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**OCEANWIDE**  
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

## Antarctica Basecamp

30<sup>th</sup> November- 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023



### M/V Ortelius

Ortelius was built in 1989 and originally named Marina Svetaeva, serving as a special-purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS (safety of life at sea) regulations. Ortelius is 90,95 meters long, 17.2 meters wide, and has a maximum draft of 5,4 meters. Her ice class is UL1 (equivalent to 1A), and her average cruising speed is 10,5 knots.

# Captain Per Anderson

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Mikael Svenberg**

2nd Officer: **Yaroslav Pyetukhov**

3rd Officer: **Sander Witseburg**

Chief Engineer: **Andrej Abakumov**

Hotel Manager: **Volodymyr Cherednychenko**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Lilianna Van Meurs**

Head Chef: **Heinz Hacker**

Ships Doctor: **Petra**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Christan Long**

Expedition Guide: **Claudio Ghiglione**

**Martin Anstee**

**Chloe Marechal**

**Charlotte Taplin**

**Zet Freiburghuas**

**Mal Haskins**

**Andy Perkins**

**Andrea Schwetz**

**Pierre Gallego**

**Valeria Herrera**

# Day 1 – 30<sup>th</sup> November

## Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°48.561'S / 068 18.070'W

**Wind:** NW 3, **Sea State:** Rippled, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 14°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C



Today the weather started with beautiful sunshine followed by hail, snow, and rain, but towards the end of the day the sun shone again for us. This matched the mood as we embarked on the beautiful M/V Ortelius. Ninety-two guests boarded the ship at 4pm. We didn't know what to expect on this 12-day Antarctic Basecamp

adventure, but we were welcomed by a smiling crew and staff. It was already off to a great start. We immediately had a mandatory safety briefing from Sara and Mikael, which was followed by the practice abandon-ship drill. The ship finally came away from the port at 19:00, and we were off!

The evening was beautiful and made the Beagle Channel look even more spectacular. The sky was bright pink, and a lot of people were out on deck enjoying the scenery. The first night was a buffet dinner, followed by the last order of the day, a mandatory Zodiac briefing. We went to sleep early, though we were all immensely excited for the voyage.



## Day 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> December

### At Sea towards Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 56°54.8'S / 066°39.0'W

**Wind:** W 2/3, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C



Our first day at sea began with Sara's wakeup call at 7:45, and people woke to the rocking and rolling of the ship. For many this would be the first time they had felt this feeling of the world around us moving from side to side, and the number of people at breakfast was less than for dinner the night before. Sea sickness had begun! The conditions during the day slowly got better, however, and out on deck and in the bridge we spotted many sea birds soaring their way across the ocean surface. We even saw a

few Humpback Whales throughout the day, and the conditions into the evening were really sunny and warm, quite unusual for the furious fifties.

The goal for the day was to finish off the mandatory briefings before heading out for our Basecamp activities in the following days. First it was Mal and Andy at 10am with the mountaineering briefing, Zet with kayaking, and Chris with camping just after lunch. Then at 4pm, Martin gave the first lecture of the trip about photography and tips for taking great pictures on the trip. After a sleepy rest of the afternoon, we gathered in the bar for the daily recap. Sara showed us a bird string, as a visual guide of how large the sea birds outside actually are. The largest albatross is 3.5m across the back of the wings! After recap the gala dinner was called, and to celebrate 30 years of Oceanwide there was champagne on the way to dinner and a huge cake. As the evening drew to a close, the sun set below the horizon. The bar hummed with the sound of excited voices, guests waiting with anticipation for what would come.



## Day 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December

### At Sea towards Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 61°25.4'S / 064°36.0'W

**Wind:** W 2, **Sea State:** Low, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C



In the morning, Sara woke us up at 7.45 AM. We found ourselves still in an unusually quiet Drake passage. The morning started with a few fin whales surfacing close to the ship. Surprisingly, a small school of strap-tooth beaked whales appeared next to the ship and were surfing the waves of the ship. What a perfect introduction to the lecture of Charlotte about the whales of Antarctica! The groups were preparing

themselves for the activities they chose to do, and after lunch the mandatory bio security check had to be made. By the afternoon, there were already plenty of whale blows visible, most of them Fin Whales and Humpback Whales. The density grew as we crossed the Antarctic Convergence, where the colder waters of Antarctica meet the warmer waters of the South Atlantic.

A little bit later we found our first huge iceberg on the horizon, and another one appeared shortly after. A short time later, the whole scene was surrounded by whale blows, and the closer we approached the iceberg, the more sea birds were flying around the ship. We passed that enormous and spectacular iceberg, massive in size and in all tones of blue and turquoise. We were constantly surrounded by a bunch of gliders: the Light Mantled Sooty Albatross, which uses the



upwind from the waves. We also saw Antarctic Petrel, Cape Petrel, and Grey-Browed Albatross



following us. But the highlight was to see the breaches of a humpback whale, which was around 250m away from the ship. The recaps followed: first Sarah told us her plans for the next day, our first day to set foot on the continent. Then Pierre told us interesting facts about the beaked whales, and after that Mel and Andy prepared the group of mountaineers. A plated dinner followed,

and Sara said it was the best travel day through the Drake Passage ever, regarding the amount of wildlife we spotted. A few more hours till we would arrive at the White Continent!

