



Antarctica – Peninsula

Ushuaia - Ushuaia

20th of March 2023 – 2nd April 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:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuanian]
Second Officer:	Yaroslav Pyetukhov	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Nino Cizmiz	[Croatia]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Donald Rivas Cielo	[Philippines]
Ships doctor:	Bart Stepien	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Claudio Ghiglione	[Italy]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Steffi Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Paolo Bellezze	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Sainz Herrera	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Keechy Akkerman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Mikhail Barabanov	[Luxembourg]
Dive Guide:	Michael Green	[United Kingdom]
Dive Guide:	Lotte Bisgaard	[Norway]
Dive Guide:	Richard Gannon	[United Kingdom]
Dive Guide:	Roman Frischknecht	[Switzerland]

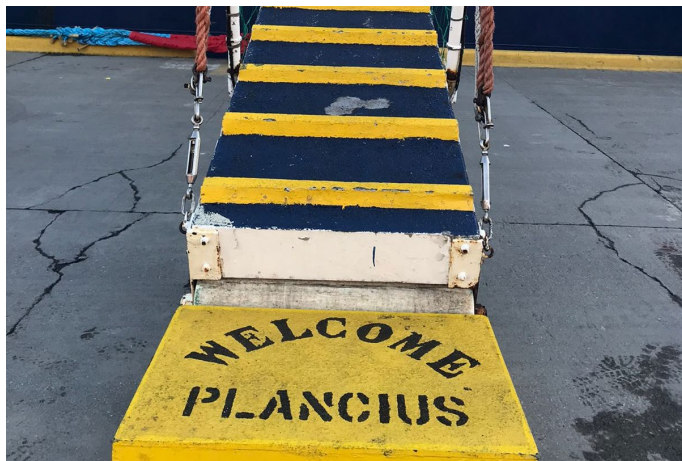
We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Monday 20th of March 2023, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day & Beagle Channel

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48'S / 065°17'W

Wind: W5/6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: clear • Air temperature: +11°C • Sea temperature: 11°C

Finally, the day arrived to start our once in a lifetime adventure! Many of us have waited a long time for this day. We embarked the little blue and white Plancius, our home for



the next 12 days at about 4pm. The weather showed us already its power, so we boarded with 40knots of wind gusting up to 50knots.

The embarkation was interesting as we thought that one of us would fly away.

We 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 100 fellow passengers in the bulky orange lifevests.



The ship was supposed to leave at 18:00 but the authorities decided to close the port down. Operation would be too dangerous in these conditions.

Before dinner Claudio, our expedition leader, 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. Volodymyr, our Hotel Manager, gave us useful advice about practicalities of life on board. We also met Captain Ernesto and we had a drink to celebrate the upcoming voyage!

After the dinner, some people were seen in the bar, and around 12:30, the Plancius finally left the pier and headed out to the Beagle Channel still in windy conditions.

Let's see what the next day brings. 2 Days of Drake Passage ahead and we heard rumours that it will be a real Drake Shake.

Day 2 – Tuesday 21st of March 2023, crossing the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 56°26.3' S / 065°52.5' W

Wind: WNW6 • Sea: moderate • Weather: overcast • Air temperature: +6°C • Sea temperature: 8°C

Claudio, our Expedition leader, woke us up just before 8:00, the sea starts already to be quite confused. Confused means the wave and wind direction are not the same, so the ship is moving in all directions. The Team let us know that it is supposed to get worse, so they started with the mandatory briefing. First Claudio explained all about IAATO, the organisation of the tour operators in Antarctica, they set in the moment in combination with the law the guidelines for operations in Antarctica. On top of it we got information about biosecurity, it is important to not bring invasive species into the pristine environment. For us it means we have to clean all our outer layers and the shoes and repeat that after and before each landing.



The Zodiac briefing was the last briefing, so we got a good idea how the operation with these amazing high duty rubber boats work.

Some of the passengers suffered due to seasickness a lot. But most people could stand up.



Right after the briefing, as the sea was still okay, we started with the cleaning of our equipment, not all made it, but it was a good start.

The Galley Team prepared again amazing food for us, but not everybody could enjoy it.

The Expedition Team also handed out the rubberboots, so we were almost set up for up for our visit in Antarctica.

The weather prediction was right during the day, the swell and the wind increased. So the Team on board of Plancius cancelled the rest for the day, to keep people safe in their cabins and avoid injuries while walking on the moving ship.

Some brave seafarers developed some sealegs and some faces have been seen in the bar.

In the end the first day went alright, let's see what day 2 brings in the famous Drake Passage.

Day 3 – Wednesday 22nd of March 2023, crossing the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 60°17.8'S / 063°13.3'W

Wind: W7 • Sea: Very Rough • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +5°C • Sea temperature: 4°C

Gooooood morning! We can definitely say now that we have passed the first Antarctic challenge, a true Drake Shake, well done us! Early in the morning we passed the convergence zone, the first sign of reaching Antarctica! At this location the sea water temperature suddenly drops on average 3 degrees as the cold, northward-flowing Antarctic waters meet the relatively warmer waters of the sub-antarctic current. This leads to a lot of nutrient upwelling and biological productivity.



With the ship rolling back and forth, we had a relaxed day, with some final boot collections, biosecurity cleaning of clothing and watching the waves and birds from the lounge or the bridge. It even snowed! We watched some amazing Albatross (Wandering, Black-browed, Southern royal, Light mantled sooty and Grey headed) and Petrels (Blue, Cape and Giant) soaring along the ship in the wind.

We were treated to a great lecture about bird migration patterns by one of our guides Mischa and a very appropriately timed lecture about the weather routing by Paolo. His lecture was momentarily interrupted by Dusky dolphins swimming by the ship! The guides that would show us around our destination Antarctica were introduced to us as well.

In the evening Expedition Leader, Claudio talked about the plan and weather for tomorrow during the recap and Mischa explained how to recognize cetaceans from afar, from Humpback Whales to Orca's. Steffi talked about the different definitions of Antarctica, including the convergence zone, and Martin explained which birds we could see in the Drake's passage and how to identify them.



All in all, not an easy day, but an important passage for reaching our final destination Antarctica the next day!

