



Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctic Peninsula

16 December, 2022 – 4th January, 2023

On board *m/v Ortelius*



M/V *Ortelius* was named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was 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 43

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:	Albert Don	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Ivan Ivanovic	[Serbia]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Philippines]
Ship's Physician:	Jonathan Kliman	[Austria]
Bosuns:	Philip Malang	[Philippines]
	& Eniano Agarin	[Philippines]

Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	[U.K.]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	Hazel Pittwood	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide	Bjarni Ólafsson	[Iceland]
Expedition Guide:	Felicity Johnson	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Elizabeth Robinson	[U.S.]

Welcome you onboard!

Day 1 - December 16th 2022, Embarkation day, Ushuaia

08h00 GPS position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: NW 6 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temperature: +16°C



Midday struck and the first load of luggage and provisions pulled up alongside our vessel. As the crew and expedition team worked together to load the many suitcases and provisions on board, it was soon time to welcome everyone else on M/V Ortelius! As the first bus load arrived, we could feel the excitement in the air, only a few hours away from beginning our epic adventure to the Falklands, South Georgia, South Shetland Islands and of course, the Antarctic Peninsula! By late afternoon, we had

welcomed everyone on board, many different nationalities, backgrounds, and ages. Once everyone was checked in, assigned a cabin, and introduced themselves to their new cabin mate (that they would be great friends within a matter of days), it was time for the mandatory safety drills.

We all gathered in the lecture room, located in the bow of the ship. As we were still alongside the dock, this was no problem, but perhaps later in our voyage, guests will realise why that room is nicknamed the “vomitorium”. After we all watched the safety video, practiced donning a lifejacket at our allocated muster stations, and checked out the lifeboats we were introduced to our Chief Officer Sven. Sven introduced several safety protocols and other important information. Whilst this was going on, Ortelius untied from



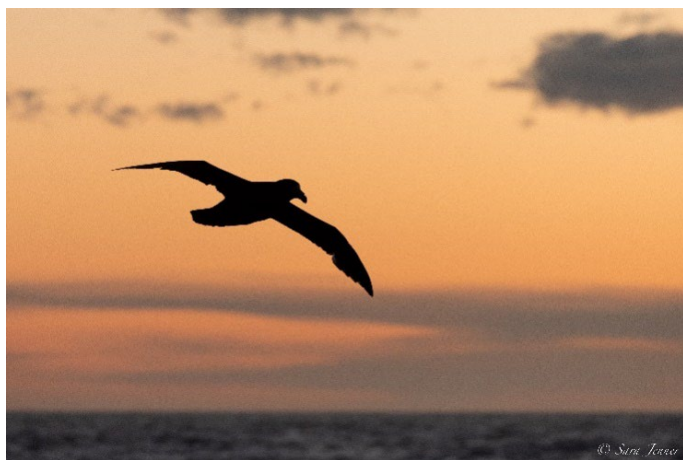
the dock and started making her way down the Beagle Channel, through the calm, sheltered waters. Finally, it was time for Captain's Cocktails up in the bar. This is an opportunity for all guests to enjoy a glass of bubbles or juice and put a face to the name of the Captain, Chief Officer, Hotel Manager, Chief Engineer, and Expedition Leader. After clinking our glasses together and wishing well for the voyage, the expedition team went round and introduced themselves.

This was followed by an excellent buffet dinner, served by the wonderful hotel crew that we would all get to know and love very soon! After dinner, it was brilliant to see so many guests scattered around the outside decks looking for their first albatross, whales and penguins. It was a beautiful evening sky, with the sun seeping through cracks in the cloud. As we transited down the Beagle Channel, we were escorted by many black-browed albatross, giant petrels, skuas and cormorants. As the light drew in, many resided to the bar and continued their introductions and excited chatter about the upcoming days.

Day 2 - December 17th 2022, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 53°22.7'S / 63°21.3'W

Wind: NW 7 • Sea State: Light swell • Weather: Clear skies • Air Temperature: +10 °C



Our first full day on board was spent at sea travelling from Ushuaia towards the Falkland Islands. A few eager guests were up and out on the open forward decks with their binoculars looking out for wildlife long before the wake-up call from expedition leader Sara, at 7:45am. Birding highlights prior to breakfast were **Black-browed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Sooty shearwater, Great shearwater** and even a **Wandering Albatross** (which has the largest wingspan of

any living bird at approximately 11ft in length). At 11:00 expedition guide Hazel gave her lecture 'Winged Wonders', giving us an introduction to the albatross we were most likely to see during our trip, and tips on how to identify them. Afterwards we spent some time out on deck looking for these amazing birds, putting the tips we had learned to good use in identifying the species. Then it was time for lunch, so we headed indoors to enjoy the dining pleasures of the buffet.

Following lunch, we were required to attend the mandatory zodiac safety briefing. Unfortunately, some of us were feeling slightly under the weather due to the motion of the ocean, but we persevered, knowing it was mandatory to ensure safe zodiac operations for going ashore and cruising throughout our trip. Later that afternoon, expedition guide Jess presented her talk entitled 'Cetaceans of the Southern Ocean', during which she told us about the whales, dolphins

and porpoises we could encounter on this voyage. This talk was perfectly timed to coincide with the arrival of afternoon tea, so we all enjoyed a slice of delicious cake with our coffee or tea whilst learning about these amazing animals. After a bit more time out on deck the announcement was made for us to attend recap. We made our way to the bar to learn about the weather and plans for the next day, when we would arrive in the Falkland

Islands! At dinner we chatted excitedly with our fellow guests and the expedition team regarding what tomorrow would bring.



Day 3 - December 18th 2022, West Point & Carcass Island, Falklands

08h00 GPS position: 51°20.93'S / 60°40.49'W

Wind: NW 3 • Sea State: Calm • Weather: Bright Sunshine • Air Temperature: +14°C

What a day...what a truly fantastic day. Everyone was up early to see Ortelius sail through the narrow confine and rapid tidal flow of the 'cut', shortly followed by breakfast and then zodiac boarding for the short trip to the jetty on West Point Island. The settlement sits on the edge of a small harbour between Black Hog Hill and Michael's Mount. It is home to a historic small stone hut, the only remnant of the sealing era in the mid 1800's.



We were met by the custodians of the island who arrived in two battered Land Rover vehicles and after they had introduced themselves, offered lifts for any passengers who did not want to walk. Those who hiked, found themselves in the astonishing and welcome position of encountering and ticking off most of the endemic species within the first few hundred yards. The rutted grass track led to a steep hill side festooned with dense clumps of tussock grass cascading down to the dramatic shoreline. A powerful

swell pulsed breaking waves across the rocks far below. We followed the narrow path through the towering undergrowth and arrived at the edge of a massive albatross colony.

Birds of every size and description proved to be a highlight for everyone. The **Black-browed Albatross** sitting on their beautifully constructed solid nest towers attentively feeding and proudly preening their young, whilst some were still incubating their eggs. Around them, comical looking diminutive **Rockhopper Penguins** did the same. The area was a photographer's delight. After the return along the track back to the settlement, a highlight for us all was the visit to the house to sample refreshments laid on by our island hosts. Welcome coffee or tea and an invitation to tuck into the tempting feast of freshly baked cakes laid out invitingly on the table. It was all deliciously decadent!



Zodiacs then whisked everyone back to our vessel *Ortleius*. Over lunch, we repositioned a relatively short distance to Carcass Island and lay off an extensive area of kelp marked shallows in Port Pattison Bay, adjacent to the tree lined settlement. Passengers were transported by zodiac to land at Dyke Bay, then walked a short distance through the tussac grass, taking care not to stumble into the burrows of **Magellanic Penguins** who inhabited the area. We headed southeast to explore the stunning dune lined Leopard Beach.



Various passerines were spotted...**Cobb's Wren, White-brindled Finch, Pipit, Sedge Wren, Long-tailed Meadowlark** and so on. We all walked the two miles back through **Diddle-dee, Berry Lobelia, Balsam Bog and Sheep's Sorrel** to investigate the even lushier undergrowth at the settlement. **Monterey Cypress** trees provided an effective wind break for a delightful garden of assorted beautiful shrubs and a large variety

of flowers. **Striated Caracaras** swooped overhead and strutted in the grass behind the settlement. The track to the jetty was lined with the tangled root systems of long-established **European Gorse** bushes. Everywhere we went cameras clicked steadily.

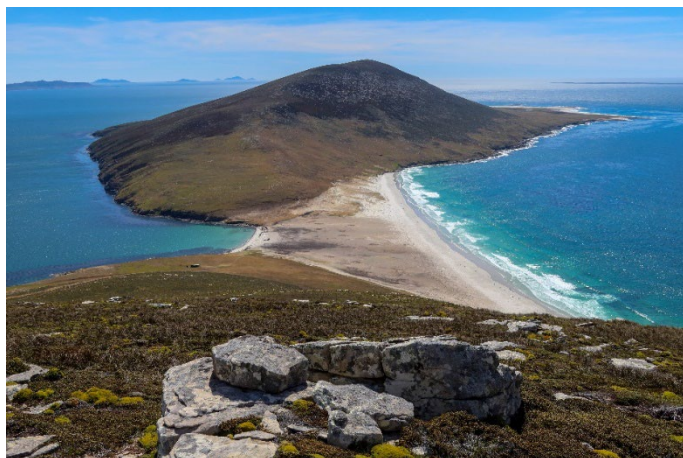
What a day - this lived up to Bill's Oceanwide Expeditions promise. Endless adventures – 'Looking, Seeing, Thinking, Doing' - in the most magnificent surrounding, such fun!

