



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula

4th January 2024 – 22nd January 2024

## 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 Artur Lakovlev

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Sjoerd Van Hoek**

2nd Officer: **Igor Nazarov**

3rd Officer: **Giovanie Simone**

Chief Engineer: **Daniel Liliac Zajontz**

Hotel Manager: **Ingrid van de Loo**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Albert Don**

Head Chef: **Gaurav Bawa**

Ships Doctor: **Roger Steins**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Felicity Johnson**  
**Christian Long**

Expedition Guides: **Jakub Małecki**  
**Elizabeth Robinson**  
**Andres Garcia Diaz**  
**Tiphonie May**  
**Joyce Mulder**  
**Jerry Zhao**  
**Meike Sjoer**  
**Simon Davies**  
**Bill Smith**  
**Chloe Power**  
**Alexander Romanovskiy**  
**William Kennedy**

# Day 1 – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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

**Wind:** SW4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +7°C **Sea Temp:** +10°C



On this capricious January day, blended weather of sun and rain, people from all over the world and all walks of life gather on the world's last quay to board our new home, Oceanwide's MV Hondius, for an expedition of a lifetime.

As we set foot onboard for the first time, we were welcomed by hotel manager Ingrid who gave us our personal key cards and showed us the way to our rooms

where our bags were faithfully waiting for us. The rooms are fresh and spacious, where one instantly feels at home. Later we were summoned to the lounge where Sara, the expedition leader welcomed us and ran us through our expedition plan. The "Plan" was that there is no such thing as a plan on an expedition, and that is exactly what we came here for. Then followed Chief officer Sjoerd for a mandatory Safety briefing where we donned our life saving vests and gathered to our assigned muster stations.

During the various briefings we were told that we were to wear the famous *Muck Boots*, these dark neoprene-covered feet savers would keep us dry on our various landings. They were distributed to us during the evening in a very festive way, the Expedition team organized some music to keep us all awake after what has seemed an



endless day. The cheery team of scientists, historians, wildlife experts have all been very welcoming, smiling and eager to make us feel at home.

As we set sail from the edge of the known world, we gathered in the lounge for a celebratory drink with our Captain Artur from Russia who wished us and the crew the best of trips!

## Day 2 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### At Sea, sailing towards the Falkland Islands

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

**Wind:** E 2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** +9°C **Sea Temp:** +9°C

We awoke to the gentle motion of Hondius and Sara's friendly 'Good morning- Good morning"! And it was...the Drake was almost calm and just a breeze of wind...we were luck. Our dramatic imaginings of what it would be like receded into the past as we settled down to the programme. First, understandably, Sara delivered a mandatory IAATO briefing to prepare us for the adventures ahead, followed by Tiphane our Falklands resident guide with an account of life on the islands.



Several wildlife sightings during the day consisting of Finn whales, Peale's, Hourglass and Dusky Dolphins, Southern Giant Petrels, Black-browed Albatross, Northern and Southern Royal, Wandering etc. Plus, a whole list of different Prions all confirming on this the first real sea day, that this was indeed a 'Wildlife' orientated adventure.

Lunch as we discovered was another splendid meal on this ship...the food we were rapidly discovering was fantastic...above expectations.

At 2.00 the first of the afternoon lectures....Simon our ornithologist guide delivered a talk 'birds



of the Falklands' to prepare us for the sightings ahead. A species rich landscape lay ahead and the 'birdies' amongst us were sharpening their notebook pencils and checking their camera data storage. This was followed by photo expert Sara with a skills presentation / workshop 'Photography in the Polar Regions'.

Recap before dinner consisted of an outline of the next day exciting plans for two Falklands landings from Sara followed by Scottish guide Bill with a powerful memorable presentation introducing the essence of an Oceanwide Expedition in easily remembered terms we could understand... 'Looking- Seeing - Thinking -Doing - Listening - Hearing - Understanding -



Doing'!....'Always pause for a micro-second and engage brain'. This was followed, quite appropriately given what we had seen today, by Elizabeth the marine mammal specialist delivering a masterful detailed presentation, answering our many questions, on whales.

The excitement was mounting...this was just the start of the Oceanwide Expedition Voyage and already we were overwhelmed with exciting new experiences! We retired wondering what will tomorrow bring?

## Day 3 – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Carcass Island and West Point Island, Falkland Islands

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

**Wind:** W 4 **Sea State:** rippled **Weather:** overcast **Air Temp:** +8°C **Sea Temp:** +12°C

**Position:** Carcass Island 51.17° S, 60.33° W, West Point Island 51.21° S, 60.41° W





We awoke for our first day of operations to a gentle breeze, bright skies and a massive sense of anticipation, this grew as disembarkation crept closer, with the expedition team heading across to set up the landing site and then, finally it was time to land on Leopard Beach – a beautiful, white sandy beach on Carcass Island. As soon as the Zodiacs nudged onto the shore Tussock birds came out to investigate and Steamer Ducks paddled in the

shallows before we all ventured across a low, grassy plain which gave us our first glimpses of some of the wide range of birdlife on this fabulous island.

The endemic Cobb's Wren popped up in the long grass, Dark-faced Ground Tyrants hovered over our heads and big flocks of Upland Geese grazed the land like flocks of feathered sheep as we navigated carefully between the Magellanic Penguin burrows which were dotted across the landscape. Once on the opposite beach we were treated to fabulous views of both Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins as they frolicked on the white sand only disturbed by the occasional Steamer Duck fight as they scattered the Penguins like bowling pins.



We then gradually filtered away up the hill to begin the gentle 4Km walk along the coast to the island's settlement where a dazzling display of homemade cakes awaited the weary hikers, this 'smoko' brilliantly prepared by the resident family which live in the only settlement and greedily



watched over by hordes of Striated Caracaras waiting for a chance to snatch any unguarded morsel. After yet more food aboard while the ship made the short transit to the afternoon's venue, we once again boarded the Zodiacs underneath tropical skies and made our way to the



azure waters surrounding the little jetty at West Point Island. Another gentle stroll (or a Land-rover ride for the lucky few!) up and over the island top brought us into a little valley with some dense Tussock-grass at the end, through a gate and we were in the midst of this tall grass which once covered most of the Falklands. We battled our way through like some jungle explorers until we poked our heads out the other side where our senses were assailed by a cacophony of

sound, an olfactory assault on our noses and the bewildering sight of a packed Black-browed Albatross and Southern Rockhopper Penguin breeding colony.

As we made sense of the scenes only a couple of meters in front of us, we took in the fascinating lives of the breeding colony; everyone jostling for position, Penguin chicks, now old enough to form little creches, running around in gangs causing mischief, adult Rockhoppers yelling to the skies, proclaiming their territories, beautiful pure-white and fluffy Albatross chicks sitting in their



little mud-tower nests patiently waiting for their parent to return and adult Albatrosses swooping around the valley in big circles looking for somewhere to land and once they did, trying to find their mate or their chick turned almost instantly from graceful masters-of-the-air to clumsy big birds waddling through the crowds that covered the hillside.

Wow! What a first day!

## Day 4 – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Stanley, Falkland Islands

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

**Wind:** NW7 **Sea State:** rippled **Weather:** Partial Cloud **Air Temp:** 12°C **Sea Temp:** 12°C

We started our morning with a navigation through 'The Narrows' where some of us eager wildlife watchers were outside on deck scanning the waters and sky for the incredible Falkland Island/Isla Malvinas species. As we approached Stanley Harbour, some Commerson's dolphins were spotted, as well as numerous dolphin gulls. The jetty where the Hondius usually disembarks guests from was occupied by some female southern sea lions, with a sea lion pup on the neighbouring jetty. To respect the wildlife and to limit any disturbance, we altered our landing to a nearby pontoon. It was incredible to witness the mother sea lion nursing her pup and evoked a real sense of fascination for the incredible wildlife found here on these islands.



By 9:45 we were all off the ship and scattered about in the cute and quaint village of Stanley, the capital of the Falklands/Malvinas. Stanley's population is approximately 3 300, comprising % of the entire population of the Falklands. The main industries here are tourism, fishing, and farming.



Some of us shopped-till-we-dropped in the souvenir laden gift stores of beautiful handmade merino wool garments, penguin figurines and British influenced tea cosies. Others tested out the local beer and gin at the brewery and distillery, some treated their tastebuds to some local fish and chips, and others moseyed on down to

the local museum that showcased an impressive collection of war history, wildlife specimens and Falkland Island culture.

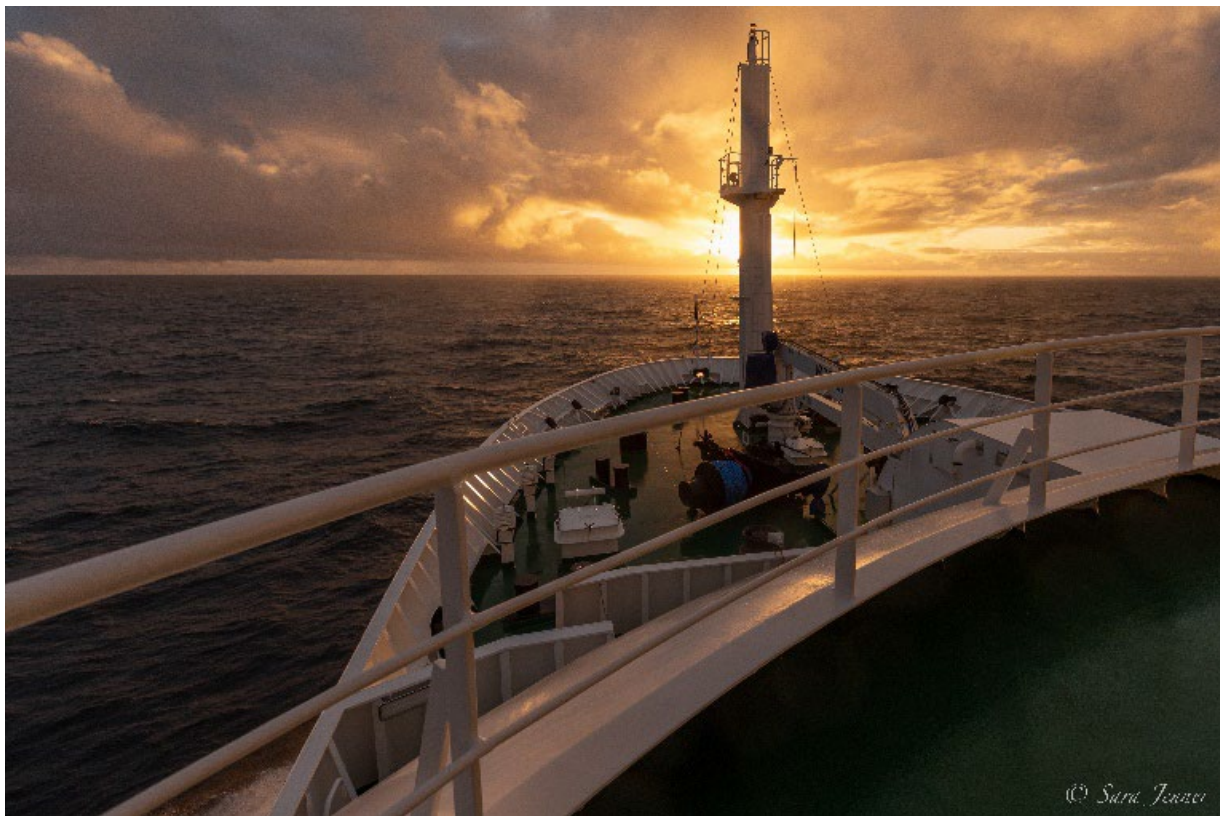
We were warned on expedition the weather can change in an instant, and we sure got to experience that today! Our zodiac shuttle back to the ship was a lot bumpier (and wet!) than our ride over earlier that morning. The wind had increased up to 50 knots, and luckily, we listened to Sara about wearing our waterproofs, however some of us may have needed a warm shower before lunch!