## Day 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°44.5'S / 062°36.7'W

**Wind:** SW 2/3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** P.Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

## Danco Island and Orne Harbour



Our first day in the Antarctic Peninsula! The early birds who were keen and up at 4 am were treated to beautiful soft morning light and humpbacks around Ortelius. By the time all of us were up and finishing breakfast, we were stationed off Danco island, named after one of the crew of the Belgica expedition of Adrien Gerlache. The island is also home to a major colony of Gentoo



penguins. Many of us had a chance to wander up and see the highways leading from their rookeries to the ocean. The mountaineers were able to go from the landing on the western shore down to its southern tip, examining the Antarctic snowpack on the way.

Coming back along its eastern coast, they were able to look across at the kayaking team, paddling in a tranquil spot on the opposite side of the island from Ortelius. What a joy to be floating alone in the Antarctic Ocean waters. During lunch we transferred to Orne Harbour, a cove surrounded by spectacular peaks. The mountaineers climbed one of these, the impressive Spigot Peak. Snow conditions were perfect. Meanwhile, the kayakers paddled around in the cove, also visiting a chinstrap penguin colony. Here the chinstraps climb 100m above the sea to nest on a rocky ridge. This doesn't prevent brown skuas from eating their eggs. In the evening, the campers were shuttled to Kerr Point, where they spent a night under polar skies.



It was a full day!

## Day 5 – 4<sup>th</sup> December

### Useful Island and Orne Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°44.5'S / 062°51.8'W

**Wind:** SSE 2, **Sea State:** Calm/ice, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°

After picking up our intrepid camping team, we sailed down through the Errara Channel and out towards Useful Island. Useful Island is a small outcrop lying 3.2 km to the west of Ronge Island, which was discovered during the 1987-99 Belgian Antarctic Expedition led by Adrien de Gerlache. The geography of this island is Mesozoic granite, and the island is home to both Gentoo and Chinstrap colonies as well as the occasional Adelie Penguin.



Our planned landing here was thwarted due to the sheer numbers of wildlife present, so we changed to a Zodiac cruise instead. This offered us the chance to see some simply stunning iceberg formations – one of which looked amazingly like a large mushroom! Another incredible sight during this Zodiac cruise was observing an enormous raft of Gentoo Penguins cleaning themselves out in the open water. The seas were quite calm, which allowed our kayaking team to enjoy







themselves in and amongst the ice watching the penguins swim by and generally having a fantastic time.

Our mountaineering team travelled over to Kettley Point, a part of Ronge Island where they anchored their Zodiacs and made their way up onto the glacier above. There they had amazing views of the Gerlache Strait and the icebergs slowly drifting out towards more open waters.

Returning to the ship, we had an amazing lunch and began to get ready for our next landing and afternoons adventures on Orne Islands. The largest of the Orne Islands is a moderately sloped low rocky dome rising to around 75m, with a rocky central ridge and permanent snowbanks. The islands here are home to both Gentoo and Chinstrap colonies, and we were able to make a series of circuits of the main island to observe both adorable penguin species. Whilst on the island, we were treated to a spectacular event: a large iceberg began to break up and roll in front of us, a timely reminder of why it's important to keep our distance.



Our kayakers were paddling around the islands at this point – well away from any dangerous waves created by the rolling iceberg, but starting to be affected by the steadily increasing swell that was beginning to form from the freshening northerly winds. The mountaineers were once



again away on another part of the peninsula – but not too far – they had gone to Georges Point, where they were able to get ashore and off the water to the glacier above. Once roped up, they climbed slowly but surely to their summit of the day: a col between two large rocky outcrops, where they could see the remains of the iceberg. They'd heard it collapse but had been unable to see it. The sound of distant crashing was unmistakable. As the weather began to deteriorate, all our

groups once again made for the safety of Ortelius.

## Day 6 – 5th December

### Petermann Island and Pléneau Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 65°10.6'S / 064°07.7'W

**Wind:** SW2 5, **Sea State:** Calm/Ice, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C

After an early morning wakeup call from Sara, we started our way down the Lemaire Channel. All the passengers were out on deck, enjoying the high mountains on the sides of the narrow passage with stunning reflections.



For our morning activity, we made it to our most southerly position and were ready to land on Peterman Island. On land the guides prepared a little hike passing Gentoo colonies and a small



colony of Adelie penguins before the route continued up to a viewpoint. It was here we stood, watching over the southern sea with huge Icebergs floating around. On the way back to the ship, all the Zodiacs were cruising by a small iceberg to see a beautiful leopard seal. Pléneau, with its iceberg graveyard, was our afternoon Zodiac outing. We had a three-hour long cruise amongst the amazing icebergs, followed by a slow cruise deep in the bays. On the fast ice, there were several resting Weddell Seals.



Kayakers were kayaking in both morning and afternoon, and mountaineers had great hikes up the mountains with beautiful views at the top. The Expedition Team and Sara informed us of tomorrow's plans, and this followed with another fantastic three-course dinner. It was another spectacular day in Antarctica.