Day 4 - December 19th 2022, Saunders Island, Falklands

08h00 GPS position: 51°18.9'S / 60°15.0'W

Wind: NW 5 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Sunshine • Air Temperature: +11°C

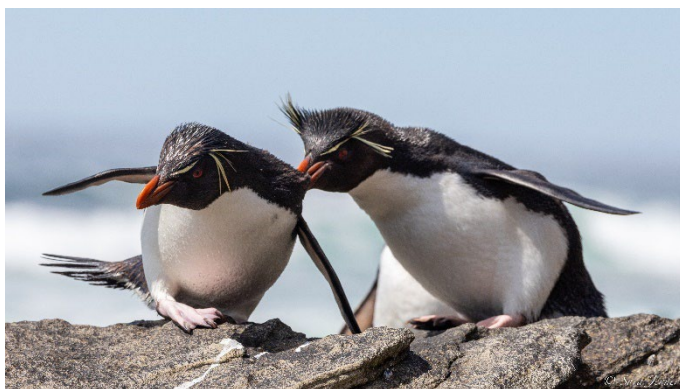
After a very successful day in the Falklands yesterday, today did not disappoint either! The weather was once again in our favour, with bright blue skies and a steady breeze. During the previous evening, we sailed from Carcass Island round to Saunders Island. Our landing site for the day was The Neck, a stunning, white sandy beach on Saunders Island. Due to the forecast



predicting winds to pick up mid-afternoon, it was decided in the morning to stay at Saunders for the whole day. This was very exciting, especially for the expedition team as it is a free roam area, meaning we had the whole day to explore however we wanted ... a rare occasion (and treat!) for the team!

Saunders Island is a beautiful location, turquoise waters, white sand beaches and home to a wide variety of wildlife. Before we had even left the ship, we were joined by several **Commerson's Dolphins**, the local black and white sea pandas! Once ashore, we were greeted by bathing **Gentoo Penguins**, **King Penguin** chicks and happy **Magellanic Penguins**. Either side of The Neck, were two hills (Mount Richards and Mount Hasten) that we were allowed to hike also. However, the wildlife grabbed almost everyone's attention and so we dispersed. Some strolled just a few hundred metres to the nesting **Gentoo Penguins** and admired the abundance of chicks. Chicks from all stages, some looking just a week or two old and some looking more rotund and getting ready to start their moult! Once past the colonies, the beach opened up and it was a prime opportunity to picture penguins with beautiful, blue breaking waves as a backdrop.

It didn't stop there though! At either end of the beach were colonies of **Black-browed Albatross**, **Rockhopper Penguins** and **Falkland Island Cormorants**. There was a trail leading up and along the side of Mount Richard, passing the nesting cormorants and to the albatross. Awaiting by the colony was Ant, a relative of the owners of the island. Ant was a fountain of knowledge about the island and the local inhabitants. He was equally



delighted to sit and watch the albatross as he said because the wind was just the right direction and speed, it was perfect soaring conditions for the graceful birds. Therefore occasionally, you would hear a big whooshing noise pass right above your head and then see the giants fly by just metres away! Meanwhile down below, the **Rockhopper Penguins** were living up to their name and with each incoming wave, leaping onto the rocks and then hopping up to their nests to feed their new chicks.



After lunch, we all returned to The Neck for the afternoon, exploring a different corner of the area, hiking one of the peaks or trying to get an iconic photo of the local sheep and penguin in the same frame. Saunders Island truly is a magical place, a haven for wildlife and a real treat and privilege for all on board Ortelius to spend a whole day onshore.

The wind did pick up as forecast and so the return to ship was slightly wetter than the morning journey, however all returned safely to Ortelius and were greeted with yet another delicious, three-course dinner.

Day 5 - December 20th 2022, Stanley, Falklands & at sea

08h00 GPS position: 51°41.3'S / 57°51.1'W

Wind: NW 7 • Sea State: Rough • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: +14°C

After leaving the idyllic Saunder's Island late afternoon, we headed east through the night towards our next port-of-call, Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Early morning on the 20th we sighted the town, slightly hidden by the rolling landscape but looking fine in the lovely, bright conditions, passing by a selection of small islands covered in the tussock grass. These islands once enveloped large parts of mainland Falkland before being cleared for farming – as we have seen these remnants are so important for the native wildlife and we can only imagine the legions of **Cobb's Wrens** that once swarmed across the landscape.



A brisk 25 knot breeze greeted us as we anchored off the town but undeterred, we, the brave, undaunted expedition souls made the zodiac crossing to Stanley, overseen by a boisterous gang of **South American Sea Lions** on the landing pontoons. Once onshore, we stripped out of our waterproofs to explore this fascinating place, which was an excellent change-of-pace after a penguin-packed previous few days.



The local museum was naturally a highlight for many, casting insights into the oft-turbulent history of these beautiful islands, giving all of us a new and sometimes emotional perspective of life down here, in a remote corner of the Southern Ocean. As the group wandered around town, many comparisons with familiar places were made, with the area uniquely British in many aspects but with the occasional jarring image, reminding you where you are; you could be

strolling between the gift shops and the cathedral perhaps fooling yourself you are in Scotland but then a **Giant Petrel** or **Turkey Vulture** cruises past or a war memorial brings you back to this amazing location.

During our time ashore, the wind picked up noticeably, giving us all the prospect of a very wet zodiac ride back to Ortelius at midday but we all took the salt-spray in our strides, some even enjoying the expedition feel to the conditions. Once back on board we tucked into another fine lunch as the ship slowly left the Falklands and headed south-east towards the potential highlight of the trip – South Georgia!

The decks were busy in the afternoon, full of camera and binocular wielding passengers and staff, as we were treated to a fine array of avian ship-followers; a good number of the fantastically erratic flying **Soft-plumaged Petrels** were picked out in amongst **Sooty Shearwaters**, **White-**



chinned Petrels and **Great Shearwaters** but it wasn't long before the first 'great' albatrosses made their graceful appearances. First came this immature **Wandering Albatross**, still sporting some brown plumage. Shortly followed by **Southern Royal Albatrosses** sliding effortlessly across the waves and towards the evening the shout of **Wandering Albatross** went up as the first of these wondrous behemoths sailed into view.

Day 6 - December 21st 2022, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 52°22.8'S / 51°39.6'W

Wind: N 5 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +9°C

After an amazing and action-packed three-day visit to the Falkland Islands with lots of walking and bird watching, a full day at sea gave us an opportunity to rest our legs and start preparing for our visit to South Georgia.

In the morning, expedition guide Bill presented a talk all about our vessel Ortelius; the work that goes on behind the scenes, below the deck, in the galley and how Ortelius compares to her sister ships Hondius and Plancius.



Expedition guide Hazel then gave a *krilliant* lecture all about... you guessed it... Krill. Krill is the incredible cornerstone species that support almost the entire Antarctica food web. All the seals, penguins, whales and seabirds we are observing, all eat krill! Hazel did a wonderful job of enthusing us about these (not so little) creatures and guests were particularly interested to hear about Alan, the captive krill who lived for 10 years!

After a delicious pizza buffet lunch, the expedition team awaited guests in the lecture room to begin our essential biosecurity before reaching South Georgia, an island that has historically suffered from the introduction of non-native species. We spent a while vacuuming coat pockets, picking out tiny seeds and bits of dirt from our velcro sleeves. However, all this hard work will pay off as it means we can safely visit and enjoy the unbelievable scenery, wildlife, and history of South Georgia. After the preliminary round of biosecurity was complete, alongside the arrival of the afternoon cake delivery, expedition leader Sara gave us a lecture all about the lives of the endearing penguin species that we have seen and will see on our journey.

Throughout the day, both guests and the expedition team were up on the bridge looking out for wildlife and outside on the open decks. All day we were treated to breath taking views of bird species such as the enormous **Wandering Albatross** and the **Southern Royal Albatross**.



Day 7 - December 22nd 2022, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 53°17.5'S / 43°49.6'W

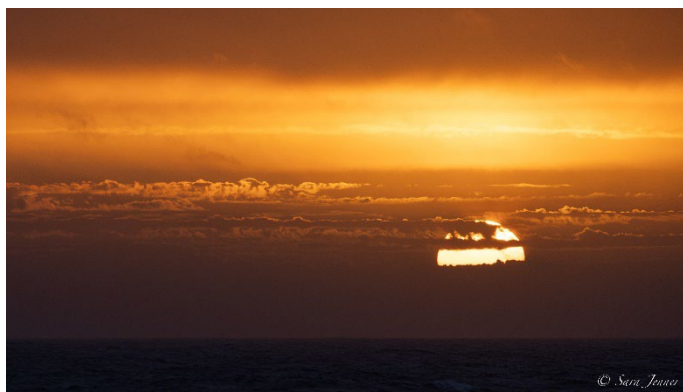
Wind: NW 3 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: +6°C

Another fantastic day at sea onboard M/V Ortelius. The day was filled with lectures, wildlife watches and importantly, time to rest and recharge as we prepare to land on South Georgia the following day. The morning started off with a Q & A session lead by Allison Keen, Visitor Manager for the South Georgia Government office. Allison explained how the island is managed and answered many questions such as how the area gets supplies and the rat eradication programme.

Next on the lecture schedule was Sara, who gave a fantastic lecture about one of her favourite hobbies - photography. Sara explained she has photographed many species all over the world and has an eye for the perfect shot. Whether guests use an iPhone or a DSLR, this lecture gave tips and tricks on how to improve your photography in Antarctica.

In the afternoon, the Expedition Team took charge of a big project: biosecurity. South Georgia is a beautiful place, and we are grateful for the opportunity to visit. But with that, comes great responsibility. Biosecurity on South Georgia is important to maintain high biodiversity and low invasive species, hence the thorough mandatory biosecurity measures and inspections.

The last of the lecture series for the day was Elizabeth, talking about Right Whales and the whaling history of this area. All three species of right whales globally were hunted to near extinction during the historic whaling times. South Georgia and the Falkland Islands were whaling hubs during the commercial whaling era, with many people exploiting the marine mammals and sending oil back to their home countries. Elizabeth introduced how cetacean conservation works and how we know if a species is 'endangered' or 'extinct'.



After an informative recap was presented by our brilliant leader and a delicious dinner was served in the dining room, it was time to get into the festive spirit onboard Ortelius. The

expedition team hosted a movie night in the lecture room, showing a screening of the American Christmas comedy, Elf! A big thank you to the galley staff for the popcorn too. The room was full of laughter, and we are all happy that Buddy found his dad and the Christmas spirit again!