Day 4 – Thursday 23rd of March 2023, Gerlache Strait

12h00 GPS Position: 64°45.9'S/ 061°09.5'W

Wind: WSW7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +1°C • Sea temperature: +1°C

The day started with a delicious breakfast, and an amazing announcement from Claudio, WE HAD ARRIVED IN ANTARCTICA!! Some hours passed and we saw land, the feeling was overwhelming. The BRANSFIELD STRAIT gave us our first view of land and our first landscape, we started to see what was going to come! The Bransfield Strait is a young marginal basin of the arc-trench system that lies off the northwestern edge of the Antarctic Peninsula. The strait is about 65 km wide and has a maximum water depth of 2000 m.



At 11 o'clock, in the Lounge room, Koen gave us a very important lecture on Photography: "Ten top tips for Antarctic Photography"

After lunch, was the moment to breathe Antarctic Air! the sea calmed a little bit, and the outside decks were opened. With that, our cameras started to save

the first memories of this amazing trip.

In the afternoon, we briefly had a window to set foot on land, but a strong wind "closed" the window (...). Antarctica always has something to surprise us; It was in that moment that a beautiful humpback whale came towards the Ship to say Hello and showed us the magnificent curves of this special whale.



We Kept sailing South, The Captain gives us the opportunity to watch icebergs at a safe distance, but close enough to feel that we really made it!! We are in ANTARCTICA!

Sea birds were the stars of the day: Southern fulmar, Wilsons storm petrel, Cape petrel and Antarctic Terns flew around us.

A stunning sunset gave us our first perfect end for our First day in Antarctica.

Just Before dinner, Claudio explained to us our plans for Tomorrow. And had the opportunity to learn with some of the Expedition Staff:

Martin: "Taking care of our cameras in this hostile environment"

Valeria: "Photography Basics".

Keechy: "Icebergs" and the ultimate question: "Why is ice blue?"

To finish our first day in Antarctica an amazing buffet was waiting us.

Some snowflakes gave us a beautiful good night.

Day 5 – Friday 24th of March 2023, Peterman Island

12h00 GPS Position: 65°20.5'S/ 064°21.2' W

Wind: NE5 • Sea: moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6°C • Sea temperature: +1°C

After a few days of rough weather, this morning we awake to a gloriously calm morning. We are treated to an exquisite breakfast, we prepare and finally set off to land at Petermann Island. Stepping foot unto Antarctic land, we are greeted by the braying of gentoo penguins, who are either moulting or recovering along the shorelines of the island. For a wonderful three hours, we watch as they waddle, topple and do whatever it is that penguins do on shore. However, it is truly a delight. Among the colonies, we can see Brown Skua and Giant Petrels making their rounds, trying to catch some of the chicks that have yet to fully



grow, having to reprovision before their migration northward. After spending three full days on the ship, every passenger is thankful for the opportunity to stretch their legs and begin the activities they came all this way to do. The landscape is wonderful, rolling clouds over high mountains. As it is the end of the season, it is noticeably cold, and one can feel the beginning of winter around the corner. Having taken photos, walked along the guided tour, and enjoyed the penguins, we return onboard the ship to warm up, relax, and enjoy a delicious lunch.



Having eaten to our fill at the delicious buffet, we planned to do a ship's cruise on Fish Islands, named that way due to the individual islands sporting the names of Mackerel, Sardine and Flounder. However, Mother Nature once again dictates that the conditions were too rough, and so we endeavored to cruise along the peninsula further South, trying to reach places few ships go to in the season. While travelling, we prepared for one



With whales the seas foamed,
And many a happy tear was shed.

of the highlights of the voyage, and one of the reason people chose this trip in particular: the crossing of the Antarctic circle!

Champagne was poured, glasses were served, and at precisely 21:50, we passed the circle, and the celebration commenced! The ship's horn blasted, people were chatting merrily and the drink flowed. For the few that stepped outside, they were greeted by snowfall the size of cornflakes, flowing softly from the sky, illuminated by the ship's navigation lights. Truly a day to remember, especially to Misha, the guide, who was celebrated for his birthday, despite his protests and unwillingness.

I finish with a limerick:

Down South we head,
Past the circle they said,
Where adventurers roamed,

Day 6 – Saturday 25th of March 2023, Antarctic circle, The Gullet and Pourquoi Pas Island

12h00 GPS Position 67°14.4'S / 067°50.2'W

Wind: NE1/2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast/Snow • Air temperature: -1°C • Sea temperature: +2°C

Rise and shine from below the Antarctic circle! Conditions were still quite windy, so we decided to stay on the ship and enjoy the beautiful light and the icebergs around us. Steffi gave a lecture about sea birds, it is amazing how far Arctic Terns travel from the south pole to the north pole, and how Albatross are able to stay very long in the sky with just a few flaps of their long wings!



It didn't seem possible, but our surroundings became more and more beautiful with the minute! We saw a massive iceberg that looked a lot like a castle, with a lot of holes in it like windows, an arch at the bottom like a door, and 'towers' next to it. We went through a narrow gap called The Gullet and the light couldn't be more stunning! Glaciers all around, seals floating by on icebergs and humpback

whales blowing and swimming in between. At some point it started snowing and a snowman was built on the front deck. The temperature was about 0 degrees then, so

we were all ready for a nice lunch to warm up. We were treated to very tasty pasta and tortellini with tomato sauce and parmesan.

In the afternoon we went for a zodiac cruise at Pourquoi Pas Island to look at the glaciers and icebergs from a different angle. It turned out to be an amazing wildlife



cruise, starting with Fur Seals on the beach with their funny little ears, along with some chunky Weddel Seals. Then we saw Adelie Penguins, who are a bit smaller than the Gentoo Penguins we saw before and they don't have the white patch above the eye, but instead have 'white eyeliner'. Some zodiacs also spotted a Leopard Seal swimming between the icebergs, a spectacular sighting!

Last but not least, there was a Humpback Whale with a calf, which we could observe for a good amount of time. They showed their fluke, their dorsal fin and they even poked their head above the water! Fur Seals were swimming around the area as well.

Back at the ship we had a quick recap with the plan and weather for the next day and Mischa explained the differences between all the different Seals that we saw. But the day was not over yet: There was a bbq at the back deck! We put music on and we were eating and dancing and having a fantastic time in the Antarctic circle!

