



OCEANWIDE
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Antarctica

16th January – 3rd February 2024



M/V Plancius

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

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Romanas Vicas**

2nd Officer: **Martin Hansson**

3rd Officer: **Don Buren**

Chief Engineer: **Aleksandr Bondarev**

Hotel Manager: **Michael Frauendorfer**

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

Head Chef: **Khabir Moraes**

Ships Doctor: **Jack Watson**

Expedition Leader: **Eduardo Rubio-Herrera**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Michael Green**

Expedition Guides: **Helene de Meringo**

Koen Hoekemeijer

Thomas Van Hoof

Koen Jongerling

Regis Perdriat

Elke Lindner

Day 1 – 16th January

Ushuaia – Embarkation Day

16:00 GPS Position: 54° 48.6'S / 66° 54.0'W

Wind: E-2, **Sea State** calm:, **Weather:** overcast, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 9 °C

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



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

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

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



Soon it was time for dinner. The galley team had prepared a delicious buffet, and the dining room was buzzing with excitement. The members of the expedition team also joined for dinner, and this offered a first opportunity to get to know each other. After a long and intense day, it was time for a good rest. Some of us decided to spend some time on the deck to enjoy the beautiful golden light. The next 19

days, we will see each other a lot! When sailing through the Beagle Channel, we encountered several Fin Whales and Dolphins, a great start to the trip.

Day 2 – 17th January

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 57° 13.3'S / 64° 40.9'W

Wind: NW-4, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

Good morning and welcome to the Drake Passage! This morning Eduardo woke us up with beautiful classical music and then informed us about the ship's position, the weather, and the expectations for the rest of the day.

Last night we left the port of Ushuaia and headed out into the Beagle Channel. The Beagle Channel is a nice way for us to get used to the ship's movements, as we do not immediately hit open oceans, giving us some time to build confidence that the Drake is just going to be fine. Around midnight we started to get more and more into open waters, and we could clearly feel gracious Plancius' rolling gently from portside to starboard side and back. The swell this morning was significant with 3-5 meters, but this was created by long stretched waves, so the rolling wasn't too bad.

After a big breakfast, it was time to gather in the lounge for the mandatory IAATO briefing. IAATO is the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators, and this body determines the rules and regulations for visitors to Antarctica. For us guests, this involves keeping a respectful distance from wildlife but also rules related to not kneeling or lying down. Unfortunately, this is not allowed anymore as the risks of spreading contagious viruses such as the avian flu are too high. Sadly, avian flu has now reached the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, whereas the first cases have been reported in Antarctica as well.

This led to Eduardo's next point on the agenda: biosecurity checks. Before we can land in Antarctica, it is mandatory to clean our outdoor layers from little stones, seeds, leaves, mud, hairs, etc. Luckily for us, this so-called vacuum party is not planned until tomorrow.

After the IAATO briefing it was time for our first lecture on this expedition. Helene took the microphone and showed us what effect invasive species can have on eco systems when introduced to remote islands. South Georgia is one of the places where mice, rats, reindeer and invasive plants were introduced, and they had a devastating impact on its eco system. With great effort and dedication, the local government eradicated all invasive species, but this was a 10-year project and it's still ongoing with regular checks. You understand better now why biosecurity will be very strict when visiting these unique islands.

The motion of the ship (and our seasick medications) makes us sleepy, so after lunch there was time for a nice nap. At 15:00, however, it was Koen's turn to tell us more about the discovery of Antarctica. A fascinating lecture that gave us more background information about the expeditions that were undertaken to the White Continent and who claimed to have discovered it.

After a short coffee break, it was Eduardo himself that shared his love for the universe and oceans with us. Our oceans seem like vast stretched deserts of water, but below the surface it's full of life. In his lecture "Exploration of the Bottom of the Oceans," Eduardo passionately shared interesting information about the history of discoveries and human exploration of the sessile environment of the seabed.

At 18:15 it was time for our Recap. This is a daily routine where Eduardo will tell us more about the plans for the coming day and where other members of staff share short background stories about things we have seen or experienced during the day. Then it was time for a delicious dinner soon after followed by an early sleep. Good night, everybody!



Day 3 - 18th January 2024

At sea on the Drake Passage, heading south towards the South Shetland islands.

12:00 GPS Position - 61° 35,0 S, 060° 55,4 W Wind – NW3 Sea State – Slight Weather – Overcast, Air Temp 3°C Water Temp 3°C

Our second wakeup call with another song from our expedition leader Eduardo. We are on our way to the Antarctic Peninsula and within Antarctic waters, as we have crossed the Antarctic Convergence during the night. We were now officially in Antarctic waters with the chance of seeing more wildlife. And during breakfast, this was immediately the case. We spotted three fin whales ahead of the ship with another four blows in the distance. The fin whales ahead of us got closer and closer and eventually gave quite the show, making a lot of their body visible. What a great way to start the day!

At 9:30 we started our lecture program with Regís going first with his talk about Antarctic birds. He explained how you can identify them and where we would be able to expect to see them. Stories about birds with many different shapes and sizes told with a lot of passion. Now we were ready to spot and identify all birds flying and swimming around the ship.



Later in the morning, Eduardo gave the IAATO briefing for the people unable to join yesterday due to sea conditions. Meanwhile, the briefing invited people deck by deck to come to the boot room to pick up their muck boots.

Our lunch was fabulous again, with delicious salades and warm meals. This day on the menu: potatoes, veal loin, fish, and mac and cheese. After lunch we got invited to the lounge for the mandatory biosecurity cleaning. Here we had to bring every piece of outer clothing that will be used outside of the ship, a serious job with serious consequences if done wrong. Just one seed can take hold on an island and take over the local flora. And being that Antarctica doesn't have much flora so far, all the available terrain is essential and important for the endemic flora. Everybody made an excellent effort to clean all the clothing, backpacks, and boots.

In the afternoon we got a second lecture from Elke. She talked about marine life in the Southern Ocean, a topic where she explained the intricate food chain in the Antarctic waters.

During the recap of the day, we got a final mandatory briefing from Eduardo about the Zodiac



operations, something we would be making use of a lot during the following 17 days. During his explanation, however, we got interrupted by some humpback whales that got very close to the ship. They were feeding in the area and showed quite some showman ship showing flukes, side flippers, and some even their whole mouth after eating a mouth full of krill.

Eduardo did have to call everybody in again for the explanation of the next day's plan. Dinner never tasted so good after a spectacular day reaching Antarctica.

Day 4 – 19th January

McFarlane Strait and Half Moon Island, South Shetland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 62° 32.7'S / 059° 59.2'W

Wind: SE-2, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Snow, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Our first real day in Antarctica! 2°C warm and slushy drizzle, some humpbacks around the ship in visible distance. We were thrilled to finally get off the ship. Our first Zodiac boarding was challenging because of some quite big swells. However, all of us got into the boats and ventured on their first excursion. Here and there, penguins swam through the water. Some of them waited on a piece of ice for us, arguing whether they should go for a swim or stay, surrounded by curious expeditioners.

The first highlight was a huge rock (Inott Point) composed of many layers of volcanic ash from a series of explosive volcanic eruptions several million years ago. The next rock contained pillars of basalt columns in its center and the very last one was mind blowing: a giant organ, built of massive basalt pipes, rising from the depth of the ocean: Edinburgh Hill, a 120m-high cliff formed from magma. The molten rock turned into basalt, when it cooled relatively slowly and uniformly, forms into regular vertical columns of rock. Rocky blocks all around were host to several Kelp gull families, that were chatting and fighting with each other. Skuas passed by and even some Antarctic terns crossed our way.



After a well-deserved lunch, we were looking forward to getting ashore at Half Moon Island. This halfmoon-shaped island is made up of basaltic rock. It is home to thousands of Chinstrap penguins. Many were struggling through the mud and across slippery debris to either get back to their nests or to find their way to a cleansing bath. We wobbled like them along a greasy path to see their colonies. It was overwhelming to see the chicks begging their parents for food or huddling under the parents' bellies to warm up from the weather.

Nearby on the beach, three elephant seals were hauled out. A noisy chattering lay over the whole scenery. Arriving adults were greeting their partners, jealous neighbors were chasing away newcomers and pair bonding couples raised their necks high in the air to show each other their love. But penguins were not the only nesting birds in the area. In a slippery gap, some Wilson's storm petrels patrolled above a scree slope, where they obviously had their burrows. Some hundred meters further, Kelp gulls took care of their well camouflaged chicks. Happy and muddy, we strolled back to the beach.

Day 5 - 20th January 2024

Duroch islands, Weddel sea

12:00 GPS Position 63°18.6 'S 057°56.1 'W **Wind** – NE 2 **Sea State** – calm
Weather – Overcast, **Air Temp** 1°C **Water Temp** 1°C

We started the day sailing in a very calm bay opposite the O'Higgins base, a Chilean scientific base. After a good breakfast on board, we had the chance to visit a small island called Kopiatic Island. We landed on some rocks before reaching a beautiful colony of chinstrap penguins. Many babies were on the rocks. A few adults were feeding the babies. At this time of the year, babies are about 5 or 6 weeks old. Both parents take care of them and come regularly to feed them with krill and little fish and sometimes squid. A few sheathbills were wandering around the site. We also met a few gentoo penguins and finally an Adélie penguin.



