



**OCEANWIDE**  
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

## **Falkland Islands – South Georgia - Antarctica**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



### **M/V Plancius**

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

# Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Maikel Overbeeke**  
2nd Officer: **Warren Villanueva**  
3rd Officer: **Eline Schuurman**

Chief Engineer: **Aleksandr Bondarev**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev**  
Assist. Hotel Manager: **Bogdan Manevksi**  
Head Chef: **Khabir Moraes**

Ships Doctor: **Annika Volder**

Expedition Leader: **Ali Liddle**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Pippa Low**

Expedition Guide: **George Kennedy**  
**Cas Eikenaar**  
**Steffi Liller**  
**Katlyn Taylor**  
**Koen Hoekemeijer**  
**Joshua Peck**

## Day 1 – 23<sup>rd</sup> November

### Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

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

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

Finally, the day had arrived for our expedition to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica! We found ourselves in Ushuaia, in the most southern part of Argentina, known as *the end of the world*. During our expedition, we would go beyond it.

We were not expected to embark on Plancius until 16:00, so that gave us time to recover from the long journey south and explore the town of Ushuaia. With lots of coffee and cake places as well as many outdoor shops, Ushuaia makes for a cozy town. It is ideal for buying last-minute items, such as hats and gloves or maybe another layer to keep warm.



At 16:00 it was really time to make our way up the gangway of Plancius. We were greeted at the dock by members of the expedition team, and the hotel manager quickly checked us in. There was not a lot of time to relax, as at 17:00 a mandatory safety drill was scheduled, so our presence in the lounge was required. We were first welcomed by expedition leader Ali, then the chief officer guided us through a safety video and the drill procedure. Before we knew it, we all sat in the lounge wearing our bulky orange life vests. When we heard the abandon ship alarm, we all made our way outside to the life boats, where the second officer informed us further.

With the mandatory drill done, it was time to release the ropes, start the engines, and leave Ushuaia behind. With the ship on its way, the captain came down to the lounge and greeted us with a glass of champagne, speaking some warm welcome words. Ali then gave us more information about the program and the planning for the days ahead. Our first destination would be the Falkland Islands.



Soon it was time for dinner. The galley team had prepared a delicious buffet, and the dining room was buzzing with excitement. The members of the expedition team also joined dinner, and this offered a first opportunity to get to know each other. After a long and intense day, it was time for a good rest. Some of us decided to spend some time on deck to enjoy the beautiful landscapes and golden light.

## Day 2 – 24<sup>th</sup> November

### At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 53°27.2'S / 063°19.3'W

**Wind:** NNW 3, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

We started the day at 7:45am to Ali saying, “Good morning, good morning...” She told us about the weather outside and invited us to breakfast, our first on board.

The sea was mild, with only the slightest rolling of Plancius. The sun was out too, attracting the guests out on deck. Quite a few birds were following the ship, Southern Giant petrels, Black-Browed albatrosses, and Cape Petrels making up the majority. A bit farther from the ship, the first Royal Albatrosses made their appearance. These magnificent birds can “fly for free,” the wind providing them an uplift, after which they curve downward to rise up into the wind, a process called dynamic soaring. As it was quiet weather, we took the opportunity to hand out the muck boots, so we were all set for our first landing the next day.



Meanwhile, Ali talked about the Falklands and her life as a teacher on the islands. Soon after that, Steffi gave a seabird lecture in German in the restaurant while Cas talked about seabirds in English in the lounge. Lunch included quesadillas, a favourite amongst the staff.

In the afternoon, Josh gave a presentation about the history of the Falklands and the Falkland identity, including his experiences growing up there. Pre-dinner recaps covered our landings for the next day as well as the mandatory Zodiac briefing. Topped by a great dinner, it was a most comfortable day at sea.

## Day 3 – 25<sup>th</sup> November

### Falkland Islands - New Island, Coffin Harbour

**12:00 GPS Position:** 51°43.308'S / 061°18.020'W

**Wind:** W 4, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 13°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

We awoke bright and early for our first day of landings. Plancius was anchored overnight in front of our first landing site in The Falklands: New Island. We took the Zodiacs to shore at Coffin's Harbor. The landing site was right next to the wreck of Protector III, an old wooden ship originally built in the 1940s as a minesweeper. It eventually found itself in the Falklands and was beached at New Island in 1969, slowly decaying in the sand ever since.



There is a small museum on the island called the Captain Bernard Museum, named after a whaling captain who was marooned on the island. The museum has many artifacts from the animals that live on the island, some history from the sealing and whaling days, and information about the island.

Kelp geese with their little goslings were roaming the shoreline as we stowed our lifejackets and began exploring. We followed the old dirt road tracks across the island to an area where the seabirds were nesting. Upland and ruddy-headed geese were wandering the grassy fields, some with goslings. Straited caracara and many passerines also flew over the fields occasionally as we made our way.

The views at the bird colony were incredible. As you approach the view from the edge, your eyes are drawn down the cliff faces. Black-browed albatross, Rockhopper penguins, and Imperial Shags were all piled together in one big colony. While these birds are very different in size and shape from one another, they do live a similar lifestyle. Albatrosses and cormorants were flying in and around the nesting area to either relieve their mates or bring in new nesting materials. Many birds were sitting on eggs and occasionally would get up and stretch, allowing us to see the eggs underneath them.





After taking in the views at the colony on the cliffs, there was an opportunity to walk through the small settlement of New Island to access the beach viewing area, where some gentoo penguins came to shore and walked up toward their nearby colony.

**North Harbor: 51° 42.031' S 61° 15.181' W**

During lunch we repositioned a few miles north to another location on New Island: North Harbor. A long, shallow beach awaited us at low tide, making Zodiac operations tricky. We successfully landed and began walking up the sand dune to the wildlife. Ducks and geese were swimming and roaming near shore. Magellanic oystercatcher calls filled the air. One Magellanic penguin stood on the shore, surveying the walk to the water at low tide. As we crested the first hill, we came to a pond where we saw more Magellanic penguins and a variety of geese.

We climbed higher and saw straited caracara scattered on the hillside, offering great views and photo opportunities. And at the crest of the hill was a gentoo penguin colony. We were delighted to see and hear tiny chicks in the colony. Some parents were brooding one newly hatched chick and an unhatched egg. Other adults were still bringing in nesting materials to please their mate, causing chaos and drama as they ran past other nests. Occasionally a caracara would fly over or walk around the colony as well, sending the penguins into high alert.



Downhill towards the west facing beach, there were more Gentoo colonies, one with a sneaky Macaroni penguin resting at it. The Macaroni had its head tucked down and was sleeping for most of the afternoon, but with binoculars you could spot it amongst the Gentoos. If you were patient, you could catch a photo with three different genus of penguin in it: a magellanic, a macaroni, and a gentoo all in one frame.



The Magellanic belongs to the banded penguins (genus: *Spheniscus*), the Macaroni belongs to the crested penguins (genus: *Eudyptes*), and the Gentoo belongs to the brushtail penguins (genus: *Pygoscelis*).

At the beach, more and more Gentoos were coming ashore and resting on the sand dune before walking up to their colony. It was great fun to watch them surf the waves and swim around the shoreline. It's not often that Gentoos

use white sandy beaches throughout their range, but here on the Falklands they do. A few Magellanic penguins came ashore throughout the afternoon with the Gentoos. At the end of the beach, there was also a family of Steamer ducks with ducklings in tow.

Partway through the landing, an extended walk was offered to those who wanted to see an additional Black-browed albatross colony. The route weaved past another colony of Gentoo penguins and over the hill to the cliff faces, where more albatrosses and Rockhopper penguins were nesting. Many albatrosses were actively courting each other on stunning cliff views.



At the end of the landing, it was hard to walk away from such a beautiful place. As we geared back up on shore to get in the Zodiacs, the rising tide proved to again be tricky for getting back to Plancius. After some human power from the expedition team and use of the engines, we loaded out of the shallow water and made our way back on board to set sail for Stanley.

## Day 4 – 26<sup>th</sup> November

### Falkland Islands - Stanley

**12:00 GPS Position:** 51°36.73'S / 057°39.5'W

**Wind:** NW 4, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Rain, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

After our wonderful day at New Island, we made our way eastwards overnight towards the capital of the Falklands, Stanley. We arrived in Stanley Harbour, through the Narrows – a small passage between two headlands just wide enough for ships to pass – just as many of us settled down for breakfast. With the wind blowing 25 knots out of the west, this would be our first practice at boarding the Zodiacs in choppy conditions.



After digesting breakfast, we all made our way to the gangway for a quick transfer to Stanley. Most of us remained relatively dry for the trip, except the unlucky few of us who were at the front of the Zodiac. Thankfully, our waterproofs came to the rescue!

With the whole morning ashore, we all went off in different directions to explore the small town of Stanley. Many of us headed up the front row towards the shops and cafes, with some of us making it further down to the wonderful museum. Filled with exhibits on local life and many interesting displays on the natural history of the Islands, the museum provided us with a wonderful insight into life over the decades in the Falklands.

As the wind (and often the rain) increased throughout the morning, we began to make our way back to the jetty to return to Plancius for lunch. The Sea Lions who greeted us at the end of the landing pontoon were still enjoying the comfy haul out site when we returned from our adventures around Stanley.

Following another excellent buffet lunch, this time homemade burgers, we settled down to enjoy an afternoon of lectures as we sailed towards our next destination, South Georgia. Josh first talked about the Falklands War. He detailed the international context, which caused the conflict between Britain and Argentina, then went on to describe the legacy of the war locally. Following shortly after, Ali described her Covid year in the Falklands: first, working as a travelling teacher in the east Falklands, then as a guide at the tourist lodge on Sea Lion Island.



With our bellies beginning to rumble again, we enjoyed a short drink and recap before heading off to the dining room for another delicious dinner. The wind, as forecasted, did make dinner a little interesting, with strong gusts and swell from the southwest. For some of us, this may have helped lull us to sleep afterwards, but for some it meant a slightly restless night of rolling about in bed. This was only a minor inconvenience, however, as South Georgia would be worth the couple of days of sailing, whatever the weather.

## Day 5 – 27<sup>th</sup> November

### At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 52°14.5'S / 050°52.2W

**Wind:** NE 5, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

We awoke to the gentle rolling of Plancius as we continued our route east towards the remote islands of South Georgia. Some had found little rest the previous evening, kept awake by the 4m swell overnight, buffeting our starboard side. Yet others, those lucky few, arose well rested for a day of lectures and wildlife on the high seas of the South Atlantic.

After a delicious breakfast, those venturing out on deck were rewarded with a brief sighting of hourglass dolphins dancing through the waves on our starboard side. They stayed with us for a few minutes before disappearing into the icy depths.



Following this brief excitement on deck, our day of lectures began. First we enjoyed an introduction to South Georgia from Ali, our expedition leader, who shared stories of her first visit to the island nearly two decades ago.

We learnt about the animals of South Georgia and the history of whaling as well as the rat eradication projects and fisheries management run by the South Georgia government and South Georgia Heritage Trusts. Next we heard from Pippa, our assistant expedition leader, who shared her knowledge of seals and pinipeds with us all. We learnt about the eared and true seals of the South Atlantic and Antarctica, and she told us about the various citizen science projects being used to gain a better understanding of leopard seal movements in the Southern Ocean.



At lunch the buffet was closed due to the swell. Yet we still enjoyed a hearty goulash served by the incredible dining team to our tables. The rolling seas were now crashing against our starboard side, measuring upwards of five meters. The dining room felt like a washing machine, yet the wait staff were somehow

able to dance between the flying chairs and cutlery to deliver our food.

In the afternoon, we heard from Koen about the penguin species we would see on our voyage, from the small brush tails of Antarctica to the towering Kings of South Georgia. He also shared some of the amazing images he had captured during his time in these beautiful places.

