



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Antarctica – Polar Circle Discovery & Learning Voyage

Ushuaia – Antarctica – Ushuaia

4<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2023



M/v *Hondius* was built in 2019, as the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), *Hondius* represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. *Hondius* complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v *Hondius* is 107.6 m long, 15.3 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.3 m, Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super), 15 knots average cruising speed and has 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kW.

## **Captain Artur Iakovlev**

and his international crew of 55 sailors

Chief Officer:	<b>Diederik Scholten</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	<b>Igor Nazarov</b>	[Russia]
Second Officer:	<b>Kirill Buriacheck</b>	[Russia]
Hotel Manager:	<b>William Barnes</b>	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	<b>Sachin Naik</b>	[India]
Sous Chef:	<b>Gaurav Bawa</b>	[India]
Ships doctor:	<b>Georgios Tsianos</b>	[Greece]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Pippa Low</b>	[Scotland]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	<b>Adam Burke</b>	[UK]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	<b>Alexander (Sasha) Romanovskiy</b>	[Russia]
Dive Team Leader:	<b>Henrik Enckell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Gonzalo Sabattini</b>	[Argentina]
Dive Guide:	<b>Roman Frischknecht</b>	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	<b>Urban Reifler</b>	[Switzerland]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Erin Bastian</b>	[UK]
Kayak Guide:	<b>Keirron Tastagh</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andrew Crowder</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Anthonie Luteijn</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Charlotte Taplin</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Clara Iachetti</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Elizabeth Robinson</b>	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Esther Josten</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Georgina White</b>	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jakub Malecki</b>	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Koen Jongerling</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Simon Davies</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Ursula Tschertter</b>	[Switzerland]

**We welcome you on board!**

## Day 1 – Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

12h00 GPS Position: At Port Ushuaia 54°55.3'S 067°29.4'W

Wind: E2 • Sea: in port • Weather: sunny • Air temperature: +9°C • Water temperature: +10°C • Visibility: good

---

Finally. Finally, we're here, finally we're getting on board, finally we're going to Antarctica! Some of us have been waiting for years, and for some of us this is a life's dream coming true. We find ourselves in the port of Ushuaia, the southernmost city of the world. On all the signs and souvenirs, Ushuaia is advertised as "the end of the world". And to some extent this is true. For we are heading across the Drake Passage into a different world. A world that is unlike anything we have seen so far.

We are stepping on board the M/V Hondius, our beautiful 107-meter vessel that will be our base for the coming two weeks. The team on board welcomes us with open smiles and many of us can't hide their excitement anymore. We get set up in our cabins and are then invited to the lounge for coffee, tea, home-made cakes and a mandatory safety briefing and drill. Chief Officer Diederik explains the most essential safety features on board and how we should behave in case of emergency. For the abandon ship drill, we all put on our beautiful orange life vests and gather at our muster stations from where we are directed to our life boats.

We leave the safe harbor of Ushuaia around 6pm. Half an hour later we are invited to the lounge for Captain's Cocktail to celebrate the beginning of our voyage into the wilderness. The speech of our Captain Artur is accompanied by prosecco and tasty canapés. Afterwards we get to know our Hotel Manager Will and the Expedition Team. Outside the windows we gaze at the stunning landscape along the Beagle Channel, blowing **humpback whales** and jumping **dusky dolphins**. We end the day with a delicious dinner buffet, a stunning sunset and a relaxing glass by the bar.

Antarctica, here we come...



## Day 2 – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### At Sea on the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 57°25.8'S 065°09.3'W

Wind: N2/3 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +7°C • Water temperature: +5°C • Visibility: good

---

After our first night on Hondius we have our first wakeup call from our expedition leader Pippa. Today's program starts with mandatory briefings on IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) and zodiac operations. During this briefing we learn about the zodiac operation procedures and the IAATO guidelines on shore for the Antarctic continent.

One of our bird specialists on board, Simon, gives a lecture about the different bird species we can find on the Drake Passage. He explains how to identify species and some of the characteristics.

After an amazing lunch, we have two more lectures. Ursula gives an introduction to different whale species we might be able to see on our trip. Anthonie gives a lecture about waves, the waves we might come across on the Drake Passage and other types of waves.

The sea conditions we have today are good with wave heights between 2 and 3 meters,



not bad for the Drake, one of the most notorious stretches of water on the planet! These calm conditions allow us to be out on deck safely and spot different sorts of wildlife around the ship like the **wandering albatross**, **southern royal albatross**, **southern giant petrol**, and the **southern bottlenose whale**.

Before dinner we have our first recap, where Pippa presents the plans for the next day and we receive recaps from the staff members on different subjects. Anthonie talks about the Antarctic convergence zone, where the subantarctic waters meet the Antarctic waters, creating a biological boundary to Antarctica. Esther talks about some of the history of the Drake Passage and Charlotte about some of the characteristics of the Drake Passage. Filled with knowledge we are able to enjoy a nice dinner, looking back at a superb first day out at sea.

## Day 3 – Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### At Sea on the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 62°63.9'S 062°29.2'W

Wind: NW4/5 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +2°C • Water temperature: +4°C • Visibility: good

---

Our second day at sea continues with relatively calm seas that most of us are now getting accustomed to. Following breakfast, Andrew introduces us to the Brushtail Penguins (Adelie, Chinstrap & Gentoo) that we hope to see in Antarctica, with his tips on how to identify each species. Then the campers have their briefing with Koen and Clara before everybody is called down to join the 'Muck Boot Party' – distribution of the essential foot ware for our Antarctic expedition. Lunch follows soon after – more great food, difficult to ignore. Will our newly acquired expedition gear even fit us anymore?!?

In the afternoon the bird life really picks up with our first records of **Black-bellied Storm Petrel**, **Cape Petrel** and **Southern Fulmar**. These are in addition to the more familiar **Giant Petrels**, occasional **Albatross** and **Soft Plumaged Petrels**; a few of the latter are so-called "Dark Phase" birds – an all-over dusky colored morph of the species, not often recorded. Occasional whale blows are seen. Inside we are again on our way to deck 3, this time for the biosecurity check. This is an essential, mandated procedure designed to prevent the entry of alien species that we might carry with us when we go ashore in Antarctica. At 14:50 we have our first view of land since leaving the Beagle Channel with Smith Island, in the South Shetland Island chain, appearing on the horizon, off our starboard side. We have finally arrived after two full days at sea – the rocky ice-capped island is a taste of what is to come for us. Later, an ice themed talk from Jakub about glaciers is preceded by an ice themed cone – 4 flavors, cream, sprinkles and sauce, if required!

In the evening we gather for our recap, where Pippa lays out the plans for our first operations tomorrow, including a continental landing – the highly valued 7th continent for some of us. Then a series of short, informative sections from members of the expedition team, including one on farting whales and other animals! Who'd have guessed they would have to travel all the way to Antarctica to find out that Sloths don't actually fart! Equipped with all this incredible new knowledge we go down to the dining room for an excellent dinner. Some then retire to their cabins, others to the bar, in a state of some excitement about what tomorrow is going to bring.





## Day 4 – Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Portal Point & Paradise Bay

**12h00 GPS Position: 64°27.7'S 061°45.0'W**

Wind: NE4 • Sea: slight • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +0°C • Water temperature: +3°C • Visibility: good

---

Excitement is high when we arise for this long-awaited day; our first Antarctica landing! We started to see land yesterday evening as we navigated through the South Shetland Islands but had not seen the famous white continent yet. We prepare for the first day of activities which includes a landing, zodiac cruise, kayaking, and scuba diving. Portal Point is the perfect place for this! The divers and kayakers have massive icebergs to dive under and paddle around, while the zodiac cruisers have humpback whale galore. On land, the expedition team marks a route to stretch legs up and over a snowy hill to a lookout point over Charlotte Bay. The landing site has numerous Antarctica fur seals, a first for many of us. The adolescent seals are hauled out on the rocks being quite chatty while playing with one another. A leopard seal makes a brief appearance at the landing site while we head back to the ship and onto our next location, Paradise Bay.