We had time to enjoy the view. After a while, we were offered a Zodiac cruise to get closer to the magnificent blue icebergs all around us. We passed the O'Higgins Base, where researchers work year-round. They study the movements of penguins underwater by equipping them with sensors. To recognize individuals, the penguins are equipped and are colored with a blue dot. We slalomed for a good hour past icebergs of all sizes, shapes, and colors. The older the icebergs, the fewer air bubbles they contain and the more intense their blue colour becomes, since only blue waves are reflected at the surface.

We then returned to the ship to enjoy a buffet lunch. We sailed along the coast in the Antarctic Sound and passed the Esperanza Base, an Argentinian station on the way to Brown Bluff. The weather was nice, with blue skies but a lot of wind. The sea and wind conditions prevented us from landing at Brown Bluff, but we could observe the geological formations from the deck. After a recap in the afternoon, we continued the cruise to make an incursion into the Weddell Sea, an extraordinary opportunity to get close to the tabular icebergs. This was one of the most impressive views of the Antarctic Peninsula.



The team then suggested we set foot on a little-visited site that is home to a small colony of gentoos. A real step on continental Antarctica! On this side of the peninsula, we are relatively sheltered from the wind, which allows us to take a Zodiac out while enjoying the magnificent colors of the setting sun. The show was complete with humpback whales that approached the Zodiacs.

Day 6 - 21st January 2024

At sea on the Drake Passage, heading south towards the South Shetland islands.

**12:00 GPS Position - 63° 15,3 S, 056° 39,5 W Wind – S4 Sea State – Smooth
Weather – Overcast, Air Temp 0°C Water Temp 0°C**

Another day in the paradise of Antarctica. We woke up with good sea conditions and good visibility. Many people had a shorter night after celebrating the continental landing from the evening before. But nobody could wait to start a new adventure in this amazing scenery. Plancius had parked itself inside of Kinnes Cove where we got 180 degrees view of the surrounding glaciers. After breakfast we quickly went out the door and down the gangway to start a Zodiac cruise. This took us by the islands at the entrance of the Kinnes Cove, where many of the penguins could be found. The Adélies definitely were in the biggest numbers.

There were also Snowy Sheathbills flying around and skuas both predating in their own way, profiting from the many penguins nesting here. The sheathbill, the only non-aquatic bird in Antarctica, does a good job walking around the rocky and snowy surfaces. But some of the sheathbills were sitting on an iceberg where their grip was lacking. They were skating from the left and the right, which looked quite funny. This, however, did not stop them taking advantage of this snowy continent.



After the islands and several icebergs, we made our way to the main cliffs just outside the cove. Here we were able to find a gigantic number of Adelie penguins nesting. Most with their one or two brown fluffy chicks sitting in front of one of the parents. There were also grey chicks. A real penguin town that went up very high up to a high pyramid looking hill. The thought of the movie Happy Feet and the macaroni penguin called Lovelace sitting on top of the hill certainly came to mind. The busy hub of shoreline was the perfect place to see how the penguins jumped in the water in large groups.

The penguins all grouped together until the pressure was built up to create a massive number of jumping penguins. Swimming in a group obviously has good reason, as there could be predators around that are hunting them. And what do you know, a Leopard seal appeared at one of the penguin highways. It was interested in the penguins but seemed to be waiting for the best possible chance to catch an unaware penguin swimming in the water. We ended the cruise at a beautiful iceberg that had intense blue colors and artistic features on all sides.



After the two-and-a-half-hour cruise, everybody was quite cold and ready for a warm lunch. In the afternoon, we sailed past the last islands of Antarctica towards the South Orkneys. We passed many impressive tabular icebergs and could spot many penguins swimming around the ship. There even was the occasional seal swimming by although these were harder to spot. We started our daily recap at 18:15. Here Eduardo explained to us the plan for the upcoming day. We were going to sail past the biggest existing iceberg existing at the moment. This iceberg, called A23A, was released over 30 years ago from the Filchner ice shelf and had been stuck for many years. But just a few years ago, it broke loose and drifted up north, almost directly in our path to the South Orkneys.

This was going to be the possibility of a lifetime to pass by such an enormous iceberg. We also got to hear more about Leopard seals from Heléne and about whale immigration from Koen H. In the end Elke explained us what kind of citizen science projects exist in Antarctica and how we can help gather information that is needed for scientist around the world. Happy Whale is a fun website where you can emit your photo of the fluke of a Humpback and see almost instantly if this whale has been seen before. On Penguin Watch, you can help scientists to establish a record of the growth or decline of penguin rookeries around Antarctica. Here you look at photos where you must point out the penguins from the chicks and the eggs. This way AI can improve working out the information on the photos better in the future.

Day 7 – 22th January

12:00 GPS Position: 61°07.1'S / 48°43.6'W

Wind: SW-3, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



After a nice breakfast, we were flabbergasted by the massive piece of ice appearing on the horizon. The captain sailed Plancius close to A23A, the largest iceberg currently afloat. It is 74 km or 40 nautical miles long and 60 km or 32 nautical miles wide and 400 meters thick. It has an incredible volume of 1,7 billion m³. The giant iceberg which broke off from the Filchner-Ronne iceshelf in 1986 started to be adrift in 2023 from the Weddell Sea and is now on its way to the South Orkneys just like us. This giant chunk of ice has its own local weather system and treated us to a few hours of sunshine. After Michael's lecture about what we can see under the water, a few humpback whales showed us why they are called the clowns of the ocean. We got a fantastic show when one of them started breaching close to the ship.



In the afternoon, Tom told us about the world of ice and later Koen had a lecture about Penguins. In the late afternoon, we could see the South Orkneys and during recap Eduardo revealed his cunning plan to try an activity after dinner. After dinner we ship-cruised the South Orkneys and at a certain point the expedition team lowered two zodiacs to assess conditions for a landing. Everybody was excited and watched how the expedition team ventured into the unknown. Unfortunately, conditions were not good enough to get everybody off the ship, so we continued to enjoy the spectacular scenery while Plancius continued sailing to the next destination: South Georgia.

Day 8 – 23th January

12:00 GPS Position: 59°08.1'S / 41°49.3'W

Wind: SW-7, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

Good morning, everyone! Another day at sea, but we made good progress. The rough seas of the south had been very good to us so far, and it made the journey a lot smoother and more comfortable. Eduardo woke us up with beautiful music before informing us about the sea state and the day ahead.

South Georgia is a unique eco-system that unfortunately was *invaded* by foreign animal species and plants. These *aliens* had a severe impact on endemic animal and plant species such as the South Georgian Pippet, but also Albatross and local grass types were affected. The aliens unfortunately did not arrive naturally; they were brought by whalers on their whaling ships. Reindeer were introduced, but also rats and mice that travelled as *stowaways* before entering South Georgia via the mooring ropes. Since we are travelling on a ship this means we are a risk factor and therefore another round of bio-security cleaning was planned.



This was all well explained during the mandatory briefing that all visitors to South Georgia need to attend. After the briefing the inevitable had to be done; cleaning our outer gear with almost

surgical precision. Every little piece of sand, dirt, mud, feces, foreign fabric etc. needed to be removed as even a small individual piece of the above-mentioned would lead to a failed inspection. Eduardo was keen on achieving a 100% score, so the staff were on top of us.

Our efforts however were not ignored, once the staff *inspectors* cleared us, we needed to sign a declaration, but then we were also rewarded with a beautiful book about South Georgia. Hard work makes hungry, so lunch was very much welcomed. After lunch we got a bit of time to relax or take a nap before Koen “KJ” Jongerling invited us to his lecture about the charismatic and adventurous life of Ernest Shackleton.

At 16:30 it was time for a unique presentation by Hélène and Régis about their year on Kerguelen Island. Not many people visit this remote island in the southern Indian Ocean which is also called “Desolation Island” and having 2 guides on board that lived there as researchers is unique. At 18:15 it was time for a recap, soon followed by yet another delicious dinner. How the galley team manages to do this every day on a moving ship is simply fantastic. Time for a drink and a game in the lounge or an early sleep. Good night, Plancius!

Day 9 – 24th January 2024

At sea on the Scotia Sea heading towards South Georgia, Larsen Harbor

12:00 GPS Position: 55° 31,0 S, 036° 45,1 W **Wind** – NNE3 **Sea State** – Slight
Weather – Snow, **Air Temp** 1°C **Water Temp** 3°C

Another day at sea and another day with great weather. Today we had some swell to begin with, but it still came from our aft, so it was quite easy to deal with. There were many birds flying around the ship in the morning. We were getting closer to land. We had larger birds like the Black browed Albatross and the southern giant petrel. There were also many small ones like the Cape Petrel and Prions. They were all quite close to the ship which made it a great chance to get sharp photos from them.

Not long after breakfast had finished, the first lecture of the day started. Tom talked about the movement of tectonic plates and explained the Scotia plate between South America and Antarctica. He explained that the Drygalski formation was the oldest rock that we could find in South Georgia. And this was going to be very interesting information seeing where we ended up in the late afternoon. We had a second lectures done by Elke who talked about the expedition of

the Swedish naturalist Otto Nordenskjöld. They had rather unfortunate circumstances where the party got split up in three who by great navigation and a bit of sheer luck found each other.



