



Antarctica Basecamp

23rd December 2023 – 04th Januar 2024



M/V Plancius

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

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew

Chief Officer: 2nd Officer: 3rd Officer:	Maikel Overbeeke Sjoerd van Hoek Eline Schuurman	
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	
Hotel Manager: Assist. Hotel Manager: Head Chef:	Oleksandr Lyebyedyev Alfredo Bonifaz Mateo Khabir Moraes	
Ships Doctor:	Patricia Struik	
Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	
Assist. Expedition Leader:	George Kennedy	
Expedition Guides:	Marco Rosso Erin Bastian Steffi Liller Owain Jones Koen Hoekemeijer David McKinley Carina Ketterer Brian Veltrop Tanja Matschi	

Day 1 – 23rd December

Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

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

Wind: light air, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

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

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



At 16:00 it was time to make our way up the gangway of Plancius. We were greeted at the dock by members of the expedition team, and the hotel manager quickly checked us in. There was not a lot of time to relax, as at 17:15 a mandatory safety drill

was scheduled, so our presence in the lounge was required. We were welcomed by expedition leader Pippa, and the chief officer guided us through a safety video and drill procedure. Then we all sat in the lounge, wearing our bulky orange life vests. When we heard the abandon ship alarm, we made our way outside to the lifeboats where the second officer informed us further.

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



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

Day 2 – 24th December

At Sea

12:00 GPS Position: 57°06.7'S / 065°17.8'W

Wind: SSW 6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

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

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

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

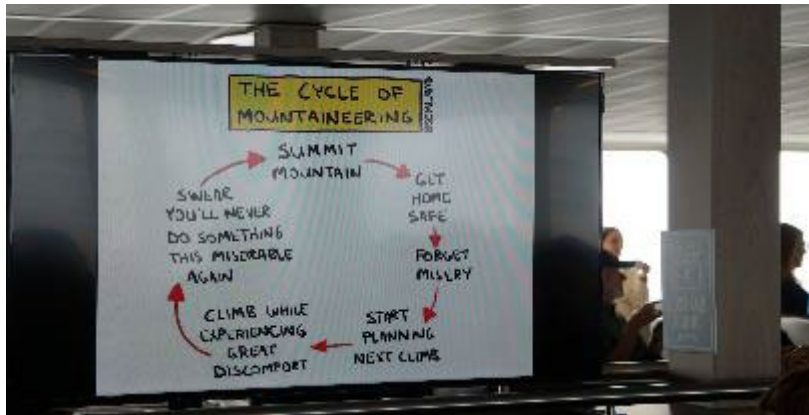
At 9:15am we started with a mandatory briefing about Zodiac operations, along with the rules and guidelines from IAATO, presented by Pippa. After that we could enjoy a coffee and a look outside, where we could see the Albatrosses and Petrels flying around our ship.



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

The morning activities weren't over yet, so we had to collect our muck boots just before lunch. These lovely boots we would wear for all landings. Then we were hungry, so we headed down to the dining room for a delicious meal.

After a short break, at 2pm Marco and Brian briefed us about camping. We learned what we needed to do for our camping experience. We would need to dig a pit to sleep in for the night.



Shortly after that, we got our briefing from Erin about kayaking in Antarctica. The whole briefing presentation ended with Koen's tips about photography. Now we were ready for the next day of activity

sign-ups. The first iceberg was spotted by a young fellow passenger right before our next meeting. We were getting closer to Antarctica!

At 6pm we had our first recap in which we heard some additional information about the wind and the waves in the Drake. Then we got the plans for tomorrow before we had dinner. After dinner, the staff prepared a real Xmas warm up. We got to have a movie night with "Home Alone" and the Popcorn was not missing.

Day 3 – 25th December

At Sea – Drake Passage, Boyd Strait, Bransfield Strait

12:00 GPS Position: 61°30.4'S / 062°55.9'W

Wind: SW 7, **Sea State:** Low, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

"A warm Merry Christmas to all of you" was the wake-up call by Pippa this morning. It was an unusual Christmas for us all while on our second day across the Drake passage. During the night the persistent rolling of the previous day finally decreased. The Antarctic Convergence had been crossed a few hours prior to our waking up call, so we found ourselves already inside the political and biological boundaries that define Antarctica.



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

the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. This creates the perfect conditions for life to thrive in the Southern Ocean

The day took off with the activity signing up in the lounge room; among keen mountaineers, excited campers, and avid kayakers, we continued the morning with biosecurity for all the gear and equipment which will be using on shore during our next days in Antarctica.

After the usual delicious buffet lunch, the day carried on with Marco's introductory lecture about the Antarctic Peninsula. After that, Carina introduced us to the incredible world of penguins, the flightless seabird we would find in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Meanwhile, the wind and swell had picked up again. Almost approaching the Boyd Strait, between Smith and Snowy Island in the South Shetland, gusts were up again to 36-38 knots and our ship was visibly and physically leaning 14-16° to the portside. It was awkward to walk along corridors, inside rooms and in the lounge. However, that didn't prevent us from listening to the last recap of the day.



Entering the Bransfield Strait was a relief. The swell had diminished; a nice and glimmering light was on the tabular icebergs. Expectations were high and everyone was looking forward to waking up the next day in the calm waters of the Gerlache Strait.

Day 4 – 26th December

Wilhelmina Bay and Neko Harbor

12:00 GPS Position: 64°35.6'S / 062°14.2'W

Wind: W 3, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Our first day in Antarctica, and what a day to wake up to! Blue skies, abundant sun, and hardly any wind. The scenery looked stunning, with the rugged mountains covered in meters of snow and amazing icebergs floating in Wilhelmina Bay.

Wilhelmina Bay was named by Belgian expeditioner Adrien de Gerlache, who named it after the queen of the Netherlands. The reason was that the Belgian government didn't support Gerlache's expedition, and the Dutch government did.

