



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctic Peninsula-Basecamp

Ushuaia - Ushuaia

25th November – 7th December 2023

On board *m/v Hondius*



Captain Toni Salo

and his international crew

Staff Captain:	Elizbar Kadarja	Ukraine
Chief Officer:	Matei Mocanu	Romania
2nd Officer:	Igor Nazarov	Russia
3rd Officer:	Archer Cultura	Philippines
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	Romania
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	Poland
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	Austria
Ships Doctor:	Simon Cole	United Kingdom
Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Felicity Johnson	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Sasha Romanovskiy	Russia
Expedition Guide:	Mikhail Barabanov	Luxembourg
Expedition Guide:	Anthonie Luteijn	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein	Argentina
Expedition Guide:	Beth Hitchcock	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero	Argentina
Expedition Guide:	Koen Jongerling	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	Switzerland
Expedition Guide:	Saskia Van Der Meij	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zhao	China
Expedition Guide:	Matthias Kopp	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Alexis Belleze	Argentina
Mountain Leader:	Johnny Baird	United Kingdom
Mountain Guide:	Owain Jones	United Kingdom
Mountain Guide:	Edward Bekker	The Netherlands
Mountain Guide:	Dave Rudkin	United Kingdom
Kayak Leader:	Adam Harmer	United Kingdom
Kayak Guide:	Matt Hawkins	United Kingdom

welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Saturday 25th November 2023

Embarkation - Ushuaia

GPS 16.00 Position: 54° 51.8 'S / 068° 019'W

Wind: WSW4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +15°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C

Today is the day to embark M/V Hondius, the beautiful 107 m vessel that would take us to explore Antarctica. After visiting Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, we boarded the ship at 4pm where we were met by the staff and crew who warmly welcomed us onboard. After checking in we were directed to our cabins, followed by the lounge for tea, coffee, and biscuits. Whilst in the lounge we started with a briefing to get us familiar with the ship, a mandatory safety briefing by Chief Officer, Matai and we completed the mandatory drill.



After the drill, in the Observation Lounge we joined the Captain's Cocktail Party, where we met the Captain and took this opportunity to enjoy the canapés. Captain Toni told us a little about himself and toasted the voyage ahead. The Expedition Team then introduced themselves; it was interesting to meet all of them and learn where they were from. If we weren't full enough already, it was then time to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner cooked by our Head Chef and the kitchen team. As the ship sailed through the Beagle Channel, we enjoyed the sights in the fantastic light along with our dinner. The excited chat at dinner was all about the journey ahead and the adventures that lay before us.

After dinner, quite a few of us went outside to enjoy the views and watched all the other vessels making their way through the Beagle Channel. This channel is a strait in the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, on the extreme southern tip of South America between Chile and Argentina. The channel separates the larger main island of Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego from various smaller islands including the islands of Picton, Lennox and Nueva; Navarino; Hoste; Londonderry; and Stewart. The channel's eastern area forms part of the border between Chile and Argentina and the western area is entirely within Chile. The Beagle Channel, the Straits of Magellan to the north, and the open-ocean Drake Passage to the south are the three navigable passages around South America between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.



The channel itself is about 240 km long and 5 km wide at its narrowest point. It extends from Nueva Island in the east to Darwin Sound and Cook Bay in the Pacific Ocean in the west. The biggest settlement on the channel is Ushuaia in Argentina followed by Puerto Williams in Chile. These are amongst the southernmost settlements in the world.

We stayed up late to enjoy the views and changing light of the evening. We wondered what awaits us in Antarctica.

Day 2 – Sunday 26th November 2023

At sea – Drake Passage

GPS 12.00 Position: 56°37.5'S / 065°34.3'W

Wind: NW4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +6°C

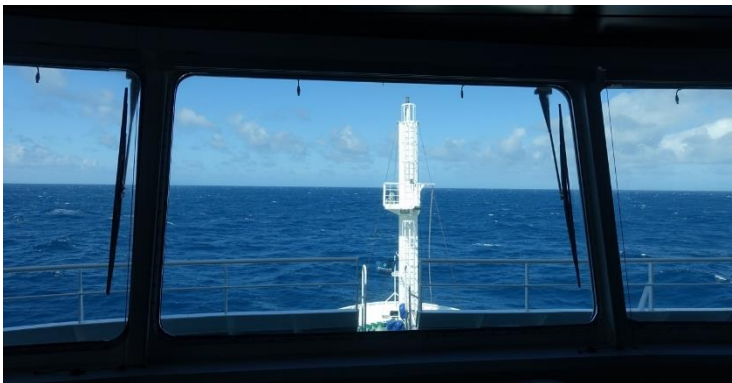
From the early hours of this Sunday morning, we were gently rocked as Hondius danced in the Drake waves. From the comfort of our bunks, we can only imagine the possible sea state causing this motion. Was it rough? Was it calm waters with a long gentle swell? Was it wild with lashing rain? At this early stage in the trip, we have not yet worked out the motion of Hondius relative to the conditions outside.

After breakfast, it was time for the start of the mandatory briefings to prepare us for the trip ahead. For some, it was a real challenge to make it along to the observation lounge. But with white bags in hand and sipping on some hot tea, we managed to have most of us in the observation lounge all at once. Our expedition leader, Adam, gave us a clear introduction to the procedures for going ashore highlighting the importance of safety when operating so far from large modern hospital facilities.

After what seemed like a busy morning of briefings and making sure we are totally prepared in time for the first opportunity we will get to go ashore, it was time for some lunch. It was a buffet lunch in the dining room of delicious salads and a selection of meats and bread. It was good to regain energy after a challenging morning for some.



The afternoon began with the big biosecurity party down on deck 3. This is a time where we get out the vacuum cleaners, paper clips, Vircon disinfectant and scrubbing brushes to attack our outer wear until it is perfectly clean with no seed, mud, or organic material. It is essential for us to carry out these procedures to prevent the introduction of new species to Antarctica.



Out on deck the sun was making it through the clouds again, glinting off the water surface bringing beautiful light conditions. The patient observer will feel well accompanied out on deck by the variety of seabirds. Today, this included many Cape Petrels, Giant Petrels, Antarctic Prions and Blue Petrels. These birds often enjoy the change in air flow created by the ship and as a result they follow in the wake of the ship. There was also report of an individual Black-Browed Albatross and a Wandering Albatross, the world's largest bird with a wingspan of up to 3.5m!

Felicity gave an informative lecture of Whales of the Southern Ocean. As well as highlighting some interesting facts about the species who share these southern waters, we learnt about how we can identify them from one another. This again emphasizes the value in spending time outside on deck with our binoculars and cameras close to hand.

Before our first plated dinner there was time for our evening recap. During this time several small talks are presented by the guide team with relevant information about the day or upcoming 24hrs. Adam started with the weather and plans, followed by Bill giving us some guidance that will be invaluable in influencing our enjoyment of the trip. Antonie introduced us to the Antarctic Convergency, Carina informed us of the nautical terminology used on board, Mattias introduced us to the birdlife of the Drake Passage and finally Misha introduced us to photography. It was a challenging first day for many with the motion of Hondius giving us new respect for the explorers before us who drew up the charts for these distant and wild places!

Day 3 – Monday 27th November 2023

At sea – Drake Passage

GPS 12.00 Position: 60°45.0'S / 063°20.2'W

Wind: NW5 **Sea State:** Low **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +2°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C

Our second day on the famous Drake passage. Yesterday had been quite challenging for many people on board due to the sea state. Luckily this day started out with waves much less high. A relatively easy start for an important day. As for today we have all the briefings about the different activities we will be attending to during this voyage. As a good omen some people were able to observe some Fin whales early in the morning at 7:30 when our expedition leader woke us up through the PA.

After breakfast we started immediately with the first talk about the kayaking activity. As the sea state was quite a bit calmer many people showed up. Adam and Matt, our kayak guides, explained all details including the equipment that you will be using while kayaking and what you can expect during one of the outings. From the start people were quite excited about the idea of kayaking among icebergs and the possible wildlife. The second talk started right after which was about the camping activity. Surely one of the favorites of most and an experience that you won't be able to get anywhere else in the world. Being left behind on a small island in Antarctica surrounded by large glaciers and mountains while looking at



the ship that is slowly leaving out of sight. Saskia, Alexis and Carina explained every part of the activity. They showed how the camping gear will work and how you will need to prepare when being on land. The third and last briefing was about the Mountaineering activity. Jonny, Owain, Dave and Edward explained all the different options that we will have during this trip. The difference between the experience levels and the gear that will be necessary. Mountaineering brings a lot of gear handling and people need to know if they are up for it as turning back is normally hard to as everybody walks in a team that is roped up over crevassed areas. The morning gave us a lot of information and certainly gave us a good idea of what to expect during this Basecamp trip.



In the afternoon, after a delicious lunch, we were invited in groups to come to the lecture room for the activities sign up. We also were offered a lecture by Carina telling us about the penguins we will be seeing on the Antarctic Peninsula. And Sasha had been so kind to organize another Zodiac Safety and IAATO briefing for the people that did feel a little bit under the weather yesterday. A day can't officially end if there has not been a RECAP so just before dinner everybody was invited to the Lounge/Bar area for our daily recap. During this recap we got to hear the plans for the next day by our expedition leader Adam. We also got some extra details from Alexis explaining the way we lose our body heat in cold environments and an explanation from Koen about how to use the Snowshoes during the following days. Just walk like a penguin that had sit for a long time

on a horse he said. Finally, the mountaineers gave an example in real life how to walk in a roped-up team with multiple people attached. This just made it clearer that there were many adventures waiting for us in the days to come. And the adventures started very soon as we had multiple Humpback whales swimming and feeding around our ship just after dinner. Our captain Toni slowed down the ship and made some circles around the whales to get a good observation. This made it possible to get to see the whales from just 50 m away from the ship at certain times.

