



OCEANWIDE
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica Basecamp

11th December – 23rd December 2023



M/V Plancius

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

Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Maikel Overbeeke**

2nd Officer: **Sjoerd van Hoek**

3rd Officer: **Eline Schuurman**

Chief Engineer: **Aleksandr Bondarev**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebyedyev**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Alfredo Bonifaz Mateo**

Head Chef: **Khabir Moraes**

Ships Doctor: **Anna Buijze**

Expedition Leader: **Pippa Low**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **George Kennedy**

Expedition Guides: **Marco Rosso**

Erin Bastian

Steffi Liller

Owain Jones

Koen Hoekemeijer

David McKinley

Carina Ketterer

Brian Veltrop

Tanja Matschi

Day 1 – 11th December

Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 066°54.0'W

Wind: NO 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 14°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

Finally the day had arrived, and our expedition to Antarctica was about to begin! We found ourselves in Ushuaia, in the most southern part of Argentina, also called *the end of the world*. During our expedition, we would go even farther south.

We were not expected to embark Plancius until 16:00. That gave us time to recover from the long journey south and explore the town of Ushuaia. This small town offers a lot of coffee and cake cafes as well as many outdoor shops. Ushuaia makes for a cozy town and is ideal for buying last-minute items like hats, gloves, or another layer to keep warm.



At 16:00 it was time to make our way up the gangway of Plancius. We were greeted at the dock by members of the expedition team, and the hotel manager quickly checked us in. There was not a lot of time to relax, as at 17:15 a mandatory safety drill was scheduled, so our presence in the lounge was required. We were welcomed by expedition leader Pippa, and the chief officer guided us through a safety video and drill procedure. Then we all sat in the lounge, wearing our bulky orange life vests. When we heard the abandon ship alarm, we made our way outside to the lifeboats where the second officer informed us further.

With the mandatory drill done, it was time to release the ropes, start the engines, and leave the port of Ushuaia behind. The captain came down to the lounge and greeted us with a glass of champagne, speaking some warm words of welcome. Pippa then gave us more information about the program for the days ahead.



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

Day 2 – 12th December

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 57°21.2'S / 065°13.2'W

Wind: NW 5, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

We started the day at 7:45am, with the voice of our Expedition Leader, Pippa. “Good morning, good morning...” She told us about the weather outside and invited us to breakfast, our first breakfast on board.

That morning we awoke to a moderately calm sea, a good start of our voyage toward Antarctica. We felt the movement, and some of us experienced seasickness, but luckily we had our great Dr. Anna on board to provide us with medication.

After we enjoyed our first breakfast on board, we were ready for all the upcoming briefings that would prepare us for our activities.

At 9:15am we started with a mandatory briefing about Zodiac operations, along with the rules and guidelines from IAATO, presented by Pippa. After that we could enjoy a coffee and a look outside, where we could see the Albatrosses and Petrels flying around our ship.



At 11am we continued with the next briefing for those interested in mountaineering. Dave and Owain were our Mountaineering Guides and explained to us the different options we had to mountaineer. We got more and more excited to arrive in Antarctica.

The morning activities weren't over yet, as we had to collect our muck boots just before lunch. These lovely boots would keep our feet dry during all the wet landings we would make.

After lunch and a short break, Marco and Brian briefed us about camping. We learned what we needed to do for our camping experience: dress warm, brush our teeth on board, dig a pit to sleep in for the night.

Shortly after that, we got our briefing from Erin about kayaking in Antarctica. We were so excited to hear that everybody could go kayaking, even if it would be our first time in a kayak. The presentations ended with Koen's tips about photography. Now we were ready for the next day of activity sign-ups. After a recap, we had a delicious dinner.

Day 3 – 13th December

At Sea – Drake Passage, Bransfield Strait

12:00 GPS Position: 61°44.5'S / 062°46.0'W

Wind: NW 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

We woke up to find the persistent rolling of the past day had finally decreased during the night. Plancius was steaming her way south at a good speed of 11.5 - 12 knots and had made good progress over the night. The Antarctic Convergence had been crossed a few hours prior to our waking up call, so we found ourselves already inside the political boundaries that define Antarctica.



Among the many ways to define Antarctica, two are mostly used by the general public: The political definition of the white continent includes all land and ice south of the 60-degree parallel. On the other hand, from a biological perspective the boundaries are set by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC), one of the main oceanic currents that flows around the Antarctic Continent in a clockwise direction and helps keep at bay the warmer tropical waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. This creates the perfect conditions for life to thrive in the Southern Ocean.



The day took off with the activity sign-up in the lounge. Among keen mountaineers, excited campers, and avid kayakers, we started to get a glimpse of the first icebergs in the distance. At 10:50am, at 60° 14' S, 34° 35'W the “iceberg competition” was won by John, who promised to share with most of us a delicious bottle of Prosecco!

The morning carried on, and Marco enlightened us with a beautiful and thorough “Introduction to the Antarctic Peninsula,” when we not only learned about the peculiarity of Antarctica but also the geography, geology, and history of the Antarctic Peninsula.

During the afternoon, a few seabirds glided past our vessel: Light-Mantled Sooty, Grey-Headed, and Black-Browed albatrosses. Cape Petrels and Southern Fulmars were there, too. Soon after that, Carina introduced us to the incredible world of penguins, the species we would find in the Antarctic Peninsula.

In the evening, we cruised into the Boyd strait in between Smith and Snowy Island, dotted with glimmering and beautiful icebergs. Porpoising penguins escorted us into the Bransfield Strait, which we were about to cross during the night on our way to the first landing of this expedition. The next morning, the calm and protected waters of Orne Harbour awaited us, surrounded by the majestic peak of Spigot.



Day 4 – 14th December

Orne Harbor and Cuverville Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64°37.3'S / 062°4.6'W

Wind: NE 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Snow, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

This is what we came for, our first day in Antarctica!

Pippa woke us up, but many of us got up already much earlier. The scenery was stunning. We had sun and some clouds. The changing light was incredible on the endless glaciers and mountains. We could not believe how this landscape looked. We felt like we were in a nature documentary.

The first landing is Orne Harbour, a nice bay surrounded by ice with a characteristic mountain on the edge. The top of the mountain, “Spigot,” was the goal for our mountaineers. The expeditions team used the Zodiacs for the transfer to the landing site, and we all used snowshoes to get up to the little saddle overseeing the Bay and Gerlache Strait on the other side.



The penguins were lovely and the view stunning. We enjoyed the time. During the landing, the weather condition changed quickly, and the expedition team told us to leave a bit earlier than planned. The bay got full of ice, and it took the drivers quite some time to get through the layer of ice to pick us up from our continental landing.



Interesting to see how the weather situation could change so quickly. After a delicious lunch, we got to land at Cuverville Island, and island on the northern entrance of Ererra Channel. Again the conditions changed, and instead of a short ride during a small gap on the west side of the island, we needed to drive around it. It was a true adventure driving through the icebergs and the rougher and more exposed east side of the island.

Some of us even saw a leopard seal on an ice floe.

The colony of gentoo penguins was lovely, and the view from the higher viewpoint was breathtaking. In front of the island were many grounded icebergs that made the view just amazing. And when we were heading back to the ship, we saw a Humpback whale.

For the evening, Pippa planned the next highlight: our first camping night in Antarctica. We sailed into Paradise Harbour, and our home for the night was a small bay with a small island called "Leith Cove". The place was surrounded by glaciers and steep mountains. What a lovely place for our exclusive camping night. Thirty-six of us headed out.



What a fantastic day we had! We still could not believe where we were and how privileged we were to visit a place like this. We slept surrounded by icebergs and light snow.

Kayaking

AM 14TH DEC - ORNE HARBOUR

Wow, what a first morning in Antarctica. Blue sky and light winds. Us kayakers took a Zodiac upwind of the ship. Just as we set off on our journey, it became a little snowy and somewhat blustery. After navigating through some brash ice, we headed downwind towards the towering cliffs. Nestled beneath the cliffs we found a small colony of chin strap penguins, and another further around the headland. We watched them toboggan down the slopes to the sea. As the wind picked up and became more gusty, we hopped back into our Zodiac and back to the ship.



