



## Falkland Islands – South Georgia - Antarctica

2<sup>nd</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

### M/V Ortelius



M/v *Ortelius* was built in 1989 it served as a special-purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science named "*Marina Svetaeva*". The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life At Sea). M/v *Ortelius* is 90,95 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,4 m, ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A), 10,5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER.

# Captain Per Anderson

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Sven Holtzhausen**

2nd Officer: **Yaroslav Pyetukhov**

3rd Officer: **Anar Babaiev**

Chief Engineer: **Oskam Floris**

Hotel Manager: **Volodymir Cherednychenko**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Karolina Guziejko**

Head Chef: **Heinz Hacker**

Ships Doctor: **Eva-Maria Kifmann**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Chloe Marechal**

Expedition Guides: **Charlotte Taplin**

**Jess Owen**

**Ben Frederiks**

**Simon Davies**

**Andres Garcia Diaz**

**Jens Binderup**

**Julian Robinson**

## Day 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> February

### Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°53.7'S / 067°43.9'W

**Wind:** SE-4/5, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 13°C

Having explored the sights of Ushuaia, the Southernmost city in the world, we began arriving at the pier to embark on the MV Ortelius, which would be our home for the next twenty days. We were welcomed on board and shown to our cabins. We then gathered in the lecture room for our mandatory safety briefing and practiced a general alarm with Chief Officer Sven. Once that was done, we were invited to the bar to toast to the voyage with Captain Per and to meet the Expedition Leader Sara and the Expedition Team. We then had a buffet dinner as we got to know our fellow passengers. After dinner we watched the mandatory IAATO briefing and the mandatory zodiac safety briefing so that we could make the most of our travels in a safe way and know how to have a minimal impact on the pristine landscapes we would be travelling to. We then had free time to enjoy the views as we sailed through the Beagle Channel where we could see black-browed albatrosses and giant petrels soaring around us, and Magellanic penguins bobbing in the water. After days of travelling, we went to bed early to catch up on sleep and to get ready for our adventures to come!



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## Day 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February

### At Sea, towards the Falkland Islands

**12:00 GPS Position:** 53°54.5'S / 063°35.4'W

**Wind:** SW-6, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 12°C

Wow what an eventful day yesterday was, boarding the magnificent Ortelius. Last night we had some much-needed sleep and today we felt bright eyed and bushy tailed ready for the next three weeks of adventures in the Southern Ocean. After filling up on a huge breakfast we were called to the lecture room to collect our rubber muck boots. These would now be the new home for our feet for these 19 days and something we would get well used to when leaving the ship to board the zodiacs. At 1030 we had our 'wildlife watch' activity outside and amazingly as the sun sparkled on the ocean two groups of Long Finned Pilot Whales swam over to the ship. We watched in awe as they powered through the waves. Then from the man himself 'the bird man' Simon enlightened us with information on which bird species we may see in the Falklands, as we were arriving there tomorrow, and we needed to get prepared!



We piled our plates high with lunch and cheese at midday, and then for some of us we had a quick power nap which was followed by a fascinating talk from Jess on the Whales and Dolphins in the Southern Ocean. As the day rolled on, we started to get into ship life, but unfortunately for some the seas became too much for us and we were a little seasick. To take our minds off it, Sara gave us a lecture on Photography which only made us stare in awe at her beautiful photographs.



At 1815 at recap we had the plans for tomorrow followed by Andres talking about seasickness and Ben telling us facts about the ship. As the day grew older the light became less and less as the sun started to set. This meant the sky grew bright orange and Giant Petrels flew around the ship making stunning silhouettes. The third meal of the day; dinner was the best so far, a 3-course plated meal fit for a king, we chatted and only wondered what might await us tomorrow at West Point Island at 0600.



## Day 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> February

### West Point Island and Carcass Island, The Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 51°20.5'S / 060°35.4'W

Wind: NW 8, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 11°C, Sea Temp: 11°C



We awoke to equal amounts of excitement and trepidation; excitement for our first operation of the trip and trepidation over the weather warnings for the day. While it was breezy the sheltered landing site at West Point Island offered a wonderful calm oasis for us to land and enjoy the first morning. The excitement took over as we arrived at the jetty in the Zodiacs and we were faced by a fine array of Falkland Islands birdlife with Night Herons,

Blackish and Magellanic Oystercatchers, Tussock birds, and Falkland Flightless Steamer Ducks on view as soon as our feet touched land, all watched over by inquisitive Striated Caracaras. It was a hard job to tear ourselves away from this spectacle up the hill towards the main event of the morning! As we walked up and over the hills in front of us more birdlife came to greet us including Long-tailed Meadowlarks, Dark-faced Ground Tyrants, Upland Geese and Turkey Vultures. It was a bird-filled paradise through which we roved on the way to an even more impressive destination.

As we approached the other side of the island we still couldn't really see what we were here for but as we casually strolled down a slope through head-high Tussock Grass, slowly but surely loud, ecstatic bird calls could be heard just in front of us and at the very last minute as we poked our heads through the long grass our senses were assaulted by the



sounds, sights and smells of a busy, fantastic Black-browed Albatross and Rockhopper Penguin colony.

It was incredible to watch as just meters in front of us fluffy Rockhopper chicks milled around in big, noisy gangs waiting to be fed by their parents and the far more sedate white but equally fluffy Albatross chicks sat peacefully in their nests, also waiting for the

return of their food-laden parents whilst gazing bemusedly at the antics of the raucous Penguins. There were two viewing areas where we marveled at the albatross soaring in the air and landing with a bump at their nest sites.



Too soon we had to drag ourselves away from this incredible place and walk back over the hills towards the jetty, but it wasn't home-time yet as the inhabitants of the island had produced a sensational spread of cakes along with lashings of tea and coffee which we all enjoyed in the beautiful sheltered English countryside-style garden as the smells of the guano covered colony were replaced by the Honeysuckle in full bloom. The morning concluded with

a thrilling Zodiac journey out of the calm waters of the bay into the windswept open ocean where Ortelius was anchored allowing the staff to show off their impressive driving skills.

The planned landing at Carcass Island in the afternoon was in the balance right up until go time as the wind had increased but again some confident and skillful maneuverings from everyone from the Captain to the Expedition staff and AB's allowed us to make a landing at the sheltered jetty by the settlement on Carcass Island.





A brilliant afternoon followed, consisting of tracking down the endemic Cobb's Wrens as they foraged on the beaches and getting point-blank views of the full spread of the other Falkland Islands specialty birds with Tussock birds feeding around our feet, Magellanic Penguins coming and going, some wonderfully confiding Magellanic Snipe amongst far too many other encounters to list here! The word came through

though that the wind was increasing, and we had to leave the island quickly through even rougher seas with some even more impressive driving skills and the supreme confidence of the AB's at the gangway gave us a day to remember!



**Day 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**Stanley, The Falkland Islands**

**12:00 GPS Position: 51°41.3'S / 057°51.4'W**



**Wind:** SW7, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 13°C



Good morning, good morning, good morning!

It was a really moving night. Waves crashed against the hull, wind howling through the rigging. Passengers are advised to stay in their cabins for safety. Despite the turbulent weather, the ship's crew and our Captain Per managed to keep us on course, navigating through the storm with expertise.

The storm began to subside, the waves calmed as we approached Port Stanley. Lightning flashed in the distance, illuminating the silhouette of Chinese fishing ships, coming to the Falklands for the squid fishing season, navigating through the rough





seas. The first light of dawn broke over the horizon, casting a golden hue across the water. The storm clouds dissipated, replaced by clear blue skies.

We docked at Stanley Port, greeted by the warmth of the morning sun. It was a great day to visit. We went to the Post Office to send postcards home, the gin distillery,

famous for its Kelp gin, the souvenir shops, and the fantastic museum.

We also admired the typical colorful houses and the historic church. We bought the local newspaper, penguin news, with a full front page about the Falklands football team visiting Chile. We also did a beautiful walk over the coastline on the way back. Our guide Chloe, a true biology expert, joined us as we waited on the jetty for the zodiacs to shuttle us back. We gazed down into the water at the big, long brown algae and Chloe told us about the importance of kelp in the ecosystem of the port. We learnt about the intricate relationship between the kelp forests and the diverse marine life they support. Our guide shared fascinating insights into the role of kelp in maintaining the health of the coastal ecosystem.

We then returned to our beloved ship *Ortelius*, every day feeling more like our home.

After that, we gathered at the ship's bar for a mandatory briefing. The atmosphere was lively as passengers shared stories of their adventures and experiences during the rough night and the day in Stanley.





At night the mood became even more festive as our Expedition Guide Andres unleashed their creativity, drawing sketches of the breathtaking scenery we encountered during our journey. The bartender concocted specialty drinks inspired by the flavours of the sea,

adding to the sense of camaraderie among the passengers.