After lunch we started to pass by a lot of beautiful icebergs. All pieces from the giant A23A iceberg that had broken loose and blown forward to South Georgia which was already in sight far in the distance. We did get another lecture from Koen H about photography in the afternoon. He had about 15 tips to explain to us how to take better pictures. And were about to immediately try out those tips as Eduardo told us over the PA that we were going to arrive earlier at South Georgia and that there was a possibility for a zodiac cruise in the Drygalski fjord. A giant gap in the island on the Southeast tip.

Our approach to the island was gorgeous with incredible sunlight. Everything was bright and colorful. There were many large icebergs that had run aground which made it look like an iceberg graveyard. We made our way into the Drygalski fjord where we were going to anchor to lower the zodiacs. Specifically, we were going to enter Larson harbor. A smaller fjord in the mouth of the Drygalski fjord. Here everybody entered the zodiacs at 17:45 to start a hour and a half cruise passing by some of the most stunning mountain ranges in South Georgia. From today we were not just having the differentiation of the Humpback and the Minkes but a new group arose who

were called the Adélie. These two Zodiacs were dedicated to the photographers onboard who want a bit more time to take pictures from multiple angles.



At the entrance of the fjord, we immediately found a lot of beautiful wildlife. There were Antarctic fur seals laying in the tussock grass. There were Antarctic cormorants, kelp gulls and Antarctic terns nesting on the grassy cliffs. Families of fur seals were resting and playing on the surrounding beaches. Loads of tiny fur seals running around the shorelines playing with each other. And an animal that everybody wanted to see, the king penguin! Multiple king penguins were standing on the beaches from whom most of were moulting.

These penguins will be there for the following weeks until they have a completely different coat of feathers for the winter. Further into the harbour, we were able to cruise underneath giant walls of metamorphic rock. In the very end there was a small glacier that marked the furthest away we could go. An incredible first zodiac cruise on South Georgia. After dinner we had our recap from Eduardo who explained the plan for tomorrow. A day that will certainly amaze everybody seeing hundreds of thousands of king penguins in a bay. We can't wait.

Day 10 – 25th January

Gold Harbour, St Andrews Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°36.2 S 035°51.5 W

Wind:VAR, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Clear, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

We started the day under a blue sky, but foggy. Fortunately, the clouds disappeared as soon as we started our activities. A magnificent Zodiac cruise in Gold Harbour brought us close to a grand site.



Dozens of elephant seals, sea lions by the hundreds, and king penguins basked or frolicked on the beach. Elephant seals congregate on this beach during the breeding season. The largest males form harems of several dozen females. During this period, the females have finished caring for their young, born in late spring (between September and November). They return to the beach after feeding to regain their strength. They then mate before beginning their moult. We sailed with the Zodiac along the beach, conditions were good and we could get close enough to observe these magnificent animals in detail. We pass some giant petrels floating at the surface. Many storm petrels come to pick at the food on the surface of the water. They almost seem to be able

to run on the water. Fur seals do the same. Numerous groups are formed, with a few large males keeping the females close by. The view around was fantastic, with a beautiful glacier behind the beach.



After a delicious buffet lunch, we set off for a second Zodiac cruise in Saint Andrews Bay in the early afternoon. The concentration of wildlife here in the bay is incredible. More than 300,000 penguins gather here every year to breed. The scenery was great, with an immense glacier falling into the sea. The bay is rich in microcysts and kelp. Numerous cormorants and even a pipit have been spotted on the shore.

This afternoon was truly an adventure. After boarding, we enjoy a cup of tea or a drink with a pastry. The evening recap presented by Edouardo gives us the weather forecast for the next day and the program to come. Then Edouardo gives us historical details of the sites we visited. Régis finishes with a presentation on king penguins. After a delicious plated dinner, Eduardo invites us to share a moment with him on the foredeck to observe the stars.

Day 11 – 26th January

Ocean Harbor, Grytviken, Nordenskjöld Glacier

12:00 GPS Position: 54°13.11'S / 36°26.8.4'W

Wind: ENE-3, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

We were able to admire the sunlit coast early in the morning. After breakfast, we got back into the Zodiacs and explored Ocean Harbour. The small bay was once home to the smallest whaling station on the island, founded in 1909/10. Ten years later, it was abandoned. In the bay lies the wreck of the Bayard. She was built in 1864 and was wrecked on 6 June 1911, when a storm tore her loose from her mooring and set her adrift on the beach. Today the shores are inhabited by numerous fur seals. We enjoyed the sight of the many young animals playing in the water. A large group of moulting king penguins had gathered in a riverbed at the end of the bay. The Antarctic tern also presented its offspring to us. The chick sat on a stake in the shallow water and had food brought to it in front of our eyes.



After the short excursion in the sunshine, the Plancius heaved anchor again and continued northwards along the coast. We wanted to be in Grytviken, the administrative centre of South Georgia, by midday. Two young women from the local museum gave us a short introduction to South Georgia in general and Grytviken in particular. The first ten of us at the gangway were also inspected once again to ensure that we didn't bring any seeds or similar ashore with our clothes. We would all have passed this test with flying colours.



Before the boat drivers dropped us off on land, we took a short detour past Shackleton's grave, which was unfortunately not currently open to visitors. Bird flu has also found its victims in this bay and restrictions for visitors should minimise the further spread. On land, we were drawn to the post office, the museum and the church. The urge to stretch our legs was great. Fur seals along the way and penguins next to museum artefacts stopped some of us in our tracks. The museum was well organised and allowed us to learn more about the region's whaling history as well as marine life. The small white wooden church on the edge of the former whaling station was simply furnished. However, there was a fairly large library in various languages and genres at the back.

We spent dinner in the ice-filled Cumberland East Bay. At the end of the bay was the edge of the island's largest glacier, the Nordenskjöld Glacier. The captain sailed our ship past fantastically shaped icebergs and kept the aft deck leeward, so that only the rain interfered slightly as we were served a sumptuous BBQ dinner on the aft deck.



Day 12 – 27th January

Hercules bay, at Sea to the Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 54°02.5'S / 36°32.8'W

Wind: E-3, Sea State: Smooth, Weather: Cloudy, Air Temp: 5°C, Sea Temp: 2°C

In the early morning, Plancius positioned at the entrance to a small bay called Hercules Bay. After breakfast, our expedition team proposed a Zodiac cruise in a place that only South Georgia can offer. Conditions were perfect, with little wind, calm seas and plenty of sunshine. Wildlife was everywhere: the cliffs were home blue-eyed shags and a few petrels, and the shores were occupied by a lot of fur seals.



Some played in the surf and kelp belts, while others napped in the sun. Giant petrels and skua flew over the bay. The shy South Georgia Pipit explored the shores and let itself be observed, delighting some of us who had been waiting for this encounter.

As we made our way along this narrow and protected bay, we heard hoarse sounds, Macaroni penguins! An inconspicuous colony had settled on a cliff slope, amid steep tussac slopes. Down below, we could watch their comings and goings from a very short distance, some jumping out of the water and climbing the steep walls separating them from their nest, others heading out to sea to find the food they need to raise their chicks.



At the far end of the bay, we admired a small cove in paradise, where King and Gentoo penguins, Fur and Elephant seals met against a backdrop of waterfalls. After these unforgettable moments, it was time to leave South Georgia and head for our next destination: the Falkland Islands. In the afternoon, as the last peaks fade away and the Plancius begins its crossing escorted by albatrosses, prions and petrels, Koen H invited us into the lounge for a reading on Shackleton, an emblematic and inspiring figure from the great period of Antarctic polar expeditions. Eduardo and his expedition team then presented the plan for the days ahead before a well-deserved dinner. In the evening, a screening of the BBC documentary "Blue Planet 2" was held in the lounge. Another busy day.

Day 13 – 28th January

At Sea to the Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 53°00.8'S / 43°45.0'W

Wind: W-6, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Clear, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

Another day at sea, and for the first time on this expedition, we were facing head winds. This slowed us down slightly, but with a bit of luck and good timing it also gave us big waves crashing on our gracious bow splashing the outer decks.

For the morning program two interesting lectures were scheduled. Eduardo shared his passion for outer space when he talked about the current efforts that are undertaken to find water and possibly life in other worlds. With his passionate delivery and fascinating insights, it really made us wonder if there's life out there.

Michael talked about whaling in the early 20th Century. Antarctica and South Georgia are magical places to visit nowadays, but in the whaling era they were places of mass death, blood and stench. It is fantastic to seeing whales making a comeback with some species showing almost pre-whaling numbers, but back then we killed hundreds of thousands and almost hunted them to the brink of extinction. In today's world it seemed like a very cruel thing to do, but whale oil was big business and a necessary ingredient in many of our daily products. Still, seeing them today thriving and roaming free in our endless oceans is a much better way of *enjoying* these intelligent and gentle giants.



Michael also made a very strong point and opened our eyes when he mentioned krill fishing. We killed whales for their oil back in the day, but today krill is the new whale oil. Enormous amounts of krill are caught these days with Norway leading this industry. In Norway it's mostly used as food for salmon farms. Krill is pinkish / orange itself and this will give the salmon its attractive pink color. Incredible but true; people only like to buy pink salmon.

However, with krill being food for almost every living creature in the oceans and especially the Southern Ocean, krill fishing needs to be more regulated and limited. If we don't act, we will deplete the main food source for whales, seals and penguins with certain death and poor reproduction as a result. Michael made a strong and emotional point that krill fishing could be "the whaling area of the 21st century" if the situation doesn't change. With China building enormous "krill vacuum" ships, this threat is more real than ever before, and we can't let this happen.