When we started our Zodiac cruise, we first got to practice how to embark in the small rubber boats. While cruising among beautiful icebergs and glaciers, we also got to see and hear our first whales of the expedition. A few adult humpback whales were spotted, but also a mother and her calf were seen. This was probably the



first time for this young humpback to visit these food-rich waters, as humpback calves only stay with their mothers for about a year. The calves are born in warm tropical waters before they migrate south to the feeding grounds with their mothers.



Some Zodiacs went across the bay to check out our first penguins on the continent. But upon coming closer, it turned out they were actually Imperial Shags, or Blue-Eyed Shags. We

later saw our first penguins: Gentoos and an Adelie posing for us on a piece of ice.



In the afternoon, we visited Neko Harbour. Neko is known for being close to a glacier, so you can have stunning views of Gentoo penguin colonies with the glacier in the background. And this glacier is quite active, so pieces break off regularly. Last night Pippa informed us not to hang around at the beach site to avoid sudden waves, and she was right: a big piece of ice broke off the glacier and created big waves. Penguins were running to higher

ground while we witnessed this spectacular event.

On land a few Weddell seals were resting, and at one point one even started making amazing sounds. It's hard to describe it, but it reminded us of sonar. Fantastic to hear this.



Neko offered a beautiful loop around the Gentoo colonies, and we also spotted a single Chinstrap penguin and again an Adelie. We had seen the three species of penguins expected for this trip already on day one!

KAYAKING



Wilhelmina Bay 26th AM

Our first kayak could not have been more perfect. Plancius headed south around the island, and we would take the northern channel and navigate through thick ice to meet her on the southwest side. As we kayaked around the island, we found a

Weddell seal sleeping on an iceberg and even an Adelle penguin taking a rest before heading back to their nest.

Neko Harbour 26th PM

As we paddled away from the ship, we heard a thunderous crack as a glacier calved. A huge wave crashed ashore. Out in the bay we felt the wave, but it was only a gentle rocking. Brash ice crunched as we broke through to clearer waters. A sleeping seal enjoyed a large iceberg, and penguins bounced in and out of the water all around us. We heard the blow of a



whale in the distance, and as we got closer we caught a glimpse of its fluking tail.

MOUNTAINEERING

Neko Harbor 26th PM



A fabulous mountaineering circuit of the icy slopes overlooking Neko Harbor.

Day 5 – 27th December

Paradise Bay, Brown Station and Danco Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64°53.3'S / 062°52.4'W

Wind: Light air, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



The day started with sunshine coming through the windows in our cabins. We were ready for the next day in Antarctica. We went to breakfast, where the hotel department prepared a lovely breakfast for us. Shortly after, we dressed up to go out for all the activities.

We were going to a place called Brown Station, an Argentinian Research base that wasn't occupied. We learned from George that the original base was burned down by the station doctor, who was very desperate to go home.

We were split into two groups. It was a landing and a Zodiac cruise on the same morning. As we arrived at the station, we were lucky to walk between the buildings and up the hill to the viewpoint. And there was a surprise waiting for us. We were allowed to slide down the hill, very excited to touch finally some snow and enjoy the funny part. As there was no wildlife around, they allowed us to sit and slide (not only in the Zodiac) down in the snow. During the Zodiac cruise, we saw a lot of wildlife, like a Minke whale, a humpback, Weddell seal, Antarctic Cormorants (Shags), Penguins, Cape petrels, Antarctic terns, and more. It was a great morning.

Back on board, we were hungry and ready for lunch. We were sailing through the Aguirre Channel and could see (on our starboard side) the Chilean station, Gonzalez Videla. After lunch we visited Danco Island, which has its summit around 120m (ca. 390 feet) above sea level.





We could go for a little walk around the island and see several rookeries from Gentoo Penguins. We had a great overview of the Errera Channel and could see the next island, Cuverville. When we arrived at the landing site, it was surrounded by big icebergs, an impressive view. As we were walking up from the beach towards the lifejacket's bags, we had to take our snowshoes with us. We put on our snowshoes and walked slowly up towards the first colony. After we left the first colony, we had to cross the first penguin highway, and

penguins have the right of way.

KAYAKING

Paradise Bay 27th AM

This sheltered bay is a fabulous place to explore by kayak. The ice-choked waters make navigation a challenge, but luckily only the bottoms of the glaciers were out of reach for the kayakers. We



paddle bellow steep cliffs, home to many shags and even a few cape petrels. We watched the mountaineers summit the snowy peak above our heads, enjoying the stunning views all around the bay. Penguins washed their feathers around our kayaks, and we paddled along the coast, home to many nesting

gentoo penguins. After a beautiful paddle, we went to shore for our first continental landing.

Danco Island 27th PM

Just as we climbed into the Zodiac for our kayaking adventure, the wind decided to begin blowing. We navigated the strong winds and current in the Zodiac and tucked ourselves behind a huge iceberg for shelter. Here we could safely climb into the kayaks to start our journey. We stayed

close to the shores of Danco Island, using the tall coastline to shelter us from the wind. As the wind dropped, we made the crossing to a small rocky island, home to at least eight sleeping seals. We had to navigate over a shallow reef, which was a little challenging, but we all made it through.



With time running out, we made the long crossing back to Danco and got to enjoy incredible views of rafting penguins.

MOUNTAINEERING



Brown Station 27th AM

We enjoyed great weather on our journey behind Almirante Brown research station. Our sunny and airy high point rewarded the team with a bird's eye view over Skorntorp Cove.

Danco Island 27th PM



A great counterclockwise circuit up to the top of Danco Island. Our teams enjoyed magnificent summit panoramas. On our descent, we were treated to the sight of the highest of the Gentoo penguin colonies on the island and its never ending “Penguin Highway.”

CAMPING

Lefèvre Point, Doumer Island

At around 21:00, right after dinner, we got ready to get on shore. We were welcomed by Marco and Brian, our camping guides. We received our sleeping kit and a shovel and got ready to dig the snow pits that were going to be our shelter for the night.

