



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula

1st February – 20th February 2024

M/V Hondius



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

Captain Artur Lakovlev

and his international crew

Staff Captain:	Elizbar Kalaria	Ukraine
Chief Officer:	Matei Mocanu	Romania
2nd Officer:	Nino Cizmic	Croatia
3rd Officer:	Giovanie Simene	The Philippines
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	Estonia
Hotel Manager:	William Barnes	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Aleks Lyebedyev	Ukraine
Head Chef:	Gaurav Bawa	India
Ships Doctor:	Lars Engelhardt	Germany
Expedition Leader:	Christan Long	New Zealand
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Hazel Pittwood	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Jerry Zhao	China
Expedition Guide:	Jakub Małecki	Poland
Expedition Guide:	Elizabeth Robinson	United States
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Chloe Power	Australia
Expedition Guide:	Joyce Mulder	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Aitana Forcen Vazquez	Spain
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	China
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	Switzerland
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tschertner	Switzerland
Expedition Guide:	Saskia van der Meij	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Julia Angermeier	Germany
Dive Leader:	Henrik Enckell	Sweden
Dive Guide:	Peter Nilsson	Sweden
Dive Guide:	Lorenzo Begaud	France
Dive Guide:	Clara Iachetti	Argentina

Day 1 – Thursday 1st February 2024

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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

Wind: NE- 3 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** + 14°C **Sea Temp:** +11°C

Nestled amongst towering peaks of the Martial Mountains and the windswept Beagle Channel, lays the picturesque city of Ushuaia, where we really did feel like we were at the 'end of the world'. Located at the



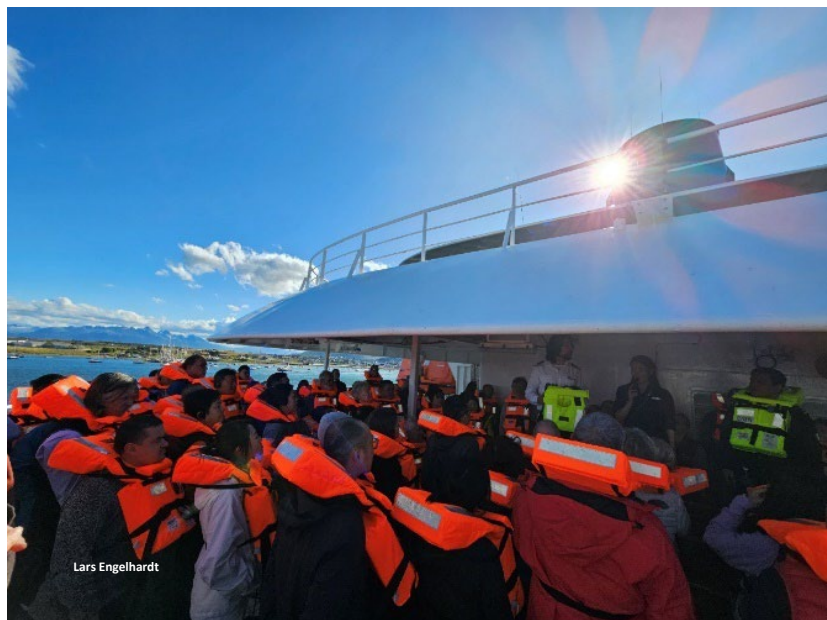
southernmost tip of Argentina and the capital city of the Tierra del Fuego (meaning "Land of Fire") archipelago, this port city marks the end of South America and acts as a port of call for Antarctic voyages. But this was just the start of our adventure! We would be venturing even closer to the ends of the Earth before we knew it. Travellers from far and wide gathered on the pier, eagerly awaiting embarkation on board the MV Hondius where expressions of excitement, nerves, and anticipation were upon us.

As we walked up the gangway and set foot onboard the Hondius for the first time, we were welcomed by hotel manager William who handed us our cabin cards and directed us to our rooms with the help of the warm friendly crew. Our luggage was awaiting us inside our cabins, and we began to settle into our new 'home'.

Then followed Chief officer Matei for a mandatory safety briefing where we put on our bright orange lifejackets and gathered to our assigned muster stations followed by a safety drill where we were shown where our life rafts are kept. As we began to set sail from Ushuaia, we gathered in the Observation Lounge for a celebratory drink and canapes with Captain Artur from Russia who toasted us and his crew a safe and successful voyage. Expedition Leader then introduced himself and the Expedition Team; these would be the people who would be driving us in the zodiacs, presenting lectures, planning our landings and keeping us safe while we explore the beautiful yet isolated places on our voyage. Chris ran us through our expedition plan, and the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. However, we were warned that the term 'plan' is very fluid, and that we can expect to move from 'Plan A' to 'Plan D' very quickly. After all, this was an expedition!



We then had a delicious buffet meal in the restaurant where we got to meet more of the wonderful crew who would be taking care of all our meals and beverages for the next 20 days. In the evening we spent time unpacking, resting from jetlag, and getting to know our new ship 'family' and of course, wildlife watching outside. Later in the evening we ventured back into the lounge where we participated in the very important IAATO (the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators) and zodiac operations briefings, which are mandatory for our operations in the Antarctic and subantarctic regions.



The crew and staff on board have all been very welcoming, cheerful and eager to make us feel at home. We were so excited for what the next day of adventure would bring!



Day 2 – Friday 2nd February 2024

At Sea, The Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 56° 49.4' S / 065° 28.1' W

Wind: W- 4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +8°C

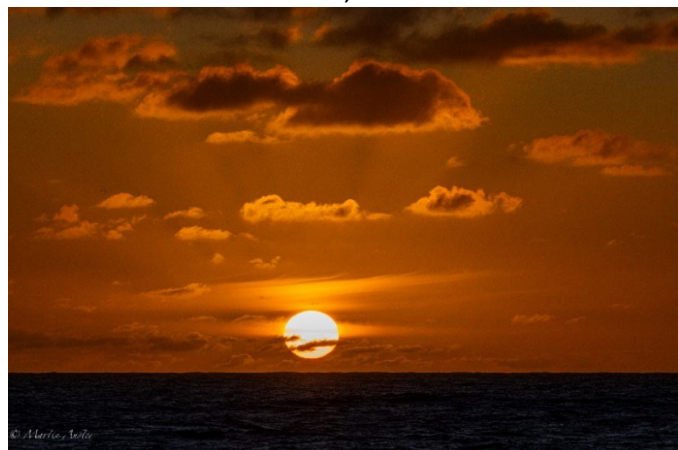
Today was the first full day at sea on the Drake Passage! The night was a bit wavy which lasted until the morning. Although some people were seasick, the majority slowly got used to the waves. The morning started with the first wake-up call from expedition leader Chris, after which breakfast was served between 8 and 9 AM.

After breakfast, an announcement was made to bring our thick woollen socks to Deck 3 to try on the warm, insulated waterproof muck boots. Afterwards, we went outside with the expedition team for 30 minutes of 'wildlife watch'. This was to encourage us to get out in the fresh air, stretch the legs and help ease any seasickness we might have. Plus, one cannot expect to see wildlife from inside their cabins, so the best place to be is outside on deck! Later in the morning, Hazel presented a lecture in the observation lounge about albatrosses and other seabirds we have been observing around the ship and might encounter during the rest of our voyage. Here we got to see the actual length of a wandering albatross, measuring up to 3.5 meters (11.5 feet)!



A delicious lunch was served in the restaurant, after which Martin gave a presentation with tips and tricks for photography in the Observation Lounge. With the help of these tips, we felt a bit more prepared and eager to take some breathtaking photos of the incredible scenery and wildlife on our voyage. Elizabeth then invited us into the Lounge for her presentation on 'Cetaceans of Antarctica'. It was a wonderful way of being introduced to the marine mammals of this region, as some of us had already spotted a few whales, and we expect to see many more of them during this voyage.

Our first sea day was spent playing games, drinking tea and perhaps if we didn't get seasick, some of us even read some books from the nice collection of polar literature and wildlife guides in the library. The day ended with a brief 'recap' of the day. Recaps on board are small presentations of numerous topics about the Antarctic and subantarctic regions we endeavour to encounter, which would be presented at the end of each day before dinner, to help recount what we have seen that day, answer any burning questions about wildlife we have observed, or learn more about the historical and geographical aspects of the places we



visit. Tonight's recap included the history of the Antarctic Peninsula by Julia; Carina told us about the expressions we use onboard ('portside'/'starboard', '3 o'clock from the ship') and Jakub gave us some insights on why Antarctica is so dry and cold.

Afterwards, a plated dinner was served in the Dining Room with tiramisu as dessert, a timeless classic! Now, the first day at sea on the Drake Passage has been completed; one more, and then we're finally ready to set foot on the Antarctic Peninsula!

Day 3 – Saturday 3rd February 2024

At Sea, The Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 61° 27.4' S / 063° 57.7' W

Wind: NW- 4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Partly cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

“Good morning, Hondius, good morning” – said the smooth dulcet tones belonging to Expedition Leader Chris who woke us up at 07:45 on our second day through the Drake Passage. Shortly after, Hotel Manager William invited us to breakfast at 08:00. It was great to see that more of us made it to the restaurant this morning, compared to yesterday’s rock and rolling swell.

A full day with several lectures was planned for today.

We’ve started with a presentation in the lecture room from Joyce – ‘Exploring the wonders of the deep ocean floor in Antarctica’, where she passionately shared her interest and knowledge about creatures that live under the ocean’s surface and call the seabed home.

At 10:30 we all went out on deck to join the Expedition Team outside for our ‘Wildlife Watch’ through the Drake Passage. Thirty minutes of fresh air, having a chat and looking for wildlife. It was rather quiet around the ship.

The whole day actually, but we did see some

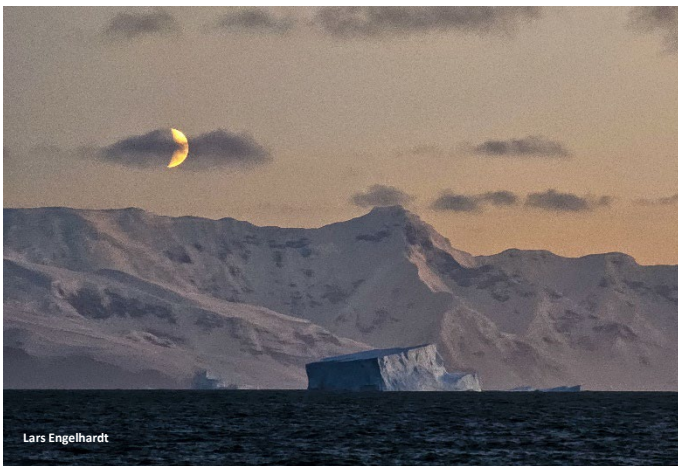
Wilson’s storm petrels dancing on the surface of the water, and some blue petrels flying around the Hondius.

As we were approaching Antarctica, it was the perfect timing for our Expedition Guide Jakub, aka, ‘The Iceman’, to give his lecture, ‘On thin ice – why do we need it?’ As a university professor, he shared with enthusiasm and passion all of his incredible knowledge on the topic. At the same time, Jerry was giving his ‘Ice’ lecture for our Mandarin speaking guests in the lecture room. Buffet lunch included a

wide variety of delicious treats today, and immediately after it

was time for the mandatory IAATO ‘biosecurity’. This was an extremely important procedure to participate in to allow us to land in Antarctica in the following days. We were called deck by deck to come downstairs to Deck 3 where we had to bring all our outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that we would plan on using while in Antarctica. All these pieces of clothing and equipment were to be thoroughly checked and cleaned (the vacuums even came out!) for any foreign seeds, soil and organic material we may have brought from our home countries or from our prior South American travels. For some of us it was quite a job, but when we were cleared by the Expedition Team and ticked off, it meant we were ready for our first adventure! In the afternoon it was time for another lecture, from Aitana this time. Her theme was appropriate for our sea day - ‘How the oceans move’. It was really interesting to learn more about the currents and waves of the ocean.

We all gathered in the lounge again at 18:15 to hear about the plans for tomorrow, and our daily recap from the Expedition Team. This was super exciting, as it would be our first day in Antarctica tomorrow!



Day 4 – Sunday 4th February 2024

Damoy Point, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 49.2' S / 063° 32.3' W

Wind: NE-5 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp :** +4°C

Our first landing in Antarctica! Many of us got up quite early, some as early as 05:00, to see our passage through the Gerlache Strait. This was absolutely worth it as the sun was coming up, and some whales were even spotted this early in the day. At 07:45 we were ready to finally go on land. Guidelines by IAATO only permit 100 guests on land at a time, which means for our operations the guests are split into two groups; one group going shore, and the other zodiac cruising simultaneously, then they swap. Although it was quite windy, this is also what was promised to us: Antarctica as it really is, with a bit of swell and splash. Luckily for us most of us were well prepared and wore our waterproof clothing.