As the night wore on, laughter filled the air as we continued to bond over shared experiences and newfound friendships. The aim is now the amazing South Georgia.



## Day 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> February

### At sea, towards South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 52°33.2'S / 050°27.8W

Wind: NE6, Sea State: Moderate, Weather: Clear, Air Temp: 9°C, Sea Temp: 10°C



What a wonderful day to wake up to – relatively calm seas and full sunshine, with the whole day to spend time on deck, enjoying shearwaters, petrels and albatrosses, that followed the Ortelius from time to time – and share stories and

experiences with all the other Antarctic seafarers.

Not long after our breakfast Expedition Guide Charlotte gave us a presentation all about the fascinating seal species we can see on our journey. Her talk was interrupted because we had the privilege of seeing a single Southern Right Whale swimming by, recognizable by its “double blow” and callosities on the head – the unique form of the latter giving each whale its own personal “fingerprint”.

Twice during the day, a group of Hourglass Dolphins came close enough to



the ship to let us enjoy their beautiful black and white patterns, while they playfully porpoised in the clear blue ocean.



Many passengers came by the bridge to enjoy the view, talk to the officers and get some details on all the information seen on all the screens, radars and dials – and a perfect place to rehearse the skills in identifying the penguins, albatrosses and sea mammals we have seen – and will see on our expedition.

In the afternoon Expedition Guide Ben gave a lecture all about whaling in the 1950's and afterwards Expedition Guide Jens gave a talk all about Shackleton's incredible expedition on Endurance to the icy continent.

In the late afternoon we were approaching the Convergence Zone. The Antarctic Convergence is an invisible ocean boundary where the cold waters of the Antarctic meet the relatively warmer waters and this line runs all around the Antarctic continent. Thick mist replaced the sunshine – but gave us time to start cleaning our boots and outer layers, preparing for the biosecurity check that must be done prior to our landings at South Georgia.

After the recap and “plan for tomorrow”- including the weather forecast – it was time for the delicious dinner in the dining room. Since the weather didn't offer any opportunities for stargazing, our warm and cozy bar was the perfect place to have a popcorn movie night with the Shackleton story and enjoy a drink and a chat with our newfound friends.

## Day 6 – 7<sup>th</sup> February

### At sea, towards South Georgia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 53°31.5'S / 042°14.3'W

**Wind:** N8, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

Early this wonderful morning we were woken by the thrilling sounds of the ships' fire alarm. Was there a fire? A secret cabin smoker or a chef brûlée at work? Luckily not, after a split second our chief officer informed us that it was a false alarm.

As if she was standing on the bridge already, we soon heard Sarah's soft gentle voice glide down our cabins. Just to let us know we were more than welcome to wake up for a bright new day! The PA system had a busy morning as Volodymir followed shortly after to inform us about a delicious breakfast waiting for us in the restaurant. Time to get cracking!

Today was a sea day, meaning we had the opportunity to get skilled in walking as a drunk man on land while Ortelius kept on rolling on the relentless ocean of waves. It was a gentle roll this time, not as vigorous as we had experienced two days ago. To expedition team kept us entertained with



all sorts of interesting lectures during the day.

Chloe's started off with a mesmerizing talk about plankton. Her love and passion were clearly present, especially as she made it clear that the lecture could be regarded as mandatory. Latecomers were frowned upon and were lucky to enter the class. On a serious note, it was a most interesting presentation, who knew plankton was such a diverse and fascinating subject.



Julian then gave us a talk about the geology of South Georgia, where there are some fascinating rock formations.

Shortly after lunch something came into sight. Both visually as in smell. The Shag Rocks appeared out of the dense fog. The triangular rugged rocks veered out of the wild ocean as a row of giant sharks' teeth. The shag colony breeding on the rocky cliffs were the only animals able to get a foothold on the steep basalt formation. As the ship steered near, we could definitely smell that it was not a small colony living there.

Later that day Sara had a lecture about the Penguins of the Antarctic and the sub-Antarctic Islands.

There is no high without a low. Adventures included. In the afternoon we were called deck by deck into the lecture room. The spacious room turned into an inspection area for all our clothing. All staff members were to check our fabrics and shoes we were planning to use on land. Since South Georgia is such an unspoiled natural area it is absolutely forbidden to bring along possible seeds, bacteria, or spores into the area. A good rub with the vacuum cleaner was therefore necessary, from hat to shoe.

Later Sara provided us with information about tomorrow's activities. It seems we will have an exciting first day on South Georgia, let's hope we can get ashore and see the king penguin. But first, dinner!

## Day 7 – 8<sup>th</sup> February

### Fortuna Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°05.6'S / 036°41.5'W

Wind: NW8, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Rain, Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 5°C



Today we woke up to the sound of Sara's voice at 07:15 and she informed us that after herself and Chloe inspected Fortuna Bay it was safe for landing! Yes, this was excellent news, as weather conditions and the Avian Flu have made landings at South Georgia a rare occurrence. We boarded



the zodiacs in groups of 10 and were met by Sara at the beach for our briefing. There was already a bit of swell at the beach, so we had to be quick in exiting the zodiac. Immediately we were welcomed by King Penguins and Fur Seals in and out of the water, wow. There was unique wildlife everywhere. The staff had set out a route with the poles, so we followed that all the way to the colony of 12,000



King penguins. There were so many amazing animals and beautiful scenery to stop and look at on the way, whether it was a small group of moulting penguins, a very cute Fur Seal pup, or an aggressive male trying to assert his dominance, it was all go go go at Fortuna Bay! The bird watchers of the group were very



happy to also have excellent views of the South Georgia Pipit. But it was spectacular, it is hard to put into words how incredible this place looked, even the thousands of photos we must have taken collectively did not do it justice.

By Mid-morning the wind and swell started to pick up even more, so we had to head back to the landing site because we had to evacuate. There were only 3 drivers shuttling, we had to be in groups ready at the beach to quickly jump in the zodiac because big waves were crashing on the beach. We made it back to the ship safe and sound, a little soggy from the rain, but with huge



smiles on our faces from the spectacle we had just witnessed.

We warmed up with soup and hash browns as the ship re-positioned to Hercules Bay. The wind was pumping to 50 knots and the swell was huge, so unfortunately, we could not do a zodiac cruise, but it was amazing to see the colony of Macaroni Penguins on the rocks.

We then made our way around to Stromness, Leith and Husvik to see the remains of the old whaling stations, and we could view them from the ship. It was very impressive seeing these

stations which were once a hive of activity, killing and processing so many whales in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

At 17:00 we had to do biosecurity again in preparation for our inspection at Grytviken the following day. We meticulously picked out any little pieces of sand, mud, or vegetation that could potentially impact the delicate ecosystem here in South Georgia. This was shortly followed by the daily



recap where Sara told us the plans for tomorrow. Charlotte and Sara also gave us some more information about the beautiful king penguins that we had been admiring during the day, we learnt about their unique breeding cycle and their vocalisations. We had a delicious dinner which finished off the day very nicely.



## Day 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> February Grytviken and Godthul

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°13.8'S / 036°18.2'W

**Wind:** NW9, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C



We arrived at Grytviken, the home of the South Georgia Government and British Antarctic Survey base at King Edward Point early in the morning. Instead of the benign conditions and light winds that the forecast suggested, we were greeted with the now familiar strong winds sweeping down from the hills above the whaling station and threatening skies. The conditions were too much for our initial timings, but a short wait produced a slight drop in the windspeed, enough for Chloe to venture

out and collect the government officer from King Edward Point to come onboard and undertake the biosecurity checks and immigration checks for our landing.





The staff went ashore to set up the landing site whilst the wonderful passengers scored a perfect 100% in the biosecurity examinations but unfortunately the wind picked back up and soon became beyond our operational limits – even the government officer who was still onboard was contemplating being stuck here! Luckily for him we managed to get him back home in a little weather-window a short while later but unluckily for us it was not enough for us to resume

our plans and we were left with distant views of the whaling station, the base at King Edward Point and the cemetery housing the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

We weren't, however, deterred by this setback and were soon planning our afternoon activities, trying to find that sheltered bay or little calm weather window and it soon presented itself in a little bay called Godthul. It was a fine site, a calm spot, surrounded by steep, tussock encrusted hillsides echoing with the sounds of a rich South Georgian ecosystem.



We landed on a small beach with all the classic ingredients of another awe-inspiring afternoon ahead of us; King Penguins calling to each other, Fur Seal pups playing in the



surf, Elephant Seals grunting and grumbling in the grass, South Georgia Pipits foraging along the tideline and flocks of South Georgia Pintails wheeling around the bay. If the beach was the spectacle, then the walk up through the Tussock Grass was the adventure with every step further into the maze of vegetation filled with uncertainty, at risk any second of being mauled by some fearsome beast as it leapt out at us!