Day 8 - December 23rd 2022, Stromness & Grytviken, South Georgia

08h00 GPS position: 54°09.55'S / 36°41.8'W

Wind: NW 3 • Sea State: Calm • Weather: Sunshine • Air Temperature: +6°C



Wakeup call was at 06:00, but there were no regrets as we ventured outside to view the stunning mountain landscape of South Georgia. Calm seas, warm temperature, and brilliant sunshine provided a superb bonus. Passengers lined the rails and clustered on the promenade deck snapping happily as Ortelius motored steadily along the coast. Several whales were spotted some distance to seaward,

and excitement mounted as we swung into the enormous bay leading to our morning destination, Stromness Harbour. Soon the rusty ruins of the whaling station swung into view. The incongruous juxtaposition of such a mass of twisted, skeletal metal and massive oil storage tanks, with such a magnificent backdrop. Snow-caped peaks soared in the distance and rocks cascaded in frozen rivulets of scree down the mountains surrounding the bay. It was beautiful.

Zodiacs were deployed. The staff established a guest roaming area with a strict perimeter set with marker poles to keep passengers away from the denser groups of **Antarctic Fur Seals** and their yelping screaming pups. Hardier souls opted for a long walk up to the Shackleton's waterfall at the back of the glacial plain. Easy walking and everyone enjoyed just lounging in the landscape adjacent to rapidly flowing stream. The waterfall was just a trickle of water, but the location was delightful.



Once back onboard, we had another mandatory biosecurity inspection in the lecture room. Equipment and clothing were inspected and hoovered clean in minute detail followed by lunch at 12:30.

At 14:00 we all were inspected by a young government official prior to our landing at Grytviken. We all faced the deck rail hands on the top and alternately raised each muck boot. He crouched like a black clad farrier inspecting horses' hooves. Eventually clean we boarded zodiacs and



were landed in front of the white painted whaling station Museum. We were again given instructions not to venture inside any of the old rusty buildings, not to put our bags or ourselves on the ground and lastly but rather importantly to watch out for seals as they lay everywhere one looked. We were told that we could roam freely which was great, and visit the church, museum, post office and gallery. The highlight for many was the actual size model of the 'James Caird', which really gave perspective to Shackleton's epic sea voyage in these ice dotted seas.

Late afternoon, we met at the neatly laid out white stone graveyard containing the bodies of many of the whalers who died at Grytviken and one Argentinians submariner killed accidentally during the period of the Falkland Conflict.

The most imposing headstone however was to Shackleton himself and slightly to one side, a square tablet inscribed with the name of Wilde, his impressive second in command who maintained the spirits and health of those marooned at Point Wilde on Elephant Island. Bill made a short speech about both then proposed a toast to the 'Boss'.

At the start of recap Bill took the microphone and made another sensitive short speech. This time he presented Sara with a beautiful tartan scarf and read from the accompanying card; "Sara your team and passengers think you are great!". This was met with a resounding loud cheer and clapping from the enthusiastic audience.

Day 9 - December 24th 2022, St. Andrews & Jason Harbour, South Georgia

08h00 GPS position: 54°26.9'S / 36°10.1'W

Wind: N 3 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: +8°C

If some on the ship ever wanted to feel like they were in the middle of a David Attenborough documentary, then this was their lucky day! It was time to visit St. Andrews Bay, one of the undisputed highlights of South Georgia. A huge beach filled to the brim with **King Penguin, Elephant Seals and Antarctic Fur Seals**. The weather was even better than the forecast had predicted, and the beach itself was quite accessible making zodiac operations straight forward.



As soon as we stepped on to the beach, many of us were quite overwhelmed by the sensory overload which comes with the wildlife of St. Andrews Bay. There were animals littered almost everywhere across the waterfront making a myriad of sounds. **King Penguins** would call out to each other and make calls in the water as they slapped their wings against the surface. **Antarctic Fur Seals** watched us and belched at our presence on their real estate. Even the young **Antarctic Fur Seals**

would flex their vocal cords if we came to close. The **Elephant Seals** grunted out to each other as they sized each other up and we could often hear a panicked cry when a young **Elephant Seal** would get squashed by a larger one. Even our sense of smell even got in on the action as the smell of penguin guano filled the air.

It was truly a wild place, safe for a small little white hut 500 meters away from the beach mostly used by scientists when the penguin population is being surveyed. One of our expedition guides, Adam, stayed in this cabin for a week during his overwintering in South Georgia, before becoming an expedition guide.

The guides had marked a route to one of the glacial meltwater rivers that split up the beach into different sections. To get there, we had to cross a small creek with the assistance of the Chief Officer and the guides. Close to the river, there was a great viewpoint where one could see a large part of the beach along with the glaciers in the distance. When it was time to head back, our expedition team offered a zodiac cruise along St. Andrews beach. An ocean view of 150,000 breeding pairs of **King Penguins** was just spectacular. Some of us were lucky enough to spot a **Leopard Seal** with a dead penguin in its mouth on the way to the ship.



As for our afternoon activity, we headed towards Jason Harbor. A beautiful, sheltered cove, mostly inhabited by **Antarctic Fur Seals** and a couple of young **Elephant Seals**. Conditions were calm and sunny. In Jason Harbour we could see a hut there built in the early 1900s by Norwegian whaler pioneer and explorer Captain Larsen. The hut was built by Larsen not because the bay was particularly useful to his whaling enterprise, but it was an effort to exploit a bureaucratic loophole regarding licenses for whaling. Back in the day the British officials gave out licenses for whaling based on the extent on the activity a certain company had in South Georgia, it was thus useful for someone like Larsen to extent his presence to the then

uninhabited bay of Jason Harbour. The area did not lend itself for a whaling station like the one in Grytviken, so a small hut had to do to prove that Captain Larsen's company indeed had a "presence" in the bay and could thus increase their whale catches.

We returned to the ship to have our usual recap with the team and then drifted off to sleep, with the calls of penguins and the grunts of seals echoing in our heads.



Day 10 - December 25th 2022, Fortuna Bay & Hercules Bay, South Georgia

08h00 GPS position: 54°08.8'S / 36°48.5'W

Wind: NW 2 • Sea State: Calm • Weather: Partly cloudy, sunny • Air Temperature: +9°C

Christmas Day dawned with the traditional early morning false alarm on the ship's tonoi system and whilst nothing was wrong, it succeeded in drawing many folks out of bed a bit earlier than expected to enjoy another incredibly beautiful morning as we neared our intended landing site of the wondrous Fortuna Bay. What awaited us was a lovely, calm, wide bay full of the clamour and bustling activity of another busy **King Penguin** and **Antarctic Fur Seal** breeding colony, a leisurely start saw disembarkation begin after 07:30 for a Christmas Day lie-in.



The marked path across the flat, stony plain with a few small streams to cross, was full of wildlife including the now familiar gamut of aggressive fur seals and **Southern Elephant Seals** along the way, where the heroic staff members risked life and limb to protect the seals from the hordes of expedition passengers...or maybe the other way around, you decide! Visual treats included small pools of water where gangs of fearsome, noisy fur seal pups frolicked and splashed about as they waited for their next milk delivery. Several pairs of magnificent **Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses** cruised effortlessly along the hillside – undoubtedly one of finest looking albatross species you'll ever see!

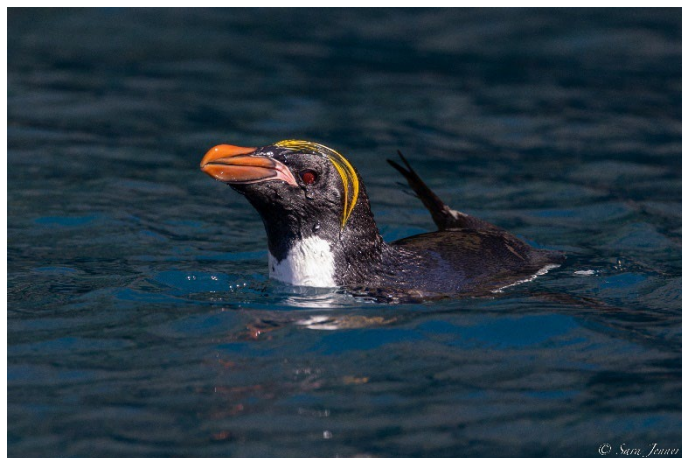
The highlight though, was upon a little rise which overlooked the main **King Penguin** breeding colony. With yesterday's slight hiccup in the river at St. Andrews Bay flowing too high and quickly for us to cross, it was an awesome moment to finally be so close to such a huge concentration of breeding **King Penguins**. The noise, smell, and spectacle of the packed plain in front of us will stay in the memory for a long, long time. After the sight had sunk in, everyone began picking out little details and behaviours including incubating adults, still brown, fluffy chicks from last season. We also had older scruffy 'teenagers' wandering around waiting to moult out of their fluff so they can finally go to sea. Meanwhile, positively spherical adults were returning from the sea, literally bursting with krill, ready for depositing inside a hungry chick.



A slight delay in the start of the afternoon's zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay failed to dampen anyone's Christmas spirit as we were treated to some wonderful folded and twisted rock formations in this stunning little bay, which housed pretty much everything we could imagine – a miniature South Georgia all in one spot! The highlight though were the brilliant views of the **Macaroni Penguin** colony and haul-out rocks along the cliffs, as they leapt in and out of the water, squabbled with each other,

fed chicks and shouted to the heavens, just like any other penguin colony, except they were halfway up a sea-cliff!

As we tucked into our well-deserved Christmas dinner, you would have been forgiven in thinking that was it for the most wonderful of festive days but no! Just before dusk, the announcement went up: "Whales at twelve o'clock from the ship!". Soon enough we were alongside a small pod of humpbacks as they surfaced and fluked just metres from the ship in front of a very appreciative crowd, whilst clouds of prions and storm petrels swirled around, as the sun dropped behind the dramatic South Georgian seascape.



Day 11 - December 26th 2022, Gold Harbour & Drygalski Fjord

08h00 GPS position: 54°37.5'S / 35°55.1'W

Wind: N 8 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Overcast and rain • Air Temperature: +3°C

After a special Christmas day, we got up very early on boxing day to squeeze in one more landing in South Georgia. We set off to land on Gold Harbour, an amazing beach with a backdrop of mountains and glaciers. We found the beach covered in **Elephant Seals** and **King Penguins**. Despite the icy wind, rain, and hail stones, it was a spectacular small landing site with so much animal behaviour to watch including fighting **Elephant Seals**, wieners (elephant seal pups) charming us with their huge eyes, and scavengers like **Snowy Sheathbills**, **Giant Petrels**, and **Brown Skuas** taking advantage of the unlucky penguin chicks that didn't make it.