During the zodiac cruise we got to see gentoo penguins entering the water, which looked very clumsy! Funnily enough, in the water they look quite elegant! A true seabird indeed. A lonely Antarctic fur seal was spotted as well, and we were able to get closer to some nice icebergs drifting around Damoy Point. Very few of us got to see an elusive Minke whale; it just popped up twice before it was gone again. Hazel later told us during recap in the evening that thanks to this behaviour, marine

biologists like to call them 'slinky minkes'.

For the landing at Damoy Point, we got to walk up to the gentoo penguin colony where we observed lots of funny and captivating behaviour. Hearing their calls, smelling their (very pungent) scent of their guano (poop), and just simply observing them was endless entrainment, almost synonymous to a tv soap episode. There were a lot of young gentoo chicks to our surprise, which was a little worrying as the Antarctic summer season is almost over, and they need to moult their fluffy down and get into their waterproof feathers in time before the soon approaching winter conditions lower temperatures and the formation of sea ice begins.

We also got to visit a historic hut, where Martin explained the history of this special place. The hut was originally established by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in 1975 and





was used as a transit station and airfield for BAS staff to travel even farther South, when sea ice prevented ships from travelling there.

Today was also the first diving day for the scuba divers. After assembling the gear and a few adjustments in the morning, it was time to touch the water. But only for a check dive. We took shelter behind a small island nearby the landing site at Damoy Point as wind was a bit too strong.

Underwater, lot of kelp and small crustaceans were seen, with a visibility of about two meters/six feet. Several weight adjustments were necessary as weight belts were slipping, gloves were flooded and some other minor little mishaps with gear proved that it was a good idea to conduct a check dive. Overall, it was a great start to our polar diving adventure!

In the afternoon, our original plan was to go to Orne Harbour, but we quickly noticed ashore that the wind was picking up not only to an uncomfortable degree, but an unsafe degree. The expedition staff still went out to assess the conditions, but it was unfortunately not possible. Chris, our Expedition Leader, reminded us the day before how plans can go from A to B to C and we got to experience this in the afternoon! 'Plan C' however, was wonderful, as the station crew of Port Lockroy came on board and talked about their work ashore managing the 'Penguin Post Office'- the world's southernmost post office, and the monitoring program of gentoo penguins that also call Port Lockroy home. After this interesting presentation, we were treated with some retail therapy from the post office gift shop, where some of us got stamp of the station in our passports, wrote and sent some postcards, and indulged in some fluffy toy penguins and memorabilia for ourselves and our loved ones. Most of the proceeds go towards the UK Heritage Trust Foundation, which helps preserve historic buildings and artefacts in Antarctica to help current and future generations discover, understand, value and protect this precious wilderness.



While the shop was open, Carina told us all about the different species of penguins that we can encounter on our voyage. Before we knew it, the day was already ending. In a short evening recap, Chris explained the plans for tomorrow and how we should prepare for a possible polar plunge!

After a long day, most of us went to bed early, our first successful day behind us!

Day 5 – Monday 5th February 2024

Portal Point and Danco Island, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 27.8' S / 061° 58.0' W

Wind: NE- 5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** +2°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

Our day started, for many, some time before the daily wakeup call from Chris. The weather was overcast with some snow on our transit towards Portal Point, our landing on 'continental' Antarctica!

The wakeup call informed us that we were nearly at our destination, and everything was looking good to get us ashore. After another very tasty breakfast we made our way back to our cabins to start the process of dressing for Antarctica, after a little practice we now realised that zodiac operations could very easily mean wet and quite cold, so to dress warmly with full waterproofs was very important.

The mornings operation was a split landing and zodiac cruise. The cruise resulted in so many whales we couldn't believe our eyes! Humpback whales were everywhere, feasting on the copious amounts of Antarctic krill and other critters that the whales manage to trap with their baleen plates. We were astounded by the size of these magnificent creatures, their majestic movements in the water, so slow but purposeful resulting in a roll showing off their pectoral fins or a dive and the wonderful view of the tail flukes. Many of us captured some amazing photographs of this behaviour. Some of us also got to observe a minke whale, but as we learnt they are often referred to as 'slinky minkes' and disappear very quickly after surfacing. We also got to see some more penguins porpoising through the water and saw our first (lonely) chinstrap penguin on an ice floe!



Even from the shore we could hear the whales coming up for breath and their deep exhalations, it was a truly magical whale extravaganza! Of course it was also such a treat to be able to stand on the continent of Antarctica. The route had been laid out for us by the expedition team to keep us away from any dangers such as crevasses and to give us some fantastic views of the water and mountains around us.

The divers also got in the water this morning, where they dived around a grounded iceberg. It was an amazing experience to see the sheer volume of the berg underwater.

Before too long it was time to get back to the ship, have some lunch and move to our next destination, Danco Island. The transit would take nearly three hours so plenty of time to warm up, have a relaxing lunch and to watch the spectacular scenery go by.

Danco Island is a relatively small island, with a steep climb to the top. On the way to the top of the island we passed a couple of gentoo penguin colonies and were very entertained by their 'penguin highways'. As always, we give way to wildlife down here, and it was so funny to observe their little tracks and seemingly



busy lives they lead. Who would have thought before this trip that penguin highways were a thing! These amazing seabirds climb so high to get to the best nesting spots (and a pretty good view as well!)

The divers went out again in the afternoon to another iceberg, with one lucky diver having seen an octopus! Some of the snorkelers headed to a beach nearby our landing site and waded in the

shallows to watch the penguins go in and out of the water. The photographers and videographers were delighted to take this opportunity of taking great shots.

It was soon time to make our way down, and for some, 'The Polar Plunge!' Several of us braved the elements and with all but our swimsuits on, shrieked with joy and nerves as we dived into the icy water. After a well-earned warm shower and a hot drink, it was time for daily briefing and recap and another scrumptious dinner.



Day 6 – Tuesday 6th February 2024

Orne Harbour and Foyn Harbour, Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 37.0' S / 061° 59.5' W

Wind: SSE- 2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

Our morning started with some seriously strong winds and unfortunately unfavourable conditions for our landing at Orne Harbour. The anemometer (the instrument that measures wind speed) measured over 45 knots and there was too much brash ice in the bay to get zodiacs into the landing site.

In the morning we continued to sail through Wilhelmina Bay to reach our afternoon's destination, Foyn Harbour.

Throughout we were passed numerous humpback whales and were yet again blown away by the sheer number of them.

One of the most important aspects of an expedition cruise is that we not only find ourselves in breathtaking landscapes but visit historic places of early explorers and encounter unique animals. In

the writer's opinion what makes the voyage go beyond and complete is the knowledge shared during lectures. The in-depth information deepens our understanding of nature, the ecosystem and the animals' lives. It is especially nice to see how passionate the guides are when presenting.

Today's program started with Elizabeth sharing insights into the 'Charismatic Ocean Traveller', the humpback whale. This cosmopolitan species is known for their acrobatic aerial displays and underwater songs. This well-studied species offers a lot of fascinating and surprising insights. Elizabeth also explained



how researchers use the colouration pattern on the underside of the flukes to identify individuals. She invited us to take part in the citizen science project called 'Happy Whale' (www.happywhale.com) by submitting photographs taken during the cruise.



Later, dive team leader Faith took us onto a little journey to the underwater world of Antarctica, which the divers on board have had the pleasure to discover during the voyage. Who would have thought that there is so much hidden beauty of creatures of various shapes, sizes, colours and lifestyles under the water and ice.

After lunch, life on board got busy as we prepared for a zodiac cruise in Foyen Harbour. While the zodiacs were launched one by one onto the water, two humpback whales passed near the ship inviting us to follow them at a respectful distance. It became an interesting observation as these two later joined a group of four, two of which being calves.



The beauty about staying with animals for prolonged times is, that one gets a better understanding of their behavioural repertoire, area use and inter-specific interactions. Unlike orcas, the humpbacks coming together are not related. They form temporary groups to increase their hunting success. Once the prey is too depleted, they split up into groups of two or three.

During the zodiac cruise we visited the shipwreck of the Norwegian *Governoren*, sticking halfway out of the water. The divers had a great time to glide along this iron monster offering an ideal home for many marine creatures under water. Originally a cattle carrier, the ship was turned into one of the largest factory ships of its time, offering enough space on board to flense and process whale carcasses. The large amounts of blubber were then cooked in huge boilers to gain the oil. At one point there were 20,000 gallons stored in large tanks. At the end of the hard whaling season in 1915, the crew partied below deck when the ship and the whale oil caught fire. By grounding the ship on land, all 85 crew members were saved leaving the whale catcher behind. Today it is a strong reminder of the dark times of industrial whaling in Antarctica.

The day was not over yet! During a delicious dessert, Chris made an announcement that caused everyone to put down their spoons and swiftly run for their binoculars and cameras.... "Orcas!" We had a wonderful orca encounter with a group of around ten individuals that the Expedition Team identified as being 'Large Type B' orcas. There are five 'ecotypes' of orcas found in the Antarctic and subantarctic waters, and



although they are the same species, they differ in appearance, habitat, diet and hunting strategies. The orcas came right up to the ship at one stage, and we continued to watch them cruise into the distance, perhaps foraging and hunting for a meal.

What a beautiful ending to another brilliant day in Antarctica!

Day 7 – Wednesday 7th February 2024

Duroch Islands, Antarctica and King George Island, South Shetland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 63° 18.7' S / 057° 55.8' W

Wind: E-5 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp:** +2°C

Wake-up call was at 07:15 today, bright and early! We were ready for our last day of exploring the Peninsula. After we had breakfast from 07:00-08:00 the expedition guides picked us up from the shell doors and we were ready for our next adventure. First the blue group, followed approximately 15 minutes later by the orange group. The program this morning was zodiac cruising around the Duroch Islands and a short landing on one of the islands.



Some rain, snow, and wind didn't keep us from enjoying the icebergs and scenery. The landing in the small cove was amazing. Male Antarctic fur seals were resting on the rocks and didn't seem to matter that we were walking past and taking pictures. We asked why there weren't any females or pups about, and we learnt that all the mothers and young are still at South Georgia where their breeding colonies are. The older males and sub adult males are now farther southward here in the Peninsula as

there is plenty of food for them to hunt on. There were lots of chinstrap and gentoo penguins ashore, and some of us saw the odd Adélie penguin as well! This was an amazing opportunity to see all three 'brushtail' penguin species in one place. Now we could also take steady pictures of the penguins who always seem to be busy with something. The penguins were also swimming in 'rafts' in the water and many of them queuing up at the rocks on shore to dive in. Cute, but clumsy little guys. Some tumbled over and bounced back, others slipped before taking a dive. Every time again a spectacle to watch and observe.

We also passed the Chilean Antarctic station, General Bernardo O'Higgins. The base was established on 18 February 1948 by the Chilean Antarctic Expedition and is one of the Antarctic bases with the longest times of continuous operation.

The divers heading out again, with this morning being a true expedition dive as only a few people on board ever came to Duroch Island. Some medium size fishes, kelp on the bottom and even penguin bones were found!

Back on board we could warm up again and make ourselves down to the Dining Room for another delicious buffet lunch.

Expedition guide Chloe is totally in love with seals. At 14:00 we all gathered in the Observation Lounge to hear her lecture about all the different seal species of the Southern Ocean, but it was first the expedition leader Chris who informed us about our changed plans for the afternoon, due to a medical evacuation from one of the expedition guides. As we were close to King George Island, one of the South Shetland Islands, it was the best option to sail there, and it would not interfere too much with our schedule. A heart-warming applause rose out of the audience, and then Chloe took over to start her seal lecture. It was interesting to be able to compare the different seal species that we had seen.

At 16:30 there were two other lectures given. Rose informed us about the French Antarctic explorer Charcot for our Mandarin speaking guests, and Saskia told the intriguing story about the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, which gave the name to the Gerlache Strait that we had been sailing through the last few days. After the talks, we sailed into a large bay at King George Island. A busy island with a lot of research stations from different countries. From deck we could see Great Wall Station from China, Escudero from Chile and the Russian Bellingshausen Station.



At 18:15 Chris told us in the recap that, after the drop off from the evacuation was done, he could tell us more about the timings for tomorrow. We had dinner in the dining room and around 21:30 we were on our way to our new destination, name unknown. Exciting times ahead!

Day 8 – Thursday 8th February 2024

Elephant Island and Iceberg ‘A23a’

12:00 GPS Position: 61° 82.9' S / 054° 36.9' W

Wind: SW-4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +1 **Sea Temp:** +3

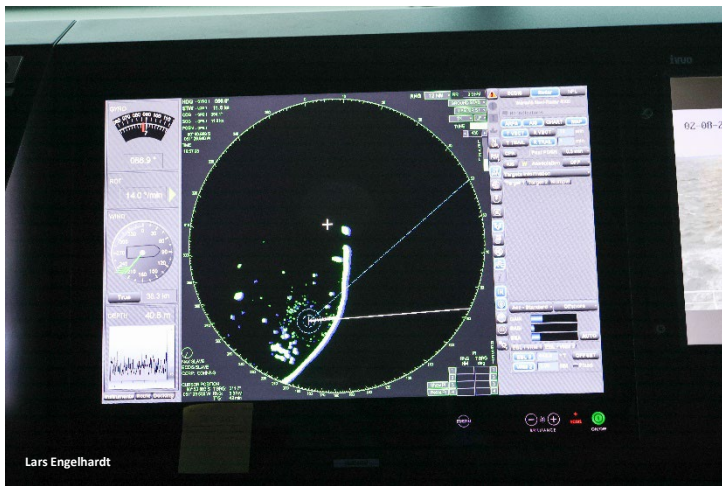
As we left the pristine, snowcapped Antarctic mountains behind, we started heading northeast towards South Georgia. However, today is no ordinary sea day. Our expedition leader Chris has something special planned for us all.