When the angry, growling monster hidden in the grass did reveal itself though it was nearly always a small Fur Seal pup, equal parts angry and curious at our disruption to its routine of playing, sleeping and suckling! Fur Seal pups are seemingly born super-feisty! After we had braved the Tussock-jungle and not been savaged by the vicious little pretend Sea-otters we followed the 'path' miraculously found by the perseverance of the Assistant Expedition Leader Chloe up to the picturesque Gentoo Penguin colony overlooking the bay – a fine conclusion to another expedition-style day, full of highs and lows, wonderment and disappointment combining to create an emotional rollercoaster!

## Day 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> February

### St Andrew's Bay and Ocean Harbour

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°15.5'S / 036°11.3'W

**Wind:** W6/11, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C



At 5am we started the day at Saint Andrews with an early morning Zodiac cruising expedition, despite the rainy and cold weather. We witnessed the awe-inspiring sight of approximately 300 thousand penguins, creating a mesmerizing spectacle against the backdrop of the South Georgia landscape. We saw young elephant seals play fighting on the beach and we could here the calls



of male, female, and juvenile king penguins. It was cold and very rainy but was still an excellent start to the day.

At 9am we arrived at Ocean Harbour where we went for another zodiac cruise. Here we encountered the shipwreck of the Bayard. Our guides explained to us that she was built in 1864. She was moored at the coaling station in 1911 when a gale blew her loose across the bay. Ocean Harbour was also the site of the first introduction of reindeer to South Georgia in 1911.

Ocean Harbour has a small cemetery with eight graves including the oldest known grave on the island!! We were surrounded by abundant and hair like kelp moving in the waves. Amidst the rugged beauty of the landscape, we were delighted to spot a little colony of King Penguins, adding to the richness of the experience. Additionally, we observed a whaling station, a poignant reminder of the region's history. The air was filled with the graceful flight of Antarctic terns, and when we were about to leave we made a turn into a little cove and suddenly elephant seals were there admiring at us! A little hidden family, enhancing the sense of adventure and exploration.





There was some excitement on the way back to the ship as one of the zodiac engines malfunctioned, so Jess and her passengers enjoyed the novelty of being towed back to the ship by Ben and his passengers.



In the afternoon we headed to Leigh Harbour, the biggest whaling station of South Georgia. Despite our anticipation to disembark, we were unable to do so due to strong winds. Undeterred, we redirected our journey to Hercules Bay, where we had the opportunity, thanks to our beloved Captain Per, to observe Macaroni Penguins

up close in a ship cruise, their vibrant plumage a striking contrast against the stone with moss and kelp surroundings. Throughout the afternoon we all thoroughly enjoyed watching the incredibly strong winds whipping up shapes and patterns across the water with rainbows forming over the mountains.



As the evening arrived, we embarked on our journey towards Antarctica, filled with anticipation and excitement for the adventures that lay ahead. The tranquil beauty of the Antarctic landscape,





combined with the memories of the day's encounters, served as a fitting conclusion to an unforgettable day of exploration in one of the world's most remote and captivating regions.

## Day 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> February

### At sea, sailing towards Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 55°31.5'S / 039° 38.2'W

Wind: SW8, Sea State: Rough, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 4°C, Sea Temp: 5°C



Still with the memories of porpoising macaroni penguins in the sunlight, the whirlwinds of water driven by katabatic winds of up to 98knots/180km/h, and the most beautiful rainbows in our



minds, we woke up to a wavy day, but at least with a decent visibility and a good chance to spot some of the cetaceans roaming these southern waters. Not long after our breakfast and morning coffee and tea, a fin whale passed by, not far away



from the ship. Also a few albatrosses and giant petrels showed their graceful flying skills among the waves.

Expedition Guide Ben began the days lectures by talking to us about the Antarctic convergence and divergence, giving us

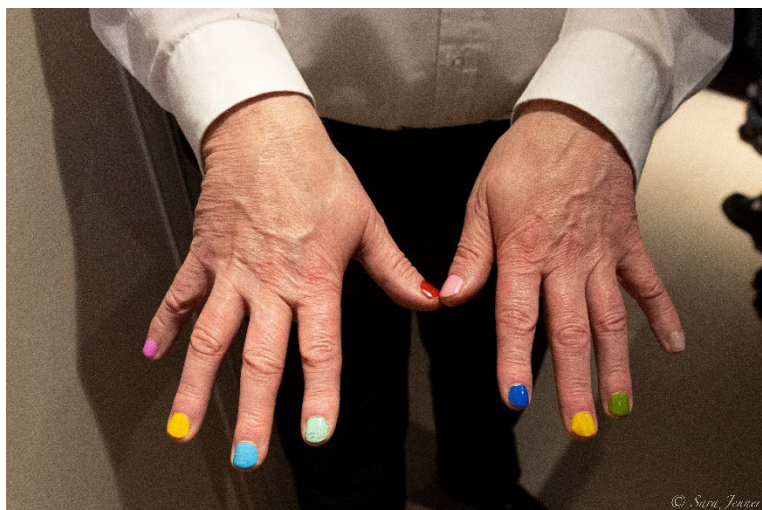
an explanation to how Antarctica's climate is today is so cold and windy.

We gathered on the outside decks for the mornings 'Wildlife Watch' which has been lovingly nicknamed 'Fog-watch'.

Then Expedition Guide Simon gave us a talk on the birds we might see on the Antarctic Peninsula (other than the famous penguins) such as snowy sheathbills, snow petrels, and Antarctica petrels.

It was also the day, where we had to "clean up" after South Georgia and another round of biosecurity. This is something that all members of IAATO must do to avoid any invasive non-native species from destroying the ecosystem in Antarctica. We do this every time we go to Antarctica, but now Bird Flu is so prevalent in the Southern Ocean, it is all the more important to make sure we are not spreading harmful pathogens.

The bumpy and wet weather meant that the day turned into a nice opportunity for a nap or enjoying a good book from the library and a cup of hot chocolate while looking outside every now and then, maybe spotting the first icebergs. Many people were unfortunately feeling seasick, so it was a relaxed and quiet day onboard.



In the afternoon Assistant Expedition Leader Chloe gave a presentation about scuba diving in Antarctica and all the amazing wildlife that can be seen under the water.

After a delicious dinner the stage was set for entertainment! A request in our question box for a karaoke night in the bar was fulfilled and both guests, crew, staff and our

captain participated – not sure that all of us would be chosen to participate in “Ortelius’s got talent”, but there was a lot of laughs, a lot of pictures taken and videos made – and unlike Shackleton, Captain Per would definitely not be voted as the worst singer among us all!

## Day 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> February

### At Sea, and Sanderfjord

**12:00 GPS Position:** 59°39.5'S / 043°52.6'W

**Wind:** NE5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Fog, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C



This morning, we were allowed to sleep in, as we were switching to the South American time zone and said our farewell to the South Georgian hour. Enough reason for a nice late morning. Then again, when onboard with Sara Jenner you never know if things will go as planned.

At around seven o'clock we were woken from our slumbers by our Expedition Leader. A killer whale was spotted. Time to jump out of our bunks and head towards the upper decks! Not long after we could see something else... Beaked whales! Right of the ship's bow! What a sight to see. As the cetaceans disappeared into the dark blue ocean, we kept our eyes out in anticipation of some more action, and it wasn't long before we saw some small pods of Hourglass dolphins too. Forget that sleepy morning.



In the back of our heads, we were still at Karaoke evening. It was a great success, who knew that our captain could sing! Songs were played late into the night. The Karaoke high score was scored by birthday girl Jess, scoring a whopping 100 points. But we all must agree that the best entertainers are amongst our Filipino crew, they really knew how to liven up the

party with their grand performance.

After breakfast we were up for a lecture by Julian, he explained to us all there is to know about meteorites in the Antarctic. Who knew the moon is scattered with meteorites from Earth!? All the while Ortelius made its way towards the South Orkney islands, through the fog we hope to see a glimpse of it. Only the evening will tell if the weather will improve for a possible zodiac cruise or landing.



In anticipation of what is coming Sara already announced that recap and dinner will be set early so we can optimize our chances to get off the ship. Ortelius is a great expedition vessel, nevertheless it would be nice to be out in the open skies for a different scenery.

And oh my, how lovely when a plan comes together. In the restaurant we could see that the guides were in quite a rush as they gulped in their starters and mains, leaving dessert deserted on the countertop. They clearly were in a rush to offload all zodiacs in time.