And finally, to finish our lecture program, we heard from George, who shared his stories about the political history of South Georgia and how it came to be a British Overseas Territory. Amongst other things, we learnt about the battle for Grytviken, Mills Marauders, Operation Paraquet, and the unfortunate passing of Felix Arturo in the final days of the South Georgia conflict.

After a big day of knowledge sharing and wildlife watching, we joined Ali for a recap in the lounge and then convened in the dining room for one last delicious meal before retiring to our beds, excited for what lay ahead in the remote islands of South Georgia.



## Day 6 – 28<sup>th</sup> November

### At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 53°36.05'S / 043°55.1'W

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

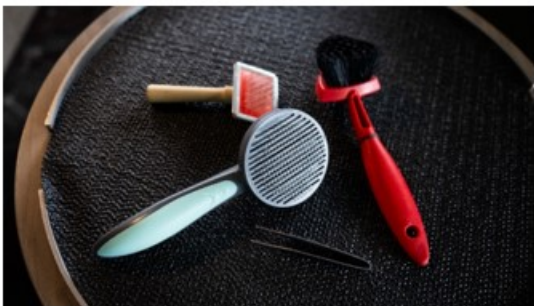
Rollin', rollin', rollin'... Another day at sea, and we were still rolling gently. The ocean swells seemed a bit less compared to yesterday, but Plancius made us well aware that we were sailing the Southern Ocean.

We woke up to hearing Ali's voice, updating us on the conditions and then wishing us a tasty breakfast. Despite the rolling of the ship, the galley team somehow managed to prepare yet again an extensive and delicious breakfast while we enjoyed the views of the waves and birds.

After breakfast we were called into the lounge for briefings on the do's and don'ts in South Georgia. We started with the soft tones of Sir David Attenboroughs voice who introduced us to the beauty and uniqueness of South Georgia. Then a video by the South Georgia government was shown and last but not least; a video on biosecurity and how to clean your gear.

During the whaling and sealing period, the Norwegians and other foreign workers brought with them invasive plant species, reindeer and also rats that travelled on the ships which then escaped when the ships were moored in Grytviken. These invasive species formed a major threat to the islands' eco system and the South Georgia government has worked very hard the last decade to eradicate all these invasive species. The island is now rat, mice and reindeer free and most invasive plants have also been terminated. To prevent any new species from invading the island, strict cleaning procedures have been implemented and we all need to meet the standards. So time to clean and vacuum!

The *vacuum party* in the lounge started around 10:30 and we were required to bring all our outer layers, boots, backpacks as well as gloves and hats. The expedition team was there to help us, but also to check our gear to see if we had forgotten or overlooked tiny bits of foreign materials. Even a tiny piece of sand around the [logo's](#) of our ~~Muckboots~~ could mean a failed inspection so we really needed to be on top of it. But once all the cleaning was done, we were rewarded with a book about South Georgia. The paperclip attached was a reminder to always clean and check your boots before and after every landing. We are on holiday, but some of the household work still made it onto the ship as well 😊.



After lunch there was some time to relax or enjoy the outside decks and at 15:00 Katlyn passionately shared her whale knowledge with us. Hopefully *whale* see lots of whales during this adventure.

Days at sea can be long, but today went by quickly. We had an entertaining and informative recap and then it was dinner time again. And that was also the moment when we saw our first massive ice berg. Not a bad day!

## Day 7 – 29<sup>th</sup> November

### At Sea & King Haakon Bay/ ~~Peggotty Bluff~~, South Georgia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°08.95'S / 037°17.42'W

**Wind:** NW 6, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Rain, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

Early in the morning, as Plancius sailed her way closer to South Georgia, we passed thick fog banks, with low visibility. Ali awoke us a little early as the fog parted and we got our first fantastic views of the island of South Georgia. Also appearing through the fog were many huge icebergs, framing the island and welcoming us to this sub-Antarctic Island.

Shortly after breakfast we spotted a number of whale blows, and as we got closer, we found them to belong to Humpback Whales.

These huge behemoths feed in the krill rich waters within the Antarctic convergence – and we were lucky to spot many amongst the icebergs, some quite close to the ship. The captain and his bridge team, navigated us through the icebergs and with the whales, as we found our way into King Haakon Bay.

King Haakon bay is a large bay on the south western side of South Georgia. A rare place for ships to visit as it is often exposed to the prevailing westerly wind and swell. King Haakon is most famously known as the landing site of Shackleton and his men as they reached South Georgia for rescue after spending 17 days at sea. We sailed past Cave cove – Shackleton's first landing spot, and continued deeper into the bay towards a spot called Peggotty Bluff, where we hoped to visit in the afternoon. Peggotty Bluff is where Shackleton and his men sailed to from Cave Cove to start their traverse across South Georgia to Stromness whaling station to seek help. It is also a spot with lots of amazing wildlife.

We arrived to anchor off of Peggotty Bluff around lunch time – the wind was gusting 25 knots, and it was raining quite hard. The forecast predicted this to subside, so Ali let us know to get some lunch, and we would assess conditions after lunch. The staff headed out in the rain to check conditions on shore, and soon we got the announcement to dress up warm and waterproof and head to the zodiac boarding area.

We headed out in the rain, excited to step foot on South Georgia after a couple of days rolling around on Plancius at sea. The beach was quite sheltered from the gusting wind, and we were greeted on the beach by Fur and Elephant Seals. The staff had made routes to walk through the tussock grass to see more Fur and Elephant Seals, as well as across the beach to see a group of King Penguins resting in the tussock grass. We watched as the King Penguins preened their feathers and rested, often tucking their heads down. On the beach was a large male Elephant Seal that had died and was being feasted on by many Giant Petrels. In the rivers, and the shallow pools we could watch many baby Elephant Seals, known as 'weaners' wallowing and playing, having recently been made independent from their mothers – they spend the days resting and playing together, until they finally make their way to the sea. On one section of the beach we were lucky to spot some newly born Fur Seals – nursing from their mothers. We all became acquainted with the male Fur Seals, and their aggressive nature towards each other – and sometimes us! The weather improved throughout the landing, and for the last hour or so, we had sunshine and the wind had dropped significantly. Soon it was time to make our way back to Plancius – with fantastic memories, full memory cards and some soggy clothes!

Back on board we all warmed up and got dry before a quick briefing from about the plans for tomorrow – Ali kept it brief though, so we could enjoy the fantastic pilotage as we sailed out of King Haakon Bay in beautiful evening sunshine, with many icebergs and beautiful scenic views of South Georgia's coastline. A delicious dinner onboard from our Galley team, and after a beautiful evening, we headed to bed with great anticipation for more exploring of South Georgia the next day.

## Day 8 – 30<sup>th</sup> November

# Salisbury Plain & Prince Olav Harbour, South Georgia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°02.4'S / 037°13.4'W

**Wind:** W 6, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

After our beautiful evening cruise out of King Haakon Bay yesterday, we awoke to thick fog in the early hours of the morning. As we heaved anchor from our shelter of Bird Island, we sailed around to the north side of South Georgia for our first views of the famous King Penguin colonies.



Salisbury Plain is home to approximately 75,000 pairs of King Penguins. The sight from Plancius, as we prepared to board the zodiacs after breakfast, was spectacular. Thousands of penguins along the beach, with a huge colony reaching up the side of the hill, bordered by two glaciers, the Lucas and Grace.

Despite the cold wind blowing off the glaciers and the sea, we all had an unbelievable cruise along the shoreline of Salisbury Plain. Harems of Fur Seals littered the beach, with males all fighting for the best waterside real estate to mate with the females coming ashore to give birth. Quite a few pups had already been born, and even a small white fur seal was spotted at the far west end of the beach. To add to the scene, many penguins were returning from their feeding grounds and coming ashore between our zodiacs.

Reveling from our morning with the penguins, we barely had time to reflect over lunch when a call came from Expedition Leader Ali that orcas had been spotted in front of the ship. At first, we only got glimpses of the fins breaking the surface and then they disappeared into the distance. Luck was on our side, however, and they were spotted again from the Bridge with the whales turning



to join us back at the ship. It was a large pod, maybe a dozen strong, with at least two small calves. We all got great views as they swam alongside the ship. The poor Humpback whales, who were also nearby, didn't get too much attention from us as we all focused on the orcas. An unforgettable experience.

After leaving the orcas, we sailed into Possession Bay to attempt a landing at Brighton Beach. Unfortunately, with the wind increasing and a beach packed with Fur Seals we were unable to land. We had some great views of the glaciers and snowfields of the Bay as consolation before we returned to the head of the Bay and dropped anchor instead at Prince Olav Harbour.



Prince Olav is one of South Georgia's old Whaling Stations and is now a picturesque ghost town in a scenic cove with snow-covered peaks towering above. We all boarded the zodiacs for another round of cruising and got some great views of the station. This included the shipwreck of the *Brutus*, which sits at the point of the abandoned station, and was once used as a floating storage hulk

when the station was operational. A bonus to this location is the idyllic Elephant Lagoon. This sheltered lagoon is a perfect place to cruise and get close views of the seals, who seem totally oblivious to our boats.

Following our action-packed, first full day on South Georgia, we were all happy to retire to our cabins after another delicious dinner. Getting some rest in before another full schedule tomorrow with Fortuna and Stromness on the itinerary.

## Day 9 – 1<sup>st</sup> December

### Fortuna Bay & Stromness, South Georgia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°09.012'S / 036°48.011'W

**Wind:** W 2, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

After a night of sleep on anchor in Fortuna Bay we awoke to crisp sunny skies. There was a cold breeze across the water, but conditions were fantastic for a landing at Whistle Cove. Today's landing site was a much more typical South Georgia beach: fur seals *everywhere*. The males were very determined to hold their positions when we arrived but obliged to let us walk up the beach and drop off our gear without too much trouble.

Small harems were starting to fill up with females and adorable black pups. The noises of moms and pups calling to each other filled the air. It was a bit like an obstacle course to navigate the beach, but the expedition team marked the safest route with poles and walked everyone in small groups until we reached the glacial plain.



Once on the lush grass of the glacial plain there were elephant and fur seals sleeping peacefully in the sun. King penguins were resting and molting in the small streams and pools whereas others were marching back and forth from the colony. We walked up the gentle slope along the streams and past beautiful waterfalls. As we approached the colony the sounds of thousands of penguins reached us before we could see the extent of all the birds.

Chicks were tweeting nonstop and running around looking for someone to feed them. The ones near fledging appeared to be three times the size of the adults. These round and brown fluffy birds were called "Oakum Boys" by the whalers who initially thought there were another species of penguin entirely. Adults were tending to their young or resting. The wind was much calmer up at the sheltered colony and the weather was quite warm.





It was a perfect South Georgia morning. We were all smiles as we walked back down the grassy fields and headed back to the landing site. We carefully made our way through the new maze of seals along the beach and donned our lifejackets to head back to Plancius for lunch.

It was a short ride from Fortuna Bay to Stromness. As we approached Grass Island in Stromness Bay we caught a glimpse of the whaling station ruins at Leith Harbor. Then we came around the island and Stromness whaling station came into full view. It was a breezy afternoon and gusty winds raced across the water toward Plancius. The beach was covered in dark spots everywhere we looked; *more* Antarctic fur seals. As the expedition team scouted the shoreline with the zodiacs, they found a tiny window where we could sneak up the beach and walk through a pool of water to a safe place where we could drop off our lifejackets.



The activity on the beach was just short of a frenzy. Pups were running around calling for their moms and big males were fighting for every square centimeter of space. The staff escorted everyone safely up and down the pool to the lifejacket bags.

Past the lifejacket bags the seals were much less dense and a marked path led up to the Shackleton Waterfall at the back of the glacial plain. There were a few young elephant seals lounging near the rivers over halfway up to the waterfall.