PM 14TH DEC - COUVERVILLE ISLAND

Tucked away on the south side of the island we found a sheltered bay to enjoy. We started our journey upwind, which took a little strength. We found a pebble beach with many gentoo penguins, some swimming, some sleeping, and a few marching up and down the steep hill to their nests. We also spotted a gap between two large icebergs, a great opportunity to explore an ice graveyard.



Mountaineering

14 December 2023 – Spigot Peak

Standing proudly at the entrance to Orne Harbour, Spigot Peak is a sight to behold, with sheer cliff faces tumbling into the Antarctic waters. Once inside Orne Harbour, Spigot Peak reveals a line of ascent less intimidating than originally suspected. Despite this, successful ascents are still rare, with several factors all playing their part.



Brash ice can stop us even landing ashore, high winds can stop us literally in our tracks, and the upper slopes can sometimes hold unstable snow. Today the weather gods were on our side.

Camping

14 December 2023 - Location: Leith Cove, Paradise Harbour

After dinner we prepared ourselves for our first overnight stay. At around 21:15 we got on shore with the Zodiacs, welcomed by Marco and Brian our camping guides. We received our sleeping kit and a shovel and got ready to dig the snow pit, which was going to be our shelter for the night.

A northeasterly breeze was blowing from the amphitheater of glaciated mountains that surrounds Leith Cove. Luckily our bivy bags and sleeping bags kept us cozy and warm, and we could finally enjoy the truth silence of Antarctica, interrupted every once and a while by the roaring thunder of a nearby calving glacier. Everyone was excited to camp outside in Antarctica.



The following morning, we got an early wake-up call, around 5am. When we came back to the ship, we got a small breakfast and a short sleep in our cabins before moving to our next location for the morning.

Day 5 – 15th December

Aguirre Channel and Jougla Point (Port Lockroy)

12:00 GPS Position: 64°42.9'S / 063°04.7W

Wind: E 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Snow, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

It was a good day ahead of us. Shortly after breakfast, we started with our operation. It was a Zodiac cruise in the Aguirre Channel close to Paradise Bay, which we visited later in the trip.



It was a lovely cruise around icebergs and a lot of brash ice moving around the icebergs. We cruised around the icebergs into the brash ice and towards the Chilean base called *González Videla Antarctica base*. The station was active from 1951-58. There were Gentoo penguins nesting around the base. During the summertime, you can still meet people there. This was the case today. The base was occupied, and the people were looking out of the windows and doors, waving to us. We waved back and continued our cruise in the

ice. We've seen Wilson's storm petrel flying around some Snow Petrels, and one Weddell seal was lying on an island. Towards the end of our cruise, we got cold and returned to the ship.

After warming up and enjoying a cup of tea or coffee, Pippa announced the sighting of Orcas around the ship. We grabbed our cameras and jackets and were going to see the first Orcas of our voyage. This was just breathtaking, seeing them so close to the ship. On the aft, we could see them just swimming next to the ship and playing with our ship's propeller. We had around fifteen individuals. This was a very exceptional encounter with these amazing animals.



After lunch we had visitors from port Lockroy coming onboard. They were giving a presentation about Port Lockroy and the work they do there. Because of the Avian flu, the British Heritage trust decided that Port Lockroy must be closed for visitors. But the Port Lockroy team came on board the ship, giving a presentation and set up a small shop for us to buy souvenirs. After the presentation, we were split in two groups. One went ashore at Jougla point, and the others could do some shopping in the dining room at the pop-up shop.



At Jougla Point, we had five Wedell seals and a lot of Gentoo Penguins to observe. After the landing, we went for a short Zodiac cruise around the Island to see Port Lockroy. In the bay, a French yacht called Perseverance arrived and anchored, a tiny ship with only 12 passengers and 8 crew on board.

After the recap, we enjoyed another lovely meal made by the Galley team led by Khabir. Then one last drink and straight to bed. But not this time: we had another announcement that there were more Killer Whales. What an end to an incredible day!

Kayaking

AM 15TH DEC – AGUIRRE PASSAGE

A slightly overcast morning with a fresh breeze. We used the Zodiac to head upwind into the maze of icebergs. This gave us some shelter but also incredible paddling. Within five minutes of paddle, we were extremely lucky and a minke whale cruised by. Wow, that doesn't happen often! The ice was being pushed around by the



currents, but we dodged between the flows and into the Chilian base, where we spotted many penguins. We then cruised downwind, weaving between ice.

PM 15TH DEC – PORT LOCKROY

Port Lockroy was wonderfully sheltered. We had an unfortunate capsizing from one of our singles, but he did an amazing job in the cold water. We then headed into the bay, exploring the little bays around the island, where we found a Weddell seal, as we continued around the bay our seal count went up to 11! We even



watched a glacier calving. Our paddle took us around the islands, spotting many penguins along the way, and we finished our adventure navigating around huge blue icebergs.

Mountaineering

15 December 2023 – Jabet Peak Col

Jabet Peak towers above Dorian Bay and the Damoy Hut. We encountered mixed weather conditions and difficult underfoot snow conditions, with very soft snow into which our snowshoes sunk and made for heavy going. With resilience and a few muttered curses, our intrepid team beat their way successfully to the stunning high col, our planned high point.



Camping

15 December 2023 - Location: Lefevre Point, Doumer Island.

The second camping day for the camping guides, but the first day for the other brave people who wanted to sleep outside in Antarctica. When we arrived on Lefevre Point, we were welcomed by some Kelp gulls, Antarctic terns, and Skuas.

The weather conditions were much better than the first day. Less wind and no drizzle at all. Lefevre Point was a bit rocky and most of the snow was melted, so we couldn't dig a deep "grave" sleeping pit. But everyone managed to find a beautiful spot where they got to spend the night. After the drop-off, Plancius sailed away and was out of sight. After a good night (for some), the wake-up call was early, around 4 AM. Everybody filled up their hole and put their sleeping kit back in the waterproof bag. It was a beautiful night with good weather conditions. Everyone was happy to experience camping on Antarctica.



Day 6 – 16th December

Petermann Island and Pleneau

12:00 GPS Position: 65°10.7'S / 064°07.2'W

Wind: E 1, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



Over breakfast we sailed to our next destination - Peterman Island, the most southern point of our journey. After two hours, we sailed through the beautiful entrance of the Lemaire Channel. The Lemaire Channel is one of the highlights of our voyage. Steep cliffs hem in the iceberg-filled passage, which is 11 km (6.8 mi) long, and just 1,600 meters (1.970 ft) wide. It was the Belgian Adrien de Gerlache who first explored Lemaire Channel, and this area of the Antarctic Peninsula in

1898. Gerlache named the channel for Charles Lemaire (1863 - 1925), a Belgian explorer of the Congo.

Sailing through the Lemaire Channel, we were lucky to see more Humpback Whales surrounded by fantastic mountainous scenery.

After breakfast we got ready for our landing on Petermann Island. It was a little overcast, but the sun soon came out during our landing. Petermann Island was discovered by a German expedition of 1873-74, who named it after geographer August Petermann. Charcot's second French Antarctic expedition wintered aboard the Porquois-Pais at this location. On the landing site there is an Argentine refuge hut and close by a commemorative cross for three members of the British Antarctic Survey who died by attempting to cross the sea ice in 1982.



Close to the landing site, we were lucky to see a young Southern Elephant Seal from the Zodiac. The Southern Elephant Seal is the biggest species of seal. They are the deepest diving, air-breathing, non-cetaceans and have been recorded at a maximum of 2,388 meters (7,835 feet) in depth. Just stepping out of the Zodiac on land, we were able to see another Weddell Seal relaxing close to the shore.