## Day 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> December

### Port Lockroy and Damoy Point

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°49.8'S / 063°30.4'W

**Wind:** WSW 6/7, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



Having picked up our campers after a perfect night out, we headed back through the Lemaire and up to area surrounding the British base at Port Lockroy.

Our Zodiac cruisers were delighted with sightings of Antarctic wildlife: Elephant Seals, Weddell Seals, and Crabeater seals as well as all three main species of penguin, Gentoo, Adelie, and Chinstrap all in one place. The Gentoo Penguins at

Dorian Bay had nested right underneath the British hut there, so we weren't able to go inside this historic monument nor the British base at Port Lockroy due to concerns about avian flu transmission. One of our guides, Martin, gave a very informative talk about both huts in the afternoon recap in the bar.

Meanwhile, the mountaineering team summited the stunning Jabet Peak, dominating the bay at over 500m above sea level. The weather closed in with a lowering cloud base and rising winds, but snow conditions were excellent, allowing six technical climbers a special moment on top. They rejoined our team at Damoy Point, where we were getting good views of the gentoo colony. The kayakers paddled around Port Lockroy in a sea state that was described as "sporty". The weather





forecast was due to deteriorate the following day, so with a flexible expedition mindset we set course northwest for the Melchior Islands. Every cloud has a silver lining, as we saw humpback whales close to the ship on this passage. Sara informed us at recap that the weather will be deteriorating tomorrow, so we battened down the hatches and prepared for the wind. This was followed by a very interesting recap from Chris about lenticular

clouds. You could tell everyone was in a good mood from the general buzz in the dining room.

## Day 8 – 7<sup>th</sup> November

### Melchior Islands / Fournier Bay

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°19.3'S / 062°59.3'W

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



We'd discovered that the forecast had made a turn away from the amazing conditions we had been enjoying. We needed to find safe haven from the gale force southwest winds forecast to batter the Peninsula.

The Melchior Islands are a group of many low, ice-covered islands lying near the centre of Dallmann Bay in the Palmer Archipelago, Antarctica. They were first seen but left

unnamed by a German expedition under Eduard Dallmann, 1873–74. The islands were resighted and roughly charted by the Third French Antarctic Expedition under Jean-Baptiste Charcot, 1903–05. The mornings activities were a Zodiac cruise around and amongst these islands with the main group called Gamma, Omega, Zeta, and Kappa creating an area known as Inner Harbour.

From this calm location, we set off to explore, Pierre and Andi found two Humpbacks 1km from ship, both feeding, other Zodiacs joined this spectacle, making sure we didn't encroach on these gentle giants as they fed on Krill. The Humpbacks needed to dive down to set themselves up to bubble feed, and we were all treated to an amazingly beautiful session of whale fluking as well. We needed to head back to the



ship, but we were surprised on the way back by a flag bearing Zodiac with a giant penguin in that served us all a special hot chocolate drink each. Our mountain team spent the morning out in search of useful sites for mountaineering venues and routes for future bad weather days, so despite not getting a days mountaineering activity, the time was well spent by our Mountain Guides.

Heading towards Fournier Bay, we were first treated to a lecture by Chloe about her most passionate subject;



Plankton. As we sailed deeper into the bay, we began to become aware that we were literally surrounded by Humpback Whales – literally in every direction we looked. As we marveled at this spectacle, we noticed that the ship's crew were busy setting up the outside grills. That night was BBQ night on the helideck! Good food, a few drinks, and fun dancing was the order of the

night.



## Day 9 – 8<sup>th</sup> November

### Brown Station and Neko Harbour

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°50.3'S / 062°52.4'W

**Wind:** VAR 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

Waking up to a calm morning in Paradise Bay, we slowly approached Brown Station, where we had the first landing of the day. We did a combined landing at the station, with a walk to the peak and a Zodiac cruise into the ice in paradise bay. The mountaineers had left at 0600 this morning to climb Molina Point. Andy and Mal had scoped out this peak the day before, and now it was a go ahead with six guests. It was 330 metres above sea level.



The bay was absolutely stunning with incredible icebergs, mountains and glaciers reflecting into the water, a perfect mirror of what we were seeing above the water was reflecting below. After a walk at Brown Station, Sara offered us a short Zodiac cruise in the bay, and our Zodiac drivers slowly took us into the bay to observe the beauty.



The kayakers cruised slowly by the cliffs where the Antarctic Shags were breeding and then deeper into the ice. Towards the very end of the morning, we were graced with the presence of three Weddell Seals lying on small pieces of glacier ice. They were very calm and allowed us to approach gently and slowly to a five-metre distance. Back on the ship, we heard the soothing voice of Vova announcing that it was lunchtime.



Neko Harbour in the afternoon made the third continental landing of the trip and second of today. We hiked up to the penguins and looked out toward the glacier, where some of us were standing for a long time to see a calving. Unfortunately, there was no calving, no matter how much we all wanted it, but we did see two impressive avalanches

thunder down the mountains. The mountaineers had already left earlier up past the Gentoo colony and came back to the landing towards the end. They seemed happy after their hike up the hill. The fog and snow started to roll in, and at 17:00 everyone had made it back to the landing site for the last Zodiac.