It was a brisk walk to the waterfall against the wind, but the views of the mountains, glaciers, and waterfall itself were stunning. This is the place where Shackleton and his men made their descent to salvation at the Stromness whaling station. They knew that they could find help and a ship to rescue the rest of the men left behind at Peggoty Bluff and Elephant Island from the failed Trans-Antarctic Imperial Expedition. While standing on the glacial plain from the waterfall, we had the same view that they did over 100 years ago.

The wind was on our backs for our walk back to the beach. Gentoo penguins could be heard calling from their colony on one of the hills. Overall, it was a very pleasant afternoon for a walk through this historic South Georgia site.

Back on Plancius we had an anniversary to celebrate during dinner – 30 years of Oceanwide Expeditions! Everyone was offered a glass of sparkling wine as they entered the dining room and we toasted Oceanwide before dinner was served. Ali gave a speech about the history of the company and how far we have come. Chef Kabir prepared lunch and dinner with elements of the original meals served on the ships 30 years ago – but thankfully with some improvements here and there. After dinner the galley team came out into the dining room with a special 30 Years Oceanwide Expeditions cake for all of us to enjoy.



## Day 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December

### Grytviken & St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°15.9'S / 036° 10.4'W

**Wind:** NNW 2, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

We awoke to stunning weather as we sailed into Cumberland Bay, our bow turning starboard, passing Mount Paget, Mount Sugartop, and finally our morning destination, Grytviken. At 8 O'clock, the resident government officers were brought aboard to complete their checks whilst we enjoyed a presentation from the South Georgia Heritage Trust about their work on the island. We then filed down the stairway for our compulsory biosecurity check – and what a success it was, 100%! We were free to explore Grytviken.

This morning we moved between the main whaling settlement and cemetery, enjoying the sites of this beautiful bay. We gathered in the cemetery on the southern shore, taking a moment to remember Shackleton and the 63 other souls who now rest in Grytviken. Josh gave a toast to the boss and we all raised our glasses.



We also enjoyed our time at the main station site - exploring the museum, post office, whaling station and church at the settlement's end. Many of us bought gifts from the store and sent post cards home to friends and family. We also took a moment to reflect on the many lives lived in Grytviken – whalers, sealers, military personnel, researchers and, today, South Georgia government staff.



By 12 O'clock, we were all back aboard Plancius and enjoying lunch as we sailed out of Cumberland Bay and turned south towards our final South Georgian destination – St Andrews Bay. As we drew closer the fog and snow thickened, and, as we prepared for our zodiac cruise, most wore all the thermal layers they owned in anticipation of the cold. However, after only an hour on the zodiacs, the weather broke and stunning sunshine shone down upon the beach.

For two hours, we cruised up and down the coast of St Andrews, mesmerised by the astonishing density of wildlife littered across the beach. 400,000 King Penguins, tens-of-thousands of fur seals and thousands of elephant seals all jostling for space – a cacophony of sound and smell 😊.



As our time for departure drew closer, we had to leave the beach and return to Plancius, enjoying one last glass of Prosecco and a toast to our time visiting this beautiful island. And, after dinner, South Georgia had one last surprise – a stunning sunset, backdropping an ocean full of tabular ice bergs and albatross flying overhead. A fitting end to an unforgettable time in South Georgia. As we retired to bed, a new sense of anticipation grew, as our attention turned to what lay ahead – Antarctica.

## Day 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> December

### At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 55°49.3'S / 038°29.9'W

**Wind:** W 7, **Sea State:** Rough, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

Ali woke us up after a rocky night on Plancius. The weather forecast she presented the night before was unfortunately totally correct. We experienced winds of 50 knots gusting up to 60 knots. The wind and waves were hitting our beloved Plancius at the bow and that made us pitch strongly through the night and the early morning.

Nevertheless, the dining room was quite full for breakfast, so either we'd gotten really good sea legs or the medication was simply doing a really good job.

Today the Expedition Team offered a day filled with varied and interesting lectures. Katlyn kicked off with her lecture called "A year in the life of a Humpback whale". She provided us with great insights regarding the long distance migration these animals undertake and why they do this.

Katlyn also shared stories about individual whales which showed how incredible these animals are.

Soon it was Pippa's turn to continue with a lecture about whaling. The contrast between Kaltyn's and Pippa's presentation couldn't have been bigger. We were left speechless when Pippa mentioned the enormous numbers of whales we killed back then almost hunting them to the brinks of total extinction. Nowadays it's hard to imagine how many purposes the whale oil had, among others lighting our streets by burning the oil. It's really fantastic to see that most whale species are recovering well and that the number of whales is growing steadily year by year.



During the day, the sea got slightly calmer and windspeeds dropped down to under 30knots. This was highly appreciated by many of our fellow travelers as we all deserved a break from the endless crashing of waves on the bow while we were ploughing our way down south.

During rough weather the outer decks are often closed and the only way to get some fresh air is to come up to the bridge and spend some time on the bridge wings. On the bridge we also felt like true seafarers when we get to see the ships' logbook. This log contains all relevant data of our expedition, such as positioning, weather, sea state, air temperature and water temperature among others. How nice to see an old fashioned hand written log in our modern

digital worlds.

After a delicious lunch, many of us turned this Sunday afternoon into a lazy one as taking a nap seemed like a good idea. However at 15:00 the lecture program continued with our guest speaker Eduardo talking about Alien Oceans and where to find oceans on different planets.

Steffi closed the lecture program with a presentation about Antarctic Krill. She did not only talk about the biology of the important animals in the southern food chain, but also about krill fishing activities inside protected areas of South Georgia and below 60°S.

Soon it was time for Ali to update us on the progress and weather conditions shortly followed by yet another delicious dinner. It's hard to imagine how the chef and his galley crew manage to cook such good food when the ship is bouncing up and down continuously.

Time to get a hopefully better and calmer sleep than the night before. See you tomorrow!

## Day 12 – 4<sup>th</sup> December

### At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 57°42.8'S / 044°46.2'W

**Wind:** SW 7, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Plancius continued making headway as we sailed towards our next destination, Elephant Island. Despite the swell and storm-force winds, many of us still enjoyed the delights of a second day at sea, with perhaps a few of us maybe enjoying our bunks a little more.

After another wholesome breakfast, we were all excited to hear the full story of Ernest Shackleton and his epic adventure from Antarctica to South Georgia. Josh's lecture on the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (ITAE), as it was known at the time, detailed the story from start to finish; including a great selection of Frank Hurley's images who was the expedition photographer. It was hard to imagine the small lifeboat, the *James Caird*, sailing the same route we were now travelling on from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

Following on from learning about the Shackleton, we were treated to a very informative lecture from George about the intricacies of Antarctic politics. Building on his academic and professional background in this topic, George illustrated how no one nation owns the land and waters below 60° South, and this makes Antarctica unique, but also makes it vulnerable heading into the future with the changes in our climate and the way we live our lives elsewhere.

With another lovely buffet lunch complete, a few of us snuck away to our cabins for a brief post-lunch siesta. The swell certainly helps to rock us to sleep on sea days!

Afterwards, however, we were more refreshed and could enjoy Koen's lecture on the art of photography. Many of us are keen photographers and have already taken enough images to spend the next 6 months editing, yet Koen's advice and tips were excellent for preparing for the rest of the trip. Perhaps not taking as many images, but more refined images and remembering to just take in our surroundings with our eyes rather than always through our camera lens.

The highlight of the day for most, was the evening South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) Auction. George served as a brilliant auctioneer and persuaded a few of us to part with our hard-earned cash for a great cause. A well-timed Happy Hour at the bar just prior to the auction may have also helped. In total we managed to raise over £1000 for SGHT with the items for sale, including an addition from the galley team – a fake, baked banana!

At 7 the usual call from Alex over the PA system invited us to dinner, and we all made our way to the dining room for another beautiful, plated dinner from Khabir and his team in the galley. After sharing stories over dinner, some of us headed back to the lounge for an evening drink, while some of us retired to our cabins to catch some well-earned rest.



## Day 13 – 5<sup>th</sup> December

### At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 60°04.1'S / 051°29.6'W

**Wind:** NW 6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Foggy, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

The third seaday towards the Antarctic continent started. We knew the trip we booked included many seadays, but it feels tiring staying on the ship for so much time.

Nevertheless, it gives us a great idea about distances, about the environment and about the conditions that comes with the ecosystem so far down in the south, we stayed tuned...

We thought about the explorer in the heroic age, how they must have felt being outside 24 hours a day for months or even years, just warming up by the fire of a smokey blubber oven.

We started the day with another biosecurity session. Heading further down south and passing the 60° south latitude means, we reached the area of the political Antarctica area managed by the Antarctic Treaty. We signed the new declaration of the IAATO (International Association Antarctic Tour Operator). The Expedition Staff checked again all our outer gear, but we managed well and the whole ship was inspected in a little bit more than 30min.

Later in the morning we got another lecture presented, Cas spoke about Albatrosses and Penguins and why fly and why not to fly. Steffi used the chance to give our german fellow travellers her lecture about Krill in german.

During the lecture we passed the magical 60° south finally, even when we know the real Antarctica starts with the Antarctic Convergence, the biological border of Antarctica, that we just passed a day before reaching South Georgia.

After lunch we got the opportunity to pick up our *Sinterklaas* surprise: 200gr of Chocolate. Did we not have already enough calories on this ship?

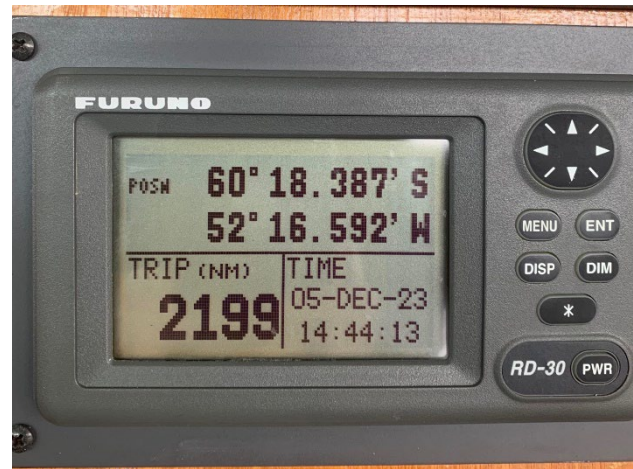


In the afternoon we continued with whale watching, bird watching and lecture watching. Katlyn spoke about whales as eco-engineers of the Southern Ocean and how they are bounded to the carbon cycle on our planet.

George continued with his political talk about the Antarctic Treaty and we learned more about the geo political situation of the area and the future it will face in the coming years.

During the afternoon the wind and waves picked up, Plancius started rolling again and we roll into Recap and dinner and then an early sleep.

Ali told us tomorrow morning early before breakfast, we will would reach Point Wild, the place where 22 men waited for their rescue while Shackelton did the unexpected, crossing the southern ocean in a lifeboat.





## Day 14 – 6<sup>th</sup> December

### Point Wild

**12:00 GPS Position:** 61°37.4'S / 054°41.9'W

**Wind:** S 8, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

With great anticipation, many of us were awake already very early when Ali woke us up at 0430. We awoke to great visibility as we approached Elephant Island. The Captain navigated us close to the Northern side of Elephant Island and in to a small bay next to Point Wild. With winds of up to 35kts and a rolling swell approaching from the Drake Passage to the North, we remained on Plancius to view this iconic Polar exploration spot. We had pastries and juice in the lounge and headed out to the bow to view the small spit of land in which 22 of Shackleton's men had remained for four months, awaiting rescue. We could see hundreds of Chinstrap penguins scattered across the rocks and snow. The statue of Captain Pardo stood proud on Point Wild – placed there by the Chilean navy to commemorate the rescue in 1916 – the statue reads; "Here on August 30th, 1916, the Chilean Navy cutter Yelcho commanded by Pilot Luis Pardo Villalón rescued the 22 men from the Shackleton Expedition who survived the wreck of the Endurance living for four and a half months in this Island." Close to Point Wild a small iceberg attracted our attention, as we spotted a Leopard Seal stalking around it; breaching the surface to breath.