What an amazing way to end the day. This was our last day on the Drake Passage, we can officially make us ready for our first landing tomorrow morning on the South Shetland Islands. Adventure here we come!

Day 4 – Tuesday 28th November 2023

Elephant Point & Telefon Bay (Deception Island)

GPS 12.00 Position: 62°46.6'S / 060°42.5'W

Wind: NW4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

We have finally arrived in Antarctica, and after a luscious breakfast, we are preparing to disembark the vessel for the first time, to experience, feel, taste, and see this beautiful white continent. Everyone has been briefed, and our first port of arrival is Elephant Point in the South Shetland islands.



There was some swell at the shoreline, so disembarkation proved a bit of a challenge. Elephant Point however is unlike other sites, as it was full of Elephant seals of various sizes, from big bulls to the smallest of weaners. Some playfighting and scratching could be observed, just the Elephant Seals going about their day, gracefully dragging themselves from place to place with the greatest of efforts. While observing them, everyone felt a sense of inner peace, looking into their big, wet eyes. Also, home to a colony of Gentoo penguins, they waddled around ceaselessly. The Southern Giant Petrels already laid on top of eggs, with cheeky Brown Skuas trying their best to steal them for a quick snack. It truly felt like a mini-South Georgia, which is a rare place in Antarctica. Many pictures and videos were taken, people were

happy to step off the ship after a rather rough Drake. After a couple of hours, we returned to the ship to gorge ourselves on the buffet.

In the afternoon, after a sumptuous lunch, we entered Deception Island. After a couple of catastrophic eruptions, the inside of the volcano collapsed, and sea water rushed in, forming a caldera that the *Hondius* could sail into. Our port of arrival was Telefon Bay in the snow, a rather Mars-like landscape, devoid of life, but there is beauty in desolation. Some Weddell seals laid on the shoresides, and the mountaineers took the willing and the fit on an extended hike up the slopes to look at the lifeless landscapes beyond. At the same time, Beth was delivering a lecture on the Geology of Deception Island, for half of the ship's passengers.



We then shuttled back to the ship, cruised out of the Caldera through the very narrow Neptune's bellows, sheer cliffsides on both sides of the ship, and went to dinner. For the first time, all guests recovered from their seasickness, and the dining room was nicely filled. Thus ended our first day on this stunning continent.

Day 5 – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Portal Point & Foyne Harbour

GPS 12.00 Position: 64°27.8'S / 061°48.7'W

Wind: NE3 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Snow **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

Today marked a pivotal moment in our Antarctic expedition as we experienced our first continental landing at Portal Point. The expedition guides, with an eagerness to ensure a safe and memorable experience, set out early to establish a secure route. As we disembarked from the ship, the vastness of Antarctica unfolded before us—a snow-covered landscape that inspired amazement among the entire group.

Zodiac cruisers weaved through the irregularly shaped icebergs. The icebergs, with their hues and colours shifting in the Antarctic light, became a captivating spectacle for all. The morning's magic reached its zenith when a serene humpback whale made an appearance at the onset of our operations. The whale moved gracefully, covering a short distance before engaging in lugging, almost as if it had been patiently waiting for our group to witness its majestic presence.



Undeterred by a heavier snowfall, our enthusiasm remained unwavering as we embarked on a Zodiac cruise in Foyne Harbor. The falling snow added a layer of enchantment to the icy landscape. Navigating through the iceberg maze continued to be a highlight, with each iceberg telling its unique story in the pristine Antarctic surroundings.

The afternoon took an intriguing turn as we explored the shipwreck of the *Governøren*—a whaling vessel that had succumbed to flames and ran aground in Foyne Harbor. Despite the dropping visibility, the remnants of this historic ship offered a link to the challenges faced by early Antarctic explorers. The atmosphere aboard the Zodiacs was one of fascination and reflection as we delved into the rich history of the region.



As evening descended, we gathered for dinner, sharing stories of the day's remarkable encounters. However, the adventure did not end there. The first group of campers, eager to embrace the Antarctic wilderness fully, collected their gear at the shell door. Their destination: an expedition camping experience at Portal Point. The anticipation was electric as they set out for a night under the Antarctic sky, surrounded by the pristine beauty of the snow-covered landscape.

As the campers embarked on their overnight adventure, the rest of the passengers on board couldn't help but marvel at the day's diverse experiences, from the intricate icebergs to the impressive shipwreck.

Day 6 – Thursday 30th November 2023

Orne Harbour & Danco Island

GPS 12.00 Position: 64°38.1'S / 062°35.7'W

Wind: Var1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +6°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

The day began with a hearty breakfast in the dining area of Hondius, setting the tone for the exciting Antarctic expedition ahead.

The planned morning operation at Orne Harbour faced a change of plans due to challenging ice conditions. The expedition team decided to adapt and switch to a full ship Zodiac cruise to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the guests.

Zodiacs were launched, carrying eager passengers across the Antarctic waters. The morning turned out to be a wonderful encounter with nature, as humpback whales surfaced gracefully near the zodiacs. Guests marveled at the sight, capturing photos of these majestic creatures.

The Zodiacs approached the shores of Orne Harbour, revealing a mesmerizing landscape. Guests witnessed chinstrap penguins busily nesting, their black and white figures dotting the rocky terrain. The backdrop of towering glaciers and ice formations provided a stunning visual spectacle.

Lunch was served onboard, allowing guests to refuel and share stories of the morning's unexpected yet thrilling adventures. The anticipation for the afternoon's activities heightened as the ship navigated through the icy waters.

The afternoon expedition unfolded at Danco Island, offering another opportunity to immerse in the wonders of Antarctica. Zodiacs explored the coastline, revealing colonies of Gentoo penguins nesting on the rocky slopes and playfully swimming in the frigid waters.

The scenery was nothing short of magical, with towering icebergs and a backdrop of pristine Antarctic landscapes creating a picturesque setting. The calm conditions allowed for a tranquil exploration of this remote island.



The climax of the day approached as around 80 adventurous guests decided to take the plunge into the ice-cold Antarctic waters for a quick swim. Laughter and cheers echoed as the brave participants embraced the extreme experience.

The day concluded with a daily recap, where expedition leaders shared highlights and insights from the day's activities. Guests gathered to exchange stories and relive the extraordinary moments experienced in the heart of Antarctica.

A sumptuous dinner was served, bringing the day to a close with a sense of camaraderie among the expedition members. The anticipation for the next day's adventures lingered as the Motor Vessel Hondius sailed through the

Antarctic waters under the midnight sun, marking the end of another unforgettable day in one of the world's most remote and pristine environments.

Day 7 – Friday 1st December 2023

Paradise Bay & Lemaire Channel

GPS 12.00 Position: 64°50.5'S / 062°35.7'W

Wind: Var1 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

As winter asserted its reign in the Northern hemisphere, our campers were rousing themselves after a night in snowdrifts, whether standing beneath the invigorating spray of hot showers or nestled in the main lounge, sipping coffee. Adam, our expedition leader, fortified by the support of his assistants and standing on the captain's bridge, peered through binoculars at the expanse of beauty that unfolded before him in Paradise Bay. Soon, he set aside the binoculars, approached the microphone, and, pressing a button, uttered, "Good morning, good morning, good morning!" This was followed by a brief weather update and a reminder of the day's plans.

The first item on the day's agenda was the Zodiac cruise. After breakfast, we, clad and ready with our cameras, assembled in the Zodiac boarding area to embark on an exploration of Paradise Bay and its coves. The air was crisp, with a hint of frost — early Antarctic seasons never indulge in warmth.



Scarcely drifting away from the *Hondius*, we spotted a Leopard seal, idly sprawled on a small iceberg. The creature wasn't asleep, casting predatory glances our way, intermittently raising its head and, flaring its nostrils, inhaling unfamiliar scents.

Periodically, we encountered Weddell seals lounging on ice floes and along the shore. Each one of them dozed off, indulging in seal dreams, turning from side to side, scratching their sides with the long claws on their front flippers. This, in turn, spoke to us of the terns nesting there for hundreds of years, fertilizing the once-bare rocks and creating favorable conditions for the emergence of such vegetation. A little aside, Antarctic shags had claimed a small corner. The rocks where they nested were

painted white with their guano, a sure sign that these rocks had served as their summer residence for not just a few centuries.

On the shore stood the small Argentine station *Almirante Brown*. Gentoo penguins had seized a significant portion of the station and established a genuine colony. Strolling back and forth with an air of importance, the penguins made it clear that the station was in capable flippers.

Lunch, it must be noted, was no ordinary affair. On this day, Oceanwide Expeditions was celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.

For the second half of the day, no landings were planned, but that didn't mean we were destined for a mundane existence confined to our cabins. An exhilarating journey awaited us through the legendary Lemaire Channel — an exceptionally narrow and picturesque passage framed by towering mountain peaks, their slopes draped in glaciers.



As evening fell, after dinner, the *Hondius* dropped anchor opposite Pleneau Island. The adventurous campers headed ashore for the night, while the others, remaining on board, sipped tea, and shared impressions of the day's experiences.

Day 8 – Saturday 2nd December 2023

Pleneau Island (Salpêtrière Bay) & Petermann Island

GPS 12.00 Position: 65°08.7'S / 064°04.5'W

Wind: SW3 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

The day began with the familiar and comforting voice of Adam, our daily wake-up call, heralding another day of thrilling Antarctic exploration.



Our morning adventure unfolded with a plan for a full Zodiac cruise in the picturesque Salpêtrière Bay — an area nestled between Pleneau Island and Port Charcot, famously dubbed the "iceberg graveyard" and affectionately referred to by Sasha as "The Garden of Icebergs." Donned in layers, we eagerly hopped onto the Zodiacs, leaving Hondius behind. The vast expanse was adorned with scattered colossal icebergs, creating a surreal backdrop for the wildlife that thrived in this icy realm. Gentoo Penguins waddled along the shore, and Weddell Seals found peaceful resting spots. We even stumbled upon a significant portion of last winter's sea ice, with a few Weddell Seals basking

in the Antarctic serenity.

