



OCEANWIDE

30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

South Georgia Explorer

9th November – 23rd November 2023



M/V Plancius

Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was originally named Hr. Ms. Tydeman. The vessel was rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS regulations. She is 89m long, 14.5m wide, and has a maximum draft of 5m. Her ice class is 1D and she averages a cruising speed of 10.5 knots using three diesel-electric engines.

Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Maikel Overbeeke**

2nd Officer: **Warren Villanueva**

3rd Officer: **Eline Schuurman**

Chief Engineer: **Floris Teunis Oskam**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Bogdan Manevksi**

Head Chef: **Khabir Moraes**

Ships Doctor: **Annika Volder**

Expedition Leader: **Ali Liddle**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Steffi Liller**

Expedition Guide: **Andrew Bishop**

Cas Eikenaar

Clara Iachetti

Katlyn Taylor

Koen Hoekmeijer

Joshua Peck

Day 1 – 9th November

Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 54°57.3'S / 066°54.0'W

Wind: WSW 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 14°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C



After travelling from far and wide, it was finally time for us all to embark on *Plancius* for an unforgettable trip. The weather as we left port was perfect: lots of sunshine, a little wind, and a nice spring temperature. Ushuaia is the southernmost city on the planet and would be our departure port for South Georgia.

Once we had all boarded and settled into our cabins, many of us used the opportunity to head out on deck for a look around at our surroundings and explore *Plancius* further. Just prior to departure, we all headed up to the lounge for some refreshments of tea and coffee, then heard the safety briefing from Chief Officer Maikel. We all had a good time trying out the bright orange life vests!

Shortly after the briefing, we threw lines and set sail from the pier. The wind picked up a little, but the sun continued to shine as we made our way along the Beagle Channel towards the South Atlantic. Just after six, we were again invited to the lounge, but this time for an introduction to life onboard with Hotel Manager Oleksander. This was followed by captain's cocktails and a short speech from our captain for the journey, Evgeny Levakov.

Our expedition leader for the trip to South Georgia, Ali Liddle, then introduced us to her Expedition team and gave us some information about the coming days at sea. A lovely dinner was served soon after and we enjoyed the stunning coastline of Chile and Argentina as we sailed down the Beagle while we ate.

After finishing dinner and the last of the evening views, many of us retired to our cabins, where we settled in for our first night at sea.



Day 2 – 10th November

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 54°57.3'S / 061°39.3'W

Wind: NNW 6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

We started the day at 7:45am, with the voice of our expedition leader. “Good morning, good morning,” she said, telling us about the weather outside and inviting us to breakfast.

At 9:30, Steffi, our assistant EL, gave us an introduction to the seabirds we might see on our voyage to South Georgia. To follow our already productive morning, Katlyn gave a super interesting lecture, introducing us to the whales of the Southern Ocean. She showed us the different types of whales and how to recognize them and told us how, after many years of over exploitation by whalers, the Southern Oceans populations of whales are slowly increasing.

Lunch time arrived and we could enjoy a lovely and assorted lunch made by the excellent galley team. Luckily, we had some time for a siesta before our next interesting lecture.

Ali presented us with an introduction to South Georgia. She was able to tell us about her own experience and aspects on history, economy and wildlife of South Georgia, due to the fact she lived on the Island for a period of time in the 1990s. Her love for South Georgia was infectious, calling it the “Serengeti of the South Atlantic”.

Around 16:45, we were called to get our muck boots from our energetic Expedition Staff. Most of our landings would be wet landings and most terrain we visit could be quite wet, so proper muck boots were required. Once we had found a comfortable pair, it was time to relax. For some of us, that meant a drink in the bar while we got to know our fellow travelers and waited for the daily re-cap and briefing by our EL and her team.



After sharing information on the weather for tomorrow, Ali introduced her Expedition Team. It is a diverse team, with guides from different countries and many different backgrounds: biology, geology, ornithology, oceanography, photography, among others. The briefing was wrapped up by Cas, one of the guides, a keen birder, who gave us some tips on how to use our binoculars. He also gave some clues to distinctive features of the different seabirds, which could help us with identification. At 19:00 dinner was served, a plated dinner! Yummy!

After spending a beautiful evening in the dining room, it was finally time to go to bed after a very productive first day at sea! A long and exciting journey was ahead.

Day 3 – 11th November

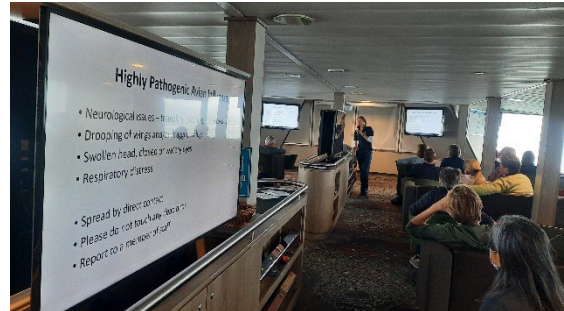
At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 54°42.6'S / 053°20.8'W

Wind: NNW 6, Sea State: Moderate, Weather: Fog, Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 6°C

After a calm night, the swell would build throughout the day and Plancius would move more than yesterday. After a lovely breakfast, we headed straight into an important briefing from our EL, Ali. Biosecurity is very important in Antarctica and South Georgia; we needed to be sure all our gear was thoroughly cleaned. This included our outer-shells, backpacks, boots, tripods, poles, and everything we would take ashore. Also, we would need to treat our boots, poles, tripods, and everything else that might have been in contact with the ground ashore with Virkon solution, a very good disinfectant.

This is a special year for biosecurity, as Avian Influenza has unfortunately already reached the south Atlantic Islands and many Seabirds, Seals and Sea Lions are suffering from it. More than ever, we need to pay special attention to biosecurity protocols.



Ali told us that the ship would be inspected on arrival to Grytviken, but mainly for rodents. The arrival of rats to the island in the Sealing and Whaling vessels had a catastrophic effect on the island's bird populations, especially on the South Georgia Pipit, an endemic songbird. The South Georgia Heritage Trust's Habitat Restoration Project has gone through a massive rat extermination program that cost them lots of effort and money, and therefore now they are very strict to avoid any potential new arrivals!



After lunch, biosecurity cleaning continued, and when all our garments were clean and ready for use ashore, Steffi gave us a very interesting talk on Seals. She showed us how to differentiate "true Seals" from Fur Seals or Sea Lions and gave us a lot of interesting facts about the species we were about to see during our time in South Georgia.