The evening was lovely, with the sun setting to the southwest, casting some beautiful orange and pink shades on the mountain peaks in front of us. Soon after we slipped into our sleeping bags, we could hear a couple of humpback whales feeding alongside the coast. They kept on going for about two hours, a truly and unique Antarctic experience.



Day 6 – 28th December

Peterman Island and Pleneau

12:00 GPS Position: 65°10.6'S / 064°07.5'W

Wind: S 4, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Over breakfast we sailed to our next destination, Peterman Island, which is the southernmost point of our journey. After two hours, we passed the beautiful entrance of the Lemaire Channel. The Lemaire Channel is one of the highlights of our voyage. Steep cliffs hem in the iceberg-filled passage, which is 11 km (6.8 mi) long and just 1.600 meters (1.970 ft) wide at its narrowest point. It was the Gerlache



who first explored Lemaire Channel and this area of the Antarctic Peninsula in 1898. Gerlache

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



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

After breakfast we got ready for our landing on Peterman Island. It was a bit overcast, but sun was coming out on the right time during landing. Peterman Island was discovered by a German expedition of 1873-74 and named after geographer August Peterman.

Charcot's second French Antarctic expedition wintered aboard the Porquois-Pais at this location. On the landing site there is an Argentine refuge hut and commemorative cross for three members of the British Antarctic Survey who died attempting to cross the sea ice in 1982.



Close to the landing site, we were lucky to see a two Southern Elephant Seal from the Zodiac. The Southern Elephant Seal is the biggest species of seals. They are the deepest diving air-breathing non-cetaceans and have been recorded at a maximum of 2.388 meters (7,835 feet) in depth. Just stepping out of the Zodiac on land, we were able to see another Southern Elephant Seal relaxing close to the shore.

Peterman Island also has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because it supports a breeding colony of about 3,000 pairs of Gentoo Penguins. The island also has a colony of some Adelie Penguins and Imperial Shags. The Adelie Penguins had some cute little chicks. We were able to watch these fluffy little penguins in incredible mountainous scenery.

In the afternoon, we were jumping into our Zodiacs for a stunning cruise around Pleneau Island in Salpetriere Bay, what's known as an "iceberg graveyard." First we encountered hundreds of Gentoo Penguins in the water. We switched the engine off to not disturb them. Our cruise took us next to some Weddell Seals that hauled out on the snow.

One highlight of this cruise was the Crabeater Seal. We were able to watch him for a bit while he was resting on an ice floe. After three hours of cruising in a glacial scenery, we headed slowly back to Plancius. On the way back, we were able to find another Humpback Whale feeding in this area.



Back onboard we had a short recap before a delicious BBQ dinner. We took the dance floor and had a nice little party until the late evening, still in the Lemaire Channel. What a perfect finish to an incredible day!

KAYAKING

Petermann Island 28th AM

Today at Petermann, we were hoping to see a whale. Well, within 10 minutes, we got our wish. Two whales swam our way. We followed them for a few minutes, then two more whales joined them, a mother and calf. They were a little more excitable, and we even watched them breaching. We also watched penguins and baby shags from the coast. Petermann is home to both Gentoo and Adelie penguins. As we paddled farther around the island, we found an elephant seal sleeping on the rocks and 4-5 Weddell seals on the snow.



Planaeu Bay 28th PM

Icebergs towered above our kayaks. We found a leopard seal sleeping on an iceberg, totally unaware of our presence. We navigated the icebergs for more than two hours before we had to find our way back to the ship.



MOUNTAINEERING

Hoovgard Island 28th AM



The summit that is always that little bit further away and never seems to get any closer! Our climbing teams put in a strong performance with both teams making the summit and returning to our landing site in good time.

Day 7 – 29th December

Damoy and Orcas

12:00 GPS Position: 64°46.6'S / 063°25.0'W

Wind: Light air, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

Welcome to Damoy! This spot used to have an airport from which scientists and expeditioners flew out. The old “waiting lounge” is still there in the form of a simple hut. The weather in Antarctica is not often as good as it is today, so planes could not always land on top of the glacier hill. Today the hut is a museum maintained by the British Antarctic Heritage Trust.



The staff had flagged a big loop taking us to Gentoo colonies and beautiful views. Some of us decided to do a workout and did several loops. And on snowshoes, this wasn't too easy.



This afternoon a cruise around Cuverville Island was planned, but we never reached Cuverville. On the bridge, the staff spotted a pod of Killer Whales, so we readied the Zodiacs and cruised over for a closer look.

Half of the Zodiacs were with a single orca, and the others were with two large males. But with the help of Owain and a pair of binoculars on the bridge, we were soon informed of large pods in the area.

We set course into that direction and then the magic happened: three hours of cruising with dozens and dozens of orcas!



KAYAKING

Dorian Bay/Damoy 29th AM

We woke to the calmest waters. The mountains were mirrored in the waters, not a breath of wind could be seen. We only needed to travel 100m from the ship before we could climb into our kayaks. Within minutes we stopped to enjoy a sleeping Weddell seal on the rocks in front of the landing sight.

We followed the coast before making a short crossing to the island, which was home to hundreds of gentoo penguins. The water was so clear you could even see them swimming below our kayaks. We tucked in close to the shore and paddled into a bay with two more sleeping seals. Further along the coast we spotted Port Lockroy, home of the southmost post office. In the bay, we caught a fleeting glimpse of a minke whale.



MOUNTAINEERING

Damoy Glacier Trek 29th AM



A fantastic glacial trek behind the Damoy hut. The weather was amazing, with not a breath of wind. For the mountain guides, this was a real day of contrasts from their last tour of this site; the wettest day they had experienced in Antarctica!