We then lifted anchor and made our way round to the East of Elephant Island, cruising it's coastline, spotting large grounded icebergs, Chinstrap penguins and the occasional blow from a whale. We sailed through Prince Charles Strait, between Elephant and Clarence Islands, as we made our way south towards the Antarctic Peninsula. The wind picked up and began to blow strongly from the South, getting us back to rocking and rolling again.

Later in the morning, Ali told us about the stories of the women behind the Antarctic explorers and the women who pioneered female exploration in Antarctica. The rest of the morning was spent resting or watching the impressive waves crashing over Plancius' bow from the bridge.

After another delicious lunch onboard we had a lecture mini series; Josh told us of the finding of the Endurance, and Pippa told us of Humpback whale song, while George told us of the last Antarctic whaler and the story of Japanese whaling in Antarctica coming to an end.

Later in the afternoon Koen gave another great lecture on how to improve our photography skills and we learned how best to capture the rest of our Antarctic moments to take home.

In the evening, Ali told us of our plans for the following day – finally reaching the Antarctic Peninsula. We were all very excited to set our feet on Antarctica after a long ocean journey from South Georgia. The evening became special, with beautiful light and we had our first views of Antarctica.

## Day 15 – 7<sup>th</sup> December

### Hope Bay – Kinnes Cove - Brown Bluff

**12:00 GPS Position:** 63°31.0'S / 056°52.2'W - **Farthest South this trip**

**Wind:** SSW 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** -1°C

An early wake-up call this morning at 6 AM. Overnight we had sailed into Hope Bay where the Argentines have a base called 'Esperanza' (meaning 'hope' in English). This was our first true Antarctic area, a beautiful bay in pure whites of snow and ice. The sky was blue and the sun was out, complementing the picture. This bay holds a few small Adelie penguin colonies, and we were able to Zodiac cruise to see small gatherings of these funny little penguins standing in the snowfields at the water's edge. Additionally, a handful of Adelies was posing nicely on an ice flow; a perfect photo opportunity. A few Weddel seals were hauled out close to the shore, allowing us a first observation of this marine mammal.

Over breakfast we sailed to our next destination, Kinnes Cove. In Kinnes Cove we boarded the Zodiacs for a sunny cruise. Numerically, this place easily topped Hope Bay; on the rocky hillsides thousands of Adelie and Gentoo penguins have their nests. It was a great pleasure seeing them hiking up and down the snowy slopes.

On some small icebergs and ice flows both species were basking in the sunshine. Even without birds on them, some of the icebergs were carved to such beauty that they could easily challenge some of mankind's most famous sculptures.

Overhead giant petrels soared and skuas and kelp gulls were on the lookout to steal an egg or young penguin chick.

Rummaging around in between the penguins were pale-faced sheathbills, the cleaners of the penguin colonies. It is a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it.



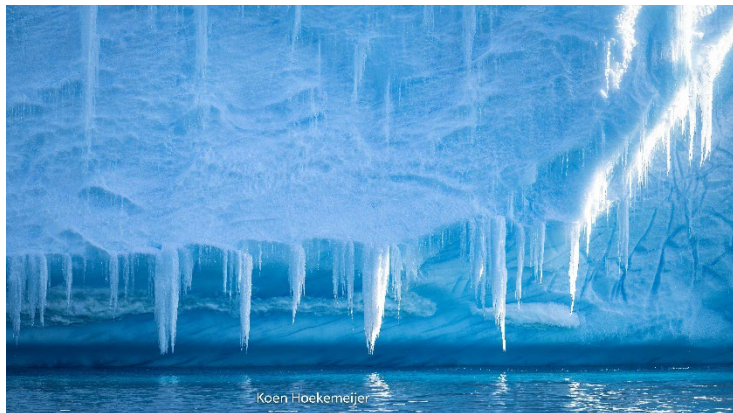
Over lunch, Plancius relocated to Brown Bluff where we landed mid-afternoon. For many of us our 7<sup>th</sup> and therefore last continent to visit.

Brown Bluff is an amazing place with large Adelie and Gentoo penguin colonies. A great opportunity to take a few hundred more photos of these mesmerizing little creatures.



The penguin colonies also have stunning backdrops of 600m high brown cliffs, somewhat resembling giant chocolate cakes with layers of different shades of brown.

At the end of the landing, the brave (or deranged 😊) among us took part in the polar plunge. Always a hilarious spectacle.



As if the day was not already jam-packed with activities, on return from Brown Bluff, a delicious barbeque awaited us. With renewed strength we took to the dancefloor and partied until late in the evening while the warm sun was slowly setting behind the cliffs.

## Day 16 – 8<sup>th</sup> December

### Half Moon Bay – Yankee Harbour

**12:00 GPS Position:** 62°35.5'S / 054°54.1'W

**Wind:** NW 7, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

We approached Half Moon Island under sunny skies for our first landing of the day. By the time we were launching zodiacs a cold wind had begun blowing fiercely. A splashy and windy zodiac ride got us to the shore at Half Moon Island. On the beach there were Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins standing around. As we looked up the slope of the island, the snow was covered in pink track lines – penguin highways lined with digested krill.



We crossed a few major penguin highways on our way to the Chinstrap colony. Occasionally we had a penguin traffic jam where we waited for several minutes for them to pass before we could continue. The late spring snow had become quite soft and textured like sugar. The penguins had to work harder to navigate this terrain.

Sometimes they would lay on their bellies and propel themselves with their feet and flippers to avoid stumbling on the soft snow.

Throughout the morning a weather front passed around the landing site. We remained in the sunny pocket as the front climbed over the peaks surrounding us. Lenticular clouds formed across the bay providing dramatic backgrounds for our photos and views.

The Chinstrap nesting sites were full of activity. Some penguins were bringing rocks to their partners in the nest. Others were incubating eggs. Arguments among penguins would break out with several penguins yelling / calling loudly at each other and swinging their heads back and forth. Despite the cold wind, the penguins provided hours of entertainment.



Walking around the other viewpoints on the island we could see Skuas and Antarctic terns flying around. For those who wanted a longer walk to stretch their legs and see Weddell seals, a route to the other side of the island was flagged. This side of the island opposite the landing site had stunning scenery of mountains and glaciers. At least five Weddell seals were hauled out on the snow sleeping. One looked like a very pregnant female close to giving birth.

The clouds started to sweep in overhead as we finished up our landing and headed back to Plancius for lunch.

It was a short transit during lunch to Yankee Harbour on Greenwich Island. The weather was changing rapidly as we prepared to drop anchor. Humpback whales were feeding near the ship as we launched zodiacs and came quite close as the expedition team headed out to scout the shore.

On the zodiac ride to shore whales were visible swimming near the landing site. A few elephant seals were on the shore molting. Gentoo penguins swam in the waters all around the landing site. A short walk from the beach led to a sprawling gentoo colony. The nesting season was in full swing with many busy penguins running around. A few chinstraps wandered around as well.



The wind was constant throughout the landing and fog came and went. Occasionally the mountains across McFarlane Strait would be lit up by the sun even with the fog overhead. On the opposite end of the beach from the penguin colony a crowd gathered watching whales from shore. There were seven or eight humpback whales feeding on krill just offshore.

A mom and calf pair circled through all the groups of hungry whales and the calf occasionally stopped feeding to play around in the water. A leopard seal made a few appearances near the whales as it also hunted for something to eat. It caught an emerald rock cod and ate it at the surface near the crowd of whale watchers.

A wet, but fun zodiac ride took us back to the ship from our last landing of the trip.

During dinner we sailed out through the South Shetland Islands and wished our final goodbyes to Antarctica. As we moved North, we entered a mellow Drake Passage which made for a great conditions to have movie night in the lounge.



# Day 17 – 9<sup>th</sup> December

## At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 59°44.8'S / 62°17.2'W

**Wind:** NW 4, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Foggy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

A smooth Drake, what a rarity to wake up to! But we deserved it after all the rough seas we have been through.

After two intense days with early mornings and late nights of BBQ dancing, it seemed everyone needed a long and deep sleep. And it looked like many of us got exactly that as we saw solely refreshed and happy faces at breakfast.

The day was filled with lectures and at night we would do a pub quiz. Let's see who has been paying attention during the lectures and landings, and who hasn't ;).

Pippa kicked off the day with a very interesting lecture about the sounds in the oceans. The oceans may look like vast, infinite, and empty bodies of water, but below the surface it blooms with life and wonderful sounds.

If you were wondering how the amazing wildlife, we have observed is able to survive and thrive in the harsh conditions of Antarctica, then Cas' lecture was a definite go to. It's fascinating how well the animals have adapted to the cold, ice, snow and wind. We would probably last a few hours only, but then the warmth and comfort of the ship would be our preferred choice for the remainder of the day ;).

After lunch it was time for a little snooze or break. Our passionate birders however had had their nap already as we went through an area of fog and little wind in the morning and that meant no birds in the sky. But the fog cleared so they were out on the decks enjoying birdlife as usual. What a passion the birders have for our winged friends.

In the meantime, our resident historian Josh shared with us the heroic story about the race to the Pole between Scott and Amundsen. In the Golden Age of Exploration they both were determined to reach the South Pole first.

To close the lecture program, Koen told us more about the photo editing program Lightroom. Altogether we must have taken tens of thousands of photos and with Lightroom or similar post processing software programs you can get the most out of your photos and edit them to your personal liking.

After our last recap, dinner was served and as usual it was finger licking good. The galley team sure know how to prepare delicious food!



Most days we would head for the lounge for a coffee or an early sleep, but tonight it was competition time; a pub quiz! With 45 questions related to information shared in the staffs' lectures, sounds of the ship and wildlife, photos of wildlife and locations we have visited and the ultimate ending; baby photos of the staff! Will you recognize these little cuties!?

By the way, the one sound that nobody got wrong was a very familiar and important one and it led to loud laughter. We all know which sound that was!

All teams scored really well, but there can only be one winner; Team Lonely Macaroni won with a margin of only one point. A cold bottle of Prosecco was opened and the victory was celebrated.

Time for another good night's rest as the Drake was still doing what we liked, being calm!





# Day 18 – 10<sup>th</sup> December

## At Sea

**12:00 GPS Position:** 55°42.5'S / 065°52.9'W

**Wind:** W 6, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Who was that waking us up? No Ali this time, but the highest bidders to our *freedom of speech* wakeup call time slot were the ones waking us up this morning. We were greeted with some interesting noises, morning greetings in various languages and warm words for the crew, staff and mother nature. Then Blur blasted away with Song 2! Definitely a great song to make sure we were all awake!



Today we took it a bit easier. We had two lectures scheduled in the morning, but in the afternoon a nature documentary was shown, and unfortunately it was also time to return our beloved Muck Boots. It will be hard to say goodbye to these warm and comfortable friends which we kept so clean and neat throughout our adventures.

This morning George talked about the Future History of Antarctica. The title alone was a reason to join this interesting lecture about the challenges Antarctica will face concerning the shared governance of a remote continent. George delivered his lecture with passion as we have grown accustomed to, and it was a pleasure to attend.

But if you talk about passion then our guest lecturer Eduardo must be mentioned as well. He followed George later that day and the title of Eduardo's lecture was just as intriguing as George's; *Einstein, Clocks and GPS*. In his lecture Eduardo explained how the work of Einstein has influenced our modern navigation technologies. And Eduardo did not only do that with theoretical information, he demonstrated it as well in a very creative and entertaining way!

After lunch we had our daily seadays nap, but at 15:00 it was time to really part from our Muck Boots. A sad realization that we wouldn't be using them anymore and that the trip was really coming to an end.

With coffee & tea and a freshly baked afternoon snack, a beautiful nature documentary was shown. For some very interesting and for others it meant extended nap time ;).