After lunch, we joined Sara and the expedition team in the Observatory Lounge for the mandatory IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) for South Georgia and got briefed on the biosecurity measures that would take place to allow us to make landings. We also got informed about the wildlife distances we need to comply with, and how some species such as Antarctic

fur seals may approach us aggressively. We got told but we must hold our ground and to not run away as these animals usually mean no harm, they are just in their highly territorial and hormonal breeding stage.



After some time indoors, we joined the Expedition Team outside for 'Wildlife Watch' – a quick 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife, where we spotted some southern giant petrels, Wilson's storm petrels and even a northern royal albatross! We were then joined by Elizabeth in the Observation Lounge who gave us an incredible talk about the whale and dolphin species found around the Falklands/Malvinas and clever ways we can identify them.

Afternoon tea was served, followed by a briefing for tomorrow's plan and the daily recap by the Expedition Team. Tonight, we learnt from Falkland Islander local Tiphanie on how to get around in the Falklands, from boat travel across islands, to 4 x 4 off road, to the adrenalin fuelled 12-seater aircraft that notified your flight time via radio. It sure sounded like a very interesting and adventure-laden place to grow up! As we approach rougher seas towards South Georgia and beyond, it was only fitting that we were briefed about sea sickness. Andrés, one of our guides and a doctor, told us all about how sea sickness arises, how to avoid it, and how it is even present in animals that travel by ship! Sometimes at sea we don't see a whole lot of wildlife - it can be difficult when most of these species are underwater majority of the time! We finished with some interesting insights about species that live in the depths below our ship and beyond – species that Joyce introduced to us as 'cold and colossal', think giant squid, giant sea sponges, gigantic sea spiders and alien-esque isopods. Joyce talked about how these animals get so big due to their long lifespans, slow metabolic rate, less predators at depth, and their low surface area to volume to ratio. The ocean is home to some wondrous wildlife, even if we don't see it when we are out on deck with our cameras and binoculars.

We finished the day with yet another delicious dinner and great conversations, ready for another day at sea where we never know what to expect.

## Day 5 – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### At Sea, Sailing towards South Georgia

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

**Wind:** NW4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Foggy **Air Temp:** 7°C **Sea Temp:** 8°C



After leaving Stanley and the Falklands Hondius makes a good progress overnight. As our day starts with Sara's wake-up call we are already well under way to South Georgia. It is not a quick trip – we will arrive at this wonderful island just in two days during which our expedition team will use the opportunity to introduce us into the wonders of the (sub)Antarctic world.

Fortunately for most of us, Neptune is merciful, and the sea is calm today.

After breakfast Felicity, our assistant expedition leader, invites us for a lecture about the whales of the Southern Ocean during which she describes many surprising facts about the largest animals of our planet. Soon afterwards, Sara announces a half-an hour wildlife watch on the outer decks. All guides and guests move outside to get some fresh air with hopes



to spot some interesting animals. During the watch, however, visibility is limited due to a mist suspended over a gently wavy sea, but still we manage to observe several species of sea birds, including majestic southern royal albatross, black-browed albatross, giant petrels and storm petrels. Most of us gather on the bow, but all decks suddenly become busy and crowded, being a good opportunity to integrate and mingle with other guests and our expedition team.

After the watch our guides Bill and Jerry start their more practical presentations, respectively in English and Mandarin, about our beautiful ship MV Hondius and the backstage of her operations. What is her fuel consumption? What is stored in numerous white and blue barrels that we see every day? How much provisions does the ship require for the whole season? These questions and much more are all answered, satisfying even the most curious guests onboard.

The next position of our daily schedule is lunch, after which we watch a documentary movie about the 1982 war of the Falklands between Argentina and the United Kingdom. Later in the afternoon, Sara gives a lecture about worlds most beloved birds – penguins! So far, we have seen a few penguin species in the Falklands and after Sara’s presentation we cannot wait to see more of them in South Georgia and Antarctica!

Later in the afternoon we all gather again in the lounge for a daily recap and afterwards in the dining room for dinner. We all hope the next day at sea will be as calm as it was today.

## Day 6 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### At sea towards South Georgia

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

**Wind:** W-4 **Sea State:** slight **Weather:** Foggy **Air Temp:** 9°C **Sea Temp:** 5°C

We awoke to another misty morning crossing to South Georgia. It is our last sea day before we see the mysterious lands of South Georgia. We started the day with a hearty breakfast followed at 9:15 with a lecture by expedition guide Tiphonie May called "An Introduction to South Georgia". We learned about how the island is governed and the important wildlife research that occurs there among many other things.



After the lecture we were then encouraged to join the expedition staff for wildlife watch on the decks. We quickly put on all our layers and headed out into the mist. Though we couldn't see very far from the ship we were excited to observe more seals and seabirds as we were getting



closer to shore. We saw several fur seals in the water and sometimes even a penguin!

After wildlife watch was over, we settled ourselves into the observation lounge with a nice hot beverage to listen to a lecture on seals by expedition guide Chloe Power. During this time some of us enjoyed a lecture on Shackleton from

expedition guide Jerry Zhao in the lecture room.

After the presentations it was time for a delicious lunch before we started to prepare our visit to South Georgia.

After lunch it was time to do our biosecurity check. We brought down all our outer layers, bags and tripods ready to clean them before arrival.

Everyone worked hard to scrub everything that had



been in contact with the Falklands to ensure we would have a successful inspection in South Georgia.

Once all our gear was cleaned, we filed up to the observation lounge for the final lecture of the day "On Thin Ice" by expedition guide Jakub Malecki.

We finished the day with recap with our expedition leader Sara Jenner giving us the plan for tomorrow for our first day of activities in South Georgia. We are so excited! Finally, we headed down to dinner and discussed what we hoped to see tomorrow.

## Day 7 – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Fortuna Bay, Hercules Bay, Husvik

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54° 06.8' S / 036° 47.9' W

**Wind:** ESE-4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** foggy **Air Temp:** 3°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C



The morning of January 10<sup>th</sup> was filled with long awaited excitement and the feeling of success. For some, this Oceanwide trip had been years in the making and the moment has finally arrived. Hondius reached South Georgia in time for a 0410 sunrise over this beautiful island, providing guests onboard with their first breath-taking views. Views of snow-capped mountains, jagged peaks towering over the shorelines, giant seabirds soaring effortlessly on our leeward side, and marine life energetically leaping

through the waves almost as if to welcome our arrival. Views, which some of us regard as our favourite place on earth.

We started our first South Georgia expedition day at Fortuna Bay. The name originating from one of the first whaling vessels Carl Larsen brought with him to the island to commence the bustling whaling industry. This sorrow past of South Georgia whaling would be discussed often in the days to come with plans to visit Grytviken, Leith, Stromness, and Husvik, all old whaling stations. However, this





morning was not about the whales, it was about the penguins. For most, today was their first time ever seeing Southern Elephant seals, Antarctic Fur seals, and perhaps the most important, King penguins!

Fortuna Bay is home to one of the largest King penguin colonies and it is a spectacle everyone must see. Upon deciding a landing was not possible given the current situation, the Bosun and his able seamen

dropped 14 zodiacs in the water, and we set off to enjoy Fortuna Bay from the water.

Starting in Whistle Cove, we hugged the shoreline and explored as much of the six-kilometre fjord as possible. Above us towered the peaks of Breakwind Ridge, in front of us a plethora of species went about their daily lives, and below us kelp strongly hung onto the seabed floor while it swayed side to side with the constantly moving current. The King penguin colony is situated at the back of the wide glacial out washed plain, which houses beautifully braided streams lacing from the sea to Konig Glacier.



Although King penguins were the main attraction, other species we had the pleasure of seeing during the zodiac cruise included: Gentoo penguins, Light-mantled sooty albatross, Snowy sheathbill, Brown skua, Elephant seals and Fur seals.

The next destination for our afternoon activity was not too far away, as we headed around the corner to a protected and sheltered place called Hercules Bay. The bay

was named in the early 1900s after Herkules, a whaling vessel that sought shelter in this inlet due to foul weather. The main reason to visit this bay is for the colony of Macaroni penguins. A new species for this trip, it was integral to offer guests a chance to see yet another species of penguin!



The geological features are also noteworthy, with beautifully folded rocks which is compressed Cumberland Bay Formation. Coronda Peak is situated at the back of the bay with a waterfall cascading down the slopes. Needless to say it was a fantastic first activity day in South Georgia! The day ended with a delicious dinner and a screening of the Shkelton film to prepare for our visit to Grytviken the following day. And yes, of course, there was popcorn!

## Day 8 –Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Grytviken and Stromness

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

**Wind:** N-2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Rain **Air Temp:** 1°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C

The morning started with a 06.45 wake up call to invite everyone to breakfast. As we could do no landings the day before, everyone was eager to finally set foot ashore for the first time in South





Georgia! As we approached our first landing site of Grytviken, we were surrounded by many fur seals in the water who welcomed us ashore.

Once there, there were many more fur seals, elephant seals, pups, Gentoos, and even Kings! We also saw many Skuas and some South Georgia Pintails. Grytviken is truly a magical site; an old whaling station completely deserted where nature has

taken over again. It has lots of history attached to it, with the final whales being caught in 1965, after which the station was closed. Now, Grytviken welcomes us to explore their gallery, church, post office and museum, where many of you did not only learn about the site and its history, but also sheltered from the rain!

Even though rain was upon us all morning, we were eager to explore the site to its fullest; we joined the given tours at 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock to see the place from more up close and to gain more insight information. After we explored the town, we went on to the final resting place of the great Antarctic explorer, Ernest Shackleton. Here, both passengers and staff raised a glass of Scotch whiskey in his honor, as this was his favorite!



Then, it was time to head back to Hondius for a nice (and warm!) lunch. After we were warmed up and enjoyed the tasty burger and fries, we were ready to set foot ashore once again. Because

of rough conditions, it took us a bit longer to reach the next destination, which gave us a bit more time to relax and warm up. We arrived around 15:00 o'clock at the next landing site; Stromness! Another place with an interesting whaling history. Here, the whaling activities ended in 1931, after which it was converted into a ships repair yard, which was eventually abandoned in 1961. Now, nature and wildlife have taken over again, as you could see yourself!







