



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula

17th December – 4th January 2023

M/V Hondius



M/V Hondius was built in 2019, as the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Hondius represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. Hondius complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life at Sea). M/V Hondius is 107.6 m long, 15.3 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.3 m, Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super), 15 knots average cruising speed and has 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kw

Captain Remmert-Jan Koster

and his international crew

Staff Captain:	Elizbar Kadaria	Ukraine
Chief Officer:	Deiderik Scholten	The Netherlands
2nd Officer:	Igor Nazarov	Russia
3rd Officer:	Giovanie Simene	The Philippines
Chief Engineer:	Daniel Liliac Zajontz	Romania
Hotel Manager:	Ingrid van de Loo	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	The Netherlands
Head Chef:	Gaurav Bawa	India
Ships Doctor:	Tijmen Brink	The Netherlands
Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Felicity Johnson	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Jakub Małecki	Poland
Expedition Guide:	Elizabeth Robinson	United States
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Gonzalo Sabattini	Argentina
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	Denmark
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zhao	China
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Monika Baczek	Poland
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy	Russia
Expedition Guide:	William Kennedy	France/Ireland

Day 1 – Sunday 17th December 2023

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 12.00 Position: 54° 51.8 'S / 068° 01.9'W

Wind: SW3 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +10°C

Having travelled from all over the world everyone was very excited to get started with our adventure and embark onto MV Hondius, our new home. Some of us spent time exploring Ushuaia, the most Southern city in the world before we began boarding Hondius in the afternoon. We were directed to the lounge for tea, coffee, and biscuits, and began our briefings. First, we had a safety briefing with Chief Officer Diedrick followed by a safety drill where we were shown where our life rafts are kept.

Then we were invited for the Captains Cocktails, where we met Captain Remmert and toasted to the beginning of our voyage. Our Expedition Leader Sara then introduced herself and the Expedition Team, the people who will be driving us in the zodiacs, delivering lectures, planning our landings, and keeping us safe as we explore the remote and beautiful places on our itinerary.



After our drinks we had some free time to go onto the outside decks and enjoy the views of the Beagle Channel. We managed to see distant views of sei whales, some South American sealions, Magellanic penguins, giant petrels, and black-browed albatross, all before dinner!

We then had a delicious buffet meal in the restaurant. In the evening we spent time unpacking, resting after our long travels, and getting to know our ship mates, and of course, birdwatching outside. Later in the evening some dolphins were spotted in the channel.



Day 2 – Monday 18th December 2023

At Sea, sailing towards the Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 53°33.8' S / 063°33.1' W

Wind: NW 5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +7°C **Sea Temp:** +9°C

We awoke on our first morning of the expedition to overcast conditions but fine, calm seas. Whilst we were still in sight of the South American mainland during the first half of the morning, we sailed serenely through throngs of feeding Black-browed Albatrosses, Sooty shearwaters, and Great Shearwaters, beautifully introducing us to the first pelagic seabirds of the trip.

In the morning we had mandatory briefings that taught us how to board and ride zodiacs safely, and how to behave around wildlife and protect the pristine environment of Antarctica. Expedition Guide Simon then kicked off the lecture programme with an *Introduction to the Birds of the Falkland Islands* which we would hopefully be seeing the following day. He was almost at the end of his lecture when he was interrupted by the excited shouts of 'WHALES!'. With no thought at all to the small brown birds he was describing the whole audience rushed to the windows to get fantastic views of a group of feeding fin whales very close to the ship....thus endeth the lecture!



After lunch the lectures continued, and Expedition Leader Sara gave us some valuable photography tips and tricks to make the most of our cameras during the voyage. Expedition Guide Jess introduced us to some of the cetaceans we

may encounter on our journey and how to identify them. After her lecture we saw some more fin whales in the distance and small pod of hourglass dolphins zoomed past the vessel, the most southern ranging of the smaller dolphin species. We were also treated to our first 'big' Albatrosses with several Southern Royal Albatross and the first magnificent Wandering Albatross of the trip gliding gracefully over the waves.



The sun came out for the rest of the afternoon and the seas remained calm. We all enjoyed

our first plated evening meal and reflected on a brilliant day at sea, full of thoughts as to what our arrival at the Falkland Islands the next morning would bring.

Day 3 – Tuesday 19th December 2023

Carcass Island and Saunders Island, Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 55°20.4' S / 060°25.0' W

Wind: W 4 Sea State: Smooth Weather: Sunny Air Temp: +12°C Sea Temp: +12°C



Sara stood leaning against the dashboard. Through the windows of the captain's bridge, the blurry outlines of approaching land could be discerned. The Hondius ship, gently swaying from side to side and cutting through the waves with its powerful bow, was approaching the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

The sky was veiled in a light haze, but the strength of the sun breaking through it was enough to make objects cast a faint shadow. The fresh tailwind intermittently caused the waves to foam. The expedition had just begun, and we were still in temperate latitudes, so stepping onto the deck

allowed you to feel the wind, strong and quite cool but not yet bone-chilling.

Exactly fifteen minutes before breakfast, at 6:45 am, Sara, whispering, "Well, my friends, let's get it started," approached the microphone, pressed the loudspeaker button, and began her morning speech: "Good morning, good morning, good morning..."

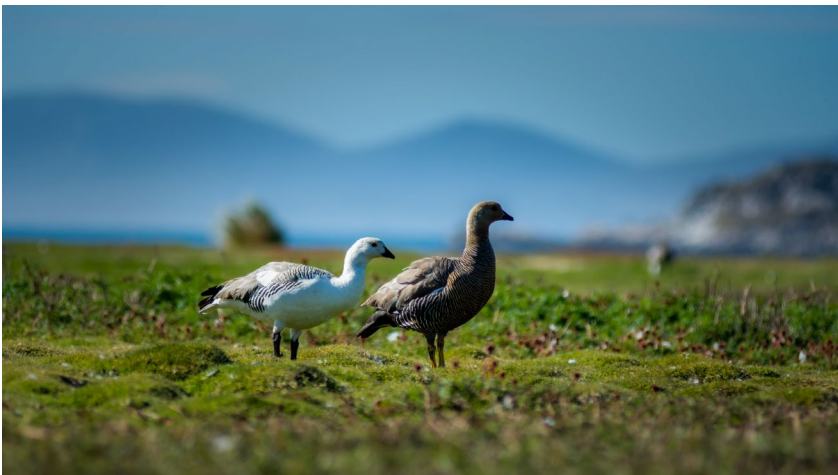
During breakfast, many of us felt a slight excitement, as it was our first full expedition day. Two landings were planned for the day: in the morning on the island with the ominous name Carcass Island, and after lunch on another island called Saunders Island.

Hondius dropped anchor, sailors lowered several Zodiacs into the water. All members of the expedition team got into these black inflatable motorboats and, taking all the necessary equipment, rushed towards the shore, raising clouds of spray. It turned out to be a routine procedure: first, the expedition team lands, assesses the situation and weather conditions, and then the



expedition leader gives the "green light" for us to exchange the ship's iron decks for the solid ground of the land.

We gathered in the Zodiac boarding area and, in small groups of ten, began to board the Zodiacs. As soon as all the seats in the boat were occupied, the Zodiac, led by an experienced guide, set in motion. Quickly gaining speed, it raced towards the shore. The sun played on the waves, the engine roared, splashes flew in all directions, showering us like rain and enhancing the sense of adventure we were experiencing. To those watching us from the deck, the



Zodiacs resembled mischievous children who, as soon as the rain stopped, rushed outside and, with their childlike feet, ran through puddles, creating splashes, making adults shake their heads and wag their fingers.

On the shore, Sara, William, Jerry, Jakob, and other members of the expedition team were already waiting for us. The Zodiacs nosed into the white Falkland sand, and one by one, we climbed onto the shore, swinging our legs over the side. The low but feisty waves, as if encouraging us, relentlessly struck the Zodiacs' stern, showering us with sprays and even splashing overboard, causing the Zodiac drivers to grumble and hurry us along.



The sandy beach strip was replaced by tufts of tussock grass as we moved further inland. Sometimes we had to step through marshy areas. The air smelled simultaneously of the sea, grass, and peat — a very unusual combination of natural aromas.

After passing through a densely overgrown grassy hollow, we found ourselves back on the beach but on the other side of the island. It was, I must say, much more picturesque than the one we initially landed on, not only because the sandy strip was much wider but also because the beach was bustling with quite a large number of local fauna representatives.



On a little hill, surveying everything with their proud gaze, stood a family of geese. The male and female, being the same size, sharply differed in the color of their feathers: one was entirely covered in snow-white feathers, and the other had brown feathers, but the chest was speckled in a thin black-and-white stripe. The goslings were all uniformly gray.

Treading the ground with their small steps, they constantly bent their heads to the ground, plucking edible vegetation with their sharp beaks.

On the waves, a couple of Steamer ducks swayed. The male had an orange beak, and the female had a green one. These birds had long since forgotten how to fly. Why bother? The climate here is favorable, with no sharp temperature fluctuations, so there's no need to migrate. All their food is right in front of them, no need to fly for it, and the nest is within walking distance, just a few dozen meters from the shoreline. The most amusing thing about Steamer ducks is how they quack. No, it's not quacking; it's more like a cross between the chirping of a cicada and the sounds from some old computer game from the early 90s.



And here are our first penguins — Magellanic penguins! They are quite small, peculiar, constantly waddling and assisting themselves with their wings. Nevertheless, they are completely unbothered by it, strolling along the beach and looking in different directions. Instead of building nests, they dig deep burrows and sit in them, waiting for the arrival of their offspring. Yes, it's dark and dirty, but no skuas will ever steal their

eggs. Well, except for the occasional curious penguin chick, wanting to see what lies beyond the burrow, inadvertently emerges on the surface — and here the troubles begin. The malicious skua only needs that, instantly diving down, grabbing the little one, and that's it. It sits somewhere on a rock and pecks at its bloody catch.



Ahead of us was a quite long walk. Three to four kilometers from the landing site stood a hamlet. The locals, the owners of the island, had been living there for a long time, raising sheep and catching fish. Around the houses, there was a garden with flowers and shady coniferous trees. Every time travelers arrived on their island, they baked hundreds of pastries and cakes and treated all the guests. It was the same this time, but before enjoying tea and indulging in local pastries, as mentioned earlier, we had to cover some distance.

On the left, the bay of Carcass Island spread out, in the middle of which stood our ship *Hondius*, anchored proudly and confidently. The sun showered us with ultraviolet and warmth, making it hot. Some of us had to make stops to take off sweaters or jackets.

Upon reaching the house, we settled down in the shade of the trees. One by one, we entered the house to grab a pastry or cookie from the table, pour ourselves a cup of tea, and then go back outside, sitting on a bench or a log, appreciating the skill of local confectioners.



The morning time quickly passed. Look, and it's already approaching noon! It's time to return to the ship! The Zodiacs were already waiting for us near a small concrete pier. We put on life jackets, boarded the boats, and rushed back on board the *Hondius*. Pastries are undoubtedly good, but a full lunch is even better!

While we gathered for lunch, the sailors raised the anchor, and our ship headed to our afternoon activity location — the Saunders Island. It was not far away, so we had no more than an hour for post-lunch rest, and even less for our guides. As soon as the anchor chain rattled, the brave participants of our expedition team boarded the Zodiacs and headed to the shore of Saunders Island to make some preparations for our landing. Joyful Commerson's dolphins, thrilled that guests had finally arrived, playfully leaped out of the water, organizing an honorary escort for the Zodiacs all the way to the shore.