We lucky few had all the time in the world to finish our wonderful 3 course dinner. Then getting dressed warmly and boarding the zodiacs with said guides, now in a more docile state of mind. The site we visited was called Sanderfjord and home to nearly 50.000 breeding pairs of chinstrap penguin. We could certainly smell them from a distance.



As we found ourselves along the shores buzzing with penguins, guano and a chilly breeze, we were all of a sudden surprised by the visit of a Leopard Seal, and another one, and one more. My god the place was filled with the teathy creatures. Treating us with a grim smile, the reptile-like creatures swarmed around our zodiac seemingly trying to figure out if we would be food or foe. Luckily, we passed as neither and could observe them

as they disappeared into the swell, only to appear right next to us while scanning the surroundings for penguins. As the sun set we were treated to a magnificent sight: The evening sun colored the skies beautifully with a background of large tabular icebergs on the horizon. Yes. This zodiac cruise was a wonderful way to finish the day.

## Day 12 – 13<sup>th</sup> February

### At Sea, Sailing towards Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 61°08.7'S / 051°06.5'W

**Wind:** NW8, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

Today we woke up early to the sound of Simon 'the bird man' telling us there was an Emperor Penguin on an iceberg, what! We ran outside to see this species which is a lifer for many! It was quite far away so it was hard to make out, but still an amazing species to observe. We then woke to Sara's voice to tell us to get out of our beds to seize the day of



lectures and wildlife. But the day always has to start with coffee and breakfast. This was shortly



followed by Expedition Guide Charlotte's fascinating talk on feeding, breeding and diving of Whales, followed by Andres's gripping lecture on 'Diseases of the Sea', which delved into the realm of scurvy, hypothermia and frost bite. In the midst of these two lectures, we were

approaching A23a; at 40 nautical miles long by 32 nautical miles wide it is currently the largest iceberg on the planet! This large piece of ice broke off in 1986 from the Filchner Ice Shelf and has been moving North with the current. It was absolutely awe-inspiring and such an incredible sight. We sailed the ship along the side of it for 4 hours. Many pieces had already broken off and the side of the berg was forming many arches from sea erosion. We slowly left it and headed towards



Elephant Island. As we got closer to Point Wild on Elephant Island, we realised there was too much swell to do any activity and due to the bad weather we would be arriving much later than expected, so we swiftly moved onto the South Shetland Islands.

In the afternoon Chloe spoke to us with her graceful voice about ice of Antarctica. Then just before recap, Jess spotted some Type A orcas from the bridge. They were moving very fast and it was



difficult to get a good view of them in such a rough sea state, but some of us managed to snap some pictures. Shortly afterwards we had the plans from Sara and the team regarding the following day at the South Shetlands. The three-course dinner went down swimmingly yet again, so we geared ourselves up for tonight's auction! Of course, happy hour was a must to get everyone in a good mood for

the items for sale. Ben was the auctioneer who did a fantastic job of auctioning off the items. It was a slow start, but things started to get moving and the drinks were flowing. Everything was sold and we managed to make £1505 for South Georgia Heritage Trust. Happy days.

## Day 13 – 14<sup>th</sup> February

### At sea, and Deception Island

**09:00 GPS Position:** 62°43.3'S / 058°21.8'W

**Wind:** N8, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

First thing in the morning we approached our plan A location of Penguin Island. Upon arrival it was clear that a landing would not be possible. Although the sun was out and shining (this has been a rarity on this trip) the wind was nearly gusting 70 knots and the shallow beach landing on the island is



a nightmare in even the smallest swell. After some quick re-jigging of plans and checking of

weather on the bridge, a viable plan B was produced which saw us quickly turn the ship around to head south, hopefully for an afternoon landing at the wonderful Deception Island – an active volcano that we can sail inside of!



During the long transit south there were some inspiring talks. Carol Masheter, one of our passengers, told us all about her conquest to summit the seven largest peaks in the world including Vinson Massif, the highest point in Antarctica. Sara then gave us a lecture detailing the history of women explorers, adventurers

and pioneers in the deep south. Between lectures, folks who spent time on the bridge or on the outside decks were rewarded by some excellent Humpback whale action including some breaching individuals and some equally good seabird action especially with some close Grey-headed Albatrosses.



As Deception Island appeared on the horizon and gradually became closer and closer, it seemed the fickle weather was to play another trick on us poor adventurers. The wind picked up, bringing with it some driving snow, reducing our visibility. We slowly edged our way through the impressive Neptune's Bellows, the entrance into the huge caldera. We did this in the midst of a full-on blizzard and some soul-destroying strong

winds, but as we inched further into the volcano the captain assured us that we would find some shelter at our destination of Telefon Bay; at that moment it seemed unlikely!

However, as soon as we reached our anchor-point the wind dropped off to almost nothing and the snow eased. We were soon ashore on the side of a bleak but beautiful old volcanic crater where we walked a long circuit right around the rim, affording us spectacular views of the entire



island from the Bellows in the distance to the Spanish and Argentinian research bases and the ring of snow-covered peaks surrounding it all. The walk also included a stroll along the beach to a chilled out and relaxed big fat Weddell Seal and some much more active Fur Seals, perfectly illustrating the difference between 'eared' Seals and 'true' Seals.



Once back on board it was time to reflect upon a very fine plan C (or was it D or E?) and a perfect Valentine's Day afternoon. The day's entertainment was not over by a long shot as after dinner we all enjoyed a brilliant pub quiz [loosely] based around this most romantic [and commercial] of days cunningly devised and presented by Jess.

## Day 14 – 15<sup>th</sup> February

### Foyn Harbour and Orne Harbour

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°30.0'S / 062°62.2'W

**Wind:** SW5, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C



find them.

Good morning, good morning, good morning!!! Finally, a day of clear skies and calm waters!!! We disembarked from the ship for a zodiac cruise expedition at Foyn Harbour. Foyn Harbour is a known popular spot for whale to feed in, so we were hopeful to

First, we encountered the impressive shipwreck of the *Governoren*, a Norwegian factory whaling ship that ran aground after catching fire in 1915. The ship has remained there ever since, partially submerged and rusting. It's a beautiful sight but a haunting reminder of the prolific whaling era. It has now been taken over by Antarctica terns who have made their nests on top of it. We also spotted a large number of fur seals and Weddell seals lounging on the rocky shores, some of which we could smell before we could see them!



After that we were surprised by a spectacular sighting of humpback whales. There were many of them, with some coming remarkably close to the zodiacs. We could clearly hear their blows and see their fins, they were very relaxed and were curious to investigate our zodiacs. They dived for a final time, allowing us to see their beautiful tail flukes, providing an unforgettable experience for all.

In the afternoon we headed to Orne Harbour, our first continental landing on mainland Antarctica!!! Of course, all our activities have been on the Antarctica continent, but there is something special about stepping foot on the mainland.

It was a sunny, with a mild breeze. We posed with a flag of Antarctica, an exciting moment for people who were visiting their seventh



continent. We then made our way up the zig-zag slope to a very scenic chinstrap penguin colony at the top of the hill. There were plenty of chicks still, little chunky grey blobs with their parents taking care of them. Some of them were quite big and were already moulting into their adult plumage, and we enjoyed witnessing their daily activities and interactions.



While returning to the ship, we encountered two magnificent whales surfacing, just near the landing site! Adding to the days already impressive wildlife sightings.

In the evening Sara began the daily recap session, discussing the day's highlights. But Recap was momentarily interrupted by the thrilling appearance of

orcas nearby!! Capturing everyone's attention and providing a mass stampede out of the bar. We watched the pod of around nine individuals, including males, females, and juveniles, swimming and spy-hopping. It was the perfect end to an extraordinary day of exploration.

Overall, today's experiences in both Foyr Harbour and Orne Harbour showcased the incredible diversity and beauty of Antarctic wildlife, leaving us in awe of nature's wonders.