Peterman Island also has been identified as an important Bird Area (IBA). It supports a breeding colony of about 3,000 pairs of Gentoo Penguins. The island also holds a colony of Adelie Penguins and Imperial Shags. We were able to watch these funny little penguins in an incredible, mountainous scenery.

At the end of the landing, it was hard to walk away from such a beautiful place. After we got back onboard Plancius, we had a delicious lunch.

In the afternoon we jumped into our Zodiacs for a stunning cruise around Pleneau Island in Salpetriere Bay. We encountered hundreds of Gentoo Penguins making a highway in the water. It was funny to watch these guys floating around in the water. We switched the engine off to try not to disturb them. Our cruise also took us to some Weddell Seals who hauled out on the snow and were sleeping.

One highlight of this cruise was an encounter with a Leopard Seal. We were able to watch him for a longer time while he was resting on an ice floe. He was certainly less impressed with us.

After three hours of cruising among glacial scenery, we headed back to Plancius. On the way back, we were able to find another Humpback Whale feeding in this area.



Back on board, we had a short recap. A delicious BBQ dinner awaited us outside on deck 3, at the stern. We took the dance floor and had a nice party until the late evening, still in the Lemaire Channel with stunning mountainous scenery still surrounding us.

What a perfect finish for an incredible day! Good night!

Kayaking

AM 16TH DEC – PETERMAN ISLAND

What a calm day. Blue skies and mirror calm waters reflecting the mountains perfectly. We climbed into our kayaks for an amazing adventure. Navigating a few icebergs, we watched the Adelie penguins hopping off the rocks and into the water. In the next bay, we found a sleeping elephant seal close to the shore, and numerous wedel seals sleeping in the sun. Our luck stayed

with us with a leopard seal sighting and so we decided to try our luck looking for whales. We paddled out into the deeper waters of the channel and stumbled across two humpback whales



feeding. We sat and watched these incredible creatures for well over half an hour.

PM 16TH DEC – PORT CHARCOT (ICEBERG GRAVEYARD)

Iceberg graveyard is exactly what you think it would be. Hundreds of stranded icebergs to explore. Ranging from small ice sculptures on the rocky shores to bergs bigger than cathedrals. We navigated our way through the maze of ice, spotting a couple of wedel seals sleeping on the rocks and Gentoo penguins nesting. The shapes of the bergs were amazing, natures art exhibition. It was amazing we didn't get lost in the maze of narrow channels and towering ice!



Mountaineering

16 December 2023 – Petermann Island

A lovely ascent up steep snow slopes and a crossing of the plateaued summit of the Island. We enjoyed magnificent views and were enthralled by the solitude and silence of our surroundings.



16 December 2023 – Hoovgard Island

A fantastic mountaineering hike to the summit that never seemed to get any closer! We made a speedy and very efficient ascent, finding ourselves coming in and out of the ethereal mists. The views from Hoovgard back in to the Lemaire Channel were breathtaking.



Day 7 – 17th December

Danco Island and Orne Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64°42.5'S / 062°36.5'W

Wind: W 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

We woke up to Pippa's voice and started our day a bit later than usual. It was overcast, with a little bit of sun. After our breakfast, we boarded the Zodiacs for our morning landing at Danco Island. Danco Island is a one-mile long island in the southern part of the Errera Channel. Its north shore is characterised by a flat cobbled beach.

Once ashore the sun came out. We put on snowshoes and hiked up to some beautiful viewpoints. On our way up, we had to take care of a few penguin highways crossing our trail. Throughout the hike up, we had stunning views of glacial scenery and of the Errera Channel. We were lucky to have the chance to watch a very active Gentoo Penguin colony.



After coming back to the beach at the landing site we had the opportunity to do a Polar Plunge, which was very exciting for most of us. The expedition staff brought towels for us to use. We had a lot of fun during the Plunge. Directly on beach close to us were some nesting Gentoo Penguins and some of us had a little glimpse of the two eggs being incubated when the Gentoo was moving.

In the afternoon, we prepared to go back to Orne Island. We spent a stunning afternoon on Orne with a lot more Gentoo penguins and Chinstrap colonies. There were also brown skuas that flew over our heads, a great opportunity to take a few more photos of all these mesmerizing animals. It was a pleasure seeing the penguins hiking up and down on their snowy highways and watch them working to build up and to improve their nests. We had some outstanding views from Orne Island of Gerlache Strait, Errera Channel, and Cuverville Island.



Back on board, we had some drinks at the bar and listened to Steffi's interesting recap about the penguins breeding circle. Pippa closed the recap with a really funny story about how penguins find a partner, and she sent us with a big smile on our faces to dinner.

After dinner some of us went straight into the cabin to get a long rest, but a few minutes later we heard Pippa's voice again: Killer Whales are in sight. But this time they weren't interested in us, so it was just a short

encounter. Maybe tomorrow!

Kayaking

AM 17th DEC – DANCO ISLAND

The waters around Danco Island were busy with ice. We started our journey weaving through the thick ice, which required good boat manoeuvring. The wind and current were pushing the ice down the coast of Danco island, but we found a passage near the shore.



As we passed a small rocky island, we saw three sleeping Weddell seals on top. It was a beautiful day to paddle through the icebergs on the north edge of the island.

PM 17th DEC – ORNE ISLAND

Mirror-calm waters and gigantic icebergs! As we approached Couverville Island, we aimed for the narrow channel, where on the south side of this we found three sleeping Weddell seals. One was happily singing.



Along the coast northeast of Couverville Island were numerous gentoo penguin colonies. We watched them entering and exiting the water before making our way back through the maze of icebergs to the ship.

Mountaineering

17 December 2023 – Danco Island

Today we enjoyed a magnificent circuit of Danco Island, surrounded by stunning polar views.

17 December 2023 – Georges Point

Our planned objective of a high col on this remote landing was thwarted by heavily saturated snow, which presented the mountain guides with unacceptable risk factors. Sharing our thought processes and decision making with our mountaineers is a big part of the mountain guides role to add valuable learning as to safety protocols. Regardless of the conditions, we enjoyed magnificent surroundings and solitude.



Day 8 – 18th December

Damoy and Paradise Bay (Brown station)

12:00 GPS Position: 64°50.5'S / 063°37.4'W

Wind: WE 4, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Snow, Air Temp: 2°C, Sea Temp: 1°C

We awoke to truly Antarctic conditions, with thick, low-lying clouds hovering above and rain falling on the decks. Yet whilst the conditions were imperfect, operations were still possible! We would persevere and make the most of our day on the Peninsula.

After another delicious breakfast, we boarded the Zodiacs for our morning landing at Damoy Point, a beautiful peninsula at the southern end of the Neumayer Channel. Whilst the gusting winds meant that kayaking had to be cancelled, our planned landing and mountaineering activities could proceed – but only after a splashy Zodiac ride.

Once ashore, we donned our snowshoes and began exploring the bay, following a trail in the snow littered with Gentoo penguin rookeries. We also had the opportunity to explore Damoy hut, Port Lockroy's 'airport', offering a flavor of what life might have been like for the early Antarctic explorers and researchers. Meanwhile, as we traversed the lower colonies of Damoy, the mountaineers trekked high above, traversing the glaciated runway above the landing site.



After returning to Plancius a little soggy and cold, we enjoyed another sumptuous lunch offered by the galley and sailed south, across the Gerlache and into Paradise Bay for our afternoon activities.

As we entered the bay, the snow was thick and conditions looked challenging. Yet as we approached the eastern shore, the visibility suddenly improved, and we could see clearly Base Brown ahead of the ship – an Argentine research station.

Whilst the visibility meant mountaineering was cancelled, we were still able to venture out in our zodiacs and kayaks to explore the landing site and the surrounding ice-filled bay. Half of us were shuttled ashore to enjoy a landing, exploring the base and surrounding Gentoo penguins. Meanwhile, the remainder took to the Zodiacs, navigating through the growlers and bergy bits of Skontorp Bay. After an hour and a half, we swapped, allowing everyone a chance to enjoy a continental landing, as well as a beautiful cruise in the snow.