Sometime after, the official start of the operation was given. Zodiac after Zodiac, we raced across the smooth water and, as soon as we reached the shore, disembarked, hastily getting rid of the heavy life jackets. White fine sand, the calm of the water, and... penguins! The latter stared at us in complete bewilderment, flapping their peculiar wings and trying to understand who we were and what we wanted.



The local residents, the owners of Saunders Island, arrived in two cars to personally meet and greet us. Parking their cars near the shoreline, they opened their trunks, offering us some interesting souvenir products.

The trail was already marked. A walk of one and a half to two kilometers awaited us along the seaside. Gentoo penguins sat on their nests made of mud and grass, watching over their chicks. The chicks were already quite big, and some of them, gaining courage, went on short walks around their nests. The parents

zealously guarded them, clapping and blocking their path with their wings: "Quiet, quiet, stay, where are you going? No, it's too early for you!" It was amusing to watch as they turned their necks toward us, clicked their beaks, as if



saying to us: "Move along, guys, we have enough problems here!" And indeed, they had plenty of problems. Nasty skuas constantly circled above, keeping a sharp eye on the penguin colony. God forbid any penguin to be inattentive; instantly, a skua would swoop down and snatch a penguin chick! It would grab it in its beak and carry it away to a place where no penguin had ever returned. Nature here is cruel, but what can you do.

Here is the colony of Magellanic penguins. Like their counterparts we saw in the morning, these also sat in their burrows, consumed by curiosity, peering outside and looking at us.

On the slope, more appropriately described as a "cliff," a colony of shags was situated, and right next to them, a patch of land was claimed by rockhopper penguins. Small, agile troublemakers, living up to their name, were constantly in motion, hopping from rock to rock. We lingered by them for a long time, taking photos and simply observing their bustle. Nevertheless, the most important awaited us ahead.

Eventually, the trail led us to a colony of black-browed albatrosses. These enormous and majestic birds sat in nests of perfect cylindrical shape. Most of the albatrosses had already raised their offspring. Spotting an albatross chick wasn't an easy task. We had to wait for the parent to rise on its feet, and only then could we see the small gray living bundle beneath it. Some albatross parents allowed their chicks to admire the outside world, holding them snugly under their wings.



Parental duties weighed heavily on the albatrosses. Sitting in their nests, they gazed longingly at the sea, dreaming of the moment when they could finally spread their enormous wings and, taming the wind, soar over the waves into the distance. Albatrosses are made for flight, and only the ancient instinct, as old as the Earth itself, compelled them to sit still in the nest and attend to their offspring. Some albatrosses emitted long, mournful sounds, probably expressing the emotions that had accumulated within them. While preening their chicks' feathers, it seemed as if they were whispering in their ears: "Grow up quickly, and then we'll fly together! I'll show you how the moonlight plays on the sea waves and how whales shoot fountains into the sky. I'll teach you to challenge the wind and catch squids!" Oh, if only it could happen sooner!

Our guides showed us where to take the best photographs and made sure none of us, absorbed in the spectacle, fell off the cliff. Albatrosses, glancing at us, furrowed their brows but still posed for photos.

Having feasted our eyes on albatrosses, we started our return journey. On the way back to the landing site, we had the opportunity to turn right and find ourselves on another beach, opposite to the one we



arrived on. White, towering waves, ominously roaring, crashed onto the sand. Fearless Magellanic and Gentoo penguins eagerly rushed towards them, disappearing in the white foam. Some penguins, on the contrary, emerged from the sea foam, as if Venus herself, having swum and hunted, appeared in white foam, heading to their nests to swap places with their mates, thereby giving them the opportunity to go hunting in the sea.



But what penguins are standing there near the shoreline? Oh, these are the King penguins! There were only a few of them, some still chicks adorned in huge, clumsy brown pajamas made of soft warm feathers. What a surprise! Of course, we all tried to capture at least a few photographs of these magical creatures.

Walking briskly past the penguins were kelp and dolphin gulls. They turned their heads and repeatedly pecked the sand, devouring the crustaceans hiding in it. Among small sand dunes, oyster catchers strolled, astonishing us with their long bright red bills. Leisurely, rocking from side to side, steamer ducks ambled here and there. A turkey vulture circled above, and, just like at the beginning of our walk, skuas and caracaras soared

in the air, striking terror into all the other feathered inhabitants of Saunders Island.

On the slopes of the hill, occasionally drawing attention with loud bleats, sheep grazed. In the local setting, they seemed to perceive us as something outlandish, if not extraterrestrial, certainly as something entirely out of harmony with the surrounding landscape.

One way or another, it was time to return to the ship. As soon as the last of us were on board, the Hondius set course for Stanley, the capital of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. In my opinion, a very decent first day of the expedition, wouldn't you agree?



Day 4 – Wednesday 20th December 2023

Stanley - Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 51° 41.2' S / 057° 51.2' W

Wind: NW6 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Partial Cloud **Air Temp:** 15°C **Sea Temp :** 12°C

What a beautiful morning to approach Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, calm seas and mostly sunshine. Many of us went on deck before breakfast to view the slightly complicated approach to the Stanley Harbor – but of course our skilled officers on the bridge took us safely in and found a good spot for anchoring Hondius close to the jetty.



After a nice breakfast, we started the Zodiac-operation to bring everybody ashore as soon as possible to give us as much time in Stanley as possible and we were welcomed by several South American sealions relaxing on the jetty.

Still mostly sunny and only light winds, we could enjoy half a day in the capital, whether we were looking for birds near the airport, visiting the very interesting museum, enjoying the silence in the beautiful

cathedral, or having a pint of beer in a pub or coffee in a café – or just taking a stroll and maybe buying gifts for our loved ones at home.

As the day progressed, the windspeed picked up quite a bit and most of us got a bit wet on the way back to Hondius – but who cares – we all had our waterproof gear, and a delicious lunch was waiting for us on the ship.’ Some passengers were even approached by Commerson’s dolphins bow-riding the zodiacs. On our way out of the harbour a group of Commerson’s dolphins and a small group of dusky dolphins bid us farewell in their charming playful way.

In the afternoon lecture, Expedition Guide Elizabeth was sharing all the interesting details about the “Falkland-whales”, and how they are tagged- and followed in her mini lecture.

The mandatory biosecurity briefing was given by Sara – our expedition leader – where

she taught us about the importance of following the procedures so as not to be part takers in spreading avian flu or introducing invasive plants to the pristine nature and landscapes of South Georgia.



For those dressed warm enough, the late evening sky was clear enough to go to the outer decks to look for the constellations and stars of the Southern Hemisphere – what a beautiful day!

Day 5 – Thursday 21st December 2023

At Sea, Sailing towards South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 52°27.8' S / 050° 54.8' W

Wind: WNW **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Foggy **Air Temp:** 8°C **Sea Temp:** 8°C

With the mighty wind propelling the Hondius forward, we continued on our South Georgia odyssey at the break of dawn. Out on deck you could find the eager birders, catching the first glimpses of the ethereal soft-plumaged petrels and majestic grey-back petrels as they soared through the crisp Southern Ocean air.



Following a delectable breakfast, Jens, our intrepid guide, regaled us with tales of the legendary explorer Shackleton and his enthralling connection to South Georgia.

As we charted a course for Grytviken, Jens ignited a spark of anticipation in every adventurer's heart.

The morning unfolded with undulating waves and a roaring 28-knot wind, causing the Hondius to dance over the crests almost like a vessel reaching for the skies.

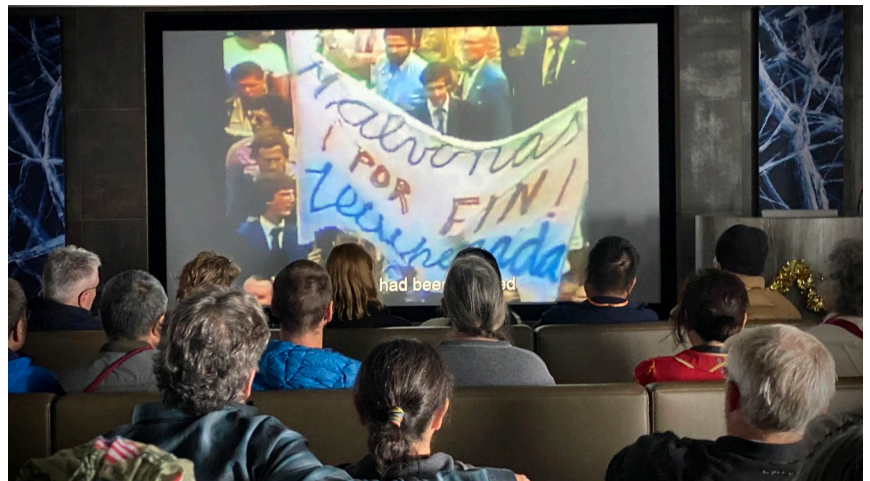
Just past 11 o'clock, the sun burst forth, beckoning those who sought a breath of invigorating sea air. However, our respite was brief, for Felicity enraptured us with her tales of eared and earless seals, infusing the morning with fascinating facts about these remarkable marine mammals.

Lunchtime provided a necessary interlude in our collective journey of discovery.

In the afternoon, the lecture theatre hosted a gripping screening of "Falklands at War" - an untold story that left an indelible mark on our souls.

Post the 4 o'clock tea and coffee break, Sara took the stage, unraveling the mysteries of penguin life, building excitement for the weeks ahead.

By 6 o'clock, we gathered around the bar in the lounge, where we listened to plans for the next day at sea and beyond. Sara ingeniously demonstrated bird sizes with a length of string, while Meike painted vivid pictures of the magnificent Giant petrels that had faithfully trailed our ship since port departure. William brought our



assembly to a close, underscoring the photographic legacy of Frank Hurley, whose photo images were manipulated already a century ago: photoshop as we never had seen before. A sumptuous dinner, crafted by the culinary maestro Chef Bawa and his galley team, capped off our splendid day.

A beautiful and more than delightful day to travel at sea ended with a Northern Royal Albatross flying by at the stern of the ship.

Day 6 – Friday 22nd December 2023

At sea towards South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 53°14.7' S / 041°49.9' W

Wind: W-5 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 5°C



At 07:45 once again we were woken up by the pleasant voice of our Expedition Leader Sara informing us that the weather outside was beautiful with clear blue skies. It was time to get up, have breakfast and enjoy the day ahead. A few minutes after 9am we encountered our first sighting of a whale on the starboard side of the vessel.

Some of us had many questions regarding our vessel Hondius. At 09:15 Bill Smith, one of the longest serving expedition guides in Oceanwide's fleet gave a presentation about the technical aspects of the Hondius, explaining everything that happens behind the scenes. Expedition Guide Jerry also gave the lecture in

Mandarin.

Just before lunch we had a chance to admire a big group of humpback whales passing near our ship. Many of us went out on the decks hoping to take a good photo, others enjoyed the view from the bridge.

At 11:15 we had a pleasure to listen to another lecture – "Life of Albatrosses" given by Expedition Guide Maike. Three days ago, when visiting Saunders Island, we witnessed nesting Albatrosses in one of the colonies. Now onboard the vessel we see them passing our ship from time to time. It was wonderful to find out more about those amazing birds.

At noon our clocks were changed and moved to one hour ahead.

Just after lunch it was time for our main task of the day – biosecurity. We all gathered at deck 3 to clean all our clothes, gear and boots to ensure we did not bring any unwanted invasive species into the region of South Georgia in the form of seeds, mud, or vegetation.

At 16:30 we had a pleasure to listen to Expedition Guide Jakub's presentation titled "On thin ice – why do we need it?".



Jakub is a glaciologist and lecturer at the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poland who spends his free time travelling between two polar regions. We learnt about different types of glaciers and their importance for the ecosystem of our planet.