## Day 15 – 16<sup>th</sup> February

### Peterman Island and Damoy Island

12:00 GPS Position: 65°04.3'S / 063°56.8'W

Wind: SSW4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Fog, Air Temp: 1°C, Sea Temp: 2°C



nicknamed 'Kodak Gap' because it is such a picturesque spot. Visibility was maybe not the best,

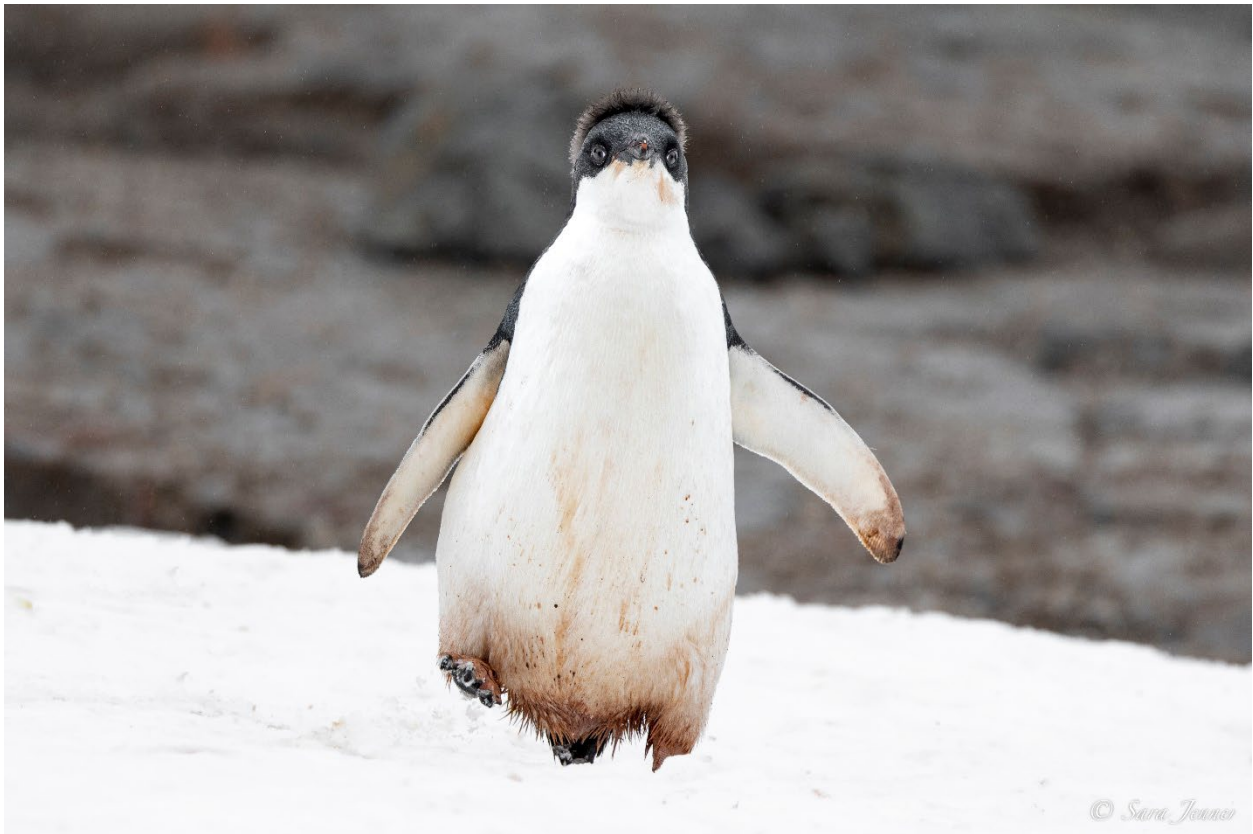
This morning we received an early wakeup call as we were entering the very narrow Lemaire Channel and quite a few of us skipped sleeping in or snoozing to get out on deck – or staying inside the nice and warm bridge, to follow the tight navigation needed to get through the narrow strait. The Lemaire Channel has been



but the water was completely calm, mirroring the snow and glacier covered mountains, their peaks visible in the mist. A landscape worth getting up early for!

Just after a hearty breakfast, we arrived at our southernmost destination on this expedition; Petermann Island, named after a German cartographer, back in 1873. We were here to see our first Adélie penguin colony. A slight

slippery landing was overcome, and we could enjoy the view of more than 100 Adélie's and among them quite a few very active and almost fully fledged chicks. There was a lot of tobogganing, flapping flippers and quarrels with nearby youngsters, while the parents stood absolutely still, saving energy – thinking “ahhhh kids”. Lots of Gentoos were in our landing area too, and there were many chicks who were just about ready to leave the safe haven of the nesting site to begin their real penguin life in the ocean – what a treat it was!!



We then travelled back north through the Lemaire Channel for our more historical landing at Damoy Point. Again, colonies of Gentoos welcomed us on the shore and we sometimes had



to patiently wait to cross a “penguin highway” when the cute little fellas on their stubby feet went to or from their nesting sites on the rocks to feed their impatient and hungry chicks. The landing also offered a visit in the “southernmost” waiting room in the world! For 20 years -from 1973 to 1993, the hut was used by British Antarctic Survey-scientists, waiting for a flight that was a further 350km’s south to the Rothera-base. The

“runway” was a gently sloping ridge behind the hut, and operations needed thorough pilot skills and good weather, and the latter would often delay operations for several days. This meant lots of stores of food were needed in case up to 15 people would strand there for several days.



Everything was left as it stood in 1993, so it was a good chance to see what was on the menu 31 years ago!



Another good day with lots of wildlife, history – and sun in our faces from time to time! Day 16 – 17<sup>th</sup> February

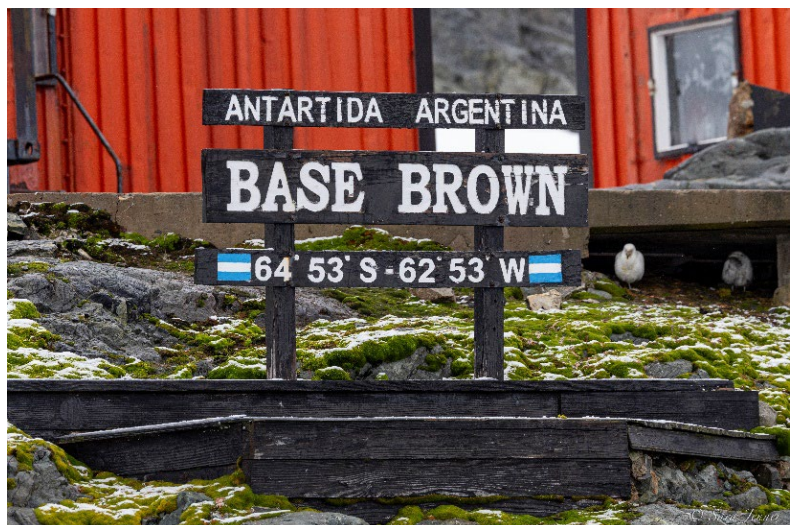
## Brown Base and Danco Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°53.4'S / 062°51.6'W

**Wind:** N4/5, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

This day was amazing. In short: We cruised a fair bit in the zodiac, saw crabeater seals, one krill, Weddell seals, loads 'o birds, almost lost a zodiac to an inquisitive leopard seal. Jens spotted a jellyfish. This is how it went:

Breakfast was another success this morning, the galley team really knows how to get us all out of bed with their creations. It is sometimes hard to resist the 'second breakfast'





as a few hours later lunch will be served, only to repeat the urge to go again for a second. Then again, it is a holiday. live it. Eat it.

The plan for this morning was to zodiac cruise along Brown Station. The Argentinian research station is located on the shores of Paradise Bay. The station has been rebuilt almost completely as once upon a time the station's doctor refused to stay for another season. To make his point clear he burned the place down to the ground.

Today happened to be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the station and as we cruise by, we reflected on what it must be like to stay for the winter in this remote area of the world. Along the shores we drifted in our zodiacs. After waving goodbye to the friendly inhabitants of Station Brown we could see Shags nesting on the steep rocky coastline and we enjoyed watching cape petrels and Antarctic terns flying.

We heard an exciting call on the radio. Chloe had found and caught a krill! A remarkable achievement and celebrated by us all. It was kept in a bucket and passed from zodiac to zodiac. If the krill only knew what



joy it had brought this morning. Some say tears of joy could be seen rolling down Chloe's cheeks.



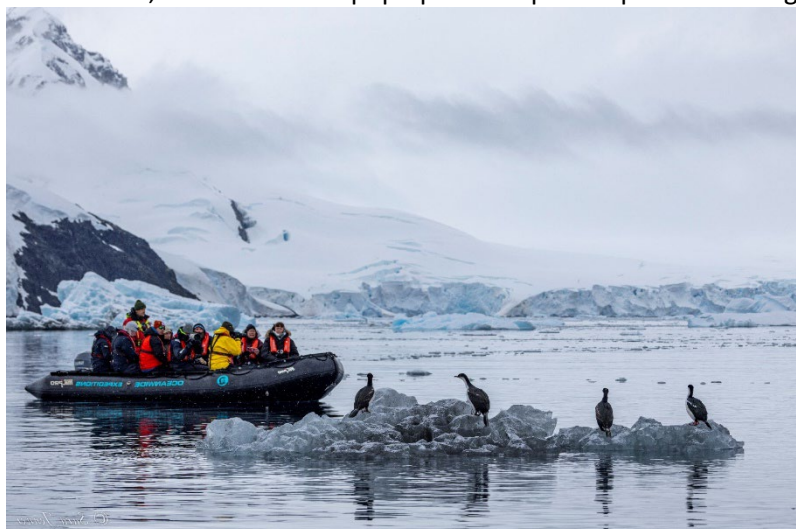
We then went our separate ways to explore the area. Pairs of zodiacs found their own routes along the rocky shore and ice-infested waters, leading towards an impressive glacier front. As the glaciers debris got denser it proved more difficult to get the zodiac through the fields of drifting ice. The scenery was

impressive and once the engine was stopped one could endure the silence of the Antarctic. If only we could have some of this silence at home.