After another delicious lunch, our afternoon activity is a full-ship cruise exploring the bay, while the kayakers go kayaking and the divers go diving. Paradise Bay is scattered with examples of the intricate relationship between ice and rocks. In the bay, the rocks peek out from beneath the snow layer soon to be warmed by the sun and expediting the melt. As we cruise along Skontorp Cove, we witness majestic glacier margins shooting to the sky with crevassed ice pillars and cliffs, only waiting to collapse within days or weeks to give birth to even more icebergs. Many visitors to Antarctica describe the fantastic scenery and cute wildlife; however, an underappreciated aspect is the sound. With a bit of sun shining on the icebergs, the sound emitted leaves all listeners in awe. Our zodiac drivers turn off their engines and drift amongst a symphony of thousands of air bubbles exploding every second; utilizing a new sense to fully experience Antarctica.

The bay's shoreline and steep cliffs are covered with moss and lichen, one of our first signs of plant life within Antarctica. The zodiac cruisers zip in and out of the icebergs, growlers, and bergy bits looking for wildlife. Seals, gentoo penguins, and humpback whales are the main attractions of the cruise. Two juvenile humpback whales display socializing behaviours, Crabeater and Leopard seals rest on ice floats, and icebergs tower over us in the zodiacs.

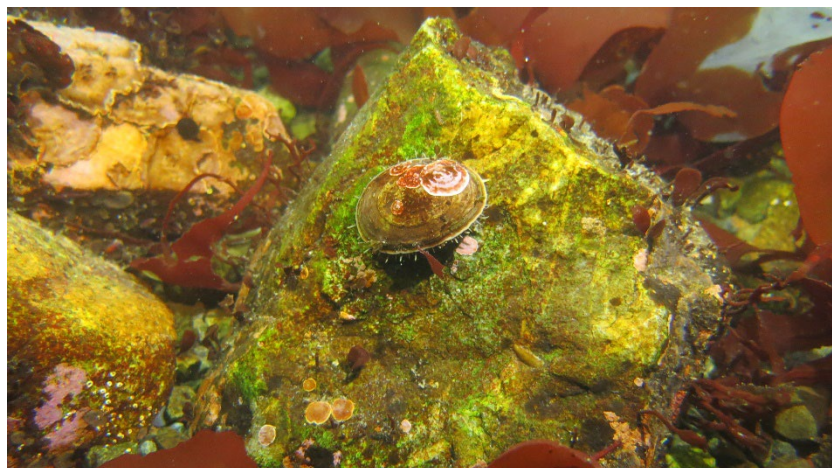
Within Paradise Bay are two research stations, one Chilean and one Argentinian. On Coughtrey Peninsula sits Brown Station, home of the Argentine Antarctica Program and the oldest permanent station in Antarctica. Over 200 researchers are stationed there throughout the year and the research conducted focuses on meteorological observatory, census of penguins, and oceanographic studies. In 1984, part of the main facility burned in a fire and the station was rebuilt in 1995.

Our zodiac cruisers, kayakers, and divers head back to the ship and straight to the restaurant for another tasty dinner. But the day is not over yet, we still have our campers! The campers head to shore near Brown Station for their night on the ice, led by our heroic camping guides Clara and Koen. After a wonderful first day of Antarctica exploration, guests onboard MV Hondius tuck into their cabins and guests on shore tuck into the ice ready for a peaceful night in Paradise Bay.

## Dive Log #1

We went for a first dive at Portal Point in order to get everybody comfortable with their equipment. There were medium size waves and current but also fur seals and one leopard seal encounter.

The afternoon dive took place at Paradise Bay in front of Brown Station, which is an Argentinian research base. We began at a shallow spot and went with the current along a slope which then turned into a wall. In the kelp we spotted different species of starfish, snails and Antarctic limpets.



## Day 5 – Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Damoy Point, Port Lockroy & Jougla Point

12h00 GPS Position: 64°48.4'S 063°29.5'W

Wind: ENE4 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C • Water temperature: +3°C • Visibility: good

---

For the campers the day starts already at 5 o'clock when they are brought back to the ship from their beautiful camping site in Paradise Bay. To their delight, pastries, orange juice, tea and coffee are served in the lounge. Those sleeping on board are greeted by Pippa's wake up call. *"Good morning everybody. Good morning. It is Wednesday March 8, cloudy with air temperature of 0° C. We are now on the way from Paradise Bay to our next destination named Damoy Point. Good morning."*

Some time later we approach the landing site where the wind is unfortunately too strong to go on a zodiac cruise. Instead, Plan B with a split landing on Wiencke Island where the guides have marked a nice and long round trail came into place. On land we enjoy the opportunity to stretch our legs passing several rookeries with Gentoo penguin adults and chick as well as the ever-present skuas. Standing on the top of the hill we enjoy a breath-taking 360° view over the Neumayer Channel, surrounding mountains and the line of black rocky peaks called Seven Sisters.



Near the landing site in Dorian Bay the freshly painted Damoy Hut offers a glimpse into living in Antarctica. From 1975 to 1993 two or three men were stationed here during the summer months to transfer commodities and research materials from supply ships to a small airplane. The Twin Otter took off from a 400 m long prepared runway to fly to the Rothera Research Station on Adelaide Island much further south. The hut appears large and roomy for the team but must have been quite crowded when ten or more people had to stay when bad weather prevented flying. Photos, drawings and notes as well as clothes, labelled tin cans, cutlery and



a teapot tell the story about their daily live. The hut was abandoned in 1994 when direct flights from the Falkland Islands to Rothera Station were established.



During the morning the wind calms down nicely making the zodiac rides back to the ship less wild and splashy.

Soon after lunch, during which the ship just sails around the corner, zodiacs are launched to bring us to Goudier Island. Here the Base A, one of three bases in Antarctica, was built during Operation Tabarin which ceased in 1945. In following years additional huts were built to accommodate a radio operator, cook and doctor as well as a meteorologist, ionosphericist, biologist, surveyor and geologist. While the museum offers countless historical artefacts to help to understand their lives, various modern items are offered for sale in the shop to support the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT).

Not to forget to drop the dozens of postcards written yesterday evening in the red mailbox to start their journey from the southernmost post office to beloved ones all over the world.

Those landing at Jougla Point find themselves standing beside a huge whale skeleton put together from large and small bones found in the bay. They are an important reminder of the past when thousands of whales were killed and processed on floating factory ships in the sheltered bay from 1911 to 1923. Although we started the day in challenging cold winds and restricted visibility the weather gets better and better throughout the day until patches of blue sky can even be seen when returning to the ship.

Today was an interesting day offering various insights into the past filled with unique and memorable encounters with today's wildlife and scenery.

## Dive Log #2

At a diving spot called Casabianca, which is a small island situated just around the corner from Damoy Point, a 30min dive was undertaken to a maximum depth of 10m. It was a beautiful dive amidst different species of kelp, sponges and starfish.



## Day 6 – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### South Polar Circle & Detaille Island

12h00 GPS Position: 66°49.3'S 067°07.3'W

Wind: S6 • Sea: moderate • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C • Water temperature: +2°C • Visibility: good

---

The number one goal for today is to cross the Southern Polar circle and head to 66 degrees South. Our expected time of arrival for the Polar Circle is 1100 meaning we have enough time in the morning for a lecture relating to what we will see often today, ice. Jakub, our resident glaciologist and researcher for the University of Poznan, presents a lecture in which he answers the ten most common questions asked regarding ice and glaciers. He explains what constitutes as an iceberg compared to a growler or bergy bit, about why some icebergs appear blue or white or even green, and answers one of the harder questions, how will climate change affect the world's ice. Our morning feels like a true expedition, learning about glaciers while watching massive icebergs float by while we head to the Antarctica Polar Circle.



Just before 1100 Pippa invites everyone onboard to celebrate the Antarctic circle crossing with the expedition team on the bow! For most people onboard, this is a momentous experience. Our wonderful hotel department prepared hot chocolate, with or without a generous splash of rum, and whipped cream on the top. With the sounding of the ships horn, everyone shouts out with jubilee that we have made it across the Antarctica Polar Circle! For some, crossing the circle means now we have truly made it to Antarctica, to the South. Many people travel to Antarctica every year, in fact, according to IAATO, the International Association of Antarctica Tourism Operations, around 55,000 people embarked on an Antarctica trip in 2021-2022, of which only a small fraction sailed down to the Antarctic Circle. When comparing these statistics



to the Arctic Circle in the North, the results help shed light on our achievement of the day. Over 4 million people live within the Arctic Circle and 2 million people cross the Arctic Circle every year. For Antarctica, there are no permanent human inhabitants, and this was MV Hondius' first time crossing the Polar Circle this season. After fully taking in the views of Detaille Island and Crystal Sound, Hondius turns around and heads North as we still have more places to visit and wildlife to see!