At the same time expedition guide Jerry Zhao gave his presentation on ice and glaciers in Mandarin.

As always at 18:15 we met in the lounge for a recap of a day and found out plans for the next day. Someone had added a question to the 'question box' regarding the workings of a sextant. Adam Burke, assistant expedition leader, briefly explained in pictures the mechanism and calculations required to obtain accurate positions while navigating with a sextant, something that Shackleton had to do to reach South Georgia. Thank God for GPS!



Once again, we met for a delicious dinner at 19:00 in the restaurant. The sea was relatively calm. Rested after two days of sailing we looked forward to landing in Grytviken.

Day 7 – Saturday 23rd December 2023

Grytviken and Hercules Bay, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 16.9' S / 036° 30.1' W

Wind: NW3 Sea State: Calm Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 4°C



Yet another big day lay ahead of us today as we pulled into Grytviken Harbour in the early hours of the morning. We arrived shortly before 7:00 and after breakfast we welcomed several of the South Georgia Heritage Trust Museum staff and Government Officials on board where they delivered their welcome presentation and conducted final checks on our gear and the ship.

Once we were given the all clear, we are all able to land on shore. We were proud to hear that not a single piece of vegetation or potentially harmful seeds or dirt was found on us, giving us a 100% score on our biosecurity standards. As soon as we disembarked zodiacs we were surrounded by thousands of fur seals and elephant seals with their curious pups! We of course had to resist the urge to cuddle these cute and unique animals, but we could take many pictures which will make us smile for years to come. Over the next couple of hours, we were able to wander at our leisure around Grytviken, a whaling station that has been cleaned up and made safe for visitors. The wealth of information and history surrounding us was outstanding; a museum, whaler's church, and a post office are just a few of the areas to see. The staff from the museum gave us a guided tour and told us about the lives of the whalers who called this beautiful bay home. Eventually it was time to post our postcards to loved ones and head back to Hondius.



On the way back, just at the end of our visit, the expedition team dropped us to the local cemetery at the other side of the bay. This is where the famous explorer Ernest Shackleton found his ultimate resting place and is buried there next to Frank Wild. It was a very emotional moment for many of us and for Shackleton fans this was a highlight of the trip so far.

In the afternoon Hondius brought us to the northern coast of South Georgia to Hercules Bay! This time we had a zodiac cruise around this little picturesque bay. The weather and sea conditions were challenging though, with considerable snowfall, wind, and swell of the sea. As soon as we boarded our zodiacs we were off to explore the coast. After entering the bay the water calmed down, but the snowfall intensified. The water had a beautiful dark shiny blue and greenish color and along with the kelp reaching the surface from the deep the whole scenery created an eerie atmosphere.



We cruised straight towards large rocks close to the coast where we had our first sighting of the Macaroni penguins. Their yellow feathery crown catches the eye immediately and gives this species of penguin a funny but charismatic look. Along with the South Shetland Islands and the South Orkney Islands, South Georgia happens to be one of the main locations where we can find the Macaroni Penguin.



According to the IUCN the population status of this species is classed as vulnerable and over the past decades we have observed a decrease in numbers, which makes this sighting extra special. The Macaroni penguins are not the only highlight of the zodiac cruise, because the area also offered spectacular geology and landforms. These included a high waterfall at the mouth of the bay, falling straight onto a small beach, crowded with seals and gentoo penguins. Shortly after this impressive sighting we continued to cruise along the shore

and were greeted with large numbers of gentoo penguins breaching from the water in all directions. Seeing so many species gathered in one place gives us a small glimpse of the rich wildlife found in South Georgia. As we were ready to return to Hondius, our zodiacs became covered with snow. Combined with a strong swell at the shell doors, the conditions provided us a challenging but exciting foretaste of what the southern waters have to offer for adventurers. Despite the wet, cold, and bumpy conditions, everyone did very well when disembarking the zodiacs and we went to warm up with hot showers and coffees before our recap and dinner.



Day 8 – Sunday 24th December 2023

Husvik Harbour and Leith Harbour, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°10.7' S / 036°41.1' W

Wind: W5 Sea State: Rippled Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 4°C



As the snow dusted the surrounding peaks, we sailed into the shelter of Husvik Harbour, a derelict whaling station. After the expedition team assessed the conditions, they decided to sail around the corner to the neighbouring whaling stations of Stromness and Leith Harbour, in the hope of making a landing in the sheltered bay. After the short sail it was a bittersweet sight of calm conditions, but an extremely busy beach littered with wildlife. There was not a square meter unoccupied by Antarctic Fur seals, elephant seal pups or penguins. Whilst this was a

wonderful sight, it did mean we were unable to make a landing to explore on shore. Therefore, whilst we hovered to take in the surroundings and take a few photos, Felicity started presenting her lecture titled “Whaling – Hunted to the Brink”, a lecture briefly covering the history of whaling and the commercial whaling era that began in South Georgia at the beginning of 1900’s. During the lecture, we learnt that over the operating years in South Georgia, seven whaling stations were built, including Stromness, Leith and Husvik, and an estimated 175,250 whales were hunted between 1904 and 1965.



Meanwhile, the expedition team decided to sail back around the corner to Husvik and drop zodiacs for a cruise around the bay and station. Whilst cruising along the shoreline, we were entertained by hundreds of Antarctic fur seal pups, squabbling with each other or calling out for their mother, large juvenile elephant seals, huddling together and belching from both ends! If you had a keen eye and looked behind the noisy seals on the beach, we also found the South Georgia Pipit battling against the strong wind gusts in amongst the tussock grasses.



After lunch, we re-traced our steps again and returned to Leith Harbour, as it was the most sheltered bay within a reasonable sailing distance, and so we dropped the zodiacs for another windy but wonderful cruise outside one of the largest whaling stations on the island. One of the highlights during this cruise was a sighting of a leucistic adult male fur seal - a very rare sighting!





As it was Christmas eve, we had a wonderful, festive buffet waiting for us on our return. It was evident the galley team had been working extremely hard as they presented a delicious feast for all, including an amazing display of desserts all freshly made by the wonderful bakers on board. To finish off the day, the Christmas comedy film 'Elf' was shown in the lecture room, with a side of popcorn for those who could still squeeze in some more food! After all, it doesn't feel like Christmas without eating an unusual amount of food!



Day 9 – Monday 25th December 2023 Fortuna Bay and St Andrew's Bay, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°05.5' S / 036°36.2' W

Wind: W5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 5°C



We relished the feeling as we rocked back and forth in our bunks and awoke rather sleepily to start another exciting adventure.

As we opened the cabin blinds and viewed the early morning conditions, a landing at Fortuna Bay did not look hopeful. Along the entire length of the beach a thin line of white foam marked a zone of surging waves cascading onto the steeply shelving shore. During breakfast, Assistant Expedition Leaders Adam and Felicity decided to deploy a Zodiac to check the strength of the surf and density of seals along the entire length of beach.

The result was a negative one as the surging waves and gusting winds created

unsafe conditions for landings and the proposed long walk. It was then announced that a full ship Zodiac cruise was plan B.

This was first-hand experience of the problems of expedition cruising...clearly extreme operational flexibility was required but with the added difficulty created by bird flu forcing the closure of many landing sites. The result was that our choices was severely limited.

At 8.30 all 15 Zodiacs were loaded and in groups of two and three snaked slowly away from the anchored Hondius and cruised along the fur-seal infested shore- line. Our guides announced that they had never seen such a huge concentration of yelping playing fur seal pups. Mature penguins wandered unconcernedly seeming quite casually amid the teeming agitated hordes of screaming seals. The backdrop for the cruise was magnificent, as adjacent to the beach a huge expanse of grassland stretched out to the lower slopes of the jagged snow- covered mountains at the back of the bay.



Everyone returned to the vessel mid-morning and again Sarah, Adam, Bill, and Felicity set off along the shore for another inspection to see if conditions had changed for the better...they had not, in fact the wave action appeared worse so in the interests of safety the decision was made to abandon the idea of a landing at Fortuna and up-anchor and head south after lunch for 4 hours of Hondius cruising past extremely large icebergs to St Andrew's Bay.

Several humpbacks were sighted on-route and the bird spotters were out on deck in force to extend their species lists. The sky was overcast with some light rain.

When we arrived at St Andrews Bay the weather was against us again...a long rolling swell and wind gusting to over 40 knots meant no possibility of cruising and landing was not possible as the area was closed due to bird flu. This clearly illustrated the difficulties of programme planning when subject to the vagaries of the weather. The





decision was made to drop anchor and wait until after the recap meeting and dinner.

Fortunately, the weather conditions abated, the strong wind died off and it was all system GO! Guides speedily dressed for action, 15 Zodiacs were launched, filled with passengers, and then motored slowly around the coastline to enable everyone to get good photographs of the King Penguin colony and of the thousands of seals thronging the entire length of the beach. Whilst most appreciated this opportunity some passengers understandably were quite discomfited by the strong smell

drifting from the land of rotten seal corpses and the sight of large number of bodies heaped along the shore.

This evening cruised finished just after 9.30 pm with everyone happy and was another superb example of the lengths that the Oceanwide staff go to ensure passengers have the best experience possible.

Day 10 – Tuesday 26th December 2023

At Sea, sailing towards South Orkney Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 56°37.1' S / 038°06.6' W

Wind: NW5 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C

Leaving behind South Georgia we said goodbye to the rugged coastline and abundance of wildlife. Shores full of fur seals and king penguins now behind us, it was time to head out into the open ocean once more. The gentle roll of the waves dropped a serenity over the ship as we headed southwards.



Noticeably cooler the ship sailed into the grey overcast day, light flutters of snow reminded us of where we were. Around us we had our cohort of birds which we have seen daily along the South Georgia coast but this morning we were greeted with a light mantled sooty albatross, this graceful bird stayed with us for a short while before heading off over the waves.

Along the way we saw whales blow along the horizon and every now and again we were greeted by

humpbacks surfacing not too far from the ship.

Bill and Jerry started the day with lectures about Whaling and Whales. Educating us all about the destruction we caused during the whaling days to the population of not only the majestic whale, but also the seal population. It has

been a privilege to see the fur seal population increasing, and to witness firsthand the population density that now thrives along the beaches.

Adam then recounted his time working in South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, supporting the science that goes on within the Antarctic bases and onto the continent itself.

After a splendid lunch the landscape outside had given rise to more and more icebergs, these huge sculptures of ice will remain with us now as we head towards the peninsula. These behemoths of ice that change and evolve over time, the incredible journey they undertake and the breathtaking natural patterns they share with us.

Biosecurity was held after lunch to make sure that no invasive species were being carried to the Antarctic continent and of course everyone on board now knew about the importance of why we carry out biosecurity.

As we passed by more and more beautiful Ice it was Williams turn to engage us with the story of Tom Crean and a glimpse into the heroic age of exploration, the life and adventures of this Irishman that played an integral role in Antarctica.

The sea state slowly started to improve and with it the snow increased, visibility decreased and a sense of heading into the inhospitable wilds of Antarctica surrounded us. Sara told us the plans for the next day and the guides responded to a multitude of questions placed in the question box.

Then it was time for dinner and to enjoy the beauty of travelling at sea through some of the most picturesque places on the planet.