After capturing a myriad of photos and videos documenting the unique icebergs and the charismatic penguins, we returned to the ship, where a warm cup of tea awaited, thawing us from the chilly expedition. The cruise had been a breathtaking experience, marked by tranquil and enjoyable conditions.

Following a delightful break and lunch, the day's adventures continued with a plan to land and explore Petermann Island. This small yet vibrant island boasted one of the northernmost Adélie penguin colonies and one of the southernmost Gentoo penguin colonies.

The expedition team, always orchestrating remarkable experiences, charted a captivating route, guiding us through Adélie and Gentoo penguin rookeries. Watching the penguins in their breeding sites was pure joy—busy with stone-swapping between nests, each colony painted a lively picture of Antarctic life. The backdrop of towering glaciers and mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula added an awe-inspiring dimension to our observations. In the distance, the majestic Lemaire Channel remained a captivating sight.



As the ship concluded its daily recap, surrounded by floating icebergs, we marked our southernmost position. From this point onward, our heading shifted north, symbolizing a new phase in our Antarctic journey.

To celebrate the occasion, a special dinner awaited us on the outer deck 5 aft—a polar BBQ under the vast Antarctic sky. The atmosphere was filled with music, a relaxed camaraderie, and the tantalizing aroma of barbecue.

The day, laden with special moments, concluded as a cherished memory—serene cruises, penguin-filled rookeries, and a celebratory feast under the Antarctic twilight. A day in Antarctica we would undoubtedly carry with us, etched in the tapestry of our unforgettable polar expedition.

Day 9 – Sunday 3rd December 2023

Port Lockroy & Damoy Point

GPS 12.00 Position: 64°49.5'S / 063°31.2'W

Wind: Var1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

The morning started with the traditional wake up call for an abundant breakfast in the dining room. Outside, weather conditions were promising a wonderful calm day.

We were anchored right in front of Port Lockroy, the first British permanent base in Antarctica, also a museum and post office! Usually cruiseship guests are allowed to visit this facilities, but due to avian flu the resident workers on Port Lockroy prefer to avoid this, and they came on board Hondius instead. They brought with them all sort of souvenirs for guests to be able to shop and also collaborate on the preservation of this wonderful and pristine area of the world. Of course everybody was interested on the mail service, and the unique opportunity to send their loved ones a post card from Antarctica itself. Several postcards and stamps later, mail bag was full and ready to begin the long (probably several months) journey towards each destination.



It was extremely interesting to get to know the people working in Port Lockroy about their daily challenges, activities and duties, as they share with us their passion for conservation and their different programs to reach communities all over the world.

Expedition team prepared the landing site in front of Port Lockroy, called Jougla Point (on the west side of Wiencke Island), a magical place with thousands of Gentoo penguins, some of them on eggs, and several weddel seals having a pleasant nap around the landing area.

We also had the opportunity to do zodiac cruise. There was still some sea ice around, with snow algae, which gave us a better understanding of how this area may look like during winter, and stunning icebergs beached on the shallow coasts. We even saw a fur seal! It was the first one of the trip.

We came back on board, full of energy and ready to fuel up with a buffet lunch in the dining room. Soon after, we reached our afternoon destination, Damoy Point, that seemed to be right around the corner.

Damoy Point received us with sunny warm weather. There was a historical Argentine hut and also a British hut that was used for several years as a British summer air facility and transit station for scientific personnel. This huts are well equipped and available to be used in case of an emergency, so the expedition team opened Damoy Point hut and, as Bill was building steps on the snow and making sure we left everything as it was founded, we had the unforgettable experience of walking inside and imagine how it would have been for expeditioners to overwinter there.

A halo around the sun and a hike around the island made our day as special as it could be. Ah! Gentoo penguins were here as well.

Before going back on board, we explore the area on a zodiac cruise with the most perfect weather that we had so far, playing with the ice, finding more and more unique shape icebergs and even having a humpback whale encounter as two of them decided to swim around.

We came back on board just on time for the daily briefing, where expedition team seemed as happy as we were for the privilege of having enjoyed that day. There were news about tomorrow: we were going to have an early start.



Day 10 – Monday 4th December 2023

Cuverville Island

GPS 12.00 Position: 64°24.4'S / 062°58.2'W

Wind: SE3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

We woke up reluctantly amazing early in response to the directive on the daily program. Some of us with the memory of Bill's two -word recap

and short video of the day before... 'The Drake'. The image of the huge seas crashing into and over the bow deeply imprinted in our anxious brains...

Breakfast snack in the lounge then dressed quickly, warmly (as it was -2°C) for boarding Zodiacs at 6.30am for a final cruise and landing at Cuverville. Luckily loads of penguins all densely packed in the widely separated in various noisy colonies. Offshore the bay was festooned with grounded iceberg..., asymmetric multi-toned sculptures of every shape and size.

The cruising was interesting as the Zodiacs wove in and out of the endlessly interesting shapes of ice. Like a detective we considered the visual evidence before us, the position and angle of the tide lines and the convoluted multitude of textures, lines and cracks. The history of each massive lump of ice was clearly illustrated by its form.



Breakfast followed although for most, it felt like lunch.

Once everyone was safely back on-board Hondius started to motor slowly northwards. Some tears were shed at the realization that this awesome Oceanwide life experience was about to end. This was the last zodiac cruise and last landing. A distant sighting of a pod of Orca had everyone excited and lining the foredeck as Hondius motored northwards. Unfortunately, this pod were not interested in 'posing ' but were obviously absorbed in feeding1

After lunch the lounge was quite deserted. 4 people only, the rest, now the adrenalin was off, most people lying on their bunks trying to recover from the loss of early morning beauty sleep. Suddenly once again the cry...ORCA ! Situation change as camera wielding passengers rushed from their comfortable cocoons below decks focus on the Orca activity.

Next up a viewing of the superb BBC documentary about Antarctica. Everyone marveling at the photography and Attenborough's compelling narration then an interesting lecture delivered by every 'bubbly' compellingly happy Saskia .

Outside the sea state gradually increased and the wind started to howl...it was as forecast going to be a stormy Drake Passage! The doctor did a roaring trade dispensing sea-sickness patches.

After dinner Antony compared the end of voyage quiz...lots of questions relating to the cruise and to tax the memory plus a section requiring teams to identify photographs of the staff when they were young.

It was another great Oceanwide activity day...we went to our bunks dreaming of mountainous seas for the morning.

Day 11 – Tuesday 5th December 2023

At sea – Drake Passage

GPS 12.00 Position: 59°45.5'S / 063°12.0'W

Wind: SW8 **Sea State:** Very Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C

The day began with a wholesome breakfast that fuelled our spirits for the activities ahead. Our first order of business was returning our trusty muck boots, symbolic of the rugged terrain we navigated together. Misha and Juan assumed leadership in the morning, collecting pictures for the photo competition. For the competition they subdivided into 3 categories: landscape, wildlife and funny. Each passenger was encouraged to submit one photograph per category, setting the stage for a friendly yet competitive showcase.



As the sun reached its zenith, anticipation hung in the air as the collected photos were revealed in the afternoon. The exhibition painted a vivid tapestry of our collective journey, showcasing the diverse perspectives of our fellow travellers. The artistry continued as Bill took the floor, delivering a captivating lecture on paintings depicting the sea. We unravelled the symbolic meanings woven into the canvas, gaining a deeper appreciation for the maritime artistry that echoed through history.

Post-lunch, Misha's lecture on Bird Migration transported us into the fascinating world of avian wanderlust. The distant travels of birds, orchestrated by the changing seasons, unfolded before our eyes, revealing the untold stories written across the skies. Beth then led an exploration beneath the frozen surface, enlightening us about the mysteries hidden beneath the ice of the Southern Continent. Glaciers and uncharted landscapes were unveiled, expanding our understanding of Antarctica's enigmatic beauty.

As the day transitioned into evening, the captivating recaps began. Matthias enthralled us with his expertise on Skua birds, acquired through five summer seasons spent researching in the South Shetlands. Edward shared insights into the monumental challenge of conquering Mount Vinson, Antarctica's highest peak. Misha added a poetic touch to the recaps, offering a heartfelt ode to Albatrosses, bringing an artistic conclusion to the expedition's educational odyssey.

A sumptuous dinner marked the culmination of the day's intellectual and creative pursuits. The dining hall buzzed with lively conversations, fuelled by the day's shared experiences.

The day ended with Misha and Juan announcing the victors of the photo competition, adding a touch of friendly competition to our Antarctic adventure. The night took a lighter turn with a 'Happy Feet' movie screening, providing a delightful opportunity for everyone to unwind and share laughter.

Overall, a day replete with learning, creativity, and camaraderie—a fitting conclusion to our Antarctic adventure.

Day 12 – Wednesday 6th December 2023

At sea – Drake Passage

GPS 12.00 Position: 56°50.9'S / 066°18.1'W

Wind: SW6 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +7°C

The weather of this day has been dreaded for days as we watched the weather forecast with huge pink areas pass through the Drake Passage from west to east. The bridge team have been carefully navigating us towards Ushuaia but also trying to make it as comfortable as possible. Through the night the conditions had worsened with waves becoming higher and tossing us in our bunks. By the time morning came around the wave height had decreased, and many were able to make it to breakfast.

There were lots of people at breakfast, all discussing their stories from the rough night we'd had. How often each of us had woken up. What time the rough weather started.

