



## Antarctica – Weddell Sea Explorer

Ushuaia - Ushuaia

11<sup>st</sup> of February 2023 –22 of February 2023

On board *m/v Plancius*



*M/v Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named "Hr. Ms. *Tydeman*". The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). *M/v Plancius* is 89 m long, 14.5 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, ice class 1D, 10,5 knots average cruising speed and has 3 Diesel- Electric engines.

## **Captain Ernesto Barria**

and his international crew of 53 sailors

|                         |                                 |                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chief Officer:          | <b>Maikel Overbeeke</b>         | [Netherlands]      |
| Second Officer:         | <b>Warren Villaneuva</b>        | [Philippines]      |
| Third Officer:          | <b>Nino Cizmiz</b>              | [Croatia]          |
| Hotel Manager:          | <b>Volodymyr Cherednychenko</b> | [Ukraine]          |
| Head Chef:              | <b>Khabir Moraes</b>            | [India]            |
| Sous Chef:              | <b>Donald Rivas Cielo</b>       | [Philippines]      |
| Ships doctor:           | <b>Ronald Flapper</b>           | [Netherlands]      |
| Expedition Leader:      | <b>Ali Liddle</b>               | [United Kingdom]   |
| Ass. Expedition Leader: | <b>Eduardo Rubio Herrera</b>    | [Guatemala]        |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Michael Donoghue</b>         | [United Kingdom]   |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Helene de Meringo</b>        | [France]           |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Pierre Gallego</b>           | [Luxembourg]       |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Joshua Peck</b>              | [Falkland Islands] |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Annelou Hulsker</b>          | [Netherlands]      |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Valeria Sainz Herrera</b>    | [Argentina]        |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Tom Van Hoof</b>             | [Netherlands]      |
| Expedition Guide:       | <b>Annina Scholl</b>            | [Germany]          |
| Dive Team Leader:       | <b>Henrik Enckell</b>           | [Sweden]           |
| Dive Guide:             | <b>Catherine Buckland</b>       | [United Kingdom]   |
| Dive Guide:             | <b>Gonzalo Sabattini</b>        | [Argentina]        |
| Dive Guide:             | <b>Tanja Bayer</b>              | [Germany]          |
| Kayak Guide:            | <b>Zet Freiburghaus</b>         | [Sweden]           |

**We welcome you on board!**

## Day 1 – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day & Beagle Channel

**12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6 S / 065°17.8'W**

**Wind: N3 • Sea: smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +14°C • Sea temperature: 11°C**

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Finally, the day arrived for our adventure! Many of us have waited a long time for this day. We embarked on board our home for the next 11 days.

We entered the port and were welcomed by the Expedition Team and the Hotel Team at the Plancius' gangway. After we had been shown to our rooms, we started to explore the ship and our new environment, soon followed the briefing for the mandatory safety drill and drill itself.



It was interesting to see the fellow passengers in the bulky orange lifevests. Before dinner Ali, our Expedition Leader (EL), invited us to the lounge where we went through some basic information about life on the Plancius, the general plan for the trip and the weather forecast for the upcoming days. She also introduced the expedition guides briefly. Volodymyr, our Hotel Manager, gave us useful advice about practicalities of life on board.



After the drill was complete and the shore staff were ready to free our lines, it was time to leave Ushuaia behind. We set off down the Beagle Channel to enjoy some wonderful views of the landscapes around us. The beautiful mountains together with the light in the evening gave us some stunning views. All this new information was processed with the help of a glass of champagne or a nice orange juice, and we toasted after the

Captain introduced himself as well. As most of us were outside in the evening to enjoy the stunning views, we were rewarded with a full double rainbow! The beautiful lightning and the amazing colours of the sunset was an excellent ending of this evening.

For many the travel days to reach the remote town of Ushuaia were long, so most of us went to bed shortly after the fantastic buffet. We enjoyed settling into our new temporary home and cannot wait for the adventures that will begin soon.





## Day 2 – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, crossing the Drake Passage

**12h00 GPS Position: 57°03.7'S / 064°36.5'W**

**Wind: SW3 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +10°C • Sea temperature: 8°C**

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We spend our first full day on board crossing an interesting area of South America.

Late in the evening we sailed into the Beagle Channel and by midnight we left the last land of the South American Continent, namely, we lost sight of the islands Picton, Isla Nueva and Lennox. Surprisingly we encountered a very calm Drake Passage with no swell and very little wind. This exceptional conditions made the day very pleasant on board and consequently we used most of the time in the morning and part of the afternoon to make the mandatory briefings and biosecurity.



As the day started breakfast was served on board, and given the conditions, most of our guests joined the dining room for their first breakfast on board. The exceptional weather, allowed everybody to enjoy of their meal as the ship rolled slowly and gently into the waves.

For the very first part of the morning, our expedition staff provided boots to our guests; waterproof, insulating rubber

boots to every guest on board. This happened at the local “shoe shop” on board, the boot room. Passengers were called by deck and soon around 10:15 all our guests on board had boots. This activity was followed by a presentation made by Ali, about the IAATO rules that apply for expedition cruise ships visiting Antarctica. During her exposition, Ali described how fragile the Antarctic environment is and how by doing biosecurity, we can keep this environment pristine and without any invasive/alien species.

Afterwards we proceeded to start the biosecurity protocols inviting our guests to clean their Velcro's, boots and to vacuum the pockets and the back of their backpacks. This was a nice way to let our guests to know better the members of staff.

Lunch was served on board at 12:30 and by this time of the day we were very happy to see most of our guests joining the restaurant feeling in good spirits.

During the first part of the afternoon, we continued with our biosecurity protocols and by 15:00 all our guests had done their respective cleaning/vacuuming.

Thus far, during the second part of our afternoon, we had an interesting presentation by Ali, under the title “Penguins”. Here Ali took all our guests into an interesting presentation describing all the species of penguins that can be seen in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic waters.

During the early evening we had our first daily recap, the moment when Ali presented the plans for the next day and where she briefed the passengers about how we operate with our zodiacs when we go ashore. Shortly after this activity, dinner was served in the restaurant. During the night, Eduardo showed the brighter stars to a few guests from the deck forward. He focused into showing the Southern Cross, the pointers (Alpha and Beta Centauri) and other bright stars of the southern hemisphere such as Canopus and Achernar. Later during the night, we went deeper into the Drake Passage, sailing quietly under the lights of the waning moon and many stars.