As soon as Steffi finished her lecture, she informed us that an ARGO float was about to be launched as we had reached international waters. ARGO is an international program that collects information from inside the ocean using a fleet profiling floats that drift with the ocean currents and move up and down between the surface and a mid-water level to observe temperature, salinity and currents (www.argo.ucsd.edu). Oceanwide contributes to this international initiative by serving as a platform for the ARGO floats to get to the Southern Ocean.

As the afternoon continued, some of us went to rest. Some were feeling a little under the weather due to the ship's motion, and some enjoyed a lovely introductory documentary to South Georgia. In the early evening, Ali gave her Recap and did a Zodiac briefing to show us how we were supposed to get on and off the Zodiacs. We could already start feeling the adrenaline of making our first outing upon arrival! One more sea day to go and we would finally start seeing the mountains in the distance!

Day 4 – 12th November

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 54°28.2'S / 045°31.1'W

Wind: NW 4, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C

This morning, we awoke with the gentle rolling of the Plancius, which really pleased most of us after two days of choppy seas. Getting through these two days made some of us feel like real sailors, a feeling that did lose some of its glamour after listening to Joshua's lecture of Shackleton's epic rescue journey from the Endurance!

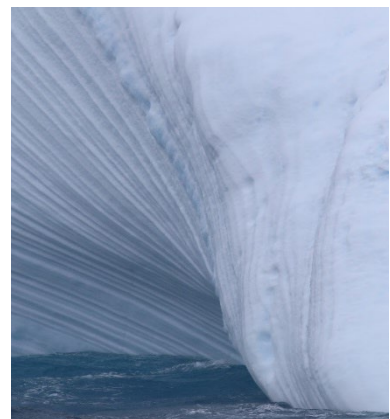


Outside, meanwhile, a group of some 30 light-mantled sooty albatrosses made their appearance, to follow us during the day. A real treat! These beautiful birds very likely were the albatross species on which Coleridge based his famous poem "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner." They do live up to their name, being sooty and having a lighter grey back and belly, easy to remember even for non-birders.

The large (Royal and Wandering) albatrosses, seen in good numbers on the previous days, were missing though. This is probably due to the wind speed not living up to their standards; in order to fly 'for free' they need enough wind to provide them with an uplift, after which they curve downward to again rise up into the wind, a process called 'dynamic soaring'.

Also, during the morning Andrew in his lecture taught us all about the geology of South Georgia. This was followed in the afternoon with lectures on photography by Koen and on plankton by Clara. In between lectures we were treated by the kitchen to home-made hamburgers, always a yippee event, certainly among the Staff.

The first iceberg made its appearance too today, a specimen beautifully crafted by wind and waves. All in all, we could look back on a satisfactory day at sea, and went to bed happy knowing that tomorrow we would reach South Georgia.



Day 5 – 13th November

Peggotty Bluff, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°13.4'S / 037°44.5'W

Wind: NE 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Light Rain, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

For some of the more eager of our cadre, the day began soon after first light as we made our way outside with the hope of finally sighting South Georgia. Alas, we were greeted with a fog that did not lift for quite some hours.

Throughout the morning, the fog began to lift, affording our first glimpses of South Georgia between the large icebergs ahead of us. Steffi informed us that these were pieces that had broken off D30-A, a large iceberg that had broken off an iceshelf in east Antarctica in June 2021. Since that time, it had drifted into the Weddell Sea before being pushed up to the east coast of South Georgia by the prevailing ocean currents.



After lunch, we continued into King Haakon Bay and anchored off Peggotty Bluff. Soon after, our ski team disembarked and were dropped towards the glacier leading into the Shackleton Gap. Soon after, they began their arduous trek up to the foot of the glacier as the rest of us disembarked in windy conditions to explore Peggotty Bluff.

It was a great introduction to a typical South Georgia landing. We were greeted with wind, misty rain, tussock grass hiding Fur Seals, and

King Penguins at the landing site. As we made our way around the bluff to the western beach, the sound of more wildlife, including Elephant Seals, could be heard on the wind. Soon enough, we were able to wander along the beach, taking in the scenery and smells whilst clicking away on our cameras.

All too soon, it was time to return to Plancius. We weighed anchor and slowly made our way out of King Haakon Bay and Northwest through the icebergs, towards our planned anchorage for the night in Undine Harbour.



Day 6 – 14th November

Rosita Harbour & Salisbury Plain, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°01.5'S / 036°26.6'W

Wind: E 3, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C

The morning started very early for most of us! Ali had announced the evening before that the plan was to pass the narrow strait between Bird Island and the Main Island. Bird Island is known for the incredible amount of breeding seabirds. Some of us used the opportunity to see these incredible birds in the morning light and got up at 4:30.

When we got on the outer decks early in the morning, places appeared slightly different. The captain had to change plans, as the original anchorage for the night was blocked by icebergs, and he continued further north and bypassed the narrow strait. Nevertheless, it was worth getting up, as the morning sun lit up the mountains. The light was incredible and the scenery spectacular. South Georgia presented itself in perfect conditions.



Some of us went back to bed for a small snooze and our normal operations began at 9. Ali and the Expedition Team planned to land us at Rosita Harbour, a small little beach at the end of the Bay of Isles.

The Expedition Team attempted a landing, with some of us watching through our binoculars from the outer decks. However, the beach was full of male Fur Seals protecting their territory, so as to be ready when the females arrive to give birth. Normally after five days the females are ready to breed again, and this is what the males are waiting for. Our team tried to land twice, but there was just not enough space for all of us to pass the animals safely.



We explored the area instead via a Zodiac cruise and saw many birds, such as South Georgia Shags, Giant Petrels and Kelp Gulls. The highlight for all of us was an unbelievable sighting of a Leopard Seal around the kelp forest. Most likely it was a female. Female Leopard Seals are generally much bigger than males. She was quite curious, but not aggressive, checking out each and every zodiac. All of us got a good view of this graceful animal and a small glimpse how powerful they can be.

After another fabulous lunch from the Galley Team, we headed out again for a Zodiac cruise of Salisbury Plain. Salisbury Plain is home to around 70,000 breeding pairs of King Penguins. Unfortunately, due to reports of Avian flu we were unable to land, but we still got the chance to cruise at the shoreline and observe the breathtaking wildlife. The sun was shining, we had light winds, a little swell and countless Seals and Penguins along the beach. We explored along the coastline and even found a small laguna where we got some nice close shots of the King Penguins and a newborn Fur Seal pup. We enjoyed every minute outside in these perfect conditions, and after 2.5 hours we were welcomed back on our beloved Plancius with hot juice and Whiskey.

Back on the ship, we enjoyed the last afternoon hours outside and observed the surrounding mountains with their glaciers in changing lights while leaving the Bay of Isles enroute to more adventures and new places tomorrow.