Around 16:00 our lovely bartender Raquel opened the bar and with that happy hour had started as well. With everyone having a drink it was time for the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction. Eduardo had brought back a box with special South Georgia items that aren't for sale in the souvenir shop. Among others there was a special Endurance whiskey, stone penguin book

ends and a beautiful map of South Georgia, the Falklands and the Antarctic Peninsula with illustrations of the unique animals we can see in these regions.



Hosts Michael and Koen started the auction with the lower priced items and then worked their way up to a grand finale with some fantastic high bids. All together the 13 items auctioned led to a stunning end total of GBP 1440, which is the best result on Plancius this season. After recapping it was time for a delicious dinner and for most of us an early night's sleep.

Day 14 – 29th January

At Sea to the Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 52°23.6'S / 50°12.4'W

Wind: NW-6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 9°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Wonderful to be able to sleep in after another shaky night. The sky was blue again this morning, with a few nice clouds. The crew tried to make the view easier for us by diligently rinsing the windows around the lounge with fresh water. There was still a strong wind blowing on the foredeck, but in the lee it was almost T-shirt weather. Over the course of the day, a few wandering albatrosses, white chinned petrels and soft plumaged petrels also took advantage

of the wind. One juvenile wandering albatross in particular accompanied us for a long time and sailed up and down close to the ship.

Our lecture programme began today with Koen J., who introduced us to the abundance and diversity of Antarctic research stations. A total of 75 stations are operated by 25 different nations. Some of them date back to the golden age of exploration. Doctor Jack later introduced us to the art of medicine in polar regions. We learnt about hypothermia, frostbite, amputation and many other terrible things that the crews of previous expeditions had to face. However, no one could warm to Doctor's commitment to join him on an expedition into the dark winter night of the Antarctic.



In the afternoon, Michael entertained us with old sailor's yarn and expressions. It was all vocabulary so that if your own ship was seized, the new master would have a hard time commanding the new crew members. We learnt how sailors memorised where navigation buoys should be positioned when leaving or entering the harbour (P.O.S.H.: Port out, Starboard home) and much more. The funniest part of the day was the quiz with quizmaster Koen J. The questions were exciting, the answers even more so. Those who put together a good team had a good chance of scoring points. There were always passionate discussions about which answer was the right one, whether it was knowledge of regional polar history, geological or biological topics. The most difficult, but also the most fun, was guessing the sounds. Bird and whale songs seemed rather extraterrestrial.

Day 15 – 30th January

At Sea, Port Stanley

12:00 GPS Position: 51°40.3'S / 57°33.4'W

Wind: E-2, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Sunny, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

This morning we woke up again with a beautiful piece of music from Eduardo's private collection. After breakfast, Michael gave an impressive eyewitness account of the events that took place during the Falklands war. We were grateful to hear his story and his willingness to answer many questions. After lunch, we were released in Port Stanley where we could finally stretch our legs again. We all scattered around town looking for souvenirs, visiting the Museum, getting a beer in a local pub or just giving our legs a much-needed stretch. With heavier backpacks and lighter wallets, we came back to the jetty and were shuttled back to Plancius. During the recap Eduardo was making us enthusiastic about his plans for tomorrow. In the evening when sailing North of the Falklands coast to the islands in the North-West corner, we witnessed whale blows in the distance welcoming us to this beautiful part of the British Overseas Territories.



Day 16 – 31th January

Carcass island, Saunders island

12:00 GPS Position: 51°08.2'S / 60°33.8'W

Wind: SW-4, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Clear, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 11°C

Pleasant music woke us up this morning. After a good breakfast, we prepared to disembark on Carcass Island. This island on the west coast of the Falklands is home to a big colony of Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins and many species of birds. We disembarked on a white sandy beach. From the beach, we could already see the birds and geese in the tussock.

The vegetation was very characteristic, with numerous tussocks under which the Magellanic penguins dug their burrows. This species is unique in that it lays its eggs and raises its young in a burrow. This protects the chicks from predators. The skuas are never far away. We were lucky enough to see a young skua next to an adult, barely hidden in the vegetation. The island was very different from our previous stops. The largest Magellanic chicks were sticking their heads out of the burrows and taking to the air. Some had started to moult.

Higher up on the small hill, we met a small colony of Gentoo penguins. The young were grouped together in a creche. Some were having fun chasing passerines, such as long tailed meadowlarks (red-throated birds). On the other side of the island, we descended to a magnificent beach of fine white sand. A few small groups of Penguins joined the sea. At the end of the morning, we joined the Zodiacs for a short cruise to the landing on the other side of the bay. There we enjoyed a cup of coffee with biscuits prepared for us. The sun was back, and the weather was magnificent. Several young Caracas were circling in the garden.



We left the island at noon and got onboard Plancius for lunch. In the early afternoon, we disembarked on Saunders Island, which, although relatively close to Carcass, is very different. It is home to a beautiful mixed colony of black-browed albatrosses and rockhoppers. Along the way, many Magellanic penguins pointed their beaks out of their burrows. A small number of king penguins too, some incubating their eggs or warming their young chicks between their feet. In the background, a magnificent white sandy beach contrasted with the turquoise blue ocean.

We enjoyed our time on the island, but the wind picked up and it was time to get back on board. The Zodiacs had to manoeuvre so that we could get in at the stern to avoid being too exposed. Once on board, after a cup of tea, we listened to Edouardo's recap about the program and Régis's presentation of the birds of the Falklands. After dinner, many of us went back out on deck to enjoy the beautiful light over the cliffs of the neighbouring islands.

Day 17 – 1th February

New Island, At Sea to Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 51°43.8'S / 60°17.1'W

Wind: N-7, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:**11°C, **Sea Temp:** 11°C

Today is a special day, our last day in the Falklands. After breakfast, our expedition team took us out to New Island, in the extreme west of the archipelago. Long used as a base for whaling, as a sheep farm and for occasional attempts to collect guano, New Island is considered by some to be one of the most beautiful islands in the Falklands archipelago, as well as having possibly the most diverse range of wildlife in the region. It is a nature reserve, established by Ian Strange in 1972.



We disembarked on a small beach before taking a path through vast expanses of wild grass dotted with Upland geese. Since the end of sheep farming, local plants are gradually reclaiming their rights. The path took us to our first viewpoint, from which we could happily observe wildlife in its purest form. Before our very eyes, thousands of blue-eyed shags, rockhopper penguins and black-browed albatrosses shared the area in an incessant cacophony. The spectacle was so amazing that it was hard to focus on any one scene. Everywhere birds were taking off, landing, feeding their chicks, defending their territory...

A narrow passage threading its way through the tufts of grass gave us access to a promontory from where we could see the leaping Rockhoppers leaping out of the water and starting the difficult climb back to their colony. On this side of the island, the wind was stronger and the albatrosses were at their ease. The surrounding cliffs were magnificent. The morning light and sunshine made the scene even more beautiful.



The arrival at the gangway was indeed stormier. We had become accustomed to the good weather, which had accompanied us throughout this wonderful journey. In the afternoon, the weather took a turn for the worse, the wind had picked up and a thick fog covered the nearby coastline. After a ship cruise close to some superb cliffs, Plancius slowly made its way towards its next destination: Ushuaia. The time has come for us to return. Elke gives us a presentation on the plants of the Falklands. Before dinner, Eduardo and Koen give a final recap. The icing on the cake: the setting sun sets the sky a magical orange pink, as if to bid us farewell.

Day 18 – 2th February

At Sea to Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°55.3'S / 65°11.9'W

Wind: NE-3, **Sea State:**Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 10°C

This morning Eduardo was in his “Barry White” mood and woke us up with a 70’s tune of the grandmaster of Soul music. During breakfast we could already see Staten Island, so we must have escaped another patch of horrible weather as we made quite some distance during the night. We sailed into the Le Maire channel named after the forgotten Dutch expedition of Le Maire and Schouten in 1615 AD where they discovered Staten Island and Cape Hoorn. Another forgotten fact is that the Cape was named after their ship Hoorn (Named after the Dutch city who sponsored the expedition) which was lost in a fire along the Patagonian coast.

After breakfast, Koen H. gave us a lecture about how to edit our foto's so we all can make our neighbors and relatives jealous when we get back home. Given the number of pictures we took on this trip we will be editing them in the next decades. After Koen's lecture, Eduardo gave a presentation about time, clocks and navigation.

We were paid a visit by Dolphins after lunch, Michael showed us some historical movies about 20th century Antarctic exploration. After our final recap we had a cocktail with the captain and went to the restaurant for our last meal. During dinner the household and galley teams presented themselves. One last night onboard we enjoyed the views of the Beagle channel.