First, the long hikers set foot ashore to start their long walk up to the waterfall, through the valley. It was an amazing site to see with wildlife all around us. After they had set off, the next group of passengers came in who took a longer and closer look to all wildlife around us. The first penguin colony that we passed, were the King penguins. Once we got closer, we could see that they were young King penguins, who were moulting their young brown

feathers, and changing it for the adult insulating feathers. We could tell they were quite fat; they had to eat a lot upfront to go all 3 to 4 weeks without getting into the sea for their lovely dish; fish! Then, we set off into the valley to the next colony; Gentoos!

There were many fur seals, and many more pups of just 1 and 2 months old! We saw the fur seals coming on land, and you could see they were listening to the cries of their pup, to find them and feed them. Furthermore, we saw elephant seals and wieners who were trying to stay warm by huddling with other elephant seals.

## Day 9 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Leith Harbour, Husvik and St Andrews Bay

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

**Wind:** W-3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Clear **Air Temp:** 12°C **Sea Temp:** 5°C

South Georgia chose to exchange wrath for mercy. As if deciding that the rain wall it had erected against us the morning before was enough, it resolved to treat us to genuinely fine weather. The sun played with glints on the smooth surface of the sea, the tussock grass covering the shores and numerous tiny islets around us, still damp from the rain, vibrantly green. South Georgian pipits darted to and fro with exuberant chirping, overwhelmed



with joy. Fifteen minutes before breakfast, the familiar call of "Good morning, good morning, good morning" echoed from the speakers embedded in the ceiling. Approaching the window and drawing the curtains was enough to confirm that the morning was indeed splendid!



Hondius dropped anchor in Leith Harbour, opposite the eponymous old abandoned whaling station. A century ago, it was the largest whaling station in South Georgia.

Even now, long after the station was abandoned, fallen into complete disrepair, and gradually crumbling into pieces, letting nature reclaim its territories, it still looks quite impressive. Many of us had already dressed before



breakfast and stepped onto the open decks to capture in photographs the panorama of Leith station with its rusty pipes, chimneys huge whale oil reservoirs, and tilting barracks and shacks, where brave whalers once sought refuge. Leith Station doesn't have much time left standing in its place. Antarctic winds and incessant rains, like scavengers, tear its carcass apart, gradually turning this once oasis and outpost of civilization in the distant Antarctic latitudes into

nothingness.





A landing was scheduled for the morning. The night before, we had agreed to split into two groups: those who wanted to stretch their legs and embark on a three-hour hike through the valley, and those who simply wanted to leisurely stroll along the shore and observe the local wildlife. The long hikers were to arrive at the zodiac boarding area first, and it must be said that there were quite a few of them. Our guides, skilfully navigating through kelp thickets, first ferried them all ashore on Zodiacs, and

then it was the turn of those who aimed not for movement but contemplation.

The landing site was quite a distance from the whaling station, and it was not without reason. During the construction of the facilities, a material called asbestos was actively used. Only many years later did it become apparent that asbestos is toxic. Therefore, even though all the asbestos had long been carefully collected and removed, a 200-meter exclusion zone is still in place around the station. Moreover, a gust of wind could at any moment dislodge some loosened sheet of iron, sending it crashing down on the heads of those unfortunate enough to be nearby.



The shore teemed with life! Everywhere, there were vast numbers of Fur seal pups, joyfully and still somewhat clumsily moving about on their flippers.



Despite being born just a month or so ago, the pups already possessed a typical stern demeanour — they frequently growled at us and bared their tiny teeth, as if saying, "Don't come closer, stranger, or it'll be worse for you!" Mothers were also scattered everywhere, whether on the beach, hillside, or tussock grass, emitting long, howl-like cries, trying to attract their offspring: "Come here faster! It's time for lunch! My mammary



glands are full of nourishment!" Once the pups found their mothers, they immediately began to suckle, squinting with pleasure.

Near a large pool with flowing water, an extension of a small stream, just a few dozen meters from the shoreline, King penguins stood still and concentrated. They stood there for a reason — it was moulting time. During this period, the unfortunate birds must simply

stand in place and wait for their old feathers to fall out and new ones to grow. Until this happens, penguins cannot come into contact with seawater and, consequently, cannot hunt and procure food for themselves. We kept our distance from them, trying not to disturb.

A bit further, among the tussock grass bushes, lay young elephant seals. Some of them peacefully slept, while others stared at us with surprise, lifting their heads and peering at us with their enormous, entirely black eyes. Their parents had long since headed to the sea to feed, catching squid and fish, leaving their offspring on the shore. Some elephant seal pups, like the penguins, were moulting, shedding their old fur and waiting for the new one to grow. They looked quite amusing in the process.



The sun shone brightly. Despite our habit of dressing warmly, we had to shed a few unnecessary layers of clothing and tuck them into our backpacks. In conditions where there was a strict prohibition against placing or folding anything on the ground, doing so was quite challenging. We had to rely on each other and ask for help to hold either a backpack, a jacket, or a camera.



After overcoming the first two hundred meters from the shore



into the interior of the island, we found ourselves on a vast meadow covered with low dark-green grass. We had to step over small streams that playfully descended from the mountain slopes. Somewhere in the middle of this vast meadow, a pair of skuas had constructed a nest. Their only chick was already large enough to take walks around the nest, but the parents still vigilantly guarded it, maintaining a watch and not allowing anyone to approach. Just in case, the watch was reinforced with

Simon, our ornithologist guide.

The soil in the meadow was peat, and it bounced beneath our steps, making our stroll slightly energy-consuming. However, at the end of the path, a decent observation point awaited us, offering a view of the abandoned whaling station of Leith. Countless enormous tanks for storing blubber. Giant rusty cylinders with cone-shaped roofs resembling Vietnamese hats. It's terrifying to even think about how many unfortunate animals had to perish to fill these gruesome storages. But such is the price that humanity had to pay for its scientific and technological progress. Now, awakened to the reality, we rushed to protect whales and guard them in every possible way. It remains only to hope that this awareness came to us when it was not too late. The recovery of the whale population is a slow process, and stations like Leith, along



with other whaling stations in South Georgia, may crumble into dust before the whale numbers in the Southern Ocean reach their former levels.



A bit aside from the whaling station, crosses and obelisks marked a small cemetery. Here rested those who once, driven by necessity, came here, leaving their homes and beloved families, hoping to earn money and somehow improve their financial

situation. They arrived — and, miscalculating their strength, fell victim to the harsh nature of these places, dangerous work, diseases, and unfortunate accidents. Wives never saw the return of their husbands, and children never saw their fathers. A terse telegram written in bureaucratic language,



along with a small financial compensation from the company's management, that's all. Sleep, friends, perhaps those who carry the memory of you in their hearts are still alive.

Not far from the cemetery, a group of moulting King penguins stood motionless, as if commemorating the departed.

In one way or another, around noon, it was time to return to the ship. The long hikers returned from their route. The Zodiacs, buzzing softly, ferried all of us back to the Hondius within a few minutes, and we happily headed to the restaurant for lunch.

While we were dining, Hondius raised anchor and set a course for the neighbouring harbour, where another abandoned whaling station called Husvik stood on the shore. We reached it fairly quickly. There were no planned landings on the shore. Instead, the expedition team organized a Zodiac cruise for us. After dressing up, we boarded the Zodiacs in groups of ten and, with our cameras ready, set out to explore this corner of South Georgia.



quickly. There were no planned landings on the shore. Instead, the expedition team organized a Zodiac cruise for us. After dressing up, we boarded the Zodiacs in groups of ten and, with our cameras ready, set out to explore this corner of South Georgia.

Husvik Bay was shallow, overgrown with a kelp forest. Our guides, maneuvering the Zodiacs, had to lift the engines and clear the propellers from the tangled kelp quite often. Nevertheless, life was bustling in the coastal zone. The same Fur seal pups under the guardianship of adult females, young elephant seals, South Georgian Pin-tailed ducks, pipits, Kelp Gulls, and Giant petrels — no one escaped the lenses of our cameras.

The whaling station itself was much smaller in size than Leith, but here too, we could see old rusty tanks for blubber, barracks for employees, and a grass-covered semi-ruined jetty. One of the buildings, standing apart from the station, looked entirely new—it was the so-called



Governor's Cottage, restored by the Government of South Georgia and now used for its purposes.

Slightly aside from the settlement on the shore, a small ship repair yard was situated, where once repairs and technical maintenance of the so-called catchers took place — small, high-speed vessels that harpooned whales. One of the boats remained standing on the slipway. Gloomy and sad, it looked in the ambiance of the semi-ruined and abandoned shipyard. The enormous propeller had four blades. The wooden cabin on the deck had long decayed and tilted; nonetheless, the boat's sides, although rusty, still looked quite fresh. It seemed as if the boat stood in bewilderment and anticipation. Where had everyone gone? And what about her? Perhaps, it thought that people would return to the shipyard soon, walk along its sides with sandpaper, cover them with fresh paint, fill the fuel tank, lubricate its joints and connections, and it would again rush into the distance, cutting through the giant waves of the Southern Ocean with enthusiasm... No. No one will come. Never. It will stand alone on the slipway until the wind and atmospheric precipitation finally destroy it completely.

An hour after the start of the Zodiac cruise, unfortunately, the weather began to reveal its



unpleasant and capricious nature. The wind picked up, and angry, aggressive waves ran across the harbour's surface, striking the Zodiacs on the sides, attempting to spray us with salty seawater. By that time, we had already seen



everything that Husvik's whaling station harbour had to offer, so our guides directed the boats towards the ship, and we safely returned to the Hondius.

The day was not yet over. Before bidding a final farewell to South Georgia, we set a goal to visit St. Andrew's Bay — arguably the most legendary place on the entire island — known for being home to an enormous colony of nearly 600,000

King Penguins. Besides them, it hosts elephant seals, fur seals, Giant Petrels, and many others. Unfortunately, this year misfortune reached South Georgia — an outbreak of avian influenza, affecting not only birds but also marine mammals. The Government of South Georgia took several measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic to other parts of the island, including a ban on landings and Zodiac cruises along the shore of St. Andrew's Bay. After several hours of navigation and manoeuvring among enormous icebergs brought by the current from Antarctica, we could only approach the shore at a distance of two nautical miles. Nevertheless, it was enough to observe through binoculars the gigantic crowd of penguins.

It was raining. It seemed as if nature was mourning the tragically and untimely lost beings. Twilight prevailed as the rays of the low pre-sunset sun struggled to penetrate through the thick veil of clouds. On this slightly somber note, our stay on this enchanting island came to an end. The captain turned the ship around, and as Hondius, heading for Antarctica, roared its engines,





it began to gain speed. The coast of South Georgia remained astern, gradually receding and dissolving in the haze of mist and raindrops.

Farewell, South Georgia, who knows, perhaps we will meet again. Animals, recover soon!