Back on Ortelius, we all started to warm up with tea, hot chocolate, and even a few of us with an alcoholic beverage. Sara gave us the plans for our last shore landing, and she had a very impressive rope she used to show us the sizes of the biggest whales in the world.





# Day 10 – 9<sup>th</sup> December

## Whalers Bay, Deception Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 62°58.9'S / 060°33.6'W

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



Sara woke us up to a beautiful sunny day as we were arriving at Deception Island. The sea was quite calm with moderate wind. The coastline of this active volcano looked very dramatic, and we couldn't wait to enter the caldera. After a delicious breakfast, we all went outside on the outer decks as there were whales being sighted around the ship.

We spent the morning whale watching and there were several icebergs around the island. Pierre gave a lecture about Humpback Whales, which had to be postponed because of Humpback Whale sightings. Just before lunch, we entered the volcano through Neptune's bellows, the very narrow passage leading into the caldera. Sara launched a Zodiac to do a scouting round to see if we could land at Whaler's Bay. The decision was made to drop the anchor, and we all went for a quick lunch.

Right after lunch, we took the Zodiacs to go ashore, where Sara gave us instructions for the landing. We could walk on our own towards the whaling station buildings, where Martin was waiting for us. We couldn't go all the way to the hangar because there was a moulting Elephant Seal, and we did not want to disturb it. To the other direction, we



could see the ruins of huts and motorboats, and a lot of whale bones from the whaling times. We walked all the way to Neptune's window to have a look at the Bransfield Strait, where the Antarctic Peninsula is supposed to have been viewed for the first time. It was very windy up there, and the wind kept on rising during the landing. This did not discourage about 70 of us to go on with the polar plunge. After about three hours of landing, we all went back to the ship to get

warm. The ship then navigated back out through Neptune's Bellows, and we started our journey towards the Drake passage. The sea was a little more agitated than in the morning and there was a little fog, but we could still see several whales coming up to the surface around the ship. We then assisted with the daily recap, where Sara told us the plans and the conditions for our navigation back to Ushuaia through the Drake Passage for the next two days. It was then time for dinner, where we once more enjoyed a delicious plated dinner. We all went then to the bar to have some drinks and talk about our experiences in Antarctica, while going out to the outer decks to enjoy some whales.

## Day 11 – 10<sup>th</sup> December

### Drake Passage

**12:00 GPS Position:** 60°28.8'S / 063°50.4'W

**Wind:** W 6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Partly cloudy, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C



Today we woke up to the slow rolling motion of the ship rocking from side to side as the ship slowly entered the Drake Passage. The Drake Passage is 620 miles/820km which officially begins at the bottom of Cape Horn and ends at the South Shetland Islands. After a delicious breakfast of everything you could want; sausages and scrambled eggs with a pastry or two we had Andy delivering us a lecture on avalanches, this is always an interesting one particularly for many of us who spend a lot of time in

the mountains. Martin followed with a presentation on Photography in conservation, Martin's photos are enough to inspire anyone to get involved in photography. Before lunch we gave back our stinky muck boots and then filled up on more food just in time for going home!

At 16:00 Charlotte told us the story of Scott and Amundsen and their 'Race to the South Pole' a fascinating and heroic story. Sara told us the brief plans for tomorrow, but it was a similar plan as today, a lecture from Sara and Chloe and time to pay our dreaded bar bills! The dining room was full this evening, which showed there couldn't be too many seasick people thankfully.

## Day 12 – 11<sup>th</sup> December

## At sea towards Ushuaia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 56°21.4'S / 067°01.8'W

**Wind:** NW 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°C



Last night was quite a busy one in the bar, so there were probably a few sore heads that morning. The Drake was still pleasantly smooth, which helped us fill up on breakfast in preparation for the 'busy' day ahead. We started off with the fantastic Chloe talking to us about the beautiful underwater world of Antarctica, she is so passionate, and it even makes a sea star seem like the most interesting animal! Sara's talk on Marine Threats was quite a sad one, but it's all information which is interesting to hear,

because this will only ignite change.

That afternoon we had to pay our bill for the trip, and then it was time to start packing and prepare for disembarkation tomorrow. Claudio inspired us with a talk on climate change at 1600 and shortly afterwards we donned our best evening wear for tonight's Captains cocktail! Claudio and Martin had made us a beautiful slideshow for the trip, it was absolutely stunning to see the photos the guides had taken of the trip, it brought a tear to our eyes and only made us remember what an incredible trip it had been. We toasted with a glass of bubbly, and we couldn't help but smile and feel so grateful for what had been. Now time for dinner and a couple more drinks.