Day 7 – 15th November

Fortuna Bay & Hercules Bay, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°09.0'S / 036°97.9'W

Wind: NE 2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast/Fog, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C

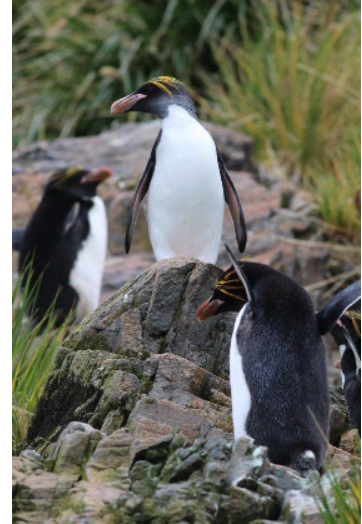
We awoke to fog and low cloud obscuring our view over Fortuna Bay. From deck overlooking the crescent beach, we could see it dotted with male Fur Seals. In between the Seals, King Penguins were making their way onto the beach to go fishing. They did so in numbers indicating the presence of a breeding colony nearby, which indeed was our destination for the morning landing.



After finding a safe spot with not too many fur Seals, we came ashore and started our hike towards the Kings' breeding site. The first stretch of the hike was a bit like running the gauntlet, finding a way through rather grumpy fur Seals. After that the walk was very relaxed, and we were accompanied by Penguins heading the same way. Suddenly, behind a little hill the colony appeared. Thousands of adult and young Penguins gathered on the flat glacial plain. Most of the young were from last year, and were still in their downy costume, but some had already started to moult into the adult plumage.

The cooks must have known exactly what everyone craved after our long morning landing: pasta with lots of cheese! Over this wonderful lunch, we relocated to Hercules bay for a Zodiac cruise.

This little gem of a site is truly an amazing place with a very visible colony of Macaroni Penguins, straddled up the steep tussac slopes. The small beach also contained some Gentoo and King Penguins, along with the ever-present Elephant and Fur Seals on the little beach. Completing the perfect South Georgia picture, in the background there was a scenic waterfall and overhead continuously soared Light-Mantled Albatrosses. It was another day in paradise.



Day 8 – 16th November

Fortuna Bay & Stromness, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°07.8'S / 036°49.0'W

Wind: NE 3, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Rain, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

After a wonderful landing in Fortuna Bay yesterday, we decided to visit this beautiful place again this morning – in a different area though, but this proved not to be so easy. At places where the swell conditions were good, we simply couldn't land due to the large numbers of fur Seals. And where the beach was more open, the swells were simply too big, so we really needed to find that one perfect place. Thankfully we did find a spot, and after a short delay, we set foot on Fortuna Bay once again. The staff had flagged a nice route through a grassy plain where we were able to observe good numbers of King Penguins, Fur Seals of all age categories, and of course, numerous very cute Elephant Seal pups.

Despite the rain, the scenery was just stunning. Arriving at the landing site and seeing the beach filled with fur Seals all along the entire coastline was very impressive. Hard to imagine that this beach will be even more crowded once the females arrive. With fur Seals it's all about location, location, location, so the staff needed to stand their ground quite a lot. Off the landing site, there was much more space and we could walk at ease.



While following the flagged route, we enjoyed amazing views at the glaciers. Today we were meeting our Shackleton Route Ski Expedition, but we didn't know which glacier they would descend.

In the meantime, we continued to a 'little' corner to enjoy the inimitable King Penguins. A little further towards the beach we found more King Penguins, but also breeding

Gentoo Penguins. They were on their nests seemingly undisturbed by the harsh and cold rain that was coming down by this time. Although we were all well dressed for typical South Georgia conditions, the idea of a warm cup of tea or coffee was tempting and after a few hours we slowly made our way back to the landing site. While walking back we saw our first glimpses of our expeditioners as they were walking on top of the glacier.

Unfortunately, weather conditions didn't permit us to do the Shackleton Walk in the afternoon. It was simply too foggy and, in these conditions, it's strongly discouraged to embark upon this walk. The staff in the meantime had come back to the ship to get a warm lunch and change into some warm and dry clothes. Soon, however, they would go out again to meet the expeditioners. When leaving the ship, they were warm and dry, but the swells at the beach had become significantly more challenging. This meant standing in the surf up to their waists while holding the zodiacs, so the exhausted expeditioners could make it safely back to the warm ship. As soon as all the gear was loaded onto several zodiacs, the staff made it back to the ship where they again could warm up and put on more dry clothes.



Plancius lifted its anchor and before darkness we arrived at Stromness where we did a short ship's cruise to have views of the former whaling station. It was here that Shackleton finished his epic journey walking into the now derelict whaling station. Seeing the ruggedness of South Georgia and the ever-changing harsh weather conditions, one can only imagine what it must have been like for Shackleton and his men to conquer these conditions and make it back alive.

Day 9 – 17th November

Grytviken & Godthul, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°16.9'S / 036°30.0'W

Wind: WEW 4, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Today, it was time for a mixture of culture and nature, in other words a morning at Grytviken. This abandoned whaling station now holds the South Georgia Museum, an official post office and a gift shop. The little museum sports an interesting collection revolving around the history of whaling as well as displays items of the natural wonders of South Georgia. Undoubtedly, the stuffed wandering albatross with its 3m wingspan is among the favourites.



At the Post Office we could buy special South Georgia stamps, highly desired by philatelists. And for those with a craving for shopping at unusual places, the gift shop was of course a must. Then, there is the small cemetery, famous for having the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, perhaps the last of the great Polar explorers. There we engaged in the ritual toasting to the 'Boss, making sure he got his fair share of whiskey. Having indulged in old South Georgia culture and modern shopping frenzy, we headed back to Plancius for lunch.

The afternoon found us at Godthul, Norwegian for 'Good cove' where we could pick from activities ranging from a relaxing Zodiac cruise to a climb through thick tussac up to the 300m high hill overlooking the Godthul as well as horseshoe bay on the other side. The slopes of this hill sport a good number of Gentoo Penguins, patiently incubating their eggs on the little nest mounds. There was plenty of opportunity to photograph these birds, this time without a downpour like yesterday at Anchorage Bay. These Penguins have found themselves a wonderful nesting site, overlooking the bay with a backdrop of spectacular mountains.



The Zodiac cruise meanwhile led those, who were not up for the steep climb through the tussac, past a scenic waterfall, nesting light-mantled sooty albatross and the ever-present fur Seals and elephant Seals.

Back on Plancius a tasty barbeque awaited us, where we all also enjoyed the music and dancing from some of the crew. A perfect ending to another beautiful day in South Georgia.