## Day 10 – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### At Sea, sailing towards South Orkney Islands

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

**Wind:** S - 8 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C



Buenos Dias, Buenos Dias,  
Buenos Dias!

Last night we left the beautiful South Georgia. Now we are setting sail to the real end of the world... Antarctica! It's our first sea day in that route, the movement of the ship in the open waters is a lullaby for some of us, while others meat paper bag as their new little friend.

But that didn't stop most of the passengers enjoying our lovely open breakfast at the buffet, sharing our pictures and thoughts about South Georgia, with its rich wildlife (the most I have seen congregated in one place) and rich History.

About History we were yet about to keep learning. After breakfast Andres, our beloved expedition guide, gave us a lecture about Ernest Shackleton voyages and great leadership and courage, leading all of his 28 men to safety after the shipwreck of his ship, Endurance, in the Weddell Sea.

Around 11am, the first whales started to blow on the port side of the ship. They will come and go for the rest of the day, majestic and peaceful marine mammals, escorting us on our way to adventure.

As we go out to admire them, we realized that dozens of Antarctic prions were just dancing with the wind beside the ship using it as a way to save energy on their way through the ocean. Later in the morning, Sasha, our Geography expert gave us a lecture about the soil in Antarctica and its changes after the continental drift.

Lunch was served and we had the privilege to eat and talk with a background of giant icebergs on the horizon. The weather changed just when our dear Expedition Leader Sara make the announcement for a group photo on the aft deck. Then and there we all rushed to have one of those forever memory photos, and it started to snow! With the icebergs before and the snow falling like a fairy tale, we all realized we were heading in the right direction. The group photo was taken within laugh for us trying to keep our balance. You could feel the cold and the joy in the air.

Speaking of joy, Joyce, our youngest but experienced guide gave us a lecture about the amazing world in the depths of the Antarctic Sea. A motley crew of species adapted to the extreme conditions just living in a harmonic ecosystem.

Evening time, we went to the library area to sit down in those comfy sofas and listen to recaps from Jakub the “ice man” and William, our historian. Later on, Sara told us her plans for tomorrow. I can’t believe that we have already been through so much and there is yet so much to do!

At dinner we had 3 options as always on every dish. In the main one I choose the duck. Rare. With a sweet sauce, broccoli and grilled potatoes. A feast in the Southern Ocean.



It was time for the second part of MOVIE NIGH! The Shackleton odyssey was continuing, with a couple of early spoilers from Andres in his lecture. Bur wait! The movie stopped, and Sara make the announcement. Almost 2 dozen whales were in the port side, blowing everywhere the eye can meet. We stood there gazing the spectacle, until they were gone, then the film continued. Relaxed, in the couch, with my own popcorn bag to enjoy history and movie in a communion. A perfect ending to our day.

# Day 11 – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January

## Shingle Cove, South Orkney Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54° 35' S / 35° 46' W

**Wind:** SW-4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** +3.5°C



First thing we noticed when we woke up was little movement! A glance out the window and we realised we were in luck again...a relatively calm sea studded with icebergs of every shape and size.

Mostly tabular icebergs dotting the horizon in every direction. We passed close to a monster tabular berg measuring 12 x 8 nautical miles. Hondius motored on throughout the morning and we were entertained / educated by William with another historical lecture this time on the life of the polar hero Tom Crean. This was followed by our regular 30 minute “wildlife Watch’ on deck, forcing the ‘lounge lizards’ amongst us to emerge from the comfort of sofas and experience the Antarctic firsthand. Some just stood at the sides of the ship with binoculars actively scanning the ocean for wildlife whilst others exercised vigorously marching round and round the funnel on deck 8 or repeatedly walking up and down the outside stairs.

Humpback whales were seen, plus a lucky sighting of one blue whale. Throughout the morning, some near the ship others faint spouts on the horizon. Simon was delighted at the profusion of birds spotted wheeling about the ship. There was something for everyone...the Oceanwide Expedition Product was being delivered.



Throughout the morning, some near the ship others faint spouts on the horizon. Simon was delighted at the profusion of birds spotted wheeling about the ship. There was something for everyone...the Oceanwide Expedition Product was being delivered.



After lunch we arrived at Coronation Island off Shingle Cove and Zodiacs were deployed to shuttle the first group ashore. The afternoon was arranged slightly differently from before as two groups were formed one Chinese and the other English speaking. One group landed while the other received an ice lecture...Jerry lecturing in the Chinese language and Andreas the ice expert in English. This was the ideal moment to have the many questions answered.



The landing site was superb...a small beach surrounded by massive boulders and jagged outcrops framed by a backdrop of menacing cliffs and snow-covered slopes. The Orkney Islands landscape was very photogenic and intensely dramatic. On the rocks on the left an Adelie penguin colony was a major focus and on the right after a

lengthy cautious clamber over the slippery rocks we reached another seal haul-out on a small beach. Zodiacs ran a shuttle between the ship and this beach all afternoon.



During recap Tiphonie delivered a historical account of the Orkney Islands, Felicity described the 'Happy Whale' citizen science project and Sara and the guide team created an astonishing illustration of the size of whales using extended string stretching from the screens in the lounge through to the Lecture room. Finally at the end of recap everyone sang

and wished the newly aged Andreas a happy birthday.

How could this day get any better? Well, it did during dinner... Bill induced passengers to give constant loud cheering interruptions as an amazing number of whales were spotted on the port and starboard sides throughout dinner.

This was the Oceanwide magic experience...what a day...roll on tomorrow for more of the same!

## Day 12 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### At Sea, sailing to Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands

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

**Wind:** SSE - 7 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -2°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C



"Good morning, good morning, good morning!" echoed through the air at 4:30 am.

"Please, look out the window!" Despite our bleary eyes, we complied, witnessing a thin white line stretching across the horizon from right to left.

Our early morning informant revealed that before us lay the largest iceberg in the



world—A23a. Enormous, spanning 40 miles by 32, covering an area three times the size of New York, totalling 1500 square miles.

Calved from the Ronne-Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986, it had remained grounded in the Weddell Sea until it began floating in the early 2000s.

Now, its slow drift northwards hinted at a journey towards South Georgia and possibly even Africa! The sight was nothing short of astonishing.

Moving forward after breakfast we sailed against the wind at 13 knots and encountered large waves, a spectacle that delighted those on the bridge.

Amidst the waves, a big humpback whale surfaced beside the bow, and the southern fulmar made a captivating appearance on this eventful sea day.



Later that morning expedition Guide Bill provided a lecture on whaling in the Arctic, a haunting tale of death, destruction, and mankind's impact.

Once again, our culinary maestro, Head Chef Bawa, along with his dedicated galley team, orchestrated a magnificent lunch.

The elegant spread was a feast for the senses, a symphony of colours and aromas that beckoned us to indulge. The buffet, a masterpiece of culinary craftsmanship, featured a delightful array of dishes that catered to every palate on board.

Later, Expedition Guide William delved into the geopolitics of Antarctica, captivating our international guests. Elisabeth shared an intriguing lecture on 'What it means to be Endangered, an Introduction to Wildlife Conservation,' while cape petrels followed the ship. Most guests took advantage of the seaday, relaxing with books and conversations in the lounge.





In the afternoon, Hondius set course for Point Wild on Elephant Island, facing cold, windy conditions. The harsh environment made us marvel at the resilience of the men who survived there.

Passing Clarence Island, we reflected on Shackleton's crew's ordeal, standing in awe at the inhospitable landfall. We quickly retreated from the cold, heading to the bar for drinks and the daily recap.

Sara anticipated a beautiful day ahead as we sailed towards Gourdin Island our next destination and Meike passionately shared the mysteries and amazing features of Antarctic Terns the elegant birds that amazed us flying around Shingle Cove.

The evening's highlight was the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction, hosted by Bill and William.

Bill started with his traditional plastic bottle top sale for £200. Passengers enthusiastically bid for various items, raising a substantial £9445 for The South Georgia Heritage Trust to preserve the island's natural and historical heritage for future generation. With items like the whale purse selling for 30 pounds up to 1000



pounds for a special photo taken with the expedition team and same price for drawings made by Bill. We ended the evening with a sense of accomplishment, opening our hearts to protect the unique environment we were fortunate to visit."

## Day 13 – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

12:00 GPS Position: 63°11.7' S / 057°16.4' W

Wind: E-2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Calm Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 2°C

## Gourdin Island, Antarctica

After a sea day from the South Shetlands and Elephant Island we arrived in the northern Antarctic Peninsula and entrance to the Weddell Sea. This zodiac cruise would be our first introduction to Antarctica and a precursor to the wonderful days ahead of us. We set off in the morning for a few hours to explore the shoreline of Gourdin Island. This trip was extremely lucky in terms of weather and today's weather followed suit. The sea was mirror calm, wind was negligible, and the sun was shining down on us. With such perfect conditions, a circumnavigation of the island was possible! The shoreline was covered with chinstrap penguin colonies, a few scattered gentoo penguins and a few groups of Adelies.



It is not every day it is possible to take a photo with three species of penguins in one shot! The zodiacs zigged and zagged around the rocky shoreline in search for more and more wildlife. On this zodiac cruise guests were also given their first encounter with Antarctic pinnipeds species! We found over 15 Weddell seals hauled out on a rocky outcropping, basking in the sun. Excitingly we also found a leopard seal mingled in with the Weddell seals; the first of the trip! This cruise also provided another first of the trip:

whales from the zodiac. A few humpback whales (*Megaptera novaengliae*) were feeding just off the shoreline, utilizing the icebergs which create an upwelling of food for them. As we continued our circumnavigation of the island another zodiac appeared with our lovely hotel staff, Ingrid, Albert, and Carolina. They brought out hot chocolate for us to enjoy on our cruise, including some cups of hot chocolate with a little rum surprise ☺.

After a beautiful morning on the water, it was time to continue transiting Southwest along the West Antarctic Peninsula. As we headed along the coast towards our next destination, Chris started our afternoon lectures with a presentation about his time in Antarctica. He has previously worked at Scott Base, the New Zealand







Antarctic station, and presented information about life in one of the most remote places in the world. Sara presented the next lecture about the role women have played in Antarctica. She gave historic recounts from the wives of polar explorers, like Eva Nansen and Kathleen Scott. She also talked about the more recent record-breaking expeditions women have embarked on and the

increase of female employees at research bases in Antarctica. It was very interesting to learn about the important people in Antarctica that are often overshadowed.

The day was not over yet! During a delicious meal for dinner, Sara made an announcement that caused everyone to put down their knife and fork and swiftly run for their binoculars and cameras.... "Orcas ahead!". We had the most fantastic orca encounter with a group of around 13 individuals coming right up to the ship. The pod investigated the bow of the ship, and it was spectacle leaving all onboard in pure awe. What a beautiful ending to another brilliant day in Antarctica!

## Day 14 – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Danco Island and Cuverville Island, Antarctica

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

**Wind:** SSW2 **Sea State:** rippled **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C



We awoke to brisker weather today. Perhaps our good luck with sunshine was over.