## Day 13 – 12<sup>th</sup> December

### Disembarkation Day- Ushuaia Port

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°48.6'S / 068°18.0'W

**Wind:** NW 3, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

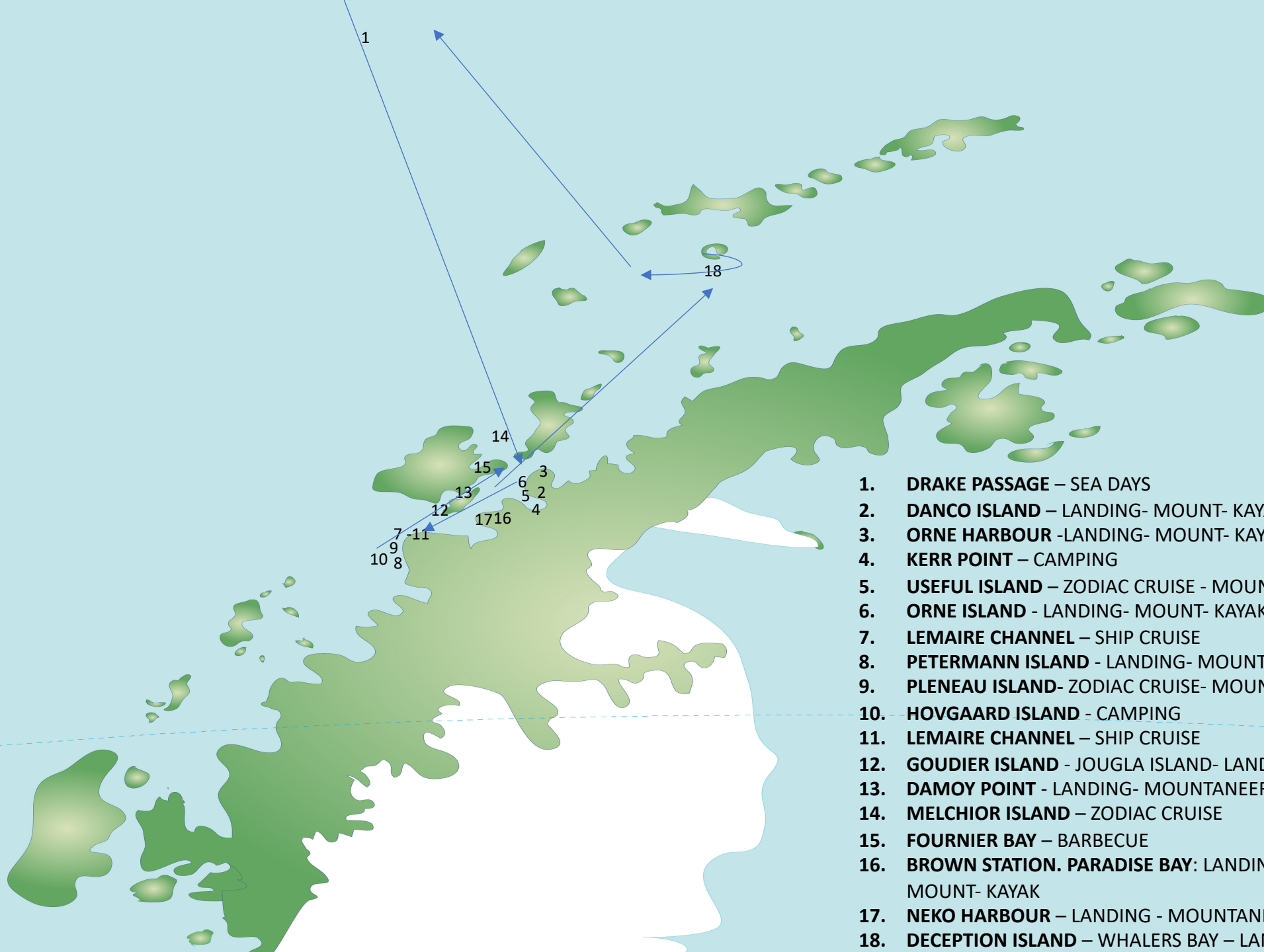
As we woke up, we realized we were already docked in Ushuaia. We packed the last of our bags and put them outside the cabins for the staff to heave up the stairs. After breakfast we were called to disembark the ship and went to the gangway to say our final goodbyes. It was sad, but we hope to be back one day very soon!



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

**Total distance sailed: 1780 nautical miles.  
Farthest south: 65°10.6'S / 064°07.7'W**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Anderson, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko, all the crew, staff, pilots, and engineers of M/V Ortelius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!



1. **DRAKE PASSAGE** – SEA DAYS
2. **DANCO ISLAND** – LANDING- MOUNT- KAYAK
3. **ORNE HARBOUR** -LANDING- MOUNT- KAYAK
4. **KERR POINT** – CAMPING
5. **USEFUL ISLAND** – ZODIAC CRUISE - MOUNTA
6. **ORNE ISLAND** - LANDING- MOUNT- KAYAK
7. **LEMAIRE CHANNEL** – SHIP CRUISE
8. **PETERMANN ISLAND** - LANDING- MOUNT- KAYAK
9. **PLENEAU ISLAND**- ZODIAC CRUISE- MOUNT- KAYAK
10. **HOVGAARD ISLAND** - CAMPING
11. **LEMAIRE CHANNEL** – SHIP CRUISE
12. **GOUDIER ISLAND** - JOUGLA ISLAND- LANDING- MOUNT- KAYAK
13. **DAMOY POINT** - LANDING- MOUNTANEER- KAYAK
14. **MELCHIOR ISLAND** – ZODIAC CRUISE
15. **FOURNIER BAY** – BARBECUE
16. **BROWN STATION. PARADISE BAY:** LANDING- ZODIAC CRUISE- MOUNT- KAYAK
17. **NEKO HARBOUR** – LANDING - MOUNTANEER
18. **DECEPTION ISLAND** – WHALERS BAY – LANDING – POLAR PLUNGE





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# Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader

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For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born. Ever since Sara has been travelling the globe in search of wild and remote places and has spent many

months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents, and she has travelled extensively in the polar regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea, Ross Sea, Falklands, South Georgia, NZ and Australian Sub Antarctic Islands, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, when she decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

During 2020-2021 she worked extensively on a leopard seal identification project and took the opportunity to fulfil a lifetime dream of visiting South Georgia in winter by working on the M/V Pharos, which is deployed by the South Georgia Government as a fishery patrol vessel.