No recap today, but time for Captain's Cocktails. Captain Levakov spoke warm words and toasted together with the guests and the expedition team to the wonderful journey we had made together. It had led us to the stunning Falkland Islands, amazing South Georgia and breathtaking Antarctica. And to ensure we would not soon forget our wonderful trip; George had created a slide show with highlights of the expedition. A beautiful and fantastic memory that everyone could take home to show to friends and family. For sure they will be jealous of us!

During dinner the dining room was buzzing with laughter and chatter. A good moment for hotel manager Aleks to put his entire team in the spotlights. Of course, we knew the familiar faces of the fantastic dining room stewards and stewardesses, but then we don't often get to see the faces behind the scenes who are working equally hard to make our expedition comfortable and pleasant. A big thank you to the entire galley team, our housekeeping team, the laundry girls who work at warp speed, our bartender Raquel, and finally Aleks himself and his fantastic assistant, Bobby.

With yet another delicious dessert, we finished our dinner before heading to the lounge. Some days at sea we wished we *were already there*, but we also started to love our gracious Plancius and this was a good moment to enjoy our last moments on board.

## Day 19 – 11<sup>th</sup> December

### Ushuaia - Disembarkation Day

**09:00 GPS Position:** 54°57.3'S / 066°54.0'W

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

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

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



**Total distance sailed: 3250 nautical miles**

**Farthest South: : 63°31.0'S / 056°52.2'W**

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

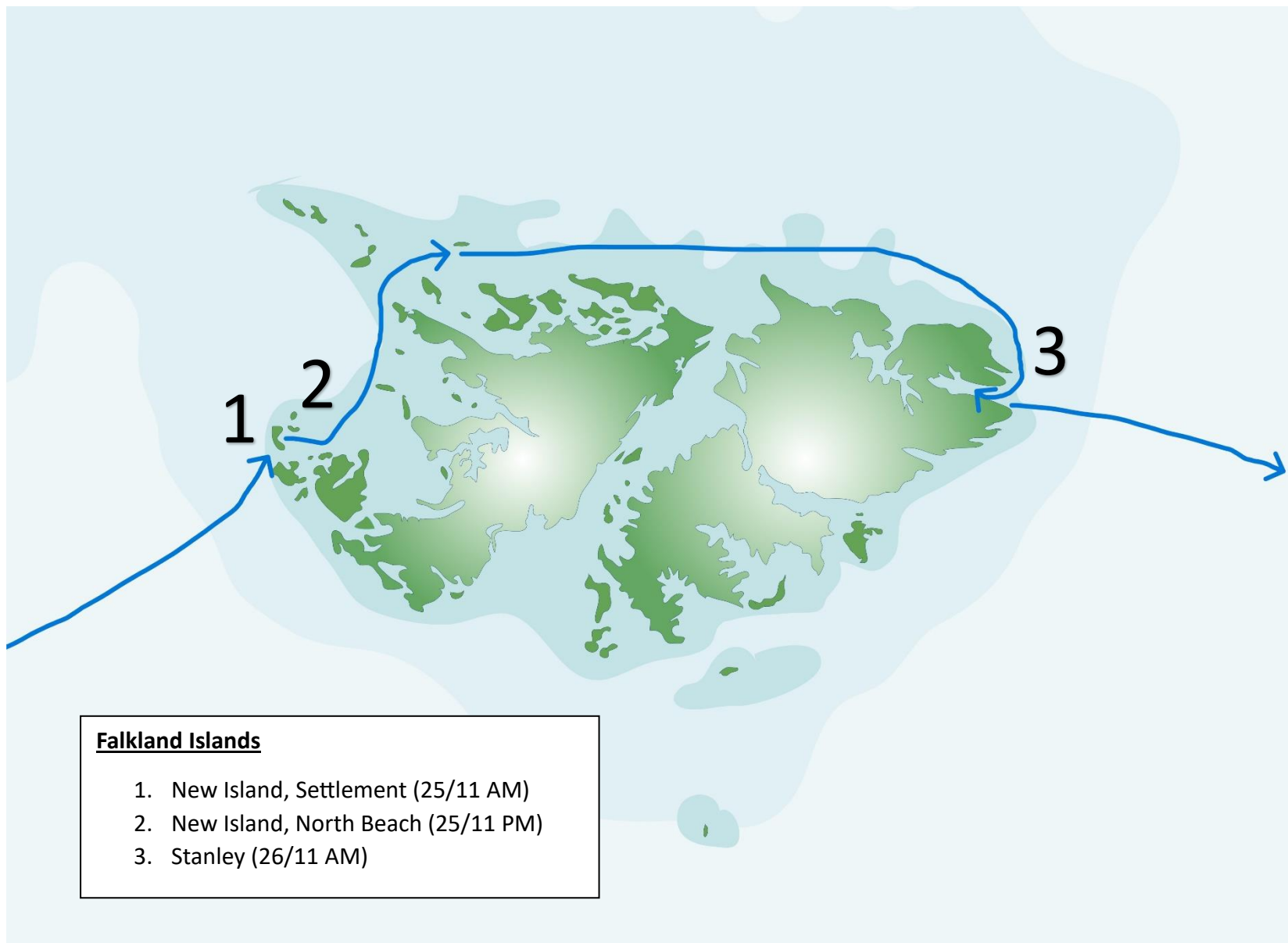


**OCEANWIDE**  
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

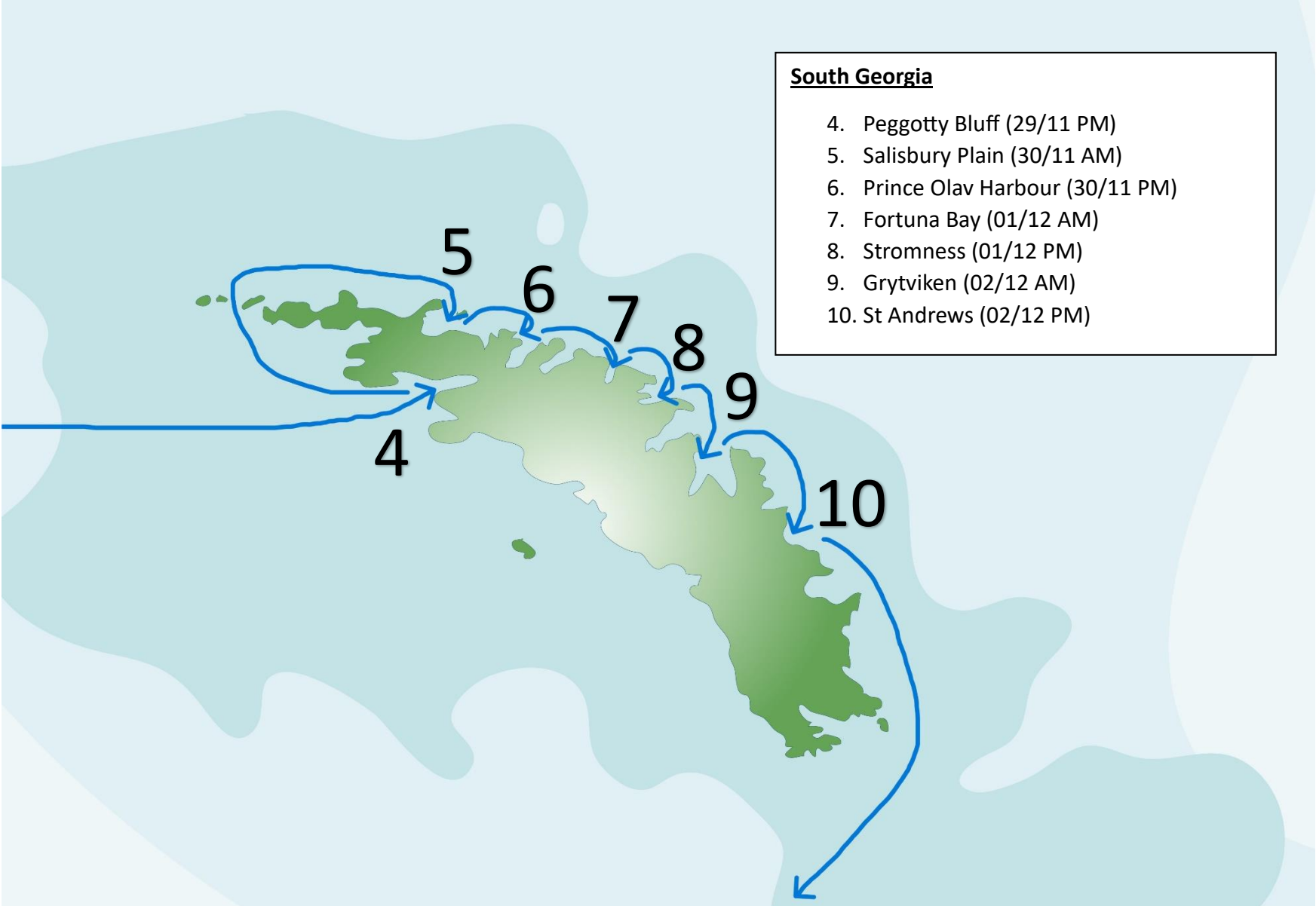


## **PLA23 Falkland Islands – South Georgia - Antarctica**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

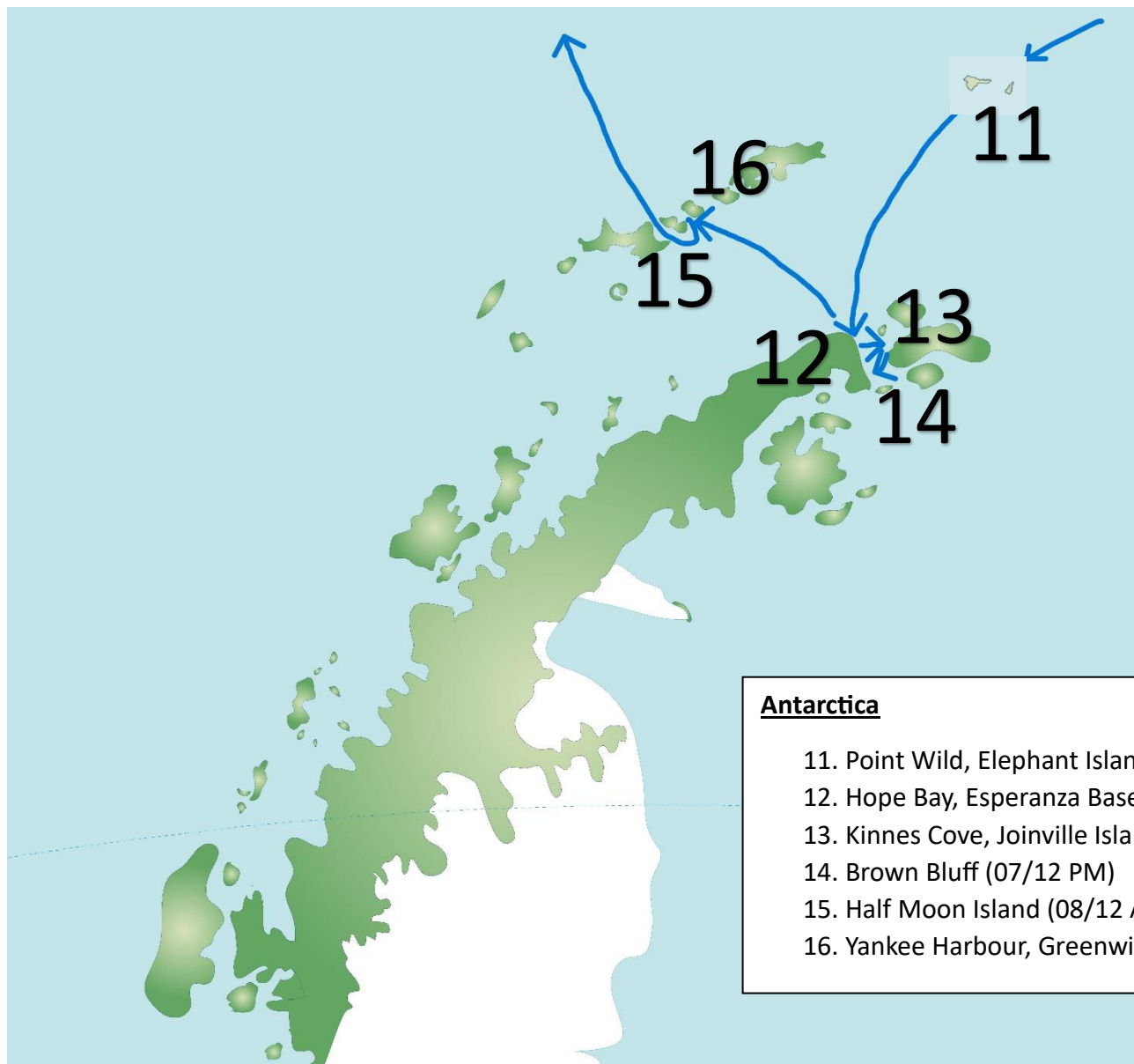


- Falkland Islands**
1. New Island, Settlement (25/11 AM)
  2. New Island, North Beach (25/11 PM)
  3. Stanley (26/11 AM)