In the morning, we have the delight of listening to our expedition guide Annelou, who delivers her lecture comparing Antarctica to... Mars! Both of these worlds are cold, dry, and extreme in many other aspects, but what makes them even more similar are glaciers and ice caps. These are a promising source of water for future astronauts and a priceless source of data about ancient climate of Mars for scientists.

Soon after the lecture we start to see ice-capped mountains on the horizon, the coasts of Elephant Island, where Point Wild is located. This particular site is of historic significance to many of us on board. Point Wild is the exact location where Ernest Shackleton and his crew set up camp for four months, whilst Shackleton and five men set off in one of their lifeboats, the James Caird, for South Georgia in order to find a rescue ship for the remainder of his men. As we are approaching the morning destination in misty and windy weather, typical for this area, our Captain Artur does a fantastic job of maneuvering Hondius into the more sheltered bay adjacent to Point Wild. Everyone then proceeds to head out on to the bow, grabs a camera and take tens of photographs of the surrounding landscape.



After lunch, it is time for a South Georgia and biosecurity briefing in the lounge and soon afterwards for another lecture. This time Ursula from the expedition team explains the fascinating feeding and hunting strategies of whales and dolphins.



Shortly before the dinner somebody on the bridge discovers another of our highlights of today in the far distance: the giant tabular iceberg A-23a. It is now nearly 2000 km north from its birthplace, the Ronne Ice Shelf. Measuring 88 by 80 km and weighing an estimated over 1000 billion tons it is today's largest floating mass of ice! Interestingly, it detached from the ice shelf in 1986, but because it was stranded in a colder region of Antarctica for nearly 30 years it remained nearly unchanged until today.

Everybody is now out on deck admiring this unusual sight. Lots of photos are taken as the breaking high waves nicely contrast with the motionless iceberg in the background. And many of us are wondering how such a giant can float and drift. After a long sail we reach its end after dinner. The officer on the bridge increases our speed taking up the original course towards South Georgia via South Orkney Islands.



Day 9 – Friday 9th February 2024

At sea, sailing towards South Orkney Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 60° 53.7' S / 045° 58.7' W

Wind: WSW-7 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Fog/overcast **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C

Chinese New Year found us leaving the Antarctica Peninsula behind on our way to South Georgia. We woke up to a festive atmosphere with the windows decorated with Chinese cartoons. This year's will be the Dragon year, how exciting!



Today will be an exciting day with lectures in the morning, dumpling making in the afternoon and a pub quiz at night. Unfortunately, wind and swell conditions prohibited us to land at the South Orkney Islands, but we could see them from afar and boy did it look wet and wild out there!

During the morning there was a talk organized about Shackleton by Saskia and Jerry, where we learnt the extreme challenges and hardships that these brave men endured on their journey to survival. Their sheer tenacity and bravery were such an inspiration in those perilous polar conditions they experienced, much harsher than we are experiencing on our voyage.

Also during the morning some of us gathered for a game called 'Black Magic', in which through some sort of witchcraft Chloe and Joyce could communicate and guess objects that us players had chosen. After a few rounds a few of us started sharing the 'magic' and were able to communicate through their thoughts as well in a mysterious way...

Next up was more biosecurity for South Georgia, and after some practice we were getting a lot more efficient on locating any foreign material on our items. Boots were scratched and dumped in Virkon, Velcros (oh what a nightmare!!) were picked with the safety pins, gloves, hats, pockets and meshes (oh what an even bigger nightmare!) were vacuumed. We have never been this meticulous in cleaning our clothes! But we understand the importance of this procedure for not only our entry onto the island but also for the local wildlife and vegetation.

Due to time zone differences, we entered the Chinese New Year while having lunch. Happy New Year to you Hondius!

We then gathered in the Dining Room for more New Year celebrations- dumpling making!

The kitchen staff prepared the dough with flour and water, and the filling with a special kind of meat and spices. Tables were prepared with floured trays and bowls with meat and chopstick to fill the dumplings. Music was filling the room helping with the atmosphere. The Chinese guests shared their knowledge with the group, rolling and cutting the dough to prepare a flat round shaped dough which then was filled with the meat and sealed in a very special way. It was so interesting to see the skilled women create beautiful shapes with the dough, like flowers and envelopes. It was lots of fun to learn how to create (or try at least) those shapes.

Some of the dumplings were filled with a clove of garlic. If you were to find that garlic, it meant good luck and you got to cash in a prize later on. You would also be asked to make a wish!



We ended up with a wonderful array of dumplings that would be steamed for dinner time. After the dumpling making there was also time for dancing! Some of us enjoyed the music and took to the dining room as a dance floor. Many happy faces and swirls!

We had plated dinner in the dining room with the handmade dumplings as entrée, and they were so tasty! We kept our eyes (and tastebuds!) out for the lucky garlic.

The night continued with a video made by Rose where all the expedition team tried their best at saying 'Xīn Nián Kuài Lè' which means 'Happy

New Year' in Mandarin.

This was followed by an 'Antarctic Pub Quiz', where 30 questions were given to test our knowledge about Antarctica- its wildlife, the polar explorers and all sorts of information gathered during our lectures and landings. People gathered on teams and they put all their efforts in answering all the questions. In general, people did very well with some teams scoring 29 points out of 30, woo-hoo!



But first, the lucky garlicks! Five lucky winners found a garlic in their dumpling and were gifted with an Oceanwide Patch. They were also asked about their wishes and almost all of them wished for good weather for the next few days and for the next landings.

What a fun day to enter the new year!

Day 10 – Saturday 10th February 2024

At sea, sailing towards South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 57° 56.8' S / 039° 58.2' W

Wind: WSW-8 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +4°C

“Good morning Hondius, good morning”, Expedition Leader Chris awoke us with at 07:45. Another day at sea ahead for us, through the wild Southern Ocean, mystery over every wave’s crest and under every wave’s trough. We never know what to expect on this expedition, and that’s the beauty of expedition cruising. Mystery and adventure await us. Seabirds soared around the Hondius, and we were now in the approach of then much anticipated South Georgia, which meant more chances of albatross spotting as we come closer to their breeding colonies.

We started the daily 'edutainment' off with a fascinating lecture by Annelou- 'South Georgia: an introduction from an Earth Science perspective'. It was wonderful to see Annelou's passion for geology and the physical environment, sometimes these aspects of nature can be overlooked by charismatic wildlife.



We were accompanied by more whales en route to South Georgia, including fin whales and humpback whales. After our orca encounter the other day, it was only fitting that Elizabeth gave us a very detailed and entertaining lecture about orcas and their behavior, life histories and explained more about the different 'ecotypes' found here in the Antarctic and subantarctic waters. Orcas are truly fascinating creatures and can be very misunderstood, and we were so lucky to have witnessed them the other evening.

Another delicious buffet lunch was served in the Dining Room, which afterwards we were welcomed by Joyce in the lecture room for her lecture 'Subzero survival: cold-adaptations of Antarctic wildlife'.

Jakub also gave us an informative and entertaining talk about 'Ten things you must know about icebergs' and we were so fascinated by the concept of 'green' icebergs, that Jakub announced the first person to see one would get a free drink at the bar. We were all very eager to find one and capture it for our prize.

Before we knew it, the day was almost over and it was time for daily briefing and recap in the Lounge with the rest of the Expedition Team. Another delicious plated dinner was served, and we shared lots of interesting conversations with our ship mates as we continued to get to know each other and form friendships.

After dinner, we were extremely privileged to join Richard 'Rick' Stanton from the dive team in the lecture room for an inspiring and impressive talk about his experience as the rescue team of the Thailand cave rescue back in 2018. Rick recounted the rescue efforts with utmost detail and modesty, and hearing firsthand his experience was truly a humbling moment for us all. The room was in tears



and applause, and we were so grateful to have had this opportunity and so astounded by Ricks team's efforts and achievements in successfully rescuing all 13 members of the Thai soccer team.

At times like these, surrounded by so many inspiring stories from both people on board and the brave explorers we hear about in the lectures, we can be reminded by a quote by the famous mountaineer and explorer Sir Edmund Hillary who, along with Tibetan mountaineer Tenzing Norgay, were the first to summit Mt Everest. *"People do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things."*

Day 11 – Sunday 11th February 2024

St Andrews Bay and Godthul, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 17.5' S / 036° 06.0' W

Wind: NE- 2 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Sunny **Air Temp:** +10°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C

Finally, after some days at sea we prepared to head for land again! In the morning we arrived at St Andrews Bay, where it was gusting with wind. This was extremely spectacular, as this was by far the most wind we had experienced during the trip. Instead of having a zodiac cruise, we decided for a ship cruise because of these extreme conditions. Clara told us in the morning a little bit more about subantarctic kelp forests in her lecture, and how they can grow up to 30 cm in one day! We got to experience this amazing kelp later in our zodiac cruise that afternoon when the kelp beds were so abundant and thick they became quite the obstacle manoeuvring the zodiacs!

A beautiful green iceberg was spotted, and Jacob, our ice expert on board, explained a little bit more about this in his lecture: 'Ten things you should know about icebergs'. As we got closer to shore, we could see the white-yellow patch ahead; what was this? A colony of king penguins! To see such a huge amount of them from afar was quite special. It is estimated about 150,00 king penguins are found here!





In the afternoon, we got the opportunity to stretch our legs at Godthul. This was also our very first landing on South Georgia. Godthul means 'good gove' in Norwegian and the harbour was probably named by Norwegian sealers and whalers. On the shore, some whaling artefacts were still visible and lots of whale bones from this time remain. We had an encounter with our first king penguins, fur seals and elephant seals up close on the beach. For those who wanted, it was possible to do a little

hike up to the lake. Going through up the tussock grass, with every now and then a hidden fur seal, was quite the challenge but it was definitely worth it! Up above we had a beautiful view of the lake, and there was a gentoo penguin colony as well.



We noticed a strange looking cloud as well hovering over one of the mountains, a lenticular cloud! These clouds almost resemble UFO's and it was so impressive to watch it dissipate, form and reform over and over again during the course of the afternoon.

The other half of the group went for their zodiac cruise in the bay. With these beautiful conditions, warm, almost no wind and certainly no rain, it was very comfortable.

Most of us got quite lucky and saw several macaroni penguins in the water! They are very characteristic with their thicker bill and the crest on their heads, and not hard to spot. There were some sheltered coves where we could get very close to some groups of king penguins and fur seal pups, while manoeuvring through the kelp forests.

All in all, the afternoon was well spent, and everybody got back onboard tired but very happy about our first day in beautiful South Georgia!



Day 12 – Monday 12th February 2024

Husvik Harbour and Grytviken, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 07.7' S / 036° 33.0' W

Wind: E- 4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C

The morning started with a 06:45 wake up call to invite everyone to breakfast. After breakfast at 08:15, people were invited to join a zodiac cruise at Husvik Bay! Husvik is a former whaling station, which first started out as an offshore, floating whaling station in 1907. The following year, activities were also brought



to land, which we now saw the remnants of! Next to the history station, Husvik Bay offered lots of beautiful waterfalls and hidden caves, which were full of wildlife. Antarctic fur seals, elephant seals, southern giant petrels, gentoo penguins were some of the species we saw. Then, it was time to head back to the ship to warm up!

Before we could start our lunchtime, we had to do another one of your favorite activities; biosecurity! It is, however, extremely

important as we were heading to one of the well-known landing sites; Grytviken! Before we could set foot on land, we had to make sure that all our gear was completely clean. Thanks to our efforts, we had a 100% pass by the Grytviken officer who went onboard to check our gear! To celebrate, we were offered happy hour for everyone!

Then, as we approached the landing site of Grytviken, we were surrounded by many fur seals in the water who welcomed us ashore. There were many fur seals, and many more pups, some of just one-two months old! We saw the adult female fur seals coming on land, and you could see they were listening to the cries of their pup, to find them and feed them. Once we had all gotten on shore, there were many more fur seals and their pups, elephant seals, gentoos, and even molting king penguins for us to see!



We also saw many skuas and some South Georgia pintails. Grytviken is truly a magical site; an old whaling station completely deserted where nature has taken over again. It has lots of history attached to it, with the final whales being caught in 1965, after which the station was closed. Now, Grytviken welcomes us to explore their gallery, church, post office and museum, where many of us did not only learn about the site and its history, but also went souvenir shopping!