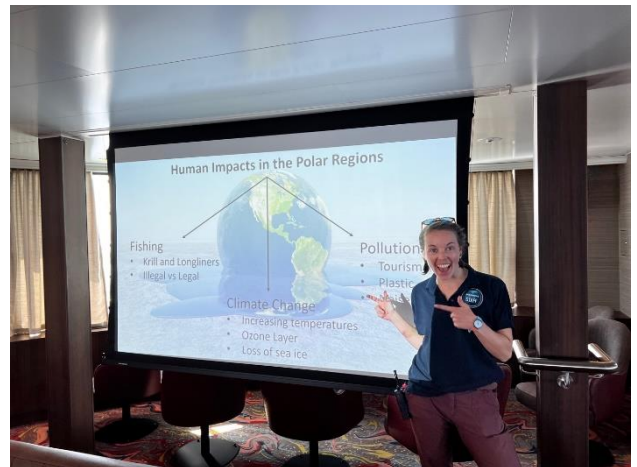
Misha ran a photos workshop in the lecture theatre after breakfast. The photography guides, Misha and Juan, have been fantastic at bringing us on a journey and sharing their extensive experience they have from working in the Antarctic. At 10.30, the captain announced that we would be changing our direction slightly which would change our angle to the waves and may cause more motion on board. As a result, it was recommended that we go to our cabins where it is safest, and check our belongings are well sea stowed. By 11.30 Alexis started his lecture on the Yamanas, the indigenous people of Tierra del Fuego. He has read up on the topic well with lots of knowledge gained from local people and museums around Patagonia and the Falkland Islands.

By lunchtime the wind had dropped to about 18 knots and the sea conditions had lessened too. Lunch was a with a slight difference today due to the rough conditions that we have been having. The dining room staff served us sandwiches and salad which was a sensible option with so much motion.

After lunch we gathered in the Lounge to watch a famous video of the old P liners, large square rigger cargo tall ships, sailing around Cape Horn. This is a fantastic watch which give a sense of the danger and challenge which these waters have posed over the last 200 years.

At 15.00 Antonie gave us a very topical talk on Waves. He has an impressive knowledge of this subject and gave a very interesting talk.

In the afternoon we were allowed to use the outside decks again which was a lovely addition to the afternoon as the skies were blue and you could feel the warmth of the sun as you stand out on deck.



In the late afternoon we had a fantastic trio talk on the human impacts on the polar regions which was an important and interesting note to finish on.

Around 6pm we were invited back to the lounge for Captain's cocktail. We were surprised to see all the Expedition Team dressed up nicely. Everyone had big smiles on their faces. Captain Toni raised his glass to our voyage. Then we had the great pleasure to watch Juan's end of the voyage slideshow. It was such a delight to watch his work. Wonderful images accompanied by footage of wildlife, beautiful background music.... Wow! And the incredible amount of work he had put into the slideshow really came through. We all had tears in our eyes after watching it.

After this emotional gathering in the lounge, we were invited to our dining room for one last dinner on board. The Galley team did not disappoint. Another delicious meal, laughter, and many happy faces. We also had a chance to show our gratitude to the hotel team who always made sure we always got what we needed.

Day 13 – Thursday 7th December

Disembarkation - Ushuaia

GPS 09.00 Position: 42°49'S / 064°30'W

Wind: SW3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** P. Cloudy **Air Temp:** +12°C **Sea Temp:** +12°C

When we woke, we were already at the port of Ushuaia ready to disembark for the final time. The last two weeks have taken us on a remarkable journey to the Antarctic Peninsula, the South Shetlands, and the vast Southern Ocean in between. This unforgettable journey showed us how varied and numerous life is in these remote and sometimes inhospitable corners of our Planet Earth. We have encountered amazing wildlife, made new friends, learned and experienced together. We will all take different memories of our voyage back home, but those memories will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

This was our expedition:

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,759 Nautical Miles

Furthest point south: 65°12.5'S / 064°13.0'W

Your Expedition Team



Trip Log - Camping

Day 5 – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Portal Point, Charlotte Bay. Position: 64°29,15' S / 61°45.5' W

Our first camping activity of the expedition took place at Portal Point on the continent overlooking Charlotte Bay. The camping area was on top of the hill where we were this morning. While arriving with the zodiacs it was still bright, and it remained bright for the whole night. Nevertheless, conditions remained good for our adventure out there. We were welcomed by Saskia and she told us to head up the hill. A good warmup for us before we started digging our pits.

We set the perimeter for the pits to be dug and the emergency toilet is in place. Everybody had an amazing view from their new 'bedroom'. Giant icebergs floating in the bay and the sky was getting brighter by the minute. The glaciers around us were the perfect backdrop for our overnight experience here. We all went to sleep. During the night some of us are woken up by a thunder-like sound, it is a nearby glacier calving.

At 04.00AM we were woken up. I was cold as the wind had picked up quite a bit. We packed our bags and filled up the pits again to the way it was. The wind had blown big pieces of ice in the small bay where we landed last night and had blocked the entrance. Therefor we had to walk to the other side of the bay to be picked up from there. We headed back to the ship for a little more sleep. Getting up to deck 8 to hang the sleeping bags to dry and after a quick snack and some juice in the lounge we all went to bed.



Day 6 – Thursday 30th November 2023

Leith Cove, Paradise Bay. Position: 64°51.7' S / 62°51.9' W

When we sail into Paradise Bay, we all know why the name has been given to this place. It is an amazing spot to go camping tonight. And the lower clouds disappeared, giving the sun the possibility to brighten up the sky. The mountains are reflected in the glassy water. By 09.00PM we were driven by the zodiacs to shore. There was a huge staircase already dug out for us and we headed up the steep slope to our campsite on top of our own little, round island.

From the top we have an amazing view over the bay. The island is tucked away in a cove almost, surrounded by huge glaciers. Big chunks hanging and are ready to fall. When everybody was ready digging their 'bedrooms', we all enjoyed being up here on this breathtaking spot. During our never dark night we saw the sky change from the soft sunset colors to a little bit more cloud cover, which gave the area a mysterious atmosphere.

At 04.00AM our camping adventure is sadly over, but what a night! No wind, sometimes the rumble of ice cracking of the glaciers, but other than that complete silence. We slept in true wilderness! Some didn't sleep that much but it was still a 'once in a live time' experience. Heading back to the ship we hung the sleeping bags to dry. After a snack and juice in the lounge some of us went to bed for a quick nap, others stayed up to be ready for the zodiac cruise through Paradise Bay this morning.



Day 7 – Friday 1st December 2023

Hoovgaard, Pleneau / Position: 65°06.6' S / 64°02.7' W

After dinner everybody gets ready to go camping. Being the last group to go and experience a special night out on the ice of Antarctica we have heard some great stories from the first campers. But now we are up! The zodiacs head for the little bay and passing a lot of ice and having on our right-hand side we had stunning mountain 'the seven sisters' towards our camping spot.

We leave our personal bags and life jackets just above the landing site and we started digging our pits for the night. The sky is filled with beautiful clouds. It will make the temperature drop not too much. After we dug our hole, we could go for a little walk to see 6 Weddel seals lying on the ice. And just shortly before we went to bed, we had a stunning sunset and we're taken a lot of pictures.

The night was clear, no snow at all. At around 3 am a Weddel seal decided to join our campsite. We could hear him breath heavily. At 4 am we were woken up by the guides and could have a look at the Weddel seal which was injured a bit. Then we had to pack our bags, fill up the pits again, leaving it the way we found it last night. We head back to the ship for a little more sleep. Getting up to deck 8 to hang the sleeping bags to dry and after a quick snack and some juice in the lounge we all went to bed.



Trip Log - Kayaking

Day 5 – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Morning - Portal Point Calm light winds with beautiful brash ice

Wow, what a day to start our activities. Calm waters allowed us to explore close to the shore. A cheeky seal on the ice and our first encounters of penguins. Finished with great ice bergs in the distance.



Afternoon – Foyen Harbour Snowy with light winds

A slightly different afternoon with a distinctive chill in the air. We started with some basic skills before heading over to explore the old whaling wreck of the Govenøren. A little circumnavigation of the island and paddling past huge ice bergs finished the day nicely.



Day 6 – Thursday 30th November 2023

Morning – Orne Harbour – Another light wind day with some small ocean swell

A different trip again with pack ice filling the bay, we travelled along to the end of Orne Harbour, directly under Spigot Peak, here we were rewarded with sightings of Chinstrap Penguins on their rookeries and exiting the water. The brash ice was fantastic too, although too much for the landing.



Afternoon – Danco Light winds and a gentle ocean swell.

We explored the ice around Danco Island and the landing site before taking our time to observe the behaviour of the Gentoo Penguins down on the water's edge. We finished this day with the polar plunge and even our kayak guide Matt took the opportunity to take a dip.



Day 7 – Friday 1st December 2023

Morning – Brown Station – No wind and mirror like conditions

A great way to kick off a new month, we had some great pack ice to paddle through before making our way under the cliffs of Brown Station. With the mountaineers summiting above us we got views of the blue-eyed shags and even a lonely Weddell seal in the back of the bay resting on some ice.



Day 8 – Saturday 2nd December 2023

Morning – Pleneau Island – Moody seas with pack ice in the bay and light winds

A great morning with gentle winds pushing ice into the bay we got to explore the Weddell seals from up close, our first encounters of the Adelie Penguin and the Gentoo colony. We finished the session with a trip through the iceberg graveyard.



Afternoon - Petermann Island - Slightly windy with clear skies

Our final kayaking session saw us go past icebergs and battle some winds along the coastline before drifting down with the wind past the Gentoo and Adelie colonies. A great way to round off the kayaking sessions and thanks for taking to the water with us, from Matt Hawkins and Adam Harmer.



Trip Log – Mountaineering

Day 5 – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Morning - Portal Point

Our first mountaineering trip, with our intrepid mountaineers heading onwards and upwards enveloped in swirling ethereal Antarctic mists. Stopping to take in the view, we could only marvel at the vastness of our surroundings and relish the emotional intensity and sensory overload of this almost otherworldly place.