As the weather improved, our time at Brown Base ended. We returned to Plancius, gathering for our daily recap, and then enjoying yet another delicious meal from the galley team. After dinner, we all retired to bed, ready for an early wakeup call the next morning at Portal Point.

Kayaking

PM 18th – SKONTHORP COVE

We climbed into the Zodiac, as there was a blizzard all around us. We could just make out Brown Station through the poor visibility. Snow was settling on the surface of the water, and it made the kayaking tough. As the Zodiacs passed us, we threw a few snowballs. We made our way back to the base, enjoying a few penguins on the rocks, and a sleeping Weddell seal.



Mountaineering

18 December 2023 – Jabet Glacier Trek

Our team today can claim an unusual record! Probably the wettest day either of the two mountain guides have ever ventured out on an Antarctic Basecamp. We set the level accordingly and completed a great exploratory circuit above and behind the Damoy Hut. By the time we returned to the comfort of Plancius, there was not a single item of clothing the rain had not managed to find a way through.



Day 9 – 19th

December

Charlotte Bay and Palaver Point

12:00 GPS Position: 64°08.3'S / 061°47.5'W

Wind: SE 4, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Snow, Air Temp: 0°C, Sea Temp: 1°C

We woke up early at 5.15 AM, hearing Pippa's voice updating us on the conditions and wishing us a fantastic early Zodiac cruise. We made our way to the gangway to jump into the Zodiacs and started our cruise at Portal Point. We had to start very early without breakfast, because at around 10 AM there was a lot of wind forecasted.



After approaching the Weddell Sea, we got a call on the radio that there was a breaching Humpback Whale not far away. We headed over and had an incredible experience watching it breaching, lob-tailing and flipper-slapping. This is important for communication and parasite removal.



During the cruise, the sun came out, but it was still a bit cold due to wind. We encountered a cliff that was home to a Chinstrap colony. We were lucky to see a cute, swimming Weddell Seal pup close to an ice-covered boulder with a lot of Giant Petrels on top. We found a seal pup on a boulder and spent some time watching it. After taking in the views, we found a Crabeater Seal on an ice floe. It was our first sighting of a Crabeater Seal. 'Crabbies' are true pack-ice seals, always seen on ice-strewn areas. Unlike Leopard and Weddell Seals, Crabeater Seals are routinely gregarious, usually occurring in small groups of up to 10 individuals.

With our bellies beginning to rumble, we returned to Plancius with a lot of new memories – especially the breaching Humpback Whale and the Crabeater Seal, a highlight of this journey so far. We lifted anchor and during our late breakfast and lunch, we repositioned a few miles North to another location called Palaver Point.

In the afternoon we had a very nice landing at Palaver Point in beautiful glacial scenery. After landing we made our way to the first stunning viewpoint, where we were able to see a few Chinstrap Penguins. The hike up to the upper viewpoint was a little bit steeper, but this was worth it. We were standing next to another very active Chinstrap colony. Some of us spotted a few Humpback Whales from this point. Also, on the third and last viewpoint, we were able to take a lot of nice pictures of Chinstrap Penguins with beautiful glacial scenery in the background. The wind caught up and we had to hurry for the Zodiac back to Plancius, as the swell got bigger and bigger. Back on board, we enjoyed a short drink and recap before heading off to the dining room for another delicious dinner.



Kayaking

AM 19th DEC – PORTAL POINT

The wind today was breezy and cold. All around the bay were thick snow clouds, but above us was bright blue sky. A 6.15 start gave us the weather window to get out on the water. We tucked in beside the coast to seek shelter, and immediately found two sleeping Weddell seals. An iceberg split in two and rolled in front of us, making a thunderous sound. We paddled past a



rock with a baby seal, giving him a wide berth. As we paddled back towards portal point and Plancius, the wind suddenly started to pick up. This marked the end of our weather window. It was time to get back on board for breakfast.

Mountaineering

19 December 2023 – Portal Point

This was an early start, but it rewarded us well. Our two mountaineering teams proved to be energized and strong, allowing us to enjoy a speedy ascent of the slopes above Portal Point and return safely before any drastic weather changes.



19 December 2023 – Palavar Point

Our final mountaineering trip of the Basecamp provided us with a great finish. Having had to cancel the previous day due to poor weather conditions, our intrepid mountaineers enjoyed the first Oceanwide ascent of this peak. A great experience for everyone, including the guides who have now been able to add a new itinerary for future guests. Well done, everyone!



Day 10 – 20th December

Halfmoon Island and Deception Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°43.9'S / 059° 54.5'W

Wind: W 6, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Clear, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

The sun was shining and the wind howling, and beautiful lenticular clouds were hovering on top of the glaciated peaks of Livingston Island. Captain Evgeny has brought us across the Bransfield strait into the protected waters of McFarlane passage between Greenwich and Livingston islands.

On the bridge the anemometer was measuring 30-32 knots of northwesterly wind, with gusts up to 36-38 knots. However, as Plancius started to sail to the protected crescent shape harbour of Half Moon Island, the conditions became suitable to start operating with the Zodiacs.

Soon we were shuttled to shore, where our expedition team was ready to greet us on the rocky raised beach of this small island.

An interesting change compared to the previous days we spent in the Antarctic Peninsula, Half Moon is a volcanic island where effusive basaltic and gabbro rocks dominate the landscape, dotted with interesting lichens and a few specimens of Antarctic hair-grass (*Deschampsia antarctica*).



A lively and busy Chinstrap colony roamed the island, wabbling through difficult terrain and climbing up to a small saddle, then down to the island's western shore. Despite the early season, the snow was partially melted, and it gave us a glimpse of how the Peninsula would look later in the season.

The landing was short because a long transit awaited us on the way to Deception Island, our next destination in the South Shetlands. As forecasted the wind dropped enough to allow us to sail through the narrow gap of the Neptune Bellows, the only natural channel that connects the outer waters of the Deception with the inner part of the caldera.

The bow and outer decks were busy, with most of us seeing us enter the sheltered waters of Port Foster. Impressive basaltic cliffs bursting with birdlife and beautiful reddish-to-orange lapilli-tuff layers told us of the history of one of the volcanoes in the Antarctic continent.



Deception Island is one of the most active volcanoes of Antarctica, and over the past century it has undergone several eruptions, the most recent in 1968-70. It is on the Bransfield Basin, where extension over the last four million years (at a rate of 10mm/year) has caused the opening of the Bransfield Strait and volcanism. The rifting is connected to trench-rollback related to the adjacent subduction zone. The volcanism is mainly below sea level but three of these

volcanic centers make it above sea level: Deception Island, Penguin Island and Bridgeman Island. These islands form the youngest land of the South Shetland archipelago.

Around the corner we started seeing the old buildings of the old whaling station, the big hangar used by Hubert Wilkins for his first flight above the Antarctic Peninsula and the steamy shoreline of Whaler's Bay. Trained by our previous days operations we quickly set foot on land and found ourselves hiking to the high viewpoint of Neptune's window. From this vantage point and thanks to the incredible weather that had blessed us during the entire day, we could enjoy magnificent views over the entire caldera and towards the outer sea where we could spot a few humpback whales. It was a very nice feeling knowing that after decades of exploitation and hunting right at our feet, these magnificent cetaceans had come back thanks to the protection that the Antarctic Treaty granted them since 1959.

At 17:00 we wrapped up the operations and, after the usual briefing and dinner, we set sail to Ushuaia. Two long days awaited us across the infamous waters of the Drake Passage. However, the weather seemed to be on our side.



Day 11 – 21st December

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 60°13.5'S / 063°99.0'W

Wind: NW 6, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Rain, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

The first day of going back to Ushuaia, after an incredible voyage in Antarctica.

