



Antarctica Basecamp

12th December - 24th 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: **Anar Babaiev**

Chief Engineer: **Andrej Abakumov**

Hotel Manager: **Volodymyr Cherednychenko**

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

Head Chef: **Heinz Hacker**

Ships Doctor: **Duncan Gray**

Expedition Leader: **Christan Long**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Chloe Marechal**

Expedition Guide: **Lucia Romero**

Juan Berenstein

Galina Nosachenko

Zet Freiburghaus

Mal Haskins

Andy Perkins

Andrea Schwetz

Pierre Gallego

Valeria Herrera

Day 1 – 12th December

Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

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

Wind: NW 2-3, **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Cloudy **Air t°:** 12°C, **Sea t°:** 11°C



Today the weather started with beautiful sunshine. This matched our mood as we embarked on the beautiful M/V Ortelius. One hundred ten 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. We were already off to a great start.

We immediately had a mandatory ship safety briefing from Chris and Mikael, which was shortly followed by donning our bright orange life jackets for the practice abandon-ship drill. The ship finally came away from the port at 19:00, and we were finally 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. Tonight was a buffet

dinner followed by the last order of the day, a mandatory Zodiac briefing. We were all excited but exhausted, so we went to sleep early to rest up for the adventure to come.

Day 2 – 13th December

At Sea towards Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 56°55.75'S / 66°12.6'W

Wind: W 7-8, **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Cloudy **Air t°:** 5°C, **Sea t°:** 8°C

Our first day at sea began with Chris's wakeup call at 7:45. The sea state was not so bad - however, for many people this was the first time they had experienced this ocean and its movements. 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 seabirds soaring across the ocean.



Our first day at sea was rather busy. Muck boots were handed out, and we got our first lecture from Lucia about the Penguins we would soon be seeing. Zet, the fantastic Kayaking guide, gave us our first mandatory activity briefing, and after lunch the ever-enthusiastic camping guides, Valeria and Andi, told us all we would need to know about what we needed to bring to enjoy a night out camping.

As the seas slowly eased, we had another afternoon lecture from Andi on the Dolphins and Whales we might see on our voyage from Ushuaia to the Antarctic Peninsula.

All in all, it was a slow day for most of us as we gained our sea legs. Being out on deck to watch the waves or marvel at the birds was a good way to feel better!



Day 3 – 14th December

At Sea towards Antarctica

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

Wind: NNW 5, **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air t°:** 3°C, **Sea t°:** 4°C

We woke up to a much calmer Drake than yesterday. Most of us still felt a little shaken by the sea. Directly after lunch, the mountain guides had their mandatory briefing. Next up was for everyone to plan their activities with the activity guides: mountaineering, camping, and kayaking. After a tasty lunch in the dining room, it was time for the next mandatory briefing before we were allowed to land in Antarctica. All outer layers needed to be cleaned and vacuumed. That afternoon we were lucky to see a lot of wandering albatrosses, Light-mantled sooty albatrosses,

and a few grey-headed albatrosses. At 4 pm Juan had a lecture on photography, helping us get our composition and light balance right for polar conditions.



Day 4 – 15th December

Melchior Islands and Orne Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 64°30.15'S / 062°49.8'W

Wind: NE 5-6, **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air t°:** 4°C, **Sea t°:** 1°C

On that beautiful morning, we finally arrived at the peninsula. The expedition leader woke us up at 7:30 AM, and after breakfast we headed to our first operation, which was a Zodiac cruise around the Melchior islands.

A little bit of snow and clouds welcomed our first activity, but we managed after only a few minutes to find a hauled-out Weddell seal and our first chinstrap penguin. We were close to an Argentine research station, which was not used at that time. The Melchior Islands were surrounded by icebergs of every shape, ranging from white to blue. We continued our Zodiac cruise to a narrow channel surrounded by a glacier front and found at least 20 Weddell seals hauled out. After observing them for a while, we slowly made our way back to Ortelius.