Nonetheless, we suited up in our cold weather gear and headed out in the zodiacs to Cuverville Island – home to one of the largest gentoo colonies on the Antarctic Peninsula. For those of us who went ashore first, we had

three different colonies to choose from. Two down below, and one high up on the ridge. We often wondered why on earth would these penguins climb so high to build their nests. Well, they



are much cleverer than we give them credit for. At the start of the spring/summer season, these islands the penguins choose to breed on are still heavily covered in snow and ice from the winter. However, there are areas that become 'ice-free' earlier than others. These areas are prime real estate for the penguins, as they require ice-free ground to build their nests.

They collect small rocks to assemble their nests on these sometimes very high ridges and rocky outcrops. When summer peaks, there is a lot more ice-free ground around, but if they were to wait for these lower ice-free areas until then, it would be too late to lay their eggs as the window for breeding season is very tight. It takes just over a month for the gentoo eggs to be incubated, and then a further ~70 days for the chicks to fledge the colony.

We noticed there were a lot of gentoos still on eggs, which made us worry about the chicks' fate with the cold frozen winter soon approaching. We were also lucky enough to witness extremely small gentoo chicks, warmed up in their parent's brood pouch, giving us little glimpses of their tiny beaks whenever their parent stood up.



It was a game of patience but well worth the wait seeing these adorably cute faces! Some of the guides suggested that these chicks were perhaps

only a mere 1-2 days old, as they were extremely small and even their sibling's egg was still intact.



The skuas were in full force, patrolling the colonies patiently waiting for an opportunity to steal a penguin egg or even a chick. Luckily (for the penguin's sake) we didn't observe either (for now). It was a busy morning, lots of foot traffic between us and the penguins, the snow dotted with numerous

'penguin highways'. 'Right of way' was of course given to these adorable flightless birds and boy did they entertain us with it.

For those of us who were out on the zodiac cruise, we saw not one but two leopard seals! One ended up moving off the ice floe into the water, and even gave one of the zodiacs a bit of a fright as it stealthily moved around the zodiac, and a little bit too close for comfort. Some of us in the zodiacs also heard some loud cracking and crushing noises from afar, and some of us ashore saw the source-icebergs calving off and creating a reasonably sized wave that the shore team had to keep an eye on in case it flooded the landing site! Its times like this you truly have to pinch yourself and are reminded what a dynamic environment you are in.



After lunch, we headed out for our afternoon landing and zodiac cruise at Danco Island. We got to observe more gentoo penguins, and luckily more chicks! Some had even decided to nest right on the beach at the landing site, which made us think perhaps these guys were late breeders and didn't head up to those ice-free areas higher up earlier in the season. We hope that these lower terrain breeders will rear their chicks in time! For those on the zodiac cruises, we were lucky enough to spot another leopard seal! This one was huge too! Our guides told us female leopard seals are a bit larger than their male counterparts, reaching lengths of up to 4 m long!



We also spotted our first crabeater seal sharing the ice floe with the leopard seal, which was intriguing as leopard seals can prey on crabeaters. Perhaps they were both simply tired and didn't have much energy for a fight. We also got to see a few Weddell seals, and even a juvenile elephant seal! Four different seal species in one day! There were also a few humpback whales

hanging around the ship too. We can't believe how lucky we have been with the wildlife so far. It's been whale after whale after whale this trip!

For the brave (and crazy!) amongst us, it was time for the much anticipated 'polar plunge'. 41 of us stripped down to our bathing suits and donned our brave faces and ran into the icy waters of

around 0-1 degrees Celsius. The beach was filled with shrieks, laughter and downright screams as our bodies touched the water and our limbs became numb. We even spotted some crazy folk lap swimming along the beach and touching small bergy bits of ice!

We warmed up with a hot chocolate or tea back on the *Hondius* and settled into recap and briefing for our next day. After dinner, we were treated with a showing of 'Happy Feet' with a side of popcorn and cheers to another splendid day in Antarctica.

## Day 15 – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

### Orne Harbour, Foyen Harbour , Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64° 35.8' S / 062° 32.8' W

**Wind:** E4 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 1°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C



A true, magical looking Antarctica morning awaited us at our first stop of the day – Orne Harbour with light snow flurries drifting across the landscape whilst the visibility also drifted in and out giving us our first glimpses of Humpbacks in the mist (a real theme of the day!). Our focus though, as the first Zodiacs sped across the bay was a different but no less iconic Antarctic inhabitant and as we started the dramatic, zig-zag course up the side of the mountain their ecstatic,

braying calls echoed down to us.

A fabulous Chinstrap Penguin colony greeted us at the windswept top of the Saddle (a flat area of land halfway up to the impressive looking Spigot Peak) and they put on a brilliant performance as they doggedly marched up and down the steep sided cliffs to feed their medium sized, cute grey fluffy chicks, squabble amongst themselves and shout enthusiastically to the heavens.

After a couple of hours transit north an equally snowy and atmospheric Foyen Harbour welcomed us and even before all the Zodiacs were dropped the shouts over the radios announced that we were



surrounded by Humpback Whales. As soon as guests were loaded onto the boats we headed out and were soon treated to a fantastic display of tail slapping, fin waving and general cetacean exuberance as we bobbed along taking in the wonderful snowy, wintery seascape.



After we'd had our fill of the Humpbacks the cruising took us towards the small islands where some more whaling history was to be found in the form of the rusting wreck of the Governoren – a Norwegian factory ship, the pride of its day who met her untimely end as a result of the boisterous party held to celebrate the end of a successful season; ships full of whale oil and a careless flame definitely do not mix!

The day was not over though as the crew had carefully planned out a celebratory BBQ but the weather seemed like it wasn't going to play ball however, just we were resigned to an inside



feast, the snow eased and the conditions brightened up almost as if it was designed! The following evening was almost unreal for as we fed on some choice BBQ and then undertook some [sometimes questionable] dancing out on deck we were literally surrounded by feeding Humpback Whales just metres from the ship. Not even the guides had ever seen anything like this, multiple groups of Whales bubble-net feeding for hours on end

right next to the ship allowing us to look down into their gaping mouths as they surfaced, filling their huge bodies with the building blocks of Antarctica – Krill! An evening that truly has no words to describe!

## Day 16 – Friday 19th January 2024

### Palaver, Spert Island Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°09.8' S / 061°48.1' W

**Wind:** N3 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 2°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C



Our last full day in Antarctica is jam packed! In the morning we arrive at Palaver Point on Two Hummock Island for our first landing and a great opportunity for a leg stretch. The landing site is located at the bottom of a Chinstrap penguin colony providing excellent views from numerous perspectives.

A hiking route was planned out, traversing up the side of the mountain with two viewpoints overlooking the Chinstrap colonies and beautiful glaciers entering the sea. The star of the show are the fluffy penguin chicks, emerging every so often from underneath their parents.

Despite a bit foggy weather with a mild snowfall, most of us decide to hike all the way uphill. The route terminates at a fantastic viewpoint overlooking a bay filled with icebergs and a wall of ice. From this height, Honduis looks like a little spec on the vast ocean.



Today's schedule also includes two lectures. Elizabeth gives a morning talk about orca, an iconic species in Antarctica. She explains the ten different types of orcas found in the world and shows examples the whale research projects she has been involved with. After lunch

Jakub gives a lecture about the current state of ice in Antarctica, providing an insight into the most recent and troubling research outcomes. The presented data leave us with a better understanding of another of Antarctica's problems – its ice is in danger.



After a three-hour long transfer, we arrive at the final Antarctic destination of our great voyage – Spert

Island, just off the west coast of the larger Trinity Island.

This site is known for its spectacular geology and landscapes. Large wet snowflakes and considerable swell are not enough to keep us onboard, so we embark zodiacs for our last cruise. As we drive closer and closer to the shore, we are starting to realize that the fame of Spert Island is well deserved.

Everything around us looks like out of this world - dozens of meters high rock columns, spikes and arcs surrounded by mist, and a cemetery of huge icebergs of the most amazing and bizarre shapes. At the end of the cruise, Sara and the hotel team invite us for a cup of hot Indian chai with a tiny bit of whiskey which helps us remain warm despite the snowy weather. With heavy hearts but filled with memorable impressions nature has been giving us over the past weeks, we make our way back to the ship. We finish the day with another daily recap and a delicious dinner. Meanwhile, Hondius sets sail towards Ushuaia and begins the very last leg of our journey...

## Day 17 – Saturday 20th January 2024

### At sea, sailing towards Ushuaia.

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

**Wind:** NW6 **Sea State:** Wavy **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 1°C **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Our day started with our usual wake-up call from our expedition leader Sara Jenner. This was our first day on the infamous Drake Passage and so far all was going well. The waves outside at just over three metres high rocked the Hondius gently as we steamed north. We made our way to breakfast and watched the sea as we enjoyed a wonderful spread.

At 9:15 we were invited to the lecture room to hear our expedition leader's lecture about

marine threats where we learned so much about the threats to the wonderful wildlife, we have seen over the last three weeks.



After the lecture, it was time to get some fresh air and we were called to the decks to enjoy 30 minutes of wildlife watch. Wildlife watch was not as well attended as previous, and it became clear the Drake was already claiming some victims. Before our next activity it was time to do some

admin and we returned all our rental gear, bags and muck boots to the expedition staff highlighting that our journey was coming to an end.

The waves were starting to increase as the day went on and at 11:30 it was time to join expedition guide Bill Smith for his much-anticipated lecture “Paintings of the Sea”. A psychological discussion of what the sea means to us all.



After the lecture we were called to lunch before having some free time to relax in the lounge or in our cabins. At 14:00 we joined expedition guide Sasha for his lecture “How to get to Antarctica: His true story” where we learned about Sasha’s personal journey to Antarctica.

For our final lecture of the day we were invited to our assistant expedition leaders Chris Long’s presentation about making islands predator free. After the lecture we enjoyed some more free time with some of us challenging others to games in the lounge. At 18:15 it was time for recap which started with some important disembarkation information followed by some interesting short presentations from the expedition team. Then it was time for dinner and by this time the seas had picked up and we enjoyed watching the 3+ metres waves slam the side of the ship as we enjoyed our plated dinner.

Moving around the ship proved quite challenging and tested our newly developed sea legs to the limit. The outer decks were closed for safety as the water crashed over them. After dinner it was time for our last activity of the day which was a pub quiz! We settled ourselves into the teams of 6 for the challenge. The questions involved general trivia of our trips with sounds and pictures to identify as well as baby pictures of the expedition team. It was a fun night for all as expedition guide Will guided us through the questions and announced the winners as team “Quizzy McQuizzFace”. The prize was a bottle of bubbly and with the competition over we settled into the lounge to enjoy one of our final evenings together. Tomorrow we would make the final push for Ushuaia which would bring us to the end of our time together.