Day 7 – Sunday 26th of March 2023, Stonington Island, Rothera, The Gullet.

**12h00 GPS Position: 68°12.6'S/ 067°15.0'W Wind: NNE1 • Sea: Smooth •
Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C • Sea temperature: +0°C**



The day started very early, with a delicious breakfast in order to enjoy a landing at Stonington Island. It is a rocky island lying 1.8 km (1.1 mi) northeast of Neny Island in the eastern part of Marguerite Bay off the west coast of Graham Land, Antarctica. It is 0.75 km (0.47 mi) long from north-west to south-east and 0.37 km

(0.23 mi) wide, yielding an area of 20 ha. It was formerly connected by a drifted snow slope to Northeast Glacier on the mainland. Stonington Island was chosen as the site for the East Base of the United States Antarctic Service (USAS) Expedition (1939–41). It was named after Stonington, Connecticut, home port of the sloop, Hero, in which Captain, Nathaniel Palmer, sighted the Antarctic continent in 1820.



Trepassey House: The island was also home to the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Station E and the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition and was the base of operations for many historic Antarctic Peninsula surveying missions in the 1940s. Station E was occupied until 23 February 1975 and the main building was known as Trepassey House, it was cleaned up and repaired in 1992. The huts are protected under the Antarctic Treaty.

When we arrived at the beautiful beach, we were received by a cute group of Adelies that helped us fill up our memory cards and our hearts, a few Weddel Seals were just relaxing enjoying the warm sun of the morning.

Going up the hill, we found Trepassey House, first there were some remains from the past, a boat and two snow cats were buried in the snow. Our eyes couldn't believe the view: it was a magnificent Glacier calving, giving us new moments of incredible natural show just for US. The sunrise was stunning!



In small Groups, we entered the remains of the Base and were witness to a little part of Antarctic History.

At 10 o'clock the moment of truth arrived, who will be brave enough to enter the cold water to do the famous Polar Plunge; surprisingly

more than 50 people decided to try and become part of the amazing group of the "Polar Swimmers". One Curious Weddell Seal was watching us, swimming close, trying to understand which type of "new seal" we were...

Now it's time to say goodbye to this beautiful Island and return to the Plancius.

After this amazing morning, The Captain sailed us to the southernmost point of the season! 68°13.950`S, we celebrated with a magnificent Buffet at the Dining Room.

During the afternoon, a breathtaking landscape full of icebergs, mountains and sea ice gave us the opportunity to take more and more pictures than we could imagine.

We sailed close to the Rothera Scientific Station, this station is one those that stays open during the wintertime in Antarctica and belongs to the British Antarctic Survey, UK. With a loud Blow Horn, we said goodbye to the Station and continued sailing North. The Gullet has prepared a surprise for us, more sea ice, Icebergs, Crabeater Seals, Leopard Seals and a lonely Adelie made of the Sunset a magic Moment, that nobody wanted to end...

To finish this amazing Day, after the dinner, we could appreciate millions of stars in the most beautiful sky ever seen. Just us, The Plancius, and magnificent icebergs. We all went to sleep trying to find new words to describe this day... Just Perfect!

Day 8 – Monday 27th of March 2023, Winter Island, Lemaire Channel.

12h00 GPS Position: 65°17.4'S/ 065°19.5'W

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: -1°C • Sea temperature: -1°C

And back north we go! Last night we crossed the Antarctic circle again in the other direction, but our expedition is not over yet! After the star gazing the night before we had a little lay in, with our ever so delicious breakfast at 8 am. We enjoyed the lovely weather and views from the ship and Steffi gave a lecture about whales where she was also teaching us how they communicate, so next time we see a whale we know what sounds to make! There were even a few whales who wanted to hear the lecture, as they swam by during the last 10 minutes.



After a leisurely lunch, we got ready to get off the ship again! This time we were going to do a split landing, half zodiac cruise and half landing. The zodiac drive to the landing site was already super impressive, through a narrow gap with rock on one side and a massive snow wall on the other! On land we found a house that we could visit, Wordie House, named after the chief scientist of the

Shackleton expedition, Sir James Wordie. The hut was built for science in 1947 from recycled material from the hut at Port Lockroy and material from the old whaling

station at Deception Island. The hut was very spacious, and we were able to see their living room, study, kitchen and toilet. We could see what kind of food they ate and what they did to entertain themselves, as there were a few games and books as well. In 1954 the operation of the hut moved to a new building on a nearby island. The station was named Faraday where it continued to be used as a research facility. One of the major contributions to science was the pioneering research and the finding of the hole in



the ozone layer. The hut was sold to Ukraine for the price of 1 pound in 1996, and was renamed Vernadsky.

During the zodiac cruise we explored the islands a bit further. We saw some Weddell seals relaxing in the sun, Fur Seals fighting with each other on a different island, and best of all Gentoo penguins were swimming around the zodiacs! After a successful afternoon activity, two whales came to say goodbye right next to the ship as we got back on.

We had a short recap as it was nearly time for dinner already, but there was a big surprise! TWO OF THE DIVERS GOT ENGAGED UNDER WATER! Love is in the air, or ehmmm water! A proposal whilst swimming with Leopard Seals in Antarctica, how special is that!

With that good news we enjoyed a dinner and a mega delicious cheesecake, but not too long, as we had to get back out on the decks for the beautiful Lemaire Channel. The 11km long channel separates Booth island from the Antarctic peninsula, it is 100 meters deep and 600 meters wide, providing breathtaking views from all angles! Humpback whales were swimming closely around the ship, perhaps our best sighting so far! As the evening went on and the sun set, the stars came out again and we finished our amazing day with some more star gazing, what a magical place to be!

Day 9 – Tuesday 28th of March 2023, Dorian Bay (Damoy Hut) and Paradise Harbour (Brown Station).

12h00 GPS Position: 64°46.8'S/ 063°27.3'W

Wind: Calm • Sea: Calm • Weather: partly cloudy. • Air temperature: +4°C • Sea temperature: +1°C

We sailed north overnight entering the Newmayer Channel between Doumer and Anvers Islands and relocating to Dorian Bay in Wiencke Island. At the break of dawn, the surrounding mountains lit in soft pastel colours...it was a spectacular show and a worthy prize for those up early and on deck. This morning also brought some real cold! Early on it was probably -5C and we could feel it on our faces. After



breakfast we landed by Damoy Hut and some of us visited the hut whilst others went first for a panoramic walk overlooking the bay and channel passing next to a few Gentoo penguin rookeries.