During our nice lunch, our ship repositioned to Orne Harbour, where we were planning to have our first landing on the continent. But the sea got very choppy due to katabatic winds dropping from the glaciers, so we cruised the Zodiacs near shore. We encountered chinstrap penguins, gentoo penguins, and a seal surrounded by beautiful mountains.

MOUNTAINEERING

After two days of bouncing around on the Drake, it was great to get our feet on solid ground again. We anchored up that morning in the Melchior Islands, a spot our guides Mal and Andy had scouted during their previous voyage to the Peninsula. They'd identified a range of options and elected Gamma Island for our first mountaineering foray. It was snowing, and Ortelius drifted in and out of the cloud as we made our way cautiously to the highpoint of the island.

During lunch we sailed to Orne Harbour. Under normal circumstances, the summit of Spigot Peak would be the objective. However, the landing site was choked with brash ice and wind was blowing strongly from the northeast. We managed to find an alternative landing just a few hundred meters left of the standard one. The guides then brought a line to a rock buttress before traversing to the chinstrap penguin colony on the ridge. Here the winds increased from strong to rough, and one of us was blown over twice. It was an easy decision for Mal and Andy to forgo the summit and make a journey across to the more sheltered westerly side of the ridge for a pickup in the Errera Channel. As we traversed across, we saw a medium-sized slab avalanche release from the ridge. Prudent terrain management meant that the debris were hundreds of meters away, but nevertheless it was a strong indication of latent instability in the snowpack. This would influence many of the choices later in the week.



CAMPING

On our first day in Antarctica, fifty-three happy campers would spend the night with the sky as their roof! Andi, Lucia, and Valeria were waiting for us in our “home” for the night. After climbing a snowy hill, we started digging out our shelters. After that, we put our bivibag, mattress, and sleeping bag inside. The landscape was more beautiful than we could have imagined. A spectacular glacier surrounded our camping site. After some ice calving and a lot of pictures, we fell asleep one by one.



We had a little rain during the night, but we were warm and dry in our beds. At 4:30 in the morning, Valeria woke us up. We covered all the holes that we made during the night, as it is important to keep this place pristine. Our Zodiacs started to arrive at the landing site, and we wrapped our gear and returned to the ship. Around that time, a beautiful humpback whale gave us a show close to Ortelius. What a magical moment!

KAYAKING



Day 5 – 16th December
Cuverville Island and Orne Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 64°40.15'S / 62°38.2'W

Wind: W 4, **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air t°:** 1°C, **Sea t°:** 2°C



The day began with a hearty breakfast in the dining hall of Ortelius. The anticipation among the guests was palpable as they geared up for an adventurous day exploring the wonders of the Antarctic Peninsula. After a brief safety briefing, the expedition team lowered the Zodiacs into the icy waters, and guests embarked on an exhilarating journey to Cuverville Island. The island is famed for hosting the largest gentoo penguin colony on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Ashore on Cuverville Island, the landscape unfolded in a breathtaking display of pristine beauty. Guests marvelled at the sight of gentoo penguins, their raucous calls filling the air. The expedition guides provided informative narratives about the region's unique wildlife and geography.

The adventurous spirit reached its peak as some daring guests opted for a polar plunge into the icy Antarctic waters. Laughter and cheers echoed against the towering glaciers as participants embraced the thrill of the moment.

The return journey to Ortelius was marked by an unexpected twist—the landscape was engulfed in a thick blanket of fog. Navigating through the misty waters added an element of mystery and excitement to the expedition.

Back on board, guests gathered in the dining hall for a delicious lunch, sharing tales of their morning adventures and savouring the warmth of the ship. Ortelius then set course for the Orne Islands.

Once ashore, guests encountered a captivating scene: majestic chinstrap and gentoo penguins waddling against a backdrop of pristine ice and rocky outcrops. The expedition team allowed guests to observe and photograph the wildlife while immersing themselves in the unique Antarctic environment.