CAMPING

Damoy Point, Dorian Bay

After the incredible afternoon, Plancius was repositioned back to Dorian Bay. This time the landing site would have been used for our second night. The weather conditions were excellent again, and an incredible night awaited us. After dinner we were shuttled ashore by our expedition team, whilst Marco and Brian had set up the camping site for the night.

The snow was crispy when we started digging our snow pits for the night, and the cloudless sky anticipated a bright although cold night. Once again the sunlight casted fabulous hues of yellow and pink on Mount Français and Mount Agamemnon, the highest peaks of Anvers Island.



Day 8 – 30th December

Jougla Point (Port Lockroy) and Peltier Channel

12:00 GPS Position: 64°49.6'S / 063°30.4'W

Wind: SE 5, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Partly cloudy, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

After lunch we had visitors from Port Lockroy come on board to give a presentation about the work they do there. Because of bird flu, the British Heritage Trust decided that Port Lockroy must



be closed for visitors. After the presentation, we were split in two groups. One went ashore at Jougla Point, and the others could do some shopping in the dining room at the pop-up shop.

At Jougla Point, we were able to see lots of Gentoo Penguins and chicks. After the landing, we went for a short Zodiac cruise around the Island to see Port Lockroy.

After returning to Plancius a little soggy and cold, we enjoyed another sumptuous lunch offered by the galley. We dropped the mountaineers on Damoy and sailed south into Peltier Channel for a nice ship cruise. The Peltier Channel was discovered by the French Antarctic Expedition, 1903 - 1905 and named by Charcot for Jean Peltier, noted French physicist. We were cruising in a beautiful glacial scenery, and we spotted some penguins on the shore. We also saw calving glaciers and a couple of Humpback Whales.



MOUNTAINEERING

Jabet Col 30th PM



A long tough hike to this spectacular high col on the mighty Jabet Peak. We did not linger for too long due to the strong fresh winds blowing through the col. The long and winding snowshoe road home demanded our concentration and tested our tired legs!

Day 9 – 31st December

Orne Harbor, Palaver Point, and Spert Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64°27.5'S / 062°14.5'W

Wind: Light breeze, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

The last official activity day in 2023, and we already spotted some Humpback whales. The whales have certainly become more active in this past 10 days.



We started the day with a continental landing at Orne Harbour. The mountaineers were going to the top of the Spigot summit. This is a beautiful mountain with a steep snow slope on just one side, and steep black cliffs on all the others. Everyone else still got an uphill hike to the colony. These chinstrap penguins have incredible stamina. Their nests are high up on the ridge and every time they want food, they

slide down on their bellies to the bottom before the hike back to their nests. These penguins have the penthouse suite of all nesting sites. Some of us had a wonderful Zodiac cruise with Steffi and the kayakers going with Erin around Orne-Harbour.

On our way back to the landing site, the landing site got filled by some brash ice. So the drive back was an adventure. After we came back on to the ship, we had (again) a wonderful lunch and a beautiful cruise with the ship across the Gerlache Strait. We were able to see a lots of bunches of Humpback whales. It was like a big Humpback party. They surrounded the Plancius and it seemed like they had a lot of fun. We saw fluking tails, and some of us were able to see some breaching whales.



In the afternoon, we had a very nice landing at Palaver Point in beautiful glacial scenery. After landing we made our way to the first stunning viewpoint, where we were able to see a few Chinstrap Penguins. The hike up to the upper viewpoint was a little bit steeper, but this was worth it. We were standing next to another very active Chinstrap colony. Also, on the third and last viewpoint, we were able to

take a lot of nice pictures of Chinstrap Penguins with a beautiful glacial scenery in the background. The highlight of this landing were the cute, small, fluffy Chinstrap chicks. We were also able to see a big calving of the glacier which created a little wave.



Back on board, we enjoyed a short drink and recap before heading off to the dining room for another delicious dinner. But this was not the end of the day. During dinner we sailed north to a mystic place called Spert Island and every one of the staff were excited, because for the most of them was it the first time in this beautiful spot. In Spert Island we jumped into the Zodiacs again and we had an incredible Zodiac ride with a lot of swells in this mystic place. We were surrounded by steep cliffs, and we crossed very narrow

and shallow channels. We encountered a stunning sea arch, and we crossed it a few times. It was a big adventure to ride through this narrow arch. On our way back to Plancius, we speeded the Zodiacs up and found two Adelies and two Gentoos on a big iceberg.

Back on board, the crew prepared some drinks and snacks for us, and we got ready for the New Year countdown.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!



KAYAKING

Orne Harbour 31st AM

The weather finally allowed us to go kayaking again, and Orne Harbour is a beautiful spot. We headed down wind to the huge cliffs of spigot mountain and followed the coast around to a small chinstrap colony. Nesting kelp gulls hung around on the cliffs. We nipped in and out of a few icebergs, enjoying another entry and exit point for the mountain climbing chin straps. It looked like such a long hike up to their nests. We spotted a fluke or two from some feeding humpbacks before using the Zodiac to cruise back upwind to the ship.

Palaver Point 31st PM

We have been so lucky with the weather so far and this afternoon's kayaks was no exception. Flat calm waters around Palaver are rare, but for us a unique opportunity. We briefly navigated the shores of Palaver to enjoy the chinstrap penguins, but we spotted a humpback whale feeding not too far out in the bay. What a great opportunity to enjoy whales from our kayaks! As we paddled out an almighty crack and rumble, warned us of a glacier calving. Luckily, we were far enough out at this point we were safe from the wave. We carried on paddling into deeper waters and before long we were playing guess where he'll come up! We must have enjoyed a solid hour of watching our whale, blowing and fluking before disappearing again.