Day 10 – 18th November

Prince Olav & Possession Bay, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°06.1'S / 037°06.8'W

Wind: ENE 6, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

This morning the Plancius crept quietly in to Cook Bay under beautiful sunny skies. We awoke to a pre-breakfast call on the ship. It was time to get ready for our zodiac cruise in Prince Olav Harbour. We cruised on glassy seas in nearby Elephant Cove and spent time with Elephant Seals, Antarctic Fur Seals, Kelp Gulls and South Georgia Pintails. One female Fur Seal had a brand new pup tucked in beside her trying to nurse. As the days pass on this trip more females have come to shore, and we now need to train our eyes to look for little dark pups hiding on the shores.



The reflections on the calm water inside Elephant Lagoon were absolutely stunning.

Over at Prince Olav Harbour the ruins of the Norwegian whaling station are being reclaimed by tussac and Seals. Many of the buildings have collapsed due to the severe South Georgia weather and the effect of time. The last whalers left this harbour in 1931 and parts were salvaged from it by other companies until 1936. Besides the deteriorating buildings, the Norwegians left another legacy at the harbour, rats. Prince Olav Harbor used to also be called Rattenhaffen (Rat Harbour) due to the stow away rats that came ashore from the Norwegian ships during the Seal hunting era. Today there are no rats, and we were treated to nice views of Seals and Imperial Shags nesting on the broken-down piers.

Continuing around the corner from the whaling station we looked at the remains of the *Brutus*. This vessel was towed by four whaling ships to Prince Olav Harbour to serve as a coaling hulk. A huge effort to bring this now sunken vessel to support the last years of whaling and left behind to rot in the sea. A few fur Seals were sleeping on the support beams and a nice layer of tussac is growing where deck planks used to be.

After a morning on dreamy seas, we came back to the Plancius for breakfast. She weighed anchor and made her way to Possession Bay for our last operation of the trip. The expedition team had never landed at Possession Bay and was excited for a true expedition day. There is not much information available for landings in Possession Bay because it is not done very often. The team scouted and attempted to set up a landing site in three different places before ultimately deciding to shift our operation to zodiac cruising. The weather and density of fur Seals prevented us from making a safe landing, but it did help make for a great zodiac cruise.

We spent time with our usual suspects of the beaches of South Georgia: Elephant Seals, Antarctic Fur Seals, King Penguins and Giant Petrels. Again, there were a few brand-new fur Seal pups lying next to their moms on shore. As we came to the back of the bay we had views of the Shackleton Gap and the Purvis and Murray Glaciers. For our skiers onboard it was a familiar site from a new perspective. Murray glacier had a small calving while we were there, and we took some time to drift in the brash ice generated from the glacier's face.

It was a wet and windy ride back to the ship – a typical South Georgia send off! We had a warm lunch waiting on board for us to help us recover from the elements outside. However, lunch was interrupted by a surprise sighting of Killer Whales! A group of at least 5 killer whales hunted and travelled near the ship for about 20 minutes before we kept moving north. They came to follow the wash from the stern of the ship twice during our encounter offering excellent viewing and photo opportunities.



We all came back inside and finished up our lunch as Plancius steamed up the coast. We came across several large aggregations of humpback whales and seabirds throughout the afternoon as we steamed between icebergs. As the evening light became low, we bid South Georgia goodbye through the fog and grey skies.

Day 11 – 19th November

Shag Rocks & At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 53°33.6'S / 042°54.9'W

Wind: NW 7, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

The night had been long, with quite some rolling, to the point it seemed we could be part of the music video for 'Dancing on the Ceiling', by Lionel Ritchie.

Despite the rolling, we were treated to views of Shag Rocks. An intimidating rocky outcrop reaching out from the sea. These rocks are covered with breeding Shags, and we could just about make out the birds flying nearby.

It was rather grey and foggy, but the Capitan skillfully navigated back against the wind, and between the swell and the ice, to give us some better views.



The wind and swell increased throughout the morning until we were recording wind gusts over 45 kts from the Northeast, and swell heights of about 7m. Usually this is not too much of a problem for Plancius, however the swell direction was from behind and to the starboard side, meaning Plancius was often rolling past 25°, with a peak roll of about 32-35° recorded.



About 9:30am, Steffi gave an interesting presentation on Krill, their lifecycle and importance to the ecosystem of the Southern Ocean. This was followed by another interesting and informative talk from Katlyn which described the importance of whales to the ecosystem and their role as gardeners. One interesting fact that came out of her talk was the underestimation of how much krill a whale was thought to consume in

a 24-hour period. For example, it is now thought a Blue Whale can consume up to 20 tons of krill in one day! A truly staggering amount of food in anyone's books.

After a sit-down lunch that was necessary for our own safety, most of us realized it is very tiring to be on a moving ship and retired to our cabins to rest for the afternoon. About 4:30pm, Ali put on an episode of The Blue Planet, which focused on the World's oceans.

To the relief of all, the swell and wind dropped throughout the afternoon. About 6:30pm, we convened in the lounge for a quick recap before making our way to the dining room for another delicious meal. A few of us took advantage of the calmer conditions and retired to the lounge for a night cap, or two, before making our way back to our cabins for a more fitful sleep.

Day 12 – 20th November

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 54°24.4'S / 049°41.2'W

Wind: WNW 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

At 7:45 Ali woke us up, as usual. Luckily throughout the night the horrible rolling of Plancius, due to the high seas, calmed down a little bit. Not many of us fell out of our beds in the night. If that was pure luck or the growing sea legs, we may never know.

The day started how seadays should, with a nice, wholesome breakfast in the restaurant while chatting to our fellow shipmates. In the morning, Andrew started our lecture series with a talk about Ice and what we should know about Ice besides for cooling our drinks at the bar. We garnered a good understanding of different types of ice and what this means for the cryosphere and the ecosystems which are connected to it.



One tea or coffee later, Josh started his presentation about whaling in the Southern Ocean and information about the human history of South Georgia. We were impressed by the great historic material he showed, and we were speechless over how many whales had been caught in the Southern Ocean. Some populations have recovered, some species have a bit slower, but there is hope on the horizon.

Some of us used the time after lunch for a little snooze. Afternoon naps are almost obligatory on a seaday in our temporary home, Plancius. Time on sea is also meant for growing knowledge, so in the afternoon Cas presented his lecture on Albatrosses and Penguins, 'Fly or not to Fly'. We found out these two species are quite closely related even though they separated 65 million years ago. Both are specialists in their environment, and it is very impressive to learn about their capabilities adapting to the ecosystem of the Southern Ocean.