Elephant Seals are one of the deepest diving marine mammals in the world and can dive to depths of approximately 2000 meters. Those big, adorable eyes serve an important purpose when diving at those depths, allowing in light so they can see bioluminescence to help them find their prey.

We then set sail to Drygalski Fjord and cruised past the beautiful scenery, watching glaciers, waterfalls, and rock formations that have been here long before us.



In the afternoon after some much-needed rest for everyone, expedition guide Jess gave a talk all about the evolution of whales and their different adaptations to life at sea.

A bumpy sea leaving South Georgia sent most people off for an early night after dinner, catching up on sleep after a truly magical four days on the very special island of South Georgia.

Day 12 - December 27th 2022, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 58°02.9'S / 37°03.8'W

Wind: N6 • Sea State: Rough • Weather: Overcast and sleet • Air Temperature: +9°C

Yet another fantastic day on board M/V Ortelius! After a leisurely morning with a 07:45 wake-up call from our expedition leader, Sara, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet in the restaurant and prepared for a day at sea. Sea days can be a bit of down time for everyone on board, a time

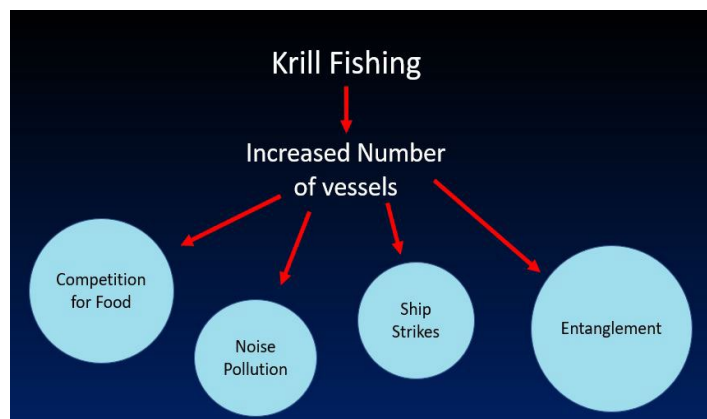


to rest and relax before the next landing. However, the expedition team brings onboard a wealth of knowledge to share with the guests about the wildlife and history of this area we are exploring. The first of the lectures was given by Bill, who provided information regarding ice in Antarctica and showed a few videos about why we need to be diligent around ice. Bill's lecture helped guests understand the beauty of ice and icebergs, but also taught them to respect nature and always be 'looking, seeing, thinking'.

Next up was Elizabeth who lectured about **Humpback Whales**, the charismatic ocean traveler. She presented information about Humpbacks on a global scale and then provided more in-depth information about the populations that migrate along our voyage route. One main take away from the lecture is that Humpbacks must eat about 1.5 tons of krill everyday which is the equivalent of us eating 17 cookies every minute for 24 hours! Assistant expedition leader Adam said he is up for the challenge!

After a delicious lunch, guests were welcomed to the bridge and the outside decks for wildlife watch. The weather and sea state were in our favour, and we had some notable whale and bird sightings. The expedition staff are always keen to keep the wildlife list up to date and as we head further South, there's always a chance of spotting new species! Biosecurity measures for IAATO also took place in the afternoon. All staff and guests onboard wanted to ensure we were not transporting anything in our outdoor gear from South Georgia to South Orkney and the Peninsula. A very important measure to be taken for the sake of these pristine places.

In the afternoon, Felicity gave a wonderfully attended lecture about the threats to marine



life and the harsh reality marine wildlife are facing in the 21st century. There are many threats such as climate change, fishing gear entanglement, and plastic pollution, which are hindering recovery and effective conservation efforts for wildlife around the world. This is an important topic to increase awareness about how we can become better stewards for this planet.

Our sea day was wrapped up by the expedition staff presenting the plans for tomorrow which was our landing in South Orkney Islands!

Day 13 - December 28th 2022, at sea & Shingles Cove, South Orkney Islands

08h00 GPS position: 60°27.25'S / 44°38.9'W

Wind: SW3 • Sea State: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: -1°C

Today the 'early birds' amongst the passengers, before breakfast, noticed a huge difference in temperature as they emerged on deck as we headed steadily south. The sea state was not very violent, but the wind was fresh to strong and had a bitterly cold damp edge to it, which cut right through even the best clothing. Gloves and scarves were much in evidence unlike our previous 'jackets off' days when we enjoyed sunshine weather. Cameras clicked incessantly as their owners attempted to capture the convoluted jagged dramatic skyline of the South Orkneys.

First event of the day was at 09:30, a lecture by Adam on 'Supporting Antarctic Science'. This was an interesting account of the scientific role of Rothera and King Edward Point Antarctic research stations. Adam had worked for several seasons in the south and had a wealth of superb photographs to illustrate his talk. His description of the severity of the storms experienced, underlined the seriousness of the extreme weather experienced in the south.



As Ortelius approached the rugged inhospitable looking landscape of the South Orkneys, the deck was lined with well wrapped up passengers fascinated by the convoluted shapes of many icebergs in the sea and enjoying the wildlife.

We made great progress through the ice dotted sea towards Shingle Cove, our afternoon destination. This was a small bay

offering a landing opportunity on a boulder fringed beach, adjacent to a large glacier. The location was dramatic as the fractured mountains rose sheer.

Behind the bay, in the distance, huge, grounded bergs dominated the seaward skyline and provided a splendid atmospheric photo opportunity, one minute sparkling in the sunlight, then

Day 14 - December 29th 2022, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 62°04.9'S / 49°53.8'W

Wind: NE5 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Sunshine • Air Temperature: +1°C

We have heard all the tales from Antarctica, both real and imaginative. Soon it would be our turn to visit the most isolated continent on earth. But before we could lay our eyes on this great icy landmass, we first had to endure one more day at sea. During the morning we had several whale sightings, most likely **Humpback and Fin Whales**, which many of us came out on deck to enjoy seeing these great leviathans of the Southern Ocean.



Many of us stayed out on deck throughout the afternoon also to enjoy the sun and the comfortable southern breeze. Meanwhile, the waves ever so gently cradled the ship in its rocky embrace as we confidently motored towards our destination.

Our expedition team gave us the option to attend a variety of lectures throughout the day, providing us with some entertainment and information on a wide variety of topics. First up was Sara, who lectured about 'Women in Antarctica', showcasing how difficult it has been for women to become explorers and scientists in the polar regions, and how much support they provided for the famous Shackleton and Scott. After Sara's lecture, Hazel was up to talk about how man's relationship with whales has varied throughout time, beginning with historic whaling through to modern day whaling and whale watching.

After lunch, Bjarni lectured about the story of the Belgica expedition and during the lecture the Captain launched an exercise based around a drill scenario of the Ortelius colliding with an iceberg while dragging anchor during sudden onset of a katabatic storm. Eventually the captain's voice rang out once more informing us that all was lost, and it was time to abandon the vessel. With that, the crew and staff were ordered to carry out their duties and head to the lifeboats to complete the exercise.



It was difficult to decide which story was more dramatic, the true story of the Belgica forced to overwinter in the ice, or the fake story playing out on Ortelius. Luckily, we

were neither on the Belgica stuck in the ice, or on a “sinking” Ortelius, so everyone could continue to relax with a warm beverage in our hands and listen to the drama scenarios unfolding around us.



Otherwise, the day past without any big events until the evening, when we started to see a lot more tabular ice around the ship, as we approached the southeastern side of Joinville Island. The nautical officer and AB on watch had to stay alert in order to dodge small growlers, and mile-long bergs, which could do some damage if collided with! It was a truly unique experience for those passengers hanging out on the bridge, observing the officers negotiating their way through in the evening light.

Day 15 - December 30th 2022, Hope Point & Kinnes Cove, Antarctica

08h00 GPS position: 63°23.8'S / 57°01.2'W

Wind: S 4 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Partial sun & clouds • Air Temperature: +1°C

As we all ventured out of our beds and made our way on deck, we were treated to our first views of continental Antarctica on another stunning looking morning; soon we were sailing past the famous Argentinian Base Esperanza where the first children to be born on Antarctica made their entrance to the world.

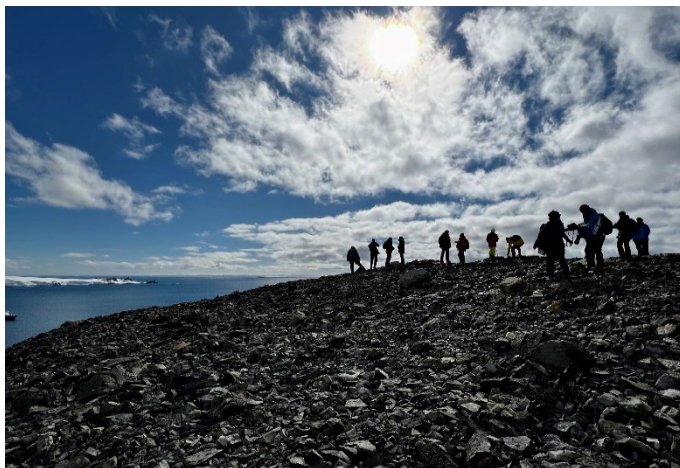


site, watching over their medium sized chicks.

The base stands at the entrance to Hope Bay where we planned to make our first continental landing of the trip, giving many people the chance to set foot on their seventh and final continent. The weather was fine with little wind and light seas allowing us to crack on with Plan A and we were soon making our way to a landing at this busy **Adelie Penguin** colony. **Gentoo Penguins** were the first to welcome us ashore with small groups of nesting birds right by the landing

A little walk up and over the ridge allowed us all to appreciate this huge **Adelie Penguin** colony with thousands of birds producing a wall of sound and smell as they too got down to the chaotic business of raising the next generation of penguins. After getting our fill of this amazing spectacle, a steep climb up to the top of the 190m (it felt much higher!) escarpment above the landing site gave us an incredible view across the bay, over several glaciers and over the colony to the base, just the other side of the hill.