Spert Island 31st PM

What a rare opportunity. The swell is not often small enough to allow us to explore Spert! With only 6 remaining passengers left to kayak, our small team climbed into the kayaks for an evening paddle. We headed straight for the canyons between the rocks, narrow channels choked with icebergs,



with towering cliffs on either side we were reminded how tiny we are. On occasions waves would roll down the channels lifting our kayaks and making our stomachs flutter with excitement. As we rounded the corner to the point, we were surprised to see an amazing sea arch. If only it was calm enough that waves weren't breaking in the waters beneath. Not a friendly place for kayaks just now. On our return along the headland, we explored once again the steep channels, a mere four metres wide in places. Just before we had to climb aboard the ship we had a final surprise, four sleeping seals.

MOUNTAINEERING

Spigot peak 31st AM



Perfect conditions for the ascent of Spigot Peak. This airy summit stands proud, and sentinel like at the entrance to Orne Harbor. We experienced virtually no wind and perfect underfoot snow conditions for our mountaineering crampons to reassuringly bite into. The recipe for success on this often-afoof summit.

Palaver point 31st PM



The last mountaineering outing of our Plancius 25 Basecamp. After several days of activities a few tired legs could be found amongst our climbing teams. Regardless we made it to the summit, our journey interrupted by the sound of huge ice cliffs crashing into the seas below.

Day 10 – 01st January 2024

Pendulum Cove and Whaler's Bay, Deception Island

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

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



We welcomed 2024 aboard Plancius while navigating to the treacherous waters of the South Shetlands. Overnight we had reached the southern shores of Deception Island, one of the most active volcanoes of the white continent and objective of our visits during our last day in Antarctica.

The wind was calm whilst gloomy low and thick clouds hoovering the hills surrounding Deception were adding an eerie touch of mystery and unknown.

Soon the captain directed the bow of Plancius straight into the narrow gap that separates the outer waters of the Bransfield strait with the sheltered waters of Port Foster. M/V Plancius sailed graciously through the Neptune Bellows into the active caldera of Deception Island. A small crowd had meanwhile gathered in the outer decks, awakened by Pippa "Happy New Year" wake-up call, admiring in awe the impressive basaltic cliffs bursting with birdlife and beautiful reddish-to-orange layers, which told us of the violent history of this volcanic island.

Deception Island is one of the most active volcanoes of Antarctica and over the past century it had undergone several eruptions, the most recent ones happened in 1968-70. It is located on the Bransfield basin, where extension over the last 4 million years (of a rate of 10mm/year) has caused the opening of the Bransfield Strait, together with persistent volcanism in the area. The rifting is connected to trench-rollback which is related to the adjacent subduction zone. The volcanism is mainly below sea level but three of these volcanic centres make it above sea level: Deception Island, Penguin Island and Bridgeman Island. These islands form the youngest emerging land of the South Shetland archipelago.



Our first landing for the morning was Pendulum Cove, named in remembrance of gravity measurements made here by the British with a pendulum in 1829, is located about 7 km on the northeast shore of Port Foster. It is located at the northwest side of an eruptive caldera about 1 km in diameter and it's the place where the Chilean research station "Pedro Aguirre Cerda" was heavily damaged by the eruption in 1968 and subsequently destroyed by ash lahar in 1970. However, for us Pendulum cove means the perfect setting for a New Year POLAR PLUNGE; apparently a tradition in Scotland, the Netherlands, United States, Canada and many other countries in the world. The participation was beyond expectation and even our brave staff joined the plunge after most of the participants had been shuttled back to the ship.



Brunch was served in the restaurant, whilst M/V Plancius was maneuvered to the southeastern corner of Port Foster. Soon we started seeing the old buildings of the old Hektor whaling station, the big hangar used by Hubert Wilkins for his first flight above the Antarctic Peninsula and the steamy shoreline of Whaler's Bay. Trained by our previous days operations we quickly set foot



on land and found ourselves hiking to the high viewpoint of the Neptune window. From this vantage point we could enjoy magnificent views over the entire caldera and towards the outer sea, down at the shoreline a sleepy Elephant seal and a single-flipper Leopard seal added some wildlife encounter to this historical site.

At 14:30 we wrapped up the land-based operation and with started our way north by sailing out through the Bellows, passing the southeastern shore of Livingston Island and through the beautiful and treacherous Macfarlane strait dotted with impressive towers of basaltic columnar joints. After the usual briefing and dinner, we set sail to Ushuaia. Two long days awaited us across the infamous waters of the Drake Passage, however the weather forecast seemed to be on our side.

Day 11 – 02nd January

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 59°38.3'S / 062°41.0'W

Wind: N 5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

The first day of going back to Ushuaia, after an incredible voyage in Antarctica. Yesterday afternoon we started to sail back and start the crossing of the Drake Passage. The sea conditions were pretty good. We experienced some rolling during the night. But luckily the most of us are now used to the moving ship and have some good sea legs.

The night was pretty good for some people and other experienced some early seasickness. Luckily, we have a great doctor on board who had giving us some seasickness medication.

Today was the first day we had no wake-up call, so we could take some extra rest. The only “wake-up call” we had was for our breakfast at 0800 by Alex the hotel manager.

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

At 09:30, Expedition staff Steffi gave us an interesting lecture about the seabirds and how they live at the sea for such long periods of time. After this lecture Pippa the Expedition leader tells us more about Seals and Whales and the main differences between the whales and seals.

After a delicious lunch (again) Koen give us a final lecture about Photography and how to edit our images in post-production. Quite interesting in what you can do with a picture and how you can make the best picture of this wonderful environment. After this Lecture Assistant expedition leader George gave us a lecture about geopolitics and the complexities of the treaty was created and how it works for all these different nations who stake a claim in Antarctica.

During the day we experienced a very smooth Drake passage.

At 1800 we had the Recap of the day and HAPPY HOUR at the bar.

At 1900 we had a plated dinner. It was delicious (like always) and after dinner some of us went straight to bed and some enjoyed a nice evening in the lounge.