A dive was planned during the afternoon in the vicinity of Detaille Island, but due to severe weather all activities including diving were cancelled.

Adam gives an informative lecture in the afternoon about supporting Antarctica science. He explains what remote field work operations entails and his role while overwintering in Antarctica. Adam worked as the boat officer for the marine team which conducted the only year-round diving in Antarctica. His lecture helps us envision the hardship of conducting research in such a harsh environment and the various jobs he has held that are required to allow science to be undertaken in the polar regions.

Today is a lecture filled day with our third and final lecture of the day presented by Esther. She tells us the intriguing story of the 'race to the south pole'. Esther recounts the various Antarctica explorations and heroic attempts to discover something unknown. Her lecture focuses on the famous explorations from Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott, notably their competition to reach the South Pole first. Antarctica is remarkable for many reasons and the exploration history is a main reason many people are drawn to this place.

To continue the celebration of achieving the Antarctica Circle, we are treated to a happy hour and music in the bar. The evening gets even more spectacular as the ship heads into strong winds and impressive sea state. The waves are constantly splashing the bow windows, reminding us that Antarctica is the windiest and wildest of all continents; bringing an awe to all those still in the bar.



## Day 7 – Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Lemaire Channel & Stoney Point

12h00 GPS Position: 64°58.8'S 063°24.9'W

Wind: NE6/7 • Sea: moderate • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C • Water temperature: +3°C • Visibility: good

---

The cold Antarctic morning is greeting us with low clouds looming over Petermann Island. We are heading to the restaurant on deck 5 to have our breakfast. Pippa, the Expedition leader, has already made her wake-up call to us, but this is the morning when not many of us are really in need of it. The night was very stormy and Hondius had to fight 50-60 knots head wind and 4-5 meters high waves. If the weather conditions can be far from the perfect ones for sleeping, so there they were.

As we are having our breakfast, Hondius is approaching closer and closer to Petermann Island. We are waiting for the decision of the Captain and the Expedition leader. It comes up really fast and sadly it is not a positive one. The wind is way too strong for us to even try to land, so we are passing Petermann Island by heading to our next destination – Port Charcot.

Antarctica keeps on showing us its' naughty character. Port Charcot looks windy but more or less good, but from time to time we are having gusts up to 70 knots and it means that we cannot land at Port Charcot either. Well, no one promised us that everything would be perfect, so we are accepting the reality with dignity and keep on heading North.

The way North lies through one of the most picturesque and impressive geographical objects of the Antarctic peninsula – the legendary Lemaire Channel! We are all getting dressed and proceeding to the bow of our ship to enjoy the beauty of the channel from outer decks. Almost a kilometer tall vertical walls of the mountains, icebergs, glaciers and the stormy weather are making an unforgettable impression on us all. It is hard to stay outside for longer than 10 minutes due to the wind, so from time to time we are hiding in the observatory lounge to get warmer and have a cup of hot chocolate.



The weather does not want to improve, and the wind is getting even stronger, but still there are some places in the area where it is possible to hide and have a wind shade from the mountains. One of such places is Paradise Harbor. Yes, we've already been there, but the harbor is big and beautiful, so why not to visit it again and explore some coves we had no opportunity to explore a few days before?

And here we are! Paradise Harbor looks well sheltered. One cape called Stoney Point looks good for landing. The expedition team puts Zodiacs on the water and after a short scouting Pippa, the Expedition leader gives a green light for activities.

Stoney Point does not host any penguins, but it is possible to climb up the hill and have a great overview of Paradise Harbor. We are climbing up and on the top meeting Jakub, one of the expedition guides. He is digging a hole in the snow with a shovel to show us the layers of snow and the way it is getting compacted slowly turning into a glacial ice.



The zodiac cruise is rainy, but we are having a brilliant chance to watch Humpback whales feeding right next to our boats showing their flukes and Weddell and Leopard seals swimming in the water and approaching us to satisfy their curiosity. Completely wet, but happy we are coming back onboard.

## Dive Log #3

After plans to dive in Petermann Island and Port Charcot were abandoned due to unsafe weather conditions we were finally lucky at Stoney Point, where we had the chance to check out a new dive site. Two Zodiacs with divers went out. One group dove on the lee side of an unnamed rock – home of a penguin colony. The second group decided to attempt a dive around a free floating little iceberg and was curiously observed by a trio of crabeater seals. Weather and current conditions were challenging out there but all was on the right side of marginal 😊



## Day 8 – Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

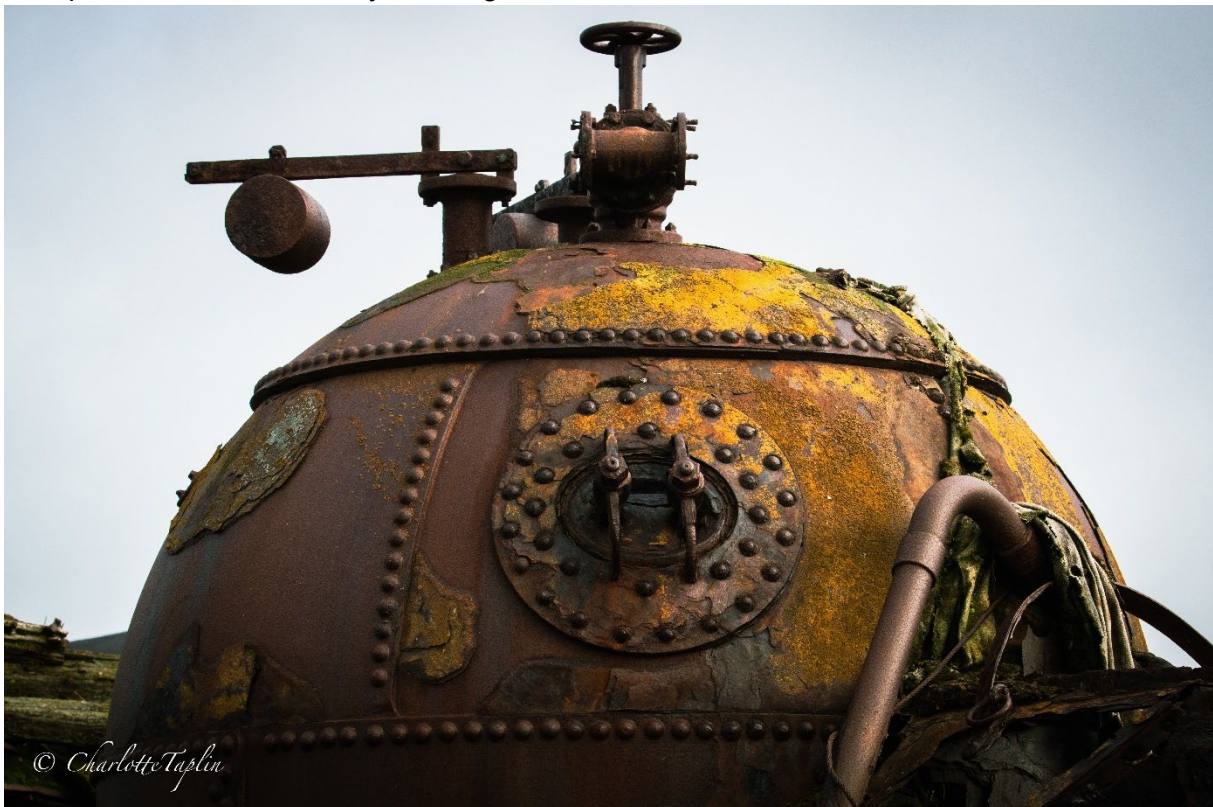
### Deception Island & Whalers Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 63°01.4'S 060°28.1'W

Wind: NW5/6 • Sea: slight • Weather: cloudy • Air temperature: +1°C • Water temperature: +4°C • Visibility: good

---

Today at 0800 we steam through Neptune's Bellows at Deception Island, South Shetland Islands. It was named Deception Island because it looks surprisingly deceptive and looks like a complete island from afar. Until you get closer and realise there is an entrance through to a Caldera, an active volcano which last erupted in 1970. Our plan is to go to Telefon Bay, but Pippa announces there is a change of plan, and we are going to Whalers Bay instead! This is where we can witness the remains of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century whaling station where over 170,000 whales got processed for their oil. The station is abandoned today and was hit by the volcanic eruptions in the 70's. It's a sobering and yet intriguing place to visit. All buildings are falling into disrepair and nature is slowly claiming back the land.