### **Day 3 – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, crossing the Drake Passage**

**12h00 GPS Position: 61°22.0'S / 060°18.2'W**

**Wind: NNE3 • Sea: slight • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +5°C • Sea temperature: 4°C**

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We are still at sea; it is even a bit calmer than yesterday, and we have a bit of fog around us. There is an almost mystical atmosphere around us. It already starts to be colder, and we feel a little “hump” as we cross the Antarctic convergence. This is a meteorological and biological boundary in the sea. The cold Antarctic waters meet the warmer Atlantic waters and move under them. This creates an upwelling of nutrients. The result is a rather fertile zone where plankton and other species will thrive. To find whales out here is nevertheless like find a needle in a haystack.



There – we see blows – the breath of whales. They are brown with a dorsal fin, probably northern bottlenose whales. These creatures dive deep for foraging, feeding on squid and other creatures. They just come up to breath and are gone as fast as they appeared. A little while later hourglass dolphins appear. As there is little wind the birds that follow the ship must flap their wings more. It is a different species in comparison to yesterday. There are several different species of prions, some black browed albatross, and the occasional great albatross.

Some of us have their regular walk around the ship to have some physical activity, others try to take photos of the birds. The Expedition Team offer lectures about Alien Oceans by Eduardo and Invasive Species by Helene, and all forms of ice by Tom in Antarctica to prepare us for our voyage.

In the afternoon Ali calls us back outside. There are tall blows on the horizon. They belong to fin whales, that appear to take advantage of the nutrient rich water feeding probably on krill. We stop for a little while to observe these big creatures. It is the second largest whale species with up to 24 m. They are only exceeded by the blue whale. A little while later we can already see Antarctic land in the distance.



Just before dinner, we have a briefing by Ali and her team to explain the plans for our first outing in Antarctica. We will pass through the Antarctic Sound to arrive at a place called Brown Bluff – how exciting this sounds. Finally, after two days we will go on land!

#### **Day 4 – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Brown Bluff & Kinnes Cove (Madder Cliffs)**

**12h00 GPS Position: 63°32'S/ 56°55'W**

**Wind: ENE2 • Sea: calm • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +4°C • Sea temperature: 1°C**

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Our first day in Antarctica! Some of us got up early to see the Antarctic Sound; a stunning landscape as we saw the first icebergs. Getting closer to Brown Bluff we saw another beautiful dark blue iceberg, the captain decided to do a full circumnavigation around it. Then we had an amazing breakfast by our wonderful hotel department. As we were heading to Brown Bluff, Josh and Annelou shuttled us to shore. Before we even stepped ashore, we had our first sighting of a leopard seal hunting already! This is for many of us our last continent, as this is our first continental landing in Antarctica. Brown Bluff is a type of volcano known as a *tuya*. This type of volcano is quite rare as it formed originally under an ice sheet. When the volcano erupted under the ice sheet, the lava stacked up in what we call pillow lavas. Only when the ice sheet above melted the cone formed, and therefore the volcano has such a special shape and does not look very typical of the volcanoes we know.



As Ali welcomed us ashore, we were met by plenty of gentoo and adelie penguins. Lots of fur seals were laying around with the occasional weddell seal and even a quick glimpse of a male elephant seal. There was a leopard seal swimming around in the water, looking for breakfast. The penguin chicks on shore were smart enough not



to go for a swim with their downy feathers. Many of us decided to stay still for a moment, and very often a curious penguin may come up to say hello.



We did a small hike to the glacier and as we came closer, a bunch of male fur seals were having a nap close by. We could walk up quite close to the glacier as it was partly on land as well! As the morning came to an end, we went back to the ship, amazed by this first wonderful landing.

However, during lunch an announcement was made by Ali, killer whalers ahead!



Most of us went running out of the restaurant as we did not want to miss this special sighting. It was quite a large pod with some juveniles and one big male as well. We saw even some whales spy hopping! They came close to the ship and as they stayed for quite a while, and then we carried on with our journey to our next anchorage, Kinnes Cove.



It is already the afternoon, and we arrive at Kinnes Cove where we enjoy our first zodiac cruise in Antarctica. The Madder Cliffs have a beautiful red hue, a nice contrast next to the glacier we see.

We get close to a colony of adelic penguins and we are astonished by how elegant they jump out of the water, quite a contrast by how they get in the water! When we return to the ship, we are surprised to see two leopard seals on a ice floe almost next to the ship. We return to the ship after all these new experiences and enjoy a hot chocolate. In the evening, Ali shows us the plans for the next day, which are promising!



## Day 5 – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, The Naze & Herbert Sound, Vega Island

**12h00 GPS Position: 63°57'S/ 57°32'W**

**Wind: ESE4 • Sea: rippled • Weather: -partly cloudy • Air temperature: +2°C • Sea temperature: 0°C**

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A day of exploration for all of us onboard, as we landed at a 'new' site for everyone except the Captain, The Naze on James Ross Island. The Naze is a spit of land on the northern side of the island, with some spectacular rocky peaks at one end under which we landed. A large snow-capped peak rising from the sea at the other end almost looked like a peak on the prairies or back in Patagonia, with the yellowish rock on the lower slope coloured like grassland.

Once we arrived onshore, we were greeted by many ice boulders on the beach and several male Fur Seals. The morning was very relaxed for everyone, with many of us taking the time to enjoy the open nature of the site and explore in small groups. Near the landing site many of us enjoyed discovering the amazing fossils lining the beach, including some impressive ammonites. These are an extinct group of molluscs which lived over 65 million years ago. The volcanic past of the island was clearly present with the rock formations along the shoreline, with Tom providing us with lots of information.





The north side of the Naze, which is a thin neck, also provided us with an unfamiliar view of a sand beach. The beach was home to many resting Fur Seals and the odd Weddell Seal was also spotted in amongst the 'Furries'. One of the highlights for many in the morning was the hike up the hillside towards the tooth-shaped peak, with wonderful views out across the bay.

Once we had all arrived back onboard Plancius, we began to make our way further into Croft Bay, but with the wind picking up we soon turned around and headed towards Vega Island. Landing at Cape Lamb in the afternoon, we were again treated to some beautiful, calm weather. This landing gave many of us a chance to stretch our legs further and undertake a longer hike.



Splitting into different groups some of us made our way along the shoreline beachcombing and enjoy the sunshine, while others took to the hills and walk up towards the higher rock formations and an ice field. Almost like a mini Grand Canyon or Monument Valley, the rock formations and peaks surrounding Cape Lamb are incredible. Those of us on the hike even got to enjoy time at a huge volcanic boulder which lay halfway along the trail and was split into two parts. There were more fossils to be discovered, including this time some petrified wood hidden inside rocks.



With the weather so pleasant, many of us enjoying the hike without layers and layers of clothes, it was decided tonight would be the perfect time to camp. Once another fantastic dinner was complete, including a lovely tiramisu for dessert, 36 brave souls and the Doctor took the zodiacs again to be delivered onshore for a night under the stars at Cape Lamb.