Day 12 – 03rd January

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 55°36.6'S / 065°59.4'W

Wind: N 4, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

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

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

Then, after lunch, we watched a documentary about the incredible adventures of Sir Ernest Shackleton. After that, Erin shared her story about her 40 days rowing race through the ocean. Then we finally could spot some Dusky Dolphins. The session of lectures ended by George sharing his lecture exploring the future history of Antarctica. He described the challenges facing the Antarctic Treaty System and opportunities to improve ecological protection and strengthen collaborative governance across this great frozen continent.

As the day ended, Tierra del Fuego appeared off our bow, and we gathered for a final time in the lounge for our Captains farewell. After a rousing speech, the captain offered a toast to this



incredible voyage and Pippa thanked the team and crew for their efforts during. The festivities finished with a beautiful slideshow – a fitting memory of a truly amazing Antarctic basecamp.

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

drink from Raquel, before returning to our rooms to pack and enjoy one last evening aboard Plancius before finally disembarking in Ushuaia tomorrow morning.

Day 13 – 04th January

Ushuaia - Disembarkation Day

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

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

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

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



Total distance sailed: 1770 nautical miles
Farthest South: 65°10.6'S / 064°07.5'W

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

1. Boyd Strait
2. Bransfield Strait
3. Wilhelmina Bay
4. Neko Harbour
5. Paradise Harbour
6. Danco Island
7. Peterman Island
8. Pleaneu / Hovgaard
9. Dorian Bay
10. Gerlache Strait – Killer Whales
11. Jougla pt.
12. Peltier Channel.
13. Orne Harbour
14. Palaver Point
15. Spert Island
16. Deception Island



Species list: PLA25 Basecamp - 23rd December 2023 - 4th December 2024

English	Latin	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan	Deutsch	Français	Nederlands
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>													Kaiserpinguin	Manchot Empereur	Keizerpinguin
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				x				x	x				Adeliepinguin	Manchot Adélie	Adélie-pinguin
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			Eselspinguin	Manchot Papou	Ezelspinguin
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>				x		x	x		x	x			Zügelpinguin	Manchot à jugulaire	Kinbandpinguin
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>													Goldschopfpinguin	Gorfou doré	Macaroniepinguin
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		x	x	x	x							x	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	Pétrel géant	Zuidelijke reuzenstormvogel
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		x	x		x				x		x	x	Kapsturmvogel	Damier du Cap	Kaapse duif
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		x	x									x	Weißkinnsturmvogel		Witkin stormvogel
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>													Weißflügelsturmvogel	Pétrel Antarctique	Antarctische stormvogel
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				x			x						Schneesturmvogel	Pétrel des neiges	Sneeuwstormvogel
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x				Buntfußsturmschwalbe	Océanite de Wilson	Wilson stormvogeltje
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>													Blausturmvogel		Blauwe storm vogel
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>													Schwarzbauchmeerläufer	Océanite à ventre noir	Zwartbuikestormvogeltje
Antartic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		x											Taubensturmvogel		
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>				x									Südlicher Eissturmvogel		zuidelijke ijsstormvogel
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>	x			x	x	x	x	x	x				Antarktikscharbe	Cormoran (impérial) antarctique	Blauwogaalscholver
Pale-faced Shearbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x				Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	Chionis – Bec en fourreau	Poolkip
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	Dominikanermöwe	Goéland dominicain	Kelpmeeuw
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>					x	x	x	x	x	x			Antipodenseeschwalbe	Sterne couronnée	Zuidpoolstern
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				x	x	x	x		x	x			Antarktiskua	Labbe de Mac Cormick	Zuidpooljager
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>													Subantarktiskua	Labbe brun	Subantarktische Grote Jager
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		x	x									x	Wandalbatross	Albatros hurleur	Grote albatros
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>		x	x								x	x	Schwarzbrauenalbatross	Albatros à sourcils noirs	Wenkbrauwalbatros
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>													Graukopfalbatross	Albatros à tête grise	Grijskopalbatros
Light Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			x										Rußalbatross	Albatros fuligineux	Roetkopalbatros
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Procellaria griseus</i>	x												Dunkelsturmtacher		

Marine mammals		23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan	Deutsch	Français	Nederlands
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>				x									Zwergwal	Petit Rorqual antarctique	Antarctische dwergvinvis
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			Buckelwal	Mégaptère (Baleine à bosse)	Bultrug; Bultrugwalvis
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>													Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>													Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>													Seiwal	Rorqual boréal	Noordse vinvis
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>													Südlicher Entenwal	Baleine à bec australe	Zuidelijke Butskop
Straptoothed Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>													Layard-Wal	La baleine à bec de Layard	Layardspitssnuitdolfijn
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>													Grindwal	Globicéphale noir	Griend
Killer Whales / Orcas	<i>Orcinus orca</i>							x						Orka	Orque (épaulard)	Orka
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>													Stundenglasdelfin	Lagénorhynque sablier	Zandloperdolfijn
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>												x	Peale-Delfin	Lagénorhynque à menton noir	Dolfijn van Peale
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>													Commerson-Delfin	Dauphin de Commerson	Kortsnuitdolfijn
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>						x				x			Südlicher See-Elefant	Eléphant de mer austral	Zuidelijke zeeolifant
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>													Südliche Pelzrobbe		Zuidelijke pelt zeehond
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>													Mähnenrobbe	Lion de mer d'Amérique du Sud	Patagonische zeeleeuw
Leopard seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>						x				x			Seeleopard		Zee-luipaard
Weddel seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>				x	x	x	x	x					Weddell-Robbe		Weddel zeehond
Crabeater seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>					x	x							Krabbenfresserrobbe		Krabeter zeehond

Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

George Kennedy – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

Marco Rosso - Camping Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Erin Bastian - Kayak Guide



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

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

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

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

Stefanie Liller – Expedition Guide



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

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

Owain Jones – Mountain Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Koen Hoekemeijer – Photography Guide



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

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

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

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

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

David McKinley - Mountain Leader



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

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

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

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Brian Veltrop – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tanja Matschi – Hiking guide



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

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

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

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

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

She speaks fluent English and German.