As the sun dipped low on the horizon, Zodiacs ferried guests back to Ortelius. The day's adventures were summarised during the daily recap, outlining plans for the next day's exploration. A sumptuous dinner awaited guests in the ship's dining hall. The day's experiences were shared over delicious meals, creating a sense of camaraderie among the travellers. The expedition leader provided insights into the day's discoveries and outlined the plans for the upcoming adventure. Guests retired to their cabins, eager for another day



of exploration in the vast and enchanting Antarctic wilderness.

MOUNTAINEERING



We arrived at Cuverville Island in the morning, and after a scout by EL Chris we set off for the summit from a landing spot on its west coast. Given the instability we'd seen the previous day, Mal and Andy dug a snow pit to investigate the structure of the snowpack. This revealed a couple of weak layers, more reason for caution given the warmth of the day. We reached the summit plateau before returning to the beach, where some of our party swapped mountain clothing for swimwear for their polar plunge.

In the afternoon, we crossed the Errera Channel to explore behind the Sable Pinnacles. It was only the second time this area has been visited by Oceanwide, so the afternoon had a pioneering feel to it. It was still very warm, with clouds drifting around, and the mountains rumbled constantly with wet snow avalanches. We reached a col that gave us incredible views of Cuverville Island. On the way down, Andy checked out some large crevasses and reported them to be deep and therefore best avoided.

CAMPING

Kerr Island was the name of our camping site during the second night of camping. Beautifully surrounded by a shore full of icebergs, we started to dig out holes for our sleeping bag. It was lightly snowing, but it stopped a short time later. After we finished shoveling, we enjoyed the magnificent view and the peacefulness of our camping site.

Soon we laid ourselves to rest. Every now and then, you could hear avalanches and the sound of faraway penguins. We were woken up at 4am: we would have to leave the camping site, because of the precipitation that had been constant for a few hours. We filled in our dugouts, packed our equipment, and the Zodiac brought us back to Ortelius. We were happy to have had such a unique experience.



KAYAKING



Day 6 – 17th December

Orne Harbour and Lemaire Channel

12:00 GPS Position: 64°39.7'S / 062°54.0'W

Wind: SSW 5, **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air t°:** 1°C, **Sea t°:** 2°C

In the morning, we set out for our inaugural continental landing at Orne Harbor. Climbing to a vantage point with views of the Errera Channel, we were treated to the sight of chinstrap penguin colonies. At the summit, a delightful surprise awaited us as we witnessed a humpback whale playfully interacting with our kayakers.

Our afternoon plans for a Zodiac cruise around a useful island took an abrupt turn when an unusual sighting captivated our attention: orcas on the horizon!

Soon Ortelius found herself surrounded by roughly 50 magnificent orcas. We marvelled at the presence of young orcas displaying a distinctive yellow coloration, a phenomenon attributed to the proximity of their blood vessels to their skin surface.



Later in the evening, our expedition staff surprised us with an extraordinary experience—launching the Zodiacs for a cruise through Lemaire Channel. This unique adventure, reserved for a fortunate few, took us through a stunning passage flanked by steep cliffs and filled with icebergs. The channel, discovered by the German expedition of 1873-74 and named by Adrien de Gerlache in honor of Belgian explorer Charles Lemaire, unfolded its beauty before us. Along the way, we encountered Weddell seals, penguins, and magnificent icebergs.

The climax of our cruise came with the humbling sight of humpback whales feeding near our Zodiacs. As the wind picked up, we reluctantly returned to the warmth of Ortelius, feeling frozen but content. What a day filled with adventure and wildlife, a spectacle that made every frozen moment worth the experience!