Some pairs of zodiacs got lucky and had an encounter with a leopard seal, swimming curiously around the zodiacs. Another pair got up close and personal with two crabeater seals. The adult mother was laying on the ice as the almost mature pup played around and tried to get on the ice too. It was wonderful to see the interaction between mother and pup. The radio crackled and Jens proudly

mentioned he found a jellyfish the size of a small fridge. It's colorful tentacles dancing through the water. A successful cruise it .he afternoon we were supposed to land at Danco Island, a godforsaken rock covered by a thick hump of ice, home to several colonies of Gentoo penguins. Sadly, bird flu had been detected by another ship that morning and we had to change our plans. Plan-B was launched, a zodiac cruise in the area. We can say it was quite thrilling as we all had an encounter with a massive leopard seal. The apex predator took its time to swirl around our zodiac's, dive under and pop up at unexpected places. Making us feel like penguins on an ice floe. It was strange to experience how it feels to be hunted. What started as curiosity became a bit more serious as he started to nibble and bite the zodiacs, not quite desirable as his sharp teeth can easily penetrate the inflated tubes. As we took distance from the animal it could easily keep up our pace, even when going full speed. We could see the animal in our slipstream underwater, only to





breach and completely leap out of the water, what an impressive animal. The cruise ended perfectly with a group of feeding humpback whales.

In the evening we had a BBQ on the helicopter deck. A wonderful place to eat and drink with an almost surround view of Antarctica. The rain did not matter to us. We ate and partied into the night, while humpback whales and leopard seals passed our ship (are they following us?!) Even the Australian's among us hadn't endured such a unique BBQ.



## Day 17 – 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Cierva Cove and Palaver Point

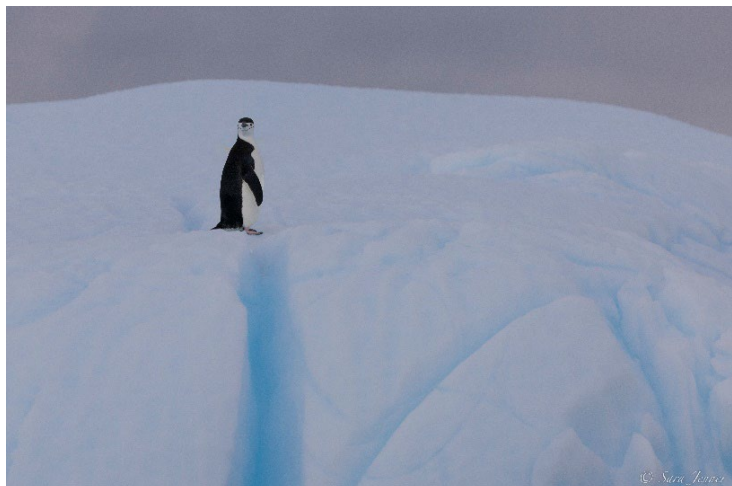
12:00 GPS Position: 64°09.7'S / 061°19.3'W

Wind: SW4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 2°C, Sea Temp: 3°C



Today we woke up knowing it was our last day in Antarctica. We were feeling sprightly and excited for the day ahead but also a little sad that it would be our last chance to soak up this unique place. We ventured out for a zodiac cruise at Cierva Cove; a huge bay with ginormous icebergs. It is also where Primavera Base is, an Argentinian base which was set up in 1954 first by the Argentinian navy and then turned into a research station in 1977 to do scientific studies on birds, mosses, lichen and aquatics.

There were plenty of Leopard Seals around. Whether they were on ice or in the water it was equally incredible seeing them in their habitat. The icebergs were stunning as they towered above us, their blue colour contrasting with the dark grey skies. We could see some of the researchers out on their zodiacs carrying out their studies, which was very interesting. We also enjoyed watching groups of very dirty chinstrap penguins gather at





the shoreline, readying themselves to jump in all together. They like to wait and all jump in together as there is safety in numbers and you are less likely to get snapped up by a leopard seal.



In the afternoon we visited Palaver Point, our last landing of the trip. This was also a Chinstrap Penguin breeding site with many adults and chicks dotted around on the rocky outcrops. It was a perfect spot where we could really stretch our legs and admire our last views of Antarctica. The route expanded right to the top of the hill giving us a spectacular view over the bay and glacier and in the distance, we could see groups of Humpback Whales. Many Skuas were nesting with their

chicks, one pair even had a very small chick right at the top of the hill. We finished off the landing with a polar plunge! 25 brave souls dived in the icy cold water to experience the Antarctic waters. It was chilly and refreshing to say the least, but we felt invigorated and alive! That evening we heard the plans from Sara and the team followed by a recap from Charlotte on the Drake Passage and the impacts of warming temperatures in the Antarctic from Sara. Dinner just about finished us off, we were absolutely shattered, but overjoyed from the last few



days, so out came the wine to celebrate a fantastic trip. It was not without its challenges, but this is what the Antarctic is; a tough environment filled with magic that we were able to see just a snippet of, wow what a place.

## Day 18 – 19<sup>th</sup> February

### At sea, The Drake Passage

**12:00 GPS Position:** 60°51.1'S / 064°34.5'W

**Wind:** WNW9, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°C

We woke up to the sound of a different voice today! Assistant Expedition Leader Chloe played a trick on us by waking us up at 5.45am to tell us breakfast would be ready at 6am! This was not true! So, we curled back into bed to enjoy a lie-in until real breakfast which was at 8am.



We were very lucky that our sea day was more of a 'Drake Lake' than a 'Drake Shake' but there was still a lot of movement and mealtimes were a little quieter than usual. The lectures started in the morning with a joint lecture from Jens and Julian. Jens was talking about dynamic soaring in

Albatross species and how that has been and could be applied to aircrafts. Julian then spoke about biomimicry and how the humpback whale's physiology has inspired the design of his paraglider.

Afterwards we went out on Wildlife Watch for half an hour before reluctantly returning our muck boots that we had grown strangely attached to. At midday Ben gave us a short presentation combined with a quiz about the sounds of the ocean.

In the afternoon Chloe gave another inspiring talk about how polar animals perceive the world around them. She talked about how seals can track down fish with their whiskers and how echolocation in cetaceans works.



Many of us spent the day seeing if we could spot any more bird species either from the bridge or on the outside decks, while others spend time editing the thousands of pictures we've taken, reading, napping, or planning our next adventures.

The polar plungers of the group gathered on the helideck for a celebratory picture.

We gathered for recap in the bar where more questions from the question box were answered. Miraculously, two emperor penguins were spotted! But it turned out to just be Charlotte and Jess in very convincing costumes... After dinner, many of us then gathered in the bar to savour one of the last few nights of being with our new friends.

## Day 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> February

### At sea, The Drake Passage and Cape Horn

**12:00 GPS Position:** 56°09.9'S / 067°20.1'W

**Wind:** NWW 4, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** P.Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 7°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

Our final full sea day on board had arrived! Who can believe that just nineteen days ago we set off from Ushuaia, full of hope and anticipation.

Some beautiful Wandering albatrosses and Southern Royal Albatrosses visited us during breakfast. These huge and special seabirds soared all around the ship. It was nice to see them using their dynamic soaring techniques to glide effortlessly above the waves just as Jens had described in his lecture the day before.



After breakfast Simon kick started the lectures with a talk about the work he has done with bird ringing and how it can contribute to bird conservation and science. Jess then gave us a lecture about the ways in which whales can store carbon and contribute to the

nutrient cycle and ocean mixing.

After our last buffet lunch, we had an unexpected surprise. We were given permission to be able to sail around the famous Cape Horn. Cape Horn marks the Northern point of the Drake Passage and is famous for rough seas. It is thought that approximately twenty thousand sailors have lost their lives here due to the storms. A sailor's tradition was to get a tattoo of a sail ship once you had sailed around the horn, so now we can all get one!

After visiting Cape Horn, Captain Per joined us in the bar for a question-and-answer session where we could ask him about the ship and his career in the maritime industry.

At 3.30pm we were all invited onto the top deck outside for another surprise. This time it was hot chocolate with a warming splash of rum in there, not that we needed warming up as the weather was beautiful and clear.