It was a nice and calm afternoon, and everyone was eager to explore the site to its fullest; we joined the tours at 15:00 and 16:00 o'clock led by the local South Georgia Government staff and to gain more insights and information. When it was time to head back to the ship, we passed the final resting place of the great Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. When we get home, we will be raising a glass of Scotch whiskey in his honor, as this was his favorite!





Once we all had gotten back on the ship, it was time for a short recap, after which we all put our layers back on to get ready for the Antarctic BBQ! Here, food was served outside where we had a lovely and cosy dinner outside of Grytviken in Cumberland Bay. The weather was calm, the food was delicious, and the company was amazing, a fun night for sure! The night ended upon the dancefloor, after which (most of us) were ready for the next day!

Day 13 – Tuesday 13th February 2024

Leith Harbour and Fortuna Bay, South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 07.1' S / 036° 37.0' W

Wind: SSE-4 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C

Yet another big day lay ahead of us today as we pulled into Leith Harbour in the early hours of the morning. There was only little wind and the cloud was low, hugging the mountains surrounding the derelict whaling station, the largest in South Georgia. From distance we could see the huge oil and fuel tanks, the flensing plant, warehouses and other rust-coloured factory buildings. In amongst the rusty tractors and barrels were resting elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals, now the principal habitants of the area.



Just after breakfast we embarked zodiacs that took us ashore, just some hundreds of metres south of the whaling station buildings. The small landing cove was filled with fur seals and penguins, all enjoying their morning activities. As we got off the zodiacs, we could not stop photographing the wildlife that we were so privileged to observe from close distance. The expedition team offered us two hiking options.

First disembarked the long hikers who walked all the way up to the headwalls of the valley. Subsequently arrived the short hikers who spent their time a bit closer to the landing site, but who had more time to admire the daily life of all the amazing creatures that make South Georgia famous for: noisy female elephant seals, curious fur seal pups, and adorable and clumsy king

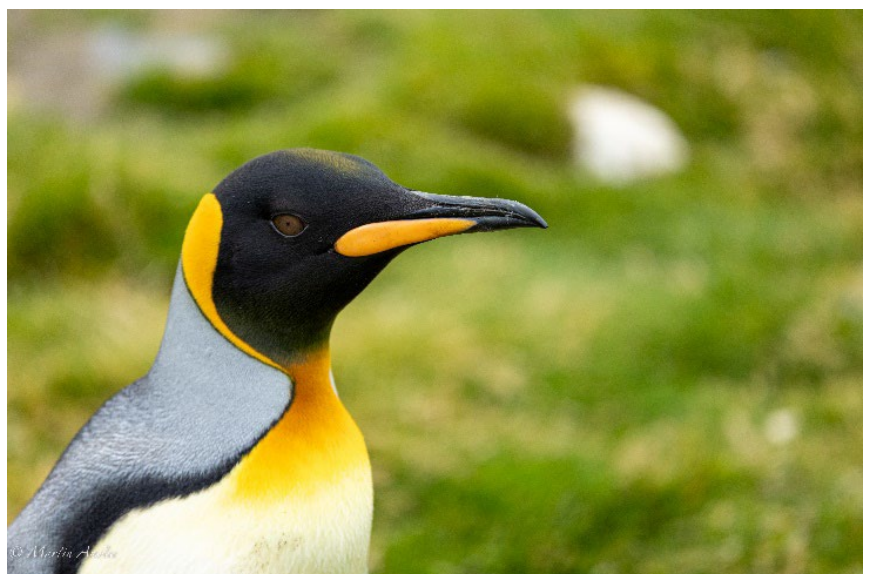
penguins. Everyone had a chance to go to a lake and a lookout point with a perspective over the entire Leith Harbour station. At about 11 AM it was time to get back to Hondius for lunch.

The time had come for our final South Georgia destination – Fortuna Bay. Located on the north shores of the island, Fortuna Bay is surrounded by a rugged, mountainous landscape and covered by rich, green tussock fields. Home to healthy populations of king Penguins, Antarctic fur Seals, elephant seals, brown skuas, giant petrel and Antarctic tern, this scenic bay was named after a co-owned Norwegian and Argentinian whaling ship.



We landed on the shore in two split groups, two-three hours one after another. The beach was just buzzing with king penguins and fur seals, they were just everywhere! We moved very slowly towards the Konig glacier at the head of Fortuna Bay, making stops every few steps to take pictures and videos of the amazing animal behaviours with our red-hot cell phones and cameras.

On our way to the lookout point at the end of the set-out route we crossed a small river which was filled by juvenile seals playing in the water. What an incredible chance to watch these little troublemakers close by! Once we reached the final lookout point, it was mesmerizing to watch the huge colony of king penguins gathering in one place. Seeing tens of penguins together is fantastic, but observing and listening to thousands of them was a different level of experience and an unforgettable moment for all of us.



After a couple of last hours spent with the penguins it was time to get back to Hondius. For many it is not easy to say goodbye to this wonderland, but it is not the end of our journey, as we are now setting sail towards the Falkland Islands.



Day 14 – Wednesday 14th February 2024

At sea, sailing towards the Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 53° 11.5' S / 042° 00.1' W

Wind: WSW-8 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Overcast/fog **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +6°C

14th of February - it's Valentine's Day! We woke up and enjoyed another breakfast in our Hondius home. Shortly after breakfast Hazel told us everything about humans' relationship with whales and dolphins. It was very interesting to listen to how these two species share connections and similarities.

After a short break and some coffee, we followed Chris's life story of how he became a field trainer at Scott Base, New Zealand's Antarctic research station deep in the Ross Sea. Chris' role was to teach scientists and other station personnel how to work and survive in the cold, and essential skills for working in remote regions.

It was then time for lunchtime, the food is just too good on the ship, and we are gaining more and more weight, it's fantastic.

After a short nap for some of us, Jerry and Saskia talked about the amazing race to the South Pole and how the tragedy end from Amundsen who was the first to reach the south pole and Scott who reached it a bit later too but died unfortunately on his way back.



At 4 o'clock it was time for our lovely snack from our bakery onboard. This time we had little cookies in heart shape to celebrate the day of love.

The last lecture of that day was given by Martin, our resident birder on board. He introduced all kinds of birds which we could encounter in the Falklands Islands. Martin was also once the policeman in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, so he had a wealth of local knowledge of both the place itself and its wildlife.



Before we headed to dinner, we listened to Chris and the plans for the next day and some more history and wildlife information in the recap by the expedition team. The day ended with a lovely dinner yet again made by the wonderful kitchen staff.

Day 15 – Thursday 15th February 2024

At sea, sailing towards the Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 52° 17.9' S / 051° 02.3' W

Wind: SW-5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Rain/fog **Air Temp:** +6°C **Sea Temp:** +9°C

We are still on our way to the Falkland/Malvinas Islands. After a very rocky start of the trip, the ocean is giving us a break and the swell has calmed down a little.

The lecture schedule started with Annelou and her talk – 'Ices cores: Archives of the past'. She explained how to sample ice cores and what kind of information do they provide.

Later in the morning Rose gave a talk called "Whaling History" in Mandarin in the Observation Lounge while Ursula gave a talk called 'Whaling: the Dark Times' in the Lecture Room.

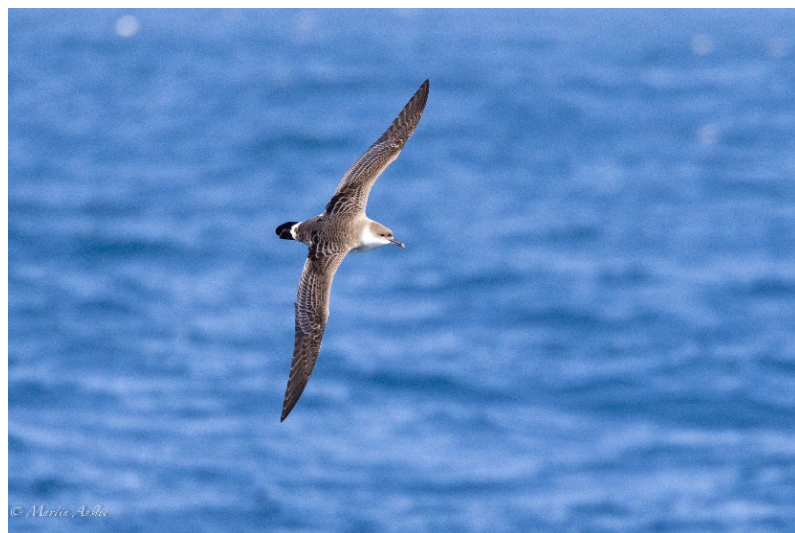
After lunch, the movie “Falklands War: The Untold Story” was projected in the Lecture Room with quite the audience.

Later in the afternoon Carina gave her talk about the M/V Hondius in the Observation Lounge, and a special guest joined her- Guntis Dizbite, the Hondius Chief Engineer. They told us all about the technical components of the ship, its size, layout, and things we didn’t even know existed onboard.



In the evening there was recap led by the Expedition Leader Chris where he explained the weather forecast and the plan for the next day. We would be arriving to Stanley in the Falkland Islands where we could go to town and enjoy some” city” vibes. Plated dinner was then served, and the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction was planned for the evening’s entertainment.

But first, Happy Hour! We had the opportunity to enjoy some drinks before the auction, to get us ready to spend some money for a good cause- helping with the maintenance and conservation of South Georgia’s wildlife, heritage, and environment.



Our hosts were Hazel, Rose, and Martin. Chris was the one to ‘model’ the item auctioned to the audience and make sure everyone had a good idea of what was at stake.

There were a few mystery items which were very exciting, these were things such as a zodiac lesson with Jerry, the opportunity of doing the ‘wake up’ call, the chance to get a picture with the expedition guides and the privilege of steering Hondius! Wow! These

were amazing prizes! The other prizes went from Shackleton’s whisky to penguin related items. One of the star items was the Oceanwide flag that has been sailing with us at the bow of Hondius since we left Ushuaia!

Another of the star items was our Expedition Leader Chris’ book “The Boy from Gorge River” and the opportunity to have dinner with him and get him to tell a few more adventures from his days in Scott Base, Antarctica. A beautiful hand decorated chart was also a desired prize illustrated by our talented Expedition Guides Annelou and Chloe.

The hosts did a fantastic job with the bidding. The night went very well with some good bidding fights over the fantastic prizes. At the end of the night ~4,300 GBP were raised for this good cause.

Thank you to all participants and for raising so much money for the South Georgia Heritage!

Day 16 – Friday 16th February 2024

Stanley, The Falkland Islands

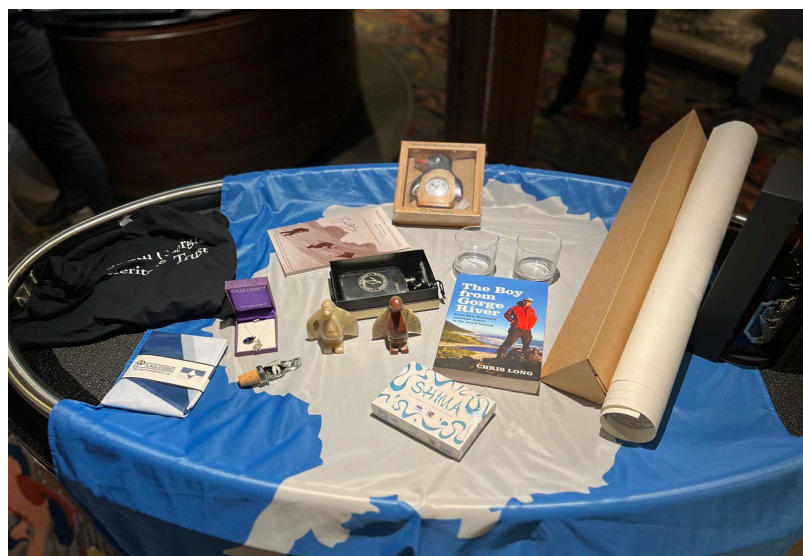
12:00 GPS Position: 51° 40.0' S / 057° 48.9' W

Wind: NNE-4 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Sunny **Air Temp:** +10°C **Sea Temp:** +12°C

The sky was light blue, the sun bright and the sea quite calm this morning when we the wake-up call sounded over the PA system. Although surrounded by the open ocean, we knew we were going to see land later in the morning when the Falkland Islands will raise out from the horizon.



After breakfast, Martin shared insights about his time living and working in Stanley. He first showed us the police station and the adjacent prison. His stories showed how much he enjoyed his time there thousands of kilometres away from the UK.



Later in the morning the silhouette of the island to the east appeared on the horizon and getting closer, numerous large blows rose into the sky. Most likely of sei whales, the smaller cousins of the fin whales we had seen in Antarctica. During lunch the Hondius passed the 'Narrows' and got to its anchor place not far from the pier.

Although the winds blew strong from the south, the offshore island sheltered us well. Soon the zodiacs were lowered to shuttle us to the pier where an impressive South American sea lion was napping, and

a vulture circled above.