**Day 6 – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Devil Island & Vortex Island**

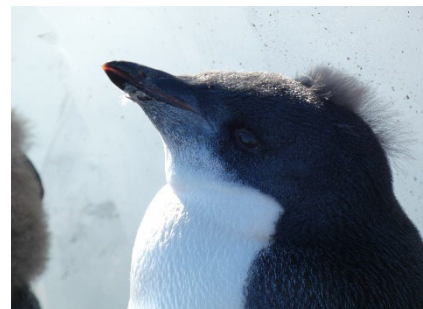
**12h00 GPS Position 63°48'S / 57°17'W**

**Wind: N2 • Sea: calm • Weather: clear sky • Air temperature: +4°C • Sea temperature: 1°C**

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Those of us who went camping arrived back to the ship early in the morning after a fantastic adventure and now belonging to a very selected group of people who spent a night on Antarctic soil.

In the morning we visited the Adelie penguin colony at Devil island. The weather was great, lots of sunshine and lots of big chunks of ice on the beach made it a fairy-tale landscape. The colony was not so busy anymore, lots of adults and chicks had already gone back to sea. But still, we could see some adults moulting and some punky chicks chasing every adult returning





from sea they could find, hoping for a much-needed meal.



After a fabulous lunch we spent the afternoon on a zodiac cruise in Prince Gustav bay where we experienced the wonderful world of ice. We sailed with the zodiacs through the bay where lots of large icebergs were stranded. The erosion of the bergs had caused the most wonderful shapes and the light on the ice caused them to shine up in the most fabulous shades of blue. We saw many fur-seals on the

ice and a small group of Weddell seals. During recap, Ali briefed us again about the plans for next day followed by a short lecture of Annelou about the colours of ice. After that it was time for an Antarctic BBQ on the aft deck.

While having our dinner on the aft deck, being surrounded by the most fabulous landscapes suddenly some Humpback whales showed up, adding to the excitement. After dinner some of us put on the dancing shoes and ending yet another great day in Antarctica with a small party.



## Day 7 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Snow Hill Island & James Ross Island (Admiralty Sound)

**12h00 GPS Position: 64°28'S/ 57°12'W**

**Wind: SE2 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +7°C • Sea temperature: 0°C**

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Ali wakes us up to a magical landscape. The sun is shining bright, the sky is blue, the ocean is flat calm and as far as our eyes can reach there are icebergs scattered around. Plancius is already anchored in front of Snow Hill Island, right in front of the hut where one part of the stranded crew had overwintered.



After a delicious breakfast we all go ashore to visit the hut, except for the intrepid divers who once more explore the underwater world. As we go ashore, we visit the hut which is being refurbished by a team of Argentinians camping right next to it. We keep our social distancing because of their Covid protocol, but they offer us a warm welcome, and we bring them fresh fruit. The landscape is quite amazing with flat

plateaus flanked by what look like walls of basalt. It does not take us long before we find fossils again. The weather is gorgeous and most of us just stroll along the shore admiring the different shapes of the icy bits that are stranded on the low-tide line. After visiting the hut, we climb up the hill to have a better look at the incredible landscape of ice, mounts, and glaciers. After a long landing we all go back to Plancius to enjoy our well-deserved lunch.





During our repositioning we sail across beautiful straits filled with icebergs of different shapes and colours, and we see some humpback whales surfacing. We are looking for the elusive emperor penguin, but they seem to have all left the colonies and the area.



In the afternoon Ali decides to focus our expedition on and around James Ross Island. The weather is now a little cloudy, but the sea is still calm. We do a split landing and zodiac cruise, with our divers exploring the world below the surface, and our kayakers following Zet across the icebergs. First the hikers are shuttled to land, and it takes a little time to get from Plancius to the landing site, as Plancius is positioned a little farther away because of all the ice present close to shore. The hike was very exciting as it is quite probable that we were the first people to ever landed there! Both the long hike and the medium hike group got up to an amazing viewpoint with lots of interesting things along the way, like loads of lichen and glacier traces.

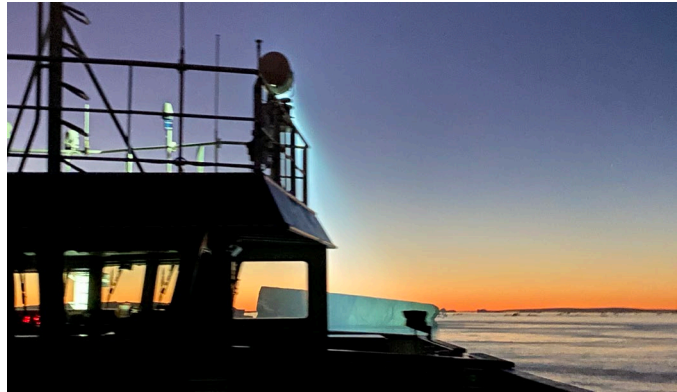


The second group goes on a zodiac cruise, and we find ourselves in a maze of moving icebergs. There is quite a lot of current and some icebergs move very fast, in contrast to those which are grounded. We are lucky enough to see several icebergs of considerable sizes roll over themselves. We also find a couple of Weddell seals, but no trace of emperor penguins. The sky progressively clears, and we finish our zodiac cruise in the sun. Plancius must reposition several times because of the moving ice,



and as we come back to the ship, we have to dock on the gangway in quite a bit of current, which makes it quite interesting.

We then have our recap and dinner and spend some time on the outer decks as Plancius sails again through the icebergs. During recap, Ali shows us the picture of the ships that are in the Antarctic Peninsula currently; we are truly alone in the Weddell Sea.



The sky is very clear and at about 10:30pm Eduardo improvises a short stargazing class on the upper deck behind the bridge. He shows us the Southern Cross, but also the brightest stars and some of the furthest celestial bodies that can be seen with the naked eye, like the large and the small Magellanic clouds. The sunset is amazing, and we can still distinguish the silhouettes of large tabular icebergs. Another beautiful day in Antarctic paradise.



## Day 8 – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Snow Hill Island & Ships Cruise

**12h00 GPS Position: 72°0'S/ 45°0'W**

**Wind: calm • Sea: glassy • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +3°C • Sea temperature: 0°C**

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After a quiet night we woke up to an amazing sunrise in pink and blue. Icebergs of all sizes surround us. Several tabular icebergs are among them. We are on the South-eastern side of Snow Hill Island. On this side the island is covered by ice. In the distance we can see the mountains of James Ross Land. During winter Emperor penguins breed on the ice



just around the corner. Now all the sea ice is gone, the emperors are out at sea. We have reached our southernmost point, not many people have come here in the past. After breakfast we launch all zodiacs for a zodiac cruise between the icebergs, Zet takes out a group for kayaking. We are looking for an emperor penguin. There is no wind and with the sun it isn't cold at all. Only little life is around but this doesn't bother us because the view is just magical. A few Antarctic terns accompany us and minke and humpback whales pass by quickly, as we find our way through the ice. It is an ever-moving labyrinth. No iceberg looks the same. If we look closely, we can identify shapes in the icebergs – rabbits or dragons. A leopard seal is resting on an ice floe and allows us to have a good look at it. After a few hours it is unfortunately time to return to the ship.