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## Day 18 – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

### At sea, Sailing towards Ushuaia

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

**Wind:** NNW9 **Sea State:** Wavy **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 5°C **Sea Temp:** 8°C





Our final day at sea has arrived and it is with a heavy heart we enjoy our last moments together. Sara once again woke us up to her soothing voice and we made our way for breakfast, what will we do without these three fantastic meals a day, we all must go back to slaving in the kitchen on a daily basis. This has been truly luxurious.

After Breakfast Iceman Jakub treated us to yet another fascinating lecture about the Future of ice. Generously sharing his knowledge and insight in the bleak future of our planet if

things continue how they do.

Due to harsh outdoor conditions the decks were closed so our last wildlife watch was unfortunately canceled, we instead stayed in the safe birth of Hondius and prepared for another morning lecture.

This one would be a lecture where several expedition team members joined forces to talk about plastic pollution in the lounge. This made us reflect on the impacts that human activities are having on the environment and what we can do to protect and restore it.

After lunch we eagerly gathered in the lecture room to watch Elizabeths incredible documentary "Right whales: The whales left behind". A work of true passion, looking for the smallest population of whales in a gigantic area. This Documentary remind us of the work still to be done to protect the endangered animal species.



At 4 our expedition leader Sara presented to us Oceanwide voyages around the world, from crossing the Atlantic to circumnavigating Svalbard, the options are original and limitless.

At six, at the ship rocked and rolled the captain honored us with his presence, he spoke words of the trip, sharing with us the intricacies of his profession and his joy of a job well done. He raised his glass and wished us farewell.

The last supper, a plethora of delicious foods were catered to us on an unmatched level throughout this trip and tonight was no exception. Ingrid our hotel manager presented to us all

the different departments for a round of well-deserved applause. Their enthusiasm, professionalism and selflessness has been something to witness. This crew is unmatched, and it is with a tear bubbling in our eyes that we clapped until our palms hurt red.

A quiet evening followed, as we all sit back and reflect on what feels like a dream. The waves gave way to the calm waters of the Beagle straight as we slowly fell asleep for the last time on board Hondius, tomorrow back to reality.

## Day 19 – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

### Ushuaia

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

**Wind:** NW3 **Sea State:** still **Weather:** Overcast **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.

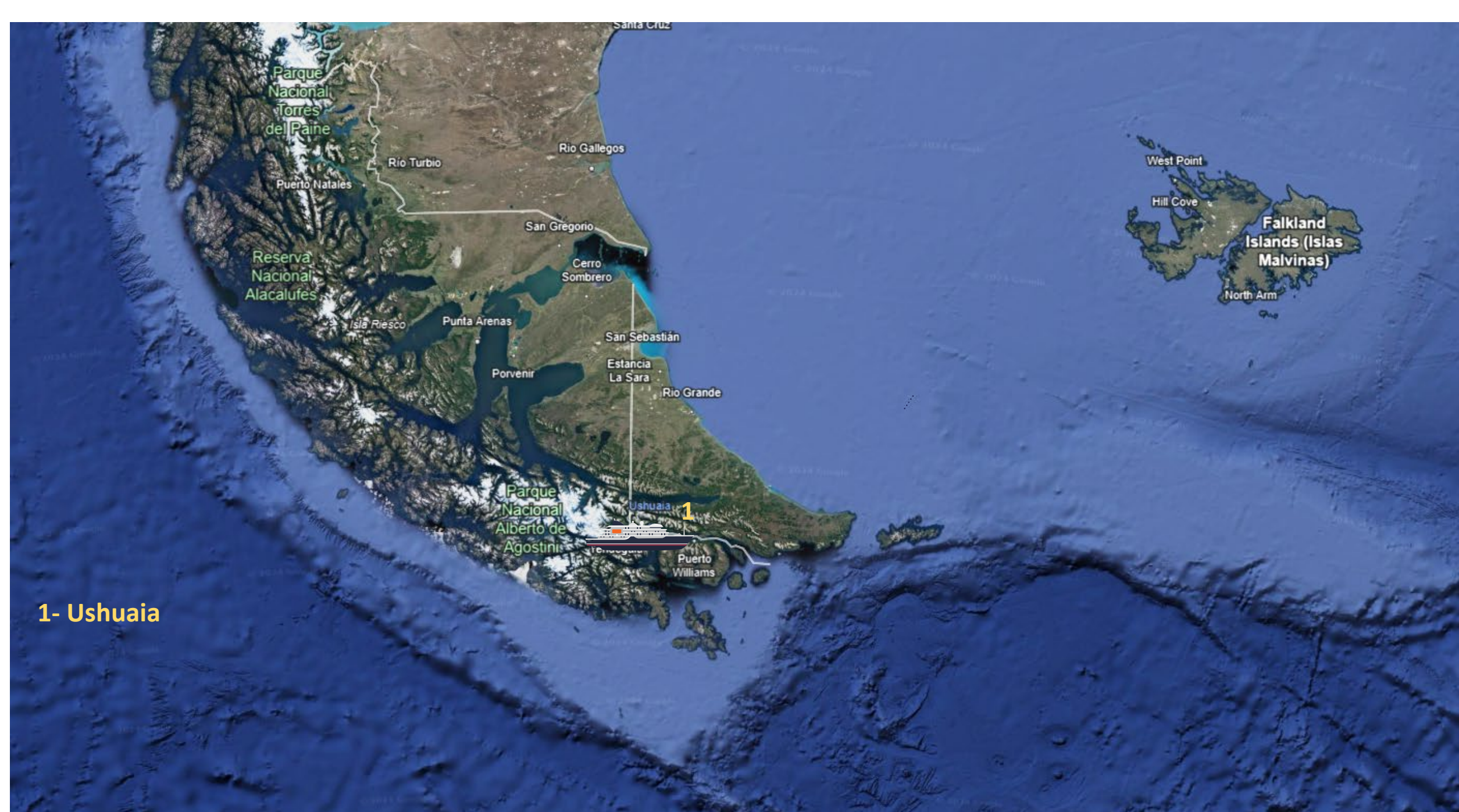
With that in mind, here is a quote from the British naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough - *"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."*

**Total distance sailed: 3505 nautical miles**

**Farthest south: 64.7359° S, 62.5955° W**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Artur Iakovlev, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, and her team, Hotel Manager Ingrid Van de Loo, and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!





Parque Nacional  
Torres  
del Paine

Reserva  
Nacional  
Alcalufes

Parque  
Nacional  
Alberto de  
Agostini

Santa Cruz

Rio Gallegos

Río Turbio

Puerto Natales

San Gregorio

Cerro  
Sombbrero

Punta Arenas

Isla Riesco

San Sebastián

Estancia  
La Sara

Rio Grande

Porvenir

Ushuaia

1

Puerto  
Williams

West Point

Hill Cove

Falkland  
Islands (Islas  
Malvinas)