Yesterday evening we started to sail back and start the crossing of the Drake Passage.

The sea conditions were pretty good. We experienced some rolling during the night. But luckily most of us were used to the moving ship and had some good sea legs.

The night was pretty good for some people, and others experienced seasickness. This was the first day we had no wake-up call, so we could take some extra rest.

After breakfast we could enjoy the beautiful weather outside. Before we got into the Convergence, the sun was shining, and the sky was blue. It was still windy outside. We were welcomed by some Black-brown Albatrosses and Cape Petrels.

At 09:30 Steffanie gave us an interesting lecture about the seabirds, then George gave us a lecture about geopolitics and the complexities of the Antarctic Treaty.

After a delicious lunch (again) Koen gave us a final lecture about photography and how to edit our images in post-production. Quite interesting in what you can do with a picture in this wonderful environment. After this lecture, Pippa told us more about Seals and Whales.

During the day, we experienced the Drake passage get wilder and rougher. But most of us like this experience. At 1800 we had the Recap of the day and HAPPY HOUR at the bar. At 1900 we had a plated dinner. It was delicious (like always), but the dining room may have been a little quieter due to the rougher ocean.

In the evening there was a fun quiz given by the staff. We had to answer 14 questions, listen to 6 different sounds we heard daily, and at the end we saw some cute baby pictures of the staff.



Day 12 – 22nd December

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 56°06.7'S / 065°52.4'W

Wind: NWW 4, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Rain, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

We awoke for our final day aboard Plancius to the rolling seas of the Southern Ocean. Three-meter swell and 35 knots of wind buffeted our port side, disturbing sleep for some, whilst rocking others into an even deeper slumber. Nevertheless, we arose to another day of lectures, food and wildlife aboard Plancius as we drew ever closer to Tierra del Fuego.

After another delicious breakfast from our galley team, Pippa offered a lecture exploring her experience as a whale researcher. We learnt about the history of whaling in Antarctica as well as the various species that call the Southern Ocean home. As Pippa talked, many of us kept a keen eye on the horizon, not only to ward off any sickness, but hoping to catch a glimpse of these majestic creatures of the deep as we sailed ever further north.

Following Pippa, Steffi offered her lecture about the amazing polar adaptations of the birds and mammals living in Antarctica. She shared stories of the extraordinary physiological changes these creatures undergo to survive and thrive in the fierce polar conditions.

Then, finally, after lunch, George shared his lecture exploring the future history of Antarctica. He described the challenges facing the Antarctic Treaty System and some opportunities to improve ecological protection and strengthen collaborative governance.

As the day drew to a close, Tierra del Fuego appeared off our bow. We gathered for a final time in the lounge for our captain's farewell. After a rousing speech, the captain offered a toast to this incredible voyage, and Pippa thanked the team and crew for their efforts. The festivities finished with Koen's beautiful slideshow, a fitting tribute to a truly amazing voyage.



As the sun fell ever lower in the sky, we retired to the dining room one last time to enjoy a special meal prepared by Head Chef Khabir and his team, including everyone's favorite dessert – crepe suzette. As the day drew to a close, we gathered in the bar for one final drink from Raquel before returning to our rooms to pack and enjoy one last evening aboard Plancius.

Day 13 – 23rd December

Ushuaia - Disembarkation Day

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

Wind: W 6, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 4°C, Sea Temp: 9°C

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

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



Total distance sailed: 1890 nautical miles

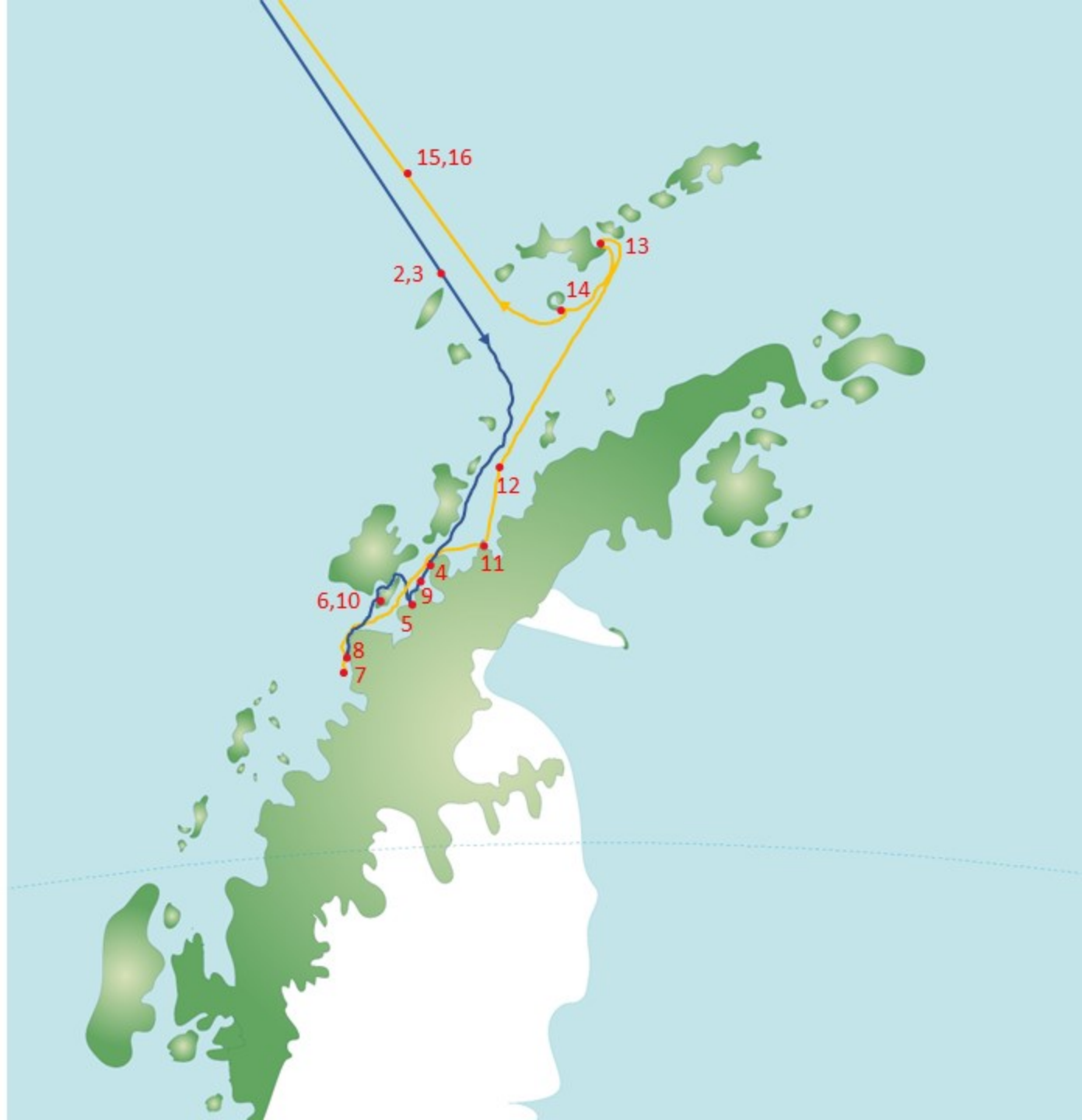
Farthest south: 65°10.7'S / 064°07.2'W

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

Antarctica Basecamp 2023

M/V Plancius 11/12 – 23/12/23

- 1: 11/12 Ushuaia - Embarkation
- 2: 12/12 Drake Passage - at Sea
- 3: 13/12 Drake Passage - at Sea
- 4: 14/12 Orne Harbor and Cuverville Island - Landing
- 5: Leith Cove - Overnight Camping
- 6: 15/12 Aguirre Channel - Zodiac Cruise
Joula Point – Landing
Lefèvre Point - Overnight Camping
- 7: 16/12 Petermann Island - Landing
Salpêtrière Bay - Zodiac Cruise
- 8: Lemaire Channel – Cruising & BBQ
- 9: 17/12 Danco Island – Landing & Polar Plunge
Orne Island - Landing
- 10: 18/12 Dorian Bay, Damoy Hut - Landing
Brown Station - Split Landing
- 11: 19/12 Charlotte Bay - Zodiac Cruise
- 12: Palaver Point - Landing
- 13: 20/12 Half Moon Island – Landing
- 14 Deception Island, Whaler's Bay - Landing
- 15: 21/12 Drake Passage - at Sea
- 16: 22/12 Drake Passage - at Sea
- 17: 23/12 Ushuaia - Disembarkation