We start heading north again, the ice is everywhere around us. It never seems to end. Sometimes we see seals or a few penguins. In the afternoon we can enjoy a hot beverage on the top deck and chat in the sun. Life is good here onboard Plancius, and we are surrounded by tabular icebergs. Eventually the wind picks up a bit, a few cape petrels pass by and finally the fog accompanies us into the night.





**Day 9 – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Yankee Harbour & Half Moon Island**

**12h00 GPS Position: 62°32'S/ 59°47'W**

**Wind: NNW2 • Sea: smooth • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +6°C • Sea temperature: 3°C**

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The day started very early, with a delicious breakfast, in order to enjoy a landing at Yankee harbor. When we arrived at the beautiful beach, we see from the distance a small group of gentoos, and few chinstrap penguins. Along the beach were some fur seals; they were quite curious, and with some “noises” they were just telling us to maintain distance. Some brown skuas were feeding on a penguin, and to our surprise some penguins were quite interested in the behavior as well!



When we were walking along the beach, we have an amazing surprise: 7 elephant seals were waiting us and gave a beautiful scenery; they give some roars, yawns and show us a little fight between them. We enjoy the view and the presence of these giants.



Just going up to a little hill we can appreciate a lovely, and very smelly, gentoo colony. After this amazing morning, we return to the Plancius to enjoy the lunch buffet.

At the afternoon Ali briefed us about the last landing in Antarctica, and we arrived in our zodiacs to Half Moon Island. Just at the beach some gentoos and chinstrap are waiting us to get some final shots with our cameras! We found an old Norwegian boat from the whaling era, more than 100 years old. Going up from the beach we were surprised with an amazing view of a magnificent glacier. Walking a little more we enjoy the presence of the chinstrap colony.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the moment of truth arrives: who will be the brave souls to enter the water to do the famous Polar Plunge? Surprisingly, more than 20 people decide to try, even two staff members joined in, and these people are now part of the amazing group of the "Polar Swimmers".

Now it's time to say goodbye to this beautiful beach and return to the Plancius. Between hot coffee and delicious pastry every one of us started to share how our last landing in Antarctica was.

Once in the lounge we listen carefully to the interesting recaps of Tom "Lunar Basalts", Tanja "Penguins have knees" and Josh "History of the Antarctic Expeditions".

To finish this amazing day, we enjoy a delicious dinner while sharing stories.





## Day 10 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, crossing the Drake Passage

**12h00 GPS Position: 59°17.7'S / 062°55.5'W**

**Wind: WNW4 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +5°C • Sea temperature: +3°C**

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We spend our first day sailing across the Drake Passage on the way back to Ushuaia. Overnight, our ship rolled among the waves as we departed the South Shetland Islands. The swell was up to 3 m with long period and at the beginning, some of our guests had a hard time to sleep. In the morning our ship held its course, North-North West heading towards the mouth of the beagle channel and our position at 08:00 AM was about 400 nautical miles South South East of Cape Horn. We had great sailing conditions during the morning, and we all enjoyed of some sun in the uppermost deck. As sun shone, we had a very crisp and sharp horizon in front of us. A few lonely birds flew in front of our ship, mostly Black Browed Albatross, they did many circles in front of us showing us why they are masters of flight.



As the day started breakfast was served on board, and given the conditions, most of our guests joined the dining room for their first breakfast on board. The exceptional weather allowed everybody to enjoy of their meal as the ship rolled slowly and gently into the waves.

For the very first part of the morning, our expedition staff gave presentations to our guests. The first of this presentations, under the title of “Ice Maidens” was made by Ali. In the first part of her lecture, she described various aspects of the women of Antarctic explorers, specifically of Emily Shackleton, Ernst Shackleton’s wife and Kathleen Scott, the wife of Robert Falcon Scott. In the second part, she describes the stories of a few modern women in the Antarctic who have accomplished extraordinary feats. Her presentation was very much welcomed by the guests and at the end of it, Ali got many questions.

Our second presentation of the morning was offered by our expedition guide Josh, who offered a presentation under the title of “Scott and Amundsen - The Race to the South Pole”. In this presentation, Josh described how the Golden Age of Exploration of Antarctica happened at the beginning of the 20th century and how this era brought two individuals to a race to reach the South Pole.

Lunch was served on board at 12:30 and by this time of the day we were very happy to see most of our guests joining the restaurant feeling well in the gentle roll of the ship.

Shortly after, during the first half of the afternoon, we had the first lecture, presented by veterinarian and biologist Pierre. His presentation, made under the title “Killer Whales”. This was a superb introduction to all the non-experts about the life and habits of these beautiful cetaceans that populate the oceans of the world. In his presentation,



Pierre paid special attention to describe all the aspects of the life-cycle of killer whales, their migrations, their feeding habits, and the dangers that can threaten them. He showed various videos and sounds bringing many of his vivid experiences with killer whales to our guests.

For the second part of our afternoon, we had a guest lecture, offered by master diver, Faith Ortins. With the title "Under the Water" Faith described how the divers braved the cold Antarctic waters to explore what lies beneath the waves. This graphic presentation showed the rich forms of life they encountered during the multiple dives they made on this and other trips to the Antarctic.

During the early evening we had our daily recap. Here Ali presented the plans for the next day. We had two interesting recaps from Catherine explaining the Beaufort Scale, the scale used by sailors and navigators to measure the state of the waves and wind in the ocean. Later Annelou presented an interesting recap describing the history of our ship and how it was built in the Netherlands as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy under the name of Hr. Ms. Tydeman. She showed images of the ship serving for the Dutch Navy and shared some stories of the people who worked on it. At the end of the recap, Faith Ortins had a small intervention in which she referred to the 200 anniversary of the discovery of the Weddell Sea on this date, by James Weddell in 1823. As part of this anniversary, Faith presented a commemorative plaque to the M/V Plancius. The plaque is decorated with commemorative coins of Antarctic explorers, and the plaque has an old German chart of the Antarctic made in 1906 as background. The plaque will be displayed in the Lounge and Ali received it on behalf of Crew and Staff. We should note that this was a very nice detail from Faith, and we are very grateful with her and her husband for the donation.