Later in the afternoon we got the chance to decide between two lectures. Anni, from the Polar Explorers, our Ski-group on the ship, presented a lecture about Shackelton and the story of the

Endurance expedition. The Polar Explorers completed the last part of the amazing Shackleton trek, crossing the glaciers in the interior of South Georgia.

In the lounge Stig, a fellow guest, presented his experiences seeing the 18 species of Penguins in the world. He shared his adventures with us and showed us some amazing pictures of the Penguins on the other side of Antarctica.

At 5 pm we were treated to Happy Hour at the bar! Suspicious timing, as preparations for the upcoming auction in benefit of the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) were well underway. There was a selection of exclusive items for the auction with no option of buying them in any shop. The auction was very entertaining, with even staff bidding for some items. The auction raised close to £1000 with all proceeds going to a great cause. The day ended in familiar fashion, with a great meal in the restaurant.

Day 13 – 21st November

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 54°33.0'S / 057°07.1'W

Wind: SW 6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

We began our penultimate sea day with our usual breakfast and made our way up to the lounge for our first lecture from Clara. Despite the moderate seas, we are all adjusted to life at sea now, so we didn't pay much attention to the rolling while Clara taught us about her underwater work in the Beagle Channel. Despite being over 1000 miles apart, the marine ecosystem and the large kelp forests are very similar in South Georgia. We also got to learn about the great work Clara and others are doing in Ushuaia with their educational organization, Una Ventana al Mar, teaching children about the importance of our oceans.

Following on from Clara, Ali delivered her 'Ice Maidens' lecture. She described the history of women in Antarctica and South Georgia, and included some amazing stories of the women behind the men who first explored the Southern Oceans.

After another great lunch, we had time to enjoy the views outside and relax in the lounge. Koen then offered some advice and tips on how to make the most of the numerous photos we took during the voyage. His



'Photography, Post-Trip Processing' lecture gave us some great tricks to edit our photos and make the most of the images we have snapped over the last two weeks.

We were again treated to another guest-speaker today, with Simon Hearn speaking of his experiences in the military and sharing some stories of the South Georgia invasion in 1982. Recap included some great stories from Josh and Katlyn, who told us about the finding of the Endurance last year and a citizen science project, HappyWhale, which helps identify individual whales and Seals.

After our three-course dinner, we took to the lounge again for a special event: a poetry slam. This was organised by the Polar Explorer group and gave everyone the chance to share some poems, stories, or songs. There were some classic poems recited of Byron and Robert Service, a few original poems, a cover of the Beatles on ukelele, and even some songs sung in Dutch.

Day 14 – 22nd November

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 54°04.9'S / 064°46.2'W

Wind: SW 7, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Our last full day on Plancius began with an unusual wake up call. Having been one of the auction items a few nights previous, one lucky guest got the chance to replace Ali for the wake-up call and treated us all to some soothing music before launching into 'good morning' in many languages.

Katlyn began the lecture program for the day and presented us with the year in the life of a Humpback Whale. Having worked with these magnificent creatures in both hemispheres, Katlyn shared her knowledge of their lives and migration routes. Shortly after Katlyn, Josh told us the story of Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott and their iconic race to the South Pole. Focusing on public perception of both expeditions and the differing methods each used to reach the pole, Josh shared some new insights into the consequences of publicly and privately funded expeditions, and how this fed into the famous 'race'.

With another delicious lunch buffet behind us, we dropped back our rubber muck boots to the expedition team. These were great for keeping us warm and (mostly) dry on each landing, and I'm sure some of us will secretly miss cleaning out the logos with a paper clip!

Chief Engineer Floris gave us an insightful virtual tour around the engine room after lunch, sharing some of the secrets of the 'inner workings' of Plancius. It was great to learn how Plancius had been transporting us back and forth from Ushuaia to South Georgia, and all the work that goes on below to keep the ship running smoothly.



The last speaker for the trip was again a guest speaker, this time Annie from the Polar Explorers. She shared some great

images of the ski trip across the interior of South Georgia and how the team of 15 travelled from King Haakon Bay to Fortuna Bay, retracing the footsteps of Shackleton, Crean and Worsley.

Our last evening's celebrations began with Captain's Cocktails. We joined the Expedition team and Captain Levakov in the lounge for a toast to the voyage, before retiring to the dining room for a tremendous dinner. There we ate and drank, sharing some of the great memories we have all made on this two-week journey to South Georgia.

Day 15 – 23rd November

Ushuaia - Disembarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 54°57.3'S / 066°54.0'W

Wind: NW 4, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

We docked back at Ushuaia early in the morning, while many of us enjoyed our last sleep on board Plancius. With our bags packed and left outside our doors for the staff to collect, we enjoyed our final hearty breakfast from the Galley team. Following breakfast, we disembarked the ship and said goodbye to Ali and all the team. Whilst many of us leave with some sadness, we are grateful to be back on solid ground and with our hearts full of fond memories and unforgettable experiences from our exploration of South Georgia.