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.



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# Chris Long – Expedition Guide

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Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an untouched emerald green river. Most of their food comes from a huge vegetable garden or is fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set

off to explore what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River, Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 65 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, East Antarctica and the Atlantic Ocean.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska on a small yacht and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway. Here he endured two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races. He also guides with Oceanwide in Svalbard each summer.

In 2022, Chris published a best-selling autobiography "*The Boy From Gorge River*" and when he is not at sea you will find him training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license or exploring a new corner of the globe.

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# Claudio Ghiglione – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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# Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Chloé Maréchal - Assistant Expedition Leader

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Chloé is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Armed with a European master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, she's on a mission to share her expertise and promote the conservation of the marine environment. But here's the twist—while everyone else is busy oohing and aahing over flashy dolphins and majestic whales, Chloé's heart belongs to the unsung heroes of the ocean—the often-undererrated world of plankton and the mysteries of unseen microbes. She's here to show that even the tiniest organisms can have big personalities!

In April 2013, Chloé's dedication and skills were recognized when she was chosen as the prestigious 2013-14 European Rolex Our World Underwater Scholar. This remarkable opportunity allowed her to work alongside renowned leaders in the fields of marine science and diving industry, providing her with diverse experiences and invaluable insights. During this transformative year, her first encounter with Antarctica left an indelible mark, igniting a lifelong passion for polar exploration.

Chloé isn't just a science nerd with a thing for plankton. She's an adventurous soul with an insatiable curiosity. She's dived across all continents, lived in 20 countries, and now sails on her 12-meter aluminum boat. Together with her partner she has recently crossed the challenging waters of the North Sea.

Currently, Chloé calls northern Norway her home, residing just above the polar circle. When not guiding, she explores underwater wonders, uncovers forgotten wrecks, and maps uncharted underwater caves. Her passion for the ocean, sailing, and work with Oceanwide Expeditions fuel her relentless pursuit of adventure.

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# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

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

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

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# Zet Freiburghaus - Kayak Leader

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Zet is a former successful member of the Swedish national kayak team who after his active career has travelled around the world.

Just last year he hiked and rode a horse in the Tien Shen mountains of Kyrgyzstan and explored big parts of Ethiopia, where he saw the Ethiopian wolf and were standing on the rim on an active volcano.

His sharp eyes and great experience in nature implies he rarely misses an animal.

Zet has a Master of Science in Biology from Lund University.

Today he works as a guide with the whole world as his office. Zet is very excited to share his enthusiasm and energy on board our vessels this season.

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# Mal Haskins - Mountain Leader

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Mal has been calling the mountains and high ranges of the world his home now for the last 25+ years.

He really enjoys sharing his passion and enjoyment of being outdoors with others so guiding was a natural progression for him.

He works throughout the world in both summer and winter conditions taking people mountaineering and skiing and call Wanaka, New Zealand home. He spends time working in Nepal, India, Peru, New Zealand, and Antarctica.

Mal first had the opportunity to come down and work and experience the Antarctic Peninsula in late 2015 and has since been working regularly with Oceanwide Expeditions in Antarctic.

He finds all mountain ranges around the world special but with Antarctica there is extra magic – the wildlife, amazing glaciers, weather, and the people you meet on these journeys – it's an experience you can't match anywhere else in the world.

He looks forward to sharing his joy of the mountains with you in this very special place.

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# Andy Perkins – Mountain Guide

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Andy Perkins is an IFMGA mountain guide living in Chamonix at the foot of Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain. He has been climbing and skiing since he was a teenager and has worked as a qualified mountain guide for over twenty years.

His "normal" work is as a guide in the European Alps. In the summer he guides climbing and mountaineering clients from all over the world. In winter he works with off piste skiers in and around lift-served ski resorts and by using ski touring equipment to access more remote spots. It's in that capacity

that he discovered the magical combination of mountains and ocean, initially through ski sail trips in Arctic Norway. He has pursued that fabulous formula with trips to Iceland and Greenland over recent years.

Here are three highlights from his mountain experience:

- 17 days on Cerro Kishtwar's north face in the Indian Himalaya . Intensity of experience is his goal in personal climbing, and this one had it in spades.
- 2 rescues on Denali, the second of which earned him the Denali Pro Award and an Award for Bravery from the US Department of the Interior.
- Skiing in Arctic Norway with his wife Lise, 60 years after his dad was pioneering there in the 1950's. Mountains run in the family!

He speaks fluent English and French and basic German and Italian.