Afternoon - Foyrn Harbour

Immediately upon disembarking the Zodiacs our mountaineers had to negotiate steep snow slopes to gain a high neck of land leading us inland to steeper slopes and a vast summit plateau. We made our way with caution, mindful of potential crevasses and overhanging cornices of snow. We experienced “flat light” conditions, which make both land and sky merge in to one, testing both our sense of balance and awareness of our direction of travel. The recipe for a “full” mountain experience!



Day 6 – Thursday 30th November 2023

Morning - Spigot Peak

A magnificent peak standing Sentinel at the entrance to Orne Harbour. Summiting this peak is never guaranteed. Spigot's lofty summit is exposed to high winds, the harbour landing can be encased in Brash Ice and the summit snowfields can hold snow that may avalanche under certain conditions. Brash Ice in the harbour, plus significant avalanche risk due to recent heavy snows necessitated that our team turned back at the col below the upper slopes.



Afternoon - Danco Island

A fantastic counterclockwise circuit of the island culminating in an almost 'whiteout' experience! A term used by mountaineers when driving snow makes it difficult to differentiate between the land beneath your feet and the open air around you. We emerged from the mists guided by the raucous chitter chatter of the Gentoo Penguin colonies who must have thought that we were the barmy ones!



Day 7 – Friday 1st December 2023

Morning - Brown Station

Behind this Argentinian research base is a great snow-capped outcrop of rocks jutting out in to Skorntop Cove. At the high point of our journey the team enjoyed magnificent views of MV Hondius and our Basecamp teams out enjoying Zodiac cruises and Kayaking journeys amongst the icebergs.



Day 8 – Saturday 2nd December 2023

Morning - Hoovgard Island

Always just that little bit further, Hoovgard's summit plateau seems to be just over the next rise. A great work out after all those great onboard food extravaganzas! Once again, we experienced challenging visibility up high in the clouds. A truly powerful and memorable experience for all.



Afternoon - Petermann Island

Set back from the shore landing, a steep snowy snow face guards access to the tranquil plateau with its cairned summit. The views from the top of Petermann are magnificent and before descending we enjoyed a moments silence to take it all in.



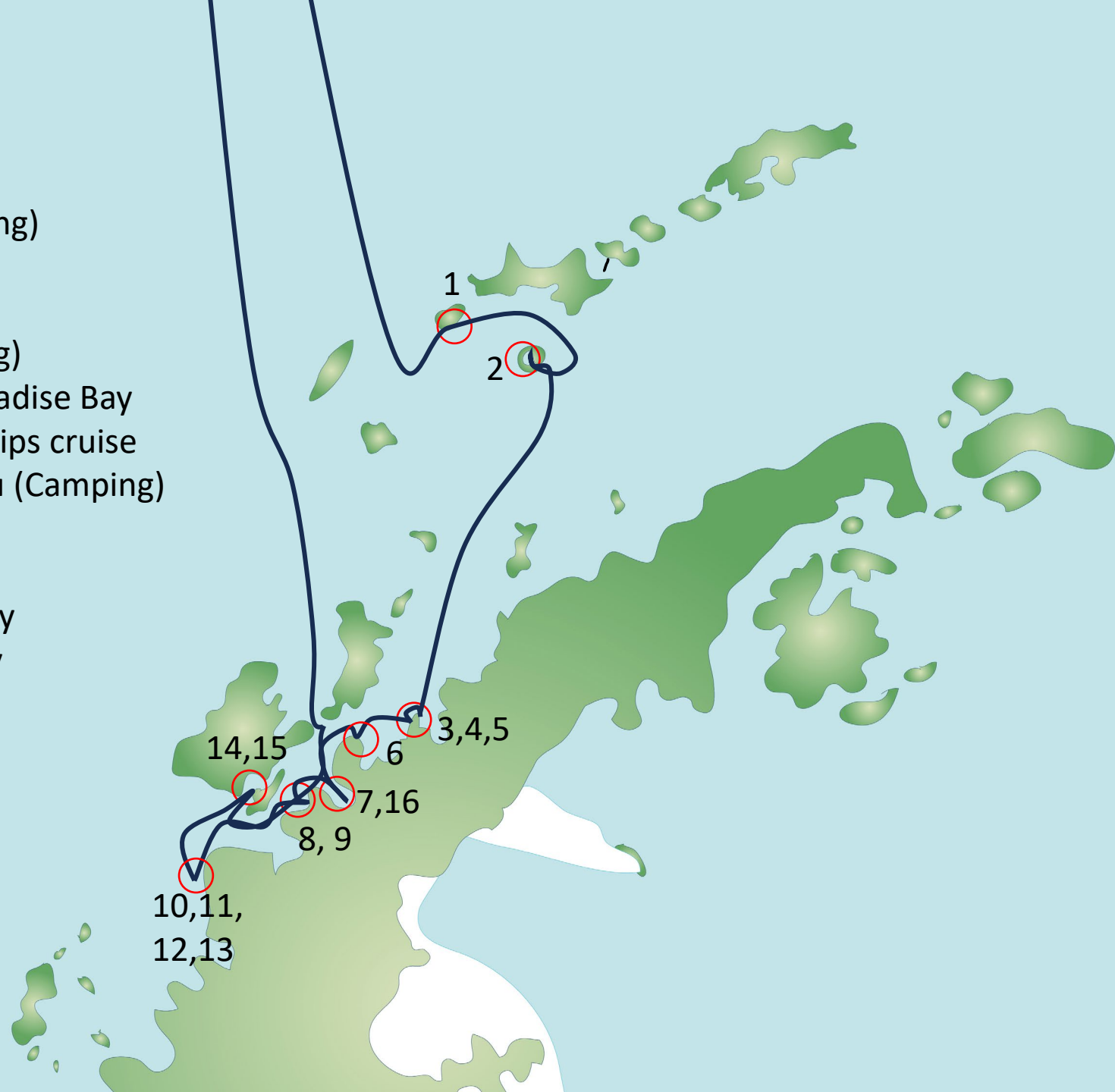
Day 9 – Saturday 3rd December 2023

Morning - Jabet Peak

A stunning weather day! From our drop off point we enjoyed a long snowshoe journey towards our objective, a high col on Jabet Peak. Observations throughout the morning and from our previous days exploits on Petermann Island hinted at a warming of the snowpack and potentially unstable snow conditions. Our mountain guides always share and explain their thought processes with the climbing team. The assessment of acceptable risk is the cornerstone of safe mountaineering and as a team we made a solid mountaineering judgement to turn back short of our desired high point at the Jabet col.



1. Elephant Point
2. Telefon Bay
3. Portal Point
4. Foyn Harbour
5. Portal Point (Camping)
6. Orne Harbour
7. Danco Island
8. Leith Cove (Camping)
9. Brown Station / Paradise Bay
10. Lemaire Channel Ships cruise
11. Hoveguard, Pleneau (Camping)
12. Pleneau
13. Petermann Island
14. Jougla / Port Lockroy
15. Dorian Bay / Damoy
16. Cuverville Island



HDS23 - Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	25-nov	26-nov	27-nov	28-nov	29-nov	30-nov	1-dec	2-dec	3-dec	4-dec	5-dec	6-dec	7-dec	German	French	Dutch
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>														Kaiserpinguin	Manchot Empereur	Keizerpinguin
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>														Königspinguin	Manchot royal	Koningspinguin
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>						X		X	X					Adéliepinguin	Manchot Adélie	Adélie-pinguin
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Eselpinguin	Manchot Papou	Ezelpinguin
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>				X		X								Kehlstreifpinguin (Zügelpinguin)	Manchot à jugulaire	Kinbandpinguin
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>														Goldschopfpinguin	Gorfou doré	Macaroniepinguin
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>														Magellanpinguin	Manchot de Magellan	Magelhaenpinguin
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X	X									X		Wanderalbatros	Albatros hurleur	Grote albatros
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>														Nördlicher Königsalbatros	Albatros royal du Nord	Noordelijke koningsalbatros
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>														Königsalbatros	Albatros royal du Sud	Zuidelijke koningsalbatros
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X								X	X		Schwarzbrauenalbatros	Albatros à sourcils noirs	Wenkbrauwalbatros
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X								X	X	X		Graukopfalbatros	Albatros à tête grise	Grijskopalbatros
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>		X	X							X	X	X		Graumantel-Rußalbatros	Albatros fuligineux	Roetkopalbatros
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	X											X		Nördlicher Riesensturmvogel	Pétrel de Hall	Noordelijke reuzenstormvogel
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X			Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	Pétrel géant	Zuidelijke reuzenstormvogel
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>		X	X	X					X	X	X			Silbersturmvogel	Fulmar argenté	Zuidelijke stormvogel
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>	X	X	X		X		X			X	X	X		Kapsturmvogel	Damier du Cap	Kaapse duif
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>										X				Weißflügelsturmvogel	Pétrel Antarctique	Antarctische stormvogel
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					X	X								Schneesturmvogel	Pétrel des neiges	Sneeuwstormvogel
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		X	X								X	X		Blausturmvogel	Pétrel bleu	Blauwe stormvogel
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X									X	X		Weißkinsturmvogel	Puffin à menton blanc	Witkinsturmvogel; Witkeelstormvogel
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>														Weichfedersturmvogel	Pétrel Soyeux	Donsstormvogel
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>														Langflügel-Sturmvogel	Pétrel noir	
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>														Schlegelsturmvogel	Pétrel de Schlegel	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>														Dunkelsturmtaucher	Puffin fuligineux	Grauwe pijlstormvogel
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>														Großer Sturmtaucher	Puffin majeur	Grote pijlstormvogel
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X	X								X	X		Taubensturmvogel	Prion de la désolation	Antarctische prion
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>														Feensturmvogel	Le Prion colombe	Duifprion
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>														Belcher-Sturmvogel	Le Prion de Belcher	Dunbekprion
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Buntfußsturmschwalbe	Océanite de Wilson	Wilson stormvogeltje
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>														Schwarzbauchmeerläufer	Océanite à ventre noir	Zwartbuikstormvogeltje
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites neretis</i>														Graurücken-Sturmschwalbe	Océanite néréide	Grijsrugstormvogeltje
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>														Lummensturmvogel	Puffinure plongeur	Alkstormvogeltje
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>														Magellan-Lummensturmvogel	Puffinure de Magellan	Magelhaen Alkstormvogeltje
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X													Blauaugenscharbe	Cormoran impérial	Keizeraalscholver; Blauwoogaalscholver
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Antarktikscharbe	Cormoran (impérial) antarctique	Keizeraalscholver; Blauwoogaalscholver
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X		X	X		X					Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	Chionis – Bec en fourreau	Poolkip
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>						X	X					X		Chileskua	Labbe du Chili	Chileense skua
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta macormicki</i>				X		X	X	X	X					Südpolarskua	Labbe de Mac Cormick	Zuidpooljager
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>				X										Braune Skua (Subantarktiskua)	Labbe brun	Subantarktische Grote Jager
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X													Blutschnabelmöwe	Goéland de Scoresby	Dolfijnmeeuw
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>				X	X	X		X	X	X				Dominikanermöwe	Goéland dominicain	Kelpmeeuw
Southern American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>														Falklandseeschwalbe	Sterne hirundinacée	Zuid-Amerikaanse visdief
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>	X			X		X	X	X	X					Antarktisseeschwalbe (Antipoden-)	Sterne couronnée	Zuidpoolstern
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>														Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern
Marine mammals		25-nov	26-nov	27-nov	28-nov	29-nov	30-nov	1-dec	2-dec	3-dec	4-dec	5-dec	6-dec	7-dec	Meeressäuger	Mammifères Marin	Zeezoogdieren
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>														Südkaper	Baleine franche australe	Zuidkaper
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>					X				X					Zwergwal	Petit Rorqual antarctique	Antarctische Dwergvinvis
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X	X				Buckelwal	Mégaptère (Baleine à bosse)	Bultrug
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>														Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe Vinvis
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>												X		Finwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone Vinvis
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>														Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Zuidelijke Noordse Vinvis
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>														Südlischer Entenwal	Baleine à bec australe	Zuidelijke Butskop
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>														Grindwal	Globicéphale noir	Griend
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>										X	X			Schwertwal	Orque (épaularde)	Orka; Zwaardwalvis
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>														Stundenglasdelfin	Lagénorhynque sablier	Zandloperdolfijn
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>														Pealedelfin	Lagénorhynque à menton noir	Dolfijn van Peale
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>														Schwarzdelfin	Dauphin obscur	Donkergestreepte dolfijn
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>														Commersondelfin	Dauphin de Commerson	Kortsnuiddolfijn
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>							X							Seeleopard	Léopard de mer	Zeelupaard
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>										X				Krabbenfresserrobbe	Phoque crabier	Krabbeneter

Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Weddellrobbe	Phoque de Weddell	Weddell-zeehond
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>				X				X						Südlicher Seeelefant	Eléphant de mer austral	Zuidelijke Zeeolifant
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>									X					Antarktischer Seebär	Otarie à fourrure des Kerguelen	Antarctische Peisrob
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>														Mähnenrobbe	Lion de mer d'Amérique du Sud	Patagonische Zeeleeuw

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

Felicity Johnson – Assistant Expedition Leader



Felicity, a marine biologist, commercial skipper, and guide, is driven by a strong commitment to marine mammal conservation. With a decade of experience, she has developed expertise in marine mammal research, including cetacean entanglement studies, biopsy collection and analysis, and global photo identification projects.

Currently residing in Vancouver, Canada, Felicity takes on several roles. She serves as an Environmental Educator at Sea Smart Schools, a non-profit organization focused on educating the next generation about the importance of our oceans and our changing climate. Additionally,

Felicity is a dedicated crew member and research assistant on board an Environment Canada research vessel, aligning with her mission to protect marine ecosystems.

Having grown up in Scotland, Felicity's appreciation for the outdoors grew during childhood holidays along the Scottish coast and hills. Her journey led her from teaching sailing during school breaks to pursuing a degree in marine biology. During her Master's degree, she earned certifications as a commercial skipper, marine mammal observer, advanced diver, and wilderness first aider.

This period also sparked Felicity's concern about marine pollution, prompting her to focus her professional and personal responsibilities in raising awareness, coordinating events, talks and organising clean-ups, all geared towards addressing the challenges posed by our changing climate.

Alexander Romanovskiy - Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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.

Anthonie Luteijn – Expedition guide



Anthonie is a passionate surfer and a life-long ocean lover. He loves to travel and discover different places around the world. He enjoys the cultural and nature diversities of different countries, and he likes to meet and connect with the people he meets along the way.

Anthonie grew up, right on the beach, in the southwestern coastal province of The Netherlands, called Zeeland. For his studies, he moved to Delft where he completed his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and his master's degree in Hydraulic Engineering at the Technical University of Delft. He has a coastal specialisation, which embraces a great interest in oceanography. During this study program, he took part in several projects around the world and conducted research on an artificial fish migration river in the Netherlands.

In the summer months, Antonie enjoys sharing his passion for the oceans as a surf coach. He sees the ocean as a diverse and unique place which feels like home. Out at sea on the ship he enjoys sharing this passion with everyone on board.

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

He is very much looking forward working as an expedition guide on board with Oceanwide this season. The polar regions are incredibly unique places in the world to visit. And Antonie thinks it is a privilege for everyone to take these life-long memories home and to share the experiences with family and friends!

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina. He is embarking on his first Antarctic Expedition Cruise with Oceanwide Expeditions.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying outdoors and on the mountains. His hobbies are trekking, camping, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country

on holidays. Nowadays he enjoys discovering new landscapes around the end of the Andes chain with his friends.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in tourism for more than 5 years in Ushuaia and has amazing skills related to guest management, being a sociable and talkative person. He speaks natively Spanish, English and some German as he did an exchange back in 2014 after finishing high school.

Going to Antarctica has been a lifetime dream of his, as being born at the southernmost city in the world and the nearest city to the white continent really set the path for the years to come. He plans on starting a Polar career learning from every aspect, from wildlife to history, and someday become an Expedition expert.

Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide



After graduating from her Geology honours degree in 2018 at Glasgow, Beth balanced two jobs until she succumbed to full time in the guiding world in 2021. Beth worked as a deckhand / guide on a tall ship and, when on the land, as an Engineering Geologist working mainly on Scotland's road and railway networks.

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These

are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

Beth also enjoys spending time in the mountains of Scotland where she works when she is not guiding on board ships. She grew up sailing around the islands of the west coast of Scotland - home to some fascinating geology where she spent many field trips during her undergraduate years. This sparked the desire to explore and embark on adventures to discover new landscapes and cultures around the world.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



Lucia is an extroverted and curious person always looking for new challenges and experiences worldwide.

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide.

She loves sharing her passion for exploration, learning, discovering, conservation and wildlife.

With over 12 years of experience on leading groups around Patagonia, she is now focusing on the wonders and biodiversity of the polar environments.

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Bill Smith - Expedition Guide



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 58 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

As Bill lives in the North-west of Scotland he is President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee and former Chieftain Assynt Highland Games.

Bill is an Honorary Member Assynt Crofters Trust and recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



This is Carina, she grew up in the swiss capital of Bern far away from the sea. Her studies in renewable energies and environmental engineering gave her a curiosity in energy production and civil engineering. She would like to share this curiosity with you! Carina is a sports nut and runs triathlons in her spare time. But don't worry, she has vowed to slow down the tours to half-tempo.

Carinas favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural

habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination with these cute animals and their dominion.

Beeing the happiest outside, Carina chose to make the world her workplace and to become an international guide for Oceanwide Expeditions.

Carina is a passionate and optimistic person who always likes to learn new things and has a broad interest in geography, history, archaeology, the arts and the natural sciences. As the cheesy Instagramposts say: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". So step up and let Carina share her passion for civil engineering and penguins with you and take part in your once in a lifetime adventure!

Saskia van der Meij – Expedition guide



Saskia is an enthusiastic girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Multiple-day hikes in the Andes or the Himalayas, kayaking around remote islands in Canada or camping on mountain tops overlooking Alaska's glaciers.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In that time, while co-guiding a trip in Iceland, she knew she wanted to be a nature guide.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant hotel manager in two different private game lodges. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen and became an expedition guide on several ships. She called Antarctica home for three months last winter/summer. As a camping guide she took guests out for a night on this amazing continent.

She has a wide interest and understanding, from animals and landscapes to ice and history with its interesting explorer stories.

Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these breathtaking destinations.

Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide



Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completed his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end groups throughout Europe.

He then became partner in an international traveling consulting firm and focused on route planning and employee training.

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at Polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as Expeditions Guides, He has guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia many times.

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

When he is not in polar regions, he likes to spend his time in the forest, dessert, and plains in Northwestern part of China. He loves nature, wildlife, and he loves to share all that he knows to everyone who comes across.

Matthias Kopp – Expedition Guide



Matthias live most of the year in Thuringia/ Germany. After school he started an apprenticeship to become a wholesale dealer but decided after a couple of years settled work right next to the home village, to do a great step in direction uncertainty. He started studying biology at the University in Jena. Matthias' main interests were Ecology and Ornithology. He wrote a diploma thesis about the breeding biology of Antarctic Skuas in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula. But also after that degree,

Matthias kept on studying those impressive animals for a couple of years. While studying both, his interest and his network brought Matthias all over the world. Thereby most impressive for him were the Polar Regions. Matthias stayed for his studies with the Skuas in total 5 summer seasons at Antarctic bases and meanwhile 10 seasons in the high Arctic as a Tour guide onboard vessels.