**South Georgia**

- 4. Peggotty Bluff (29/11 PM)
- 5. Salisbury Plain (30/11 AM)
- 6. Prince Olav Harbour (30/11 PM)
- 7. Fortuna Bay (01/12 AM)
- 8. Stromness (01/12 PM)
- 9. Grytviken (02/12 AM)
- 10. St Andrews (02/12 PM)



- Antarctica**
- 11. Point Wild, Elephant Island (06/12 AM)
  - 12. Hope Bay, Esperanza Base (07/12 AM)
  - 13. Kinnes Cove, Joinville Island (07/12 AM)
  - 14. Brown Bluff (07/12 PM)
  - 15. Half Moon Island (08/12 AM)
  - 16. Yankee Harbour, Greenwich Island (08/12 PM)

**Species list: Breeding birds and common marine mammals of the Falklands**

English	Latin	Deutsch	23-Nov	24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	Königspinguin				
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	Felsenpinguin			x	
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Goldschopfpinguin			x	
Gentoo penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>	Eselspinguin			x	
Magellanic penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magelanpinguin			x	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Schwarzbrauenalbatross	x	x	x	x
Southern royal albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Suedlicher Koenigsalbatros		x		x
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	x	x	x	x
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Feensturmvogel		x		
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	Belcher-Sturmvogel		x		x
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Weißkinnsturmvogel		x		x
Cape petrel	<i>Daption capensis</i>	Kapsturmvogel		x		x
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Dunkelsturmtaucher		x		x
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	Großer Sturmtaucher				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Buntfußsturmschwalbe		x		x
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>	Lummensturmvogel				
Southern fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Suedlicher Eissturmvogel		x		
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	Felsenscharbe	x		x	x
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	Blauaugenscharbe	x		x	x
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax falklandicus</i>	Nachtreiher	x			
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	Magellangans			x	x
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>	Tanggans			x	x
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>	Rotkopfgans			x	
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>	Dampfschiffente	x			
Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>	Falkland-Dampfschiffente			x	x
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>	Schopfente			x	x
Yellow-billed pintail	<i>Anas georgica spinicauda</i>	Spitzschwanzente				
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Truthahngeier			x	x
Red-backed Hawk/Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo polysoma</i>	Rotrückenhussard			x	
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalacrocorax australis</i>	Falklandkarakara			x	
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>	Feuerland-Austernfischer			x	x
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>	Südamerikanischer Austernfischer			x	
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	Subantarktiskua	x		x	x
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	Blutschnabelmöwe	x		x	x
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Dominikanermöwe	x		x	x
Brown-hooded gull	<i>Larus maculipennis</i>	Patagonienmöwe				x
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundacea</i>	Falklandseeschwalbe	x			x
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba tuidara</i>	Schleiereule				
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus sanfordi</i>	Sumpfohreule				
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussack Bird)	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus antarcticus</i>	Einfarb-Uferwippen			x	
Dark-faced ground- tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola m. macloviana</i>	Maskentyrann			x	
Falkland Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera grayi</i>	Falklandpieper			x	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Hausperling				x
Black-throated Finch / White-bridled finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera melanodera</i>	Schwarzkehl-Ammerfink				x
Falkland Thrush	<i>Turdus falklandii falklandii</i>	Magellandrossel			x	
Black-chinned siskin	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>	Bartzeisig			x	x
Long-tailed Meadow Lark	<i>Sturnella loyca falklandica</i>	Langschwanz-Soldatenstärling			x	x

**Marine mammals**

English	Latin	Deutsch	23-Nov	24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Zwergwal				
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal				
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal				
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal				
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal				
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	Südlicher Entenwal				
Straptoothed Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>	Layard-Wal				
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Grindwal				
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal				
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Stundenglasdelfin				x
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale-Delfin				
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson-Delfin			x	
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Südlicher See-Elefant				
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	Mähnenrobbe			x	x
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	Südamerikanischer Seebär				





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# Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader

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Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley. Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline. She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island. Her particular interest is

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

## Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin im sogenannten "Camp" wie auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zuständig für den Bereich Bildung des Umweltamtes und teilte ihre Zeit zwischen Klassenzimmer und Naturschutz. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt betrieb. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, um zu wandern, Ski zu laufen und die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert sind. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

Ali arbeitet bereits seit vielen Jahren auf allen Schiffen der Oceanwide-Flotte, sowohl in der Antarktis wie auch der Arktis. Sie ist vor kurzem von Northumberland in England auf die Isle of Skye in Schottland gezogen, wo sie zur Zeit eine alte Kate renoviert. In ihrer Freizeit genießt sie die unglaublichen Wandermöglichkeiten der Insel.

Ihr besonderes Interesse gilt der Natur und der Tierwelt: dieses Wissen und ihre Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen teilt sie gerne mit Euch.

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# Pippa Low - Assistant Expedition Leader

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Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 15 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and the polar regions. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

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

outreach and research. After working in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica as a research assistant, she fell in love with Antarctica. Pippa now works as a full-time guide and Expedition Leader in both the Arctic and Antarctica. In-between seasons, she still finds time to work on research projects – most recently completing a masters research degree specialising in Humpback Whale physiology.

Pippa arbeitet seit 15 Jahren als Schiffsführerin und Skipperin, vor allem in Schottland, Australien, Neuseeland und den Polarregionen. Als Meereswissenschaftlerin, die sich auf die Erforschung und den Schutz von Meeressäugern spezialisiert hat, teilt sie ihre Zeit zwischen den beiden Hemisphären auf und liebt es, der Öffentlichkeit die Meereswelt und alles, was sie zu bieten hat, zu zeigen.

Als sie an der Küste des unglaublichen Moray Firth aufwuchs, entfachte sie ihre Liebe für die Meereswelt und ihre Bewohner. Sie verbrachte jede freie Minute im, auf oder unter Wasser. Ihr Berufsleben spiegelte diese Liebe schon in jungen Jahren wider: Sie wurde Ausbilderin in verschiedenen maritimen Disziplinen und studierte anschließend Meeresbiologie an der Universität in Schottland und später auch in Australien.

Nach Abschluss ihres Studiums arbeitete Pippa als Beobachterin von Meeressäugern, als wissenschaftliche Taucherin und als Forschungsassistentin an verschiedenen Forschungsprojekten, u. a. in den Bereichen Fotoidentifikation, Migration, Verteilung und Verhaltensstudien zu einer Reihe von Meeressäugern. Sie hat ein starkes Interesse am Schutz der Meeressäuger durch Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Forschung entwickelt. Nachdem sie als Forschungsassistentin in der Ross Sea Region der Antarktis gearbeitet hatte, verliebte sie sich in die Antarktis. Pippa arbeitet jetzt als Vollzeit-Guide und Expeditionsleiterin sowohl in der Arktis als auch in der Antarktis. Zwischen den Saisons findet sie immer noch Zeit, an Forschungsprojekten zu arbeiten - zuletzt schloss sie einen Masterstudiengang ab, der sich auf die Physiologie der Buckelwale spezialisierte.

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# George Kennedy - Expedition Guide

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George is an Australian social scientist specialising in polar geopolitics. He completed a Masters in Anthropology at Monash University in 2016 and a Graduate Diploma in Antarctic Governance at the Australian Institute for Marine and Antarctic Science in 2021. Since completing his studies, George has worked within the policy office of the Australian Antarctic Division, collaborating with other Antarctic Treaty Parties to develop sustainable tourism practices, environmental protection frameworks and fisheries management strategies.

Prior to his political studies, George worked as an ALS Paramedic in Australia, as well as a community development coordinator for conservation organisations in Latin America. George has a passion for travel, boats, and motorcycles. Over a three-year period, he rode a motorcycle from Patagonia to Mexico, exploring Latin America on two wheels. It was during his time in Patagonia that his passion for the Polar Regions developed, working closely with conservation organisations in Tierra del Fuego and visiting Antarctica

for the first time in 2017. George has been guiding in Antarctica and the Arctic since 2019, sharing stories of its incredible wildlife, landscapes and, of course, its unique politics.

## Deutsch

George ist Anthropologe und Politikwissenschaftler und studiert derzeit am Australian Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science. Er hat ein großes Interesse an kultureller Identität und zeitgenössischer Geopolitik in den Polarregionen. Seine aktuelle Forschung konzentriert sich auf die komplexe Dynamik zwischen indigenen, wissenschaftlichen und politischen Stakeholdern in ihrem Streben nach Umweltschutz in der Antarktis und Arktis.

In seiner Erfahrung als Anthropologe hat George vorwiegend mit Community Development Organisationen in Lateinamerika zusammengearbeitet. Seine Arbeit konzentrierte sich auf die Identifizierung kollaborativer Lösungen zur Unterstützung des Umweltschutzes und des nachhaltigen Tourismus in Patagonien und im Amazonasbecken.

Bevor er als Anthropologie arbeitete war George als Sanitäter in Australien und gelegentlich findet man George noch immer im Rettungswagen Victoria in Melbourne.

Seine zweite Leidenschaft nach den Expeditionskreuzfahrten sind Motorradreisen. Er ist mit seiner Kawasaki KLR650 von der Mongolei über Indien nach Australien und zuletzt von Patagonien nach Mexiko gefahren.

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# Cas Eikenaar - Expedition guide

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

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

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

## Deutsch

Cas ist ein Verhaltensökologe mit besonderem Interesse an Vögeln. Er wuchs in den Niederlanden auf und wusste bereits mit sechs Jahren, dass er Ornithologe werden wollte. Nach seinem Biologiestudium reiste er mehr als 20 Jahre lang durch die Welt, um Vögel in ihren natürlichen Lebensräumen zu erforschen. Einige dieser Projekte führten ihn auf die Seychellen, die Galapagosinseln, nach Australien und in die ecuadorianischen Anden. Oft verbrachte er Monate damit, kleine unbewohnte Inseln mit den dort lebenden zauberhaften Tieren und Pflanzen zu teilen. Solche Erfahrungen, sagt er, haben seine tiefe Faszination für die Natur genährt.

Cas arbeitet derzeit am Institut für Vogelforschung "Vogelwarte Helgoland" in Wilhelmshaven, wo er die Beziehung zwischen Physiologie und Verhalten bei Zugvögeln untersucht. Neben seiner beruflichen Verbindung zu Vögeln ist er ein begeisterter „Birder“, der schon seit seiner Kindheit ein Fernglas besitzt. Vögel sind jedoch bei weitem nicht die einzigen Organismen, die seine Aufmerksamkeit auf sich ziehen. Cas hat einfach eine große Leidenschaft für die lebende Welt um uns herum und hat ein starkes Interesse an (und ein Auge für) alle Formen der Tierwelt.