The hut we learnt, belonged to BAS, it was built in 1973 and served as a summer place where supplies for Rothera station were brought over by

ship and flown into Rothera whilst the sea ice prevented ship landings. The airplanes

used were Twin Otters and landed on skis along the flat ridge south of the hut. In 1993, the same flights operated directly from Stanley turning Damoy Hut redundant. After a few hours on land, the cold started seeping through and we went back to the ship. Plancius lifted anchor and we sailed to Paradise Harbour via the Newmayer Channel whilst enjoying lunch. What a view!!!

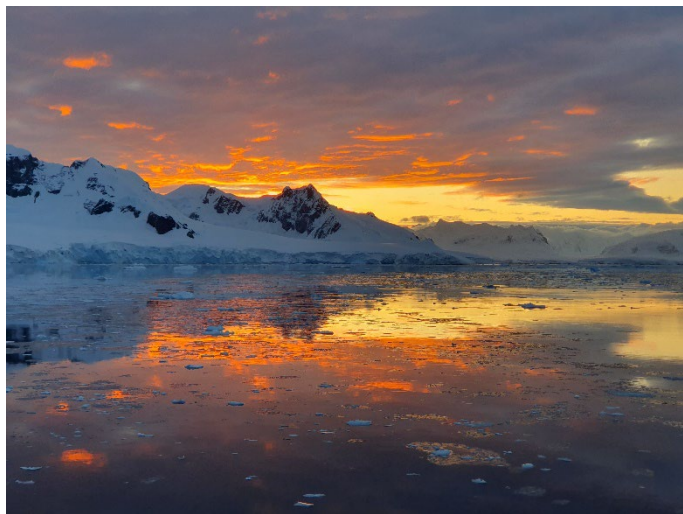
As soon as we rounded Cape Astrup we started crossing the Gerlache Strait at one of its narrowest points. The view today is infinite, and we can see everything. Bryde



and Lemaire Islands, Cape Willems, the full Danco Coast opens in front of us. There, hidden amongst glaciers, at the base of a small triangular pinnacle and dressed in orange, appears the Argentine base "Almirante Brown". This is one of many Argentina's seasonal bases in the peninsula operating between December and March, collecting data on microplastics,

pollution and fish alongside the re-colonisation of areas of retreating glaciers. The name Almirante Brown was given in honour to this Irish born turned Argentine Navy's Admiral during the early decades of this young nation, fighting off the Spanish Flotilla in Argentina's war of Independence.

As we take turns to zodiac cruise and land, those in the water enjoy dozens and dozens of whale encounters. The humpbacks are now full after a summer of feeding in these rich waters and take the chance to rest before their long migration to the tropics. If this was not enough, Capt. Ernesto Barria takes us slowly out, to enjoy of the almost magical sunset light and reflections. The changing light and sunsets only really available for those taking the last, southernmost trip of the season. We are all very privileged to be here.



Day 10 – Wednesday 29th of March 2023, Neko Harbour, Danco Island.

12h00 GPS Position: 64°47.7'S / 062°30.7'W

Wind: SE2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Calm • Air temperature: +-0°C • Sea temperature: +-0°C

We are experiencing our fourth consecutive day of glorious weather. Disbelieving that such a thing is possible at the end of an Antarctic season, we awake, gorge ourselves on the breakfast buffet, and disembark the vessel to head to Neko Harbour, a place of vast beauty, combining the Antarctic classics: Glaciers and penguins. The landing takes us on a short tour to a few penguin rookeries, where most of the penguins are



resting and moulting before they depart out to sea for the winter. Humpback whales passed close to the shore on their way out of the bay. Neko Harbour is special though due to the extreme proximity to a very active glacier, which occasionally calves and threatens anything close to the beaches. Additionally, it offers the most extraordinary backdrop to penguin photos: deep cracks

in the top of the glaciers, in all hues of blue, criss-cross the outside of the moving block of ice. Some lucky people could also witness Giant Petrels catching an unsuspecting chick and feeding on it. What at first appears to be gruesome reveals itself to be an essential part of nature. Having watched the penguins rest, waddle across deep trenches of penguin highways and walk in this pristine place, we boarded the zodiacs and headed back to the ship for our transit to Danco Island.

Having become significantly heavier after the lunch buffet, we head on out for our last landing on the Antarctic Peninsula. The spirits are high, and everyone tries to breathe in as much as possible the feeling of being in this incredible environment, one last time. Some might return, others won't, but everyone will remember. The walk took us to the highest rookeries, some 150m of elevation up, offering some scenic views of this vast



landscape. The penguins were, as per usual, delighting everyone simply by existing. For those that didn't choose to climb up, the beach offered a quiet serenity, where penguins actively scattered throughout the coastline, swam away and came out of the water in swarms, having eaten their fill while out at sea. The sun shone at all times, offering some warmth on this last excursion of the white continent. We returned to the ship happy and content, but with a slightly melancholic feeling, having come to love and appreciate this place, a place not quite like any other on the planet.

As always, I finish with a limerick:

To Antarctica we went,
Here twelve days we spent,
Now pictures and tales,
Of the penguins and whales,
For our families to share are meant.

Day 11 – Thursday 30th of March 2023, Half Moon Island South Shetland Islands.

12h00 GPS Position: 62°34.5'S / 059°43.3'W

Wind: W4/5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C • Sea temperature: +0°C

Plan A today was Deception Island but the winds there were raging though Neptune's bellows, the very narrow entry, making it unsafe to proceed and we headed instead for our Plan B location at Half Moon Island.



Half Moon Island is a small patch of land in the shape of its name between Livingstone and Greenwich Islands. The place can be very sheltered and provides a good spot for windy days as there are

different places to land taking the wind direction into consideration. The views of the surrounding landscape were something special, especially with the lenticular clouds around. These were those 'pan shaped' clouds. We had just got everyone on shore to enjoy the last landing, to hopefully see the Chinstrap penguins, Fur seals and Elephant seals when the wind changed direction and speed.