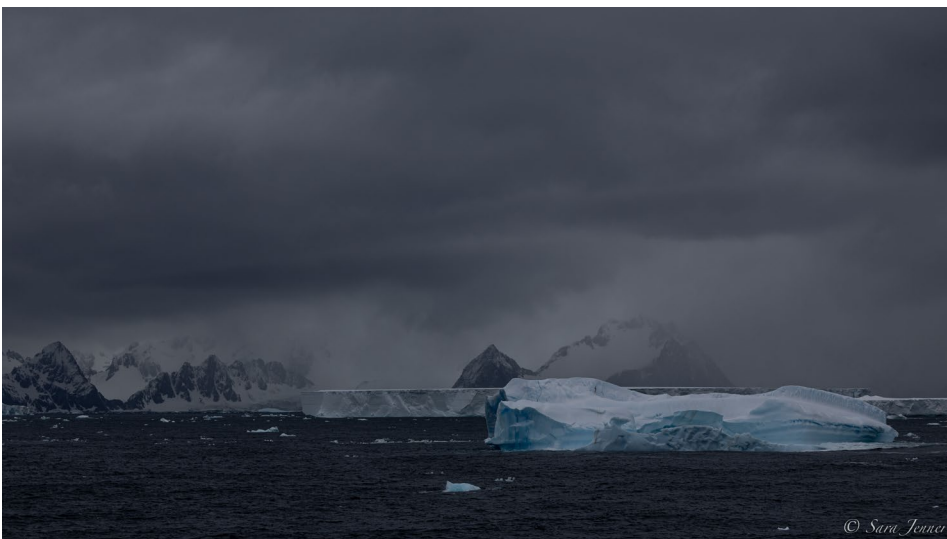
Day 11 – Wednesday 27th December 2023

Shingle Cove, South Orkney Island

12:00 GPS Position: 60° 55.9 ' S / 044° 58.1 ' W

Wind: WNW6 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

Today we woke up with sunny skies, both engines at full speed ahead to reach the South Orkney Islands.



During the morning we were visited by a great amount of Fin and Humpback whales along with an unusual density of sea birds using our ship as a way to save energy as they soared in our stream. The bridge was busy with curious eyes as the shape of land started to appear before us. The rugged and sharp black mountains of Laurie Island were a sight with all anxious about setting foot on firm ground, which we hadn't done in a number of days.



As we sailed on, the expedition team treated us to some fascinating lectures on marine life, especially Krill among others, the base of all existence in the ocean, the once upon a time of the liquid worlds. Sasha, gave us an introduction to the geographical history of Antarctica which included fascinating information about the plant and animal fossils found on the continent. And we arrived... Gloomy fog welcomed us in a theatrical way in Shingle Cove, where the jet-black rock contrasted with the pristine fresh white snow. As the conditions were five-star for a landing we did not waste time and our Expedition team kitted up and rushed ashore to get

the landing site ready for our visit.

After a slightly humid zodiac ride, we landed on a calm stony beach where the sweetest Elephant Seal greeted us with his heart melting gaze. The rock was sleet, shingles of rock like broken glass scattered everywhere. The geography of successive hills slowly delivered the beauty of its features as we walked up and down its slow rolling hills. To the west a challenging descent followed by a steep climb led us to an Adelie Penguin colony, named after French explorer Etienne D'Umont D'Urville's Wife Adele. It is only natural to anthropomorphize these creatures as they are very like us. The males fight and bicker over a stolen pebble or over the affection of a female. They are the most elegant of penguins.



On the other side of the landing site we could visit some juvenile elephant seals that were play fighting on the beach and in the surf. They were accompanied by Gentoo penguins who were delighting us with their comical walks and sliding down the snowy slopes on their bellies.

It felt good to set foot on firm ground again and stretch our legs after some days on Hondius and in the zodiacs. When back on board a divine buffet awaited us.



In the evening we were gripped to the screen as we watched 'Shackleton, Part 1' in the lecture room and enjoyed popcorn. It was particularly fitting to see this film having watched Jens's lecture about Shackleton's famous expedition and we could recognise the people he spoke about in the film. This day marked the end of our South Atlantic Islands trip and we set off to go to the mighty, legendary, Antarctic Continent.



Day 12 – Thursday 28th December 2023

At Sea, sailing to Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 61°19.5 ' S / 052°24.8 ' W

Wind: N5 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** P.Cloudy **Air Temp:** -2°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C



Wake up! Wake up! Look out the window! Look out the window! So, we did, somewhat bleary eyed but we did...and observed a thin white line covering the horizon from right to left.

We were then informed by our early morning source of information that we were looking at the largest iceberg in the world. A berg 40 miles x 32 covering an area three times the size of New York, a total of 1500 square miles.

It was an astonishing site. Its history was equally astonishing. Expedition Guide and Glaciologist Jakub

gave us a short lecture in the morning all about it. A23a had calved from the Ronne-Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986 and had remained grounded in the Weddell Sea until it started to float clear in early 2000 ...now it was drifting slowly northwards in the general direction of South Georgia and if it continued beyond there then it would be heading towards Africa! It was a stunningly beautiful mass of gleaming convoluted ice and as Hondius closed in we marvelled at the colossal scale...the perspective was horizon to horizon.

This was the major visual entertainment of the morning and certainly a major life experience. We felt minute in its mighty presence!

Expedition Guide William gave us a brilliant lecture about the geopolitics of Antarctica which generated much interest from our international guests. Jess delivered a fantastically interesting lecture on Ecosystem Stabilisers focussing primarily on whales and the important part they play in carbon capture and sequestration. The vital importance of 'whale fall' was emphasised and for most passengers this was completely new information and of tremendous interest. In the afternoon Expedition Leader Sarah presented a historical account of the important role women had played in Antarctic Science. Jerry delivered a detailed talk on penguins to the Chinese group in the Lecture Room



In the afternoon Hondius set a course for Point Wild on Elephant Island, encountering excellent conditions with a comfortable swell and wind. The sun shone on the massive ice and dominant rock bulk of Clarence Island as we slid past. We saw many large fin whales feeding as we sailed and flocks of beautiful cape petrels swirled around us.



Everything looking much more dramatic and picturesque as billowing white clouds clustered around the high tops. It was time to engage brain again and try to imagine what it must have been like for Shackleton and his men as they reached this totally inhospitable landfall. Menacing masses of steep dark rock and vertical cliffs of ice must have filled them with despair. Passengers stood in wonder as they realised the conditions experienced by Shackleton's crew stuck on boulders at that desolate spot especially being unaware if the James Caird had made South Georgia and if they were ever to be rescued. This location produced in many the greatest emotional response of the voyage.

In the evening the highlight was the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction. Kicked off as usual by Bill who managed to sell a plastic bottle top for £100 to set the scene. Passengers then entered into the spirit of the evening by bidding strongly for the assortment of items and a substantial sum was raised.

Day 13 – Friday 29th December 2023

Penguin Island, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 62°05.5 ' S / 057°54.6 ' W

Wind: NE1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 6°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

After the subtropical dreamy beaches of the Falklands, the brutal raw beauty of South Georgia, its fragrance and its overwhelming wildlife, and the lost and lonely South Orkneys, we were finally on our way to the grand finale, the eternal, frozen continent of Antarctica.

Today we woke up to the calmest and sunniest day so far. Not a breath of wind was felt as we sailed towards our destination. Our planned landing site was penguin island, a small island on which sits a sleeping volcano.

After a healthy breakfast we jumped onto the zodiacs for a



short comfortable ride to the landing site. Sara welcomed us with her usual smile and enthusiasm for yet another adventurous day. What awaited us was a long walk opportunity and a chance to visit a chinstrap penguin colony.

Our first stop was to a scenic shelf overlooking the stony beach. A colony of chinstrap penguins made themselves heard as dozens of Brown skuas swooshed over their heads in search of an inattentive parent and an easy snack. The Skuas, also nesting, gave us a glimpse of their private life by letting us witness the care given to their small, fluffy young.



As we made our way inland, we summited Petrel crater, a sleeping volcano last active in 1905. After a healthy walk along the crater's edge, witnessing along the way some feeding humpback whales, the vistas at its peak were breathtaking and offered the perfect introduction to Antarctica, encompassing all its many characteristics. The red, crunchy ground contrasted with the flat calm surrounding turquoise ocean.

A well-deserved lunch awaited us on board and the afternoon was spent on deck, enjoying the simple pleasure of seeing time and the icy ocean landscape go by. Simon treated us to a lecture about the birds of Antarctica in the lounge. Once again, his bird-based lecture was interrupted by whales, much to our amusement.

In the evening we watched the second part of the film 'Shackleton'. It was great to see this dramatisation of some of the events that happened to Shackleton and his team, especially having just visited Point Wild on Elephant Island where we could see the spot where they had to survive for four months. We went to bed feeling inspired by the film and excited to get to the Antarctic continent.

Day 14 – Saturday 30th December 2023

Portal Point and Palaver Point, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 64°24.8 ' S / 061°44.0 ' W

Wind: NNE4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C

We woke up to a slightly windy and cloudy morning, and as usual we were treated with a delicious breakfast – getting “fueled” for today’s landing on the continent at Portal Point. For many of us this was an exciting moment as we were reaching our seventh continent.



The Antarctic flag was brought ashore for us to pose with. Felicity was at the shore and scooped up some krill for us to look at, the keystone marine species here in Antarctica. The walking route was a short but interesting trek to a viewpoint where we could see humpback whales swimming in the distance amongst the ice bergs. Our first “true” Antarctic Continent landing was a delight.

The path was sometimes challenging – maybe to the local Gentoo’s we looked a bit like penguins, when we sank up to our knees in the deep snow

being thrown a bit off balance – but lots of laughs and funny situations was heard and seen. The view from the top of the hill was worth the struggle though - a breathtaking view over the area – glaciers, icebergs, Hondius – and the humpback whales even breached a few times in the distance.



We went back to Hondius to warm up and enjoy our lunch as we sailed to our next landing site which would be at Palaver Point, named so because the noise and activity from all the nesting birds there can cause quite a palaver! It was a breathtaking place with a fantastic view over a large glacier showing deep and unstable crevasses. Several chunks of ice calved from the glacier a couple of times during our visit, causing rumbles and big waves. For many the climb to the viewpoint was a long-awaited chance for some exercise - maybe allowing an extra dessert or cookie to reward ourselves back on the ship – but again, the climb was worth the while! The dark grey sky gave the most dramatic contrast to the pristine whiteness of the icebergs and the glacier – and again multiple humpbacks showed their backs and flukes not too far from the coast. Closer to the shore several colonies of chinstrap penguins



entertained us with their behavior – stealing pebbles from each other’s nests, nursing their very young chicks, having a dispute with their neighbours, or just sliding down the snow slopes on their bellies. It is hard not to be completely charmed by their cuteness! It was another wonderful day of expedition.

Day 15 – Sunday 31st December 2023

Danco Island and Cuverville Island, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 43.6' S / 062° 36.9' W

Wind: N2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Sunny **Air Temp:** 6°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C



Today is December 31st, the last day of the year 2023, and it feels like paradise in Antarctica. As a group, we embarked on a journey to Danco Island and Cuverville Island. The sun was shining brightly, casting its warm golden rays upon the pristine snow. It was a serene and tranquil day, devoid of any wind or storm.

On Danco Island, we set foot on a small rocky haven concealed beneath a thick layer of snow. We immediately began taking layers off on the beach as the sun was so warm and we knew we would have to climb up hill. The sight at the top of the snowy hill was awe-inspiring; a colony of adorable Gentoo penguins were waddling about,

going about their daily lives. We hiked halfway up the island, taking in the breathtaking panorama of sharp mountains and mighty glaciers that reached out towards the vast expanse of the sea. The sun's intense heat warmed our bodies, leaving behind the gift of a healthy tan. It's hard to believe that we could be sun-kissed in this icy wonderland.