Cas ist gebürtiger Niederländer, spricht aber auch fließend Englisch und Deutsch. Er würde gerne seine Leidenschaft für die Natur mit allen an Bord teilen. Dabei möchte Cas Ihnen nicht nur bei der Identifizierung der Vögel und anderer Tiere helfen, sondern Ihnen auch etwas über deren Verhalten, Ökologie und Evolution erzählen. Er ist überzeugt, dass Sie dadurch die wunderbare Natur, die Sie während der Expeditionen mit Oceanwide erleben, noch mehr schätzen werden.

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# Stefanie Liller – Expedition Guide

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

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveller by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents,

she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

## Deutsch

Steffi wurde in Offenbach/Main 1978 geboren. Nach erfolgreicher Ausbildung zur Biologielaborantin am Paul-Ehrlich-Institut in Langen absolvierte sie das Studium der Biologie und Meteorologie in Darmstadt und Freiburg. Neben dem Studium und ihrer Liebe zur Natur entwickelte sie darüber hinaus eine weitere, sportliche Leidenschaft und zwar fürs Fallschirmspringen, das im Laufe der Zeit vom Hobby auch zum beruflichen Lebensmittelpunkt wurde. Stefanie Liller arbeitete auf Fallschirmsprungplätzen und Indoor-Skydiving-Anlagen in ganz Mitteleuropa und erfreute sich besonders daran, anderen Menschen ihre Faszination für diesen Sport näherbringen zu können. So verbrachte sie einen Großteil ihrer Karriere als Coach und legte stets besonderen Wert darauf ihre eigene Leidenschaft, Neugierigen und Interessierten zugänglich zu machen. Ab 2011 war sie im Management verschiedener Indoor-Skydiving-Anlagen in Deutschland und Österreich tätig. Neben dem beruflichen Werdegang war und ist Stefanie Liller stets begeisterte Weltreisende geblieben. Auf allen sieben Kontinenten erkundete sie Landschaften und Gebiete, meistens zu Fuß oder mit den öffentlichen Verkehrsmitteln, und erfreut sich daran, ihre Erfahrungen und einzigartigen Momente mit Interessierten zu teilen. Seit 2017 arbeitet sie selbstständig als Coach auf Sprungplätzen und Indoor Skydiving Anlagen, sowie Lektor und Guide auf verschiedenen Schiffen in abgesehenen Regionen. Als Wahlheimat und Basis zwischen den Trips ist sie in Wien ansässig.

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# Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide

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

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

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the

world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

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

Katlyn ist ein Guide, die ursprünglich aus dem pazifischen Nordwesten der Vereinigten Staaten stammt. Sie wuchs an der Küste von Oregon auf und lernte dort die maritimen Tiere kennen.

Sie ist Kapitänin und Reiseleiterin auf Walbeobachtungsbooten in den gesamten USA. Sie hat über 9 Jahre lang sowohl im Nordatlantik als auch im Nordpazifik gearbeitet. Im Jahr 2023 verlagerte sie ihre Karriere auf Expeditionsführungen und arbeitete in der Antarktis und in Alaska. Im vergangenen Sommer hat sie Reisen in der Beringsee, auf den Aleuten und im Südosten Alaskas geleitet.

Ihre Leidenschaft ist es, Erfahrungen mit der Tierwelt zu vermitteln, Menschen über die Meeresbewohner aufzuklären und ihre Gäste zu Naturschutzmaßnahmen zu inspirieren. Sie liebt die Gemeinschaft, die im Rahmen von Citizen-Science-Projekten an diesen entlegenen Orten der Welt aufgebaut werden kann. Die Neugier auf die Natur zu erhalten und Zeit draußen zu verbringen, um nach Wildtieren Ausschau zu halten, sind zwei ihrer Lieblingsbeschäftigungen auf jeder Reise.

Sie hat einen Bachelor-Abschluss der Oregon State University in Meeresbiologie und Internationale Studien. Sie ist Junior Fellow am Safina Center der Stonybrook University. Ihre größte Leidenschaft und Liebe gilt den Meeressäugern, insbesondere den Walen. Sie ist Mitveranstalterin einer Sendung namens The Whalenerd's Podcast, einem wissenschaftlichen Kommunikationsprojekt über Wale und andere Meeresthemen.

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# Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide

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Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife. Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and

portraits of people all over the world.

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

## German

Koen Hoekemeijer wurde 1974 in den Niederlanden geboren. Wenn es um die Natur und die Tierwelt geht, war Koen ein ziemlicher Spätzünder, denn er war schon immer eher für das Nachtleben und sonnige Strände zu begeistern. Das änderte sich jedoch, als er 2009 in Costa Rica seine Leidenschaft für die Tierwelt und die Fotografie entdeckte. Während dieser Reise sah Koen zum ersten Mal Buckelwale, in die er sich sofort verliebte. Er wollte nicht nur mehr und andere Arten von Walen an Orten auf der ganzen Welt sehen, sondern auch lernen, wie man diese erstaunlichen Kreaturen besser fotografiert. Mit der Liebe zu Walen und zur Fotografie wuchs auch seine Leidenschaft für alle Arten von Wildtieren.

Seit diesem denkwürdigen Urlaub im Jahr 2009 reist Koen um die Welt, um die schönsten Orte der Welt zu sehen und zu fotografieren. Normalerweise von Booten, Jeeps oder einfach mit dem Gesicht im Schlamm, aber seit 2016 auch unter Wasser. Schnorcheln in der Gegenwart von Walen und Orcas macht Koen einfach glücklich.

Zu seinen Lieblingstieren gehören Wale, Orcas, Pinguine, Tiger und Jaguare. Aber zwischen den Safaris macht er auch gerne Straßenfotografie und fängt das Leben und die Porträts von Menschen auf der ganzen Welt ein.

Koen ist davon überzeugt, dass Reisen nicht nur das Leben bereichert, sondern auch bescheidener und wertschätzender macht und eine neue Perspektive und ein neues Verständnis ermöglicht. Koen hat den prestigeträchtigen WWF Frans Lanting Fotowettbewerb gewonnen, und im Jahr 2020 gewann er den Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Fotowettbewerb. Koen's Traum ist es, eines Tages einen Vizsla-Hund zu haben und eine kleine Hütte irgendwo in Nordnorwegen zu besitzen, umgeben von Schnee und Bäumen



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# Joshua Peck – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

Following on from obtaining degrees in History and Politics in Bristol and London in the United Kingdom, Josh returned home to the Falkland Islands to pursue his passion for wildlife and wild places, co-

founding a local tour company with two childhood friends in 2016. Focussing on nature and historical tours, Josh worked for the following four seasons guiding and sharing his love of his home with the many guests that visited.

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

Als gebürtiger Falklandinsulaner war Josh schon immer von der Natur und der Erkundung neuer Ziele fasziniert.

Aufgewachsen im Naturparadies der Falklandinseln - mit den Polarregionen vor der Haustür - hat Josh den größten Teil seines Lebens an der Seite von Pinguinen, Robben und Walen verbracht, zuletzt in Südgeorgien, wo er vier Monate lang für die Regierung von Südgeorgien gearbeitet hat.

Josh liebt es, an abgelegenen Orten und auf isolierten Inseln zu leben und zu arbeiten, vor allem in seiner Heimat, den Falklandinseln, wo er schon seit seiner Kindheit an Naturschutzprojekten beteiligt ist. Josh ist außerdem viel in der Welt herumgereist und hat in den USA und Kanada sowie in Island, Sambia, Australien und Polen gearbeitet.

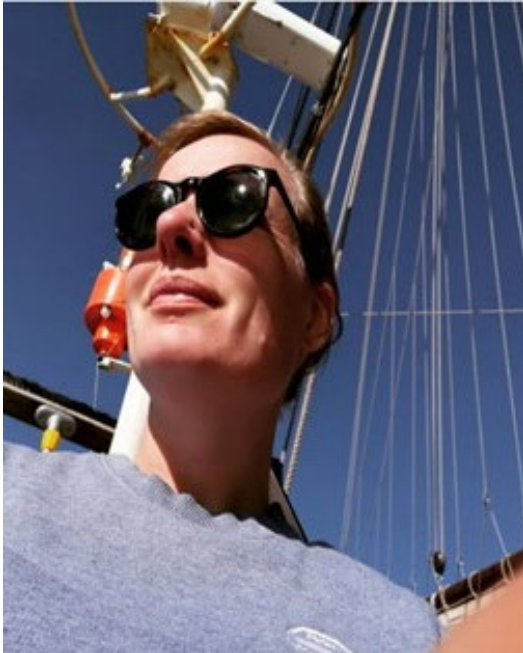
Nach seinem Studium der Geschichte und Politik in Bristol und London im Vereinigten Königreich kehrte Josh auf die Falklandinseln zurück, um seiner Leidenschaft für die Tierwelt und wilde Orte nachzugehen. 2016 gründete er zusammen mit zwei Jugendfreunden ein lokales Reiseunternehmen. Mit dem Schwerpunkt auf Natur- und Geschichtstouren arbeitete Josh in den folgenden vier Saisons als Reiseleiter und teilte seine Liebe zu seiner Heimat mit den vielen Gästen, die ihn besuchten.

Als begeisterter Fotograf und internationaler Fußballspieler für sein Heimatland (Fußball) ist er immer auf der Suche nach neuen Erfahrungen und Orten, die er besuchen kann, um seinen Horizont zu erweitern, und er freut sich auf weitere Abenteuer mit Oceanwide Expeditions in dieser Saison.

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# Anneke Planting – Ships doctor

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Anneke was born and raised in the picturesque province of Friesland in the Netherlands. She skipped her high school graduation to travel to Canada and work as a counselor at a summer camp before starting her medical studies in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. During this time, she discovered a deep love for Canada and its majestic nature. In her daily life Anneke works as a vascular surgeon and a locum in emergency medicine.

Combining her love of travel and medicine, she became a ship's doctor and accompanied transatlantic voyages on tall ships. As a ship's doctor, this role also provided her with the opportunity to fulfill her long-held desire to explore the polar regions. This confluence of her love for medicine, travel and the polar regions is a dream come true for Anneke. With a sparkle

in her eye and a friendly smile, she now has the extraordinary opportunity to step onto the ice and observe its breathtaking beauty. This is Anneke's fourth trip on the Plancius.

Anneke wurde in der malerischen Provinz Friesland in den Niederlanden geboren und aufgewachsen. Sie ließ ihre Abschlussfeier am Gymnasium aus, um nach Kanada zu reisen und als Betreuerin in einem Sommercamp zu arbeiten, bevor sie ihr Medizinstudium in Nijmegen, den Niederlanden, begann. Während dieser Zeit entdeckte sie eine tiefe Liebe für Kanada und seine majestätische Natur. Im Alltag Anneke ist Anneke Gefäßchirurgin und Honorarärztin in der chirurgische Notfallmedizin.

Indem sie ihre Liebe zum Reisen und zur Medizin kombinierte, wurde sie Schiffsärztin und begleitete transatlantische Reisen auf Großseglern. Als Schiffsärztin bot ihr diese Rolle auch die Möglichkeit, ihren lang gehegten Wunsch zu erfüllen, die Polarregionen zu erkunden. Diese Zusammenführung ihrer Liebe zur Medizin, zum Reisen und zu den Polarregionen ist für Anneke ein wahr gewordener Traum. Mit einem Funkeln in den Augen und einem freundlichen Lächeln hat sie jetzt die außergewöhnliche Gelegenheit, das Eis zu betreten und die atemberaubende Schönheit zu beobachten. Dies ist Anneke's vierte Reise auf die Plancius.