Patricia Struik – Ships Doctor



Born in The Netherlands and raised on a dairy farm, their livestock sometimes needed a veterinarian. While standing on a chair as a small child with huge clamps to assist with a Caesarean section on a cow, her fascination for medicine was born.

During medical school she did an internship in Suriname, and conducted research concerning the treatment of malaria in children in a rural hospital in Tanzania followed by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and an overland tour from Kenya to South Africa.

After finishing her medical degree she started working as a doctor at the Emergency Department (ER) in the Netherlands and in Bonaire followed by working at the Intensive Care (ICU). She decided to specialize as a general practitioner to become more flexible and create time for projects in wilderness and humanitarian medicine. She participated in several outdoor medicine courses so she could combine her profession with her passion for wildlife, nature and her sense of adventure.

She spends her free time traveling the world, mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, scuba diving and with photography. Infected by the travel virus, probably just like you, she already visited Antarctica in 2020. She hopes you will enjoy this wonderful place as well as she did! Aren't they cute, those penguins?

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

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

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

Lifeboat Drill

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

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

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

1930 **Buffet dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

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

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



- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0915 **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac and IAATO briefings.
- 1100 **Mountaineering briefing** – Please join Dave and Owain in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a mountaineering introduction and briefing. If you plan on doing a mountaineering activity this briefing is mandatory.
*If you have brought mountaineering boots with you – **please bring one of your boots to this briefing.***
- 1200 **Muck Boots** - We will call you by colour group to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3 forward**. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1400 **Camping Briefing** – Campers please meet Marco & Brian in the **lounge** (deck 5) for your camping introduction and briefing. If you plan on camping, this briefing is mandatory.
- 1530 **Kayaking briefing**– Please join Erin in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a kayak introduction and briefing. If you plan on kayaking, this briefing is mandatory.
- 1630 **Photography** – Please meet Koen in the **lounge** (deck 5) for your first introductory lecture on polar photography.
- 1800 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1830 **Christmas Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). *This will be plated so please arrive promptly.*

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



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica Basecamp
Monday 25th December 2023
At Sea to Antarctica



- 0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0915 **Activities sign up** - We will call you by colour group to the **lounge**, (deck 5) to sign up for the activities you plan to do in Antarctica. These include Mountaineering, Kayaking and Camping. If you wish to Mountaineer, please sign up for this activity first. You can then sign up for camping and kayaking afterwards. Bring a paper & pen. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1100 **Biosecurity:** We will call you by colour group, to **the zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, footwear/muckboots and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1100 **Mandatory briefings round 2** – If you were unwell yesterday and were unable to attend the Zodiac & IAATO briefing this is your chance to catch up. **You must attend this briefing in the dining room. You can complete your biosecurity after this briefing.**
- 1300 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1430 **An Introduction to the White Continent; The Antarctic Peninsula** - Please join Marco in the **lounge** (deck 5) to learn everything you need to know about Antarctica! Marco will provide a broad overview of the continent.
- 1630 **Antarctic Penguins** - Please join Carina in the **lounge** (deck 5) for her lecture exploring the natural history and identification of the brushtail penguins we are likely to encounter on the trip.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3) – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*

0645 **Wake up call.** Good morning!

0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**. Kayakers please go first.

This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at Wilhelmina Bay, a large bay often filled with icebergs, if we are lucky, we may find seals and whales in the bay too.

+/-0730 **Kayakers** – Please come to the boot room (deck 3 forward) to collect your gear.
+/-0830 The **Green Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Wilhelmina Bay.
+/-0840 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Wilhelmina Bay.

1145 **Mountaineering Briefing** – If you missed the mountaineering briefing the first time – please join Dave & Owain in the **library**, next to the lounge.

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

During lunch we will transit through the Gerlache Strait and in to Andvord bay – we will pass beautiful scenery and will likely be able to spot wildlife along the way.

1330 **Kayaking Briefing** – If you missed the mountaineering briefing the first time – please join Erin in the **library**, next to the lounge.

1415 **Camping Briefing** – If you missed the mountaineering briefing the first time – please join Marco & Brian in the **library**, next to the lounge.

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Neko Harbour – a continental landing with beautiful glacier views and home to Gentoo penguins.

+/- 1500 **Kayakers** please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear (deck 3 forward).

+/- 1500 **Kayakers** please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear (deck 3 forward).

+/- 1530 The **Yellow Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Neko Harbour.

+/- 1545 The **Red Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Neko Harbour.

1915 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap.

1930 **Buffet Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

- 0645 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0700 **Breakfast** is served. **Kayakers & Mountaineers please go first.**

This morning we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Brown Station and Paradise Bay. The landing is home to Gentoo Penguins, beautiful views, and an unoccupied Argentinian Station. The cruise will take you past icebergs, a huge glacial bay called Skontorp Cove and search for wildlife. The first groups will go ashore, the second groups will go zodiac cruising – we will swap halfway through the morning.

- +/-0730 **Mountaineers** please come to the boot room to meet Owain & Dave - **dressed & ready to go.**
+/-0730 **Kayakers** please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
+/-0800 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing and zodiac cruise at Paradise Bay.
+/-0810 The **Green Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise and landing at Paradise Bay.

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

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Danco Island – home to Gentoo Penguin colonies and panoramic views of the Errera Channel.

- +/-1330 **Mountaineers** please come to the boot room to meet Owain & Dave - **dressed & ready to go.**
+/-1330 **Kayakers** please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
+/-1400 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Danco Island.
+/-1410 The **Red Group** and the **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Danco Island.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
1900 **Buffet Dinner** served in the **dining room.** Bon Appetit!

+/- 2100 **Camping** – This evening we hope to offer camping. We will confirm whether camping will proceed once we have assessed conditions. Please standby for announcements.

Campers – there will be Juice & Pastries available in the Lounge when you arrive back in the early morning.