At first it took a bit of extra attention to get used to the range rovers driving on the wrong side of the street. It didn't take long and all of us had walked away in various directions to visit souvenir shops and little cafés while some were much more drawn to the unique gin distillery, beer brewery and the pub farther up the streets.





Nobody however missed to take photos of the church with the impressive monument made of four gigantic blue whale jaws. Past the police station another must was to be visited. The Historic Dockyard Museum were countless objects presented the Islanders' lives some decades ago. Being so far from any settlement demanded hard work, modesty, great manual skills, and creativity well presented in the houses of the press and the blacksmith.

There was so much to see that time passed fast. Loaded with various gifts and filled with unique

impressions we returned home late in the afternoon. When all were back on board and Martin's return was also confirmed, the crew lifted anchor. Slowly we passed through the Narrows again taking course northeast to sail around the east coast.

After having spent more than two weeks at sea and stepping foot on the most remote places, today's visit of civilisation was quite a strong contrast. We all were happy to know that we were going to have two more days to land at remote places in the west to visit albatross and penguins.



Day 17 – Saturday 17th February 2024

Carcass Island, The Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 51° 18.4' S / 060° 33.3' W

Wind: NW-4 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Rain/overcast **Air Temp:** +11°C **Sea Temp:** +13°C

Chris had told us we needed to make the most out of the day, so we started with an early, 06:15, wake-up call and at 6:30 breakfast was ready in the dining room. It was our first landing in the Falklands, so we were all very eager to start the day at Carcass Island.



At 7:45, as usual, we were all dressed in full waterproofs, and board the firsts zodiacs heading to Leopard Beach were lots of Magellanic penguins were waiting for us, and this was our 6th species of penguin on this trip, WOW!

We started our long hike from Leopard Beach, along the shore, to the settlement of about 2.5 miles (4km). During our walk, we could see lots of kelp forests on the shore and enjoyed the landscape... as we could! We experienced typical Falkland Islands' weather: the wind was blowing, clouds were low, and, for some moments, it was

pouring rain and we could even hear some thunder in the distance. Nevertheless, the walk was beautiful.

The second group was dropped directly at the settlement, a beautiful little cottage surrounded by cypress trees and curious striated caracaras ('johnny rooks') where we were all invited for the traditional 'smoko' (tea, coffee and cookies) that was served in the main house from about 10 o'clock.

At the same time the divers were enjoying the diversity of the subantarctic kelp forest, just around the corner! Water temperature was 11°C, 20 divers in the water, nobody wanted to miss the first Falkland dive! Diversity was amazing- octopuses, spider crabs, sea stars, painted shrimps, sponges, amphipods, lots of egg sacs attached to the kelp and red algae. Dives lasted between 45 to 60min, a nice water temperature and so much to see, nobody wanted to come up!



Once we were back on the Hondius, we changed our wet clothes and went for lunch that our head chef Gaurav Bawa and all the gally team had kindly prepared for us. Shortly after lunch, Chris invited us to an early recap on activities for the afternoon and plans for tomorrow. Sadly, our afternoon visit to Saunders Island was cancelled due to wind (up to 45kn) and swell conditions. We knew this could happen, due to the forecast that our EL gave us, therefore we were ready for an exploration afternoon, and these types of things can happen during exploration.



At 16:30 Udo Engelhardt (one of the guests) gave a talk on climate change - 'One world, one climate, one (last) chance'. Udo is the Chief Scientist of the Climate Task Force, and his lecture really alerted us on the urgency of thinking and pursuing systematic solutions for reverting climate change.

After Udo's talk, plated dinner was served in the Dining Room, and to wrap up this brilliant day, Richard Stanton (another guest) told us about his cave diving

experiences before the rescue in Thailand. What a mysterious world, that of caves!

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



Day 18 – Sunday 18th February 2024

West Point Island, The Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 51° 20.7' S / 060° 40.0' W

Wind: N-4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +10°C **Sea Temp:** +12°C

This morning many of us were up and about before the wake-up call from Chris. The brightness shining through the curtains had got us to the windows and portholes and a stunning sunrise was the reason. In stark contrast to yesterday, the skies had cleared, and the sun was rising above the horizon. As usual the wake-up call came exactly on time with another sumptuous breakfast just a few minutes later.



It was then time to get ready for our morning at Westpoint Island. The zodiacs were waiting at the shell doors to take us the short distance to the sheltered bay where we would see the jetty in front of the small settlement at Westpoint Island. Westpoint, as well as being the home to several species of birds, is a working sheep farm. There are 200 sheep on Westpoint and today was the day when they would get sheared. Once safely on shore we walked the 2.2 kilometres across the Island towards the highlight of the morning, the black-browed albatross colony. The first part of the walk was uphill, which some found a little steep, but once on to it was fairly flat for the majority of the time.



We followed the flags through gates and fields, empty of the sheep that had been taken in for shearing towards our destination. For the few people on board that were struggling, a Landrover was available to assist on the journey to the albatross.

At the farthest point we were greeted with the sight of many beautiful, fluffy chicks sitting on their 'pots' otherwise known as nests! The chicks could be described as fluffy slippers as they sat with their heads down resting and digesting their last meal of squid. The adults were flying all around us; we could hear the wind in their wings as the birds flew so closely above our heads as they swooped around the colony. It was a truly memorable time. We could really appreciate just how big these birds were! It was not only the albatrosses that were the stars, because they live side by side with rockhopper penguins. The rockhopper is one of the smaller penguins but it makes up for this with its large character and flamboyant yellow eyebrows or tufts.



Sadly, this was to be our last landing and all too quickly it was time to head back along the track (all downhill) back to the farm and the jetty and the zodiac back to Hondius. On the way back the sun shone, the birds were flying around the gorse bushes, and it had turned into a beautiful, sunny, Falkland Islands summer morning. As we returned to the ship it was time for another fantastic lunch and then an afternoon of relaxing as we set sail on the way home back to Ushuaia.



Day 19 – Monday 19th February 2024

At sea, sailing towards Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 33.6' S / 064° 43.7' W

Wind: NNW-3 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +8°C **Sea Temp:** +10°C

Our last day at sea! The time has flown by so quickly, yet it feels like forever ago that we crossed the Drake Passage. Luckily this crossing back to Ushuaia via The Falklands wasn't too bad, with most of us by now gained our impressive sea legs! The day was full to the brim of course with lots of education and entertainment on the agenda.

First up was Clara in the Lecture Room giving us a fascinating talk about plankton, 'Tiny but mighty'. And these microscopic organisms were sure mighty! We learnt that



plankton can come in both the 'animal' form- zooplankton, and the 'plant' form- phytoplankton. And that even larger animals like Antarctic krill (which can reach up to 7cm in length!), to small fishes, are also classified as plankton when they are in their larval and juvenile stages! An organism is basically considered plankton if it is carried by the currents in the water and cannot swim well enough on its own. Some plankton drift through the water column for their entire life cycle!

Next up was some more of the Expedition Team presenting a 'wildlife medley' which included tidbits and fun facts about numerous Antarctic and subantarctic species. After yet another delicious lunch, we joined Chris for his talk about other destinations Oceanwide travels too. I know some of us have well and truly caught the 'polar bug' and are now considering exploring the Arctic!

The afternoon included a Hondius Pub Quiz (Part II!) to further test our knowledge (and memories). Hosted by Joyce and Chloe, we were tested on not only how well we paid attention to the lectures and recaps about Antarctic wildlife and history, but how well we have been paying attention to our home of the last 20 days – the ship! We had a series of pictures and audio clips of random sounds, textures, and objects from around the ship which we had to name, and it was a laugh hearing the iconic 'toilet flush' and 'cabin key card scanner'. It was a great way to finish off the day at sea, and we could sense just how close we were getting to dry land now as the sea was very calm, and trees were becoming in sight.

At 18:15 we joined the Captain and Expedition Team in the lounge for a farewell toast to the voyage and a viewing of the slideshow that Elizabeth impressively put together. What a wonderful memento to take home with us and show our families.

After dinner, the evening carried on with celebratory drinks, more card games and lots of exchanging of contact details. For the past 20 days, a lot of us became great friends and we started to organize when we may visit each other in each other's corners of the world again. This trip was amazing not only for the incredible scenery, landscapes, and wildlife, but the people.

Day 20 – Monday 20th February 2024

Ushuaia, Argentina

07:00 GPS Position: 54° 51.8 'S / 068° 01.9 'W

Wind: S-4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +6°C **Sea Temp:** +11°C

We arrived in Ushuaia late last night, and it was a real surprise to wake up to the sounds of civilization! Oh how we miss the quiet yet noisy sounds of remote South Georgia, the crackling of ice of Antarctica, and the howling wind spindrift over the water in the Falklands. But alas, it is time to head home.

Our bags were packed, our minds full of memories, and our bellies full with our last sumptuous breakfast in the dining room. We were ready to disembark the Hondius for the last time. It was bittersweet; a mixture of sadness that our journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica had come to an end, but also a feeling of completeness, and accomplishment, that we made it to this incredibly remote region of the world and experienced so much.

We waved goodbye to the crew and staff and then scattered into the city, off to the airport, or some for a much-needed hike among the first in the national parks of Tierra Del Fuego. Over the last 20 days we have experienced some of the planet's most untouched and pristine land and seascapes. We have observed thousands of species thriving in their natural environments, some of whom were hunted to the brink of extinction less than a century ago, yet now their numbers have recovered immensely due to the great efforts of conservation, policy, and research. We have learnt inspiring new things about the polar environment and our precious oceans, and we must protect them for a sustainable future for all.

We will have many, many memories that will live forever in our minds. Hopefully many of us will think of these untouched landscapes, abundant species colonies, and pristine environments for years to come and endeavour to protect and conserve wildlife and their habitats for not only the future generation, but for the future of our planet's biodiversity.

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

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3, 743.2 nautical miles

Farthest point south: 64° 49 ' 43.70" S / 063° 30' 25.11"W

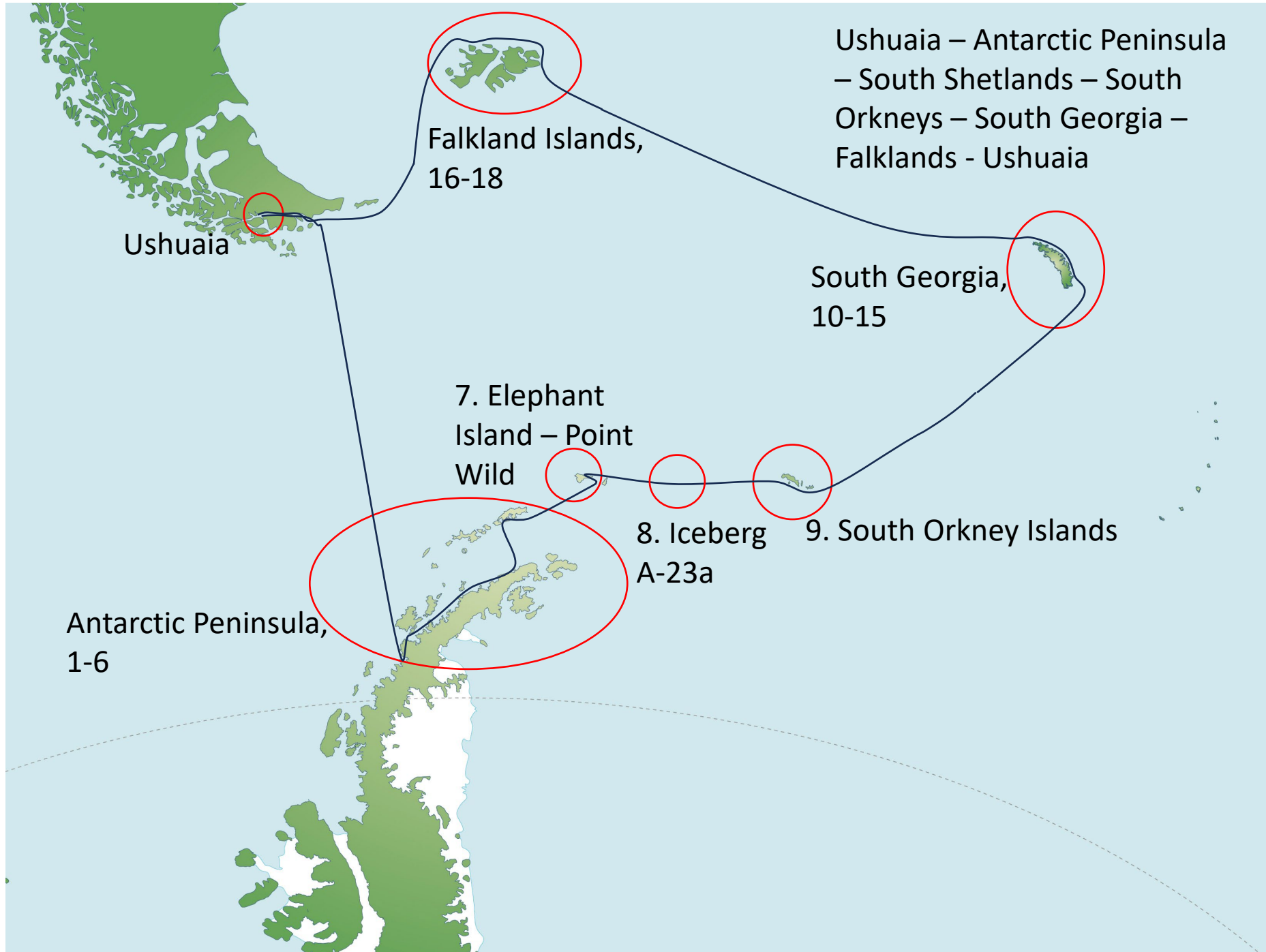
Your Expedition Team!