The clouds, whilst beautiful are a sign of strong winds higher up and as expected, conditions started getting strong at our level too. As a result of the changing conditions we had to call



everybody back onboard a lot sooner than intended, the zodiac boarding was a wet and sometimes difficult operation but we all had a fun ride back, our last and this time wet zodiac ride. Antarctica waved us off in proper Antarctic style.

After drying off we were treated to another great buffet lunch and a relaxing afternoon as we sailed through The South Shetland Islands.

During the afternoon entries were collected for the photo competition. Dinner then followed another very interesting recap from Steffi on Krill fishing and Martin on the avian eye.

Day 12 – Friday 31st of March 2023, crossing the Drake passage.

12h00 GPS Position: 59°22.6'S / 062°21.6'W Wind: WSW7 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Clear sky • Air temperature: +3°C • Sea temperature: +5°C

We started the day with a little “Shake Drake”, the ocean was our landscape for the Day.

During the morning Keechy talked about “Ice Ice ... Maybe”. She explained why the Ice Shelves are essential to maintain the Glaciers. And the problem of the CO2 for the Arctic and Antarctica.

After another tasty lunch, Valeria gave an Interactive lecture about the Expedition of Otto Nordenskjold with the help of the other guides. We had the opportunity to learn about history in a way that we are going to remember forever!

The Heroic Age of the Antarctic expeditions could not be complete without Shackleton! A documentary drama film was shown in the lounge. The film gave us an insight into the experience of the incredible story of “The Boss”.

During the Recap, Claudio made the last “Waking up Call” giving the opportunity to all of us to save and wake up in the future with the Antarctic Spirit in our homes.

Steffi amused us with a tricky and Funny “tongue Twister”. Misha completed the recap with a beautiful French Poem “L’Albatros”.

After Dinner it was time for the Grand Final of the photo competition. The comedy award went to Nico with his photo of the penguin being photographed by the ‘penguin paparazzi’.





Gudrun won the Landscape section with her amazing icescape.



Finally Leo won the wildlife category with his stunning image of the Fur seals getting close.

The Drake Passage gave us the opportunity to share pictures, experiences and feelings of this amazing trip that has changed our lives forever.

Day 13– Saturday 1st April 2023, crossing the Drake passage.

12h00 GPS Position: 55°33.4'S / 065°50.2'W

**Wind: NNW2 • Sea: Slight/Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +8°C
• Sea temperature: +7°C**

Claudio allowed us a lay in this morning, so no wake-up announcement today. Instead we were invited to breakfast by Volodymyr as usual.

Following yet another great breakfast we retired to the lounge for coffee and prepared ourselves for a lecture from Steffi entitled 'why penguins do not wear socks' the lecture explained some interesting polar adaptations.

We were getting closer to land and by late morning we could see South America again. It was a relief to some that our great ship, Plancius, had stopped moving around but to many it was the realisation that our fantastic trip was coming to an end.

Before lunch the divers gave us a fascinating insight, via photographs and video, into what they had been seeing all week, there were lots of oohs and ahs, especially for the video footage of the Leopard Seal.

The bird of the day was a Grey headed Albatross flying with the Cape Petrels and Black browed Albatross.

After lunch Paulo treated us to an insight into the Antarctic climate and we had to give our beloved boots back!

The time then came for the farewell Captains drink. It was time for an emotional goodbye to what was a fantastic journey. Then it was the turn of Koen to show the slideshow that he had been working hard on over the course of the trip, what a memory!

Day 14– Sunday 2nd April 2023, Ushuaia.

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.

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.

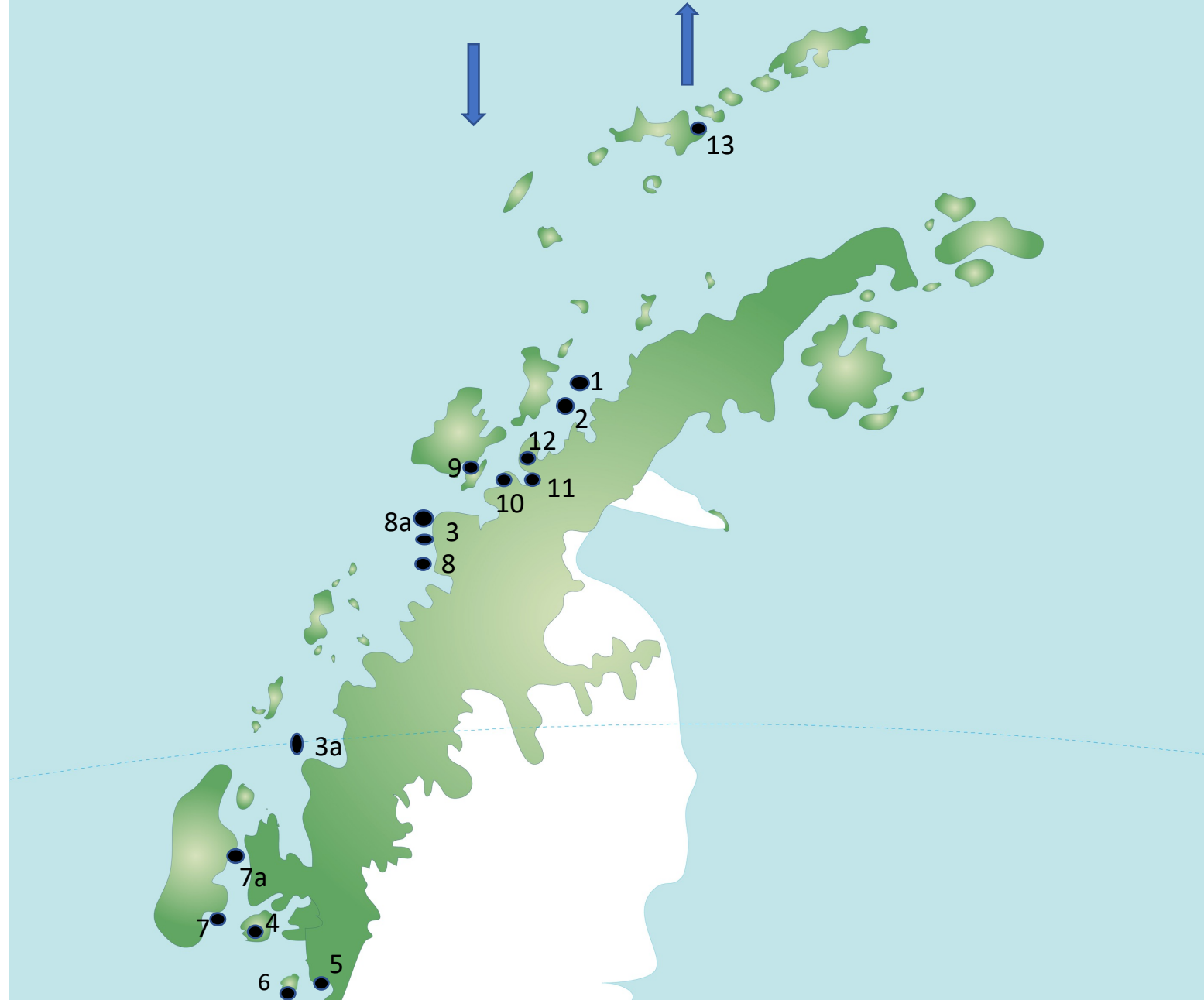
This would not be possible without you, our guests. Thank you for travelling with us on this voyage, for your enthusiasm, support, and good company. We very much hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 2278 nautical miles