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

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

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

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

+/-0830 **Kayaking group** - Please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
+/-0900 The **Yellow Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at *Petermann Island*.
+/-0910 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at *Petermann Island*.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**. **Mountaineers please go first.**

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

+/- 1330 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.
+/- 1415 **Kayaking group** - Please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear.
+/- 1430 The **Red Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around *Salpetriere Bay*.
+/- 1440 The **Blue Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around *Salpetriere Bay*.

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

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

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

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

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

This afternoon we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island. Home to one of the largest Gentoo Penguin colonies on the peninsula. We will cruise the icebergs, glacial scenery and beautiful Errera Channel and we hope to find some more Antarctic wildlife.

- 1330 **Mountaineers** - Please meet Dave & Owain in the **boot room** to fit your crampons for this afternoons climb.
+/-1430 **Mountaineers** - Please meet Dave & Owain in the **boot room** – **dressed & ready to go**.
+/-1430 **Kayakers** – Please meet Erin in the **boot room** to collect your gear.
+/- 1500 The **Green Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island.
+/- 1510 The **Blue Group** and The **Yellow Group** - Please come for **zodiac boarding** for a zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island.
1900 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge.
1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!
+/-2100 **Campers** – Please standby for announcements- we will call you to the gangway for your night on the snow.

- 0715 **Wake up call.** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

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

- +/-0845 **UKAHT Presentation** - Please join the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust Team in the lounge for a presentation on life at Port Lockroy and the important work done by UKAHT.
- +/-0915 **Kayakers** – Please visit the shop in the dining room first. Then please go to the **boot room** to collect your gear from Erin.
- +/-0915 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Jougla Point.
- +/-0930 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** – Please visit the shop in the dining room – please listen for announcements, allowing the kayakers to go first.
- The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - *once you have completed your shopping, dress up and head to the gangway for a landing at Jougla Point and a cruise past Port Lockroy.*
- The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** – *When you have finished enjoying Jougla Point Landing – we will take you for a cruise past Port Lockroy and then back to the ship for the shop – the shop will stay open for the morning.*

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

In the afternoon we hope to take you for an ice and wildlife zodiac cruise in the Peltier Channel.

- 1345 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.
- 1400 **Kayakers - Kayakers** - Please come to the **boot room** to collect your gear.
- 1430 The **Blue Group** and **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise of the Peltier Channel.
- 1440 The **Green Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise of the Peltier Channel.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining room.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica Basecamp
Sunday 31st December 2023

New Years Eve

Orne Harbour, Palaver Point & Spert Island

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

This morning we hope to offer a landing at Orne Harbour – a continental landing, home to chinstrap penguins and beautiful Antarctic scenery.

- 0730 **Mountaineers** – Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.
0730 **Kayakers** – Please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
0800 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Harbour.
0815 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Harbour.

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

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

- 1430 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **boot room**.
1430 **Kayakers** – Please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
1500 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Palaver Point.
1515 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Palaver Point.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
1900 **Dinner** served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

This evening we hope to offer one last zodiac cruise before the end of a wonderful 2023 exploring the canyons and caves of Spert Island. We aim to back on board by 2300 to welcome the New Year together on Plancius.

- 2030 **Kayakers** – Please come to the boot room to collect your gear from Erin.
2100 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Spert Island.
2110 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Spert Island.



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS



Antarctica Basecamp
Monday 1st January 2024
New Year's Day
Deception Island

0730 **Wake up call.** Good morning! Happy New Year!

This morning we hope to sail through Neptune's Bellows – the entrance to Port Foster inside Deception Island. Pastries, fruit & juice will be available in the lounge.

*This morning we hope to offer a short landing and Polar Plunge at Pendulum Cove in the North of Port Foster. The beaches here are geothermally heated and allow for a great 'polar' plunge! Wear your swimming clothes under your clothing – we will plunge at the end of the landing. **We will bring the towels – please do not bring the towels from your cabin.***

0845 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Pendulum Cove.

0900 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Pendulum Cove.

1100 **New Years Brunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

After our brunch we hope to offer a landing at Whaler's Bay - a scenic bay with remains of a once vibrant whaling station, thermal beaches, and sometimes Penguins and Seals.

1200 The **Green Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whaler's Bay.

1210 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whaler's Bay.

This afternoon we will sail through the South Shetland Islands, before heading north into the Drake Passage. Please ensure your cabins are secure and you prepare your seasick medication. Please be careful moving around the ship, pay attention to the closed deck signs, and keep one hand for the ship.

1745 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.

1830 **Dinner** served in the **dining room**. Bon Appetit!

No wakeup call – Have a lovely morning!

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

0930 **Seabirds** – Please join Steffi in the **lounge** for her lecture on the magnificent seabirds of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

1100 **Whales of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Pippa in the **lounge** for her lecture to learn more about the whales we have seen on our trip.

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

1330 **Boots, Bags & Rental gear** – Please bring your muck boots, waterproof bags & rental gear back to the boot room – please listen for announcements, we will call you by deck.

1500 **Photo Workshop** – Photo Post Processing – Please join Koen in the **lounge** to learn how you can touch up and refine the amazing images you have taken on this trip.

1630 **Antarctic Geopolitics** – Please join George in the **lounge** for his lecture exploring the wonderful world of the Antarctic Treaty system.

1815 **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

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

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

No wakeup call – Enjoy your morning!

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

0930 **Shackleton Documentary** – We will show a documentary of Ernest Shackleton’s Trans-Imperial Antarctic Expedition in the lounge.

1100 **History of Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa in the Lounge to explore the history of human interactions with whales in Antarctica.

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

1430 **Krill** – Please join Steffi in the Lounge for her lecture on the lynchpin species of Antarctica: Krill.

1630 **A Future History of Antarctica** – Please join George in the Lounge for an explanation of the future challenges facing Antarctica’s shared governance system.

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

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

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



Antarctica Basecamp
Thursday 4th January 2024
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year!