As if these natural wonders weren't enough, we were then treated to the [unnatural] wonder that is the polar plunge, which also proved to be a feast for the senses with the accompanying squeals, yells and screams as the initially willing participants questioned their life choices which brought them to this moment!



The ship made the short hop across the Antarctic Sound while everyone was warming back up and enjoying another fantastic lunch. The expedition staff were soon out in the zodiacs scouting for our next possible landing site; it was impossible to find a suitable landing at this little-visited site but there's always a Plan B, and we were soon making a start on a brilliant zodiac cruise around Kinnes Cove and Madders Cliffs. There was plenty to see through the afternoons cruising, including another packed **Adelie Penguin**



colony on the rocks, some welcome **Chinstrap Penguins** adding variety, both **Weddell and Crabeater Seals** hauled out. There were also some incredible icebergs and perhaps the highlight for many, a fabulous little flock of 25 **Wilson's Petrels** all feeding together in the lee of a particularly beautiful iceberg, giving amazing views as they danced and pattered across the water just metres from the zodiac.

A couple of very close **Humpback Whales** interrupted re-cap before another wonderful dinner, during an impossibly beautiful and calm evening, wrapping up an action-packed and wondrous first day in Antarctica.

Day 16 - December 31st 2022, Paulet Island & Brown Bluff

08h00 GPS position: 63°34.3'S / 55°47.5'W

Wind: NW 8 • Sea State: Rough • Weather: Partly sunny & cloud • Air Temperature: 0°C



This morning, we were woken up bright and early by Sara to get ready for a landing at Paulet Island. It was a chilly morning, but the sun was shining, and we landed at the base of a 200,000 strong, amazing **Adelie Penguin** colony, the largest colony around! This wildlife spectacle was overwhelming. There were thousands of **Adelie Penguins** tending to their fluffy chicks, penguins porpoising at the water's edge, **Brown Skuas** and **Kelp Gulls** stealing eggs and chicks, and a huge colony of nesting **Blue-eyed**

Cormorants. Mid-way through the morning, we were treated to a **Leopard Seal** patrolling the coast in search of its next meal and expedition guide Hazel, even spotted a **Humpback Whale** tail slapping in the distance.

At the end of the beach with the large colony of nesting **Blue-eyed Cormorants**, the chicks were almost the same size as the adults and the parent birds were flying over our heads to head out to sea to hunt.

This landing site was also home a historic hut which is a short walk from the beach. Expedition guide Bjarni led short, guided walks up to the remains of the hut where the crew of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition, led by Otto Nordenskjold, were stranded for 255 days, between February and November, when their ship, the Antarctic, was crushed by the ice and eventually sank.



The icy wind really started to pick up before the end of the morning landing and we had to make a quick getaway from Paulette Island. After a wet and rocky zodiac trip back to the ship we had time to warm up with a hot drink before setting off to our next landing site.

Unfortunately, our afternoon landing at Brown Bluff was not possible because of the rough weather conditions, so instead the ship cruised around the area and through the Antarctic sound, giving us the chance to watch some beautiful icebergs and scenery passing by.



Shortly after the evening recap we were treated to a whale and penguin feeding bonanza! Around 20 humpback whales wowed everyone by surfacing close to the ship whilst penguins leaped in between the waves.

We had a special New Year's Eve dinner before heading to the bar for an Antarctic expedition themed quiz. The expedition team perhaps revealed more than they should have

about themselves before beginning the countdown to midnight. Many guests and staff stayed up to see in the new year, a fantastic way to start 2023 after another spectacular day in Antarctica.

Day 17 – January 1st 2023, Deception Island & Elephant Point

08h00 GPS position: 52°22.8'S / 51°39.6'W

Wind: E 8 • Sea State: Rough • Weather: Overcast & Snow • Air Temperature: -2°C

Day 17 onboard MV Ortelius was a special day as it was New Years! The day started off at midnight with a countdown to the start of 2023! It was a lovely celebration in the bar with guests, staff, and crew all bringing in the new year together. In the bar you could hear shouts of jubilee, the clink of toasting champagne glasses, and a euphony of everyone reminiscing about 2022 and sharing their goals for 2023.

After the late-night festivities, some rest was in order. However, we were approaching Deception Island and it was worth it to wake up early and be on deck to enjoy the scenery. Deception Island is in the South Shetland Islands and was first seen in 1820. However, the narrow entrance that leads into Port Foster was not discovered for many years. Upon discovery, Whalers Bay and Port Foster became a refuge for ships from the Antarctica storms. A sealing industry blossomed and in 1908 three whaling companies used Whalers Bay as their land base. Approximately 200 men, majority Norwegians, lived on Deception Island. Whaling ended in 1931 and Whalers Bay became the first port of entry for all ships working in the Antarctica area. The infrastructure on the island became a research station and base for the Chileans and British, using the island to stage ships and planes. The landing strip on Deception Island, made history as the first place a plane was flown in Antarctica. The island is also notable for being an active volcano, which first erupted in 1967, causing the research bases to be evacuated. A second larger eruption occurred in 1968 and has not been reoccupied since.

A beautiful approach into Deception Island was met with high wind gusts, halting our zodiac operations. A nearby sailboat had run aground in the bay and we lent a helping hand. After the gusts subsided, we were able to head to shore!

The island provided a different feel compared to our previous landings. This landing was more about the geology and history, than the wildlife, although we were extremely lucky to see many **Chinstrap Penguins** on the beach! Towards the end of our time on shore, a **Leopard Seal** was spotted hauled out on the black sand beach. Upon a closer look, it was noticed that the seal was missing one of its hind flippers. Unfortunately, it is likely that the seal had been entangled in fishing gear and received this injury from the entanglement.



The landing was a great opportunity to stretch our legs and picture what it would have been like to have three whaling operations in the bay. We had just over two hours to explore the beach and the old buildings. The fresh snow meant the hike up the hill to the overlook of Neptune's Window was a tad slippery, but expedition guide Bill was present to ensure our safe return down the hillside.

'Plan A' for the afternoon was Elephant Point, a historical landing spot. However, due to the high wind gusts, a landing was not possible.

Instead, we started making our way to the Drake Passage and towards Ushuaia. Elizabeth gave a lecture about whale migration and how the transboundary nature of cetaceans has proven to be a hinderance for effective conservation measures. Followed by a lovely recap and questions from the question box, before a delicious dinner in the restaurant. Fingers crossed for fair winds and following seas for the next few days.

Day 18 - January 2nd 2023, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 60°51.7'S / 63°34.7'W

Wind: NSE 9 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +1°C

This morning did not start with the dulcet tones of Sara, the ship was treated to a beautiful, wake up call by our very own Brendan, which read as follows;

"G'day, G'day, G'day. It's Monday the 2nd of January and it's a ripper of a day out there. Blue skies with just a little bit of the white fluffy stuff. Sure, it's a tad brisk, but there's only a light breeze and a moderate swell. So, there's no excuse to stay in bed like a pack of bludgers. Get up and get amongst it why don't yah? When I bid for this prize, I didn't realise that the speaking slot extended beyond the morning obligatories but, apparently, I get to occupy the stage for a few more minutes. I think by now you all know that I enjoy sharing a laugh. But these moments come spontaneously - as much from you as they do from me, so I must apologise if you are now expecting a comedy routine. Instead, I'm hoping that this will be a little bit like when you see a film where an actor has been cast in a serious role after debuting in a comic one. It might make you uncomfortable for a short while but hopefully I can still give you your money's worth. Because what this opportunity does afford, is a chance to share some reflections from the passenger perspective - so that's what I'm going to do.

It's now only the Drake Passage that lies between us and a return to our normal lives. Although, I don't know about you, but I can't really imagine just picking up from where I left off in a normal fashion – because the journey of the past 17 days has been such a profound experience.

Like so many of you, I have travelled far and wide on this magnificent planet, but for me nothing can quite compare to this expedition on the Ortelius:

The wildlife has blown my mind – its diversity, its intensity, and its intimacy. Splendid plumage. Squeals and squawks. Reverberating blubber. Cooperation and competition. Care and dependence. Youthful bravado. All this playing out on the main stage with us in the prime seats, set against a dramatic backdrop and a constant reminder that survival is the ultimate quest.

The landscapes have been awesome in the true sense of the word (as opposed to the reaction when someone returns to the table with a couple of beers and a packet of chips). The rugged coastlines. The stark mountains. The expansive glaciers. The incredible array of icebergs. All have jostled for the gold medal position and I'm still not sure of the winner. Well, maybe it's the icebergs!

It feels like I haven't stopped smiling since boarding this vessel. While this is largely due to the natural beauty I've experienced, the quality of the people I have shared this time with has had a logarithmically multiplying effect. It's hard not to single people out because I've shared memorable moments with so many of you. But I've learned not to stand between a mother and her cub, and I know that it's only me that stands between you and breakfast, and my survival instincts tell me to err on the side of caution, so I will just make some general remarks.

What words can I use to describe the crew? From the generals to the infantry, every single member of the crew has provided first class professionalism served up with a beaming smile, a cheeky grin, a sharing of knowledge or some light-hearted banter. From the bridge, the gangways, and the engine room to the hospitality team of chefs, food and beverage staff, manager and the housekeeping team, the level of excellence has been superb. The expedition team has been first class from the outset. Their care for us and for each other has been contagious and seems to be a natural extension of the passion they have for this special part of

the world. A team is made of many individuals and each cog on this ship has interacted with each other like a symphony orchestra...and they've certainly been playing my song.

And then there's the rest of you lot! The merry band of misfits that have ridden shoulder to shoulder with me during this incredible voyage. Like it or not, I now consider you to be my friends – and I'm sure the feeling of camaraderie will continue long after we dock at Ushuaia. I sincerely hope that I see some of you in the other land down under at some time in the future – and I'll be happy to kick the dog off its bed if you ever need a place to stay!

Finally, as embarrassed as she'll be with the mention, I just have to save a special word for my wonderful mum, Jane, because if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here at all. I think we both had some trepidation about the prospect of spending 19 days together in such close quarters, but she's been an absolutely, brilliant travel companion and I've loved seeing her share so many unforgettable moments with so many of you. Thanks Mum!