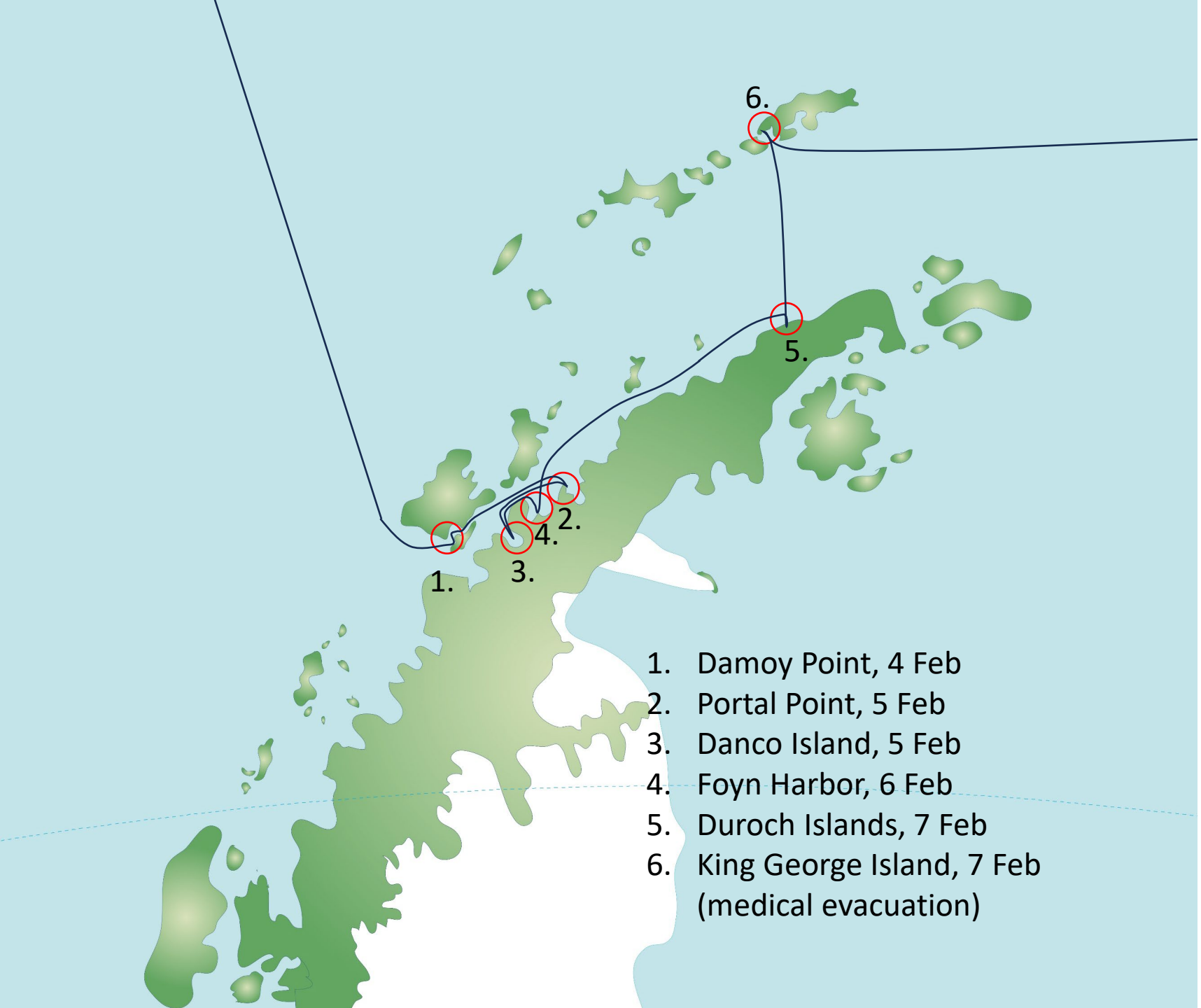


On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Artur Lakovlev, Expedition Leader Christian Long, and his team, Hotel Manager William Barnes, and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!



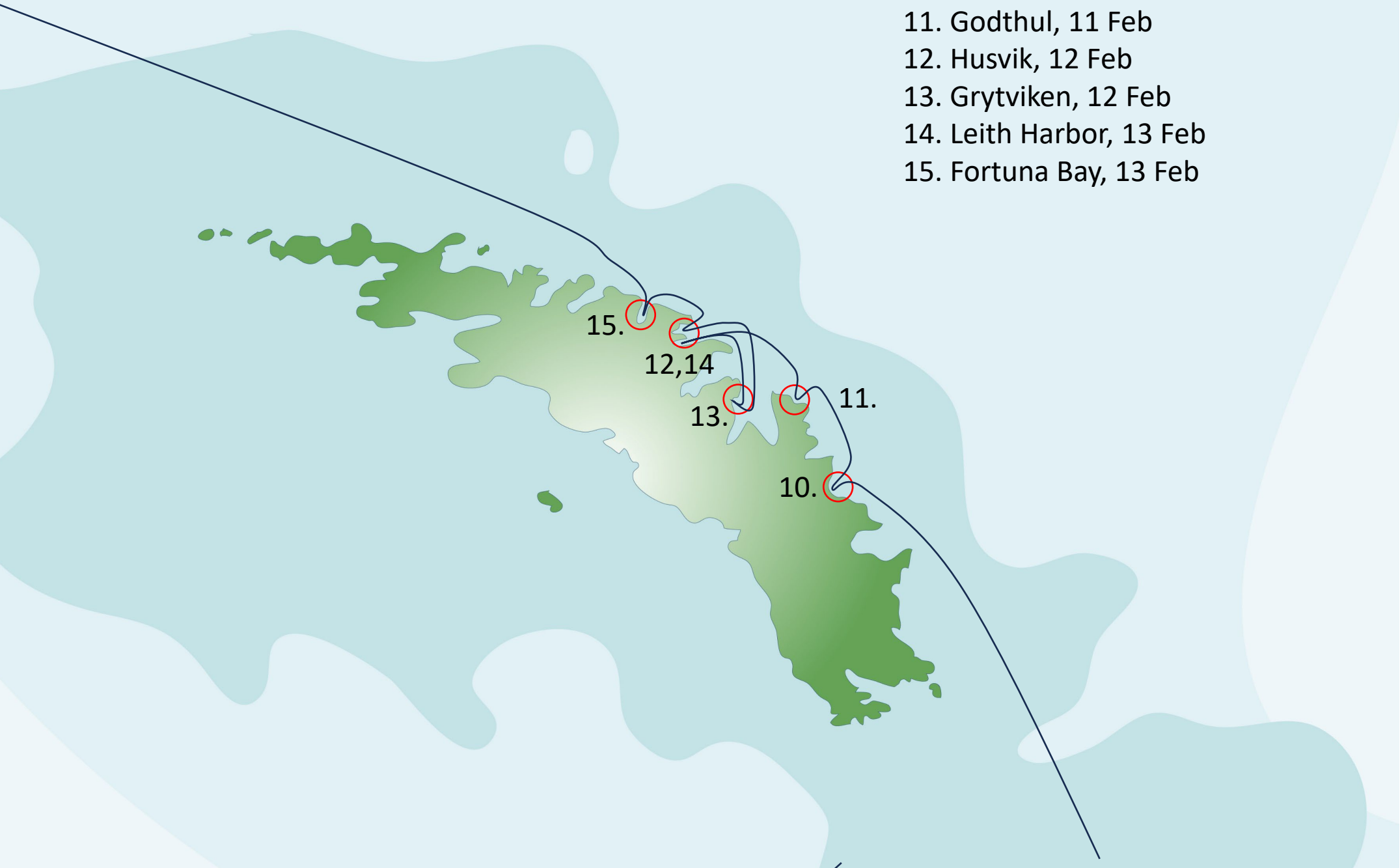
OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS





- 1. Damoy Point, 4 Feb
- 2. Portal Point, 5 Feb
- 3. Danco Island, 5 Feb
- 4. Foyen Harbor, 6 Feb
- 5. Duroch Islands, 7 Feb
- 6. King George Island, 7 Feb
(medical evacuation)

- 10. St. Andrews Bay, 11 Feb
- 11. Godthul, 11 Feb
- 12. Husvik, 12 Feb
- 13. Grytviken, 12 Feb
- 14. Leith Harbor, 13 Feb
- 15. Fortuna Bay, 13 Feb



- 16. Port Stanley, 16 Feb
- 17. Carcass Island, 17 Feb
- 18. West Point Island, 18 Feb



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Region Including Falkland Islands and South Georgia: February 1st - 20th 2024

English	Latin	Dates	1-feb	2-feb	3-feb	4-feb	5-feb	6-feb	7-feb	8-feb	9-feb	10-feb	11-feb	12-feb	13-feb	14-feb	15-feb	16-feb	17-feb	18-feb	19-feb	20-feb
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>																	x	x	x		
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>																	x	x	x		
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>																					
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>																					
Falkland Flightless Steamer	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>																	x	x	x		
Crested Duck	<i>Lophanetta specularioides</i>																					
Chiloe Widgeon	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>																					
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>																	x				
Silver Teal	<i>Spatula versicolor</i>																					
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>																					
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica georgica</i>												x	x	x							
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>																					
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>																					
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>																					
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>												x	x	x							
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>								x													
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>					x	x	x	x					x	x				x	x		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>						x		x	x												
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>												x									
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>																				x	
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>																	x	x	x		
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>			x												x	x	x				
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																					
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>			x												x	x	x				
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>		x	x					x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>								x	x	x	x				x	x	x				
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>									x	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	x	x	x	x	x	x
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>								x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>									x	x			x	x							
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>																					
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>						x				x	x										
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>																					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>			x	x					x				x	x							
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>								x	x						x	x	x				
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>																					
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>																					
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>																					
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>																x	x				
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>															x	x	x				
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>								x	x	x	x				x	x	x				x
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>																					
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>																			x	x	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fuegian Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus chilensis</i>																					
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>								x	x		x	x		x	x						
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>																				x	
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>												x	x	x	x						
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>																					
South Georgia Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>						x	x							x							
Snowy Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>																			x	x	
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>																	x	x	x	x	
South Georgia Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax georgianus</i>												x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>																					
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>						x	x		x											x	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>																	x	x	x		

Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>																					
Red-backed Hawk	<i>Buteo polyosoma</i>																x	x	x			
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalacrocorax australis</i>																					
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>																					
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>																					
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>																					
Two-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>																					
Rufous-chested Dotterel	<i>Charadrius modestus</i>																					
Magellanic Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraquaiiae magellanica</i>																					
Falkland Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>																x	x	x			
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>																					x
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>																					
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>				x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x								
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>		x														x	x	x			
Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>																x					
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>		x			x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>																					
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>					x	x	x								x	x	x				
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>																					
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussack)	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus antarcticus</i>																x	x	x			
Dark-faced Ground-tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola m. macloviana</i>																x	x	x			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>																x					
Cobb's Wren	<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>																					
Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>																					
Falkland Thrush	<i>Turdus falklandii falklandii</i>																x	x	x			
Long-tailed Meadow Lark	<i>Sturnella loyca falklandica</i>																					x
Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>																					
South Georgia Pipit	<i>Anthus antarcticus</i>										x	x	x	x								
White-browed Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>																x	x				
Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>																x	x				
Marine mammals		Dates	1-feb	2-feb	3-feb	4-feb	5-feb	6-feb	7-feb	8-feb	9-feb	10-feb	11-feb	12-feb	13-feb	14-feb	15-feb	16-feb	17-feb	18-feb	19-feb	20-feb
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>					x	x		x													
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					x	x	x											x			
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>																					
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>				x																	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>																		x			
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>																					
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>																					
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>							x														
Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>																x					
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>											x			x							x
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>																		x		x	
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>																					
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>																		x		x	
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>							x														
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>					x	x															
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirovunga leonin</i>												x	x	x							
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>					x	x	x	x				x	x	x							
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>																					
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>																		x			

Chris Long – Expedition Leader



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

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

off to explore what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River, Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 65 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, East Antarctica and the Atlantic Ocean.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska on a small yacht and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway. Here he endured two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races. He also guides with Oceanwide in Svalbard each summer.