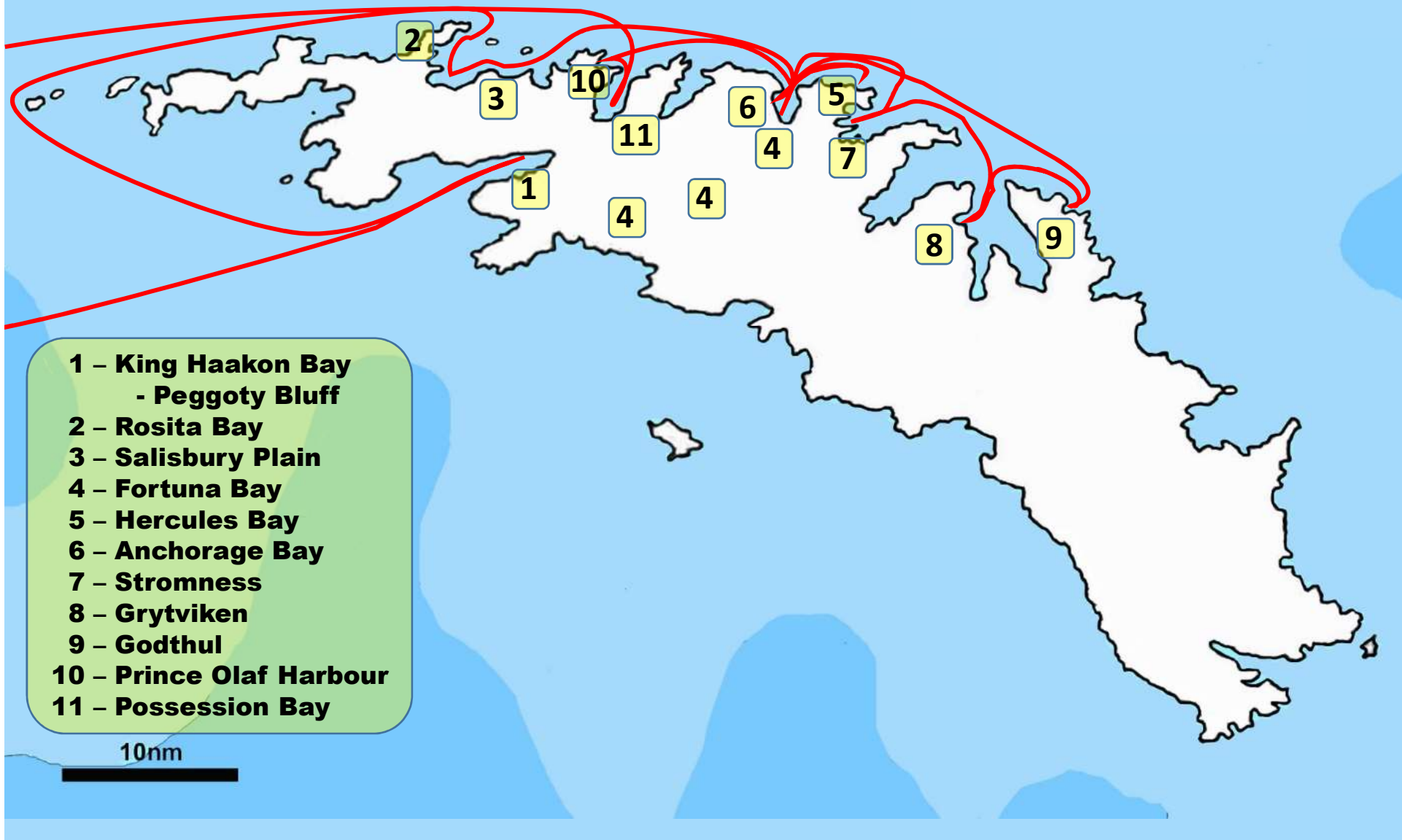
Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous South Georgia voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 2470 nautical miles

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Evgeny Levakov, Expedition Leader Ali Liddle and her team, Hotel Manager Oleksandr Lyebedyev, and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!



**PLA22 South Georgia Exclusive
9 – 23 November 2023**



- 1 – King Haakon Bay
- Peggoty Bluff**
- 2 – Rosita Bay**
- 3 – Salisbury Plain**
- 4 – Fortuna Bay**
- 5 – Hercules Bay**
- 6 – Anchorage Bay**
- 7 – Stromness**
- 8 – Grytviken**
- 9 – Godthul**
- 10 – Prince Olaf Harbour**
- 11 – Possession Bay**

10nm

Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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-Ehrlich-Institute 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.

Andrew Bishop – Expedition Guide



Andrew is an exploration geologist and became interested in Antarctica and the polar regions during his studies at university. He made his first trip to the Great White Land in 2009 with his father.

Andrew grew up on King Island, a small Island off Tasmania, Australia, before moving to Hobart to further his studies in 1993. He graduated with a bachelor of science in 2001, majoring in geology and environmental geography. He has spent the intervening years working in various jobs and travelling throughout Australia and overseas, exploring different countries and experiencing what other cultures of the world have to offer.

Andrew's work as a geologist only enhanced his love of the outdoors and has seen him crisscross the Australian continent, taking him to some very remote and very hot areas of Australia. During his first trip to Antarctica in 2009 he contracted a severe case of the 'Polar Bug' and subsequently returned a few times over the next 11 years. During this time, he expanded his travels to encompass the Arctic, tropics and remote islands in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Cas Eikenaar - Expedition guide



Cas is a behavioural ecologist with a special interest in birds. He grew up in a small village in the Netherlands, and when six years old already knew that he wanted to become an ornithologist. After studying biology, he travelled the world for more than 20 years to research birds in their natural habitats. Some of these projects took him to the Seychelles, the Galapagos, Australia and the Ecuadorian Andes. He often spent months sharing small uninhabited islands with the enchanting animals and plants living there. Such experiences, he says, fuelled his deep fascination with nature.

Cas currently works at the Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland" in Wilhelmshaven (Germany), where he studies the relationship between physiology and behaviour in migratory birds. Besides his professional connection to birds, he is an avid birder, sporting a pair of binoculars ever since he was a kid. Birds, however, are by no means the only organisms that draw his attention. Cas is simply deeply passionate about all the living world around us, and has a keen interest in (and eye for) all forms of wildlife.

Cas is Dutch by birth, but also speaks fluent English and German. He would love to share his passion for nature with everyone on board. In doing so, Cas would not only like to help you identify the birds and other animals, but also tell you about their behaviour, ecology and evolution. He is convinced that this will make you appreciate the wonderful nature you encounter during the expeditions with Oceanwide even more.

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.

Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide



Katlyn is an Expedition Guide originally from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She grew up learning tidepool animals on the Oregon Coast.

She comes from a background as a captain and guide on whale watching boats all over the US. She has worked in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific for over 9 years. In 2023 she shifted her career to expedition guiding and has worked in Antarctica and Alaska. She has guided trips in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska throughout the past summer.

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

She received bachelors' degrees from Oregon State University in Marine Biology and International Studies. She's a Junior Fellow with the Safina Center of Stonybrook University. Her biggest passion and love are marine mammals, especially whales. She co-hosts a show called The Whalenerd's Podcast, a science communication project about whales and other ocean related topics.

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 ;).

Joshua Peck – Expedition Guide



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

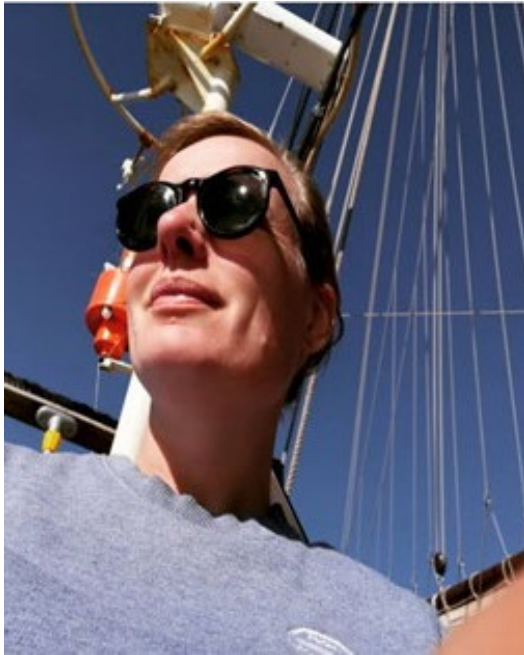
Growing up in the wildlife haven of the Falklands - with the polar regions on his doorstep - Josh has spent most of his life living alongside penguins, seals and whales, most recently in South Georgia where he was based for 4 months working for the Government of South Georgia.