Sara has consistently said that the passengers are responsible for the weather and by crikey, haven't we done a good job. Our collective karma must be stratospherically high, which says a lot for the rest of you because my mates at home are always reminding me of what a shady character I am!

Now, I can just picture Steven champing at the bit to let us know the dining room is about to open so I'll wind this monologue up and let you go and wrap your laughing gear around some bonza tucker. Thank you for tolerating this indulgence. I look forward to having a farewell beer between here and the dock at Ushuaia – especially if it's your shout!

Have a cracker of a day!"

And on that note, passengers stirred in their bunks and Ortelius continued to plough a steady course north. Our exciting adventures in Antarctica were over, now the task was editing and sorting out the thousands of photographs of penguins, albatross, seals, whales, landscapes, icebergs, waves, clouds, fellow travelers. What to show our friends back home, what to print and frame, what to consign to the waste bucket?



The first lecture of the day at 09:30 was delivered by Bill. This was an interesting and extremely detailed account of the development of the design of ships to operate in the hostile environment of the polar regions. Illustrated with paintings, etchings, and early photographs of whaling vessels. Stories of the extreme hardships experienced by whalers beset in ice and having their ships crushed and sunk and how this experiential learning led to the design of the strongest ship ever built at that time, the Dundee

constructed vessel 'Discovery'. Some of the most interesting features were the demountable rudder and propellor to avoid damage in ice and the extreme angle of heel experienced during the Mawson expedition when carrying a heavy deck cargo including an airplane.

This was followed rather sadly by the return of our muck boots, no longer required as we have no further plans to be splashing off the bows of zodiacs. We were suspicious of these boots at first, failing to accept staff reassurances that they would be comfortable and easy walk on. How wrong we were, they proved to be superb for the environment we were in and supremely comfortable.

Throughout the day we were reassured by sight of the thoroughness of guide and crew training as the officers and captain led small groups of staff on a series of life raft deployment exercises. It just reinforced the realisation we all had that Ortelius was a very efficiently manned vessel with crew attending to every minute detail to ensure our safety during operations. After lunch we had a showing of 'Round the Horn', a superb film from Mystic Historic Boatyard in the US. It was an account of a voyage undertaken by Captain Irvine Johnstone when he was a crewman on one of last great sailing vessels the enormous 4 masted 'Peking.' The dramatic shots of stormy seas from swaying masts filmed with an early movie camera were utterly amazing and his iconic, humorous commentary made this presentation a highlight.

Late afternoon we had a sobering presentation from Sara, Hazel and Adam, which focused on the human impacts, specifically the fishing industry, on the wildlife in polar regions. The stark figures illustrated clearly extend of the problem for some declining species and examples were given of the creative solutions and remedial steps that were being taken.

The final recap was hotel staff explaining disembarking details, Sara as usual with next day plans and weather, followed by seal vocalizations from Felicity and our enthusiastic historian Bjarni with a very detailed mini lecture on Francis Drake.



Day 19 - January 3rd 2023, at sea

08h00 GPS position: 56°52.6'S / 66°02.5'W

Wind: W 11 • Sea State: Rough • Weather: Sunshine • Air Temperature: +6°C

Throughout the early hours of the morning, the ship began to gradually rock and roll a little more as the sun came up. We were well and truly in the notorious Drake Passage; the 500 mile stretch of water between South America and the Antarctic Peninsula. As the morning progressed, the movement increased and so it was safer to have a plated breakfast today.



Only half of the dining room was filled as people staggered in slowly and the nimble hotel crew glided between tables, carrying three or four plates as if they were walking on stable ground! After breakfast, those that were feeling well enough, made their way up to the bridge to join the officers, gazing out the windows, mesmerized by the crashing waves. Occasionally, if the angle was right, the spray would come crashing over the bow

and wash the bridge windows, shortly followed by a “oooh” from the audience.

Mid-morning, the first lecture of the day took place in the bar, with Felicity and Jess. They shared more information about the power of whale poop and how whales are ecosystem engineers. Whales not only help boost primary production by recycling essential nutrients back into the ecosystem, but they also act as carbon sinks, storing tonnes of carbon in their bodies throughout their lifetime, and when they die, taking the carbon with them to the seabed to be consumed by benthic creatures.

Throughout the morning, Ortelius rolled side to side, with the occasional shudder ricocheting through the ship. Many of us continued to watch the waves, in awe of the power of nature, even though these conditions were relatively mellow considering where we were! After a plated lunch, the afternoon was filled with a final lecture, given by Felicity and Bill, discussing the presence of plastic pollution around the Antarctic and Arctic regions and what we can do as individuals to help create a cleaner environment for the wildlife but also the next generation. Now we have all had the privilege of experiencing fragile environments like the Antarctic, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands, we must remember this feeling of caring and urge for change when we get home and do our best to spread awareness to all our friends and families.

TAKE ACTION	CITIZEN SCIENCE	SPREAD AWARENESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop loose, local and less • Reusable items (e.g. cups, bottles, bags) • Recycle locally, supermarkets or organisations such as Terracycle • Pressure local MP and government • Participate in litter picks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penguin Watch • Happy Whale • Penguin Map • eBird • SCAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share with friends/family • Documentaries and Literature suggestions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All We Can Save • No One Is Too Small To Make a Difference • Sea of Shadows • Plastic Ocean • Game Changers • A Life on Our Planet • Social Media

Next, we had an entertaining game of wildlife bingo, hosted by our very own Hazel. This was great fun and a good distraction for some, taking their mind away from their seasickness! Finally, it was time for Captain's Cocktails, a final hoorah and glass of bubbles as we entered the Beagle Channel, on the home straight.

Day 20 - January 4th 2023, Disembarkation day, Ushuaia

08h00 GPS position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: N 5 • Sea State: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +9°C

We arrived in Ushuaia early this morning, returning from our extremely successful 3-week voyage around the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic. At 07:00, the crew and expedition team were already busy gathering everyone's luggage from their cabins and placing them onto the dock, to be either delivered to the storage unit or taken straight to the airport to begin the journey home and back to reality! It was a sombre mood on board, as guests started to trickle down the gangway and onto the buses. After 20 days together, we had gotten to know each other very well, learnt about each other's lives and families back home, and so it was sad to say goodbye, but the silver lining being, we had these unique, awesome, life changing and shared memories that will last forever!





Thank you all for travelling with us on this voyage, for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We very much hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

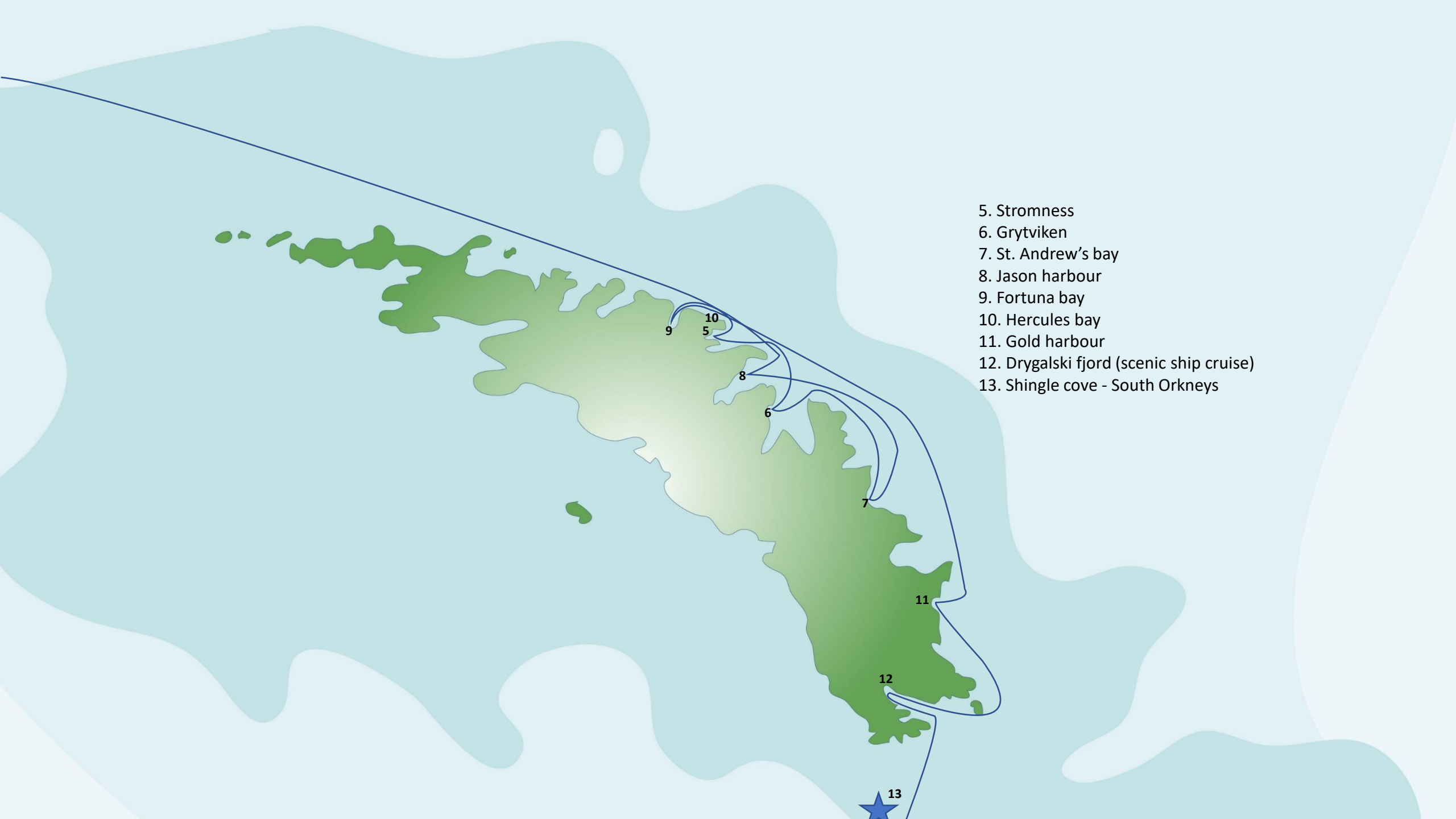
Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3351.2 nm