KAYAKING



Day 7 – 18th December

Yalour Islands and Lemaire Channel

12:00 GPS Position: 65°12.2'S / 064°08.4'W

Wind: N 4-5, **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast/Snow **Air t°:** 1°C, **Sea t°:** 1°C

Chris Woke up early in the morning. We arrived at our landing site at Plaineau Island. A true Antarctic day was waiting for us, 50 knots of wind and more than one-meter swells. But we were on an expedition, so we knew how to change plans fast.

We would have a morning with amazing lectures. Waiting until the first lecture, we took the chance to spend time at the bridge, and the view was breathtaking. Chloe presented “Plankton-Drifting life in the Southern Ocean,” and explained to us why “Krill Rocks.” It was a funny and informative lecture, and from then on everybody loved krill.

Pierre presented “All about Humpback whales,” where he explained every detail about these amazing animals. Then the lecture was interrupted: humpbacks came to our ship as though they had overheard the lecture!

After lunch, we spotted more whales. This day was getting more exciting by the minute. The winds stopped a little, so Chris and Chloe launched a Zodiac to confirm the landing plan. Great news came from the bridge: we were going to visit a new site.



We made a split landing. Yalour Islands has a limit of passengers per time, so half of the passengers went to the landing site and the other half had the opportunity of learning more

about “Birds of Antarctica, from Ushuaia to the Peninsula” with Galina. A few hours later, we swapped groups, so everybody had the chance to do the landing and assist the lecture. The landing was amazing! A big colony of Adelie penguins was waiting us. These penguins are so beautiful, refined, and funny... we could not stop taking pictures. At the end of the afternoon, three humpback whales were waiting for us next to the landing site.



Day 8 – 19th December

Danco Island and Neko Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 64°44.95'S / 062°35.2'W

Wind: NW 6-7, **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast/Snow **Air t°:** 1°C, **Sea t°:** 1°C

Chris woke us up to a windy and snowy morning. We were supposed to go to Damoy Point, but there were 50-knot winds, so we redirected the ship towards a more sheltered destination: Danco Island. This would give us the best chances for a morning activity.

After breakfast and a little delay because of the repositioning, Ortelius anchored in a sheltered area and we were shuttled to shore through wind and snow and swell. The landing area was actually quite sheltered as well, and we could choose to wear snowshoes if we wanted to make our way to the top of Danco, or not to wear them if we decided to stay at the lower penguin colony. Our mountaineers got to the very top but had to come down quite quickly because of the blizzard. The mountaineering guides decided to close the upper section as well because of the risk of frostbite. We still managed to carry out our landing until the end, and we all got back on board - quite soaked from the ride through the snow and swell.



After a delicious lunch, we repositioned the ship to Neko Harbour, where the wind conditions were slightly better and it was not snowing. We all got on land, our mountaineers did their climb, and even the kayakers went out with Zet. But in the middle of the landing, it started to snow again, and the wind also increased. The glacier in front of Neko Harbour calved a couple

of times, and we also witnessed a massive avalanche over the glacier. We all made the most out of the landing, but were also happy to go back to the warmth of the ship.

After recap we all headed to the heli-deck for the barbecue, and as if on cue, the weather improved, the sky cleared, the snow stopped, and we even got a little bit of sunshine. The food and the views were amazing, and we all partied until 11pm. What a dream to be able to spend a day in real Antarctic weather and to eat outside. Somebody even spotted a killer whale for a brief moment... the cherry on top of the cake!



Photo Andy Perkins

MOUNTAINEERING



As we approached Danco Island from the south, Mal and Andy's eagle eyes spotted evidence of recent avalanches and strong winds blowing on the summit. Ortelius stayed on the more sheltered easterly side of the island, and we had a spray filled approach to the beach on the opposite side. The plan was to explore the length of the island but, as we approached the summit, the wind was gusting over 70 km/hour.