Day 19 – 3th February

Disembarkation day

16:00 GPS Position: 54° 48.6'S / 66° 54.0'W

Wind: E-4, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C

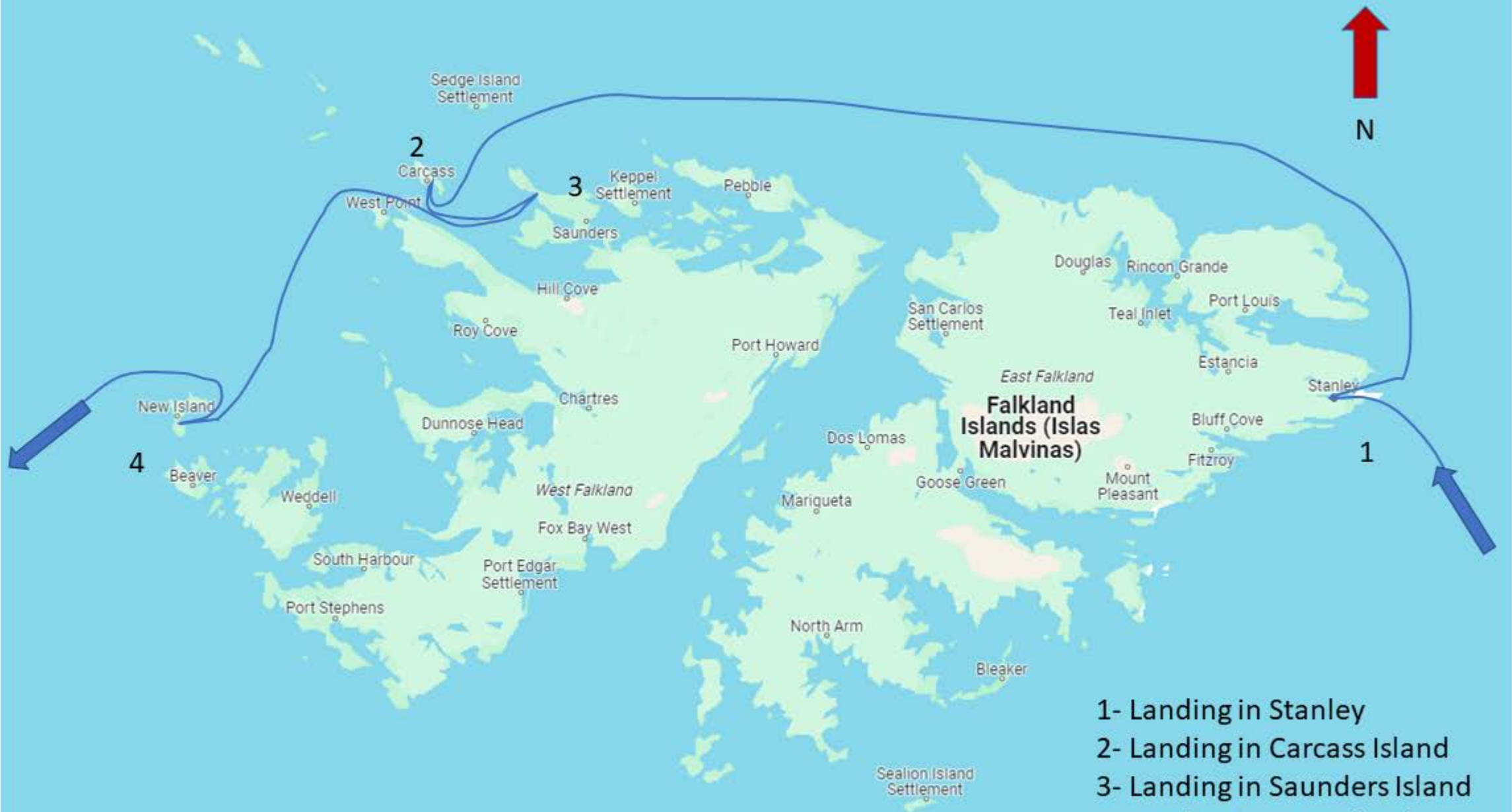
We docked back at Ushuaia, while many of us enjoyed our last sleep onboard Plancius. With our bags packed and left outside our doors for the staff to collect, we enjoyed our final hearty breakfast from the galley team. Following breakfast, we disembarked the ship and said goodbye to Pippa and all the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



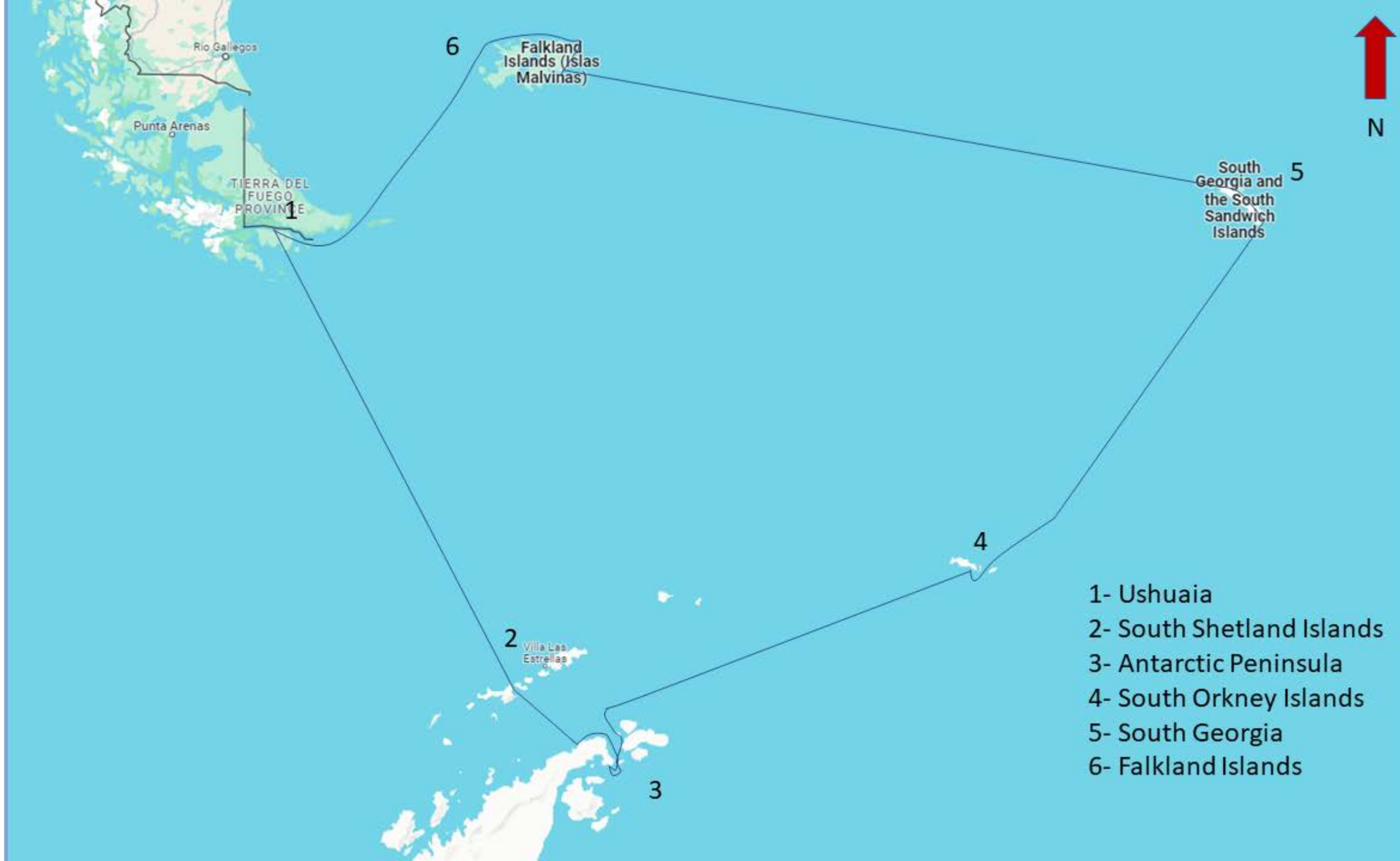
Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

**Total distance sailed:
3173 nautical miles**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Ernesto Rubio-Herrera and his team, Hotel Manager Michael Frauendorfer, and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure traveling with you!