Species list: PLA24 Basecamp - 11th December - 23rd December 2023

English	Latin	11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	Deutsch	Français	Nederlands
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>													Kaiserpinguin	Manchot Empereur	Keizerpinguin
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>													Adeliepinguin	Manchot Adélie	Adélie-pinguin
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			Eselspinguin	Manchot Papou	Ezelspinguin
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			x	x					x	x			Zügelpinguin	Manchot à jugulaire	Kinbandpinguin
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>													Goldschoppinguin	Gorfou doré	Macaroniepinguin
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>			x					x		x			Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	Pétrel géant	Zuidelijke reuzenstormvogel
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>	x					x	x	x	x		x	x	Kapsturmvogel	Damier du Cap	Kaapse duif
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>											x		Weißkinnsturmvogel		Witkin stormvogel
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>			x	x	x	x		x	x		x		Weißflügelsturmvogel	Pétrel Antarctique	Antarctische stormvogel
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				x	x	x							Schneesturmvogel	Pétrel des neiges	Sneeuwstormvogel
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				Buntfußsturmschwalbe	Océanite de Wilson	Wilson stormvogeltje
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>		x									x		Graustrumvogel		Grijze stormvogel
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		x		x	x							x	Blaustrumvogel		Blauwe storm vogel
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		x											Schwarzbauchmeerläufer	Océanite à ventre noir	Zwartbuikstormvogeltje
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>												x	Belcher-sturmvogel		
Antartic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>													Taubensturmvogel		
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			x	x	x			x	x	x			Südlicher Eissturmvogel		zuidelijke ijsstormvogel
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			Antarktikscharbe	Cormoran (impérial) antarctique	Blauwoogaalscholver
Pale-faced Shearbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	Chionis – Bec en fourreau	Poolkip
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			Dominikanermöwe	Goéland dominicain	Kelpmeeuw
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x				Antipodenseeschwalbe	Sterne couronnée	Zuidpoolstern
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>								x					Antarktiskua	Labbe de Mac Cormick	Zuidpooljager
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			Subantarktiskua	Labbe brun	Subantarctische Grote Jager
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		x										x	Wanderalbatross	Albatros hurleur	Grote albatros
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>		x										x	Schwarzbrauenalbatross	Albatros à sourcils noirs	Wenkbrauwalbatros
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		x										x	Graukopfalbatross	Albatros à tête grise	Grijskopalbatros
Light Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>		x								x	x	x	Rußalbatross	Albatros fuligineux	Roetkopalbatros
Campbell Albatross	<i>Thalassarche Impavida</i>													Campbell-Albatross		
Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria fusca</i>													Graumantelrußalbatros		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Procellaria griseus</i>													Dunkelsturmtacher		
Marine mammals		11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	Deutsch	Français	Nederlands
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>					x		x						Zwergwal	Petit Rorqual antarctique	Antarctische dwergvinvis
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaengliae</i>			x	x	x	x		x	x				Buckelwal	Mégaptère (Baleine à bosse)	Bultrug; Bultrugwalvis
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>													Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>			x										Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>													Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>													Südlicher Entenwal	Baleine à bec australe	Zuidelijke Butskop
Straptoothed Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>													Layard-Wal	La baleine à bec de Layard	Layardspitssnuitdolfijn
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>													Grindwal	Globicéphale noir	Griend
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>					x			x					Orka	Orque (épaulard)	Orka
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>													Stundenglasdelfin	Lagénorhynque sablier	Zandloperdolfijn
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	x												Peale-Delfin	Lagénorhynque à menton noir	Dolfijn van Peale
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>													Commerson-Delfin	Dauphin de Commerson	Kortsnuitdolfijn
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>						x	x			x			Südlicher See-Elefant	Eléphant de mer austral	Zuidelijke zeeolifant

Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>													Südliche Pelzrobbe		Zuidelijke pelt zeehond
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>													Mähnenrobbe	Lion de mer d'Amérique du Sud	Patagonische zeeleeuw
Leopard seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				x		x							Seeleopard		Zee-luipaard
Weddel seal	<i>Leptonychotes wedellii</i>					x	x	x	x	x				Weddel-Robbe		Weddel zeehond
Crabeater seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>									x				Krabbenfresserrobbe		Krabeter zeehond

Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



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

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in various marine

disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

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

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

George Kennedy – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

Prior to his political studies, George worked as an ALS Paramedic in Australia, as well as a community development coordinator for conservation organisations in Latin America. George has a passion for travel, boats, and motorcycles. Over a three-year period, he rode a motorcycle from Patagonia to Mexico, exploring Latin America on two wheels. It was during his time in Patagonia that his passion for the Polar Regions developed, working closely with conservation organisations in Tierra del Fuego and visiting Antarctica for the first time in 2017. George has been guiding in Antarctica and the Arctic since 2019, sharing stories of its incredible wildlife, landscapes and, of course, its unique politics!

Marco Rosso - Camping Guide



Marco was born in the country of Pasta & Pizza. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city in Italy, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

After a few years working in the industry, he decided to embark himself on a quest. For two years he carried his tent and camping equipment; backpacking from the steamy jungle of Mexico and Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Peruvian Andes and the dry highlands of Bolivia. Rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfy his innate curiosity, thus self-teaching Earth Science natural processes such as geological volcanism, sea ice and glaciers formation and dynamics, wind patterns and oceanic currents.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natales, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leader in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia, such as Torres del Paine, Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre circuits as well as the southernmost trekking in the world, Dientes de Navarino.

One step further from Patagonia lies the Antarctic peninsula, where he is willing to share with you an incredible camping experience in this truly pristine and untouched environment.

Erin Bastian - Kayak Guide



Erin is a UKCC level 3 Sea Kayak Coach and BCU 5* sea kayak leader.

Erin is a passionate sea kayaker with over 15 years experience leading expeditions around the world, from the icy fjords of Patagonia, Greenland, and Arctic Norway, to the warm waters of the Mediterranean, circumnavigating the islands of Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca. In 2019 Erin crossed the Aegean sea by kayak, planning a route which linked 17 Greek islands and making 16 significant open water crossings.

Erin's keen sense for adventure and love for the ocean inspired her to row across the Atlantic ocean in 2021. Making the 3000 mile crossing from La Gomera to Antigua, as part of a team of 4 women, in 40 days.

Erin finds herself drawn to the colder waters of the poles, where exploring by kayak allows her to enjoy the incredible wildlife, navigate between enormous icebergs and watch glaciers calve into the ocean. Erin has a real love for introducing others to the sport of kayaking with its freedom to explore and ability to get people closer to nature.

Stefanie Liller – Expedition Guide



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

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveller by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Owain Jones – Mountain Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Koen Hoekemeijer – Photography Guide



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales

and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife.

Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and portraits of people all over the world.

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

David McKinley - Mountain Leader



Dave McKinley is an IFMGA Climbing and Ski Guide with 25 years of professional experience.

He lives in the small town of Twizel, just south of Aoraki/Mt Cook with his wife, 3 kids (when they're home) and 4 dogs and spends much of the year sharing adventures in the NZ Southern Alps with guests. Either mountaineering or Heliskiing/touring.