There was plenty of snow transportation going on too. Andy dug another quick pit to check the snow and give us a rundown of the recent changes. Every day is a school day if you let the mountains teach you a lesson. The afternoon found us at Neko Harbour, with its spectacular glacier fronts calving directly into the ocean. We had our continental climb up towards an impressive rock wall, while snow blew past our feet as the wind got up. A squall of fog and snow that almost looked like a scene from a cataclysmic end of the world movie closed in from the north. Time for us to retreat to Ortelius.

KAYAKING



Day 9 – 20th December

Foyn Harbour and Portal Point

12:00 GPS Position: 64°30.3'S / 61°54.1'W

Wind: WSW 3-4, **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** P. Cloudy **Air t°:** 1°C, **Sea t°:** 2°C

Our day started with the traditional “good morning, Ortelius, good morning,” from Chris, but today was a bit different: he announced that there were humpback whales breaching and feeding around the ship. We woke up to a wonderful sunny day as we anchored at Foyen Harbour, next to Enterprise Island, surrounded by ice that forced the captain to change the position of the ship several times.

We went out on a Zodiac cruise to explore the growlers and icebergs floating on the perfect glass-like ocean. As soon as we departed the ship, we started spotting humpback whales, and before we could even start counting how many, we realised we were surrounded by them! Apparently, they were feeding, so we could clearly see their feeding technique.



After whale watching for a while, we were taken to see the Guvernoren, an iconic piece of history of the Antarctic whaling times. It is a 131m Norwegian whaling ship that caught fire over 100 years ago and now sits in the Antarctic shallow waters. We were able to observe the part of the ship that is standing above the surface and even ride our Zodiacs right over the sunken part. This shipwreck is nowadays taken over by Antarctic terns that use it as a place to nest, and even though they seem quite annoyed about our presence, they allowed us to surround their nests and enjoy the view.

We even found a Weddell seal on the shore and had fun watching the mountaineers climbing the glacial and the kayakers paddle among the whales. After more than two hours cruising, we came back on board for an abundant lunch and some ice cream.

In the afternoon, we sailed north towards Portal Point, a beautiful continental landing. The weather was still unbelievably good, probably the best weather we have had so far, so we all enjoyed walking on the snow up and down the hills with less layers than usual.

Portal Point was a really fun day, with the deep snow trapping our boots as we walked around. We spotted gentoo penguins and a Weddell seal. On the way back to the ship, we had the opportunity to cruise around this area of beautiful icebergs. We then had the daily recap in the bar, listening to Chris and the expedition team talk about the plans for tomorrow. We were heading towards an active volcano!

MOUNTAINEERING

Finally we had some good weather, so it was time for a team of mountaineers to land at Foyr Harbour on Enterprise Island. We roped up and climbed above the wreck of the Governoren whaling ship for amazing views across the sound to the east. On the way home to the ship, we were treated to two humpback whales emerging from the placid sea and showing double flukes. Magical.



In the afternoon, we were at Portal Point for our last mountaineering objective. There was evidence of crevasses even on the well-established track, so vigilance and careful rope management were in order for our climb up to the ridge. We gazed over the ocean, getting a new perspective on the Antarctic landscape.

Day 10 – 21st December

Telefon Bay & Whalers Bay, Deception Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°59.3'S / 60°33'W

Wind: WNW 4, **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air t°:** 2°C, **Sea t°:** 3°C

Chris woke us up with his calming voice. We were entering Neptune's Bellows, the entrance of Deception Island, our place of stay for the two landings of the last day. After breakfast the first landing was in Telefon Bay, where we went on a hike on volcanic grounds up on a ridge. There we had some nice views of the crater area and the melt water lake. The weather was partially cloudy, with not too much wind. We discovered a humpback whale inside the crater area, which is uncommon. The walk on the beach brought us to some hauled out Weddell seals.