It is too windy for a zodiac cruise, so we do a split landing instead, where each group has 1 hour 30 minutes onshore to explore and have a good leg stretch. The buildings of the whaling station are very impressive, the whale oil tanks and boilers are very much still intact, whereas the barracks are starting to fall apart. We can't get too close, but we are able to have a good look and feel a sense of eeriness as these buildings tower above us. There are moulting **Gentoo** and **Chinstrap Penguins** and the odd **Antarctic Fur Seal** sleeping amongst the buildings, occasionally growling as we walk past.



As we walk down the beach, we realise how many Fur Seals are littered all down the beach, the males either spend their time play fighting or sleeping, not a bad life. Our legs take us up to Neptune's Window, a beautiful sight looking out towards the ocean with a view over the whole island. The last activity for us strong hearted souls is the polar plunge! It has to be done, so we whip off our clothes, run into the cold, brisk ocean and quickly run out again. We are driven back to the ship by our fantastic Expedition Team and warm up with a cup of tea and a warm shower.



That was our last activity of the trip before we cross the Drake Passage, we hear it's going to be a 'Drake Shake', so we all batten down the hatches and prepare for the worst. Pippa presents a fascinating lecture on Antarctic Whaling followed by Koen on the Evolution of Penguins. The waves are starting to pick up, so it's an early dinner for us and then off to bed to dream about Penguins and Whales as the roll rocks us to sleep.



## Dive Log #4

Deception Island is a very particular dive site as one descends into the caldera of an active volcano. Conditions again weren't easy as the first ten meters of water are murky with a visibility of less than one meter. Once we arrived below this layer the view opened up and what appears is a whale graveyard. A lot of life. Isopods and other small crustaceans are still feeding on the bones and we were able to get a glimpse of the decomposition process. A dark and spooky place. Maximum depth was 17m.



## Day 9 – Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### At Sea on the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 60°21.6'S 062°38.1'W

Wind: NW8 • Sea: rough • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +2°C • Water temperature: +4°C • Visibility: good

---

As predicted by our daily dose of weather maps at recap, we awake out-at-sea, heading straight into one of those dreaded 'Purple Monsters' that we normally do our best to avoid but this one is directly between us and Ushuaia and unfortunately after this great trip we are starting to head back north across the Drake Passage.

It isn't so bad though with most of us taking it in their stride like the professional seafarers that we profess to be now; a steady stream of passengers making their way up to the bridge to film the obligatory sequence of spectacular and dramatic waves crashing wildly over the bow of Hondius and soaking the bridge windows. After some practise everyone learns when to press record after becoming proficient at predicting which approaching waves will make the biggest impact on the ship and therefore the most impressive footage!

Throughout the day there is a fine selection of lectures and entertainment to immerse ourselves in with Elizabeth talking about the important work that goes into classifying the status of the worlds wildlife species and how this aids in conservation measures, Sasha, in his unique style describes his own journey to Antarctica, David Attenborough talks about some amazing wildlife sequences in Antarctica (unfortunately in documentary form and not here in person!) and in the evening, compere Anthonie presents a lively Antarctica based quiz based on our own travels (why do people always mistake the baby photo of Adam for Ursula?!)



Black-bellied Storm Petrel

Out on the high seas, observations are limited but did include a nice selection of pelagic birds such as **Wandering Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Common Diving Petrel and Black-bellied Storm Petrel** while an always welcome pod of Hourglass Dolphins entertained, briefly from the bridge.



Soft-plumaged Petrel

## Day 10 – Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### At Sea on the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 56°22.8'S 065°02.8'W

Wind: WNW7 • Sea: moderate • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C •

Water temperature: +8°C • Visibility: good

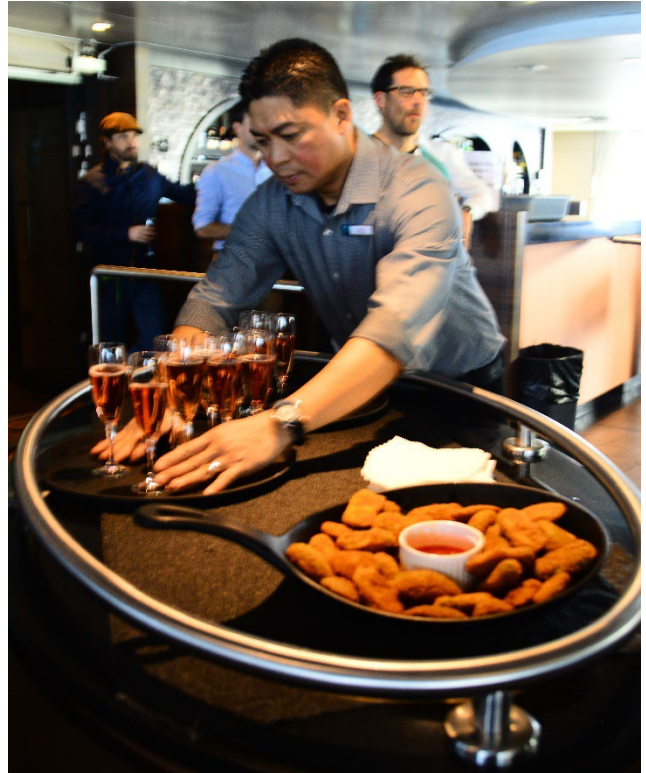
---

The famous Drake Passage is quite an experience this time! Today the waves are not quite as high as yesterday, but we're still experiencing a proper drake shake as we approach the southernmost tip of South America with the decent speed of around 11 knots. After a little sleep in and a nice breakfast, we make our way into the lounge to listen to Ursula's lecture on remarkable hunting strategies in the animal kingdom. It's unbelievable to see how some predators work together to catch their prey! This really interesting topic is followed by more ice talk from Jakub – none of us would have ever thought that there is sooo much to learn about ice and its' importance for the world's climate!

After a nice lunch buffet, we are invited by Andrew and Simon to join them outside on deck where we have a bird watching session together. The sun is shining and as we slowly approach Tierra del Fuego, we feel how Cape Horn is sheltering us and the swell gets less. The afternoon is filled with some mini lectures on different topics, among them an insight into the ship's kitchen by our Chef Ralf.

We are getting closer to the coast again as we are approaching the Beagle Channel, we are starting to see land. The closer we get, the more the movements of the ship calm down and we are invited to the lounge for our Captain's Farewell Toast. We all raise our glasses to an unforgettable journey and the wonderful time we all had on board. A big round of applause goes to the Bridge, the Expedition, the Hotel and the Housekeeping Team. We are grateful for all their hard work that has so crucially contributed to making this such an amazing experience for us all.

After a beautiful last dinner aboard our beautiful expedition ship Hondius, many of us gather in the lounge where the music is playing, and Rolando and Angelina are mixing the last drinks for this voyage. We are enjoying each other's company, exchanging contacts and sharing photos and experiences.



## Day 11 – Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Disembarkation Ushuaia, Argentina

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S 068°17.9'W

Wind: SW4 • Sea: calm • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +4°C • Water temperature: +10°C • Visibility: good

---

One last wake-up call from Pippa. Our bags are packed when we head down for breakfast one last time and we are getting ready to disembark our dear Hondius that has taken us to one of the most beautiful places on earth. On this remarkable journey we crossed the notorious Drake Passage twice, discovered the beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula, spent “another day in Paradise (Bay)”, dived, camped, kayaked, sailed through multiple storms, and went beyond the southern polar circle! What an extraordinary achievement! This trip has given us a glimpse of life in these remote and sometimes inhospitable places. We have encountered amazing wildlife, made new friends, learnt, and experienced so much together. We will all take home different memories of our voyage, but those memories will stay with us for the rest of our lives! **This was our expedition.**

In the name of Oceanwide Expeditions and all crew and staff aboard Hondius, we want to thank you all for travelling with us. It has been an absolute pleasure for us to share this unforgettable experience with you!