Currently Matthias is predominantly settled, based again in the village of his childhood, but now with wife, 3 young girls, 2 cats, a couple of bee colonies and a wide-ranging garden, who all need him. However, his wife knows that for Matthias the high summer in Germany is much too warm. For that reason, he is together with you in the high north – also to escape the heat.

Alexis Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal

“Dick” Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Jonny Baird - Mountain Leader



Jonny Baird started climbing and skiing where he grew up on the West coast of Scotland.

Jonny is based in the French Alps, close to the Chamonix Valley, and has been living and working there as an IFMGA Mountain Guide since 2005.

In winter Jonny guides on skis locally in France and neighbouring Italy and Switzerland with usually one or two trips each year taking clients further afield. This has included ski mountaineering trips to Arctic Norway, Greenland, Lofoten Islands and the Troll peninsula in Iceland.

In November 2017 Jonny worked as a mountaineering guide from the ship *Ortelius* in the Antarctic Peninsula, he then returned to the Antarctic Peninsula in January 2019 and November 2019 again as a mountaineering guide.

In summer Jonny takes clients mountaineering and climbing drawing on his vast experience of climbing in the last 30 years. He has had a vast variety of work over the years including Television, film and photography safety work in the mountains.

Jonny has travelled, climbed and skied all over the world over the years visiting all the continents.

Jonny is a member of the BMG British Mountain Guides where he was a committee member for a number of years, he is also a member of the SNGM Syndicat National Guides De Montagne.

Owain Jones – Mountain Guide



Owain is a fully certified IFMGA Mountain Guide and full member of the British Association of Mountain Guides.

Owain started climbing and mountaineering with his father at the age of nine and the passion continues to this day. He has led several mountaineering expeditions and glacial treks in the Indian and Nepalese Himalaya. On ski he has led remote first ascents in East Greenland.

His experience as a mountain guide in the European Alps, on foot and ski, spans many seasons and includes more than fifty successful summits of Mont Blanc with his clients.

Rock climbing and ice climbing are his foremost passions, and he has made several first ascents across these disciplines in the United Kingdom. Owain takes great pride in helping others fully experience the mountain environment; not just leading but using every available opportunity to share his knowledge and top tips!

In addition to his work as a Mountain Guide, Owain is a professionally qualified youth worker and safety consultant for outdoor educational activities with young people in the United Kingdom.

Edward Bekker – Mountain Guide



Edward Bekker (Rotterdam, 1961) grew up in the south of the Netherlands, but from an early age his favorite place was in the mountains. His dream came true when he was admitted to mountain guide training at the Technical University in Munich and since 1987 he has been a 'state-certified mountain and ski guide'; So he was definitely one of the first UIAGM/IVBV certified mountain guides from a non-Alpine country!

Since then he has been out and about in the mountains every day. For more than 15 years, Edward has specialized

in freeride ski guiding, ski touring and heli skiing in the arctic areas of Iceland, Norway, Svalbard, Sweden and Greenland, the Swiss Alps and Canada.

He participated in worldwide expeditions to the Himalayas, the Andes of South America, Antarctica and Alaska. Twice he was Expedition Leader on a UIAA International Expedition for high performance young climbers, exploring remote locations in Pakistan and China and opening many new routes in rock and ice.

Edward lives with his family in western Switzerland in the small Valais mountain village of Finhaut-Emosson, which is strategically located between the Mont Blanc massif and the Valais four-thousanders, where he and his partner run their own mountain school and mountain lodge.

Edward is always curious to meet new people and bring them to the mountains in a safe and enjoyable way. In addition to English, German, French and Dutch, he also speaks a Limburg dialect and also understands a little Italian, Spanish, Swedish and Norwegian.

Dave Rudkin – Mountain guide



Dave is an avid, lifelong enthusiast of climbing, alpinism, and skiing. He loves nothing more than questing into the unknown, whether that's on remote expeditions around the globe or exploring the mountains in his back garden of Snowdonia. He's travelled the world and experienced some of the best climbing and skiing there is, and is still thirsty for more. Dave has spent the last 30 years having adventures, with trips and expeditions to Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Greenland, Alaska, USA, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. He's also explored the mountains of Europe extensively, in particular France,

Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Norway, and Spain. He especially loves climbing on the sea cliffs of the British Isles, the granite big-walls of Yosemite and Arctic Greenland, and skiing fresh powder snow from summit to sea in Arctic Norway.

Dave's interest has grown deeply in the polar and mountain environment: the flora and fauna, and the geography and geology.

Dave is as psyched about guiding and teaching as he is about doing it himself, and he loves seeing people challenged, achieving their goals, visiting places they might not ordinarily go to, and having fun in wild places.

Dave has guided and instructed since completing his first qualification in the late 90's, and is now involved in the delivery of training of new Mountain Guides and Instructors.

He is qualified as a IFMGA Mountain and Ski Guide as well as a Summer and Winter Mountaineering Instructor (WMCI).

Adam Harmer – Kayak Leader



Adam has been paddling for over 20 years and this includes on all seven Continents. He calls the mountains and the Ocean his home.

Currently Adam lives in North Wales UK. He spends much of his life training and assessing outdoor instructors around the world.

Whether that is sea kayaking in Canada or Chile or raft guides and instructors on rivers in Africa.

Adam is also more than happy when he is working at home, where he shares his passion and extensive outdoor experience in training outdoor professionals and guides.

A previous winner of the Yukon 1000, the Worlds Longest Kayak race, first descents in Africa and South America and coaching under the Golden Gate Bridge and Antartica so some of his highlights.

Adam also loves sharing the outdoors with people, sharing the interaction of nature, the sounds of waves crashing or seeing something special means the world to Adam.

He has two children and loves taking his family on 'Outdoor Adventures'

Matt Hawkins – Kayak Guide



Matt is lucky enough to be one of the 'Expedition Guides' for Oceanwide Expeditions.

He has been playing in the mountains since childhood. He has fond memories of his dad taking him for hikes in the hills and learning to rock climb, first indoors, then on the sea cliffs of Pembrokeshire and the Gower.

He and his climbing partner booked an instructor to take them for winter climbing in Scotland when they were only 16 years old. This was the birth of his passion for climbing in the snow and ice.

Since, he climbed all over the UK and Europe with a few trips further afield, but the winter is the time of year he enjoys the most.

In his 20's he took up kayaking and canoeing. Again, this passion has led him to some stunning parts of the world.

He is now based in North Wales and works as a full-time professional mountaineering instructor and paddling coach. He heads up to Scotland to teach ice/mixed climbing and mountaineering in the winter.

As part of his work, he spends a good amount of time delivering a range of hill walking, climbing and mountaineering instructor courses and assessments. At last count he has dug and stayed in over 35 snow holes! Despite that, he still loves it.

He is an extremely experienced, passionate, and driven outdoor professional. He takes great pride in all his work and continually try to push his delivery to new levels.

Simon Cole- Ships Doctor



Simon Cole grew up in Somerset, UK and acquired a love of the outdoors early on. Family holidays in the Lake District gave him a lifelong love of mountains and wild swimming.

After attending Medical School in London he trained as a General Surgeon and has been a Consultant since 2003.

He has spent many years working in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and has developed an interest in Remote and Austere Environment Healthcare.

Simon loves travelling to remote places and outside the UK has worked in Mali, Mozambique, Oman, the Solomon Islands, the Falkland Islands, and in August aboard Hondius on an Arctic Expedition around Svalbard.

Simon spent 8 years as a Reserve Medical Officer in the Royal Air Force and has since worked as a Military Contractor with the United Nations, the European Union, and the British Army. This is his second expedition with Oceanwide Expeditions and he is looking forward to exploring the Southern Ocean and Antarctica with you.

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

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

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

Lifeboat Drill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 0745 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915 **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac and IAATO briefings.
- 1100 **Muck Boots** - We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3**. *Please bring your thick socks to make sure you have the perfect fit! **Please listen for announcements.***
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400 **Biosecurity:** We will call you by colour groups to **deck 3** to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, footwear and tripods / walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. *Please listen for announcements.*
- 1630 **Whales of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Felicity in the lounge to learn more about these ocean giants we may encounter along the way!
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing to know the plans for next day and get some other interesting information.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).



Antarctica Basecamp
Monday 27th November 2023
At Sea to Antarctica

0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning :)

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

*If you would like to take part in kayaking, camping and mountaineering, you must attend the activity's **mandatory briefings**. Please listen for announcements.*

0900 **Kayaking Briefing** - please join the team in the lounge if you would like to go kayaking.

1000 **Camping Briefing** - please join the team in the lounge if you would like to go camping.

1100 **Mountaineering Briefing** – If you have your own mountaineering boots/gear, please bring it along to the briefing for the staff to check.

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

1400 **Activities Sign Up** – We will call you by **COLOUR GROUP** to the **lecture room**, to sign up for the activities you plan to do in Antarctica. If you wish to Mountaineer, please sign up for this activity first, then camping and lastly kayaking. ***Please listen for announcements and stick to your colour group.***

1630 **(REPEAT ONLY) IAATO/Zodiac Briefing & Biosecurity**– This is the **final** opportunity in the **lecture room** (deck 5), for anyone who missed yesterday's mandatory IAATO/Zodiac Briefings and biosecurity. You must attend if you would like to join activities off the ship.

1630 **Antarctic Penguins** – Please join Carina in the **lounge** (deck 5) for her lecture exploring the penguins we are likely to encounter on our voyage.

1800 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

2030 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Juan in the **lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction to photography and how to maximise your skills throughout this voyage!

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

This morning we hope to offer a landing and a cruise at Elephant Point, Livingston Island. As well as a great leg stretch, the area can be home to a range of wildlife including gentoo penguins, southern elephant seals and fur seals.

The **Red** and **Green** group will go to shore first while the group **Blue** and **Yellow** group will go zodiac cruising first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.

- 0800 **Red** and **Green** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Elephant Point.

- 0815 **Blue** and **Yellow** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Elephant Point.