After lunch we landed at Whalers Bay, which first was a whaling station back in the early 20th century and became an airplane landing strip for the British Antarctic Survey in the 50s. There we found many rusty relics, like the tanks where whale oil was stored before shipping it back to the UK. Also, we visited the flight hangar and cemetery. Some whale bones were still on the beach. At the other end of the beach, there was a leopard seal sleeping on shore, and we could climb all the way up to Neptune's Window. We had a windy view of the

Bransfield Strait, where the continent of Antarctica was supposedly seen for the first time. After we got back on the ship, we recapped our last day in Antarctica and had a lovely dinner.



Day 11 – 22nd December

Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 60°23.1'S / 63°55.1'W

Wind: W5, **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air t°:** 2°C, **Sea t°:** 3°C

After so many days of adventure, there was a feeling of sadness as we left the Antarctic Peninsula to start our voyage home. We knew what was ahead of us – two days of sea passage on the Drake, with potentially rough seas, but there were still plenty of lectures to keep us entertained and educated.

EL Chris gave us an insight into life on the Antarctic continent from his work at Scott Base. Sticking with the interior, passenger Carol talked about her ascent of Mount Vinson, one of the seven summits of each continent that she completed in her 60's. Very impressive. Zet the kayak guide presented a historical session on the race between Scott and Amundsen to be the first to reach the South Pole, and finally Juan ran a workshop on post processing of all those wonderful photos.



Sticking with the photographic theme, the eighty plus entries to the photo competition were playing on a loop in the bar, with a wide range of subjects and interpretations of our experience over the last ten days. The winners were selected with the clapometer in the bar that evening as the sea state gradually built up to a moderate “Drake Shake.”

Day 12 – 23th December

Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 56°09.5'S / 67°19.8'W

Wind: SW8, **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Cloudy **Air t°:** 6°C, **Sea t°:** 4°C

We woke up after a rough night in the Drake. The waves were about 5m high, and we were rocked throughout the night. Most of us were woken up every half hour or so by a new large wave. But eventually we were woken up for breakfast, and for most of us our newly developed sea legs prevented us from getting seasick.

After breakfast we were asked to go to reception to settle our accounts. It was then time to head to the bar to listen to the Captain answer our questions. This was very informative and funny at the same time. Chloe gave us a lecture about her experience diving in Antarctica. This piqued the interest of a few divers among us.

It was then time for lunch in the restaurant. Thankfully, the sea was already calming. This made it quite easier for all of us to move around the buffet with our plates. At around 2pm we were invited to the bridge for a small celebration of passing Cape Horn. Chloe and Chris read us a poem about albatrosses, which embody the souls of seamen lost at sea.



After that, Andi gave us an interesting lecture about avalanches. We were very fortunate to observe some during our trip, but from a safe distance. And at 4pm it was Lucia's turn to give us a lecture about the history for a better understanding of Argentina. Time was flying by on our last day at sea, and we then headed to the bar at 6:15pm for our farewell Captain's cocktail and the viewing of Juan's slideshow.

After our last delicious dinner on board, we all headed back to the bar to enjoy our last evening together, exchanging experiences and pictures. What an incredible voyage we just had!

Day 13 – 24th December

Disembarkation Day - Ushuaia Port

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

Wind: SW6, **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** P. Cloudy **Air t°:** 7°C, **Sea t°:** 5°C

As we woke up on this fine day, we realised 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 voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!



Total distance sailed: 1807 Nautical Miles
Farthest South: 65°13.55'S / 64°08.9'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Anderson, Expedition Leader Chris Long, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko, and all the crew and staff of Ortelius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!



Chris Long – Expedition Leader



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.

Chloé Maréchal – Assistant Expedition Leader



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 underrated 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.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina and is a Zodiac driver, expedition and photography guide.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying the outdoors and being in the mountains. His hobbies are hiking, FPV drone flying and photography.

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

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

Juan has been working in the polar regions for several years now, including Antarctica, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Great Lakes in North America.

Galya Nosachenko - Expedition Guide



Galya was born and grew up in the Amur Region of the Russian Far East. In the same region, she studied and started my carrier.