Southernmost position: 68°13.9`S /067°01.6`W

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

Antartica: Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage



- 1: Mikkelsen Habour: Ship Cruise- 23/03

- 2: Gerlache Strait: Ship Cruise - 23/03

- 3: Peterman Island – 24/03

3a Crossing the Antarctic Circle

- 4: Pourquoi Pas Island – 25/03

- 5: Stonnnington Island – 26/03 - Polar Plunge!

- 6: Southernmost Point 68°13.984 S – 26/03

- 7: Rothera Scientific Station – 26/03

7a Transit Through the Gullet

- 8: Vernadsky Station- 27/03

8a Transit through the Lemaire Channel

- 9: Dorian Bay/Damoy Point – 28/03

- 10: Paradise Harbour (Brown Station) – 28/03

- 11: Neko HARBOUR – 29/03

- 12: Danco Island – 29/03

- 11: Half Moon Island and Edinburgh Hill – 30/03

Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

Birds

[illegible]

Marine Mammals

[illegible]

Claudio Ghiglione – Expedition Leader



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK).

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective is to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide Oceanwide.

Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book 'Polar Lights' with whom he shares the passion for nature photography.

Stefanie Liller – Assistant Expedition Leader



Steffi Liller was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1978. After completing her apprenticeship as a biology lab technician at the Paul-EhrlichInstitute in Langen, Germany, she earned a degree in Biology and Meteorology at the Universities of Darmstadt and Freiburg in Germany. Alongside her studies and her love of nature, Stefanie developed an interest in and a passion for skydiving. This eventually changed from being a hobby to her profession. While working at drop-zones and indoor skydiving facilities throughout central Europe, Stefanie enjoyed sharing her passion for the sport with other people.

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveler by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales

and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife.

Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and portraits of people all over the world.

Koen believes that travelling does not only enrich your life, it also makes you more humble, more appreciative and it provides new levels of perspective and understanding. Koen has won the prestigious WWF Frans Lanting Photo contest, and in 2020 he won the Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Photography competition. It's Koen's dream to one day have a Vizsla dog and own a small cabin somewhere in northern Norway surrounded by snow and trees ;).

Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Born in Argentina (Dec 80') and raised in Italy, Paolo finally moved to Scotland where he settled in 2006. Nowadays, when not at sea, he splits his time between Argentina and Scotland.

Before expedition cruises Paolo spent 12 years working shoreside in merchant shipping. He was a Product Manager for a Norwegian company developing Voyage Planning and Marine Weather Forecasting Systems for merchant ships.

He also started Paragliding at the age of 14 and has been very involved in the sport as a school owner instructing both beginners and advanced courses for over 20 years. When not paragliding, Paolo likes to sea kayak and he mixes Field Guide with Kayak Guide roles onboard.

In 2021 he started working full time in expedition cruises, since then he has guide in several expeditions such as Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands, Greenland West coast, Greenland East coast, Iceland, Faroes Islands and British Isles.

Aside from sea kayaking and flying he is into hiking, motorbikes and spending time with friends. He is passionate about polar regions and sharing the experience with our guests.

“Happiness is only real when shared” (Chris McCandless)

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Valeria Mariel Sainz Herrera - Expedition Guide



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.

Keechy Akkerman – Expedition Guide



Growing up in a big city (The Hague, The Netherlands) the outdoors has always fascinated Keechy, especially the Polar Regions. She has travelled to Norway repeatedly; for holidays, to work on a sheep farm, and to conduct research on the island Jan Mayen. During her studies in Biology and Geology her passion led her to follow several courses at the University Centre in Svalbard, and she fell in love with the area.

For Keechy's final internship with TNO (The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) in 2015, she had the amazing opportunity to participate in a scientific expedition (SEES) to Edgeøya, located in the southeast of the Svalbard archipelago. The aim of the expedition was to study the impact of anthropogenic activity in one of the most remote and pristine areas on earth, thereby highlighting the relevance of Arctic research in the context of current transitions. This expedition was in collaboration with Oceanwide Expeditions and after talking to the guides, she became very enthusiastic to work as a Polar Tour guide as well.

In 2016 Keechy moved to the UK to take on a PhD on lake ecosystems in Greenland. Her fieldwork allowed her to complete the Arctic Circle Trail in Greenland, a 10-day hike from the ice sheet to the coast. She spends most of her weekends exploring all the national parks the UK has to offer, in the form of hiking, camping, climbing and winter mountaineering. Now that she is in the final stages of her PhD, she is keen to share her love for nature and the Polar Regions as a tour guide!

Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide



Born in St Petersburg, Russia, but raised in Luxemburg, Mikhail now lives in Switzerland, where he delights in camping all over the local mountainscape.

He spent quite some time in the academic world, obtaining master's degrees in Marine Mammal Science and in Ecology and Nature Conservation. After working for several field seasons as a scientist in distant places on marine mammals and birds, he was keen to pursue a way to combine his passion for travelling, outreach and the higher latitudes.