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Ushuaia

Embarkation

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **The Falkland Islands.** Your Expedition Leader, Ali lived in the Falklands for 15 years so please join her in the Lounge for a presentation about the islands.
- 1100 **A Life at Sea.** We will be seeing many seabirds on our voyage so please join Kas in the Lounge to learn more about these iconic birds.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **The Falkland Islands.** Josh is a Falkland Islander so please join him in the Lounge for a presentation about the history of the Falkland Islands and life on this remote archipelago.
- 1630 **Boots.** We will invite you by deck to collect your boots from the Boot Room which is on Deck 3 forward
- 1815 **Zodiac Briefing and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the Mandatory Zodiac safety briefing and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

**We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica New Island

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- 0640 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~0745 **New Island Settlement.** This morning we hope to take you ashore at the settlement landing at New Island. At the landing site there is a small museum where you can buy locally made souvenirs. Cards payment, Cash in £, Euro and \$.
- From here you can walk up the hill to the Black browed albatross colony where you will also see Rockhopper penguins. The walk is around 1km. The scenery is beautiful on the way. We also hope to be able to walk around to the settlement to where there is a Gentoo penguin colony.
- 1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1330 **New Island North.** In the afternoon we hope to land at North Harbour where there are large colonies of Gentoo penguins and Magellanic penguins. We may be able to walk to the albatross colonies on the west coast and over to the northern sand beach where the Gentoo penguins come ashore. Both are around 1.5 km walk from the landing site.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Stanley

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

**At this time we will be making our final approach towards Stanley Harbour. Keep a look out for dolphins and enjoy the navigation through The Narrows.**

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

0830 **Stanley.** We hope to be able to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Jetty Centre.

Enjoy a visit to the museum and a walk along the sea front where you will find the shops and Post Office.

Local currency is Pounds Sterling but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also accepted.

WiFi internet cards can be bought at the Jetty Centre and used at WiFi hotspots in town.

1300 **Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

1500 **The Falklands War.** Josh will give a presentation about the war that took place in the Falkland Islands in 1982. This will be in the Lounge.

1630 **Island Isolation! Escaping Covid.** Ali spent much of the covid pandemic on Sea Lion Island, one of the remote islands in the Falklands. Please join her in the Lounge to hear some stories of island life.

1900 **Dinner** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## At Sea to the South Georgia

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Introduction to South Georgia.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for an introduction to the island of South Georgia, including aspects of history, the economy and the wildlife.
- 1100 **Pinnipeds of the Southern Oceans.** We saw some Sea lions in Stanley and will be seeing many Fur seals and Elephant seals on South Georgia. Join Pippa in the Lounge to learn more about seals.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Penguins.** We have already seen many penguins on our voyage but if you'd like to find out more about the species we have seen and those that we hope to see please join Koen in the Lounge.
- 1630 **Who owns South Georgia and why?** George is going to explain about the politics of the island and give you the answer to this question. Please join him in the Lounge. \*
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

\* PS Simple answer.... Britain!!



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## At Sea to the South Georgia

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **South Georgia Briefing and Bio-security.** These are mandatory briefings that everyone must attend.
- 1030 **Bio-security.** Cleaning sessions in the Lounge. We will call you by deck to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA – depending on our progress with Bio-security
- Introduction to the Whales of the Southern Ocean.** After many years of over exploitation by whalers the Southern Ocean populations of whales are slowly increasing. Please join Katlyn in the Lounge to find out more about the species we may see.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.





# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## At Sea to the South Georgia

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Sunrise**      **04:03**

0745      Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

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

During the early morning we will be sailing towards the northern tip of South Georgia and approaching King Haakon Bay. We expect to see icebergs as we approach so enjoy the views and navigation and please listen for any announcements regarding our programme.

1200      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

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

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

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

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Salisbury Plain and Possession Bay

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Sunrise 04:01**

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **Salisbury Plain.** This morning we hope to take you on a zodiac cruise to view the king penguin colony of Salisbury Plain. There will be lots of penguins in the water and we will try and take the boats close to the shore for you to take photographs of the penguins on the beach. Please dress warmly as we will be out in the boats for 2+ hours.

1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

## **Expedition Afternoon in Possession Bay**

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

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

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

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Fortuna Bay and Stromness

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**Sunrise**      **0356**

0645      Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800      **Fortuna Bay.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Fortuna Bay where there is a colony of king penguins made up of around 10,000 breeding pairs. The landing beach is quite small with many fur seals and elephant seals so **please, please** follow the marker poles and the direction of the guides. It is 1.5km from the beach to the king penguin colony and you will pass many fur seals on the route. **Please remain vigilant to wildlife on the way.**

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

TBA      **Stromness.** We hope to be able to take you ashore near the whaling station of Stromness. Here we will find Fur seals on the beach as well as some penguins and Elephant seals. We hope to be able to offer a walk up the valley to Shackleton's waterfall. Please keep your distance from wildlife and follow the marker poles on shore.

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

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

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Grytviken and St Andrews Bay  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.  
The navigation into Cumberland Bay is extremely scenic so enjoy our approach. On arrival we will collect the Government Officer and museum staff from shore.  
**PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR OUTER GEAR AND RUBBER BOOTS ARE CLEAN.**
- TBA **Grytviken.** This morning, after we have cleared customs we will take you ashore at Grytviken. This is subject to some restrictions due to HPAI so please follow the advice of staff on shore.  
There is a museum, shop and Post Office. The shop and Post Office take Pounds Sterling and also card payments. You can also visit the church.  
We will visit the cemetery where you will find the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton. The first 5 boats will go to the cemetery first while the next 5 boats will go to the museum and church. During the morning we will swap.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **St Andrew's Bay.** For our final activity on South Georgia, we hope to take you on a zodiac cruise at St Andrew's Bay where we will find the largest King penguin colony on South Georgia with around 350,000 breeding pairs of penguins. We will cruise along the shore for views of the colony and mountains.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to Antarctica  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **The Year in the life of a Humpback Whale.** Join Katlyn in the Lounge to hear about the lives and migrations of these iconic whales.
- 1100 **Krill.** Krill forms the basis of the Antarctic food chain providing food for penguins, seals and whales. If you would like to learn more about these little pink critters, then please join Steffi in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Whaling on South Georgia.** We saw the whaling stations of Grytviken, Stromness and Prince Olav but if you would like to hear more about the history of whaling on South Georgia, please join Pippa in the Lounge.
- 1630 **Alien Oceans.** Eduardo will explain about the concept of aliens in our oceans! Please join him in the Lounge.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

**We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## At Sea to Antarctica

Monday 4th December 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.** Please join Josh in the Lounge to hear the remarkable story of Shackleton's Endurance Expedition.
- 1100 **Antarctic Geopolitics.** No single nation owns Antarctica, which makes the politics of this continent unique. To find out more about the Antarctic Treaty and the nations signed up to it, please join George in the Lounge
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Photography.** We have already taken many photos during this voyage but if you would like to learn how to improve your photography skills for the next part of our voyage then please join Koen in the Lounge.
- 1800 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction.** SGHT is a charitable organisation and for them to continue their environmental and cultural conservation projects on South Georgia we will hold a charity auction on board.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

**We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## At Sea to Antarctica

Tuesday 5th December 2023

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Whales as ecosystem engineers.** We were lucky to see some humpback whales during our voyage. If you would like to find out about their role in the maritime ecosystem, then please join Katlyn in the Lounge.
- 1100 **To fly or not to fly.** We have seen many albatross around the ship and penguins on shore in the Falklands and South Georgia but why do some birds fly and some birds waddle? Join Kas in the Lounge to find out.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Ice Maidens, Women in Antarctica.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for a presentation about the history of women in Antarctica and stories about some of the women behind the men who explored the frozen continent.
- 1630 **Exploration of the Ocean.** Eduardo has spoken about Alien Oceans but now will talk about how we explore the deep oceans of the world. Please join him in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

**We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Elephant Island

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

0430 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali as we approach Point Wild.

**There will be pastries and juice available in the Lounge.**

**Point Wild** This is where Shackleton left 22 of his men and set sail to South Georgia. If conditions allow – the wind and swell and ice, we hope to be able to take you out on a zodiac cruise at Point Wild where we will see chinstrap penguins on shore nesting by the statue of Captain Louis Pardo. Please listen for announcements.

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

During the morning we will cruise between Elephant Island and Clarence Island which is often a good place to see whales. Weather will dictate our options during the morning before we sail on towards Antarctica.

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

1500 Mini lecture series. Staff will give 3 short presentations covering the Search for the Endurance, Whale Song and the Last Whaler.

1630 **Photography.** Koen will give another presentation on how to improve your photography skills. Please join him in the Lounge.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.





# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Antarctica!

Thursday 7th December 2023

0415 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

**There will be pastries and juice available in the Lounge.**

0500 **Gourdin Island.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore on Gordin Island where there are 3 species of penguins breeding on the island. Please follow the direction of the guides and any marker poles.

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

~1030 **Kinnes Cove and Madder Cliffs.** This morning we will be in the region of Kinnes Cove and hope to offer you a zodiac cruise in the area. There are large ice cliffs and a small island where penguins breed. Keep a look out for Leopard seals on the ice!

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

~1500 **Brown Bluff.** This is a continental landing on Antarctica! This afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore at Brown Bluff, which is a stunning location with high cliffs above the landing site. Here there are breeding Adelie and Gentoo penguins. Please follow the route marked by the poles, respect the 5 metre distance from the penguins and please give penguins the right of way.

1900 **Antarctic Dinner** is served on Deck 3 aft. Enjoy your meal!



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## Half Moon Island and Yankee Harbour

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **Half Moon Island.** During the morning we hope to land on Half Moon Island. At this landing site we'll have the chance to see a colony of Chinstrap penguins and sometimes Weddell seals. Please follow the marker poles and please wait at the penguin highways for the penguins to pass.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Yankee Harbour.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore at this bay of Greenwich Island, South Shetlands. At this location we will encounter a colony of Gentoo penguins and there are sometimes Fur seals and Weddell seals on the long isthmus. As in our previous landings, please follow the route marked by the poles.
- After our landing we will be heading north into the Drake Passage. Please prepare yourself and your belongings.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

**We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## Drake Passage

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

There will be no wake-up call this morning but Alex will wake you for breakfast!

- 0800      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930      **An Ocean of Sound.** Join Pippa in the Lounge for a presentation about the bio-acoustics of marine mammals of the Antarctic Ocean, the sounds that they make that cross the miles of the ocean.
- 1100      **Adaptations to the Cold.** To find out how animals survive and thrive in the polar regions please join Cas in the Lounge.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500      **Scott and Amundsen, The Race to the Pole.** In the Golden Age of Exploration the race was to the South Pole. Please join Josh in the Lounge to hear the story of these two men and their expeditions.
- 1630      **Photography, post-trip processing.** You will all have taken many photos during the voyage but what do you do with them when you get home? Join Koen for some advice and tips on how to make the most of your photos.
- 1830      **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.
- 2030      **Plancius Pub Quiz.** Find a team (max 6) and join us in the Lounge for an evening of Antarctic Trivia!



# Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

## Drake Passage

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

- 0745      **Special Wake Up Call** from the Charity Auction!
- 0800      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930      **A Future History of Antarctica.** Please join George in the Lounge for an explanation of the challenges faced in Antarctica with shared governance of a remote continent.
- 1100      **Einstein, Clocks and GPS.** Please join our guest lecturer Edu, for a fascinating presentation about the influence of the work of Einstein in our modern navigation methods.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500      **Boots!** It is time to return your boots to the boot room. We will do this by deck so please listen for announcements. Please return any rental gear and any bags borrowed while on board.
- 1600      **Documentary.** We will screen a nature documentary in the Lounge.
- 1815      **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Levakov in the Lounge to toast our voyage to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.



**Falklands, South  
Georgia and Antarctica  
Ushuaia**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

We will be coming alongside sometime after 0600.

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

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

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

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

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

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

0830/0900 It is time to leave the Little Blue Ship, Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception.

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