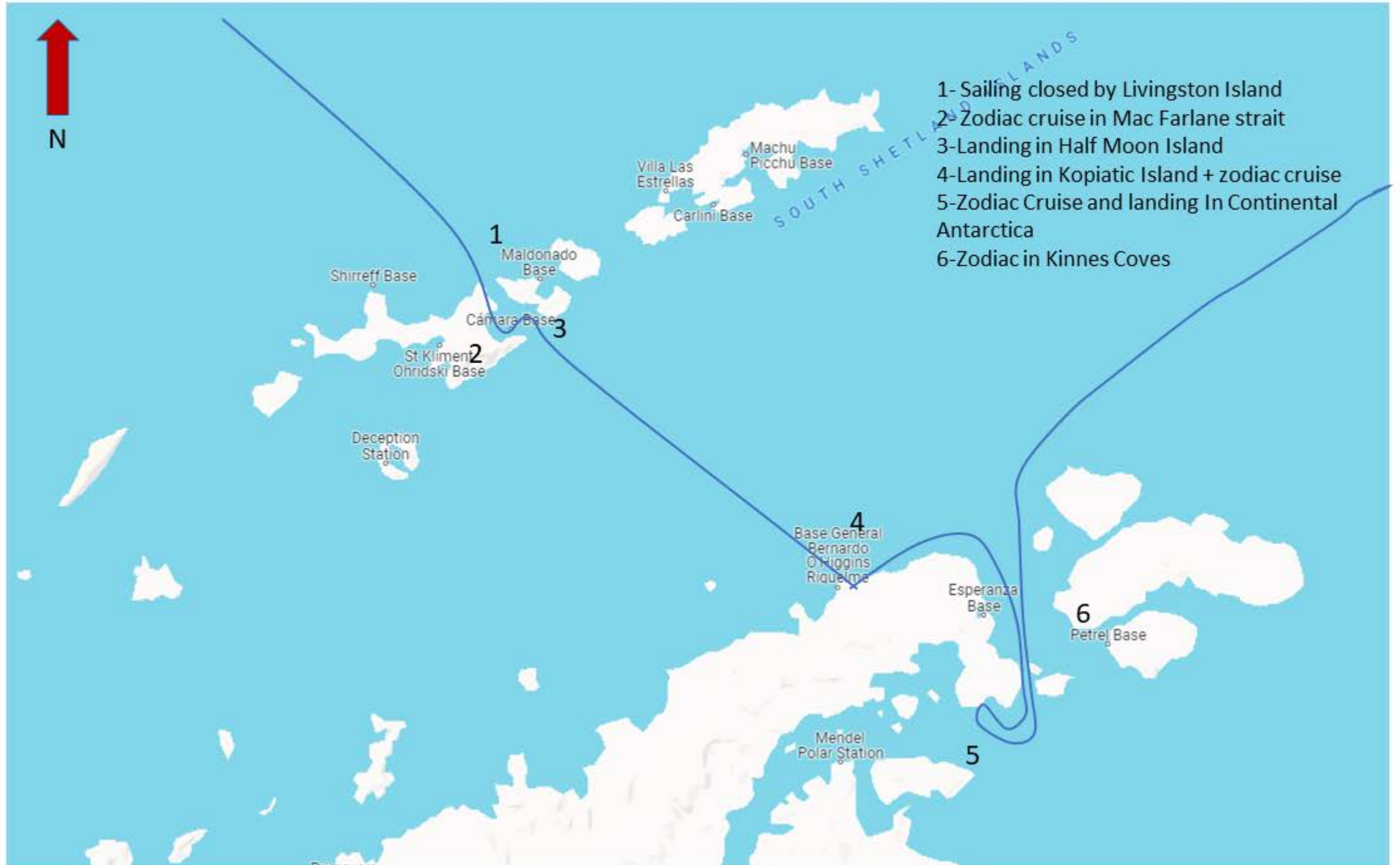


- 1- Landing in Stanley
- 2- Landing in Carcass Island
- 3- Landing in Saunders Island
- 4- Landing in New Island





- 1- Sailing closed by Livingston Island
- 2- Zodiac cruise in Mac Farlane strait
- 3- Landing in Half Moon Island
- 4- Landing in Koptiac Island + zodiac cruise
- 5- Zodiac Cruise and landing In Continental Antarctica
- 6- Zodiac in Kinnes Coves



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- 1-Zodiac cruise In Larsen Harbour
2-Ship cruise in Drigalski Fjord
3-Zodiac cruise in Gold Harbour
4-Zodiac cruise in St Andrews Bay
5-Zodiac cruise in Ocean Harbour
6-Landing in Grytviken
7-Barbecue and sailing in Cumberland Bay est
8-Zodiac cruise in Hercules Bay

Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region including Falkland Islands and South Georgia

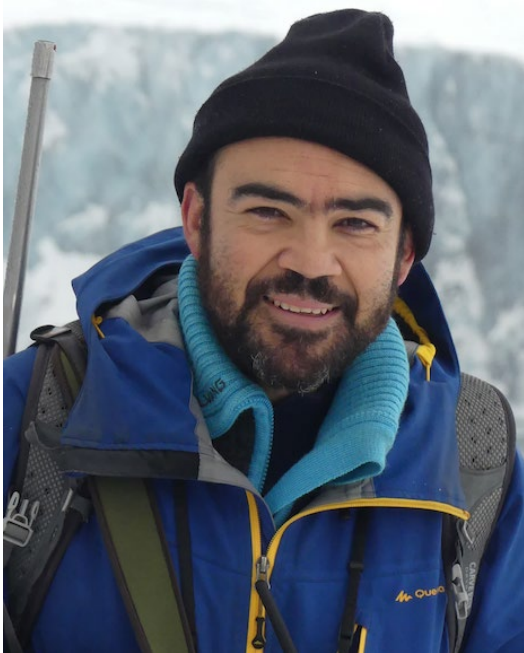
English	Latin	16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>															
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>									x	x	x	x			
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>					x	x									
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				x	x	x			x	x	x	x			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			x	x	x	x	x					x			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>												x			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	x														x
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	x	x	x						x	x		x	x	x	x
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>		x													
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>															
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>													x		
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			x						x	x	x	x			
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		x					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>							x	x							
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>															
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					x	x	x	x	x						
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		x	x				x	x	x			x	x		
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		x	x						x				x		x
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>													x	x	x
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>															
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>															
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		x													x
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>														x	x
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		x	x		x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>															
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>															
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>							x		x	x		x	x	x	x
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>															
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>									x			x			x
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>															
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>									x						
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				x		x									
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				x		x			x	x	x				

31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb
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Eduardo Rubio-Herrera

– Expedition Leader –



I describe myself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for sharing nature's wonders. I aim to help to better understanding of what scientists do with the public. Born in Guatemala (1978), I live in Switzerland since 2017. I speak English, Spanish and German.

After studying physics, I got my PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position I became a lecturer of physics and Astronomy as well as a guide in expedition cruise ships. Since 2018 I have worked for Oceanwide Expeditions in various roles such as guide, assistant expedition leader and expedition leader in the Antarctic and in the Arctic. Today I enjoy these trips as well as teaching undergraduate/graduate students and doing science outreach at the Planetarium of the Museum of Transport in Lucern, Switzerland.

My interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips I have undertaken, I offer lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), about our Universe, and the mysteries of our ocean's depths, to mention some. At sea, besides being an engaged guide and lecturer, I love to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore. In every trip I make, I always aim to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live.

Michael Green

–Assistant Expedition Leader–



He has always loved the Sea and so joined the Navy as soon as he left School. In the Navy he became a diver and have enjoyed diving and instructing all over the world.

He joined Oceanwide Expeditions three years ago as a dive guide and have led and guided both in the Arctic and the Antarctic. He loves both equally. Antarctica is one of the most special places on this planet in my opinion.

He is in his third year of a photography art degree and love seeing your photos they are all fantastic and capture

different aspects of what we are going to see.

If you need any help with your camera or your photos just ask. White balance is a favourite as our cameras aren't used to an all-white background.

He looks forward to helping you get the most from your holiday so please don't be frightened to ask any questions you may have.

His only tip for your trip is to take the time to look, then see and most importantly think.

The nicest moments are when you can be quiet and relaxed, stop listen to the silence and think where you are. Not many people get to do what you are doing so savor every second.

Hélène de Méringo - Expedition Guide



Native from Brittany in France, Hélène quickly developed a passion for nature and wildlife.

After studying biology and ecology, she multiplied missions in various latitudes, working for conservation programs in Guinea, Quebec, and research programs in New Zealand and Indonesia.

In 2008, she winters in the Kerguelen Archipelago as a volunteer biologist for the French Polar Institute and develops a real interest for island ecosystems and the polar world. A grandiose and decisive experience. She continues her experience in the Great South as an agent of the French Southern and Antarctic Natural Reserve. 8.64 cm

Since 2012, she works as an engineer in a research team focus in island ecology. This work leads her to regularly participate in on-board missions to study seabirds nesting in remote islands, particularly in the Pacific.

Since January 2019, she has been participating in cruises to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Arctic on expedition ships with Oceanwide Expedition.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Photography Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Tom van Hoof - Expedition Guide



Tom fell in love with the Arctic when he was attending a climatology masterclass as student at the University Centre of Svalbard in 2001.

During his PhD research at Utrecht University he organised and carried out several lake coring expeditions in the USA and Scandinavia. During his PhD Tom published a number of key scientific publications on the role of CO₂ on climate change during the past millennium.

After living a year in the desert of Tucson, Arizona (USA), where he was working as a Postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Arizona, Tom returned to the Arctic when he started working for the Dutch Geological Survey in 2005. As a biostratigrapher (fossil-lover) he returned to Spitsbergen for a number of expeditions, collecting rocks and guiding fellow geologists.

Tom's academic background in geology/ paleoclimatology is a broad one, ranging from climate change during the past 1000 years to ecology of coal forming swamp ecosystems 300 million years ago. He loves to be outside especially in the Arctic wilderness. In 2018 Tom left the Dutch Geological Survey and started his own geological consultancy business.

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he choose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

Regis Perdriat - Expedition Guide



Regis has always been passionate about nature and wildlife conservation.

After a master's degree in Ecology, he first specialized in seabird rehabilitation after oil spills for BirdLife France. Then he joined the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, studying endangered species.

In Brittany he worked seven years for the Sept-Iles National Nature Reserve, driving zodiac, counting seabirds and seals in this wild and protected archipelago.

His polar experiences go as far back as 2007, when he spent 15 months working as a field researcher studying the seabirds and marine mammals of the remote Kerguelen Islands, a French subantarctic territory.

In love with those isolated environments he carried out several fieldwork missions in subantarctic islands. He finally joined the management team of French Southern and Antarctic Lands and became Head of the Southern Lands National Nature Reserve.

He now proposes his experience as a freelance biologist for scientific expeditions and share his passion for birds as often as he can. His last expeditions took him to North-East Greenland, Central Asia or Antarctic Peninsula.