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

This afternoon we hope to land and cruise at Telefon Bay, inside Deception Island. As we enter Deception Island, we will sail through Neptune's Bellows so please head out on deck to enjoy this spectacle!

The **Blue** and **Yellow** group will go to shore first while the group **Red** and **Green** group enjoy a lecture about Deception Island first. We will then swap halfway through the afternoon.

- 1445 The **Blue** and **Yellow** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Telefon Bay.

- 1500 The **Red** and **Green** - Please join Beth in the lounge for her lecture about the geological history of Deception Island and the South Shetland Islands.

- 1600 The **Red** and **Green** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Telefon Bay.

- 1630 The **Blue** and **Yellow** - Please join Beth in the lounge for her lecture about the geological history of Deception Island and the South Shetland Islands.

- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.

- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

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

This morning we hope to offer a landing and a cruise at legendary Portal Point – the starting point of many Antarctic expeditions of the past. This is a continental landing and a great area for views over Charlottle Bay in search for ice and whales!

The **Red** and **Green** group will go to shore first while the group **Blue** and **Yellow** group will go zodiac cruising first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.

0745 **MOUNTAINEERS** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** dressed and ready to go.

0815 **Red** and **Green** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Portal Point.
0830 **Blue** and **Yellow** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Portal Point.

0845 **KAYAKERS** – Please meet your kayaking instructors at the **zodiac boarding area**, dressed and ready to go.

1200 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to offer you a zodiac cruise at Foyen Harbour – a picturesque cove with many little islands, icebergs and an old shipwreck of a whaling era. This will be a full zodiac cruise so please dress up warmly!

1345 **MOUNTAINEERS** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** dressed and ready to go.

1415 **Blue** and **Yellow** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Foyen Harbour.

1430 **Red** and **Green** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Foyen Harbour.

1445 **KAYAKERS** – Please meet your kayaking instructors at the **zodiac boarding area**, dressed and ready to go.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.

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

+/-2030 **Camping** – We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Standby for announcements.

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

This morning we hope to offer a landing and a cruise at Orne Harbour – home to a colony of Chinstrap penguins. This is a continental landing and a great area for views over Gerlache strait and Errera channel!

The **Red** and **Yellow** group will go to shore first while the group **Blue** and **Green** group will go zodiac cruising first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.

0745 **MOUNTAINEERS** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** dressed and ready to go.

0830 **Red** and **Yellow** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Harbour.
0845 **Blue** and **Green** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour.

0900 **KAYAKERS** – Please meet your kayaking instructors at the **zodiac boarding area**, dressed and ready to go.

1200 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to offer you a landing and zodiac cruise at Danco Island – a stunning white piece land in the middle of picturesque Errera channel! We will also offer you a Polar plunge – if you would like to plunge, please wear your swimsuit underneath your warm clothes. Please **DO NOT BRING TOWELS FROM YOUR CABINS, WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH TOWELS.***

1315 **MOUNTAINEERS** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** dressed and ready to go.

1400 **Blue** and **Green** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Danco Island.

1415 **Red** and **Yellow** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Danco Island.

1430 **KAYAKERS** – Please meet your kayaking instructors at the **zodiac boarding area**, dressed and ready to go.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
1900 **Dinner** served in the **dining room**.

2000 **KAYAKERS for next day** – Please meet Adam and Matt in the **lecture room** to collect gear for the next day.

+/-2030 **Camping** – We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Standby for announcements.

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

Skontorp Cove is a cove within Paradise Harbour, an aptly named bay that is home to the Almirante Brown Scientific Station. We have the opportunity to see multiple penguin species, cetaceans and beautiful ice whilst on our full zodiac cruise.

- 0745 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
0815 The **Green** and **Red** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for your zodiac cruise.
0830 The **Yellow** and **Blue** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise.
0845 **Kayakers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
1200 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to navigate through the Lemaire channel. Named after Charles Lemaire, a Belgian researcher and naturalist, this narrow strait is famous for being an absolutely stunning place and one of the highlights of the Antarctic Peninsula.

- 1400 **“Seven Worlds, One Planet”** – we would like to invite you to the **main lounge** to watch a documentary about Antarctica narrated by Sir David Attenborough.
+/- 1500 We invite you to the outer decks to enjoy the navigation through the **Lemaire Channel**. Besides landscapes there is also a good chance to spot some representatives of Antarctic wildlife.
1630 **Research Bases in Antarctica** – Please join Koen in the **lounge** for his lecture on the development of research bases from the very first hut to the present stations we see today.
1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
1900 **Dinner** served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!
+/-2030 **Camping** – We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Standby for announcements.

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

*This morning we hope to do a full zodiac cruise in **Salpetriere Bay**, between Pleneau Island and Port Charcot, one of Antarctica's most spectacular "iceberg graveyards".
(Sasha prefers calling this place "The Garden of Icebergs".)*

- 0745 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
0815 The **Red** and the **Blue** group - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for your zodiac cruise.
0830 The **Green** and the **Yellow** group - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise.
0845 **Kayaking** - Please come to the forward shell door **zodiac boarding area**.

1200 **Lunch** will be served in the dining room.

This afternoon we aim to land and cruise at Petermann Island. The island hosts one of the northernmost Adélie penguin colonies, as well as one of the southernmost Gentoo penguin colonies.

- 1315 **Mountaineers** – Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
1400 The **Green** and the **Yellow** group – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing.
1415 The **Red** and the **Blue** group group – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise.
1430 **Kayaking** – Please come to the forward shell door **zodiac boarding area**.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge.
1900 Special Antarctic Dinner will be served – don't forget to dress warmly!

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

*This morning we hope to offer a landing at **Jougla Point**, a zodiac cruise and time on board *Hondius* at the UKAHT pop-up shop and post office!
Please stick to your colour groups!
All colour groups will rotate and enjoy **all three locations**.*

- 0745 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
- 0830 **Blue group** -Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Jougla.
- 0840 **Yellow group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise.
- 0845 **Red** and **Green** group – Please enjoy a presentation **in the lounge**, by the UKAHT team and then the pop-up shop and post office.
- 1030 **Red group** -Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Jougla.
- 1040 **Green group**- Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise.
- 1045 **Blue** and **Yellow**– Please enjoy a presentation **in the lounge**, by the UKAHT team and then the pop-up shop and post office.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*In the afternoon we hope to land and cruise at **Damoy point**. Here we hope to enjoy *gentoo penguins*, a long walk to a historic hut and stunning Antarctic scenery.*

- 1430 The **Red** and **Green** group - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Damoy Point.
- 1445 The **Blue** and **Yellow** group- Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Damoy point.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

- 0545 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0600 Pastries are available in the **lounge**. Fuel up before going out!

This morning we hope to offer you a landing and a Zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island. This picturesque area surrounded by glaciated mountains is home for the biggest Gentoo penguin colony at the Antarctic Peninsula – a perfect place to bid the farewell to Antarctica.

- 0630 The **Blue** and **Yellow** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Cuverville island.
- 0645 The **Red** and **Green** – Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise in the surrounding bay of Cuverville island.
- 0930 **Breakfast** is served in the dining room.
- 1100 Join the **expedition team** on the outer decks to soak your handkerchiefs with tears whilst enjoying the last views of Antarctica.
- 1300 **Lunch** is served in the dining room.
- 1430 “**Seven Worlds, One Planet**” – we would like to invite you to the **lounge** to watch a documentary about **Antarctica** narrated by Sir David Attenborough.
- 1630 **De Gerlache and the Bélgica Expedition** – Please join Saskia in the **lounge** for her lecture about a pioneer of Antarctica exploration between 1897 and 1899.
- 1815 A daily recap with your **expedition team** will take place in the **lounge**.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the **dining room**.
- 2030 **Antarctic Quiz** - Demonstrate your newly obtained knowledge of Antarctica and **join the team** for a fun quiz in the **lounge**!

- 0800 **No wakeup call** – Have a lovely morning!
Breakfast is served in the **dining room**.
- 0900 **Muck Boots, Dry Bags & Rental Gear Collection** – We will call you by deck to return your muck boots and any rental gear to the **shell doors on deck 3**. **Please listen for announcements**.
- 0930 **Photo competition** – Did you take some amazing images during our trip? Enter your best shot into our photo competition! Please join Misha and Juan in the **library** to submit your best images.
- Pictures will be displayed all day in the lounge throughout the afternoon where you will be able to vote for your favourite pictures.*
- 1030 **Paintings of the Sea** – Please join Bill in the lounge to absorb the artistic knowledge about something that is even older than the wise ole Scotsman.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Bird Migration** – Please join Misha in the **lounge** for his lecture all about the distant travels of birds driven by the vicissitudes of seasons.
- 1600 **Ice of the Southern Continent** – Please join Beth in the lounge to learn more about glaciers, how they work and what's underneath the ice!
- 1800 **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 2030 **Photo Competition** - Please join the team in the **lounge** to reveal the competition winners.
- 2100 **'Happy Feet' Movie Night!** – swap your sick bags for a bucket of popcorn and enjoy Happy Feet playing in the lecture room!

No wakeup call – Have a lovely morning!

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

0930 **Photo Editing Workshop** – Please join Misha in the lecture room to learn how to create the best edit of your photographs from the voyage!

1100 **Yamanas – The Indigenous People of Tierra del Fuego** – Please join Alexis in the lounge to learn about those who inhabited the archipelago in the past.

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

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

1400 **Around Cape Horn** – Don't miss the chance to watch this documentary in the lounge, dated with 1920's footage of incredible bravery of sailing through these rebellious waters!

1500 **Waves!** – If what you see from the window seems impressive to you a lot and you would like to understand the mechanism of waves better, then you might want to join Antonie for his lecture in the **lounge**.

1630 **Climate Mini-series** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** to learn about how humans are altering our climate and what we can do about it.

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

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



Antarctica Basecamp
Thursday 7th December 2023
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

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

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

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

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

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

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