In 2022, Chris published a best-selling autobiography "*The Boy From Gorge River*" and when he is not at sea you will find him training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license or exploring a new corner of the globe.

Hazel Pittwood -Assistant Expedition Leader



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. A childhood spent pond dipping, bug hunting and exploring the countryside and coast nurtured her love of the natural world.

She has worked in practical conservation and community engagement roles for a variety of habitats, including heathland and coastal nature reserves. Hazel also has experience surveying rare protected species and is a trained wildlife rescue volunteer and marine mammal medic.

Whilst she is broadly learned about the natural world, Hazel has specialised in marine mammals and seabirds since 2014. At that time, she began volunteering as a marine mammal and seabird surveyor, collecting sightings data regarding these animals for UK based conservation charities. In 2017 she worked on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months, delivering talks and leading wildlife watching sessions out on deck.

Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise ships for over three years. This role has taken her to Norway and Svalbard, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, the Faroe Islands, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and Central America. She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

The polar regions host an incredible diversity of seabird and marine mammal species, and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

Jerry Zhao – Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide



Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has just spent a month in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day.

Chloe Power - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joyce Mulder – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide



Annelou grew up in a seaside town in the Netherlands known for its navy base and fisheries. There she spent most of her time sailing, hiking, or looking for shiny rocks and shells on the beach. This is where her passion for the Earth began, which she decided to turn into her career.

Annelou specialized in Earth Sciences and graduated from Utrecht University. She specialized in physical geography, where her focus is on land-surface processes, natural hazards, geomorphology, climate reconstruction and climate changes and a minor in sustainability.

The connection between the academic and practical aspects of Earth Sciences, which involves a lot of fieldwork and is highly hands-on, is what she enjoys most. She loves to share her understanding of the Earth in general and the Arctic in particular. She also got a special interest in the history of whaling as it played a large role in her hometown's history.

She is overjoyed to be able to combine her passion for the Earth with traveling the seas by ship.

In her free time she still loves to collect shiny rocks. Most of the time she can be found on the water sailing somewhere in Europe with her family, hiking, or, when at home, bouldering and climbing.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez

Expedition Guide



Aitana is a passionate oceanographer and adventurer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as a polar guide. Originally from Spain, she spent 12 years in New Zealand, where she earned her PhD in Physical Oceanography— focusing on unravelling the mysteries of how the ocean moves.

Her expertise extends to large-scale currents, waves, ice and water mass formation, and climate, with an unwavering enthusiasm for discussing these topics. Aitana's conversations can seamlessly

transition from the intricacies of oceanography to her love for endurance sports and the art of knitting.

With a strong background in ocean-going fieldwork, Aitana served as the Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, a groundbreaking initiative examining the export of cold water from the Ross Sea. She made history as one of the most junior-ever physical scientists to assume the role of voyage leader on the R V Tangaroa, New Zealand's esteemed research vessel, during an oceanographic voyage to the Southern Ocean.

Aitana's career has been as diverse as the marine environments she has explored. From driving a weather boat for two editions of the America's Cup as a meteorological technician to transitioning into the private sector, where she provided vital marine forecasts for port operations and Defence exercises. In these roles she has been a key player in ensuring the safety and efficiency of maritime operations. When adventure allows it, Aitana shares her knowledge with university students as an associate lecturer, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

In her free time, Aitana is an avid open water swimmer, a dedicated communicator and content creator, and a seeker of unconventional road trips off the beaten path.

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



Originally from China, Rose Li Graduated from Wuhan college with a major in Interior Design. She has worked on well-known international cruise ships since 2014 as an expedition guide and in Asia as a VIP services shift leader and Head cruise ambassador on a Mediterranean cruise line.

She has worked in the polar regions since 2017, as expedition guide, Zodiac driver, Chinese interpreter and guest services manager.

She has many talents such as dancing, drawing, skiing, hosting, and loves creating new activities. Her two academic passions are history and geology.

During her spare time, she has continued to develop her passion for traveling, and has visited more than 40 countries and looks forward to visiting many others in the near future.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Ursula Tscherter - Expedition Guide



She grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of her childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed her life radically. She gave up her original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation she combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

She is a true minke whale enthusiast. A thousands of hours she observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years she obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). She nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 she started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home she produced life-sized foldable animals, which she carries to schools and ships. Visit her lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as her urge to learn and explore is her need to share her knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach her at any time, as she loves to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

Saskia van der Meij – Expedition Guide



Saskia is an enthusiastic girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Multiple-day hikes in the Andes or the Himalayas, kayaking around remote islands in Canada or camping on mountain tops overlooking Alaska's glaciers.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In that time, while co-guiding a trip in Iceland, she knew she wanted to be a nature guide.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant hotel manager in two different private game lodges. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen and became an expedition guide on several ships. She called Antarctica home for three months last winter/summer. As a camping guide she took guests out for a night on this amazing continent.

She has a wide interest and understanding, from animals and landscapes to ice and history with its interesting explorer stories.

Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these breathtaking destinations.

Julia Angermeier - Expedition Guide



Julia was born Germany in a small village outside of Frankfurt.

She has always had a love of the outdoors. Camping, hiking, mountaineering, kayaking have been her favorite activities since her childhood.

She started her professional career as an Intensive Care Nurse in 1998 and finished her studies in 2003. She continues this profession today in her time off.

The majority of her time, however, is spent in Puerto Natales (Chile) where

she works as a trekking and outdoor guide in Torres Del Paine Nationalpark and other regions in Patagonia some of the most remote and beautiful parts of the world.

In 2019 she started working as a camping- and expedition guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in Antarctica. From the first day on she fell in love with the beautiful and breathtaking nature of the deep south. Becoming a Polar guide was now her goal.

Julia's "Speciality" are still people...telling the known and unknown stories of the most interesting people in the history of exploration of the polar regions became her passion.

Another passion of her is connecting people with nature, and showing the beauty around them. Getting people away from their computers, social media and stress, and giving them a life changing experience.

Julia looks forward to sharing these amazing adventures with her guests on every trip.

Henrik Enckell - Dive Team Leader



Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first persons to bring tourists diving in Antarctica

He has been diving for over 30 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions for more than 20 years and has supervised thousands of dives in polar waters. Henrik also works as a submersible pilot and surface officer.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and has previously lived and worked in Japan and India several years before becoming an expedition guide full time. He now lives in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters and his son.

Peter Nilsson – Dive Guide



Peter is a Swedish diver with a great interest in diving and the marine life. He started to dive in 1996 and ever since those days, diving has been his greatest passion. For many years, all focus was on tropical marine life, but since the last 10 years, he has been diving a lot on the wrecks in Sweden.

Peter is member of a Canadian / Swedish team that works with the salvage of a Canadian Halifax bomber that went down during the World War II. Every year, the team organizes and dives on the wreck and bring up as much of it as possible. The pieces are brought

to a bomber museum in Canada where they eventually will be put together to a complete Halifax bomber.

Peter is ready for a unique polar diving experience with you!

Lorenzo Begaud – Dive Guide



Lorenzo grew up in France far from the sea in the Champagne region. In 2012 he went to Patagonia on his first adventure to work in a local tour operator guiding hikes & kayak trips in Puerto Natales, Chile, gateway to the famous Torres del Paine National Park.

That was an eye opening experience and ever since, he never stop traveling and exploring new places. He has been working all over the world for the past 10 years, from Africa to Antarctica, through South, Central & North America, Australia, and all around the Nordic countries.

His biggest appeal? Meeting new people, blending into new culture & lifestyle but also going to remote places to enjoy a “simpler” life. Going out of his comfort zone and learning new things is what keeps him going.

Few years ago he turned his passions into work and decided to dedicate himself full time to outdoor activities by leading people to experience the beauty of the wilderness.

After hard work and plenty of trainings he became really comfortable above and under the water as he works now mostly as dive & kayak guide / instructor.

From leading snowmobile trips and northern lights hunts in Lapland to dive in the Sac Actun cave system in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, he's sure always eager to learn something new.

Life is a journey and you should make sure you make the best of it while having plenty fun on the way.

Clara Iachetti – Dive Guide



Clara is Argentinean, who is born in Buenos Aires. Since she was a child Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. In 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and a European M.Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. Since 2012 she has been working in the Austral Centre of Scientific Investigations (CADIV- CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra de Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful algal blooms, and

nowadays as a researcher at CADIC. For the last 10 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending some time in the Shetland Islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

On top of her scientist career, she is a member of Beagle Secretos del Mar, a non-profit organisation that supports marine conservation in which she is responsible for the education program, lecturing and diving. Living in Ushuaia (and previously in Bariloche) has also led her passion towards mountaineering, mainly backcountry skiing and climbing.

Dr. Lars Engelhardt – Ship’s Doctor



My name is Dr. Lars Engelhardt, and I am very happy to accompany you as your ship’s doctor.

In “real” life, I work as an anaesthetist and emergency & intensive care doctor at the Brandenburg Heart Centre in Bernau close to Berlin, Germany.

I live in Berlin, and I am a father to two wonderful kids.

After finishing school in Hanau/Main in 1990, I worked as a paramedic, before studying human medicine in Marburg/Lahn and later at the “Freie Universität Berlin”. I successfully completed my studies with a degree in medicine in 2000.

I started my employment as a doctor in 2000 at the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine at the Charité University Medicine Berlin. There I gained my doctorate (equivalent to PhD) and specialised in anaesthesiology. Further on, I acquired an additional qualification in emergency medicine.

I have been working in Bernau close to Berlin since 2011 at the Brandenburg Heart Centre as senior physician. In 2012, I obtained the additional qualification in intensive care medicine.

I love travelling and spending time in the outdoors. Hiking, tenting, and kayaking are one of my passions, as well as photography. I have been interested in polar and subpolar regions for a long time and was lucky to attend a trip to Antarctica as a ship’s doctor in Nov 2022. I am really looking forward to another journey into the ice and being your ship’s doctor during this trip.



Antarctica Welcome aboard!

Date: 1st February 2024

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the bar located on Deck 5.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the **Restaurant on Deck 4** All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:00+/- We would like to invite you to **Captains Cocktails** in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and you will meet your Expedition Team.

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

20:15 The Expedition Team invites you the Observation Lounge on Deck 5 for the **MANDATORY IAATO and Zodiac** briefing. Attendance will be checked.

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

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica

Date: 2nd February 2024

Day 2: Drake Passage

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30 The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to Deck 3, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you.
- 10:30 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:30 Please join Hazel in the Observation Lounge on deck 5 for a lecture about Albatross and other birds of the Drake Passage.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please join Martin in the Lounge for a presentation about Photography.
- 16:15 Elizabeth invited you to join her in the Observation Lounge on deck 5 for a presentation titled 'Cetaceans of Antarctica'
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica

Date: 3rd February 2024

Day 3: Approaching Antarctica

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Joyce the lecture room for her lecture, “Exploring the wonders of the deep ocean floor in Antarctica”
- 10:00 **Divers only:** Please join the dive guide team for weight belt preparation (deck 3) and regulator check (lecture room)
- 10:30 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **30 mins Wildlife Watch**.
- 11:15 Please join Jakub in the Observation Lounge for a lecture titled ‘On thin ice – why do we need it?’.
- 11:15 Jerry invites all mandarin speakers to the lecture room for his lecture about “Ice”. This will be given in Mandarin.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+ We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY IAATO Biosecurity** down on Deck 3. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the expedition staff to check. **Please do not wear your gear to the inspection, just bring it with you.** Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to Deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been checked and approved.
- 16:30 Aitana invites you to join her in the Observation lounge for her lecture about entitled ‘How The Oceans Move’
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica

Date: 4th February 2024

Day 4: Damoy Point and Jougla Point

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a landing at Damoy Point. Dress warmly as the wind will be increasing during the morning.
- 08:30+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a Zodiac cruise of Damoy Point. Dress warmly as the wind will be increasing during the morning.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a zodiac cruise at Jougla Point. Please have your waterproofs and lifejackets on when you come to the shell doors
- 14:00+/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 14:00+/- We will have the **Penguin Post Office** onboard and we invite the **Orange** group upstairs to deck 5 where we will take turns in the souvenir shop in the lecture room. Please bring your credit cards for payments.
- 16:00+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a zodiac cruise at Jougla Point. Please have your waterproofs and lifejackets on when you come to the shell doors.
- 16:00+/- We will have the **Penguin Post Office** onboard and we invite the **Blue** group upstairs to deck 5 where we will take turns in the souvenir shop in the lecture room. Please bring your credit cards for payments.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

“For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.”
– Raymond Priestley



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica

Date: 5th February 2024

Day 5: Portal Point and Danco Island

06:15 Wake-up call.