His aim as a guide is to share his love of the wild places of the world and to maximise his clients' potential - to exceed their expectations of what they're capable of. This often means taking on new skills as well as sharpening existing ones. The big grins when someone finally "gets it", whether skiing or climbing, makes his job as a guide a real joy.



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# Andi Schwetz – Expedition Guide

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Andi was born in Budapest and grew up in Germany. Andi has always been fascinated by animals and nature, especially marine mammals ever since she was a child. She wanted to be a whale researcher, became a whale expert, without studying at a university, but through passion. She initially graduated in sociology, but then ran her own cocktail bar for 10 years. However, her enthusiasm for sea creatures never left her and she began to travel the world to be close to these fascinating animals and to observe them.

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in Arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

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## Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide

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Pierre is a veterinarian specialized in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organizing marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback

whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

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# Valeria Sainz Herrera- Expedition Guide

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Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentinian photographer with almost seven years of business background. She grew up in Buenos Aires, which is the capital of Argentina, a beautiful place with a lot of culture and interesting things to do. Throughout the years she founds that one of her biggest passions is to travel. So, travelling as much as she could, she found in photography a profession that defines her in so many ways and gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations around the world.

Nowadays she spends her life between Argentina and Brazil; working during the summer season as a Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island named Ilhabela in Brazil, working in the tourism area or in Ushuaia (Argentina) as a photographer at the Ski Center.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or trekking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like diving, kayaking and sailing.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream for her, and now are part of her life.

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## Petra Kaleske – Ship's Doctor

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Our doctor on board is Petra. She is an adventurous person who enjoys travelling and getting to know new cultures and people.

Petra has two children, a 27-year-old son and a 25-year-old daughter, and a partner who will accompany her on this expedition.

She was originally from Germany but grew up in the Netherlands from the age of 8. Petra did her medical studies in Maastricht and she trained as an emergency room doctor (SEH doctor) at the Maxima Medisch Centrum in

Veldhoven. After her training, she worked in various hospitals in the south of the Netherlands and two years ago she made the switch to work as an observer. Since then, she has worked in various places and has the freedom to do other work besides her work in the emergency room, including abroad. This allows her to combine travelling and working. As an ER doctor, her job is to be able to treat all acute medical problems that present themselves in an emergency room. She practices her profession with great enthusiasm and passion. She also teaches acute medicine and trains teachers.

Furthermore, Petra has twice accompanied the Philippines as a doctor for the filming of the TV programme Million Dollar Island, a reality show. This gave her the opportunity to learn about the world of television.

Besides Dutch, Petra speaks fluent German and English and a little French.

She has done several additional trainings to prepare herself for working in remote areas. Her hobbies, besides travelling (!), are motorcycling (every year she and her partner make a trip by motorbike through the South of Europe), skiing, mountain biking, diving. Antarctica is a new adventure for her, which she is really looking forward to! She is also looking forward to getting to know everyone on board personally.



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Basecamp Antarctica Welcome aboard!

Date: 30 November 2023

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the bar located on Deck 6.

#### PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**. After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which is either the Bar on Deck 6 or the Restaurant on Deck 4, please check your cabin room card to see which station you are assigned to. If you are assigned **Lifeboat 1** you will muster in the Bar and if you are assigned **Lifeboat 2** you will muster in the Restaurant.
- 17:45+/- The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days. This will take place in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**.
- 18:30+/- Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for staff introductions, this will be followed by Captain's Cocktail, a toast to the forthcoming voyage.
- 19:00+/- Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.
- 20:15 The Expedition Team welcomes you the **Lecture Room on Deck 3** for the **MANDATORY IAATO and Zodiac** briefing. Attendance will be checked.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters.

Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!

*"All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting." - Rudyard Kipling*



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctica Basecamp

Date: 1 December 2023

Day 2: Drake Passage - At Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called, deck-by-deck to the Lecture Room, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you!
- 10:00 Please join Mal and Andy in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Mountaineering briefing.**
- 12:00 Please join Zet in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Kayak briefing.**
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please join Chris, Andi and Valerie for the **Mandatory Camping Briefing** in the Lecture Room.
- Please note that we will be checking attendance to all the mandatory activity briefings, if you do not attend, you will not be able to participate in the activity. Unfortunately, we cannot make any exceptions to this rule.**
- 16:00 Please join Martin in the Bar on Deck 6 for a presentation about Photography - Tips on how to take great photos.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 A special Gala dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4 to Celebrate Oceanwide being 30 years old today.

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

*"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore"*  
- Christoph Columbus



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 2 December 2023

Day 3: Approaching Antarctica – At Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Charlotte for her Lecture about Whales of the Southern Ocean in the Bar
- 10:30 Please join the activity group leaders in the **Lecture Room** to sign up for your activities, you will be called in small groups, please listen to announcements. Bring a pen and paper with you to write down what you are doing when.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:45+/- During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY IATTO Biosecurity** in the **Lecture Room**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure everything is clean before proceeding to the Lecture room and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to join her in the Bar for a lecture about Penguins.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30 After dinner, please can the afternoon's mountaineering group for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December meet in the Lecture Room. Please bring your mountaineering boots to fit your crampons.

