Writer, editor and now Head of Operations at award-winning magazine Adventure Medic, she looks forward to hearing your tales.



Basecamp Antarctica *Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!*

4th December
Day 1 – Embarkation, Ushuaia

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

17:15+/-

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. If you are assigned **Lifeboat 1** you will muster in the Bar and if you are assigned **Lifeboat 2** you will muster in the Restaurant.

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.

18:30

Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for staff introductions, this will be followed by a **Captain's Cocktail**, a toast to the forthcoming voyage.

19:00

Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:15

The Expedition Team welcomes you the Lecture Room on Deck 3 for the **MANDATORY** IAATO and Zodiac briefing. Attendance will be checked.

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!



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

5th December
Day 2 – At Sea

- 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 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 Adam in the Lecture Room for the **mandatory** kayaking briefing.
- 16:00 Please join Andy and Robin in the Lecture Room for the **mandatory** mountaineering briefing.
- 18:00 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.
- 18:30 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 20:00 Please join the camping guides, Matt and Bjarni in the Lecture Room for the **mandatory** camping briefing.

Please note that we will be checking attendance to all the mandatory activity briefings, if you do not attend, you will not be able to participate in the activity. Unfortunately, we cannot make any exceptions to this rule.

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.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

6th December

Day 3 – Approaching Antarctica

- 07:45 Wake-up call
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 10:00 Ben invites you to the Bar for a presentation about the History of Mapping and Navigation.
- 11:15 Juan invites you to join him in the Lecture Room for a presentation about Photography in the Polar Regions.
- 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 IATTO Biosecurity**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots 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 ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to the Bar for her presentation about Penguins.
- 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.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

7th December

Day 4 – Orne Harbour and Cuverville Island

- 06:00 Wake-up call
- 06:30-07:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 07:00 We hope to take the **Technical Mountaineering Group 1** ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6.
- 07:30 Please could **Kayak Group 1** meet Adam in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 07:30+/- We hope to take all other guests ashore to Orne Harbour for a Continental landing, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 13:30 We hope to take the **Basic Mountaineering Group 1** ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6.
- 14:00 Please could **Kayak Group 2** meet Adam in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 14:00+/- We hope to take all other guests ashore to Cuverville Island, please be ready at the gangway.
- All timings are subject to change 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.
- Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 1** ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

8th December

Day 5 – Gerlache Strait, Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 06:00+/- | We will pick up the campers. |
| 07:00 | Wake-up call. |
| 07:30-08:30 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| | <p>During the first part of the morning, we will be transiting the Gerlache Strait, which is considered a very productive area for whales, so we encourage you to join the expedition team on the outside decks to help look for them.</p> |
| 09:00 | Felicity invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Whales of the Southern Ocean. |
| | <p>Before lunch we will transit down the Lemaire Channel, nicknamed Kodiak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photographic parts of the Antarctica Peninsula.</p> |
| 10:00 | Those guests kayaking or mountaineering in the afternoon, please meet your activity guides at the Heli hanger on Deck 6. |
| 12:00-13:00 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 13:00 | We hope to take the Glacial Trekking Group 1 ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft. |
| 13:15 | Please could Kayak Group 3 meet Adam in the Bar on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any equipment you wish to take with you. |
| 13:15+/- | We hope to take all other guests ashore to Port Charcot. |
| 18:00 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! |
| 18:30 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |

Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 2** ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

9th December

Day 6 – Paradise Harbour, Base Brown and Neko Harbour

- 06:30 Wake-up call.
- 06:30 We hope to take the **Basic Mountaineering Group 2** ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft. There will be a light breakfast available for you in the Bar for you from 6:00.
- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:00 Please could **Kayak Group 4** meet Adam in the Bar on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any equipment you wish to take with you.
- 08:15+/- We hope to take all other guests ashore at Base Brown for a Continental Landing.
- 11:30 Bjarni invites you to the bar for his presentation about the Belgica Expedition, The First Explores to Map the Gerlache Strait - A Tale of Ambition and Insanity.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 14:15 We hope to take the **Glacial Trekking Group 3** ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft.
- 14:45 Please could **Kayak Group 5** meet Adam in the Bar on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any equipment you wish to take with you.
- 14:45+/- We hope to take all other guests ashore at Neko Harbour.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