**Day 11 – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2023, crossing the Drake Passage**

**12h00 GPS Position: 55°14.9'S / 060°16.7'W**

**Wind: SW8 • Sea: rough • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +10°C • Sea temperature: +8°C**

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Today we wake up to a gentler Drake than expected. The ship was rolling during the night, but this morning it is much better. And most of our guests show up for breakfast. The sun is shining, and we have wandering albatrosses escorting Plancius.



After breakfast we start our program of lectures for the day. The first one is given by Annelou on Ice Core Drilling where she explains all the current ice core research techniques and findings in Antarctica. Her lecture is followed by Annina's presentation on Antarctic krill. This is really the superstar of Antarctica as it represents the base of the food-web in this region. Almost all animals in Antarctica feed on krill, or on animals that feed on krill.

Lunch is served at 12:30 and we are all delighted to be able to enjoy Kabir's excellent food in a gentle Drake. After lunch we can start to see land and the continent should provide us with some shelter. But soon after the wind picks up and the Captain must close the outside decks for a couple of hours.

Once entering the Beagle Channel, the sea becomes much calmer, and we are allowed on the outer decks again. Right on time for the orcas! We hear a message from the bridge saying that there are orcas around the ship, and Plancius stops and turns around to allow us to have a proper look at these magnificent animals. What a wonderful farewell gift from nature!

We then attend Eduardo's lecture on Science in Antarctica where he updates us on the major scientific projects currently taking place on the white continent. After this very interesting presentation we all gather in the lounge again after a short break to watch the BBC documentary Blue Planet 2 on the Deep.

The afternoon ends with the Captain's cocktail where Ali walks us through all the segments of our voyage, our Hotel Manager gives us the last instructions for our disembarkation tomorrow, and we raise a glass of champagne with the Captain. We finish by watching the trip slideshow which summarizes in pictures all of our experiences during these past 10 days. Time for our last plated dinner to enjoy Kabir's last gourmet plates, and we all gather at the bar to have our last drinks. What an incredible voyage this has been.



## **Day 12 – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023, Disembarkation in Ushuaia**

**09h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6 S / 065°17.8'W**

**Wind: SW7 • Sea: smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +13°C •**

**Sea temperature: 11°C**

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While we enjoyed a last breakfast on board, our suitcases were taken off the ship. It is a sad moment to disembark from the Plancius, which has been a comfortable and cozy home during this unforgettable journey. We have shared many unique moments together, seen a range of rarely sighted wildlife, and made new friends. Loaded with fond memories we now must head home.

We will continue our adventures, whether it be returning home or experiencing what South America has to offer. On the pier, beside our little blue ship moored alongside in Ushuaia, we say our goodbyes, many hugs, and a few tears... and until next time, we wish each other good health and fair winds.

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



The expedition team has enjoyed exploring together with all the guests. Of course, these operations only run smoothly due to the coordination between all the departments on board Plancius. So, to all the dedicated and determined individuals involved in this adventure, we all give our thanks and appreciation.

Of course, this would not be possible without you, the guests. Thank you 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!



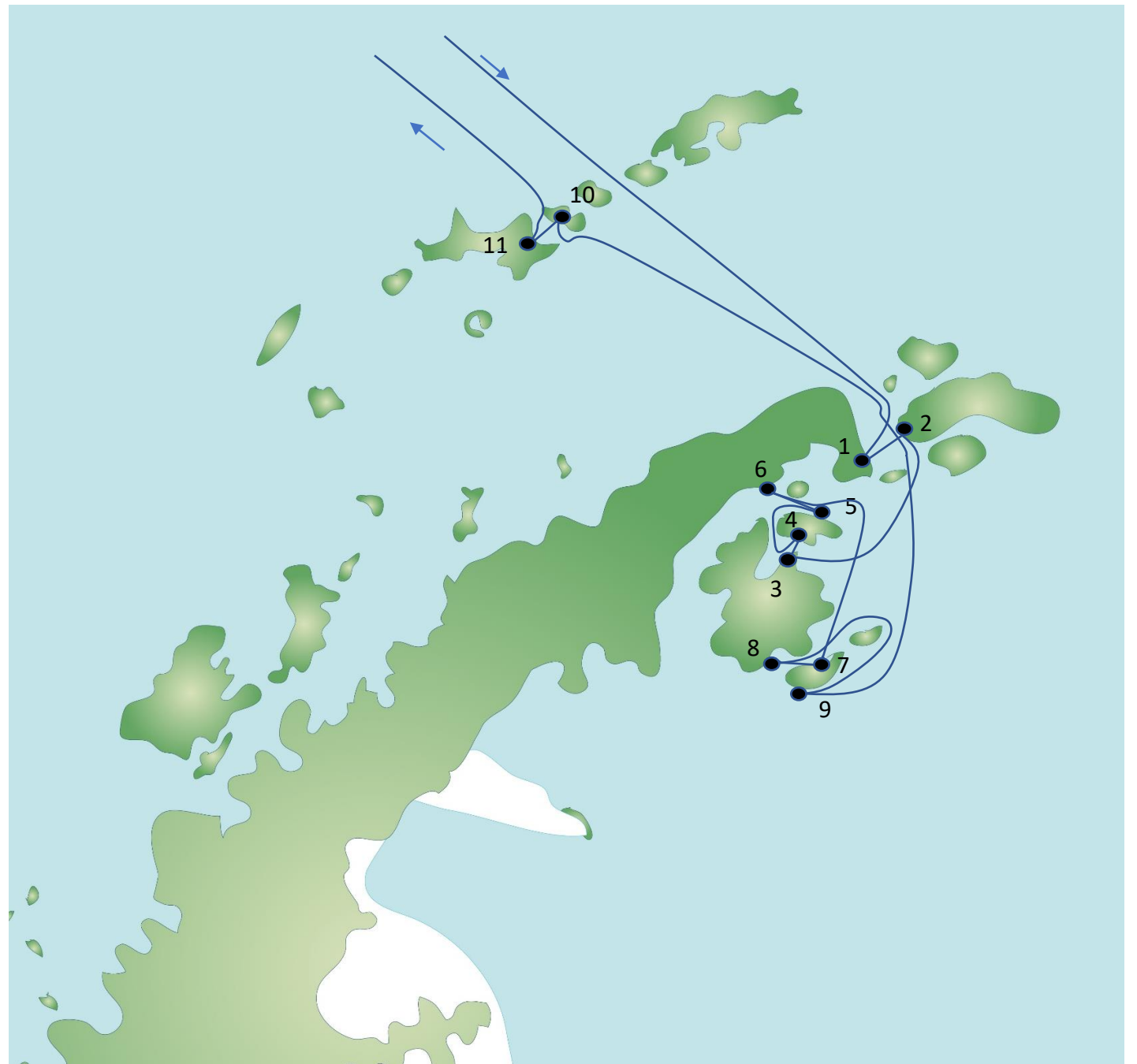
**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1782,0 nautical miles**

**Southernmost position: 72°0'S / 045°0'W**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Ali Liddle, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**

## Map of our trip

- **1:** Brown Bluff - 14 feb.
- **2:** Kinnes Cove and Madder Cliffs - 14 feb.
- **3:** The Naze (James Ross Island) - 15 feb.
- **4:** Cape Lamb (Vega Island) - 15 feb.
- **5:** Devil Island - 16 feb.
- **6:** Prince Gustav Bay - 16 feb.
- **7:** Snow Hill Island - 17 feb.
- **8:** James Ross Island - 17 feb.
- **9:** Weddel sea - 18 feb.
- **10:** Yankee Harbour (Greenwich Island) – 19 feb.
- **11:** Half Moon Island - 19 feb.