Dave has worked and climbed in NZ, Europe, Alaska, Nepal, Tibet and South America including ascents of Everest, Lhotse, Manaslu, Denali (which with his last name of McKinley originates his nickname of "Narly") and Aconcagua amongst many others. He is passionate about sharing his experience and joy in exploring the more remote parts of our world with people and, having a previous life as a chef, he has a belief that guiding is a part of the "hospitality" industry at its heart. Dave has also been involved in the Search and Rescue aspect of the outdoors environment, and in particular with the use and deployment of dogs in Avalanche and wilderness/Open Area searching. Dave is a guide with a strong skill-set and an even stronger desire to enable and assist others to engage and learn from our natural and wild spaces.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Brian Veltrop – Expedition Guide



This is Brian. He is 30 years young and lives in Heerlen, the Netherlands.

Brian is a true nature enthusiast. In his daily life he can be found regularly in the nature and loves everything that comes with it. Think of hiking and survival in nature. But also being able to identify the flora & fauna.

In 2022, Brian completed the Hike & Survival Instructor, Hike & Backpacking Guide and Canadian Woods Travel and Survival Instructor LVL1. For this he has been in Canada, France and the Netherlands and has been examined here in Map, Compass, GPS, Route Selection, Pathfinding, Canoeing, Hiking,

Backpacking, Snow Shoe Hiking, Wilderness Camping, Food Care and Preparation, Equipment Care and Handling, Survival Skills, Bushcrafting, Wilderness First Aid, Wildlife Tracking, Flora and Fauna Species Identification, Group Management, Leadership and Instructions

In addition, he is trained in winter conditions and has completed the Winter Travel & Survival Level 2 training in France and followed the training of Bico, Baby It's Cold Outside and Mountain 101 (University of Alberta, Canada) In addition to his rounded studies and training now he is also busy with his training for CSWI LVL 2, outdoor sports instructor and Nature & Wildlife Guide LVL 1.

Brian is a member of the Wilderness Guide Association and Interpretive Guide Association. In addition to Oceanwide Expeditions, Brian works at two Dutch companies as an instructor and wilderness guide, who offer Wilderness trips to Scandinavian countries, France, Poland, Canada and Spain.

Beside of his work in the outdoor, Brian works as a self-employed person in healthcare. He now has 11 years of experience in this

Tanja Matschi – Hiking guide



Born and raised in the Bavarian Alps in Germany, Tanja has been working as an International Mountain Leader (UIMLA) for the last 8 years. Before that, she was a professional horse-back rider for more than 11 years until she turned her passion for the mountains into her profession.

She also holds a degree as certified Mental Coach which allows her to support her clients in growing their mental strengths and manage stressful situations effectively. Tanja combines both skills in her trekking tours which can also span over multiple days.

Her work has taken her all over the Alps - from Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland to Germany - and more remote places such as Georgia, Lapland/Finland, Norway. She has guided groups of 6 - 12 people on their alpine crossing on the European long-distance hiking trail E5, Tour du Mont Blanc, Haute Route for hikers from Zermatt to Chamonix, 7-day trails thru the Dolomites, as well as 1-day excursions in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps on all levels.

During winter you can find Tanja ski mountaineering in the Alps, crossing Finland and more recently in Spitsbergen - all of which laid the foundation for her passion for the Nordic countries.

Tanja strongly believes that time spent in nature helps people clear their thoughts, connect to the inner self, grow one's own consciousness and feel nature more intensively.

She speaks fluent English and German.

Anna Buijze – Ship's doctor



Anna Buijze is a skilled doctor from The Netherlands with years of experience in Emergency Medicine. At the moment she is in training for becoming an Emergency Medicine specialist. She works both at the University Medical Centre of Groningen (UMCG) and the Medical Centre of Leeuwarden (MCL). She also has a degree as a medical examiner of divers.

She has a lot of diverse interests, enthusiasm and passion to diligent work. She enthusiastically welcomes new opportunities to explore the world and widen her knowledge in expedition medicine.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member. Please also check your cabin for any rental gear and try it on to ensure it fits.

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

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

Lifeboat Drill

All guests will go to the MUSTER STATION which is the lounge on Deck 5.

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

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

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

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

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

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0915 **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac and IAATO briefings.
- 1100 **Mountaineering briefing** – Please join Dave and Owain in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a mountaineering introduction and briefing. If you plan on doing a mountaineering activity this briefing is mandatory.
*If you have brought mountaineering boots with you – **please bring one of your boots to this briefing.***
- 1200 **Muck Boots** - We will call you by colour group to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3 forward**. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1400 **Camping Briefing** – Campers please meet Marco & Brian in the **lounge** (deck 5) for your camping introduction and briefing. If you plan on camping, this briefing is mandatory.
- 1530 **Kayaking briefing**– Please join Erin in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a kayak introduction and briefing. If you plan on kayaking, this briefing is mandatory.
- 1700 **Photography** – Please meet Koen in the **lounge** (deck 5) for your first introductory lecture on polar photography.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

Please take care when moving around the ship – take your time, be careful with doors, and ensure your cabin items are secure.

- 0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915 **Activities sign up** - We will call you by colour group to the **lounge**, (deck 5) to sign up for the activities you plan to do in Antarctica. These include Mountaineering, Kayaking and Camping. If you wish to Mountaineer, please sign up for this activity first. You can then sign up for camping and kayaking afterwards. Bring a paper & pen. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1130 **An Introduction to the White Continent; The Antarctic Peninsula** - Please join Marco in the **lounge** (deck 5) to learn everything you need to know about Antarctica! Marco will provide a broad overview of the continent.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400 **Biosecurity:** We will call you by colour group, to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, footwear/muckboots and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1500 **Mandatory briefings round 2** – If you were unwell yesterday and were unable to attend the Zodiac & IAATO briefing this is your chance to catch up. **You must attend this briefing before you can get off the ship.**
- 1630 **Antarctic Penguins** - Please join Carina in the **lounge** (deck 5) for her lecture exploring the natural history and identification of the brushtail penguins we are likely to encounter on the trip.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3) – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*
- 2030 **Kayakers for tomorrow (14th) morning** – Please come to the boot room (deck 3) to meet Erin and collect your gear.
- 2045 **Mountaineers for tomorrow (14th) morning & afternoon** – Please come to the library (deck 5) to meet Dave & Owain to collect your gear.

0715 **Wake up call.** Good morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning we hope to offer a landing at Orne Harbour, a continental landing with a steep hike to view Chinstrap Penguins and beautiful views over the Gerlache Strait.

0745 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) **to the zodiac boarding area**.

0830 The **Yellow Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Orne Harbour.

0840 The **Red Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Orne Harbour.

0845 **Kayakers** – Please come to the Zodiac boarding area dressed & ready to go.

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

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Cuverville Island – with beautiful Antarctic scenery and large Gentoo Penguin colonies!

+/- 1400 **Kayakers** please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear (deck 3).

+/- 1415 The **Red Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Cuverville Island.

+/- 1430 The **Yellow Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Cuverville Island.

1830 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap.

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

2000 **Mountaineers for tomorrow (15th) afternoon** – Please come to the boot room (deck 3) to meet Dave & Owain to collect your gear.

+/- 2045 **Camping** – This evening we hope to offer camping at Leith Harbour. We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Please standby for announcements.

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

This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise in the Aguirre Passage. We plan to see beautiful ice and hope to find some wildlife – we will also see Gonzales Videla – a Chilean Station.

- 0730 **Kayaking group** Please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
0805 The **Green Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Aguirre Passage.
0815 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Aguirre Passage.
1130 **Kayakers for the afternoon** – Please meet Erin in the Boot room to collect your gear.
Mountaineers for the afternoon – Please meet Dave & Owain in the Boot room to collect your gear.

This afternoon we will be transiting through the Neumayer Channel – enjoy spectacular Antarctic views.

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

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Jougla Point – a Large Gentoo Penguin Rookery, and views of Goudier Island – home to Port Lockroy. The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust Team will come onboard Plancius and run an onboard shop & Post office. They will only be able to take card payments. Half of you will go to Jougla first, the other will stay onboard for the shop, we will swap throughout the afternoon.