Southernmost position: 63°35.00'S, 55°47.00'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Mika Appel, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Stephen Bell and all the crew and staff of M/V Ortelius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

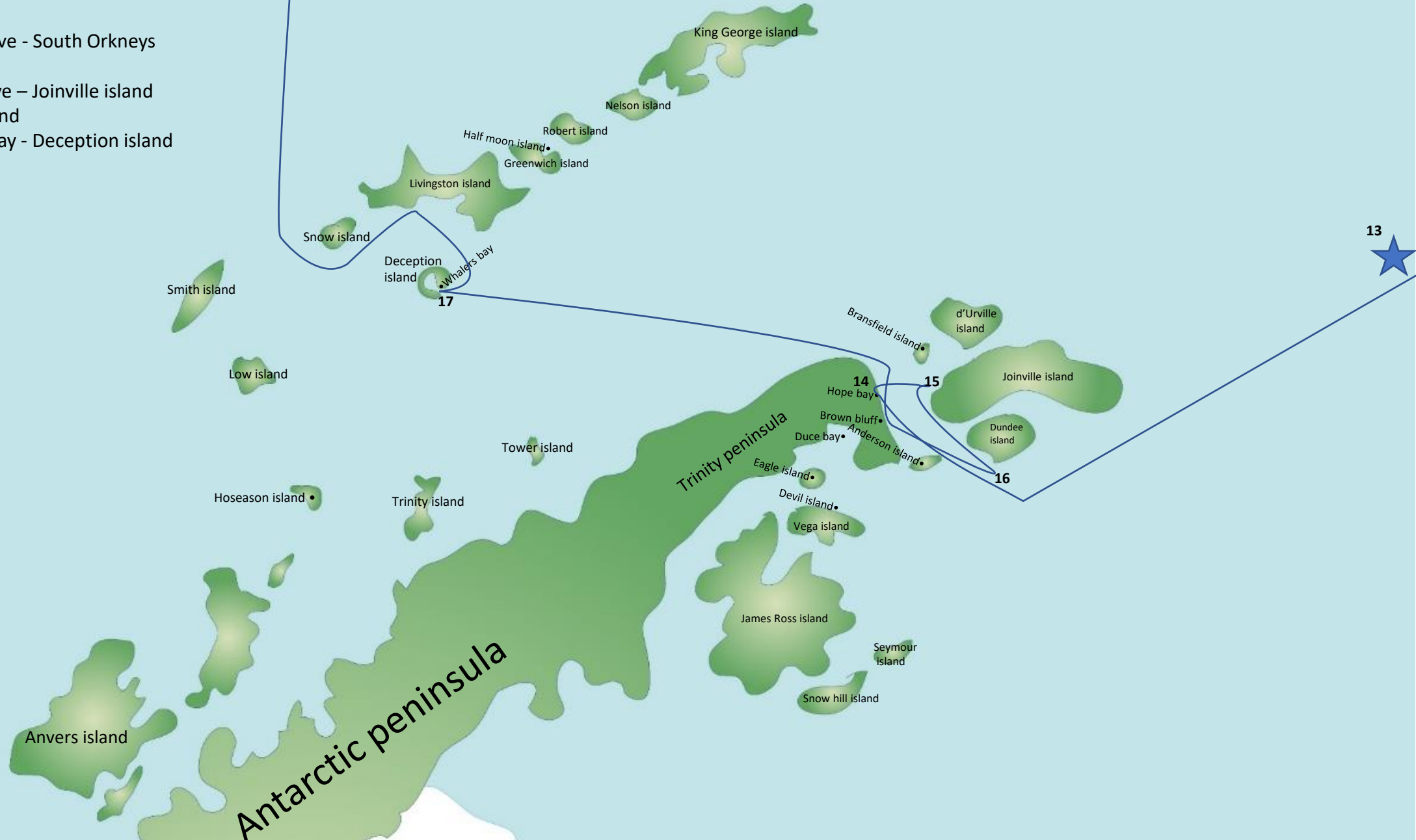


- 1. Westpoint island
- 2. Carcass island
- 3. Saunders island
- 4. Stanley



- 5. Stromness
- 6. Grytviken
- 7. St. Andrew's bay
- 8. Jason harbour
- 9. Fortuna bay
- 10. Hercules bay
- 11. Gold harbour
- 12. Drygalski fjord (scenic ship cruise)
- 13. Shingle cove - South Orkneys

- 13. Shingle cove - South Orkneys
- 14. Hope bay
- 15. Kinnes cove – Joinville island
- 16. Paulet island
- 17. Whalers bay - Deception island



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region including Falkland Islands and South Georgia

English	Latin	16-dec	17-dec	18-dec	19-dec	20-dec	21-dec	22-dec	23-dec	24-dec	25-dec	26-dec	27-dec	28-dec	29-dec	30-dec	31-dec	1-jan	2-jan	3-jan	4-jan
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>																				
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>			X	X				X	X	X	X									
Ad��lie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>													X		X	X				
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>											X		X		X	X	X			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>					X		X		X	X	X									
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X	X	X	X															X	
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X			X	X					X	X					X	X	X	
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																				
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X		X	X													X		
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>								X	X											
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>							X			X	X						X	X		
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>						X												X		
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>													X	X	X					
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>								X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>																				
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>											X	X	X			X				
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>							X		X	X	X	X					X	X		
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>				X	X	X														
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>																				
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>																				
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	X	X		X	X	X					X							X	X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>		X			X	X														
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>						X	X													
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		X																		
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>						X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X		
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>				X																
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X									
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>																				
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X		X	X	X														X	X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>													X		X	X	X			
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>		X									X	X		X		X	X			
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X	X																		
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>															X				X	X
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>			X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X		X	X	X														X	X
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X		X	X	X														X	X
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>							X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>																				
Specific to Falkland Islands		16-dec	17-dec	18-dec	19-dec	20-dec	21-dec	22-dec	23-dec	24-dec	25-dec	26-dec	27-dec	28-dec	29-dec	30-dec	31-dec	1-jan	2-jan	3-jan	4-jan
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>			X	X																
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>			X	X	X															
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax falklandicus</i>					X															
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>			X	X	X															
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>			X	X	X															
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>			X	X																

[illegible]

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.

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.

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.

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.

Jess Owen – Expedition Guide



Jess is from the South East of England and lives on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to their local wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula and she is very excited to be returning to Antarctica this season.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching, and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew.

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.

Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide

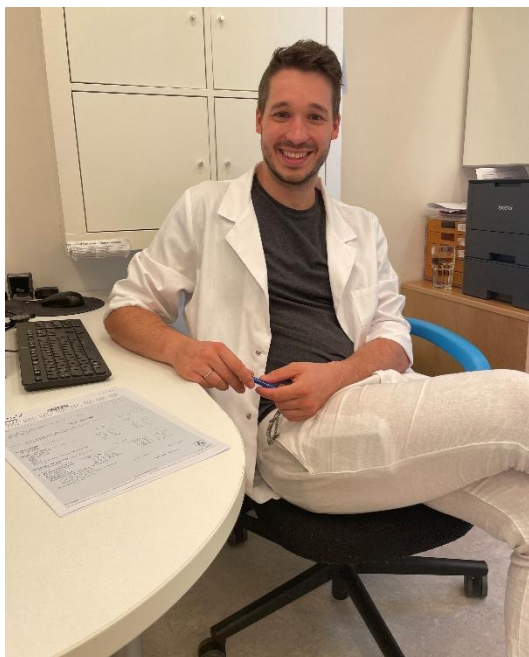


Elizabeth was born and raised in Minnesota, a state in the middle north of the United States. Minnesota is known for having over 10,000 lakes and nature around every corner; something she took full advantage of growing up. Before the age of eighteen, Elizabeth travelled to all fifty US states, and became a Junior Park Ranger at over thirty National Parks.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mammalogy, accompanied by additional degrees in Psychology, English Writing and Environmental Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on African elephants and squirrels. Recently, she graduated from the University of Bristol (UK) with a Master of Science degree in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. Her dissertation focused on cetacean conservation and understanding how policy is integrated within conservation efforts.

Elizabeth has lived and studied whales in many places such as Hawaii, British Columbia, Alaska, Norway, and the UK. She has previously worked as an orca kayak guide, a snorkel guide in Hawaii, a wildlife documentary co-producer, and a marine mammal researcher. She has spent the last eight years studying species such as orcas, humpback whales, right whales, porpoises, and pinnipeds. She is passionate about cetacean conservation, specifically endangered species. Elizabeth currently calls both the US and the UK home and is happiest at sea.

Jonathan Kliman – Ship's Doctor



Jonathan was born and raised in Vienna, Austria and decided to become a doctor during his civil service as a paramedic. He studied medicine at the Medical University of Vienna and wrote his diploma thesis about chronic lung allograft dysfunction in transplanted patients. For his research in biomarkers helping to understand pathomechanisms and distinguish between different kinds of chronic allograft rejection he got rewarded with the Young Researcher Award of the Austrian society of Pneumology in 2018.

He did his residency at Kaiser Franz Josef Spital, a major public hospital in Vienna, which was and still is Austria's primary hospital to treat COVID-19 patients. During the pandemic he worked at the COVID-19 department and intensive care units, educated paramedics in SARS CoV-2 testing all over Austria and worked at vaccination stations for the Austrian Red Cross and other organisations. During his residency as a General Practitioner, he also did his diploma in Emergency Medicine. Furthermore, Jonathan teaches at the Sigmund Freud Private University in Vienna

Besides medicine, traveling is his other big passion. Together with his wife Irene he visited 76 countries. He particularly enjoys long distance hiking, wild camping and traveling to remote places. A 200 kilometres hike through the Moroccan Sahara, meeting Mountain Gorillas in Uganda and travelling along Tajikistan's Pamir highway or visiting the islands of Galapagos were some of his most memorable experiences.

Being a GP and emergency doctor, he started working for Oceanwide Expeditions quite recently this season. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with him for any medical questions or concerns, he is always happy to help.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

16th 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.