Josh loves living and working in remote locations and on isolated islands, especially in his homeland of the Falklands, where he has been involved in conservation projects since an early age. Josh has also travelled and worked extensively around the world from the USA and Canada to Iceland, Zambia, Australia and Poland.

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

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

Anneke Planting – Ships doctor



Anneke wurde in der malerischen Provinz Friesland in den Niederlanden geboren und aufgewachsen. Sie ließ ihre Abschlussfeier am Gymnasium aus, um nach Kanada zu reisen und als Betreuerin in einem Sommercamp zu arbeiten, bevor sie ihr Medizinstudium in Nijmegen, den Niederlanden, begann. Während dieser Zeit entdeckte sie eine tiefe Liebe für Kanada und seine majestätische Natur. Jahrelang erkundete sie Kanada auf vielfältige Weise: mit dem Motorrad, beim Wandern, Skifahren, Schneeschuhwandern, Klettern und natürlich beim Kajakfahren und Segeln.

Abseits ihrer anspruchsvollen Karriere als Gefäßchirurgin im Norden Deutschlands findet Anneke Trost im Gärtnern, das ihr eine therapeutische Flucht und eine Verbindung zur Natur bietet.

Indem sie ihre Liebe zum Reisen und zur Medizin kombinierte, wurde sie Schiffsärztin und begleitete transatlantische Reisen auf Großseglern. Ihre Erfahrungen als Schiffsärztin waren transformativ, während sie über weite Ozeane segelte, unberechenbare Meere navigierte und medizinische Hilfe für Besatzungsmitglieder und Passagiere leistete. Als Schiffsärztin bot ihr diese Rolle auch die Möglichkeit, ihren lang gehegten Wunsch zu erfüllen, die Polarregionen zu erkunden. Nachdem sie diese unberührten Landschaften so oft überflogen hat, hat sie nun die Chance, auf dem Eis zu stehen und die atemberaubende Schönheit der Arktis aus erster Hand zu erleben. Diese Zusammenführung ihrer Liebe zur Medizin, zum Reisen und zu den Polarregionen ist für Anneke ein wahr gewordener Traum. Mit einem Funkeln in den Augen und einem freundlichen Lächeln hat sie jetzt die außergewöhnliche Gelegenheit, das Eis zu betreten und die atemberaubende Schö



South Georgia Explorers

Ushuaia

Embarkation

Thursday 9th November 2023

- 1600 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know. Please feel free to look around the ship.
Tea and coffee is available in the Lounge on Deck 5.
- >1715 **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 Oleksander Lyebedyev
This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktails**, a chance to meet your Captain, Evgeny Levakov and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Ali Liddle. She will explain the plans for the coming days, and it will be a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk.
Enjoy your meal.

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



South Georgia Explorers

At Sea to South Georgia

Friday 10th November 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Seabirds.** We will be seeing many seabirds on our voyage so please join Steffi in the Lounge to learn more about these iconic birds.
- 1100 **Introduction to the Whales of the Southern Ocean.** After many years of over exploitation by whalers the Southern Ocean populations of whales are slowly increasing. Please join Katlyn in the Lounge to find out more about the species we may see.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Introduction to South Georgia.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for an introduction to the island of South Georgia, including aspects of history, economy and the wildlife.
- 1645 **Boots.** We will invite you by deck to collect your boots from the Boot Room which is on Deck 3 forward
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

We are 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.



South Georgia Explorers

At Sea to South Georgia

Saturday 11th November 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **South Georgia Briefing and Bio-security.** These are mandatory briefings that everyone must attend.
- 1030 **Bio-security.** Cleaning sessions in the Lounge. We will call you by deck to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA – depending on our progress with Bio-security
- To Fly or not to Fly.** Please join Cas in the Lounge for a presentation about albatross and penguins and their evolution into flight.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

We are 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.



South Georgia Explorer

At Sea to South Georgia

Sunday 12th November 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.**
Please join Josh in the Lounge to hear the remarkable story of Shackleton's Endurance Expedition.
- 1100 **Geology of South Georgia.** We all focus on the wildlife found on the island of South Georgia but what rocks make up the island that they live on? To find out more please join Andrew in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Photography.** We will all be taking many photos during our trip but to find out how to take better photos please join Koen in the Lounge.
- 1630 **Plankton.** Many of the animals found in the Southern Ocean rely on the sea for their food and this begins with the smallest plants and creatures of the ocean. To find out more about Plankton please join Clara in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

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

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

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

During the morning we will be sailing towards the northern tip of South Georgia and approaching King Haakon Bay. Enjoy the views and navigation and please listen for any announcements regarding our programme.

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

TBA **Peggotty Bluff.** This afternoon we hope to make our first landing on South Georgia in the region of Peggotty Bluff, which was where Sir Ernest Shackleton arrived in the James Caird after crossing from Elephant Island. We will be dropping off our ski party and also taking you ashore. Here we will see elephant seals and fur seals and maybe some small groups of penguins. Please follow any marker poles and remember to keep your distance from wildlife. We ask that you follow the advice and direction of the staff on shore.

1900 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

During the early hours of the morning, we will be sailing around the northern coast of South Georgia, passing through the narrow strait known as Bird Sound at around 0500. The scenery is very beautiful and we expect to see more icebergs and many seabirds.

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- TBA **Rosita Harbour.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Rosita Harbour where we will be able to spend time on the beach with the wildlife – elephant seals and fur seals, and we will offer a walk to a viewpoint over the bay and surrounding area. As always, please follow the marker poles and stay alert to the wildlife around you.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Salisbury Plain.** This afternoon we hope to take you on a zodiac cruise to view the king penguin colony of Salisbury Plain. There will be lots of penguins in the water and we will try and take the boats close to the shore for you to take photographs of the penguins on the beach. Please dress warmly as we will be out in the boats for 2+ hours.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **Fortuna Bay.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Fortuna Bay where there is a colony of king penguins made up of around 8,000 breeding pairs. The landing beach is quite small with many fur seals and elephant seals so please, please follow the marker poles and the direction of the guides. It is 1.5km from the beach to the king penguin colony and you will pass many fur seals on the route. Please remain vigilant to wildlife on the way.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Hercules Bay.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take Plancius into Hercules Bay which is a beautiful bay with dramatic mountain scenery all around. Here there are colonies of Macaroni penguins, some at the entrance to the bay but also in the inner bay and the best way to see the penguins on the cliffs and steep tussac is from the zodiac. We will take you out on a zodiac cruise during the afternoon.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

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

This will be a bit of an Expedition Morning, but we hope to get you ashore on the western side of Fortuna Bay to explore a rarely visited location. We will collect our ski party at some point during the morning, depending on their progress down the final slopes.