Looking for him? Try outside, you should find him and his binoculars searching for birds or whales.

Elke Lindner - Guide



Elke is a true polar polymath. Not only has she been working as a Naturalist guide and Expedition Leader from Spitsbergen, Greenland and the Russian Arctic to South Georgia and Antarctica since 2001. She likes to explore nature by skiing, hiking, kayaking, and climbing.

Elke studied terrestrial ecology and Arctic marine biology at the University Centre in Svalbard, the world's northernmost institution for higher education and research. She also studied ecology as well as geology, forestry and silviculture at Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, and the University of Umeå, Sweden. Between being a field biologist and botanist, Elke spent two seasons as the Longyearbyen Harbourmaster, somehow found time to go to nursing school and working as nurse at a GP's office at home. Elke speaks fluent German, Swedish/Norwegian, English, and some Russian. However, of all of Elke's endeavours, her daughter is her favourite.

Jack Watson- Ship's doctor



Jack is a UK-based GP and A&E Doctor with a special interest in expedition, remote and wilderness medicine. He always tries to combine his career with his love for adventure, travel and the natural world.

Growing up in Kenya helped to foster his passion for wildlife and wild places. From witnessing the wildebeest migration to summiting Mt Kenya, his adventurous spirit was born and with it the curse of eternal wanderlust! Luckily, with his understanding wife and young family they manage to keep itchy feet

mostly under control. They enjoy travelling to the far reaches of the British Isles in their campervan, kayaking, SUPing, hiking, cycle touring and trail running with Roxy the cocker spaniel.

Jack has recently gained the Mountain Leader qualification and completed the International Diploma in Expedition & Wilderness Medicine. So far, he has been the Doctor on trips up Kilimanjaro, along the Great Wall of China, cycling from London to Paris and up Mt Toubkal in Morocco.

His personal travel has taken him to nearly 100 countries including around the world twice. Driving from the UK to Mongolia, seeing gorillas in the DRC, living and working in New Zealand and hiking in Patagonia has been some highlights.

Jack was first motivated to study medicine from witnessing the health and social inequalities of his childhood and with this he has developed a keen interest in Global Health. In 2017 he worked for a year in a remote South African hospital on the Mozambique border. The range of emergency, evacuation and remote medical skills developed here have proved invaluable during current work on remote Scottish Islands.

As a Ship Doctor, Jack loves hearing about other people's lives and travels and hopes you will feel free to chat when you see him on board.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Ushuaia

Embarkation

Tuesday 16th January 2024

- 1600 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know. Please feel free to look around the ship. Tea and coffee are available in the Lounge on Deck 5.
- ~1700 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.
- 1800 Departure from the pier.
- 1845 Please join us in the Lounge for our Captain's Cocktails where you will meet your Captain, Ernesto Barría. Afterwards we will have an introduction to the ship by your Hotel Manager Michael Frauendorfer. At the end you will meet all your Expedition Leader Eduardo Rubio-Herrera. He will explain the plans for the coming days. There will be also a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

"The wonderful things in life are the things you do, not the things you have."

-Reinhold Messner

Tonight, we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to Antarctica

Wednesday 17th January

- 0745 **Wake up call** from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Mandatory IAATO Briefing covering the need of Biosecurity in Antarctica.** Eduardo will explain you the “rules of the game” when visiting Antarctica.
- 1100 Join Helene in the Lounge to learn about problem of bringing invasive species into the remote islands in her presentation with the title **“Invasive Species in Islands”**.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 Koen will take us into the fascinating history of the exploration of Antarctica with his lecture entitled: **“The Discovery of Antarctica”**.
- 1630 **Exploration of the Bottom of the Oceans.** Learn about the history and discoveries made by humans exploring the sessile environment of the seabed.
- 1815 **First Daily Recap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge to learn about of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception Desk. Enjoy your meal.

I believe every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine.
-Neil Armstrong.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Drake Passage day 2 Thursday 18th January

- 0745 **Wake up call** from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Lecture The fabulous world of Seabirds.** Regis, one of our bird experts on board will take you into the details of the life of marine seabirds, please join him in the lounge.
- 1100 **Boots.** We will invite you by deck to collect your boots from the Boot Room which is on Deck 3 forward. These boots are the best footwear for use during our landings.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Biosecurity Cleaning** in the Lounge. We will call you by deck to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs, and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks.
- 1630 **Lecture Marine life in the Southern Ocean.** Elke will talk about the intricate food chain in Antarctic waters.
- 1815 **Zodiac Operations + Daily Recap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge to learn about of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind reception. Enjoy your meal.

*Sea unrolled forever to meet the sky in a round of unbroken horizon.
Here was the spaciousness of the desert; the spaciousness, you might say,
of the raw materials of creation.*

-Richard Byrd

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia

and Antarctica

McFarlane Strait & Half Moon Island

Friday 19th January 2024

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0745 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **McFarlane Strait, South Shetland Islands.** During the morning we hope to take you in a zodiac cruise along the sublime landscape around the McFarlane Strait. From our zodiac boats you will be able to see spectacular rock formations as well as the first wildlife of Antarctica.
- 9:30 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 9:40 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Half Moon Island, South Shetland Islands.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore at Half Moon Island. At this location we will encounter a colony of Gentoo penguins and there are sometimes fur seals and elephant seals on some of its shores. For every landing, please follow the route marked by the poles.
- 14:30 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 14:40 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

It is a wonderful place we are in, all new to the world, and yet I feel that I cannot describe it.

There is an impression of limitless solitude about it all.

-Ernest Shackleton

Please always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself.

Thank you!



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

North West Antarctic Peninsula
Saturday 20th January 2024

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0745 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Duroch Islands - Landing/Zodiac Cruise** This morning we hope to offer an exploratory landing at Koptiac Island, part of the Duroch Island group – home to the three Antarctic Penguin species- Gentoo, Adèlie & Chinstrap – and in the vicinity of the Chilean Research Base O’Higgins.
- 09:00 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 09:10 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1800 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!
- 1900 **Brown Bluff – Continental Landing.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore in the shadow of this terrible edifice, to see more penguins (Adèlie & Gentoo Penguins) in a very interesting geological location. For every landing, please follow the route marked by the poles.
- 19:00 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 19:10 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.

*Mankind must boldly reach out.
And purposefully strive to discover the hidden secrets of our Universe.
-John Young*

Please Note that the times noted here are estimated, conditions and plan may change due to weather or ice conditions. Please listen to our announcements.

Thank you!



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

North West Antarctic Peninsula-
Scotia Sea

Saturday 21st January 2024

To give you the best opportunity to experience this wonderful area, the program for today is subject to change and may begin earlier than shown below. Please listen for announcements where we will inform you of the situation, Thank you.

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Kinnes Cove / Madder Cliffs Zodiac Cruise** This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at the secluded Kinnes Clove, where you can enjoy both, glaciated Antarctic vistas and the animals that live within. Please listen for announcements.
- 08:30 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 08:40 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- In the afternoon, it is time depart the Antarctic Continent and head for our next Sub-Antarctic destinations. Please make all your belongings secure. We will be entering the south east segment the Scotia Sea in the afternoon.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

Time is the distance between two places.
-Mark Twain

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Scotia Sea
Enroute to South Georgia
Monday 22st January 2024

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 09:30 **Lecture: *What the divers see?*** Michael is going to share with us his experiences while diving in the world beneath the surface of our oceans.
- Late in the morning** we expect to sail close to an ice behemoth, Iceberg A23A which after calving, today is drifting in the Scotia Sea.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Lecture: *The World of Ice.*** Join Tom in his lecture to learn more about the fascinating forms, shapes, structures, and features that the Ice can sculpt in the surface of our world.
- 1630 **Lecture: *Penguins*** Koen is going to close our series of today's presentations talking about the penguin species that we can find in the Antarctic and subantarctic regions.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

The winds and the waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators.
-Edward Gibbon

We expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship. Given the remoteness of this area, please look after each other and be safe. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Scotia Sea

Enroute to South Georgia

Tuesday 23rd. January 2024

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 09:30 **South Georgia Briefing and Bio-security.** These are **mandatory** briefings that everyone must attend to be able to land in South Georgia.
- 10:30 **Bio-security.** Cleaning sessions in the Lounge. **We will call you by deck** to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks for your cooperation and understanding.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Shackleton's Journeys: His early life and expeditions.** Join Koen J. to learn more about the charismatic life of Ernest Shackleton.
- 1630 **Kerguelen Island. One year for the science in Subantarctic.** Hélène & Régis had the privilege of spending more than a year in this desolate and remote archipelago of the South Indian Ocean. Join them to hear their story.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

*At times I'm enormously aware of myself moving among this vast elemental indifference,
the only breathing thing for miles... yet it's oddly uplifting,
like looking up at the stars in the blackest of nights.*

Andrew Greig

We expect the ship to move and we ask you to use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship. Given the remoteness of this area, please look after each other and be safe. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Scotia Sea