## Your Expedition Team



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1972 Nautical Miles

Furthest south position: 66°62.2'S / 067°29.7'W

## Kayaking Trip Log

### Portal Point - 07/03/23

What a great place to start our trip! There was some swell rolling into the bay at Portal Point, however we ducked in behind the icebergs and used the point to shelter us. With beautiful clear water we could see through the shallow water to the rocks below. Climbing from the Zodiac into the kayaks takes a little practice but once we were all on the water, we practiced a few maneuvers before heading out on a journey around the Bay.



There were fur seals squabbling over the best snoozing spots on the small rocky islands in the bay. We dodged our way through the scattered icebergs, some twice the size of houses!

As we climbed back into the zodiac at the end of our session, we spotted a few humpback whales feeding further out. A magical start to our expeditions.

## Paradise Bay - 07/03/23

Paradise bay, full of small icebergs is a fabulous place to paddle. Our goal was to get onto the water and paddle downwind to Base Brown. We looked at how to use our paddle as a rudder, this made turning in the windy conditions a little easier.

Our down-winder took us past a very wide and beautiful Glacier. We then dodged our way through some stranded icebergs, a couple of Weddell seals were sleeping on the shallow point behind Base Brown.

Base brown had plenty of Gentoo penguins, and a little further on we stopped below a towering steep cliff. Blue eyed cormorants were nesting here in large numbers. Paddling past the divers it was time to jump back into the Zodiac and power back upwind to the ship.



## Port Lockroy - 08/03/23

The wind today was challenging for us kayakers! Luckily we found the perfect sheltered spot at Port Lockroy, the high mountains around us keeping the wind at bay.

We hopped into the Zodiac and powered upwind to seek shelter in a corner of Jugular point. Still getting the hang of climbing into the kayak from the zodiac, the calm water was very helpful.

As we followed the coastline, we passed penguins hanging out on the rocks, and a few baby blue eye cormorants waiting expectantly for their parents to return with their next meal. Whale bones were scattered on the rocky beaches of the point, being careful not to get blown onto the rocky shore we stopped and enjoyed this historic location.

Next stop was to see the carving face of the glacier, being sure to keep a safe distance. After paddling into the wind we turned to run with it and out and around Port Lockroy.





### **Paradise Bay – 10/03/23**

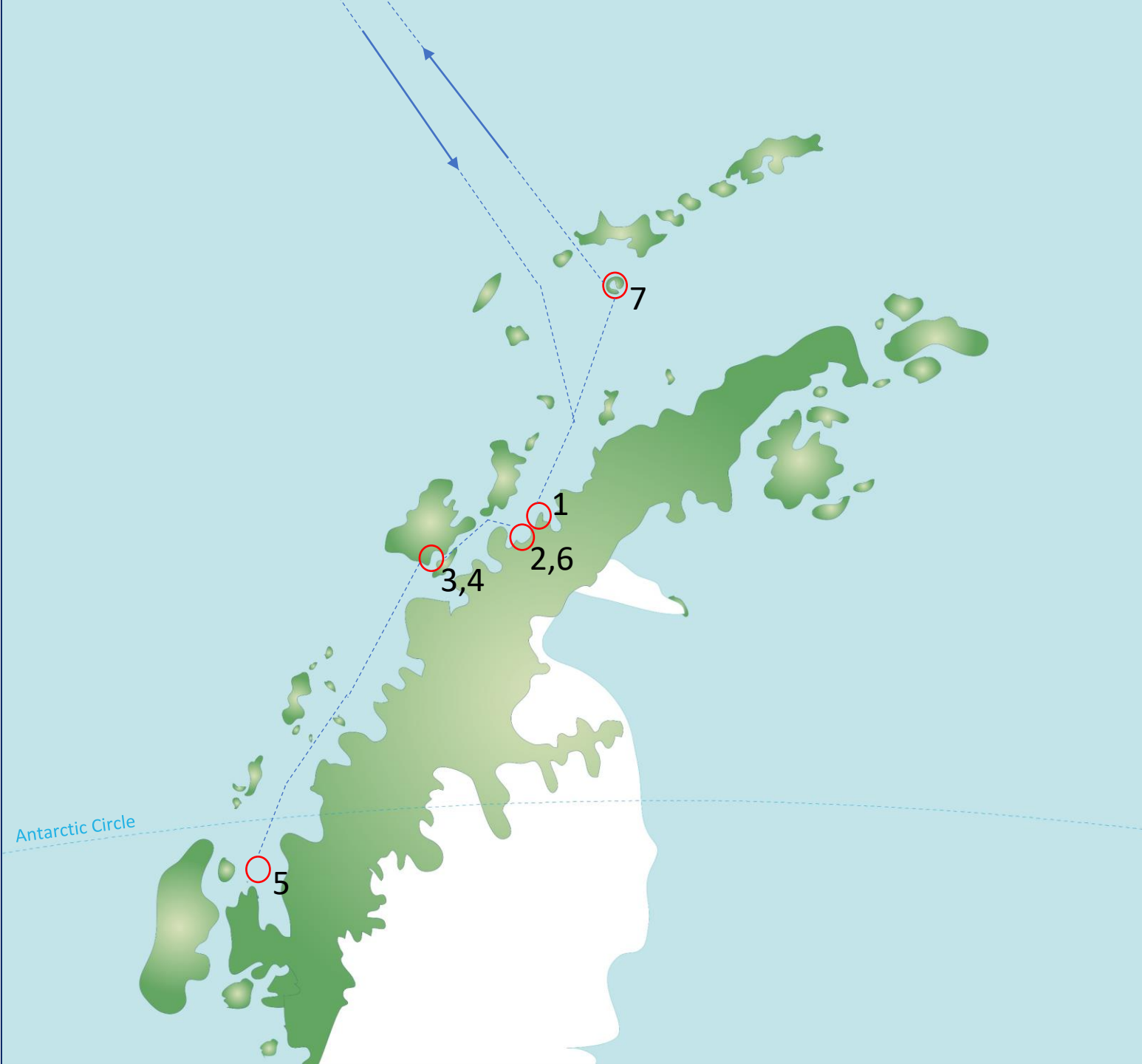
Wow, what a windy couple of days! Us kayakers were looking forward to getting back out on the water. After working our way through plans A,B and C, all being too windy, Pippa finally found us a perfect spot to get out and about, in Paradise Bay.

At Base brown there were steep cliffs which gave us the shelter we needed. An exciting wavy start to today's paddle, we surfed the waves downwind before sneaking into a beautiful sheltered bay. Littered with small icebergs we spotted a couple of seals in the water, trying to get out onto a big flat iceberg, but it was a little to high for them.

We headed towards a very impressive calving glacier, stacked like dominos ready to fall, we gave it plenty space and even watched a small collapse into the sea.

Considering we had cold, wet, tough conditions we really did have a great paddle!





1. (March 7<sup>th</sup>) Portal Point
2. (March 7<sup>th</sup>) Paradise Bay
3. (March 8<sup>th</sup>) Damoy Point
4. (March 8<sup>th</sup>) Port Lockroy/Jougla
5. (March 9<sup>th</sup>) Detaille Island
6. (March 10<sup>th</sup>) Stoney Point
7. (March 11<sup>th</sup>) Whalers Bay (Deception Island)



---

# Pippa Low – Expedition Leader

---



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

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age,

becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

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

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

---

# 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.

---

# Alexander Romanovskiy – Assistant Expedition Leader

---



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geoecological researches.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

---

# Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader

---



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.

---

# Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide

---



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



---

# Roman Frischknecht – Dive Guide

---



Roman is a Swiss national and his hometown is the city of Bern. Despite coming from a landlocked country, he has always been desperately attracted to the sea. His love for the old seafarer stories, the fascination for big ships and foremost his passion for submerging himself beneath the waves paved his way to become a commercial offshore and saturation diver. He started his career more than 20 years ago in the muddy waters of the German harbours Bremerhaven and Hamburg, servicing the shipping industry - diving in locks, docks and on the propellers of container carriers.

From there he sailed out to the high seas and has worked ever since in the oil and gas fields of the North Sea, working from Diving Support Vessels performing tasks such as tie ins - connecting wellheads to platforms. In the Baltic Sea he welded anodes onto the monopiles of offshore wind turbines. In Norwegian waters he dived underneath the drill rigs, performing structure integrity inspections, in the Arabian Sea he installed cooling water pipelines for an LNG plant and for the European Space Agency he helped salvage the boosters of the Ariane 5 rocket from mid-Atlantic Waters.