North Arm

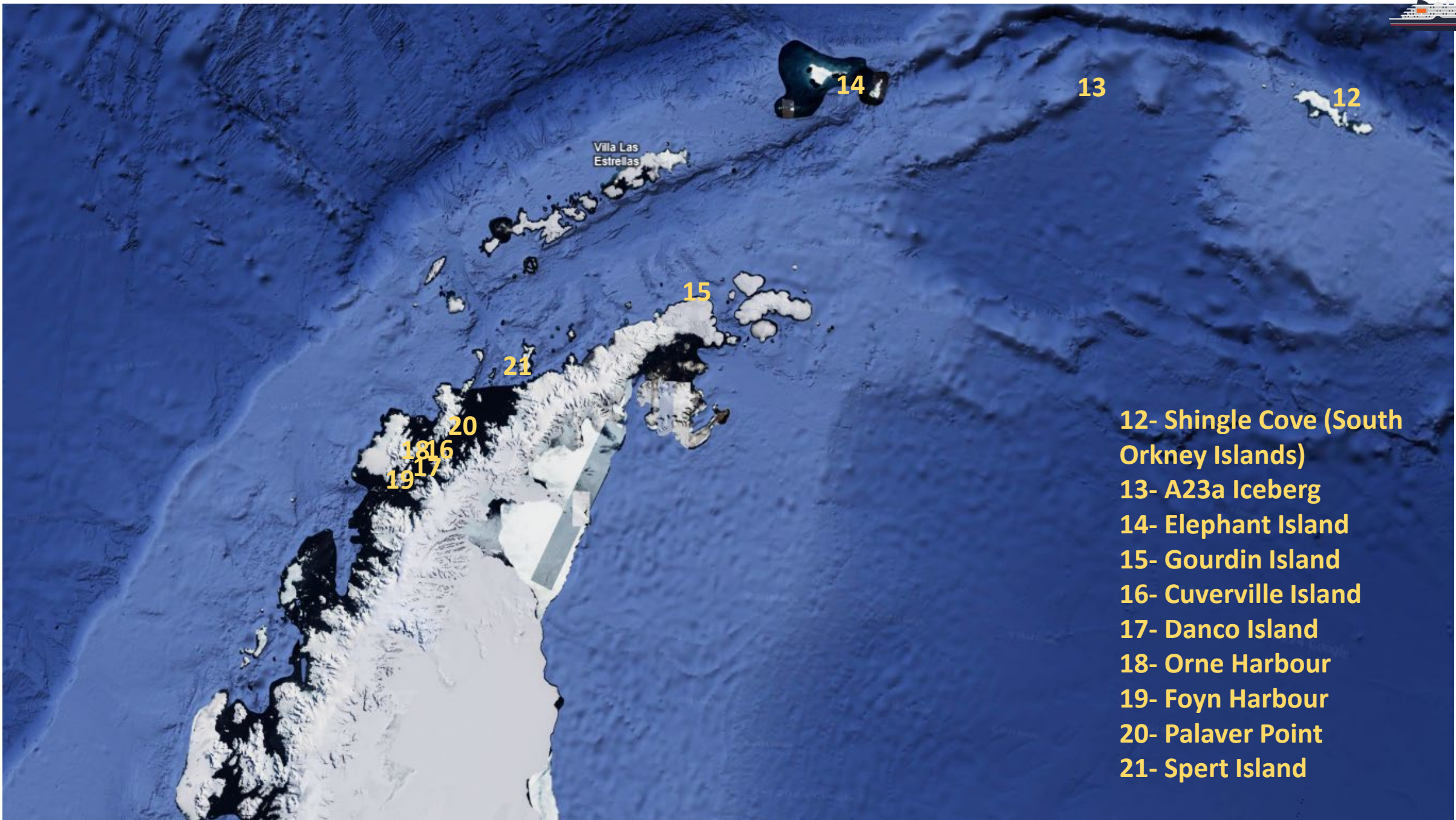
1- Ushuaia



- 2- Carcass Island
- 3- West Point
- 4- Stanley

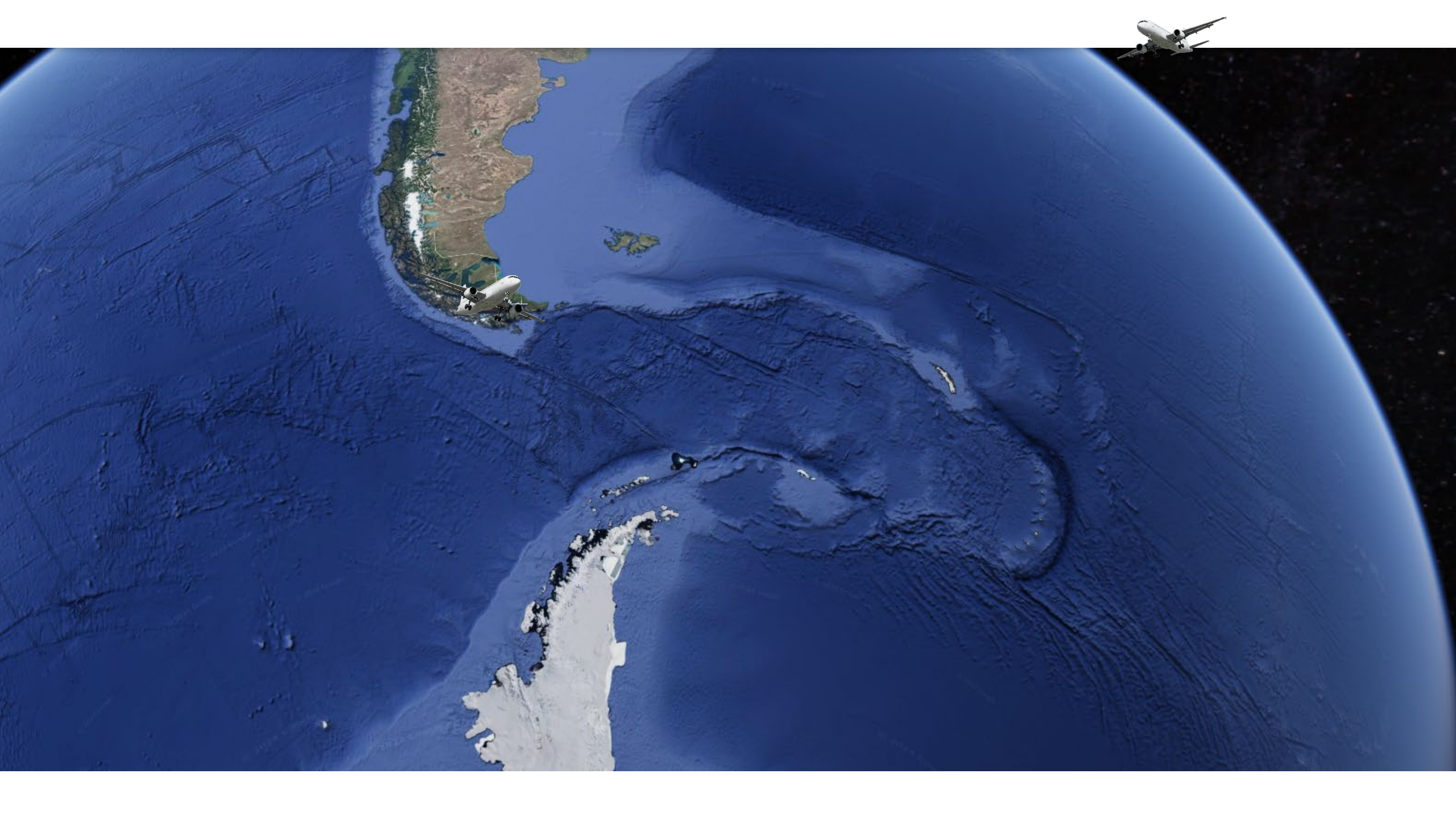


- 5- Fortuna Bay
- 6- Hercules Bay
- 7- Grytviken
- 8- Stromness
- 9- Leith
- 10- Husvik
- 11- St. Andrews



Villa Las Estrellas

- 12- Shingle Cove (South Orkney Islands)
- 13- A23a Iceberg
- 14- Elephant Island
- 15- Gourdin Island
- 16- Cuverville Island
- 17- Danco Island
- 18- Orne Harbour
- 19- Foyen Harbour
- 20- Palaver Point
- 21- Spert Island





**Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Region Including Falkland Islands and South Georgia: 4th January- 22nd January 2024**

English	Latin	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
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>				X															
Falkland Flightless Steamer	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>			X	X															
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>			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>																			
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>																			
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X										
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>											X		X						
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			X				X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>											X	X	X		X	X			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>						X	X						X						
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>			X																
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X	X	X	X															X
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X				X													
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>		X		X															
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X			X														
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>																		X	
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>								X	X	X								X	
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>					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	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>												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					
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Peterodroma incerta</i>																			
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						X					X	X	X					X	X







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# Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Felicity Johnson – Assistant Expedition Leader

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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.

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# Chris Long – Assistant Expedition Leader

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

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

what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.

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# Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide

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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.



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# Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Andres Garcia Diaz – Expedition Guide

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Andres was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His father always took him on trips around the country doing trekking ever since he was old enough to walk, and the same with sports, being a multidisciplinary player in football, basket, handball, tennis, swimming and taekwondo.

He studied at the University of Buenos Aires to become a doctor and then later he became an Orthopedic Surgeon with two Fellowships on Arthroscopy.

He never stopped doing outdoor activities and started to get more involved in the mountain with guide friends, learning rock and ice climbing and ski touring. He then decided to move with his family to Ushuaia to keep up the outdoor adventures. Since moving to Ushuaia, he then got his Nautic driving license and started to gaze more often to the sea.

He went to Huaraz, Peru and did the Diploma in Mountain Medicine (DIMM) to rescue in extreme conditions.

Wanting to go further and keeping to his passion, he started to apply his skills and knowledge after several courses and became an expedition team member in Antarctica and the Southern islands.

He has now visited the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica multiple times as an expedition member, medic and zodiac driver and is excited to share the next adventure with you.

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# Tiphanie May - Expedition Guide

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Tiphanie is an 8<sup>th</sup> generation Falkland Islander living in Stanley. She was raised on a small group of islands called Speedwell Island Group, owned and worked by her parents as a sheep farm and family crab business.

Tiphanie was raised surrounded by Falkland's wildlife with her family island boasting rookeries of Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins as well as several other breeding birds. The islands also include haul outs of South American sealions and elephant seals. Surrounded by all this wildlife it was of no surprise that she found nature

fascinating. From the penguin couple that lived under her house to the wonderful variety of creatures found in the crab pots, marine life was a theme. This led to her to travel to the UK at 16 to study to be a marine biologist.

Tiph spent 6 years in the UK studying to get her BSc (HONS) Marine Biology and MSc in Marine Biology. Using her holidays to volunteer in the Falklands for various conservation projects to gain experience. Upon completing her studies, she joined the Government Fisheries Department, spending 200 days per year at sea monitoring seabird activity and collecting research material. The sea has been a big part of her life, from a young age she worked to haul crab pots with her father's boat. Later she went on to work for an experimental sustainable fish farm which allowed her to get her RYA qualifications in Power Boat. Tiph currently works full time operating a small boat in the Falklands.

Tiphanie started working in the tourist industry at the age of 23. Having grown up with no roads her whole life, 4X4 tour driving just made sense. Tiph has worked to provide a variety of tours such as hiking, 4X4 and penguin colony visits. In 2018, Tiphanie was offered the amazing opportunity to go to Antarctica and South Georgia with Oceanwide as guide. She fell in love with the scale of the landscape and has never looked back.

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# Joyce Mulder – Expedition Guide

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Joyce is a passionate guide with an interest for exploring and understanding the marine life in polar regions. Her journey began in 2018 as a whale-watching guide in the Azores, where she developed a deep appreciation for marine life. After this, she studied the Arctic snowfall variability at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, laying the foundation for her future career in Polar research.

Continuing her academic pursuits, Joyce studied Arctic biology at the University Centre in Svalbard in 2019, acquiring insights into the valuable ecosystems of the far north. With a bachelor's degree in Coastal and Marine Management, she followed a master's program in the same field in Ísafjörður, Iceland, making it her home from 2021 to 2023.

Her academic journey also brought her to the Norwegian town of Tromsø, where she studied fish migrations, further honing her expertise in marine biology. For her master thesis, she joined a research vessel in Greenland, where she studied the benthic communities by mapping the seabed in previously unexplored regions in both 2022 and 2023.

Now, Joyce brings her knowledge and interest for marine wildlife to Oceanwide Expeditions as an expedition guide. Through her role, she shares her expertise and fosters a deeper appreciation for the polar regions.

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# Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide

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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 an expedition guide. He has since guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia many times.

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

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

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# Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Simon Davies - Expedition Guide

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Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a master's 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.

Most 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!

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# Bill Smith - Expedition Guide

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“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 the Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.



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# Chloe Power - Expedition Guide

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Chloe is a marine scientist turned high school science teacher and thinks of science as just 'measurable magic'.

Chloe believes that enthusiasm and passion are key qualities in communicating science, which can hopefully make it more enjoyable and digestible for conservation efforts.

Her background is undergrad studies in marine biology at Southern Cross University in the Northern Rivers region of NSW Australia - where she focused on intertidal zones and mollusc ecology.

She then completed a master's in marine and Antarctic science at the University of Tasmania in Hobart where she studied plankton communities and the effects of sea ice on Antarctic food webs.

Chloe travelled down to Antarctica in 2018 with Antarctica New Zealand where her obsession for the ice began, and she well and truly caught the 'polar bug'. She has guided in the Kimberley region of north-western Australia, the Antarctic Peninsula, the Subantarctic Islands and the Ross Sea.

Chloe also delves into a bit of social science, with a focus on connections between the Antarctic Gateway Cities and in her role as the Hobart representative for the 'Antarctic Youth Coalition' which aims to inspire and educate youth on Antarctic related matters.

When Chloe is not telling off teenagers on how to use a Bunsen burner correctly, you'll find her in the ocean - surfing, diving, or fossicking through the intertidal zone for ocean treasures. She can't wait to explore this incredible part of the world with you.

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# Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide

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Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from 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 geo-ecological research.

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

Since February of 2012, he has spent most of the year in 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.

Alexander dedicates three to four months a year 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 from the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

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# William Kennedy – Expedition Guide

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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.

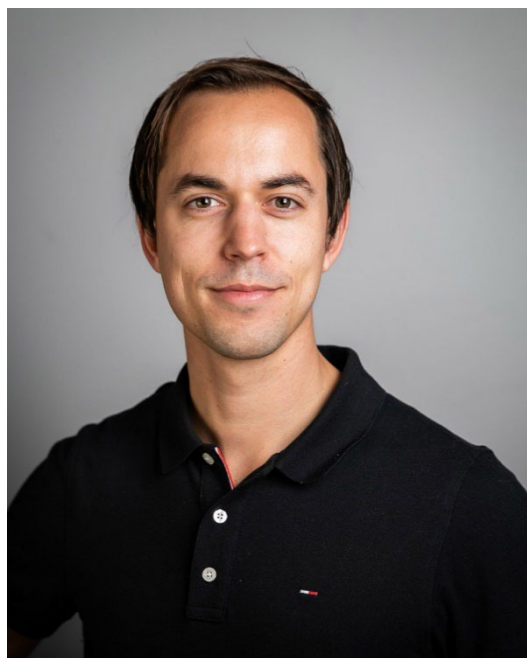
He since then has been sailing the Arctic and Antarctic waters, blending his passion for history, storytelling, and travel by shining the light on unsung polar heroes, events and adventures.