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# Ali Liddle - Expedition Leader

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Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley.

Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

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# Eduardo Rubio – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Eduardo describes himself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for sharing nature with others.

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

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



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# Michael Donoghue – Expedition Guide

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Michael began his career with the Royal Marine Commandos at 18 where he served all over the world. His deployments were in some of the most hostile and extreme conditions, from the Jungles to the Arctic where he taught as a Military ski instructor.

After leaving the Marines, he travelled extensively through Central America, Australia, New Zealand and Asia. His thirst for travel continued as he later became involved in the Yachting industry working as an Engineer. He has worked on a variety of sailing and motor vessels as well as being based ashore.

Aside from his time with the yachting industry, he co-established a charity for young, disadvantaged persons, and served as a mountain Trekking and Outdoor Activities Guide. In his spare time he can be found in the mountains (having completed his Mountain Leaders Training), climbing, hiking and most recently in the winters skiing and Ice climbing. Fitness is a very important part of his life, and he loves to run, cycle and open water swimming.

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# Hélène de Méringo - Expedition Guide

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Native from Brittany in France, Hélène quickly developed a passion for nature and wildlife.

After studying biology and ecology, she multiplied missions in various latitudes, working for conservation programs in Guinea, Quebec, and research programs in New Zealand and Indonesia.

In 2008, she winters in the Kerguelen Archipelago as a volunteer biologist for the French Polar Institute and develops a real interest for island ecosystems and the polar world. A grandiose and decisive experience. She continues her experience in the Great South as an agent of the French Southern and Antarctic Natural Reserve. 8.64 cm

Since 2012, she works as an engineer in a research team focus in island ecology. This work leads her to regularly participate in on-board missions to study seabirds nesting in remote islands, particularly in the Pacific.

Since January 2019, she has been participating in cruises to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Arctic on expedition ships with Oceanwide Expedition.

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# Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide

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

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

## Français

Pierre est un vétérinaire spécialisé dans la médecine des mammifères marins. Il travaille dans le domaine de la biologie marine depuis 18 ans, et organise depuis 2004 des stages de recherche sur les mammifères marins dans le monde entier. Il représente le gouvernement luxembourgeois auprès de la Commission baleinière internationale et de la CCAMLR, et collabore avec de nombreuses ONG internationales pour promouvoir la conservation des mammifères marins et lutter contre la captivité des cétacés.

Il effectue actuellement son doctorat au laboratoire d'océanologie de l'Université de Liège, en Belgique. Sa thèse de doctorat porte sur les polluants et les isotopes stables chez les baleines à bosse au large de l'Équateur et du Mozambique.

Il est un passionné d'ornithologie et aime la photographie. L'océan est sa passion, et l'eau son élément!



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# Joshua Peck – Expedition Guide

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A native Falkland Islander, Josh has always been fascinated by the natural world and exploring new destinations.

Growing up in the wildlife haven of the Falklands - with the polar regions on his doorstep - Josh has spent most of his life living alongside penguins, seals and whales, most recently in South Georgia where he was based for 4 months working for the Government of South Georgia.

Josh loves living and working in remote locations and on isolated islands, especially in his homeland of the

Falklands, where he has been involved in conservation projects since an early age. Josh has also travelled and worked extensively around the world from the USA and Canada to Iceland, Zambia, Australia and Poland.

Following on from obtaining degrees in History and Politics in Bristol and London in the United Kingdom, Josh returned home to the Falkland Islands to pursue his passion for wildlife and wild places, co-founding a local tour company with two childhood friends in 2016. Focussing on nature and historical tours, Josh worked for the following four seasons guiding and sharing his love of his home with the many guests that visited.

An avid photographer and an international footballer for his home country (soccer), he is always looking for new experiences and places to visit to broaden his horizons, and is looking forward to the next adventures with Oceanwide Expeditions.

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# Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide

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Annelou grew up in a seaside town in the Netherlands known for its navy base and fisheries. There she spent most of her time sailing, hiking, or looking for shiny rocks and shells on the beach. This is where her passion for the Earth began, which she decided to turn into her career.

Annelou specialized in Earth Sciences and graduated from Utrecht University. She specialized in physical geography, where her focus is on land-surface processes, natural hazards, geomorphology, climate reconstruction and climate changes and a minor in sustainability.

The connection between the academic and practical aspects of Earth Sciences, which involves a lot of fieldwork and is highly hands-on, is what she enjoys most. She loves to share her understanding of the Earth in general and the Arctic in particular. She also got a special interest in the history of whaling as it played a large role in her hometown's history.

She is overjoyed to be able to combine her passion for the Earth with traveling the seas by ship.

In her free time she still loves to collect shiny rocks. Most of the time she can be found on the water sailing somewhere in Europe with her family, hiking, or, when at home, bouldering and climbing.

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# Valeria Mariel Sainz Herrera - Expedition Guide

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Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentinian photographer with almost seven years of business background. She grew up in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, a beautiful place with a lot of culture and interesting things to do.

Through the years she found that one of her biggest passions is to travel, traveling as much as she could, she found a love of photography, a profession that defines her in so many ways and gives her the freedom to know and live-in different locations around the world.

Nowadays she spends her life between Argentina and Brazil; working during the summer season as a Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions and for the rest of the year you can find her in a beautiful island named Ilhabela in Brazil, working in the tourism area or in Ushuaia as a photographer at the Ski Center.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Patagonian Andes or trekking in the central region of Argentina and in Brazil. She also enjoys other kinds of sports like diving, kayaking and sailing.

The Antarctic and Arctic were always a dream for her but now very much part of her life.



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# Tom van Hoof - Expedition Guide

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Tom fell in love with the Arctic when he was attending a climatology masterclass as student at the University Centre of Svalbard in 2001.