He has sailed to Antarctica and around Cape Horn on a historical square rigger. His happy places are on the yard booms of sailing ship or at the helm of a zodiac; attached to the lines of a kite, catching wind in the shore break during sunset or ski touring on the frozen waters in the Swiss Alps or on nightshift down at a 120m directing the ships crane in position. Roman speaks English, German and French fluently. He is trained in diving related advanced first aid, has apart from that a soft spot for ships named Endurance, Discovery or Erebus and Terror and is always happy in trying to answer every question you might have about diving and diving history as well as safety related topics in diving or living at sea.

---

# Urban Reifler – Dive Guide

---



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

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

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

The underwater world has fascinated him since his childhood. In 1999 he took his first diving course. The enthusiasm was great and did not let him go. He was in the water at every opportunity and continued to train

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

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

---

# Erin Bastian - Kayak Guide

---



Erin is a UKCC level 3 sea kayak coach and BCU 5\* sea kayak leader.

Erin is a passionate sea kayaker with over 15 years experience leading expeditions around the world, from the icy fjords of Patagonia, Greenland, and Arctic Norway, to the warm waters of the Mediterranean, circumnavigating the islands of Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca. In 2019 Erin crossed the Aegean sea by kayak, planning a route which linked 17 Greek islands and making 16 significant open water crossings.

Erin's keen sense for adventure and love for the ocean inspired her to row across the Atlantic ocean in 2021. Making the 3000 mile crossing from La Gomera to Antigua, as part of a team of 4 women, in 40 days.

Erin finds herself drawn to the colder waters of the poles, where exploring by kayak allows her to enjoy the incredible wildlife, navigate between enormous icebergs and watch glaciers calve into the ocean. Erin has a real love for introducing others to the sport of kayaking with its freedom to explore and ability to get people closer to nature.

---

# Keirron Tastagh - Kayak Guide

---



Keirron works full time as an adventure sports coach, based from his family home in the Isle of Man, UK.

He specialises in Sea Kayaking.

With over 20 years running experiences and skills training (year-round) in the UK, he's also paddled, coached and led groups in some inspirational locations around the world.

Keirron enjoys remote expeditions, as well as the personal challenges of mountaineering and coasteering. He has practiced Judo since the age of 6.

Keirron is also passionate about photography and has been involved in a bit of filming.

Led 12 major wilderness expeditions overseas in the Aleutian Islands, Vancouver Island, Ontario and Norway. These typical involve sea kayaking and mountain walking, and have included climbing and glacial experiences as well. A personal challenge was setting a new kayaking record (700 miles in 19 and half days) around Vancouver Island in 2007 using a pink tandem kayak, and a paddling partner he'd never met before.

Keirron has joined the Hondius to share experiences, make new memories and gain new friends.

Favourite quotes: *"people keep telling me how lucky I am. I find that the harder I work, the more lucky I seem to become"* Sir Norman Wisdom

*"Far better it is to dare mighty things, than rank with those poor timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat"* Kendal Judo Club

---

# Andrew Crowder – Expedition Guide

---



Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a life long history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on Western Palearctic species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge. As part of that journey of discovery, he has also developed self-taught skills in wildlife photography.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a CMAS Class 2/BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world helped spawn his other main interest: cetaceans. Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these amazing animals, undertaking scientific surveys and guiding on cruise ships in UK, European and Polar waters.

Andrew recognises that few wildlife encounters spark such an emotional reaction in humans as when they see whales and dolphins. He uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences and thereby promote the conservation of our precious natural world.

---

# Anthonie Luteijn – Expedition guide

---



Anthonie is a passionate surfer and a life-long ocean lover. He enjoys exploring the cultural and scenic diversities of different countries, as well as to connect with the people he meets along the way.

He grew up, right on the beach, in the southwestern coastal province of The Netherlands, Zeeland. For his studies, he moved to Delft where he completed his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and his master's degree in Hydraulic Engineering at the Technical University of Delft. He has a coastal specialisation, which embraces a great interest in oceanography and climate change.

During this program, he took part in several projects around the world and conducted research on an artificial fish migration river in the Netherlands.

In the summer months, Antonie enjoys sharing his passion for the oceans as a surf coach. He sees the ocean as a diverse and unique place which feels like home.

One of the projects he has done was on the plastic waste problem in Indonesia. By creating a real-world, coupled economic-environmental model, focusing on one of the plastic polluted rivers.

He is very much looking forward to his first season working as an expedition guide on board with Oceanwide. As Antonie would say: "I like to be challenged and am passionately hopeful to impact other people's lives positively. The sea is one of my greatest passions and I would like to share the energy it gives me and this passion on board. To be part of this Antarctic expedition is a unique and much-appreciated opportunity in many ways!"

---

# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

---



Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean. She studied Wildlife Conservation at University and then spent the next 10 years travelling through South America, Australasia and Africa. Charlotte's love for boats began in 2013 where she worked on research and dive vessels visiting remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Her interest in Marine Biology grew in Australia and New Zealand while studying Humpback, Minke and Sperm Whales.

After driving overland in a land rover from South Africa to Jordan she then moved to Mozambique in 2018 where she started her own backpacker hostel. In her spare time Charlotte worked as a Researcher studying Whale sharks and Manta Rays along the Coast of Mozambique. During 2020-2022 she worked as a Deckhand/Divemaster on superyachts and ice breaker explorer vessels. Her hobbies include scuba-diving, surfing, free-diving and hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and she is so excited to have started her first season with Oceanwide in 2022.

---

# Clara Iachetti – Expedition Guide

---



Clara is Argentinean, who is born in Buenos Aires. Since she was a child Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. In 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and a European M.Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. Since 2012 she has been working in the Austral Centre of Scientific Investigations (CADIV- CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra de Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful algal blooms, and

nowadays as a researcher at CADIC. For the last 10 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending some time in the Shetland Islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

On top of her scientist career, she is a member of Beagle Secretos del Mar, a non-profit organisation that supports marine conservation in which she is responsible for the education program, lecturing and diving. Living in Ushuaia (and previously in Bariloche) has also led her passion towards mountaineering, mainly backcountry skiing and climbing.



---

# 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.

---

# Esther Josten – Expedition Guide

---



The place she calls home is a small village in a western German hillside area called Eifel. It's surrounded by extinct volcanoes, vast forests and steep valleys. From this base she started exploring the world and found my great passion in the travel industry and outdoor life.

She studied International Tourism Management in the Netherlands, lived in France, Spain, and New Zealand for a while. She worked as a guide for over 7 years now and in many different countries. My recent time I spent working as an outdoor guide and

skipper for a small locally owned tour company in the beautiful fjord lands of Southern Norway.

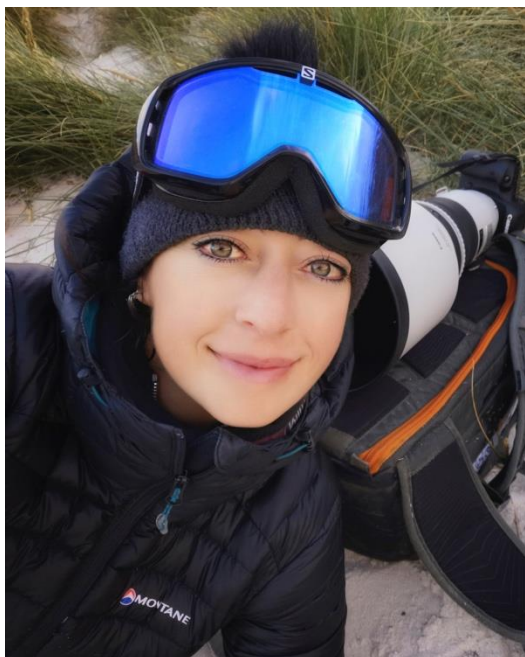
What she loves about her job is not only getting out into nature and being in touch with the elements, but also the meaningful connections with people from all corners of the world. Travelling opens our eyes and expands our horizon. She personally takes a lot of inspiration from all the beautiful people and experiences along the way. Besides all natural beauties our planet offers, she is fascinated by its' history, cultures and languages. And at the end of the day, she believes there's nothing better than sharing stories and memories with your travel companions and eventually with your beloved ones back home.

She is grateful for all the opportunities and chances she has been given in life and she loves to share her enthusiasm and knowledge with other passionate globetrotters. One of her biggest motivations for every tour is to help create a truly unforgettable experience for the travellers she guides.