In 2007, she graduated from Far East State Agricultural University with a degree in biology.

She worked in protected areas (in nature reserves) of Russia for 10 years as a biologist and guide in several places located in two different parts of Russia with different natural conditions: in the Far East of Russia and in the European part of Russia.

During her environmental career, Galya worked with captive birds, prepared materials on environmental education, led scientific research in this area, conducted environmental excursions and lectures for children and adults, and also worked as a caretaker with sled dogs.

She also participated in the environmental conservation programs of the non-governmental organizations of the US (EarthCorps) and Spain (Amigos de Gallocanta).

Galina has always been attracted to the Arctic region, as a result, she had the opportunity to fulfill her dream. Since 2018, she has worked in the Arctic as a guide in Svalbard for a Russian travel company, where she learned a lot about the history and nature of the Arctic.

Zet Freiburghaus - Kayak Leader



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.

Mal Haskins - Mountain Leader



I've been calling the mountains and high ranges of the world my home now for the last 20 years. I really enjoying sharing my passion and enjoyment being outdoors with others so guiding was a natural progression for me. I work in various parts of the world in both summer and winter conditions taking people mountaineering and skiing and call Wanaka, New Zealand my home.

Over the years I've had a number of very memorable expeditions and have had the opportunity to summit a few of our 8000m Peaks, Lhotse (8516m) and Manaslu (8156m).

I had the chance to come down to work and experience the Antarctic Peninsula a few years ago and have been coming down each season now for the past 3 years.

I find 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.

I'm looking forward to sharing my joy of the mountains with you in this special place.

Andy Perkins – Mountain Guide



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.

Andi Schwetz – Expedition Guide



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!

Pierre Gallego – Expedition Guide



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!

Valeria Mariel Sainz Herrera – Expedition Guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, travelling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working 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.

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 camping and hiking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like scuba diving, kayaking and sailing.

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

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

Duncan Gray - Ship's Doctor



Duncan is an Emergency Medicine Doctor from Scotland. He worked as a Consultant in Glasgow for 18 years and is also registered as a General Practitioner (Family Doctor).

He has extensive experience as an expedition doctor, in desert, jungle, mountain and polar areas. He regularly teaches on expedition medical courses for doctors and believes that some humour is essential for good learning.

He is keen on outdoor sports, in the winter goes ski touring in the Cairngorm mountains near his home, and in the summer, sea kayaking on the west of Scotland. He enjoys wilderness journeys, with four self guided hut to hut ski trips in Norway and four self guided canoe river trips in the Yukon.

Almost as a hobby, he attends many courses and collects qualifications, including advanced sea kayak leader, winter mountain leader, powerboat and VHF radio operation, rafting guide, chain saw operation, numerous jungle survival courses and even basket weaving! He is a level two (BASI) alpine ski instructor and Coastal Skipper (Yachting).

He has worked as a ski patroller in Canada, for the Flying Doctor Service of Australia and on the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service in London.

He has been to the south pole as a doctor four times, including the south pole marathon, has taken part in two himalayan mountaineering trips and a transatlantic yachting race. He has skid across Svalbard and South Georgia.

He was a doctor in the British airbourne forces, including the Iraq war or 2002.



DAILY PROGRAM

Basecamp Antarctica Welcome aboard!

Date: 12 December 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!



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica Basecamp

Date: 13 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 Lucia in the bar for her lecture “Penguins of the Antarctic Peninsula”
- 12:00 Please join Zet in the bar 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 Andi and Valerie for the **Mandatory Camping Briefing** in the bar.
- 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 acceptations to this rule.**
- 16:00 Please join Andi in the bar for her lecture “Most common whales and dolphins from Ushuaia to the Antarctic Peninsula”
- 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 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4

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.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 14 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 Mal and Andy in the bar for the **Mandatory Mountaineering briefing**.
- 10:30 Please join the activity group leaders in the **Bar** 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 Juan invites you to join him in the Bar for his lecture, “An introduction to Polar Photography”
- 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.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 15 December 2023

Day 4: Melchior Islands 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 zodiac cruise around Melchior Islands. **Please listen for announcements.**
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 2** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:40 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.
- 14:40+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Orne Harbour.