Simultaneously, a group of our fellow explorers embarked on a zodiac cruise around Danco Island. From their close vantage point, they witnessed the enchanting display of seals flirting with the waves and humpback whales gracefully breathing at the surface. Their excitement was contagious, and we joined in their exuberance. Some of the zodiac groups were treated to



a rare and peaceful moment watching a mother humpback whale and her calf resting at the surface and sleeping, a behaviour known as logging. Others got to see the whales swimming and diving all around the island. The beautiful calm weather meant we had amazingly good views of the whales and could hear them as they took deep breaths

into their lungs.

We finished our time on Danco Island with a special event – a polar plunge! We dived into the icy waters at the Danco Island beach. For many it was the first ever contact with cold water, while for others, another chilly morning shower, but for all of us it was a fun and special way to end year 2023.



In the afternoon, we landed on a nearby island called Cuverville Island. Once again, the captivating lives of gentoo penguins unfolded in front of our eyes. We hiked to a high point, our hearts filled with wonder as we took in the striking polar landscape that surrounded us. Here we could also watch the nesting Gentoo penguins, collecting pebbles to maintain their nests and squabbling with their neighbours. During a zodiac cruise encircling the island, we gasped in awe at the mesmerizing icebergs and icy arches that adorned the horizon. As if gifted by fate, we stumbled upon a sight that left us breathless and amazed – an emperor penguin. Very rarely seen in this part of Antarctica, this majestic creature was a real surprise. Many of the guides had never seen an emperor penguin before. It appeared to be a juvenile and it calmly sat, stood, and slept on an iceberg for two hours while we all had the chance to admire it. An incredible memory, especially for the keen bird watchers among us, which will forever be etched in our souls.



As the evening drew near, vibrant anticipation filled the air. This was not just another night – it was New Year's Eve.

At 20:00, we gathered on the outside deck of our ship, the MS "Hondius," for a sumptuous barbeque dinner. Laughter echoed and mingled scents of delicious food filled the air. We swayed to the rhythm, dancing under the sky, as if the universe itself was celebrating alongside us.

Moments before the clock struck midnight, we retreated to the comfort of the ship's lounge. Sparkling wine filled our glasses, and with bated breath, we counted down, united in joyous anticipation. The transition between the old and new year was a magical one, and we will certainly remember this fun entry into the New Year. Dancing guests and the expedition team merged, the boundary between strangers and friends blurred by shared experiences. It was an unforgettable night, brimming with euphoria, deep connections, and a newfound appreciation for the beauty that lies within nature and human connection.

Day 16 – Monday 1st January 2024

Base Brown, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 64°52.4' S / 062°52.0' W

Wind: N2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 3°C



The first day of 2024 dawned... 'early'... but we were not awake at that ridiculous sunrise time after enjoying the fun of the New Year festivities the night before!

Eventually bodies stirred in cabins across the ship and passengers glanced out their porthole or superior cabin window to find our vessel gliding slowly through brash ice, texturing a flat calm sea. Hondius was lying off a snow-covered small peninsula the lower slopes of which were festooned with

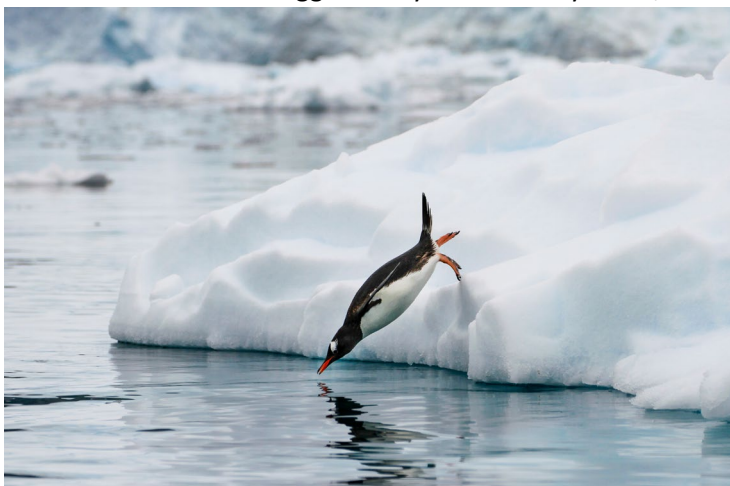
red painted cabins indicating we were at the Argentinean research station Admiralte Brown.

The weather was overcast with very slight flurries of snow which did not amount to anything and thankfully, unusually, there was no wind...perfect conditions therefor for a cruise.

Plan A was implemented after breakfast. Zodiacs ferried the landing party and groups of passengers to the shore. There we could spread out to follow the red pole marked trail established by the guides, either to visit the un-occupied base to photograph penguins or climb the zig-zagging path to the top of the steep snow-covered hill behind the base station.



Once all had landed, the Zodiacs uplifted all remaining passengers from the ship for a cruise along the geologically interesting shoreline into ice covered Scunthorp Bay. This was a relaxing and interesting boat trip as the Zodiacs slowly meandered through the drifting blocks of ice, their engines on the lowest revs and propellers hardly turning. This cruise was series of interesting encounters, mini-lectures, and photo-opportunities. First, a Weddell seal on a small iceberg. Second, the Base Browne colony of Gentoo penguins nesting in self-made stinking squalor on the rocky slope below the building. Third, the mini 'village' of cormorants nesting on the steep slopes immediately below the massive rock overhang just past the station. Here we enjoyed views of the cormorants fluffy chicks and watched drama unfold as terns aggressively chased away skuas, fiercely protecting their nests.



Forth, the green blue copper extruding in a colourful stain from the rocky hillside. Fifth, convoluted columns and shattered cascades of ice along the front of the glaciers. Sixth, almost totally indifferent Weddell seals lounging on large bergy bits. A highlight in Bill's Zodiac was the 'imposition' of a 'polar silence' in the brash ice dotted calm water clear of the glacier front...subtle popping from air bubbles escaping from melting ice and faint cracking sounds and low crashes from the glacier front indicating that this monster was alive and



creeping remorsefully onwards, albeit so imperceptibly slowly.

As the day progressed, Hondius continued northwards and some blue clad passengers posed for a photo-opportunity with the red-jacketed multi-national Oceanwide guide staff on the stacked Zodiacs on the stern of deck 3. [This opportunity was one of the items sold in the South Georgia Charity Action.

The afternoon lecture delivered by our resident ice expert Jacub gave serious food for thought as he presented research material related to global warming. It was a coincidence to be talking about global warming as in the late afternoon Hondius

headed north towards the Drake in almost balmy weather and we all gathered eagerly on the foredeck as guides and hotel staff dispensed a moral boosting and warming alcohol laced hot chocolate treat.

Evening entertainment was yet another opportunity for us all to devour a bag of popcorn whilst laughing out loud during at the film Happy Feet. It is not just a coincidence that the Oceanwide Product induces such a mass response of happily grinning young and old faces.



Day 17 – Tuesday 2nd January 2024

At sea, sailing towards Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 60°50.7' S / 064°08.5' W

Wind: N5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Foggy **Air Temp:** 1°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

We awoke to find the horizon had disappeared behind a thick blanket of fog. It created a grey and atmospheric start to the first of our two sea days sailing back to Ushuaia.

After breakfast Assistant Expedition Leader Adam, who also happened to be the birthday boy that day, invited us to his lecture in the lounge where he told us all about his life living on the British research bases Rothera and King Edward Point in Antarctica and South Georgia. It was inspiring to hear him talk about his adventures having overwintered for two years in these remote and unique locations.



Some of us may have noticed in the morning that the ship went a little off course. That was because Shannon and Roger from Seattle got their chance to steer the Hondius having won the opportunity in the South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction, with the help of Captain Remmert and Third Officer Giovanni.

In the mid-morning Expedition Leader Sara invited us to the lecture room to learn more about

the modern-day threats to Antarctica and the ocean environment.

It was then time to return our muck boots to the storeroom. Some of us had become strangely attached to them over the trip as they accompanied us on our journey, keeping our feet warm and dry so we could experience the wilderness in comfort.

After another buffet lunch (who will cook for us when we leave Hondius?!), Monika showed us a short film she put together where she interviewed many of the Hondius crew in the 'behind the scenes' area. This gave us an insight into the work that goes into delivering an expedition like this to one hundred and seventy guests and it was also nice to see some familiar faces talking about their lives at sea.

At the four o'clock lecture slot Expedition Guide Bill was ready and waiting for us in the lecture room to give his talk on 'Paintings of the Sea'. Having worked as an art teacher for forty years prior to being a guide, Bill gave us some inspiring perspectives on how we have viewed the sea historically through art and how it has affected the way we see the ocean.

At recap a life-sized humpback whale calf swam through the lounge, Bill showed us just how rough the Drake Passage can get, and Meike gave us an entertaining account of the variety of tongues in the animal kingdom.

After dinner many of us went up to the lounge to get into our quiz teams. William entertained us with fun questions all related to Antarctica and the things we had learnt about and seen on our trip. We enjoyed the baby photo round where we had to guess which expedition guide featured in each photo. It was agreed that Jess was by far the cutest of the babies!

Day 18 – Wednesday 3rd January 2024

At sea, Sailing towards Ushuaia

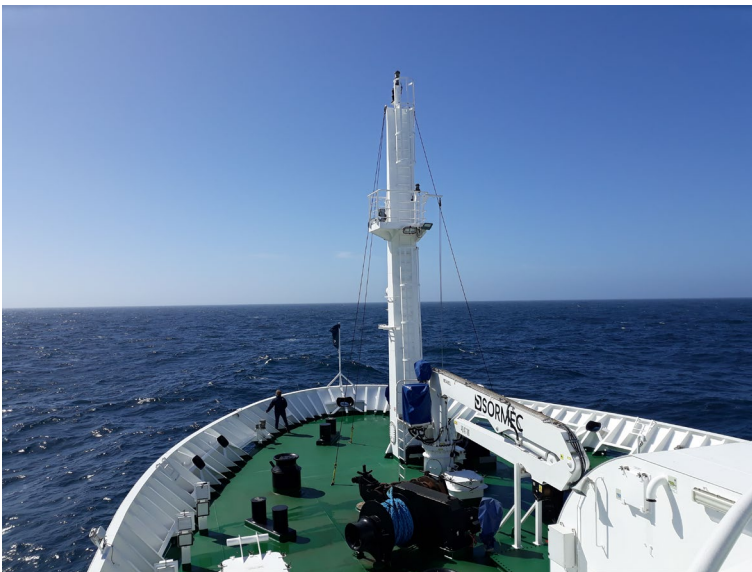
12:00 GPS Position: 56°05.9 'S / 065°35.0 'W

Wind: NNE9 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 7°C **Sea Temp:** 8°C

The final full day of our expedition had arrived. Sara woke us for breakfast. It was hard to believe that our trip was coming to an end. The sun was shining but there certainly was a lot of motion in the ocean as we wobbled around the corridors.

The first activity of the day was a talk by Expedition Guide Sasha, where he completely captured our interest with a presentation about how he came to be a guide in Antarctica.

Then Felicity, Meike, and Bill gave a joint presentation about marine plastic pollution in the lounge. After experiencing firsthand the joys and wonders that the ocean can give us, it was time to reflect on the impacts that human activities are having on the environment and what we can do to protect and restore it.



Then there was a screening of the film 'Around Cape Horn' which showed the dramatic and dangerous voyages that have happened in those treacherous waters.

After lunch Gonzalo treated us to a talk about the traditional South American drink Mate, which was very fitting as we sailed closer and closer to Argentina.

In the evening we got ready for farewell cocktails with the Captain. It was wonderful to make a toast to what turned out to be a jam-packed voyage full of wildlife, surreal scenery, stimulating lectures, and fantastic new friends. We then watched a

brilliant slide show made by Expedition guide Elizabeth with photos and videos of our amazing adventures, which made us remember and realise just how much we have seen and experienced on this trip, leaving us feeling quite emotional!