10th December

Day 7 – Orne Islands and Danco Island

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|-------------|--|
| 06:00+/- | We will pick up the campers. |
| 06:30 | Wake-up call. |
| 07:00-08:00 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 07:30 | We hope to take the Glacial Trekking Group 4 ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft. |
| 08:00 | Please could Kayak Group 6 meet Adam in the Bar on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any equipment you wish to take with you. |
| 08:15+/- | We hope to take all other guests ashore at Orne Islands. |
| 12:00-13:00 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 13:15 | We hope to take the Ice Climbing Group ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft. |
| 13:15 | Please could Kayak Group 7 meet Adam in the Bar on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any equipment you wish to take with you. |
| 13:30+/- | We hope to take all other guests ashore at Danco Island. |
| 18:30 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served. |



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

11th December

Day 8 – Damoy Point and Flanders Bay

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 04:00 | We hope to take the Technical Mountaineering Group ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft. There will be a light breakfast available for you in the Bar for you from 3:30. |
| 05:30+/- | We will pick up the campers. |
| 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 all other guests ashore at Damoy Point. |
| 12:00-13:00 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 13:30 | Juan invites you to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Photo Editing. |

During the afternoon we will cruise into the uncharted Flanders Bay, where our Captain and bridge officers hope to take depth measurements. During the afternoon, we hope to offer you a Zodiac cruise, during which you will have the chance to see how a portable Olex works, which is a unique system for navigation and charting, that calculates a sea floor map using data from GPS and echosounder. Timings for this cruise will be dependent on the ships navigational progress, so please listen for announcements.

We will offer this cruise in two groups:-

Group 1- Cabins 339 to 448

Group 2 Cabins 449 to 529

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| 18:30 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served. |



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

12th December

Day 9 – Foyn Harbour and Portal point

- 07:00 Wake-up call.
- 07:00 We hope to take the **Glacial Trekking Group** ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft. There will be a light breakfast available for you in the Bar for you from 6:30.
- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 08:30+/- We invite you to join a Zodiac cruise at the picturesque Foyn Harbour.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 12:45 We hope to take the **Glacial Trekking Group** ashore, please be fully dressed, with your appropriate boots, at the Heli hanger on Deck 6 aft.
- 13:30+/- We hope to take you ashore for a continental landing at Portal Point.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

13th December

Day 10 - Deception Island and Half Moon Island

- 05:30 Wake-up call.
- 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.
- 06:00-07:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 06:45+/- 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.
- 11:00 Please join Juan in the Lecture Room on Deck 3 for his presentation on Photo Editing.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
- 15:00+/- We hope to take you ashore at Half Moon Island.
- 18:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

14th December
Day 11 – Day at Sea

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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 | Join Bjarni in the Bar for a presentation about The Discovery of the Shetland Islands and the Commercial History of Deception Island. |
| 11:00 | Join Felicity in the Bar for her lecture 'Licence to Krill -Threats to Marine Life'. |
| 12:15 | Before lunch 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. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4 |
| 14:00 | Join Andy in the Bar for a presentation on Avalanche and Rescue. |
| 16:15 | Join Bill in the bar for a lecture about the M/V Ortelius, a behind the scenes look at the engine room and galley. |
| 18:15 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! |
| 19:00 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

15th December
Day 12 – Day at Sea

- 07:30 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 09:30 Join Adam in the Bar for a presentation on Antarctic Station Life.
- 11:30 Join the expedition staff in the Bar for a presentation about Antarctic Impacts and Threats and Citizen Science Projects you can get involved in.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 16:15 There will be a Pub Style Quiz up in the Bar (fun trivia 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.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

16th December
Day 13 – 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.