ALL TIMINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE LISTEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 21:15+/- 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.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 16 December 2023

Day 5: Cuverville Island and Orne Islands.

- 04:00+/- Pick up campers.
- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 3** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 08:45 Please could the **Kayak Group 3** 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.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Cuverville 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 4** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:15 Please could the **Kayak Group 4** 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 ANNOUCEMENTS**
- 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.
- 21:15+/- 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.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 17 December 2023

Day 6: Orne Harbour and Useful Islands

06:00+/- Pick up campers.

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 5** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

08:45 Please could the **Kayak Group 5** 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.

08:45+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Orne Harbour Island.

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 6** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

15:15 Please could the **Kayak Group 6** 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.

15:15+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a zodiac cruise at Useful Islands

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

After dinner we will transit down the Lemaire Channel, nicknamed Kodiak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photogenic parts of the Antarctica Peninsula.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 18 December 2023

Day 7: Planeau Island anchorage and Yalour Islands

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Chloe invites you up to the bar for her lecture about “Plankton-Drifting life in the Southern Ocean”
- 10:45 Pierre would like to invited you up to the bar for his lecture all about Humpback Whales.
- 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 8** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:30 Please could the **Kayak Group 8** 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.
- 14:30+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a zodiac cruise and a landing at the Yalour Islands.
- This landing will be a split landing. Half of you will land and half will zodiac cruise. Halfway through the morning we will swap so that everyone has equal time in zodiacs and on shore.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

We will transit back through the Lemaire Channel northbound after dinner, we would expect this to be from about 8:30pm



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 19th December 2023

Day 8: Danco Island and Neko Harbour

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 We hope to take the **Morning Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

09:45 Please could the **Kayak Group 2** 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.

09:45+/- We would like to invite **all guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac landing at Danco Island.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

Please pass by reception and sign up for the bus list for your disembarkation in Ushuaia. If you are taking the bus to the airport please put an **ORANGE** tag on your luggage. If you would like your luggage to go to the same drop off point in Ushuaia please use a **BLUE** luggage tag and this luggage must be picked up by 2pm.

14:00 We hope to take the **Afternoon Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

14:30 Please can the **Kayak Group 7** meet Zet in the Heli Hangar on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottles ect. You wish to take with you.

14:30+/- We would like to invite **all guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac landing at Damoy Point.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Tonight's dinner is BBQ. So please dress warmly and we will see you on the Heli deck for an evening of good food, free drinks and dancing!



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 20th December 2023

Day 9: Foyen Harbour and Portal Point

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. Your breakfast bags will be available beforehand from your guides.
- 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 zodiac cruise at Foyen Harbour
- 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** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 13:30 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.
- 13:30+/- We would like to invite **all guests** to the gangway for a landing at Portal Point
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 21st December 2023

Day 10: Deception Island all day

- 06:30 Wake-up call.
- 06:30 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.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:45+/- We hope to take you ashore at Telefon Bay in Deception Island. Dress for a hike across this volcanic landscape.
- 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 to see the historic whaling station (also on Deception Island.)
- 17:00 We will sail back out through Neptune's Bellows so be out on deck for our second transit through this extremely narrow passageway.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served.



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: 23rd 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 Captain Per invites you to the bar for Question time with the Captain of Ortelius.

11:00 Chloe welcomes you to the Bar for her presentation about Diving in Antarctica..

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

14:00 Andy invites you to the bar for his lecture about Avalanche's.

16:00 Lucia invites you into the bar for her lecture "History for a better understanding of Argentina"

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: 24th 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 an **Orange** 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 a **Blue** 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.