We dined in the restaurant for a final time, savoring the excellent food before we had to head home and start cooking for ourselves again! During the meal we got the chance to see and applaud all the crew who work in the kitchen and hotel departments. After dinner we gathered in the bar to socialize with our new friends and travel buddies one last time, and enjoyed the seascape outside, the birdwatchers on board trying hard to get a few final species on their lists before bedtime.

Day 19 – Thursday 4th January 2024

Ushuaia

07:00 GPS Position: 61° 06'S / 064° 01'W

Wind: NW4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** P.Cloudy **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** 1.8°C

Early in the morning we arrived back in the port of Ushuaia. Our bags were packed, and we were ready to disembark the Hondius for the last time. We were feeling a mixture of sadness that our journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica had come to an end, but also a feeling of satisfaction that our travels were over, and we could head home to rest. We waved goodbye to the crew and staff and then dispersed into the city. Over the last

three weeks we have seen some incredibly remote and wild places and the creatures that defy the odds and called them home. We have learnt inspiring new things about the polar environment and our precious oceans, and we have memories that will live forever in our minds. Hopefully many of us will think of these special habitats and species for years to come and endeavour to protect wildlife and the spectacular earth that we share with it. With that in mind, here is a quote from the British naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough - *"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."*

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3532 Nautical Miles

Furthest point south: 64° 53.5'S 062°52.0'W

Your Expedition Team!



On behalf of everyone on board we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.



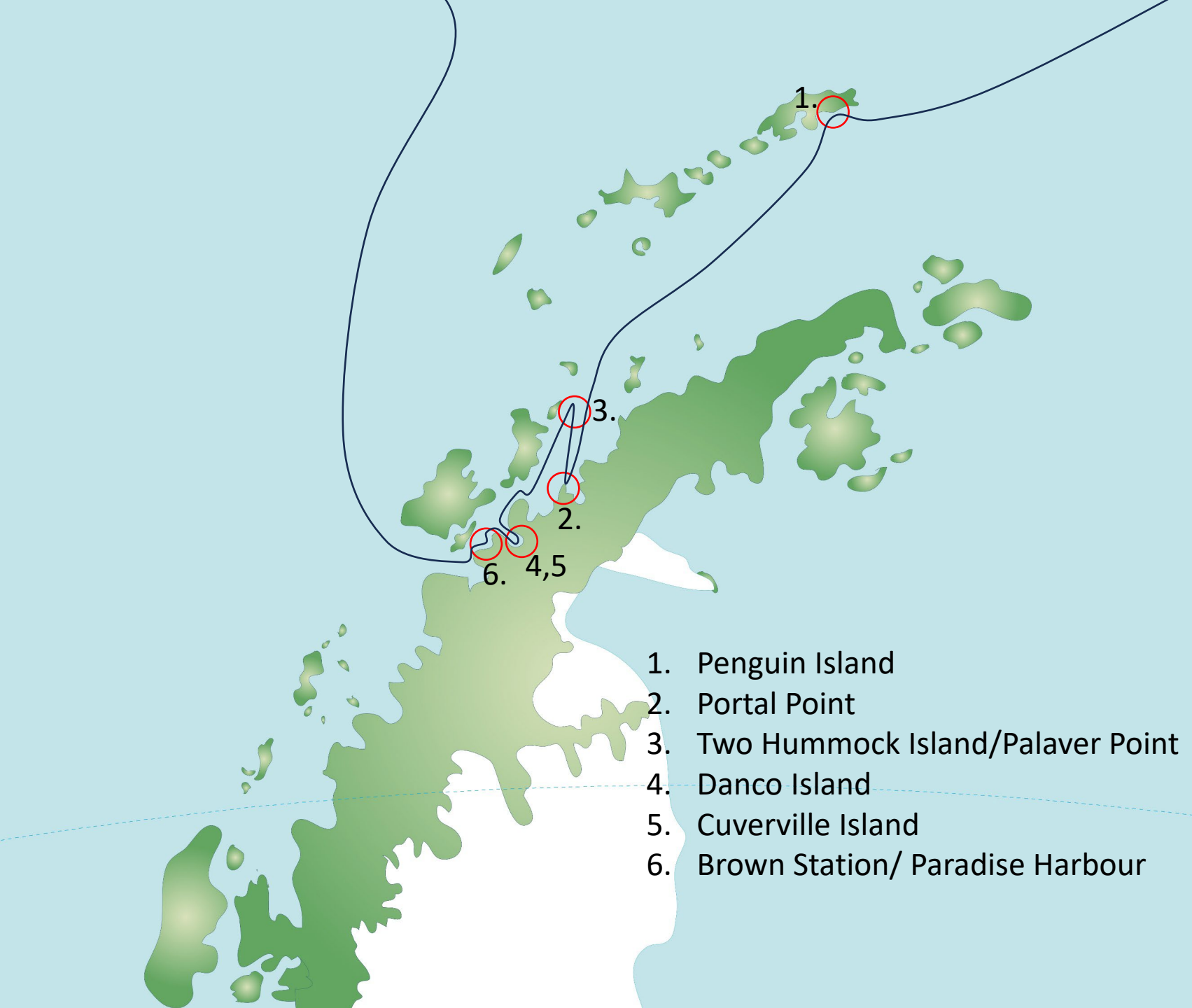
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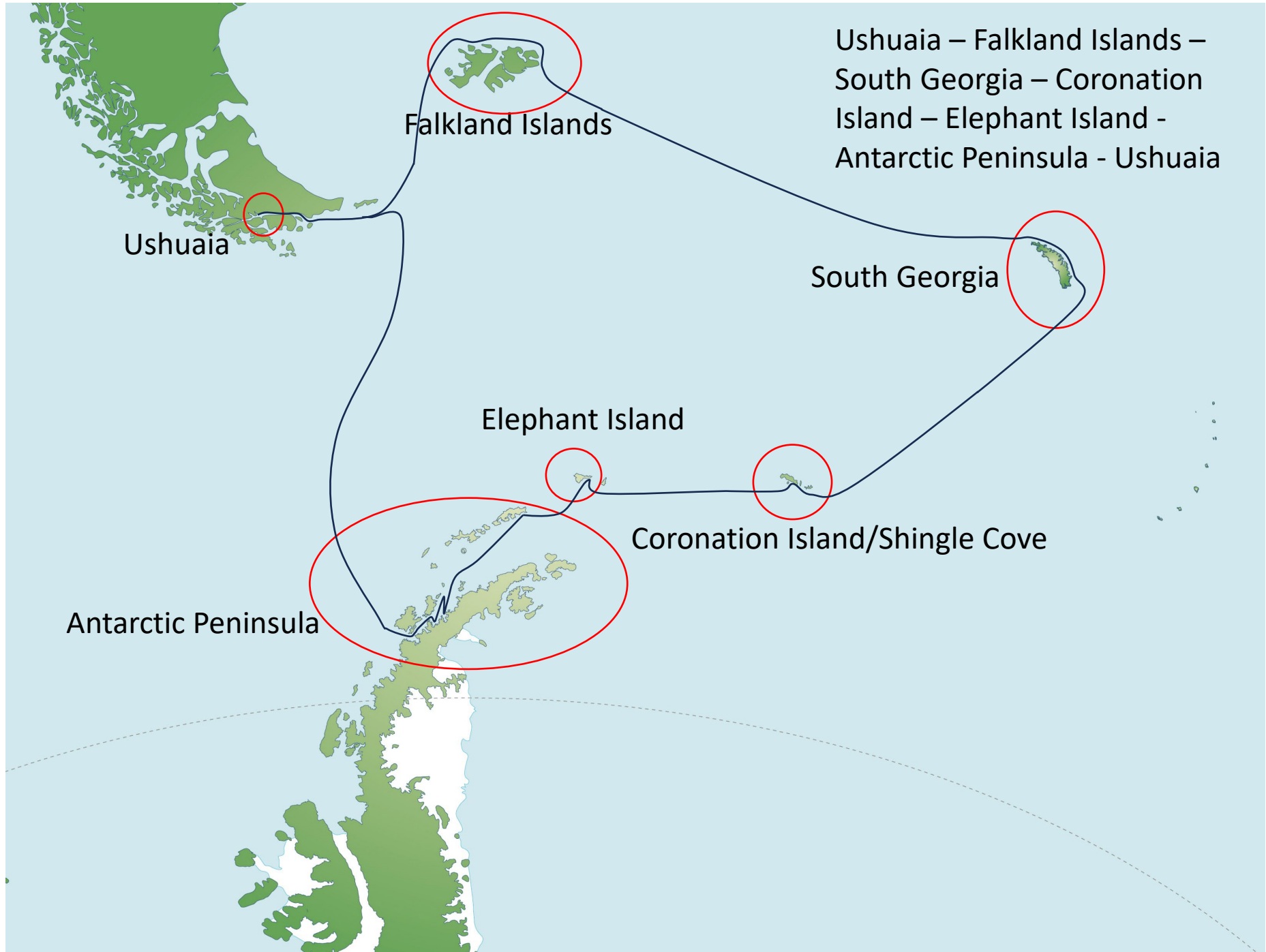
1. Carcass Island
2. Saunders Island
3. Port Stanley



1. Grytviken
2. Hercules Bay
3. Husvik Harbour
4. Leith Harbour
5. Fortuna Bay
6. St Andrew's Bay







Ushuaia – Falkland Islands –
South Georgia – Coronation
Island – Elephant Island -
Antarctic Peninsula - Ushuaia

Falkland Islands

Ushuaia

South Georgia

Elephant Island

Coronation Island/Shingle Cove

Antarctic Peninsula

Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Region Including Falkland Islands and South Georgia: 17th December 2023 - 4th January 2024

English	Latin	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>			x	x															
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>			x	x															
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>			x	x															
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>																			
Falkland Flightless Steamer	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>			x	x															
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>			x	x															
Chiloe Widgeon	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>																			
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>			x																
Silver Teal	<i>Spatula versicolor</i>																			
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>			x																
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica georgica</i>							x	x	x										
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>																			
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>																			
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>															x				
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>			x			x	x	x	x	x									
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>											x		x	x					
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>											x	x	x	x					
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>						x	x												
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>			x	x															
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	x	x	x	x															x
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		x		x	x	x													x
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>						x													x
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		x		x	x	x													x
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>						x				x	x								
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>					x	x				x	x	x							
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>					x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x					
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>											x	x	x	x	x	x			
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		x				x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>																			
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>							x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Peterodroma incerta</i>																			
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						x				x	x	x					x	x	

Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>																			x
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>													x	x	x	x			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>		x			x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	x		x	x															x
Bown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>			x																
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	x		x	x			x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			x
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>		x																	
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>																			x
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>							x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussack)	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus</i>			x																
Dark-faced Ground-tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola m. macloviana</i>			x																
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				x															
Cobb's Wren	<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>			x																
Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>																			
Falkland Thrush	<i>Turdus falcklandii falcklandii</i>			x	x															
Long-tailed Meadow Lark	<i>Sturnella loyca falklandica</i>			x	x															
Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>				x															
South Georgia Pipit	<i>Anthus antarcticus</i>							x	x	x										
White-bridled Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>			x	x															
Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>			x	x															
Marine mammals		17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>					x														
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>						x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>																			
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		x				x				x	x	x	x						x
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	x																		
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>						x													
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>						x						x							
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>												x	x						
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>		x	x																
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>			x																
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>				x															x
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>			x	x															
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>																x			

Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Felicity Johnson – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Adam Burke – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide



Jakub was born in Poland in 1985. As a kid, he dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but later his focus shifted towards astronomy. Eventually, he obtained a masters and doctoral degree in Earth Sciences and became a glaciologist. As he puts it, researching remote, glacier-covered regions is almost like landing on another planet, so the childhood dream has partly come true.