0900 **Fortuna Bay.** It is likely we will take you ashore at Anchorage Bay which is a typical South Georgia beach with fur seals, elephant seals and king penguins. There are great views of the Fortuna Glacier that comes down over Breakwind Pass and we may offer a hike towards the glacier.

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

TBA **Shackleton Walk.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take you up the hills to the viewpoint down to Stromness which is the last part of the journey that Shackleton took having crossed from King Haakon Bay. The full walk, to the view point and back is around 5 km and the pass is around 300m above sea level. If you prefer a shorter walk we can go as far as Crean Lake which is 3km round walk and 150m above sea level. If the walk is not for you we can land you on the beach for some time with the wildlife and then take you on a zodiac cruise of the area.

1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
The navigation into Cumberland Bay is extremely scenic so enjoy our approach. On arrival we will collect the Government Officer and museum staff from shore.
PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR OUTER GEAR AND RUBBER BOOTS ARE CLEAN.
- TBA **Grytviken.** This morning, after we have cleared customs we will take you ashore at Grytviken. This is subject to some restrictions due to HPAI so please follow the advice of staff on shore.
There is a museum, shop and Post Office. The shop and Post Office take Pounds Sterling and also card payments. You can also visit the church.
We will visit the cemetery where you will find the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton. The first 4 boats will go to the cemetery first while the next 4 boats will go to the museum and church. During the morning we will swap.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Godthul.** We hope to be able to take you ashore at Godthul, which translates as Good Harbour. From the beach it is a steep walk up through the tussac to where the Gentoo penguins nest then a gentle walk to Lake Aviemore. If weather conditions allow, we may offer a guided hike to the summit of Edda Hill which is 302m above sea level.
If you don't feel that steep tussac is for you then we will offer a zodiac cruise in the bay at Godthul.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge.
- 1900 **Special South Georgia Dinner** is served on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal!

0545 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

There will be pastries and juice in the Lounge at this time.

0615 **Prince Olav Harbour.** We hope to be able to take you out on a zodiac cruise in Prince Olav Harbour. There is a small lagoon which is a great place to see Fur seals from the safety of the zodiac and we will take you along the shore towards the ruins of the whaling station and the ship wreck, the Brutus. Please dress warmly.

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

TBA **Possession Bay.** We hope to be able to land on Brighton Beach in Possession Bay. We know there will be fur seals and elephant seals and some king penguins. We hope to be able to offer a longer walk in the area for those who would like a leg stretch. Remember to keep your distance from the wildlife and enjoy your time on shore.

1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

During the afternoon we will be sailing along the northern coast of South Georgia where we know there will be many icebergs. Enjoy the navigation and the scenery.

1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge.

1900 **Dinner** is served on in the dining room on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal!

In the evening 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.

We hope to arrive at Shag Rocks before breakfast. I will wake you as we start to approach the rocks and we will navigate here for a short while to get views of these remote rock pinnacles.

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Krill.** Krill forms the basis of the Antarctic food chain providing food for penguins, seals and whales. If you would like to learn more about these little pink critters, then please join Steffi in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Whales as ecosystem engineers.** We were lucky to see some humpback whales during our voyage. If you would like to find out about their role in the maritime ecosystem, then please join Katlyn in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Whaling on South Georgia.** We saw the whaling stations of Grytviken, Stromness and Prince Olav but if you would like to hear more about the history of whaling on South Georgia, please join Josh in the Lounge.
- 1630 Documentary. We will screen a documentary in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Ice, not just for cooling drinks.** If you would like to learn more about glaciers, icebergs and all things icy then please join Andrew in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Whaling on South Georgia.** We saw the whaling stations of Grytviken, Stromness and Prince Olav but if you would like to hear more about the history of whaling on South Georgia, please join Josh in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **To Fly or not to Fly.** Please join Cas in the Lounge for a presentation about albatross and penguins and their evolution into flight.
- 1630 **Guest Speaker Stig Lindé. Penguins of the World.** Stig has been lucky enough to see all 18 species of penguins found on our planet. He would like to share his penguin experiences with you! Please join him in the Lounge
- 1800 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction.** SGHT is a charitable organisation and for them to continue their environmental and cultural conservation projects on South Georgia we will hold a charity auction on board.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Kelp Forests.** We saw plenty of kelp around the shores of South Georgia but to understand their role in the maritime ecosystem, please join Clara in the Lounge
- 1100 **Ice Maidens, Women in Antarctica.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for a presentation about the history of women in Antarctica and stories about some of the women behind the men who explored the frozen continent.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Photography, post-trip processing.** You will all have taken many photos during the voyage but what do you do with them when you get home? Join Koen for some advice and tips on how to make the most of your photos.
- 1630 **Guest Speaker Simon Hearn.** Simon was in the Falkland Islands after the conflict in 1982 and would like to share his stories of the invasion of South Georgia and the events of that time.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.
- 2030 **Poetry Slam.** Join us in the Lounge for poetry and songs!

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- 0745 **Special Wake Up Call** from the Charity Auction!
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **The Year in the life of a Humpback Whale.** Join Katlyn in the Lounge to hear about the lives and migrations of these iconic whales.
- 1100 **The Race to the Pole, Amundsen and Scott.** We have heard the story of Shackleton's Endurance expedition but what about the race to the South Pole? Join Josh to hear the story of these two remarkable expeditions.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Rubber Boot Return.** Please listen for announcements
- 1500 **Plancius, Our Little Blue Ship.** Join our Chief Engineer, Floris Oskam to have a virtual tour of the engine room hear all about the mechanics of Plancius.
- 1630 **Guest Speakers, Polar Explorers.** Please join Annie and her team in the Lounge to hear about their crossing of South Georgia in the footsteps of Shackleton.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Levakov in the Lounge to toast our voyage to South Georgia.
- 1900 **Farewell Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

South Georgia Explorers

Ushuaia

Thursday 23rd November 2023

We will be coming alongside sometime after 0600.

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

Before breakfast at 0730 please could you put your large check in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you. If you are taking a bus from the ship straight to the airport, please make sure your luggage has a **BLUE label on it.**

All other luggage will go in the truck to be stored at the Luggage building where you took your bags before the trip. You must collect it before 1400.

If you have other arrangements to stay in Ushuaia and have arranged a private pick up please keep your luggage in your cabin until your driver arrives.

Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.

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

0830/0900 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.

**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.**