---

# Georgina Strange - Expedition Guide

---



Georgina is a professional nature photographer and general wildlife enthusiast from the Falkland Islands. Her rather unique upbringing on a very small and remote island nature reserve has instilled a deep passion for wild places, and you'll most likely find her out on a cliff edge in a storm, revelling in the gales of wind that frequent the Falklands!

Georgina studied in England for sixth-form college, followed by an adventure to Australia for her university degree in Photography.

After managing her family's conservation trust on New Island in the Falklands for many years, regularly working with the many visiting expedition ships shoreside, Georgina swapped a land-based life for an ocean-based one and started as expedition photographer to South Georgia and the Antarctic in 2017, and to the Arctic in 2019, often switching roles to work as the on-board ornithologist to share her love of the winged creatures of the world, too!

During her off-ship season, Georgina runs her own wildlife photography tours at home to fulfil her passion for making captivating images of nature. Whenever possible, she most enjoys balancing out the time spent guiding in cold and windy places for quality time in the hotter and sunnier climes of the world!

Georgina's photography has made it to Outdoor Photographer of the Year, Bird Photographer of the Year, Wild Art Photographer and the finals of the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year, as well as several well-known nature photography magazines and smaller competitions. Always happy to share knowledge and techniques, maybe you will go home with some competition-worthy images of your special trip, too!

---

# Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide

---



Jakub was born in Poland in 1985. As a kid, he dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but later his focus shifted towards astronomy. Eventually, he obtained a masters and doctoral degree in Earth Sciences and became a glaciologist. As he puts it, researching remote, glacier-covered regions is almost like landing on another planet, so the childhood dream has partly come true.

Since 2007 Jakub has been studying glaciers across the world, either directly or remotely, i.e., using satellite or aerial images. His main interest is how glaciers respond to changing climate in different environmental settings. Most of his glaciology work Jakub carries out on Svalbard, the arctic archipelago located midway between Norway and the north pole, where he fell in love with ice. Since then, Jakub joins expeditions to remote regions on an every-year basis.

Jakub considers public education by the science community at least as important as delivering new knowledge, so he is a keen glaciology communicator, book author and a frequent guest to the Polish media outlets and science festivals where he comments on polar and mountain affairs. Apart from glaciology, Jakub is a huge enthusiast of planetary sciences and space exploration and tries to play the ukulele.

---

# Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide

---



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

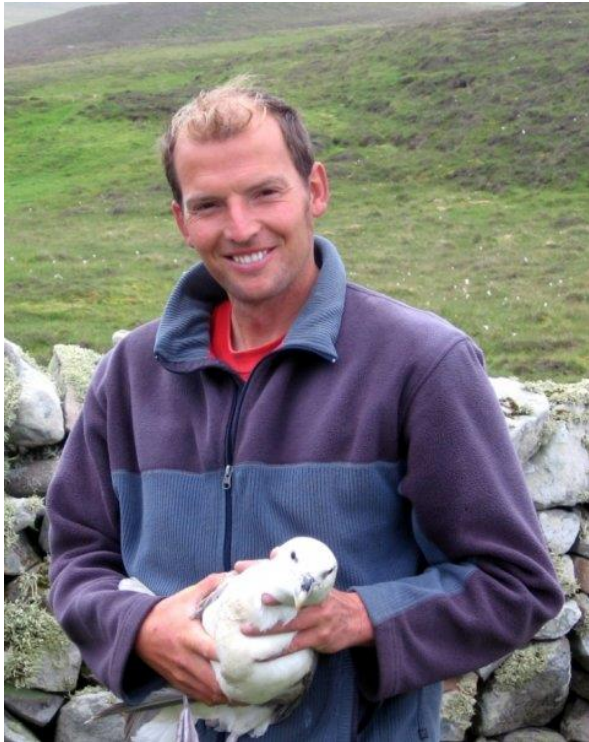
Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide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

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

---

# Simon Davies - Expedition Guide

---



Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a Masters degree in Ecology focusing on seabirds he has undertaken a broad range of wildlife related contracts around the world.

His career has predominantly been focused on birds (with the only notable 'blip' coming during a year researching Meerkats in South Africa) during which his focus has ranged from research to conservation to guiding and much in between. Most recently he has been working in Scotland and Sweden studying both breeding birds and migratory species through ringing/banding, a wide range of surveys and other tracking methods.

He is an experienced guide, having led bird and wildlife tours in Australia and many tours, walks and talks in his native UK, enthusiastic about sharing the wide range of seabirds in the colonies he loves.

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

A large part of his recent work has also been training others in bird ringing/banding and surveying, hopefully inspiring others to a career in research or conservation.

The vast majority of his spare time is also spent birding and wildlife watching and he has undertaken many trips around the world including Australia, Europe, India, Venezuela and the USA, always chasing the next bird!

---

# Ursula Tschenter - Expedition Guide

---



I grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of my childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed my life radically. I gave up my original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation I combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

I am a true minke whale enthusiast. I thousands of hours I observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years I obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). I nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 I started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home I produce life-sized foldable animals, which I carry to schools and ships. Visit my lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as my urge to learn and explore is my need to share my knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach me at any time, as I love to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

---

# Georgios Tsianos – Ship's doctor

---



Dr Georgios Tsianos is based in the Scottish Highlands and practices medicine in remote and rural areas. He has worked and trained in various medical specialties gaining experience in South Africa, USA, Scotland, England and Greece. He is certified in expedition and travel medicine. He partners with expedition groups around the world as their expedition doctor in a variety of environmental settings. He has previously joined Oceanwide Expeditions in the Arctic.

Georgios is an honorary core lecturer in extreme environment physiology for the Master's degree course in Military Fitness and Wellbeing. In his additional role as medical advisor and field studies research expedition leader he collaborates and conducts research on human physiology research in extreme environments. He gives keynote inspirational talks in a wide range of sectors including the entrepreneurial, medical, business, scientific, educational and sporting, as well as after-dinner talks for public and private functions.

Originally an internationally competitive marathon swimmer for the Greek national swim team at world championships level, nowadays Georgios is actively involved in ultra-endurance sporting events and challenges. Amongst others he has climbed Mt Everest, swam the English Channel, run the ultra Marathon des Sables in the Sahara, and swam non-stop across the Aegean Sea in Greece covering a distance of 101km.



## WELCOME ABOARD!

*Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please make check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member.*

**\*\* Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge on deck 5 \*\***

±1715 **Welcome & safety briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5, forward) for a welcome to the voyage, followed by a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill.

### **Lifeboat Drill**

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to MUSTER STATION A which is the Restaurant on Deck 4

All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to MUSTER STATION B which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5

±1800 **Departure from Ushuaia.**  
The bridge will be closed during these operations.

1830 **Expedition Introduction & Captain's Welcome** – Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction to the expedition, a welcome to your new home from the Hotel manager, the captain's toast and to meet your expedition team.

1930 **Buffet dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

*We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.*

*Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.*

- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915      **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac and IAATO briefings.
- 1100      **Birds of the Drake passage** – Please Join Simon in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a lecture about the birds we may encounter on our trip across the Drake passage
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400      **Introduction to Whales** – Please join Ursula in the lounge (Deck 5) for a lecture on what to look out for whilst whale watching here in Antarctica.
- 1500      **Kayaking briefing - (For those signed up for Kayaking)**– Please join Erin and Keirron in the **Lecture theatre** (deck 5) for a **mandatory** kayak briefing.
- 1600      **Waves** – Please join Anthonie in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a lecture on the interesting mechanism behind the formation of waves.
- 1700      **Diving Briefing - (For those signed up for Diving)** Please join Henrik and the dive team in the **Lecture theatre** (Deck 5) for a **mandatory** Dive briefing.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight’s dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*

0745      **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

*If you were unable to attend any of the **mandatory briefings**, please speak to one of the staff members so we can organise another briefing. Zodiac briefing is mandatory for all leaving the ship. Activity briefings are mandatory for all of those wishing to partake in each activity. **These must all be attended today.***

0915      **Brushtail Penguins** - Please join Andrew in the **lounge** (deck 5) for his lecture exploring the natural history and identification of the brushtail penguins we are likely to encounter on the trip.

1030      **Camping Brief (For all those signed up for camping)** – Please join Clara and Koen in the **Lecture theatre** for the mandatory camping briefing.