Then Sara gave us a talk about some of the other destinations that OceanWide sails to. If we were not entirely convinced about maybe visiting the Arctic in the near future, then we certainly were after this.



The evening appeared very quickly, and we gathered in the bar for a special recap. There were cocktails and we toasted to celebrate what turned out to be a very successful trip. Julian showed us a wonderful slide show of photos from the trip which really made us reminisce and think

back to our amazing experiences in the Falklands, South Georgia, and of course Antarctica. We had a fantastic final meal together, during which we got the chance to meet and thank some of the staff behind the scenes in the galley, restaurant, and housekeeping departments. We then enjoyed a final few drink in the bar with mixed emotions, happy to head onto further exciting travels, or reunite with loved ones, but also sad that this special experience was coming to an end.

## Day 20 – 21<sup>st</sup> February

### Ushuaia – Disembarkation

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°53.7'S / 067°43.9'W

**Wind:** NWW 4, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** P. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 13°C, **Sea Temp:** 11°C

We heard the words 'Good morning, good morning, good morning' for a final time as we woke up. Most of us had packed up our belongings the night before and left our suitcases outside our rooms to be collected before heading to our last ever breakfast. We were sad to say goodbye to the restaurant team, especially the amazing Maria. We gathered our belongings and headed to the gangway where we said goodbye to the expedition team and our new friends. The wildlife and landscapes we have seen on this trip have been truly inspiring and we hope that you continue to care for and protect the world's precious ecosystems and special places like Antarctica.

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





**Total distance sailed: 3561.4 nautical miles.  
Farthest south: 65°11.2'S / 064°07.9'W**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Anderson, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, and her team, Hotel Manager Volodymir Cherednychenko, and all the crew and staff of M/V Ortelius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!



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# Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Chloé Maréchal – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Chloé is a passionate diver fascinated by marine life and exploration. She earned a European master degree in Marine biodiversity and conservation and loves to share her expertise for the marine environment. In April 2013, she was selected as the 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater scholar. She spent a year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields, getting very different experiences in marine science and in the diving industry. Diving and science are not her only passion; she enjoys exploring new countries and discovering new cultures. She has been diving on all continents

and living in more than 20 countries.

Chloe now lives in northern Norway just above the polar circle. When she is not onboard, she can be found underwater: observing the ocean's inhabitants, searching for forgotten wrecks or mapping and exploring undiscovered underwater cave passages.

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# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

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Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean. She studied Wildlife Conservation at University and then spent the next 10 years travelling through South America, Australasia and Africa. Charlotte's love for boats began in 2013 where she worked on research and dive vessels visiting remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Her interest in Marine Biology grew in Australia and New Zealand while studying Humpback, Minke and Sperm Whales.

After driving overland in a land rover from South Africa to Jordan she then moved to Mozambique in 2018 where she started her own backpacker hostel. In her spare time Charlotte worked as a Researcher studying Whale sharks and Manta Rays along the Coast of Mozambique. During 2020-2022 she worked as a Deckhand/Divemaster on superyachts and ice breaker explorer vessels. Her hobbies include scuba-diving, surfing, free-diving and hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and she is so excited to have started her first season with Oceanwide in 2022.

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# Jess Owen - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Ben Fredriks - Expedition Guide

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Discovering Spitsbergen in 2013 was like a dream coming true for Ben. During his studies in marine biology he conducted fieldwork which took him to the world's most Northern settlement: Ny-Ålesund. Here he fell in love with the Arctic Archipelago, and he has been returning to the Arctic ever since.

In the past, Ben worked on different scientific topics: Arctic shipping and the effect of oil spills in Arctic Regions. Ben is very interested in the Arctic biology/ecology and history, which makes Spitsbergen a perfect place for him to work, because it is filled with all

of it!

Since 2015 Ben works as a hydrographic surveyor on the North sea, but since his first visit to Spitsbergen he has caught the "Arctic virus" and is always looking forward to another adventure in the polar regions!

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# Simon Davies - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# Andres Garcia Diaz – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

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

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

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

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

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# Julian Robinson – Expedition Guide

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Originally from the SE of England, Julian has lived in Aberdeen, Scotland, since 2000.

He is a geologist and since studying geology for a BSc at Durham University and researching Structural geology at for a PhD at Cardiff University, Julian went on to have a successful career in oil and gas exploration and development. He worked on a variety of projects with exposure to many different geological settings across the world. At his current stage of life, he saw a great opportunity to combine geology with his lifelong passion for the outdoors and began guiding with

Oceanwide in 2024.

He is at home in the mountains of Scotland and enjoys several pursuits such as hiking, orienteering, climbing, biking and ski touring, although it is paragliding that he is most passionate about: he has visited many parts of the world seeking out some of the most interesting places to fly such as the Karakoram of Pakistan. It is, however, the rare crisp days soaring above the Scottish Highlands that he enjoys more than anywhere else. He also flies competitions and has represented his country several times in World and European championships.

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# Eva-Maria Kifmann- Ship's doctor

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Eva grew up in Germany and studied medicine at the Technical University of Munich. She has been working in Switzerland for 20 years and is a specialist in internal medicine and emergency medicine.

She works as a consultant in the emergency department of the "Spitalzentrum" in Biel/Bienne, a bilingual city (german and french) about 40 km north of the capital Bern and is the Medical Director of the local ambulance service.

She has been drawn to the north since her youth. Fascinating, fragile landscapes and the unique wildlife have captured her. Like many others, she has been infected by the "Polar bug", from which she has still not been cured.

A few years ago she made her first voyage with Oceanwide Expeditions as a ship physician and has been on board every now and then since. A perfect match for her passion for medicine and the Polar regions.

She is looking forward to sharing her experiences and gaining new ones.



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica Welcome aboard!

Date: 2 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 6.

### PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. 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 will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which is either the Bar on Deck 6 or the Restaurant on Deck 4, please check your cabin room card to see which station you are assigned to. If you are assigned **Lifeboat 1** you will muster in the Bar and if you are assigned **Lifeboat 2** you will muster in the Restaurant.
- 18:00+/- Please join us in the **Bar on Deck 6** for Captain's Cocktail, a toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader doing a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and staff introductions.
- 19:00+/- Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.
- 20:15 The Expedition Team welcomes you the **Lecture Room on Deck 3** 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*



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 3 February 2024

Day 2: At Sea - Heading Towards the Falklands

- 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 the Lecture Room on 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 Simon welcomes you to the bar for his lecture about Birds of the Falkland Islands
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please join Jess in the Bar for a lecture about Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to the bar for a presentation about Photography in the Polar Regions.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 4 February 2024

Day 3: West Point and Carcass Island

05:30 Wake-up call.  
Fruit, pastries, and juice will be available in the bar.

06:00+/- We invite guests from **Deck 5** for a landing at West Point Island.  
06:15+/- We invite guests from **Deck 3 & 4** for a landing at West Point.

Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs, Muck boots and that your lifejacket is correctly fastened before coming to the gangway on Deck 4. Remember to use the Virkon solution provided to clean your boots, tripods, monopods etc before you leave the ship and on your return.

The walk from the settlement to the colony is about 1.5miles (2.5km) up hill, there will be a vehicle available to give those who can't walk this a ride up and down again. Traditional 'Smoko' (tea, coffee, and cake) will be served in the main house from about 8:30am, the cost of this is included in your visit.

11:00-12:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

TBC We invite **guests from Deck 3 & 4** for a landing at Carcass Island.  
TBC We invite **guests from Deck 5** for a landing at Carcass Island.

Please note the walk from the Settlement to Leopard Beach is about 5 miles (8km) return, this walk will only be offered if weather conditions are stable. You can use your own walking boots for this landing.

***Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please do not kneel/lie down/sit or put anything on the ground. Please keep a 5-metre distance from any wildlife.***

**PLEASE NOTE ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER SO  
PLEASE LISTEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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.*



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 5 February 2024

Day 4: Stanley

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

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00+/- We invite guests from **Deck 5** for a landing at Stanley.

09:15+/- We invite guests from **Deck 3 & 4** for a landing at Stanley.

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.

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

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

16:30 Simon will do a short Q&A session in the Bar about the Birds we have seen in the Falkland's, please put any photos on the computer in the Bar if you wish him to ID them.

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.

*"I now belong to a higher cult of mortals, for I have seen the albatross."*

*Robert Cushman Murphy*





# DAILY PROGRAM



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 6 February 2024

Day 5: Scotia Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Charlotte invites you to the Observation Lounge for her a lecture about Seals of the Southern Ocean.
- 10:30-11:00 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:30 Please join Ben in the Bar for his presentation titled 'Whaling - A 1950's business'.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 16:15 Please join Jens in the Bar for his presentation titled 'Shackleton – The Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition'.
- 18:00 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 A screening of 'Shackleton' starring Kenneth Branagh in the Lecture Room, with popcorn! (Part 1).