19:00

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.

19:30

Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:30

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!

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!



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

17th December

Day 2 – Heading towards the Falkland Islands.

07:45	Wake-up call
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
11:00	Hazel invites you to the Bar for her lecture 'Winged Wonders: An Introduction to Albatrosses'.
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00	The Expedition Team welcomes you to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 for the MANDATORY IAATO and Zodiac briefing. Attendance will be checked.
16:15	Please join Jess in the Bar for an Introduction to Cetaceans of the Southern Ocean.
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.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

18th December *Day 3 – West Point Island and Carcass Island*

06:30	Wake-up call. We encourage you to join us on the outside decks for the beautiful navigation through The Woolly Gut.
07:00-08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
08:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at West Point Island, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4. We need you to have your Zodiac lifejacket securely fasten and for you to be dressed in waterproof clothing and Muck boots before you approach the gangway, please remember to bring your key card with you. The traditional 'Smoko', mid-morning tea and cake, will be served in the main house, just up from the landing site, we will advise you as to timings for this on arrival.
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at Carcass Island, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
19:00	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:30	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

19th December
Day 4 – Saunders Island

06:00	Wake-up call
06:30-07:30	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
07:30+/-	We hope to take you ashore at The Neck on Saunders Island, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
12:00-13:00	<p>A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.</p> <p>Over lunch time we will be transiting around to the other side of Saunders Island, the area is often productive for marine life, in particular dolphins, so we encourage you to join the Expedition Team on the outside decks.</p>
13:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at The Neck on Saunders Island, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

20th December
Day 5 – Stanley

06:00	Wake-up call
06:30-7:30	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4
07:30+/-	<p>We hope to take you ashore at Stanley.</p> <p>Please remember not to take any banned foods ashore and be prepared for a bag inspection by a government officer before disembarkation.</p> <p>We will offer shuttles from the Jetty back to the ship from 10:30. The last Zodiac will be 12:00, please do not be late.</p>
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00	The Expedition Team welcomes you to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 for the MANDATORY South Georgia and IAATO briefing. Attendance will be checked.
16:15	Felicity invites you to the Bar for a presentation about the Seals of the Southern Ocean.
18:15	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

21st December
Day 6 – At Sea

The clocks will go forward 1 hour over night, ensure you adjust your clocks accordingly.

07:45	Wake-up call.
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:30	Bill invites you to the Bar for his presentation about our ship, the Ortelius- behind the scenes of the engine room and kitchen.
11:30	Hazel invites you to the bar for her presentation 'Absolutely Krilliant!'- An insight into the cornerstone species of the Southern Ocean - Krill.
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. IMPORTANT- During the course of the day 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 14:00-15:00 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.
16:15	Sara invites you to the Bar for her presentation about Penguins.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

All deck 3 and 4 cabin portholes will be closed and remain closed until we leave South Georgia waters in an attempt to prevent bird strikes, do not attempt to open them.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

22nd December

Day 7 – Heading towards South Georgia

07:45	Wake-up call.
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:15	Allison Kean, invites you to the Bar for a short presentation and question and answer session about South Georgia.
11:15	Sara invites you to the bar for her presentation about Photography- How to take pictures you are happy with!
12:30-13:30	A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
13:30+	<p>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, ruck sacks, camera bags, Muck boots, lifejackets etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the Expedition Staff to check.</p> <p>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.</p>
16:15	Elizabeth invites you to the Bar for her presentation 'Right Whales - The Right Whales to Hunt', a look at whaling past and present.
18:15	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
20:45	After dinner we will be showing the film Elf, the American Christmas Comedy starring Will Ferrell, in the Lecture Room on Deck 3.

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.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

23rd December

Day 8 – Stromness Harbour and Grytviken

06:00	Wake-up call.
06:30-07:30	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
07:15+/-	Please can all guests be ready at the gangway for a landing at Stromness. The hike will leave from the landing site promptly at 8am.
10:45+	From 10:45 onwards there will be MANDATORY Biosecurity in the Lecture Room in preparation for our inspection at Grytviken. Please do not go to lunch until you have done this.
12:30-13:30	Buffet Lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00+/-	On arrival we have to clear customs with the Government Officer, during this time there will be a short presentation in the bar by the South Georgia Heritage Team about their recent work and the rat eradication project.

Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the gangway, 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 afternoon, 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.

IMPORTANT

- Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings
- You can use Pound Sterling (GBP) and credit cards, dollars and Euros are no longer accepted.
- Do not sit, kneel, lie down or place any items on the ground.
- Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

24th December

Day 9 – St Andrews Bay and Ocean Harbour

06:00	Wake-up call.
06:30-07:30	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
07:30+/-	Please be ready at the gangway for a landing at St. Andrews Bay.
12:30-13:30	Buffet Lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:30+/-	Please be ready at the gangway for a landing at Ocean Harbour.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

25th December
Day 10 – Fortuna Bay and Hercules Bay

Merry Christmas Everyone!

06:30	Wake-up call.
07:00-08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
07:45+/-	Please be ready at the gangway for a landing at Fortuna Bay.
12:00-13:00	Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00+/-	Please be ready at the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Hercules Bay.
	Depending on conditions we may offer this in two rounds, so please listen to announcements.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	A special festive dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

26th December

Day 11 – Gold Harbour and Drygalski Fjord

05:30	Wake-up call.
06:00-07:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
06:45+/-	Please be ready at the gangway for a landing at Gold Harbour.
12:00-13:00	<p>Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.</p> <p>During lunch we will sail into the Drygalski Fjord, named after Professor Erich Von Drygalski. This 14km fjord which rises from sea level to almost 1,000m houses some extraordinary geological features including some of South Georgia's oldest rock dating back to when it was a part of Gondwana. Keep an eye out for seals and snow petrels.</p>
16:15	Please join Jess in the bar for her presentation titled 'Where did Whales come from?', about the evolution of whales.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Remember to turn you clocks back 1 hour, for an extra hour in bed.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

27th December
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	Bill invites you to the bar for his lecture about Ice and Icebergs.
11:30	Please join Elizabeth in the bar for her presentation about Humpback Whales.
12:30-13:30	Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
13:30+	<p>During the course of the afternoon you will be called deck by deck for the MANDATORY IAATO Biosecurity. When called, please bring all your outer garments, ruck sacks, camera bags, Muck boots, lifejackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the staff to check.</p> <p>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.</p>
16:15	Please join Felicity in the bar for her 'Licence to Krill -Threats to Marine Life'.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

28th December

Day 13 – South Orkneys, Coronation Island

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08:00-09:00 | Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 09:30 | <p>Adam invites you to the bar for his lecture 'Supporting Antarctic Science' - in which he will tell you more about the scientific role Rothera and King Edward Point station play.</p> <p>As we approach the South Orkneys, we encourage you out onto the outside decks to help look for wildlife and enjoy our first real views of a true Antarctic landscape.</p> |
| 12:00-13:00 | <p>Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.</p> <p>After lunch we hope to take you ashore at Shingle Cove Coronation Island, timings will be dependent on our progress overnight and ice conditions around the South Orkneys so please listen to announcements.</p> |
| 18:00 | 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! |
| 19:15 | Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap. |
| 19:30 | Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

29th December

Day 14 – Heading Towards Antarctica

07:45	Wake-up call.
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:30	Bjarni invites you to the bar for a presentation titled 'Ambition and Insanity at the Poles', about the Belgica Expedition, the first overwintering in Antarctic waters.
11:30	Hazel invites you to the bar for a presentation titled 'From Whaling to Worship: Humankind's relationship with whales and dolphins'.
12:30-13:30	Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
16:15	Sara invites you to the bar for her presentation about Women in Antarctica.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

30th December
Day 15 – Hope Bay, Madders Cliffs and Kinnes Cove

06:30	Wake-up call.
07:00-08:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
08:00+/-	<p>We hope to do a Continental landing in Hope Bay, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.</p> <p>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.</p>
12:00-13:00	Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
14:00+/-	We hope to take you ashore at Kinnes Cove, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
18:30	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

31st December

Day 16 – Paulet Island and Brown Bluff

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 Paulet Island, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
12:00-13:00	Buffet lunch in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
13:30	Bill invites you to the bar for his presentation 'The Paintings of the Sea - the meaning of the sea in artwork.
15:30+/-	We hope to take you ashore at Brown Bluff, please be ready at the gangway on Deck 4.
19:00	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.
19:30	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

Please join the Expedition Team in the bar for New Year's Eve Celebrations.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

1st January
Day 17 – Whalers Bay and Elephant Point
Happy New Year!

06:30

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.

07:00-08:00

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

07:45+/-

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

12:00-13:00

A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4

We hope to take you ashore at Elephant Point but this will be very much weather dependent, so please listen for announcements.

If we are unable to do a landing in the afternoon Bjarni will give a presentation in the bar about the Discovery of the Shetland Islands and Commercial History of Deception Island, the exact timing of this will be announced.

18:30

Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.

19:00

Dinner is served in the Restaurant, 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. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

2nd January
Day 18 – At Sea

07:45	Wake-up call.
08:00-09:00	Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
09:30	Join Bill in the bar for a presentation about The Discovery - the Vessel.
11:30	Simon invites you to join him in the bar for a short presentation and question and answer session about the birds we have seen on this voyage.
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	In the bar we will screen the short movie 'Around Cape Horn', filmed and narrated by Captain Irving Johnson.
16:15	The Expedition Team welcome you to the bar for a joint presentation about Impacts in the Polar Regions.
18:15	Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!
19:00	Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

3rd January

Day 19 – 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 | Please join Felicity and Jess in the bar for a lecture titled 'Improving our Carbon Flukeprint - how whales mitigate climate change'. |
| 11:15 | The Expedition Team welcome you to the bar for a joint presentation about Plastic Pollution and ways we can help with this global problem. |
| 12:15 | A passenger and Expedition Team photo either on the bow or helideck, depending on the weather, so please listen to announcements. |
| 12:30-13:30 | A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4. |
| 16:15 | Please join Hazel in the bar for Wildlife Bingo! |
| 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. |



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Welcome aboard the M/V Ortelius!

4th January
Day 20 – Ushuaia

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| 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.