1130      **Muck Boots** - We will call you deck by deck to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3**. *Please bring your thick socks to make sure you have the perfect fit! **Please listen for announcements.***

1230      **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

1400      **Biosecurity:** We will call you deck by deck, to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, footwear/muckboots and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. ***Please listen for announcements.***

1630      **An Introduction to the role of Ice** - Please join Jakub in the **lounge** (deck 5) to learn all about the types of ice that Antarctica holds and how the relationship with this ice affects us all.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*

- 0645      **Wake up call.** Good morning!  
0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Portal Point – a continental landing surrounded by beautiful icebergs and mountains.*

***The Red group** will go to shore first, whilst **The Blue group** go zodiac cruising first. **We will swap groups onshore.***

- 0800      **Divers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3).  
0800      The **The Red group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Portal Point.  
0815      The **The Blue group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Portal Point.  
0830      **Kayakers Group A** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3).  
  
1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour – a continental landing with beautiful Antarctic scenery and the chance of spotting Chinstrap Penguins! The **Blue Group** will go to shore while the **Red Group** will go for a zodiac cruise. We will then swap halfway through the afternoon.*

- +/- 1400      **Divers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3).  
+/- 1400      The **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Orne Harbour.  
+/- 1415      The **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour.  
+/- 1430      **Kayakers Group B** please come to the **Zodiac boarding area** (deck 3)  
  
1815      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap.  
  
1900      **Buffet dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)  
  
+/- 2045      **Camping** – This evening we hope to offer camping at Paradise Bay. We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Please standby for announcements.

**NEW DAILY PROGRAM**

*This afternoon we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at Paradise Bay –with beautiful Antarctic scenery and wildlife. The **Blue Group** will be called to the zodiac boarding area first followed by the **Red Group**.*

- 1630      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap.
- +/- 1730      **Divers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3).
- +/- 1730      The **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Orne Harbour.
- +/- 1745      The **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour.
- +/- 1745      **Kayakers Group B** please come to the **Zodiac boarding area** (deck 3)
- 1930      **Buffet dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)
- +/- 2045      **Camping** – This evening we hope to offer camping at Paradise Bay. We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Please standby for announcements.

- 0715      **Wake up call.** Good morning!  
0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Damoy here we hope to enjoy gentoo penguins, a long walk and stunning Antarctic scenery. The **Blue Group** will go to shore while the **Red Group** will go zodiac cruising first. We will then swap through the morning.*

- 0915      **Divers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3).  
0915      The **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Damoy.  
0930      The **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Damoy.  
0945      **Kayaking group** Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

*In addition, we hope to offer a **polar plunge** at the end of this landing, please wear your polar swimsuit/trunks under your clothing this morning – we will bring towels!*

- 1300      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at **Port Lockroy** – the world's Southernmost Post Office, a landing at Jougla and a zodiac cruise around this beautiful area. Please listen for announcements for your group time.*

*Whilst at Port Lockroy, please clean your boots in fresh water provided before entering. If you plan to make a purchase, card payments are preferred.*

- +/-1500      **Divers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3).  
+/-1500      The **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Port Lockroy.  
+/-1515      The **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise around Port Lockroy.  
+/-1530      **Kayaking group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.

- 1900      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.

- 1930      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*



Antarctica Deep South  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Crossing the Antarctic Circle – Expedition Day

*Our **Expedition afternoon** plans are to ship cruise through Crystal sound manoeuvring between magnificent icebergs and enjoying true Antarctic ambience. We will also try to spot some wildlife.*

- 1430 Please join **Adam** for his lecture about his life and work on an Antarctic research station.
- 1600 Please join **Esther** to hear an amazing story of **The Race to the South Pole**.
- 1815 **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the dining room. *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*

- 0715 **Wake up call.** Good morning!  
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to offer a Landing and a zodiac cruise at Petermann Island. Keep your eyes out for the Adelie Penguins. The **Red Group** will go to land first, the group **Blue Group** will go zodiac cruising – we will swap halfway through the morning.*

- 0830 **Divers** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
0830 The **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Petermann Island.  
0845/1030 The **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Petermann Island.  
0900 **Kayakers** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the dining room.

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Port Charcot, one of Antarctica's most spectacular 'iceberg graveyards'. The **Blue Group** will go to land first; the **Red Group** group will go zodiac cruising – we will swap halfway through the morning.*

- 1400 **Divers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
1400 **Blue Group** - - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Port Charcot.  
1415/1530 **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Port Charcot.  
1430 **Kayakers** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
1745 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge

*At approximately*

- 1900 **Special dinner** will be served, please dress warmly. Bon Appetit!



- 0715      **Wake up call.** Good morning!  
0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room.**

*This morning we hope to navigate through the Lemaire channel – a narrow passage of stunning beauty, one of the highlights of the Antarctic Peninsula*

- 0930      Entering the **Lemaire Channel** – please be on decks, the show is outside!  
  
*Expedition morning. Heading North. Standby for announcements.*

- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the dining room.

*This afternoon we hope to explore the Paradise Harbour and offer you a Zodiac cruise. We must assess the weather and ice conditions beforehand, so please listen to the announcements.*

- 1400      **Divers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area.**  
1400      **Blue Group** - - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a Zodiac cruise.  
1415      **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a Zodiac Cruise.  
1430      **Kayakers** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area.**  
1745      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge

*At approximately*

- 1900      **Special dinner** will be served, please dress warmly. Bon Appetit!

- 0645      **Wake up call.** Good morning!  
0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to offer a Landing and zodiac cruise around Telefon. This takes us into Deception Island and the crater of an active volcano. The **Blue Group** will go zodiac cruising first, followed by the group **Red Group**.*

- 0900      **Divers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
0900      The **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a Landing at Telefon.  
0915/1045 The **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Telefon.  
0930      **Kayakers** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
  
1300      **Lunch** will be served in the dining room.

*This afternoon we are starting to make our way back to Ushuaia. Please secure your personal belongings properly as we expect to meet relatively large swell.*

- 1500      Please join Pippa in the main lounge for a lecture about **Whaling in Antarctica**.  
  
1645      Please join Koen in the main lounge for a lecture about **Evolution of Penguins**.  
  
1815      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge  
  
1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

**No wakeup call** – Enjoy your sleep and have a wonderful morning!

- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 1000      **What does it mean to be endangered** – Please join Elizabeth in the **Lounge** for an insight into what the IUCN red list means.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400      **How to get to Antarctica** – please join Sasha to hear his story of travelling to the 7<sup>th</sup> continent.
- 1600      **Antarctica Documentary** - Please join us in the **lounge** for where we will be playing a documentary about this beautiful continent.
- 1815      **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2100      **Quiz night** – Please join the expedition staff in the **lounge**. Grab your team of up to 7 people and test your Antarctic knowledge.

*Please 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.*

**No wakeup call** – Enjoy your morning!

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

0930 **Incredible hunting strategies** - Please join Ursula in the lounge for a lecture about the feeding ecology of whales and dolphins.

1100 **The safety system of Antarctic Ice** - Please join Jakub in the lounge for a short lecture on the state of Antarctic ice shelves and weak spots of the Antarctic ice sheets.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*After lunch you will receive your bill in your cabin. We will call you by deck to make payments at reception – **Please listen for announcements.***

1400 **Bird Watch** - Please join Andrew and Simon on deck where hopefully we can see the broad range of birds that make the Drakes Passage their feeding ground.

1600 **Mini-Series** – Please join the expedition staff in the **lounge**, for a series of mini lectures, ranging from birds to whale song.

1800 **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join the captain and the expedition team in the **lounge** for a toast to our voyage through the Southern Ocean and a slideshow of our expedition.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

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



Antarctica Deep South  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

0730-0830 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

*Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than 0730. During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will be your responsibility to identify and collect each item.*

0830-0900 **Disembarkation** – **Please listen for announcements.** We will inform you once we have been cleared by local authorities. Once clearance has been completed, we will invite you to the gangway to disembark Hondius.

*Upon disembarkation, **please identify and collect your luggage** from the pier and;*

- 1. Take it with you into Ushuaia and walk into town.*
- 2. Put it on the airport bus and get on the bus.*
- 3. Put it in the luggage truck.*
- 4. If you have arranged your own transport – please take your luggage*

***On behalf of all at Oceanwide Expeditions and all on board Hondius we thank you for a truly incredible expedition.  
Safe travels home.***