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

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 7 February 2024

Day 6: Approaching South Georgia and Shag Rocks.

- 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 Chloe for a lecture in the Bar titled 'The Wonder of Drifting Life in the Southern Ocean'.
- 10:15-10:45 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:00 Please join Julian in the Bar for a presentation about the Geology of South Georgia.

**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.

During the afternoon we hope to ship cruise, **Shag Rocks**, six small islets known for their prolific bird life, and a great area for cetaceans.

- 14:15 We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY** South Georgia Biosecurity down on Deck 3. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to Deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to the Bar for her lecture about Penguins.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 8 February 2024

Day 7: Fortuna Bay and Hercules Bay

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:45+/- We invite guests from **Decks 3 and 4** for an activity at Fortuna Bay.

08:45+/- We invite guests from **Deck 5** for an activity at Fortuna Bay.

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

14:30+/- We invite guests from **Deck 5** for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.

14:45+/- We invite guests from **Decks 3 and 4** for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.

Before recap or after dinner we will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY** South Georgia Biosecurity down on Deck 3. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.

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

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

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

20:45 A screening of 'Shackleton' starring Kenneth Branagh in the Lecture Room, with popcorn! (Part 2).

*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*



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 9 February 2024

Day 8: Grytviken and Leith Harbour

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

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

Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the gangway. This can be a timely process so please be patient, we will call you by deck, **starting with Deck 5**. We hope to land you near the two shipwrecks in front of the museum, you can then visit the church, museum, post office, and gallery. Before, entering any of these buildings, you must walk through the Virkon solution provided at the entrance and again when you leave. You will be advised as to exact timings and exactly where you can walk when you land.

### IMPORTANT

- Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings.
- Do not make any attempt to reach the cemetery. Each Zodiac will pass by the cemetery, in order for you to see the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton on your return to the ship.
- You can use Pound Stirling (GBP) and credit cards only.
- Do not sit, kneel, lie down, or place any items on the ground.
- Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore.
- The whaling and history of Grytviken tour will leave the museum at 10:30am.

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

14:30+/- We invite **Deck 3 and 4** guests to the gangway for a landing at Leith Harbour.

15:00+/- We invite **Deck 5** guests to the gangway for a landing at Leith Harbour.

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.

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 10 February 2024

Day 9: St Andrews

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

Depending on the weather conditions we hope to offer a Zodiac cruise at St Andrews Bay. If conditions, look favourable at sunrise we will wake you up early and do a pre breakfast cruise. If this is not possible, we hope to be able to cruise you after breakfast.

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

We hope to offer an off-ship activity in the afternoon, but this will very much depend on weather conditions so please listen for announcements for more details and timings.

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

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

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

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 11 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.
- 09:30 Please join Ben in the Bar for a presentation titled “Antarctica how? Explanation about Antarctic convergence & Divergence”.
- 10:45 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:30 Simon welcomes you to the Bar for his presentation about Birds of Antarctica.
- 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 make sure everything is clean before proceeding to Deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team
- 16:15 Please join Chloe in the Bar for a presentation about Diving in the Falkland’s, South Georgia, and Antarctica.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 21:00 Karaoke in the Bar with the staff and crew!

**Please note the clocks will go back 1 hour overnight.**

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 12 February 2024

Day 11: Heading towards the South Orkney Islands

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30 Please join Julian in the Bar for a presentation about Antarctic meteorites.
- 10:45 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:30 Sara welcomes you to the Bar for her presentation about Marine Threats.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 15:30 Please join Jens in the Bar for a lecture titled 'Race to the South Pole'.
- 17:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 18:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

During dinner we will approach Sandfjord Bay, which is on the Southwest corner of Coronation Island, the largest of the South Orkney Islands. On arrival we will assess weather conditions to see if there is any possibility for a short after dinner Zodiac Cruise, please listen to announcements for further details.

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





## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 13 February 2024

Day 12: Iceberg A23a and Elephant Island.

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

07:45 Wake-up call

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

09:30 Please join Charlotte in the Bar for a presentation about feeding, breeding, and diving capabilities of whales.

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

11:15 Andreas invites you to the Bar for a presentation about 'Diseases of the Sea and Polar Exploration'.

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

16:00 Please join Chloe in the Bar for a presentation about Ice.

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

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

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

20:00 Happy Hour in the Bar - half price drinks!

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, please give generously!

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 14 February 2024

Day 13: Deception Island and Telefon Bay

- 07:15 Wake-up call
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 Please join guest lecturer Carol Masheter in the Bar for an inspiring talk about her attempt to climb Vinson Massif, the largest mountain massif in Antarctica, at the grand age of 65.
- 11:30 Sara invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Women in Antarctica.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30-14:30 Please pass by reception to pick up your passport.
- 14:30 We will show a short video about the Whaling History of Deception Island and the last eruption.
- 16:00+/- We will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.
- We hope to offer a landing at Telefon Bay before dinner, please stand by for announcements regarding exact timings.
- 19:30 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 21:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for a short recap.
- 21:15 Jess invites you to the Bar for a Valentines themed Quiz (questions will be related to our voyage and what we have seen and done). Please form teams of 2-6 people, think of a team name, and bring a pen!



*"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.*



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 15 February 2024

Day 14: Foyn Harbour and Orne Harbour

07:15 Wake-up call

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

08:30+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Foyn Harbour.

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

14:30+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a continental landing at Orne Harbour.

Please note it is a steep climb to the Chinstrap penguin colony, so if you have walking poles, we advise you take them.

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

19:00 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*



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 16 February 2024

Day 15: Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island and Damoy Point

06:15 Wake-up call.

We will start our transit down the Lemaire Channel straight after wake-up call, so we advise you to be up sooner. The Lemaire Channel was nicknamed Kodiak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photographic parts of the Antarctica Peninsula.

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

08:00+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a landing at Petermann Island.

Before lunch we will transit back through the Lemaire Channel.

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

14:45+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a landing at Damoy Point.

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

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

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 17 February 2024

Day 16: Paradise Harbour, Brown Station, and Danco Island.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00+ We welcome you to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Brown Station in Paradise Harbour.

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

14:00+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a landing at Danco Island.

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

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

19:00 Dinner will be served.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you require transportation to the airport on February 21st, the day of disembarkation, please sign up at the reception today.

*"If it is possible to imagine a piece of rotting beef, odiferous cod fish and a canvas-backed duck roasted together in a pot, with blood and cod-liver oil for sauce, the illustration would be complete." – Doctor Frederick Cook, the Belgica Expedition, on what penguins taste like.*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 18 February 2024

Day 17: Cierva Cove and Palaver Point

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:00+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Cierva Cove.

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

14:00+/- We welcome you to the gangway for a landing at Palaver Point on Two Hummock Island.

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

19:00 Dinner will be served.

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. Please make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.

*“to anyone who goes to antarctica there is a tremendous appeal, an unparalleled combination of grandeur, beauty, vastness, loneliness, and malevolence - all of which sound melodramatic - but which truthfully convey the actual feeling of antarctica. Where else in the world are all of these descriptions really true? -  
Captain T. I Sunter*



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 19 February 2024

Day 18: Drake Passage

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Jens and Julian invite you to a joint lecture in the Bar about the Dynamic soaring of Albatrosses and Biomimicry (how the humpback whale has inspired the design of Julian's paraglider).
- 10:15 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:00 Please return your Muck Boots to Deck 3, please wait until you are called before doing this.
- 12:00 Please join Ben in the Bar for a short presentation about Marine Sounds.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 16:15 Chloe invites you to the Bar for her presentation about 'Umwelt': How Animals sense and experience the world.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 08:30 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. Please get from Reception an **Orange** luggage tag if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

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



## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 20 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 Join Simon in the Bar for a presentation about Bird Ringing and Tagging.
- 10:30 Please join the Expedition Team outside for **Wildlife Watch** - 30 mins of fresh air and to look for wildlife.
- 11:30 Join Jess in the Bar for a lecture about 'How whales can save us and improve quality of life globally'.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Any time after breakfast you can pass by Reception to settle your accounts at, please ensure this is done before 17:00.

- 16:00 Sara invites you to the Lecture Room for a presentation about Oceanwides' other destinations.
- 18:15 Please join the Captain and Expedition Team in the Bar for a farewell toast to the voyage and a viewing of the slideshow that the team have made for you.
- The slideshow will be available after dinner from the computers in the Lecture Room, or if you have an Apple branded device, we will be able to airdrop it to you.
- 19:00 A farewell gala dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4!

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





## Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 21 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. Please get from Reception an **Orange** luggage tag if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

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

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

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Ortelius, 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*