Since 2007 Jakub has been studying glaciers across the world, either directly or remotely, i.e., using satellite or aerial images. His main interest is how glaciers respond to changing climate in different environmental settings. Most of his glaciology work Jakub carries out on Svalbard, the arctic archipelago located midway between Norway and the north pole, where he fell in love with ice. Since then, Jakub joins expeditions to remote regions on an every-year basis.

Jakub considers public education by the science community at least as important as delivering new knowledge, so he is a keen glaciology communicator, book author and a frequent guest to the Polish media outlets and science festivals where he comments on polar and mountain affairs. Apart from glaciology, Jakub is a huge enthusiast of planetary sciences and space exploration and tries to play the ukulele.

Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide



Elizabeth was born and raised in Minnesota, a state in the middle north of the United States. Minnesota is known for having over 10,000 lakes and nature around every corner; something she took full advantage of growing up. Before the age of eighteen, Elizabeth travelled to all fifty US states, and became a Junior Park Ranger at over thirty National Parks.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mammalogy, accompanied by additional degrees in Psychology, English Writing and Environmental Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on African elephants and squirrels. Recently, she graduated from the University of Bristol (UK) with a Master of Science degree in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. Her dissertation focused on cetacean conservation and understanding how policy is integrated within conservation efforts.

Elizabeth has lived and studied whales in many places such as Hawaii, British Columbia, Alaska, Norway, and the UK. She has previously worked as an orca kayak guide, a snorkel guide in Hawaii, a wildlife documentary co-producer, and a marine mammal researcher. She has spent the last eight years studying species such as orcas, humpback whales, right whales, porpoises, and pinnipeds. She is passionate about cetacean conservation, specifically endangered species. Elizabeth currently calls both the US and the UK home and is happiest at sea.

Jess Owen - Expedition Guide



Jess is from the South East of England and lives on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to their local wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula and she is very excited to be returning to the Arctic this season.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching, and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew.

Gonzalo Sabattini- Expedition Guide



Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic

Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenty's Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top of diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



Born on a farm in central Denmark, later working as an air traffic controller in Copenhagen for many years, now living near the coastline on the countryside south of the capital.

A keen interest in wildlife has been a lifelong companion, and the majority of travelling through the years has been to all 7 continents, where animal life- and behaviour was the main focus.

Whether it was swimming with the orcas in northern Norway, dogsledding in Finland, experiencing the abundance of wildlife in southern Africa or enjoying the magnificence of landscapes and animal

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Jens is a sociable and talkative person, loving to share all the experiences with our guests – and his enthusiasm has made him guiding friends and colleagues on several occasions.

He also possesses a deep interest in the polar expeditions – both to the Arctic and Antarctic – made by the brave men a hundred years ago, exploring the last frontiers by ships, planes, airships and dogsleds.

When not travelling, spare time is used enjoying the massive migration of birds of prey near his home, mountain biking, trekking in the Scandinavian wilderness and flying gliders together with all the predatory birds.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream of being an expedition guide, Jens is looking forward to his first season in the Antarctic with passion and enthusiasm, sharing the magnificent experiences that await all on an expedition cruise.

Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



Meike Sjoer, a dedicated birder, nature enthusiast, and polar expedition guide, has spent her life immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Growing up in the heart of the Dutch forest, Meike developed a profound love for nature from a young age, a passion that would shape her extraordinary journey as a birder and wildlife explorer

She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Utrecht. During her studies Meike discovered a natural inclination towards sharing her wildlife experiences with others.

For the past 26 years, she has devoted her talents as a television director for the Dutch National Television. In this role, she dedicated herself to directing programs that involved stories of nature, wildlife, and environmental conservation. Meike's talent for filming and editing led her to directing the renowned Dutch National Wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels* for the past 15 years. Beyond her television work, Meike is a certified nature guide for the Dutch Institute for Nature and Education. When she is not sailing across polar waters, she takes

great pleasure in guiding birding and wildlife tours within the second largest National Park of the Netherlands.

Additionally, driven by her deep concern for the well-being of our planet, Meike was part of the Sea Shepherd media team for 5 years and played a role in raising awareness about the urgent need to protect marine life and preserve delicate ecosystems.

Yet, it is in the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic that Meike finds her greatest fulfilment. Here, surrounded by icy vastness and majestic wildlife, she is happiest creating outdoor experiences that challenge individuals to connect with their inner selves and develop a profound respect for the planet we call home.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing her passion and knowledge for wildlife with you.

Simon Davies - Expedition Guide



Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a Masters degree in Ecology focusing on seabirds he has undertaken a broad range of wildlife related contracts around the world.

His career has predominantly been focused on birds (with the only notable 'blip' coming during a year researching Meerkats in South Africa) during which his focus has ranged from research to conservation to guiding and much in between. Most recently he has been working in Scotland and Sweden studying both breeding birds and migratory species through ringing/banding, a wide range of surveys and other tracking methods.

He is an experienced guide, having led bird and wildlife tours in Australia and many tours, walks and talks in his native UK, enthusiastic about sharing the wide range of seabirds in the colonies he loves.

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

A large part of his recent work has also been training others in bird ringing/banding and surveying, hopefully inspiring others to a career in research or conservation.

The vast majority of his spare time is also spent birding and wildlife watching and he has undertaken many trips around the world including Australia, Europe, India, Venezuela and the USA, always chasing the next bird!

Bill Smith - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monika Baczek - Expedition Guide



Monika has always been fascinated by the sea and with what is hidden in a deep. After graduation with degree in Navigation and Marine Technology from Liverpool John Moores University she worked on varies offshore projects researching the seabed. She continued her education in (MSc) Maritime Archaeology at Bournemouth University. This enabled her to take part in archaeological investigation projects, both on land and underwater.

She has an experience in management of coastal cruises and introduced 'Shipwreck Cruises' in South - East

England during which she gives presentations about varies artefacts found on the seabed.

Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



William was brought up in the west coast of France in an Irish household. From a very young age he travelled to visit relatives on the emerald isle and the bug for discovering other cultures and lifestyles caught him.

Curiosity brought him all over Europe, working as a farmer in Iceland, building cabins in the Pyrenees, bartending in Scotland, carpentering in Norway and becoming a kitchen chef in Sweden.

While living yet another adventure on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, he discovered the polar world and its famous adventurers.

He since then has been sailing the Arctic and Antarctic waters, blending his passion for history, storytelling, and travel by shining the light on unsung polar heroes, events and adventures.

When not on the ships he lives in Malmö, Sweden where he found a place to call home. Hiking and sailing are his main past times along with playing rugby and ice hockey, depending on the season.

Tijmen Brink – Ships doctor



Tijmen Brink can probably be best described as a sportive and openminded person. Currently he is living together with his girlfriend and son in Nijmegen (The Netherlands). He likes to travel the world, to meet and get into contact with people, and if needed, trying to help them.

After he successfully graduated, he has been working for several surgical departments in different hospitals for about four years. Then he decided to further specialise his career and since 2017 he has been working as a freelance General Practitioner in the

Netherlands. In this way he is used to adapting himself to both different working environments and circumstances every time. At the moment, most of his work consists of emergency care shifts, especially during the night. Besides that, he tries to combine this with travelling as a ship doctor. One of his best skills is to keep calm and stay focussed, even when the situations are getting more difficult or stressful. His work enables him to help and take care of people when needed. This contributes in it being a very satisfying job for him.

His other passions in life besides his work and travelling are enjoying nature and the outdoor lifestyle. He loves camping, skiing, photography, diving, bouldering, and CrossFit. He is very excited to experience travelling the Antarctic region with you and to combine so many things he gets inspired by in life at the same time.

Tijmen will do his utmost best to help you in any medical situation. In this he strives to make you feel as safe and comfortable as possible during your trip, especially when you are in need of (medical) help. Feel free to ask him any question. It is his pleasure to serve you as a ship doctor.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Welcome aboard!

Date: 17 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 5.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. 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 accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the **Restaurant on Deck 4** All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:15+/- We would like to invite you to **Captains Cocktails** in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. 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 and you will meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:45+/- The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to Deck 3, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for

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

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 18 December 2023

Day 2: At Sea, heading towards the Falkland Islands.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30 The Expedition Team invites you to the Observation Lounge on Deck 5 for the **MANDATORY** IAATO and Zodiac briefing. Attendance will be checked.
- 11:30 Simon welcomes you to his lecture about Birds of the Falkland Islands in the observation lounge.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:45 Sara invites you to the observation lounge for a presentation about Photography in the Polar Regions.
- 16:00 Please join Jess in the Observation Lounge for a presentation about Whales of the Southern Ocean.
- 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 Plated 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.

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 19 December 2023

Day 3: Carcass Island and Saunders Island.

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:00+/- We invite you to the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Carcass Island.

Please note the walk from Leopard Beach to the Settlement is about 2.5 miles (4km). If you do not wish to do this walk, please board the last Zodiacs and we will drop you directly at the settlement. Traditional 'Smoko' (tea, coffee, and cake) will be served in the main house from about 10 o'clock, the cost of this is included in your visit.

Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs, Mucks boots and that your lifejacket is correctly fastened before coming to the shell doors. Remember to use the Virkon solution provided to clean your boots, tripods, monopods etc before you leave the ship and on your return.

There will be biosecurity spot checks before disembarkation so please ensure you have cleaned your clothing and equipment well beforehand.

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

14:15+/- We invite you to the shell doors on Deck 3 for a landing at Saunders Island.

There may be the chance to purchase a few small gifts ashore from the landowners, these can be paid for in cash, GBP, or USD.

Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please do not kneel/lie down/sit and please and keep a 5-metre distance from any wildlife.

18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"The greatest adventure of all is life itself" - Bertrand Piccard.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 20 December 2023

Day 4: Stanley.

We encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy our final approach towards Stanley Harbour, as we navigate through The Narrows, keep a look out for dolphins and other wildlife.

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:30+/- We hope to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. The **Green** group will go first, followed by the **Red** Group. PLEASE WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE CALLED BY COLOUR GROUP.

We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Tourist Centre, which is very close to the jetty. The admission price to the museum is included in your visit, just show your room card key at the entrance. The local currency is Pounds Sterling, but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also widely accepted.

Please remember, **no food to be taken ashore**, you may be inspected by a government officer on disembarkation.

We will run Zodiacs back to the ship from the jetty, starting at 11:30. **The last Zodiac will leave at 13:00 - PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE.**

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:30 **MANDATORY** South Georgia and Biosecurity Briefing in the lounge. Attendance will be checked, please be on time.

16:30 Elizabeth will give a short presentation in the lounge about whale sightings around the Falkland Islands.

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.

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 21 December 2023

Day 5: Scotia Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30 Please join Jens for his presentation titled 'Shackleton – The Imperial Trans-Atlantic Expedition' in the observation lounge.
- 09:30 Jerry will give a presentation in the Lecture Room in Mandarin titled 'Shackleton and his Men'.
- 11:30 Felicity invites you to the observation lounge for her a lecture about Seals of the Southern Ocean.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:45 There will be a screening of the film 'Falklands War - The Untold Story' in the Lecture Room on Deck 5.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to the observation lounge for her a presentation about Penguins.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 22 December 2023

Day 6: Approaching South Georgia

- 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 Bill in the lounge for his presentation about the MV Hondius - a look behind the scenes of how things work onboard. Jerry will do a version of this presentation, in Mandarin in the Lecture Room
- 11:15 Please join Meike for her presentation titled 'Life of the Albatross' in the Lounge.