During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO<sub>2</sub> on climate change during the past millennium.

After living a year in the desert of Tucson, Arizona (USA), where he was working as a Postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona, Tom returned to the Arctic when he started working for the Dutch Geological Survey in 2005. As a biostratigrapher (fossil-lover) he returned to Spitsbergen for a number of expeditions, collecting rocks and guiding fellow geologists.

Tom's academic background in geology/ paleoclimatology is a broad one, ranging from climate change during the past 1000 years to ecology of coal forming swamp ecosystems 300 million years ago. He loves to be outside especially in the Arctic wilderness. In 2018 Tom left the Dutch Geological Survey and started his own geological consultancy business.

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# Annina Scholl – Expedition Guide

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Annina is a biologist with a passion for remote destinations and marine life – especially plankton, one of the most essential groups of creatures on our planet.

After dreaming of everything alive and wild during her childhood, she studied biology at the TU Darmstadt, where she graduated with a PhD in cell biology. More specifically, she studied how genetic material, DNA, is packed and organized within the cell nucleus.

During her bachelor and master studies however, Annina decided to deepen her understanding and knowledge in marine biology when she worked at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven, Germany in the research group “Antarctic krill”. Her master thesis focused on how the annual light conditions in Antarctica influence the metabolism of Antarctic krill, which is the very centre of the food web.

In 2018 her dream of the polar regions became true when she started working as an expedition guide. Since then, Annina has worked in some of the wildest and remotest environments on earth - from the high Arctic down to Antarctica. While it is easy to infect guests with the polar bug in these unique places, it is important to Annina that this happens in a passionate but respectful manner. It is a privilege to visit, and it is our responsibility to protect these environments and all its inhabitants.

In her free time, Annina enjoys spending time outdoors especially hiking, horseback riding and photography.

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# Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader

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Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first persons to bring tourists diving in Antarctica

He has been diving for over 30 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions for more than 20 years and has supervised thousands of dives in polar waters. Henrik also works as a submersible pilot and surface officer.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and has previously lived and worked in Japan and India several years before becoming an expedition guide full time. He now lives in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters and his son.



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# Catherine Buckland - Dive Guide

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Being born inland in the UK didn't stop Catherine from developing a love for the water and sea. She began sailing at an early age and completed longer sea voyages as she got older. Her maritime interests meant it wasn't a huge leap to start scuba diving.

Catherine is a commercial diving instructor and diver medic based in Plymouth, on the south coast of England. Diving year-round, she trains commercial divers, including teams from the British Antarctic Survey and UK military. She participates in various scientific, filmmaking and expedition

projects around the globe. These challenging environments also utilise her skills as a medic and in handling complex logistics.

Catherine's work in Antarctica involves supervising divers in a harsh and demanding environment. Her years of experience in diving supervision are an added benefit to working in a location with very limited medical help. Catherine's experience and dedication is focused on keeping the divers in her teams as safe as possible, and ensuring the non-divers of a group enjoy what Antarctica has to offer.

In recent years Catherine has enjoyed the challenge of transferring her skills up to the Arctic from Antarctica. She has worked in Greenland on diving trips for the past 3 seasons and wanted to expand her Arctic work. She has now worked a season in Svalbard and loved the environment there. Catherine is enjoying working in this cold environment that poses similar challenges to working in Antarctica, whilst also appreciating the difference in wildlife, culture and flora that is available there. Catherine is just as keen to continue learning about the Arctic and will be continuing to take divers exploring in these waters.

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# Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide

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

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

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

Activities (FAAS\_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

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

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

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

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

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# Tanja Bayer - Dive Guide

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Tanja is at home in Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt / Main in Germany. She has been diving since 1990 and has more than 4200 dives. In Oberursel she is running her own Diving Center "TaWo Diving" since 1996.

As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.

Her 'second' profession is being a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in Antarctica and since 2015 also in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

As a Dive Guide and Diving Expedition Leader she takes divers all around the world. Asked for her favourite dive sites, she mentions "Planeau Bay" in Antarctica. Cold water diving is really something special and challenging.

You have to be experienced and always aware of hypothermia. But it is a great feeling to touch an iceberg or to see all this colorful animals surviving in this harsh regions.



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# Zet Freiburghaus - Kayak Leader

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

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

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

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

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



# Weddell Sea Explorer

## Ushuaia

Embarkation  
Saturday 11th February 2023

- 1600      **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know. Please feel free to look around the ship.  
Tea and coffee is available in the Lounge on Deck 5.
- >1700      **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.
- 1800      Departure from the pier.
- 1845      Please join us in the Lounge for an **introduction to the ship** from your Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherendnychenko.  
This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktails**, a chance to meet your Captain, Ernesto Barria and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Ali Liddle. She will explain the plans for the coming days, and it will be a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.
- 1930      **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk.  
Enjoy your meal.

**Tonight we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Boots.** We will call you by Deck to collect your rubber boots from the Boot Room on Deck 3.
- 1100 **IAATO Briefing and Biosecurity Briefing.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for these two mandatory briefings. This will give you information about our behaviour in Antarctica and how we can keep our impact minimal. The biosecurity briefing will give you important information about how to prevent the introduction of alien species in Antarctica.  
**Bio-security begins.** We will call you by Deck to vacuum your outer gear, back packs, and camera bags. Please remember to sign the bio-security declaration form with the staff before you leave the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1430 **Bio-security continues.** We will call you by Deck to vacuum your outer gear, back packs, and camera bags.
- 1600 **Penguins.** Ali will give a presentation about Penguins in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Recap and Mandatory Zodiac Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of our first day on board and hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

**Tonight we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**

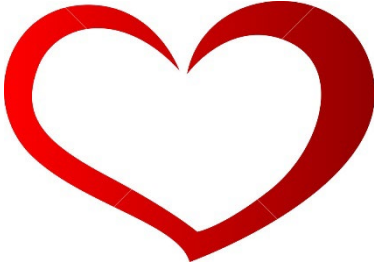


- 0745      **Wake up call** from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930      **Alien Oceans.** Is there any water on other planets? Join Eduardo in the Lounge to find out more about extra-terrestrial water!
- 1100      **Invasive Species.** We did our biosecurity checks before going to Antarctica. To find out more about some species that have affected remote sub-Antarctic and Antarctic islands, please join Helene in the Lounge.
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1430      **Camping Briefing.** If you have signed up for camping, please join the camping guides in the Lounge.
- 1500      **The World of Ice.** We are heading to the frozen continent of Antarctica with glaciers, icebergs and ice shelves. To find out more about the cool stuff, join Tom in the Lounge
- 1630      **Ice Core Drilling.** Scientists in Antarctica often drill deep into the ice as a way of researching changes in climate and the atmosphere over hundreds of years. Please join Annelou in the Dining Room to find out more about the process.
- 1830      **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap and hear of our plans for our first landing in Antarctica tomorrow.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