His deep interest for the polar regions was formed on a visit to Antarctica with Oceanwide in 2018 as part of a university course. At the time, he was stunned by the pristineness and the vibrance of life found in the Southern Ocean and wanted to find a way to return in a professional capacity. As he prefers the world's colder regions, Oceanwide provided the opportunity to immerse himself in the polar world.

No stranger to adverse weather and difficult living conditions, Mikhail is always looking to find places and moments that exude true calm and serenity. As an avid photographer and videographer, he is always seen carrying his gear around from place to place, trying to improve his craft and capture wildlife in their natural behaviour.

Usually in high spirits, he works as a guide on a variety of expeditions, on which he can be found always ready to help and looking to increase his savoir-faire in all things ocean and wildlife.

Michael Green - Dive Team Leader



He began diving in 1980 learning with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour. Leaving the Navy, he continued to dive mainly around the U.K. dive into the wrecks always looking for a new story to learn.

He is qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. He has worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the Last five years. He enjoys spending time giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions.

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

Look around you, enjoy these beautiful flames they are amazing. He is looking forward to spending some time with you over the coming days. Please ask any questions you may have as soon as you have them, we are here to help!

Lotte Bisgaard – Dive Guide



Lotte is from Norway. She began with diving at the age of 16 in the cold fjords of Norway and later on she moved to the UK where she continued her diving. She became a diving instructor in 2018, and has since then worked in Norway, Gibraltar, Thailand and Honduras as a scuba diving instructor. She loves teaching scuba diving and showing the underwater world to others.

When not underwater, she loves to be on top of the water, living on a sailing boat and sailing and exploring new places.

Richard Gannon – Dive Guide



Richard (Rick) started out as a lifeguard at 16 and then following family tradition he joined the military as a Royal Engineer. Rick was a long-range communications specialist and diver, operating in many places and environments. His first military dive being under the ice in Norway. Being a diving instructor in both the military and recreational diving enhanced his military career. Rick worked offshore in the North Sea as a commercial diver and then as a Marine Mammal Observer and Passive Acoustic Monitoring in the seismic industry.

Rick's love of the outdoors has seen him sky-diving, skiing, sailing and mountaineering but his main focus is running. As a long-distance runner he has competed many races including 3 deserts marathons. In particular the Gobi Desert being the first Englishman to win and setting a new record for the multiday event. Rick's next event is the London marathon next month.

Rick currently works at the University of Plymouth as a Commercial Diving Instructor and is the lead for the diving systems used at the Marine Station. He also teaches on the scientific diving module taking the lead on photography and videography. As a diving supervisor Rick is involved with scientific surveys and projects.

Rick's experience and dedication to teaching and instructing is focused on keeping the divers safe but helping to expand their experience and knowledge.

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.

Bart Stepien – Ship's Doctor



Bart has been at sea for over a decade. He has been providing medical services to multiple cruise line and expedition companies. He took an active part in various medical operations including boat and helicopter evacuations worldwide.

He shares his time ashore between various medical conferences and courses, hospital Emergency Rooms shifts, rock climbing, scuba/free-diving, and occasional skydiving.



Welcome aboard!

Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Monday, the 20th of March 2023

Day 1 – Embarkation in Ushuaia

- 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 for this voyage and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Claudio Ghiglione. He 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.



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Tuesday, the 21st of March 2023

Day 2 – Drake Passage heading to Antarctica!

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.

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

We need to do some **mandatory briefings** in preparation of our visit to Antarctica and we would like to introduce the Expedition team to you.

Depending on the weather and sea condition, we will call you over the PA System.

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

We need to do some **mandatory briefings** in preparation of our visit to Antarctica.

Depending on the weather and sea condition, we will call you over the PA System.

1830 **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of our first day on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.

1900 **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.



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Wednesday, the 22nd of March 2023

Day – Drake Passage – Drake Shake – heading to Antarctica!

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- Depending on the sea and weather condition we will offer movies or lectures, please listen to announcements.
- 0930-1130 For those who did not finish their **Biosecurity** or Pick up **Boots**, we will have staff available in the library to assist you.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- Depending on the sea and weather condition we will offer movies or lectures, please listen to announcements.
- 1500-1700 For those who did not finish their **Biosecurity** or Pick up **Boots**, we will have staff available in the library to assist you.
- 1830 **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **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.



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Thursday, the 23rd of March 2023

Day 4 – Reaching the Antarctic Peninsula & Cuverville Island

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.

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

During the morning we approach the **Antarctic Peninsula**. Take the opportunity to enjoy your **first sight** of this incredible, white, and rough Continent.

You cleaned all your outer gear, but many of you still need to clean their **boots**. We provide a cleaning station with water and brushes on Deck 3 at the Zodiac gangway.

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

After lunch We hope to get you ashore at Cuverville Island. Cuverville offers a fantastic view over the Gerlache Strait and is home to a gentoo penguin rookery.

Listen for announcement when to come to the Gangway at Deck 3. Please do not forget to wear a waterproof outer layer and the Zodiac Life vests and keep your hands free on the gangway.

1900 **Recap and Briefing**. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal.



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Friday, the 24th of March 2023

Day 5 – Port Charcot & Fish Island

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0730 When the conditions allow, we would like to visit Port Charcot, just in south of Booth Island. It is home for Gentoo penguins and the steep mountains make an incredible scenery.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1700 During the day we are heading further south. In the late afternoon we arrive a Fish Islands. We would like to use the time until sunset to explore this fantastic region.
- 1900 **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!