- +/-1430 **UKAHT Presentation** - Please join the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust Team in the lounge for a presentation on life at Port Lockroy and the important work done by UKAHT.
+/-1500 **Mountaineers & Kayakers** – Please visit the shop in the dining room first.
+/-1500 The **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Jougla Point.
+/-1515 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** – Please visit the shop in the dining room – please wait until this time, allowing the mountaineers and kayakers to go first.
+/-1520 **Mountaineers** – Please meet Dave & Owain at the gangway, dressed & ready to go.
+/-1530 **Kayakers** – Please meet Erin at the gangway, dressed & ready to go.
Red Group and the **Yellow Group** - once you have completed your shopping, dress up and head to the gangway for a landing at Jougla Point.
Blue Group and the **Green Group** – When you have finished enjoying Jougla Point Landing – you can head back to the ship for the shop – the shop will stay open for the afternoon.
1900 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
1930 **Buffet Dinner** served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!
+/- 2045 **Camping** – This evening we hope to offer camping. We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Please standby for announcements.

0700 **Wake up call.** Good morning!

*At approximately **0700** this morning we hope to begin transiting through the spectacular Lemaire Channel.*

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**. **Mountaineering**, please go first.

This morning we hope to land at Petermann Island. Here we hope to visit an Adele Penguin rookery amongst beautiful Antarctic scenery.

0815 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.

0815 **Kayaking group** - Please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.

0845 The **Yellow Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at *Petermann Island*.

0855 The **Green Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at *Petermann Island*.

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

This afternoon hope to offer a zodiac cruise in Salpetriere Bay. This large, sheltered bay is an iceberg graveyard – with towering icebergs, and home to Gentoo penguins, whales & seals.

+/- 1315 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.

+/- 1415 **Kayaking group** - Please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear from Erin.

+/- 1445 The **Red Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around *Salpetriere Bay*.

+/- 1455 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around *Salpetriere Bay*.

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

1900 **Special Antarctic Dinner** – Deck 3 aft (behind the dining room) – dress warmly!

- 0745 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning we hope to offer a landing at Danco Island – situated in the beautiful Errera Channel and home to Gentoo Penguins. At the end of the landing, we would like to offer the Polar Plunge for those brave enough! Please wear your swimming attire under your clothes for landing – we will supply the towels – please do not bring towels from your cabin.

- 0845 **Kayakers** – Please meet Erin in the **boot room** to collect your gear.
0845 **Mountaineers** – Please meet Dave & Owain in the **boot room – dressed & ready to go**.
0915 The **Red Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Danco Island.
0815 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Danco Island.
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the dining room.

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at **Orne Island** – on the edge of the Gerlache Strait it has beautiful views and is home to Chinstrap Penguins.*

- +/-1330 **Mountaineers** - Please meet Dave & Owain in the **boot room – dressed & ready to go**.
+/-1400 **Kayakers** – Please meet Erin in the **boot room** to collect your gear.
+/- 1430 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a landing at Orne Island.
+/- 1445 The **Blue Group** and The **Red Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a landing at Orne Island.
1830 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge
1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

- 0645 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room. Mountaineers & Kayakers – Please go first.**

This morning we aim to land at Damoy Point– home to Gentoo penguins, a historic hut and beautiful hiking opportunities and views.

- 0730 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room.**
0730 **Kayakers** - Please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear.
0800 The **Green Group** and **Blue Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a landing at Damoy Point.
0815 The **Yellow Group** and **Red Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a landing at Damoy Point.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room.**

In the afternoon we aim to land at Base Brown and cruise around Paradise Bay. This landing is a continental landing at an un-occupied Argentinian station, surrounded by towering glaciers, panoramic Antarctic views and home to Gentoo penguins. The cruise will take you around Paradise Bay to look for glaciers, icebergs and of course wildlife.

- 1430 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room.**
1430 **Kayakers - Kayakers** - Please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear.
1500 The **Blue Group** and **Red Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a landing at Brown station and a cruise around Paradise Bay.
1510 The **Green Group** and **Yellow Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a landing at Brown station and a cruise around Paradise Bay.
- 1900 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Dining room.

0515 **Wake up call.** Good morning!

Juice, Fruit & Pastries available in the lounge.

0530 **Mountaineers** – Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**
Kayakers – Please come to the boot room to collect your gear.

0600 The **Blue Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a Zodiac Cruise around Charlotte Bay.

0610 The **Green Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a Zodiac Cruise around Charlotte Bay.

0830 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

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

This Afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Palaver Point – located on Two Hummock Island. This beautiful rocky outcrop lies North of the Gerlache Strait and is home to Chinstrap Penguins. We will offer a walk up to a viewpoint as well as to the Chinstrap rookery.

1330 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.

1400 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Palaver Point.

1415 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Palaver Point.

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

1900 **Dinner** served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

This evening we will sail into the Bransfield Strait – we will experience high winds and it is likely the ship will be rolling. Please secure your cabins and prepare for movement for our voyage North to the South Shetland Islands.

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

This morning we hope to offer a landing at Half Moon Island – a crescent shaped island in the South Shetland Island chain. The island is home to Chinstrap Penguins, often Weddell Seals, as well as an Argentinian Base.

- 0800 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Half Moon Island.
0810 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Half Moon Island.

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

This Afternoon we hope to sail through Neptune's Bellows – the opening to the caldera of an active volcano 'Deception Island'. Please listen for announcements for timings.

Shortly after passing through the Bellows, we hope to land at Whaler's Bay – a scenic bay with remains of a once vibrant whaling station, thermal beaches, and sometimes Penguins and Seals.

- 1420 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whaler's Bay.
1415 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whaler's Bay.
1830 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
1900 **Dinner** served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

This evening we will sail into the Drake Passage – Please ensure your cabins are secure and you prepare your seasick medication. Please be careful moving around the ship, pay attention to the closed deck signs, and keep one hand for the ship.

No wakeup call – Have a lovely morning!

- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Seabirds** – Please join Steffi in the **lounge** for her lecture on the magnificent seabirds of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- 1100 **Antarctic Geopolitics** – Please join George in the **lounge** for his lecture exploring the wonderful world of the Antarctic Treaty system.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Photo Workshop** – Photo Post Processing – Please join Koen in the **lounge** to learn how you can touch up and refine the amazing images you have taken on this trip.
- 1600 **Marine Mammals** – Please join Pippa in the **lounge** for her lecture to learn more about the seals and whales we have seen on our trip.
- 1800 **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2030 **Quiz night** – Please join the expedition staff in the **lounge**. Grab your team of up to 6 people and test your Antarctic knowledge.

Please 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.

No wakeup call – Enjoy your morning!

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

*You will receive your bill in your cabin. We will call you by deck to make payments at reception throughout the day – **Please listen for announcements.***

0930 **Human and whale interactions** – Please join Pippa in the Lounge to explore the history of human interactions with whales in Antarctica: from commodity to research.

1100 **Adaptations to the cold** – Please join Steffi in the lounge to learn more about how the animals in Antarctica survive the freezing temperatures.

1200 **Muck Boot, dry bags & rental gear collection** – We will call you by deck to return your muck boots, dry bags and any rental gear to the **boot room on deck 3**. Please listen for announcements.

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

1400 **Antarctica Documentary** - Please join the expedition team in the lounge for a viewing of 'Antarctica' from 'Seven Worlds, one Planet', a documentary series narrated by David Attenborough.

1600 **A Future History of Antarctica** – Please join George in the Lounge for an explanation of the challenges facing Antarctica's shared governance system.

1815 **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join the captain and the expedition team in the **lounge** for a toast to our voyage to Antarctica and a slideshow of our expedition.

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

*Please walk slowly on the ship, never rush. **Keep at least one hand for the ship.** Shut all doors carefully and firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.*



Antarctica Basecamp
Saturday 23rd December 2023
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year!