# Weddell Sea Explorer

## Brown Bluff and Kinnes Cove

Tuesday 14th February 2023



**We will be entering Antarctic Sound in the early morning, so it is worth getting up early to enjoy our navigation to Brown Bluff. Sunrise is at 05.04**

- 0700      Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830      **Brown Bluff.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Brown Bluff which is a stunning location with high cliffs above the landing site. Here there are Adelie and Gentoo penguins. Again, follow the route marked by the red poles.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA      **Kinnes Cove and Madder Cliffs.** This afternoon we will be in the region of Kinnes Cove and hope to offer you a zodiac cruise in the area. To do this we will divide you into 2 groups. Please check the Zodiac group list to check which group you are in.  
**Group 1 will go out first**  
**Group 2 will go second**  
**Please listen for announcements with regard to timings.**
- 1845      **Recap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a recap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant

0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0830 **The Naze.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at The Naze. The landscape is very dramatic with a tall rocky hill and inland glaciers. We hope to be able to offer a longer hike as well as some time to just explore the coastline.

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

## **Expedition Afternoon in Herbert Sound**

**Our plans for the afternoon will depend on the weather and ice conditions we find when we sail into Herbert Sound. It will be an afternoon for exploring and seeing what we find!**

**Please listen for announcements!**

1830 **Recap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a recap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant



# Weddell Sea Explorer Devil Island and Exploration!

Thursday 16th February 2023

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Devil Island.** Devil Island, next to Vega Island is home to an Adelie penguin colony. Please follow the red poles up from the beach and move slowly as there will be a lot of penguins and chicks on the way and, as always, we want to limit our disturbance. We hope to offer a hike to the summit of the island where we will have great views of the surrounding area.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

## Expedition Afternoon

**Our plans for the afternoon will depend on the weather and ice conditions we find. It will be an afternoon for exploring and seeing what we find!**

**Please listen for announcements!**

- 1845 **Recap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a recap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Special Antarctic Dinner** is served on deck!



- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Snow Hill Island.** Here at Snow Hill Island we hope to be able to go ashore at the historic hut from the Nordenskjold Expedition in 1903. It is a small hut so we will only be able to visit in small groups but there will be the chance to take a walk on the beach and hills around the hut. There are many fossils in the area. Please only photograph these and leave them for future visitors to enjoy. Thank you.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

## Expedition Afternoon

**Our plans for the afternoon will depend on the weather and ice conditions we find. From the ice chart it seems we might be able to reach the pack ice to the south west of Snow Hill. This will be the southern most point of our voyage. Keep a look out for “big” penguins on ice! It will be an afternoon for exploring and seeing what we find!**

**Please listen for announcements!**

- 1845 **Recap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a recap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appetite!

## **Expedition Day!**

**In order to take advantage of the weather conditions here in the Weddell Sea and avoid the strong winds to the north we will be remaining in the area for the day.**

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

**Our plans for the morning will depend on the weather and ice conditions we find. We will begin the day to the west of Snow Hill in the Weddell Sea and assess the ice conditions there. We're hoping for big tabular icebergs and big penguins!**

**Please listen for announcements!**

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

## **Expedition Afternoon!**

**As in the morning, we will be continuing our exploration of this area of the Weddell Sea. At the end of the afternoon we will begin to sail north.**

**Please listen for announcements!**

1830 **Recap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a recap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room. Bon appetite!

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0745 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Landing at Yankee Harbour.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at this bay of Greenwich Island, South Shetlands. At this location we will encounter a colony of Gentoo penguins and there are sometimes Fur seals and Weddell seals on the long isthmus. As in our previous landings, please follow the route marked by the red poles.
- 1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Landing at Half Moon Island.** During the early afternoon we will make our last landing in Antarctica. At this landing site we'll have the chance to see a colony of Chinstrap penguins, more Antarctic skuas, snowy sheathbills, fur seals and elephant seals.
- 1830 **Recap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a recap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant

**Tonight we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself.**

**Thank you.**



# Weddell Sea Explorer At Sea in the Drake Passage

Monday 20th February 2023

- 0745      Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930      **Ice Maidens, Women in Antarctica.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for a presentation about the history of women in Antarctica and stories about some of the women behind the men who explored the frozen continent.
- 1100      **Scott and Amundsen – The Race to the Pole.** The beginning of the 20th century was the Golden Age of Exploration in Antarctica. If you would like to hear more about the expeditions of Scott and Amundsen in their race to the South Pole, join Josh in the Lounge.
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1500      **Killer Whales.** We were lucky to see a large pod of Killer whales on our voyage so if you would like to learn more about these enigmatic marine mammals please join Pierre in the Lounge.
- 1630      **Beneath the Water.** Faith Ortins has brought the divers on this Antarctic trip. She has many years of experience of diving in Antarctica so if you would like to find out what is beneath the waves here then please join her in the Lounge.
- 1830      **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap and hear of our plans for our last day in the Drake Passage tomorrow.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.



# Weddell Sea Explorer At Sea in the Drake Passage

Tuesday 21st February 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Ice Core Drilling.** Scientists in Antarctica often drill deep into the ice as a way of researching changes in climate and the atmosphere over hundreds of years. Please join Annelou in the Lounge to find out more about the process.
- 1100 **Krill.** Antarctic krill is the basis of all marine life in Antarctica. If you would like to learn more about these little pink critters, join Annina in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1500 **Science in Antarctica.** If you would like to find out more about the history of science research in Antarctica and some of the current scientific research work carried out there today, then please join Eduardo in the Lounge.
- 1630 Blue Planet 2. BBC documentary will be screened in the Lounge.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktail.** Please join the Expedition Team and Captain Ernesto in the Lounge for a chance to toast our successful voyage to the Weddell Sea.
- 1900 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



# Weddell Sea Explorer Ushuaia

Wednesday 22nd February 2023

0700 Your final wake up call from Ali! Good Morning everyone, Good Morning!

**Before breakfast at 0730 please could you put your large check in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you. Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.**

0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0830/45 It is time to leave the Little Blue Ship, Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception.

**The airport bus will be at the pier at around 0830/45. Please identify all of your luggage and make sure it goes on the airport bus.**

**If you have a later flight, identify your luggage and put it in the truck and it will be stored at the luggage store until 1400.**

**If you have other arrangements to stay in Ushuaia, please collect your luggage from the pier then walk to the port entrance for a taxi.**

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff would like to thank you for travelling with us and wish you a very safe journey home.**

**We hope to see you on board again in the future!**