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.

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## Rogier Steins – Ship's Doctor

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Rogier was born in Utrecht, the Netherlands, where he studied medicine in Rotterdam. As a part of his education, he went to Calgary, Canada for research in orthopedics and Cape Town, South Africa for an internship trauma surgery in Groote Schuur Hospital. After he graduated medical school, he worked at the emergency department in the Hague and the surgery department in Utrecht. He decided to specialize in family medicine as he has a broad medical interest and likes human psychology. Three years later he finished his specialization as a general practitioner.

He is currently working as a general practitioner in his hometown Utrecht and works as the team physician of the Dutch Olympic swimmers in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

Besides working as a family doctor in Utrecht, he likes to combine his work as a doctor with his passion for adventure. In 2019-2020 he worked as a family doctor in Aruba and spent a lot of time on the water kitesurfing. In the beginning of 2020 he helped at camp Moria in Greece as a medical volunteer for the Boat Refugee Foundation. In 2022 he was the ship's doctor during several trips in the Arctic and Antarctica region.

In his spare time he likes to go kitesurfing, snowboarding, travelling and read about personal growth. He is looking forward to exploring the Antarctic region together with you. If you have any (medical) questions, don't hesitate to ask!



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica Welcome aboard!

Date: 4 January 2024

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**.

18:00+/- 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.

19:00 Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:15+/- 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.

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: 5 January 2024

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 Please join Tiphanie in the Observation Lounge for a presentation titled 'An Introduction to the Falkland Islands'.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Simon welcomes you to his lecture about Birds of the Falkland Islands in the Observation Lounge.
- 16:00 Sara invites you to the Observation Lounge for a presentation about Photography in the Polar Regions.
- 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: 6 January 2024

Day 3: Carcass Island and West Point 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 the **Blue** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at Carcass Island.

08:15+/- We invite the **Orange** Group to 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.

14:00+/- We invite the **Orange** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at West Point.

14:15+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at West Point.

The walk from the settlement to the colony is about 1.5 miles (2.5km) up hill, there will be a vehicle available to give those who can't walk this a ride up and down again.

***Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please do not kneel/lie down/sit or put anything on the ground. Please 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: 7 January 2024

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.

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 **BLUE** group will go first, followed by the **ORANGE** 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 11:00. **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.

15:45-16:15 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.

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: 8 January 2024

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.
- 09:15 Felicity invites you to the Observation Lounge for her a lecture about Whales of the Southern Ocean.
- 10:30-11:00 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:15 Please join Bill in the Observation Lounge for his presentation about the MV Hondius - a look behind the scenes of how things work onboard.
- 11:15 Jerry will give a presentation about the M/V Hondius in the Lecture Room in Mandarin.
- 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.
- 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.

Please take time during the day to start bio securing your outer clothing, Muck boots and bags in preparation for visiting South Georgia. Brushes, cloth rags and paper clips are available at reception to borrow, please return them as soon as you have finished with them.

*"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*



## Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 9 January 2024

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 Tiphanie for an Introduction to South Georgia in the Observation Lounge.
- 10:15-10:45 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:00 Please join Chloe for her presentation about Seals of the Southern Ocean in the Observation Lounge.
- 11:00 Jerry will give a presentation in Mandarin about Shackleton and his exploration in the South, in the Lecture Room.
- 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?'
- 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!**

"The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself" – Wallace Stevens



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 10 January 2024

Day 7: Fortuna Bay and Hercules Bay

- 06:15 Wake-up call.
- 06:30-07:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:45+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Fortuna Bay.
- 08:00+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise at Fortuna Bay.
- 11:30-12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:00+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.
- 13:15+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.
- 16:00 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 ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 17:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

- 18:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 19:30 A screening of 'Shackleton' starring Kenneth Branagh in the Observation Lounge, with popcorn! (Part 1)

*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: 11 January 2024

Day 8: Grytviken and Stromness

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, this is weather dependant.

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 **Blue** group first, followed by the **Orange**. 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 Stirling (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.

14:30+/- We invite those wishing to do an extended walk to the Shackleton Waterfall to come to Deck 3 for disembarkation.

15:00+/- We invite all other passengers for a landing at Stromness.

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

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

19:30 Buffet 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: 12 January 2024

Day 9: Leith Harbour, Husvik and St. Andrews Bay

- 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 the long hikers to the shell door for a landing at Leith Harbour.
- 08:30+/- We invite all other guests for a landing at Leith Harbour.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:15+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Husvik.
- 13:30+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Husvik.
- 16:30 Meike invites you to the Observation Lounge for a lecture about Whaling in South Georgia.
- 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 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

After dinner we will ship cruise St Andrew's Bay, the largest King Penguin Colony in South Georgia.

*"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: 13 January 2024

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 Please join Andres in the Lecture Room for a presentation about 'Shackleton's Endurance Expedition'.
- 11:30 Sasha welcomes you to the Observation Lounge for his presentation titled 'Geographical Introduction to Antarctica'.
- 11:30 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.
- 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
- 14:45 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 16:00 Please join Joyce in the Lecture Room for a lecture titled 'Antarctica Below: exploring the wonders of the deep ocean floor'.
- 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 Observation Lounge, with popcorn! (Part 2)

*"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: 14 January 2024

Day 11: South Orkneys, Coronation Island, Shingle Cove

**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 Please join William in the Lecture Room for a presentation about 'Tom Crean - The unsung Antarctic Hero'.
- 10:45 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:30 Chris welcomes you to a lecture about Weather in the Southern Ocean in the Observation Lounge.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00+/- We would like to invite **English speaking guests** to the Shell Doors for a landing at Shingle Cove on Coronation Island.
- 14:30 Jerry invites the **Mandarin speaking guests** (including all the Hangzhou Grand Routes Technology Group) to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Ice.
- 16:00+/- We would like to invite the **Mandarin speaking guests** (including all the Hangzhou Grand Routes Technology Group) to the Shell Doors for a landing at Shingle Cove on Coronation Island.
- 17:00 Jakub welcomes **English speaking guests** to a lecture about Icebergs and Ice shelves in the Observation Lounge.
- 18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:30 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*"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: 15 January 2024

Day 12: Iceberg A23a and Elephant Island, Point Wild

We are hoping to pass by the enormous A23a iceberg before breakfast, 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.

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

09:30 Please join Felicity in the Lounge for a presentation titled 'Improving Your Carbon Flukeprint'- How Whales can help fight climate change'.

10:30 Please join the Expedition Team for 30 mins **Wildlife Watch** outside.

11:15 Bill invites you to the Lecture Room for his presentation about Whaling in the Southern Ocean.

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

14:00 Please join William in the Lecture Room for his presentation about Antarctic Geopolitics'.

16:00 Please join Elizabeth in the Lounge for her lecture 'What does it mean to be Endangered? An Introduction to Wildlife Conservation'.

Before dinner we hope to ship cruise Point Wild, Elephant Island. It was named for Frank Wild, leader of the party from Shackleton's shipwrecked expedition which camped and managed to survive on the point for four and a half months until they were rescued on 30 August 1916.

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 **Happy Hour** in the Bar - half price drinks!

20:00 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: 15 January 2024

Day 12: Iceberg A23a

07:45+/- Wake- up call.

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

We are hoping to pass by the enormous A23a iceberg around breakfast time. 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.

09:30 Please join Felicity in the Lounge for a presentation titled 'Improving Your Carbon Flukeprint'- How Whales can help fight climate change'.

10:30 Please join the Expedition Team for 30 mins **Wildlife Watch** outside.

11:15 Bill invites you to the Lecture Room for his presentation about Whaling in the Southern Ocean.

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

14:00 Please join William in the Lecture Room for his presentation about Antarctic Geopolitics'.

16:00 Please join Elizabeth in the Lounge for her lecture 'What does it mean to be Endangered? An Introduction to Wildlife Conservation'.

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.

Depending on our progress during the day we will have some evening entertainment after dinner which will be announced at recap!

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 16 January 2024

Day 13: Gourdin Island

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:45+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise of Gourdin Island.
- 09:00+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise of Gourdin Island.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Chris invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about Living in Antarctica whilst working at New Zealand's Scott Base.
- 16:00 Join Sara in the Lecture Room for a presentation about Women in Antarctica.
- 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.

*"Half the fascination an Antarctic expedition possesses is to be found in the sharpness of the contrasts experienced during its course, for it appears to be true that a hell one day is liable to make a heaven the next." - Raymond Priestley.*



## Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 17 January 2024

Day 14: Cuverville Island and Danco Island

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a Landing at Cuverville Island.
- 08:30+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Cuverville Island.  
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.
- 14:00+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a landing at Danco Island.
- 14:15+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise around Danco Island.  
Please note the groups will swap during the afternoon.
- 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.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.
- 20:30 We will do a screening of the animated musical comedy 'Happy Feet', Part 1 in the Lecture Room.

*"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: 18 January 2024

Day 15: Orne Harbour and Foyn Harbour

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Continental Landing at Orne Harbour.
- 08:15 Meike invites the **Blue** group to the Lecture Room for her presentation titled 'In the Life of an Albatross'.
- 09:30+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Continental Landing at Orne Harbour.
- 11:00 Meike invites the **Orange** group to the Lecture Room for her presentation titled 'In the Life of an Albatross'.
- Please note, for those guests who do not want to walk up the chinstrap colony we will offer a short Zodiac cruise to see another chinstrap colony.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:45+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour.
- 15:00+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served outside, please dress warmly!

*"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*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 19 January 2024

Day 16: Palaver Point and Spert Island

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a landing at Palaver Point.
- 08:15 Elizabeth invites the **Orange** group to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Orca: Antarctic's Iconic Species.
- 09:30+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a landing at Palaver Point.
- 11:00 Elizabeth invites the **Blue** group to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Orca: Antarctic's Iconic Species.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served.
- 13:30 Jacub invites you to the Lecture Room for a short presentation about the current ice situation in Antarctica.
- 15:15+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise at Spert Island.
- 15:30+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Spert Island.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4

*"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: 20 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 Sara welcomes you to the Lecture Room for her presentation about Marine Threats.
- 10:15 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:00 Please return your Muck Boots to Deck 3, please wait until you are called before doing this.
- 11:30 Please join Bill in the Lecture Room for his presentation titled 'Paintings of the sea - the psychological connotation of the sea in painting'.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Join Sasha in the Lecture Room for his presentation titled 'How to get to Antarctica: His True Story'.
- 16:15 Chris invites you to the Lecture Room for his presentation about making islands predator free.
- 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: 21 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 Jakub in the Lounge for his presentation titled 'The Future of Ice'.
- 10:30 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 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 Sara invites you to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Oceanwides' other destinations.
- 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: 22 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. 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*