PLEASE NOTE - At midday the clocks will go forward 1 hour.

- 13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:15 We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY** South Georgia Biosecurity down on Deck 3. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to Deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:30 Jakub invites you to the lounge for his lecture titled 'On Thin Ice – Why do we need it?' Jerry will offer a lecture about Ice in the Lecture Room, this will be given in Mandarin.
- 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.

As we enter the South Georgia special protection area, we must minimise the light pollution to prevent birds striking the ship. **PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN BEFORE DINNER!**

" Visually and emotionally, the island of South Georgia overwhelms. At first glance, it resembles the far south Atlantic branch of Dr Doolittle's fantastic zoo: a profusion of captivating animals that quickly transforms even the most discriminating observer into a raving anthropomorphic. - Ron Naveen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 23 December 2023

Day 7: Grytviken and Hercules Bay

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

On arrival we have to clear customs with the Government Officer, during this time there will be a short presentation in the lounge by the South Georgia Heritage Team about their recent work and the rat eradication project.

Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the shell doors. This can be a timely process so please be patient, we will call the **Green** group first, followed by the **Red**. We hope to land you near the two shipwrecks in front of the museum, you can then visit the church, museum, post office, and gallery. Before, entering any of these buildings, you must walk through the Virkon solution provided at the entrance and again when you leave. You will be advised as to exact timings and exactly where you can walk when you land.

IMPORTANT

- Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings.
- Do not make any attempt to reach the cemetery. Each Zodiac will pass by the cemetery, in order for you to see the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton on your return to the ship.
- You can use Pound Sterling (GBP) and credit cards only.
- Do not sit, kneel, lie down, or place any items on the ground.
- Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore.

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

15:15+/- We invite the **Red** group for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.

15:30+/- We invite the **Green** group for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.

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

PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN BEFORE DINNER!

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

“Human effort is not futile, but man fights against the giant force of nature in a spirit of humility.”- Sir Ernest Shackleton



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 24 December 2023

Day 8: Ocean Harbour and St. Andrews Bay

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:00+/- We invite the **Red** group for a Zodiac cruise at Ocean Harbour.

09:15+/- We invite the **Green** group for a Zodiac cruise at Ocean Harbour.

If the weather delays or cancels our operations today, Felicity will give a presentation titled 'Whaling – Hunted to the Brink' in the observation lounge, please listen to announcements for timings.

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

14:00+/- We invite the **Green** group for a Zodiac cruise at St Andrews Bay.

14:15+/- We invite the **Red** group for a Zodiac cruise at St Andrews Bay.

18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN BEFORE DINNER!

18:30 A festive gala buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

20:00 After dinner we will be showing the film Elf, the American Christmas Comedy starring Will Ferrell, in the Lecture Room on Deck 5, with Popcorn!

"King weather is the tyrant of these latitudes, and he rules South Georgia with ruthless despotism." - Frank Hurley



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 25 December 2023

Day 9: Fortuna Bay and Jason Harbour.

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:45+/- We invite those wishing to do the long hike to come to the shell doors, this will be at a fast pace, and some of the terrain will be steep and hilly. The hike will cover a small section of the famous 'Shackleton Walk'. You will visit the large king penguin colony at Fortuna Bay on your return.
- 08:30+/- We invite all other guests to come ashore for a landing at Fortuna.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 15:00+/- We invite the **Green** group for a Zodiac cruise at Jason Harbour.
- 15:15+/- We invite the **Red** group for a Zodiac cruise at Jason Harbour.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN BEFORE DINNER!

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

" If you were to take a giant carving-knife, slice along beneath one of the highest mountain ridges of Switzerland, just where the huge glaciers tumble into the valley below, and then drop your slice of mountain, dripping with sugar-icing into the sea, I think you would get a fair idea of the place. For it is long and narrow, and everywhere the snow-covered mountains rise straight from the water, reaching, near the center of the island, to a height of over 9,000 feet. Seen from afar on an early spring day, South Georgia is a breathtaking sight and one not easily forgotten. -Niall Rankin, 1946



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 26 December 2023

Day 10: Scotia Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Bill invites you to the lounge for his lecture titled 'Whaling in the Polar Regions - a tale of death and destruction'.
- 09:15 Jerry invites the Mandarin speakers to the Lecture Room for a presentation about whales of the Southern Ocean and the whaling history of this region.
- 11:30 Adam welcomes you to the lounge for his presentation about Supporting Antarctic Science during his time working in South Georgia and Antarctica.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:45 We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY** IAATO Biosecurity down on Deck 3. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to Deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:00 Please join William in the Lecture Room for a presentation about 'Tom Crean - The unsung Antarctic Hero'.
- 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.

"people do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." - Sir Edmund Hillary



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 27 December 2023

Day 11: South Orkneys, Coronation Island

Please note the clocks will go back 1 hour tonight.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Meike invites you to the lounge for her presentation about Krill- The Cornerstone of the Antarctic Ecosystem.

11:30 Sasha welcomes you to the lounge for a 'Geographical Introduction to Antarctica'.

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

During the afternoon we hope to be able to offer an activity off the ship on, or near, Coronation Island. Please listen to announcements for exact plans and timings.

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.

20:15 A screening of 'Shackleton' starring Kenneth Branagh in the lecture room, with popcorn! (First of a two part series - 1hr 40 min each)

"The ice and the long moonlit polar nights, with all their yearning, seemed like a far-off dream from another world, a dream that has come and passed away. But what would life be without dreams?" -Fridtjof Nansen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 28 December 2023

Day 12: Heading towards Antarctica.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Join William for a presentation about Antarctic Geopolitics in the Lecture Room.
- 11:30 Jess invites you to the Lounge for her presentation titled 'How whales can save us – The Importance of whales in our oceans '.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

We are hoping to pass by the enormous A23a iceberg, which may cause us to alter our lecture programme, so listen to announcements. A23a is a large tabular iceberg which calved from the Filchner–Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986. It was then stuck on the seabed for many years but then started moving in 2020. Its area is about 3,900 square kilometres (1,500 sq. mi), with dimensions of 40x32 nautical miles.

As we approach the iceberg Jacob will give a short lecture about Ice Shelves in the Lounge to explain more about what we are seeing.

- 14:00 Jerry will give a lecture in Mandarin about Penguins in the Lecture Room.
- 16:00 Sara invites you to join her in the Lounge for a lecture about Women in Antarctica.
- 18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 18:30 Buffet Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 19:30-20:30 Happy Hour in the Bar - half price drinks!
- 20:15 We will hold a charity auction in the lounge in aid of South Georgia Heritage Trust. There will be many unique items and experiences to bid for, please give generously!

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 29 December 2023

Day 13: South Shetland Island, Penguin Island

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We invite the **Red** group for a landing at Penguin Island.
- 08:45 Monika invites the **Green** Group to the Lecture Room for her presentation titled Maritime Archaeology & Shipwrecks of Antarctica
- 10:00+/- We invite the **Green** group for a landing at Penguin Island.
- 12:00 Monika invites the **Red** Group to the Lecture Room for her presentation titled Maritime Archaeology & Shipwrecks of Antarctica
- 13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 16:00 Join Simon for a presentation about Birds of Antarctica in the Lounge.
- 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.
- 20:30 A screening of Part 2 of the 'Shackleton' series starring Kenneth Branagh in the lecture room, with popcorn!

"Traveling – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller" – Ibn Battuta



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 30 December 2023

Day 14: Portal Point and Two Hummock Island

- 06:15 Wake-up call.
- 06:30-07:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:30+/- We invite the **Green** Group for a Continental landing at Portal Point
- 07:45+/- We invite the **Red** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Charlotte Bay.
- Please note the groups will swap during the morning.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:15+/- We invite the **Red** Group for a landing at Palaver Point, on Two Hummock Island.
- 14:30 Elizabeth welcomes the **Green** Group to the lounge for her lecture about Humpback Whales.
- 15:45+/- We invite the **Green** Group for a landing at Palaver Point, on Two Hummock Island.
- 17:00 Elizabeth welcomes the **Red** Group to the lounge for her lecture about Humpback Whales.
- 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.

"For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton."
- Sir Edmund Hillary



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 31 December 2023

Day 15: Danco Island and Cuverville Island

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:30+/- We invite the **Red** Group for a landing at Danco Island.

08:45+/- We invite the **Green** Group for a Zodiac cruise around Danco Island.

Please note the groups will swap during the morning.

We hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of the landing, so you need to wear your swimwear under your regular expedition clothing. We will provide the towels so please do not bring them from your cabins.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:30+/- We invite the **Green** Group for a landing at Cuverville Island.

14:45 We invite the **Red** Group for a Zodiac cruise around Cuverville Island.

Please note the groups will swap during the afternoon.

19:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

20:00 Dinner will be served followed by New Year Celebrations!

"We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago."

- Rose Elizabeth Bird



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Happy New Year!

Date: 1 January 2024

Day 16: Paradise Harbour and Brown Station.

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30+/- We invite the **Green** Group for a landing at Brown Station.
- 08:45+/- We invite the **Red** Group for a Zodiac cruise in Paradise Harbour.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

During the afternoon we will transit the Gerlache Strait, therefore encourage you to join the Expedition Team on the bridge and outside decks to look for wildlife and to enjoy your last views of the Antarctic Peninsula.

- 16:15 Jacub welcomes you to the lounge for his lecture titled 'The Future of Ice'.
- 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!
- 20:30+/- We will do a screening of Happy Feet, Part 1 in the Lecture Room.

"We must always remember with gratitude and admiration the first sailors who steered their vessels through storms and mists and increased our knowledge of the lands of ice in the South." - Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 2 January 2024

Day 17: 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 Adam invites you to the Lounge for his lecture about Station Life in Antarctica.
- 11:15 Sara welcomes you to the Lecture Room for her presentation about Marine Threats.
- 12:15 Please return your Muck Boots to Deck 3, please wait until you are called before doing this.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Monika invites you to the Lecture Room to show you a short video (30 mins) about behind the scenes on board, where she interviews many of the crew.
- 16:15 Join Sasha in the Lounge for his presentation titled 'How to get to Antarctica: His True Story'.
- 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!
- 20:30+/- The team invite you to the Lounge for a pub style quiz, questions will be based on our voyage. Please make teams of 2-6 people, bring a pen and think of a good team name.

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 3 January 2024

Day 18: Approaching South America

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Join Sasha in the Lecture Room for his presentation titled 'How to get to Antarctica: His True Story'.
- 11:30 The Expedition Team invite you to a joint lecture about Plastic Pollution in the Lounge.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 We will show 'Around Cape Horn' (40 mins) in the Lecture Room – Don't miss the chance to watch this documentary in the lounge, dated with 1920's footage of incredible bravery of sailing through these rebellious waters!
- During the afternoon the Hotel Department will call you deck by deck to settle your accounts at Reception, please listen to announcements.
- 16:15 Gonzalo invites you to the Lecture Room for his presentation about The Art of Mate – (The traditional South American drink).
- 18:15 Please join the Captain and Expedition Team in the Bar for a farewell toast to the voyage and a viewing of the slideshow that the team have made for you.
- The slideshow will be available after dinner from the computers in the Lecture Room, or if you have an Apple branded device, we will be able to airdrop it to you.
- 19:00 A farewell gala dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4!

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 4 January 2024

Day 19: Ushuaia

07:15 Wake-up call.

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before going to breakfast.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. Please get from Reception an **Orange** luggage tag if you wish to do this. The Chinese and Taiwanese Tour Groups have their own coloured luggage tags which their tour leaders will advise them on. 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.

08:30+/- 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.

08:45+/- 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 Hondius, we wish you safe onward travel, and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

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