Sunrise: 7:22

Sunset: 19:31



DAILY PROGRAM

Day 6 –Detaille Island & The Gullet & Zodiac Cruise in Marguerite Bay

Day 6 –Detaille Island & The Gullet & Zodiac Cruise in Marguerite Bay

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0645 | Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio. |
| 0700 | Breakfast buffet will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour. |
| 0745 | We would like to bring you early on shore at Detaille Island. There we find an old British Research Station established in 1959. We can only bring 50 people ashore, so we take the first 50 people ashore, the others explore by Zodiac, after half of the time we swap the groups. Everyone will have the same opportunity and time. |
| 1200 | Lunch is served in the Dining Room. |
| After lunch | We will pass through “the Gullet”, a narrow channel between Adelaide Island and the Westcoast of Graham Land. The scenery is spectacular, so join us on the outer decks.
In the afternoon we will explore the area with our beloved Zodiacs. For detailed timings, please listen to announcements. |
| 1800-1830 | We will sail South to see from our vessel the Rothera Scientific Station. This station is one the station that stay open during the wintertime in Antarctica and belong to the British Antarctic Survey, UK. |
| 1830 | Recap and Briefing. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow. |
| 1900 | We have a special dinner planned, stay tuned. |

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Sunday, the 26th of March 2023

Day 7 –Stonington Island, Rothera station and The Gannet

- 0715 Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 We would like to visit **Stonington Island**. The historic site was established 1939-1941 during an Antarctic Expedition led by Richard Byrd. This will be the most southern point we reached, so let`s use this opportunity to celebrate with a **Polar Plunge**. You will bring the courage and we will bring the towels.
- We will sail North to see from our vessel the **Rothera Scientific Station**. This station is one the station that stay open during the wintertime in Antarctica and belong to the British Antarctic Survey, UK.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 We would like to sail with our zodiacs **trough the Gannet channel** surrounded by beautiful landscapes, ice and wildlife.
- 1830 **Recap and Briefing**. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** in the dining room available for 1 hour.

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!
Sunrise: 7:47 *Sunset: 19:27*



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Monday, the 27th of March 2023

Day 8 – Heading North & Argentinian Islands

- 0745 Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- In the morning we are making our way back **north** to spend the following days around the Gerlache Strait.
- 1030 Steffi will give **an introduction on whales**. If you would like to learn more about these mazing creatures of the sea. Join her in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- Afternoon We would like to explore with you the archipelago of the Argentinian Islands. Theses islands are home to the Ukranian Vernadsky Research Station and an old historic place called Wordie House. Besides the human traces there is many marine wildlife around.
- 1830 **Recap and Briefing**. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** in the dining room available for 1 hour.

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!

Sunrise: 7:36

Sunset: 19:05



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Tuesday, the 28th of March 2023

Day 9 – Damoy Point & Paradise Harbour

- 0715 Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 We will visit Damoy Point. This place is home for a gentoo penguin colony and it provides stunning views over the surrounding mountains. We give you the opportunity for a small walk to a view point.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1500 This afternoon we will explore Paradise Bay. This area is mostly promising to see marine wildlife, so let's hope they will cooperate with us.
- 1830 **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap our time in Antarctica and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** in the dining room available for 1 hour.

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!

Sunrise: 7:33

Sunset: 19:03



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Wednesday, the 29th of March 2023

Day 10 – Neko Harbour & Danco Island

- 0715 Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 We will visit Neko Harbour. This place is home for a gentoo penguin colony and it provides stunning views over the surrounding mountains. We give you the opportunity for a small walk to a view point.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 This afternoon we will explore Danco Island. This area is mostly promising to see wildlife and the Errera Channel offers nice icebergvews.
- 1830 **Recap and Briefing.** Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** in the dining room available for 1 hour.

During the night, we will cross the Bransfield Strait on the way to the South Shetland Islands. We recommend to start securing your belongings for the sea passage.

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!

Sunrise: 7:35

Sunset: 18:52



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Thursday, the 30th of March 2023

Day 11 – Deception Island & Half Moon Island

- 0630 Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Claudio.
- We will enter Neptune Bellows, the entrance into the caldera of Deception Island.
- 0700 **Breakfast** will be served for one hour in the Diningroom.
- 0730 This morning we are planning to enter **Deception Island**. We will sail into the caldera of a volcano and visit the historical Whaling Station. The landscape is completely different from what we saw before and the history is impressive.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1430 When the condition allow, we would like to enjoy our last landing at **Half Moon Island**. This beautiful island offers chinstrap penguins, furseals and sometimes we even see elephant seals.
- 1700-1800 Mischa would like to collect your entries for the **Photo competition**. Please meet him in the library. There are 3 categories: Wildlife, Landscape and Comedy, one entry per category per person.
- 1830 **Recap and Briefing**. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap of the time on board Plancius and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room. It is plated dinner, please join us on time.

Enjoy the magical light of sunset/sunrise in the Antarctic Autumn!

Sunrise: 7:17

Sunset: 18:33



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Friday, the 31st of March 2023

Day – 11 Drake Day 1 – Heading North

This morning there will be no wake-up call. We will call you for breakfast.

08:00 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0900-1000 Mischa would like to collect your entries for the **Photo competition**. Please meet him in the library. There are 3 categories: Wildlife, Landscape and Comedy, one entry per category per person. This is your last chance to participate.

Depending on the sea conditions, we will offer **lectures and movies**. Please listen to the announcements.

We will screen the pictures of the Photo competition in the Lounge. Please make your vote.

12:30 Your **lunch** will be served for 1 hour in the Dining room.

We will screen the pictures of the Photo competition in the Lounge. Please make your vote.

Depending on the sea conditions, we will offer **lectures and movies**. Please listen to the announcements.

18:30 **Recap and Briefing**. Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a recap about our time in Antarctica.

19:00 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

21:00 We will announce the winner of the Photo Competition.

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.



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Saturday, the 1st of April 2023

Day – 13 Drake Day 2 – Heading North

This morning there will be no wake-up call. We will call you for breakfast.

08:00 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

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10:00 We have seen so much wildlife in Antarctica. If you would like to know **why penguins do not wear socks**, join Steffi for her lecture about polar adaptations.

12:30 Your **lunch** will be served for 1 hour in the Dining room.

15:00 Antarctica showed us an unique environment. Learn more about **Antarctic climate** and join Paolo in the Lounge for a lecture.

We will collect your **rubber boots**. We will call you by deck. Please listen to the announcements.

18:15 **Captain's Cocktail**. Please join the Expedition Team and Captain Ernesto in the Lounge for a chance to toast our successful voyage to Antarctica.

19:00 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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Antarctica – Polar Circle – Deep South Voyage

Sunday, the 2nd of April 2023

Day – 14 Disembarkation in Ushuaia

7:15 Your last **Wake up** call from Expedition leader Claudio.

Before breakfast at 07:30 please 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.

07:30 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

8:30/45 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 08:30/08:45. Please identify all your luggages 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 14:00.

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!