*"When your feet are cold, cover your head." - Inuit proverb*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 3 December 2023

Day 4: Danco Island and Orne Harbour.

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 1** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 08:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:15+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Danco Island.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 2** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 14:15 We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Orne Harbour.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 1** ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.

*"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves" - Edmund Hillary*





## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 4 December 2023

Day 5: Useful Island and Orne Islands.

- 05:00+/- Pick up campers.
- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 3** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 08:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:15+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Useful Island.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:45 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 4** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 14:15+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Orne Islands.

#### ALL TIMINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE LISTEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered." - G. K. Chesterton*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 5 December 2023

Day 6: Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island and Pléneau Island

06:15 Wake-up call.

Before breakfast we will transit down the Lemaire Channel, nicknamed Kodiak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photographic parts of the Antarctica Peninsula.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

07:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 5** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

08:30 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.

08:30+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Petermann Island.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

13:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 6** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

14:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.

14:15+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Pléneau Island.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 2** ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.

*"The difficult is what takes a little time; the impossible is what takes a little longer –  
Fridjof Nansen*



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 6 December 2023

Day 7: Goudier Island, Jouglia Island and Damoy Point.

05:00+/- Pick up campers.

We will transit back down the Lemaire Channel after picking up the campers, we would expect this to be from about 6:30am

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. Please make yourself a pack lunch from the breakfast buffet, that you can eat on your return to the ship.

09:30+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Goudier Island and Jouglia Island.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

14:00 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.

14:00+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Damoy Point.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*"A journey is a person in itself, no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policies, and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip, a trip takes us." - John Steinbeck*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 7 December 2023

Day 8: Melchior Islands and Fournier Bay.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30+/- We would like to invite **all guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise around the Melchior Islands.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

Please take a moment after lunch to pass by reception and tick on the lists provided, whether you need transportation to the airport or will leave your luggage at the storage unit in Ushuaia on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## An Expedition Afternoon in and around Fournier Bay.

We encourage you to be on the outside decks and on the bridge looking for wildlife with the Expedition Team. Depending on sightings and weather we may offer activities off the ship, so please listen to announcements for exact timings.

- 16:00 Chloe invites you to the bar for her lecture titled 'The Wonder of Drifting Life in the Southern Ocean'.
- 18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 18:30 Dinner will be served, please dress warmly!

*"It must be remembered that the men whose desires lead them to the untrodden paths of the world have generally marked individuality." - Sir Ernest Shackleton*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 8 December 2023

Day 9: Paradise Harbour, Brown Station and Neko Harbour.

- 06:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 8** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. Your breakfast bags will be available beforehand from your guides.
- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Brown Station in Paradise Harbour.
- 08:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:45 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 9** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 15:00+/- We would like to invite **all guests** to the gangway for a landing at Neko Harbour.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served.
- 20:30 Movie Night in the Lecture Room – A screening of the animated musical comedy, Happy Feet 1.

*“Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man's desire to understand.”*

*-Neil Armstrong*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 9 December 2023

Day 10: Whalers Bay, Deception Island.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Pierre invites you to the bar for his lecture about Humpback Whales
- 11:00 We will show a short film (10 mins) about the last eruption of Deception Island and its whaling history.
- 11:30+/- We will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:30 We hope to take you ashore at Whalers Bay in Deception Island.
- We plan to offer a **polar plunge** at the end of the activity, please wear your swimwear underneath your expedition clothing, we will provide the towels, please do not bring the ones from your cabin.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served.

*"Anything more wonderful than the polar night does not exist. It is a dream-like sight.  
It is a light poem of all the finest and most delicate tones of the soul.*

*-Fritjof Nansen*



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 10 December 2023

Day 11: Drake Passage.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Andy invites you to the bar for his lecture about Avalanches.
- 11:00 Martin welcomes you to the bar for his presentation about Photography in Conservation.
- 12:15 We will call you deck by deck to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots, please listen for announcements.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 16:00 Charlotte invites you to the bar for her presentation titled 'Race to the South Pole'.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! There will be some important information given about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. Please get from Reception an **Orange** luggage tag if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

*"One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime." - Sir Francis Drake*



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 11 December 2023

Day 12: Approaching South America.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

After breakfast you will be able to settle your accounts at reception, please ensure your account is settled before 17:00 at the latest.

09:15 Chloe welcomes you to the Bar for her presentation about Diving in Antarctica.

11:15 Sara would like you to join her in the Bar for her presentation about Marine Threats.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

16:00 Please join Claudio in the Bar for his lecture about Climate Change.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices.

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*"An Antarctic expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life." - Apsley Cherry-Garrard*





## DAILY PROGRAM

### Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 11 December 2023

Day 13: Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.  
Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before going to breakfast.

07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. Please get from Reception an **Orange** luggage tag if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

09:00+/- We invite those guests going straight to the airport to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the bus with you going to the airport.

09:15+/- We invite all other guests to disembark. You can either choose to take your luggage with you into town or you can place it in the luggage truck which will take it to a storage facility in Ushuaia.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Ortelius, we wish you safe onward travel, and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

*"It's when you are safe at home that you're having an adventure. When you're having an adventure, you wish you were safe at home." - Thorton Wilder*