06:30-07:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

07:45+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a continental landing at Portal Point

07:45 +/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready

08:00+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a Zodiac cruise around Portal Point

Please note the groups will swap during the morning.
Everyone will get the chance for a zodiac cruise and landing.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

13:15 Saskia invites you to the Observation lounge for her lecture about the Famous Belgica/Gerlache expedition

13:15 Rose invites you to the lecture room for her lecture in Mandarin about Heroic age of Antarctic Exploration - The famous Belgian Expedition

15:00+/- We invite the **Orange** Group for a landing at Danco Island

15:00 +/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready

15:15+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Danco Island

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

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

19:30 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

*"The difficult is what takes a little time; the impossible is what takes a little longer" –
Fridjof Nansen*



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica

Date: 6th February

Day 6: Foyn Harbour

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 Please join Elizabeth in the Observation Lounge for her lecture about humpback whales: 'The Charismatic Ocean Traveller'
- 11:00 Please join Faith Ortins from Blue Green Expeditions for a talk about the underwater life of Antarctica from a diver's perspective
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise in Foyn Harbour
- 13:30 +/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 13:45+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a Zodiac cruise in Foyn Harbour
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica

Date: 6th February

Day 6: Foyn Harbour

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 Please join Elizabeth in the Observation Lounge for her lecture about humpback whales: 'The Charismatic Ocean Traveller'
- 11:00 Please join Faith Ortins from Blue Green Expeditions for a talk about the underwater life of Antarctica from a diver's perspective
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise in Foyn Harbour
- 13:30 +/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 13:45+/- We invite the **Blue** Group for a Zodiac cruise in Foyn Harbour
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 7th February 2024

Day 7: Duroch Islands and Gourdin Island

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

We have a long transit overnight to reach this morning's planned destination and, owing to ice conditions, we are unsure what time we will arrive at Duroch Islands; the times given are likely to change: please listen for announcements.

08:15 +/- We invite the **Blue** group for a landing and zodiac cruise at Duroch Island.

08:15 +/- Please can all divers/snorkellers begin getting ready

08:30 +/- We invite the **Orange** group for a landing and zodiac cruise at Duroch Island.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

13:30 +/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise of Gourdin Island.

13:30 +/- Please can all divers/snorkellers begin getting ready

13:45 +/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise of Gourdin Island.

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

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

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

- Rose Elizabeth Bird



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 7th February 2024

Day 7: Duroch Islands and Expedition Afternoon

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

We have a long transit overnight to reach this morning's planned destination and, owing to ice conditions, we are unsure what time we will arrive at Duroch Islands; the times given are likely to change: please listen for announcements.

08:15 +/- We invite the **Blue** group for a landing and zodiac cruise at Duroch Island.

08:15 +/- Please can all divers/snorkellers begin getting ready

08:30 +/- We invite the **Orange** group for a landing and zodiac cruise at Duroch Island.

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

14:00 +/- Please join Chloe in the Observation Lounge for her lecture about the Seal species of the Southern Ocean

16:00 +/- Please join Saskia in the Observation Lounge for a history lecture

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

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

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

- Rose Elizabeth Bird



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 8th February 2024

Day 8

07:45 Wake up

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

09:15 Please join Annelou in the lounge for a presentation titled: Antarctica as a comparison to Mars & outer space.

11:00 Ship cruise of Elephant Island, Point Wild.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:00 **MANDATORY** South Georgia and Biosecurity Briefing in the Observation Lounge. Attendance will be checked: please be on time.

16:00 Please join Ursula in the Lecture Room for her presentation on feeding ecology: Incredible Hunting Strategies of Whales and Dolphins.

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

17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

18:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Sometime this evening we are hoping to pass by the enormous A23a iceberg.

A23a is a large tabular iceberg which calved from the Filchner–Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986. It was then stuck on the seabed for many years but then started moving in 2020. Its area is about 3,900 square kilometres (1,500 sq. mi) with dimensions of 40 x 32 nautical miles.
(Happy feet will be delayed until another day!)

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 8th February 2024

Day 8

07:45 Wake-up call

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

Depending on our departure time from King George Island there may be changes to this program. Please listen to announcements throughout the day for any changes.

09:15 Please join Annalou in the lounge for a presentation titled: Antarctica as a comparison to Mars & outer space.

11:00 Joyce invites you to the Lecture Room for his presentation: Sub-zero survival, how wildlife battles the cold temperatures.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:00 **MANDATORY** South Georgia and Biosecurity Briefing in the lounge. Attendance will be checked, please be on time.

15:30 Please join us for Hot chocolate and wildlife watch on the bow.

16:00 Please join Ursula in the Lecture Room for her presentation, Feeding ecology - Incredible hunting Strategies of Whales and Dolphins.

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

17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

18:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

20:30 We will be screening Happy Feet One, in the lecture room with pop corn!

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 9th February 2024 – Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快乐!

Day 9

07:45 Wake- up call.

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

09:15 Please join Jerry in the Observation Lounge for his lecture about Shackleton and his Men, in Mandarin.

11:00 We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY** South Georgia Biosecurity down on Deck 3. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to Deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.

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

14:00 We will be approaching Shingle Cove on the South Orkney Islands and we invite you to the bridge or out on deck if they are open to enjoy the spectacle of these rugged and isolated islands.

14:30-16:30 We invite all those interested to the dining room for Chinese New Year Dumpling Making!

我们邀请所有嘉宾一起前往餐厅参加新年包饺子活动!

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

21:00 We invite all passengers to the observation lounge for Chinese New Year celebrations. There will be entertainment and the bar will be open until late.

邀请所有嘉宾到观景厅庆祝中国新年，和探险队员们参加晚间新年趣味，酒吧将营业至深夜



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 10th February 2024

Day 10: Scotia Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Annalou in the Lecture Room for a lecture titled 'South Georgia: an introduction from an Earth Science perspective'
- 11:00 Please join Elizabeth in the Observation Lounge for her presentation 'Orcas: Antarctica's Iconic Species'

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

- 13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:15 Please join Joyce in the Lecture Room for her lecture titled 'Subzero survival: cold-adaptations of Antarctic wildlife'.
- 15:30 Can the last people who still need to complete **Mandatory** South Georgia biosecurity please come down to deck three to be checked by the expedition team.
- 16:00 Please join Jakub in the Observation Lounge for his presentation 'Ten things you must know about icebergs'
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30 We invite you to the Lecture Room where diver Rick Stanton will be giving a talk about his experience of the Thailand cave rescue.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 11 February 2024

Day 11: St Andrew's Bay and Godthul Inlet

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Clara in the Lecture Room for her lecture about Sub-Antarctic Kelp Forests
- 11:00+/- *We are due to arrive at **St Andrew's Bay in South Georgia**; this spectacular area has a population of over 150,000 King Penguins and large numbers of both Southern Elephant and Antarctic Fur Seals. Join the Expedition Team out on deck as we ship cruise the Bay. Please listen for announcements in case this time changes.*
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+/- We invite the **Orange** group ashore at Godthul. During the course of the afternoon the groups will swap activity
- 13:30+/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 13:45+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Godthul. During the course of the afternoon the groups will swap activity
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

- 18:30 BBQ dinner will be served outdoors on deck 5 aft... dress warmly!

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 12th February 2024

Day 12: Hercules Bay and Grytviken

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:15+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay

08:15+/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready

08:30+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay

11:15-12:30 **MANDATORY BIOSECURITY on deck 3. We will call you by deck.**

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

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

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

IMPORTANT

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

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

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

18:30 BBQ dinner will be served outside! Dress warm and let's enjoy some fresh air, food and music!



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 13th February 2024

Day 13, Leith and Fortuna Bay

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We invite the long hikers to the shell door for a landing at Leith Harbour.
- 08:15 +/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 08:45+/- We invite all other guests for a landing at Leith Harbour.
- 11:30-12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+/- We invite the **Orange** group for a landing at Fortuna Bay
- 13:30 +/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 14:00+/- Ursula invites you to the lounge for her lecture about Minke Whales
- 16:00+/- We invite the **Blue** group for a landing at Fortuna Bay
- 16:30 Rose invites you to the lounge for her lecture about Ocean Pollution in Mandarin
- 19:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

- 19:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 21:00 Happy Feet One will be screened in the lecture room with popcorn!

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 14th February 2024

Day 14: Heading towards Falkland Islands

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Hazel in the Lounge for her talk entitled 'Humans and Cetaceans: Our Relationship with Whales and Dolphins'
- 11:00 Please join Chris in the Observation Lounge for his lecture entitled 'Living in Antarctica: New Zealand's Scott Base'
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:15 Please join Saskia in the Observation lounge for her lecture, 'Race to the South Pole'.
- 14:15 Jerry invites you to the Lecture Room for his lecture 'Race to the South Pole' in Mandarin.
- 16:30 Martin invites you for his lecture in the lecture room about the birds of the Falkland Islands
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

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

PLEASE NOTE - At midnight the clocks will go back 1 hour.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 15th February 2024

Day 15: Scotia Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Annelou invites you to the Lecture room for her lecture about 'Ice Cores: archives of the past'
- 11:15 Please join Rose in the Observation Lounge for her presentation about 'Whaling History' in Mandarin.
- 11:15 Ursula will give a presentation about "Whaling: The Dark Times" in the Lecture room in English.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30 There will be a screening of the film 'Falklands War: The Untold Story' in the Lecture Room.
- 16:00 Carina will give a presentation about the M/V Hondius in the Observation Lounge in English. She will be joined by special guest, Chief Engineer of Hondius, Guntis Dizbite.
- 17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 18:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:00 Happy hour will begin in the bar and will last one hour!
- 20:30 We will hold a **charity auction** in the lounge in aid of South Georgia Heritage Trust. There will be many unique items and experiences to bid for, so please give generously!

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 16th February 2024

Day 16: Stanley – Capital of the Falkland Islands

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:30 Martin invites you to join him in the Observation Lounge for his lecture about living in the Falkland Islands

11:30-12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

We encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy our final approach towards Stanley Harbour, as we navigate through The Narrows.

12:45+/- We hope to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. The **BLUE** group will go first, followed by the **ORANGE** Group. **PLEASE WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE CALLED BY COLOUR GROUP.**

We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Tourist Centre, which is very close to the jetty. The admission price to the museum is included in your visit, just show your room card key at the entrance. The local currency is Pounds Sterling, but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also widely accepted. Please remember, **no food to be taken ashore**, you may be inspected by a government officer on disembarkation. You may wear your own shoes on the zodiacs however **please make sure you still have waterproof top and bottoms on.**

We will run Zodiacs back to the ship from the jetty, starting at 16:00. **The last Zodiac will leave at 17:45 - PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE.**

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

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

20:30 We invite you to the Lecture Room for Shackleton, The Movie, Part One

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 17th February 2024

Day 17: Carcass Island and West Point Island

- 06:15 Wake-up call.
- 06:30-07:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:45+/- We invite the **Orange** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at Carcass Island.
- 07:45+/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready
- 08:00+/- We invite the **Blue** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at Carcass Island.

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

Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs, and Mucks boots.

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

Please wait for announcements before getting ready for this afternoon's activities as this is subject to change

- 13:45+/- We hope to invite the **Blue** Group to Deck 3 for a landing conditions permitting
- 13:45+/- Please can the divers/snorkellers begin getting ready conditions permitting
- 13:45+/- We invite the **Orange** Group to Deck 3 for a landing conditions permitting
- 18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 18th February 2024

Day 18: West Point

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:15 +/- We invite the **Orange** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at West Point.

08:30 +/- We invite the **Blue** Group to Deck 3 for a landing at West Point.

The walk from the settlement to the colony is about 1.5miles (2.5km) up hill. There will be a vehicle available to drive those who can't walk to the colony and back again.

Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please keep a 6-metre distance from any wildlife.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room.

14:15 Aitana invites you to the Lecture room for her lecture about Ocean Bottom Water Formation

16:15 Join Jakub in the Lounge for his presentation titled 'The Future of Ice'.

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

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

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 19th February 2024

Day 19: Approaching South America

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Clara invites you to the lecture room for her lecture 'Tiny but Mighty' all about Plankton
- 11:00 Members of the expedition team invite you to the lounge for a medley of short talks
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

During the afternoon the Hotel Department will call you deck by deck to settle your accounts at Reception, please listen to announcements.

- 14:00 Chris invites you to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Oceanwides' other destinations.
- 16:00 Come and test your knowledge with our super fun end of trip quiz! Have you been paying attention during our voyage? Who will win?!
- 18:15 Please join the Captain and Expedition Team in the Bar for a farewell toast to the voyage and a viewing of the slideshow that the team have made for you.
- The slideshow will be available after dinner from the computers in the Lecture Room, or if you have an Apple branded device, we will be able to airdrop it to you.
- 19:00 A farewell gala dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4!

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



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 20 February 2024

Day 20: Ushuaia

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service.

For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. On the pier please identify your luggage and we will place it in the truck. No luggage tag is required for this.

For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

08:30+/- We invite those guests going straight to the airport to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the bus with you going to the airport.

08:45+/- We invite all other guests to disembark. You can either choose to take your luggage with you into town or you can place it in the luggage truck which will take it to a storage facility in Ushuaia.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Hondius, we wish you safe onward travel, and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

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