Enroute to South Georgia
Wednesday 24th January 2024

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 09:30 **Lecture: Geology of the Scotia Arc.** Tom is going to explain to us in the lounge the intricate system of tectonic plates that reign under the seas we have been sailing.
- 10:30 **Lecture: The Nordenskjöld Expedition.** Elke will present interesting information about the incredible adventures of the Swedish expedition to Antarctica led by Otto Nordenskjöld.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **10 Tips to Improve Your Wildlife Photography** is the lecture that Koen "Photo" He will present this in the lounge.
- 1500 **Michael Dominik** will present *Eine Kurze Reise Durch die Zeit* for his group of German-speaking guest in the Dining Room (all German speaking guests are most welcome to join).
- 1630 **Lecture: Life of a King.** Join Régis in a fascinating presentation describing the life of these magnificent penguins, that populate all subantarctic islands.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

*The difficult is what takes a little time. The impossible is what takes a little longer.
-F. Nansen.*

We expect the ship to move, and we ask you to use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship. Given the remoteness of this area, please look after each other and be safe. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Gold Harbour & St. Andrews Bay,
South Georgia

Thursday 25th. January 2024

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 08:30 **Zodiac Cruise in Gold Harbour.** At the foot of the Salvesen Range, this is regarded as one of the most beautiful visitor sites in South Georgia with an amphitheater of hanging glaciers and vertical cliffs rising from the sea.
- 8:30 Adèlie Penguins** please go to the gangway.
8:40 Minke Whales please go to the gangway.
8:45 Humpback Whales please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Zodiac Cruise St. Andrews Bay.** For our afternoon activity on South Georgia, we hope to take you on a zodiac cruise at St Andrew's Bay where we will find the largest King penguin colony on South Georgia with around 350,000 breeding pairs of penguins. We will cruise along the shore for views of the colony and mountains.
- 15:00 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
15:10 Minke Whales please go to the gangway.
15:15 Adèlie Penguins please go to the gangway.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

*These days are with one for all time -they are never to be forgotten-
and they are to be found nowhere else in the world but at the most isolated places.
One only wishes one could bring a glimpse of it away with one with all its unimaginable beauty.
-Edward Wilson*

- Adèlies = Group of photographers, we reserved 2 zodiacs for you.
Humpbacks = Cabins in deck 4 without big photo equipment.
Minkes = Cabins in decks 2, 3, 5 and without big photo equipment.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Ocean Harbour & Grytviken

South Georgia

Friday 26th January 2024

- 0400 Dependant on conditions the ship may remain in St Andrews Bay allowing us to witness a glorious sunrise over the bay.
- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 08:30 **Zodiac Cruise in Ocean Harbour.** This morning we plan to take you out to witness the shipwreck of the Bayard a ship that today is decorated with nests of blue-eyed shags lying among big kelp forests.
- 8:30 Adèlie Penguins** please go to the gangway.
- 8:40 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 8:45 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Landing at Grytviken Museum.** This afternoon, after we have cleared customs, we will take you ashore at Grytviken. This is subject to some restrictions due to HPAI so please follow the advice of staff on shore. There is a museum, shop, and Post Office. The shop and Post Office take Pounds Sterling and card payments only.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Special BBQ Dinner** Enjoy your meal and dress up warmly!

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

- Adèlies = Group of photographers, we reserved 2 zodiacs for you.
Humpbacks = Cabins in deck 4 without big photo equipment.
Minkes = Cabins in decks 2, 3, 5 and without big photo equipment.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Hercules Bay, South Georgia

Enroute to Falkland Islands

Saturday 27th. January 2024

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 08:30 **Hercules Bay Macaroni Penguins – Zodiac Cruise.** This morning we plan to take you out in our zodiacs to see a colony of Macaroni Penguins.
- 8:30 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 8:40 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 8:45 Adèlie Penguins** please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- After lunch **Departure from South Georgia to Falkland Islands.**
- 15:00 **Lecture Shackleton journeys Trans-Antarctic Expedition** join Koen Joerling in the Lounge to learn more one of the most amazing stories of the heroic era of exploration.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

After dinner, we will show an episode of the BBC Documentary Blue Planet 2 in the Lounge.

*Victory awaits him who has everything in order, luck some people call it.
-Roald Amundsen.*

We expect the ship to move and we ask you to use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship. Given the remoteness of this area, please look after each other and be safe. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

South Atlantic Ocean
Enroute to Falkland Islands
Sunday 28th January 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Lecture Alien Oceans.** Eduardo will be talking about the current efforts to find water (and perhaps life) in other worlds.
- 1100 **Lecture Whaling history of the early 20th Century.** Michael Green will take us through the evolution of whaling in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic waters and how this industry decimated the population of cetaceans in the Southern Ocean.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Lecture Pinnipeds of the Southern Ocean.** H el ene will be sharing interesting information about the different seals that inhabit the Southern Ocean.
- 1600 **South Georgia Heritage Auction.** A fine team of professionals will auction a few exclusive items to raise funds to support the conservation efforts to preserve the islands of South Georgia.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

No dream is too high for those with their eyes in the sky!
-Edwin Buzz Aldrin

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Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

South Atlantic Ocean
Enroute to Falkland Islands
Monday 29th. January 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Lecture Research stations of Antarctica** Join Koen Jongerling in the lounge to learn more about the history of the different research stations operating in Antarctica.
- 1100 **Lecture Medicine in the Cold.** Join Jack Watson our ship's doctor for a fascinating insight into the history of medicine during the heroic era of exploration and modern-day treatments to mitigate the effects of the cold.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Lecture Naval Jargon old words used at sea.** Join our salty fellow Michael Green to learn the origin of the special words used by sailors at sea.
- 16:30 **Ship's Quiz Time** –Team up in the lounge to join the legendary Plancius Ship's quiz afternoon while you enjoy of a drink from our Bar to help you to better articulate your thoughts before and during the quiz.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.
-Stephen Hawking

We expect the ship to move, and we ask you to use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship. Given the remoteness of this area, please look after each other and be safe. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

South Atlantic Ocean
Approaching Falkland Islands &
Port Stanley
Tuesday 30th. January 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Lecture: Falklands my part in the downfall of General Galtieri.** Michael Green will be giving an account of the events he witnessed as part of the UK forces involved in the Falkland War.
- 1100 Recap before landing in Port Stanley with plans for Stanley and tomorrow.
- We invite you to be in the outer decks to enjoy wildlife sightings as well as to enjoy the navigation involved while approaching Port Stanley.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **After lunch and once the ship has been cleared by customs, we will take you by zodiac to visit Port Stanley. We will come back to the ship by zodiac. Do not forget to take your waterproof clothing. Last zodiac to the ship will be before 17:30 hours. ENJOY PORT STANLEY.**
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

The only way I knew how to live the best day ever was on an expedition.
— Hendri Coetzee



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Carcass & Saunders Islands
Wednesday 31st January 2024

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 08:30 **Landing in Carcass Island.**
- 8:20 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
8:30 Humpback Whales please go to the gangway.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Landing in Saunders Island – The Neck**
- 14:30 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
14:40 Minke Whales please go to the gangway.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal!

At the start of the voyage, he had gazed at the new element with the innocent awe of the landsman. He saw boobies, fleet of medusas, ribbons of sea wrack, the prismatic colours on the backs of bonitos and albacores and the pale fire of phosphorescence streaming into the night.

-Bruce Chatwin



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

New Island, Falkland Islands
Thursday 1st. February 2024

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Landing in New Island South.** Here we will be landing in a very scenic bay called coffins harbour, where there is a shipwreck and the Barnard Memorial Museum, which commemorates the era of whaling in this little island. You will meet more wildlife such as black browed albatrosses and rockhopper penguins visible from the viewpoint.
- 8:20 Humpback Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 8:30 Minke Whales** please go to the gangway.
- 1245 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- Afternoon Program to be announced due to conditions.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap of the day and to our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal!

*We only know a tiny proportion about the complexity of the natural world.
Wherever you look, there are still things we don't know about and don't understand. [...]*

There are always new things to find out if you go looking for them.

— David Attenborough



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Argentinian Sea, South Atlantic
Friday 2nd. February 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Eduardo.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 Lecture Koen Hoekemeijer will be offering lots of tips about photo edition in his presentation: Photo Postprocessing and Digital Edition.
- 1100 Lecture Navigation, Einstein, Clocks & GPS. Join Eduardo in the lounge to enjoy a presentation about how our understanding of gravity helped to create modern navigational tools such as the global positioning system.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 14:30 Michael Green will share some movies filmed in Antarctica during the various stages of exploration in the late half of the 20th Century.
- In the late afternoon we will have first sight of the South American continent and we will sail through the strait of Le Maire where we will have sight of Isla de los Estados (looking East) in the southern part of the Argentinian Sea.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Ernesto Barria in the Lounge to toast our voyage to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica and to have our last re-cap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room, enjoy your meal!

With friends like these one might endure under I may say, any circumstance.

-Salomon André

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Port of Ushuaia, Argentina
Saturday 3rd February 2024

We will be coming alongside sometime during the night.

0700 **Wake up call** from your Expedition Leader Eduardo!

- **Before breakfast at 0730 please could you put your large check in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you.**
- **At the pier after disembarking, please identify your luggage and indicate accordingly where do you want it: storage building, bus to the airport or private arrangements. Luggage at the storage building must be collected before 1400.**
- **Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.**
- **If you are traveling with IKARUS/Polar News, remember to put a blue label on it.**

0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0830/0900 It is time to leave M/V Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception.

*Curiosity is the essence of human existence and exploration has
been part of humankind for a long time...*

Eugen Cernan

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions the Captain Barria, Crew and Expedition staff would like to thank you for travelling with us and wish you a very safe journey home.