



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands

20th February – 13th March 2024

### M/V Hondius



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

# Captain Artur Iakovlev

## and his international crew

Staff Captain:	<b>Miia Holma</b>	Finland
Chief Officer:	<b>Matei Mocanu</b>	Romania
2nd Officer:	<b>Nino Cizmic</b>	Croatia
3rd Officer:	<b>Giovanie Simene</b>	The Philippines
Chief Engineer:	<b>Guntis Dizbite</b>	Estonia
Hotel Manager:	<b>William Barnes</b>	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Aleks Lyebyedyev</b>	Ukraine
Head Chef:	<b>Gaurav Bawa</b>	India
Ships Doctor:	<b>Ruth Gussenhoven</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Leader:	<b>Pippa Low</b>	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Chris Long</b>	New Zealand
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Adam Burke</b>	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Rose Hong</b>	China
Expedition Guide:	<b>Elizabeth Robinson</b>	United States
Expedition Guide:	<b>Ursula Tschertter</b>	Switzerland
Expedition Guide:	<b>Pelin Asfuroglu</b>	Chile
Expedition Guide:	<b>Saskia van der Meij</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Aitana Forcen Vazquez</b>	Spain
Expedition Guide:	<b>Meike Sjoer</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Annelou Hulsker</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Joyce Mulder</b>	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	<b>Martin Anstee</b>	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	<b>Alexander Romanovskiy</b>	Russia
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gabriela Joanna Kolodko</b>	Poland
Dive Guide:	<b>Jerry Sutton</b>	United Kingdom
Dive Guide:	<b>Johan Petersson</b>	Sweden

# Day 1 – Tuesday 20th February 2024

## Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

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

Wind: SE 6 Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +11°C



Our journey has finally begun! After a day full of travelling for most of us, or a rest day and exploring Ushuaia, we embarked on our new home for the coming weeks: the *Hondius*.

As we went up the gangway and said farewell to Ushuaia at around 4 pm, we were welcomed by the friendly crew and staff of the *Hondius*. We were shown around the ship, the place to be home for the upcoming weeks. But first, before we could head out to the Beagle Channel, we had a mandatory safety briefing to attend. It is important to know what to do

in an emergency situation, and seeing everyone in their orange life jackets (Netherlands' national color) was an interesting view as well!

Pippa introduced herself as our Expedition Leader. She explained what to expect in our voyage, from weather briefings and what an expedition cruise actually is. One of the first things she mentioned is going from Plan A, to B, to C, and so on... And, that we were actually already on plan B for this voyage! Pippa explained to us how weather might influence trips like this one, and that wind is crucial for safety. On the weather chart she showed, became clear that if we were going to the Falklands right now, the 'purple monster' (a storm system) would follow us all the way to South Georgia. So instead of going to the Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctica, we are doing the trip anti-clockwise: Antarctica – South Georgia – The Falklands.



The Captain, Captain Arthur, came down from the bridge to introduce himself as well. He told us about the Drake Passage conditions being not that bad, only 3 meters of swell maximum, which is in fact quite good! With a glass of champagne or a non-alcoholic equivalent we raised our glasses to a successful trip.

After the explanation of the new plans and some snacks, our Expedition Staff introduced themselves. With a lot of different nationalities and different specialities, the team is for sure very varied.



# Day 2 – Wednesday 21st February 2024

## At Sea, Drake Passage

**12:00 GPS Position:** 57°34.6' S / 065°34.1' W

**Wind:** N 6 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +10°C **Sea Temp:** +7°C



Today marked the full day at sea on the Drake Passage! The passage had relatively calm waters, providing an ideal sea state for acclimatising to life onboard! The morning started with expedition leader Pippa's first wakeup call, followed by a delightful breakfast served between 8 and 9 AM. The day's agenda kicked off with a mandatory Zodiac & IAATO briefing in the observation lounge. Participants were instructed on proper zodiac entry, exit, and navigation—a vital skill set for the forthcoming expedition. The IAATO briefing underlined the significance of respectful wildlife interaction in this pristine environment. As stewards of these untouched lands, it's important to minimize disruption to

the local fauna. Subsequently, muck boots were distributed around noon on deck 3, ensuring everyone was equipped for the journey ahead.

At 11:30 AM, Martin delivered a captivating lecture on the avian species of the Drake Passage. With many of these birds likely to grace our journey, the session proved both informative and engaging. Following the lecture, numerous attendees ventured outside to observe the majestic albatrosses in flight, armed with newfound knowledge for identification. A delicious lunch was served between 12:30 and 1:30 PM, preceding a biosecurity check requiring all outer gear, backpacks, muck boots, and tripods/walking sticks for inspection and sanitation.

Once the biosecurity procedures concluded, Elizabeth led another captivating lecture on the whales of Antarctica, emphasizing their potential sightings throughout our voyage. The decks were abuzz with excitement as passengers eagerly scanned the horizon for wildlife sightings. Subsequently, the daily briefing and recaps commenced. Pippa provided an overview of the convergence zone, clarifying its significance and our impending crossing. Pelin followed with a discourse on sailor superstitions, revealing intriguing maritime folklore, including the auspiciousness of black cats versus the perceived ill fortune associated with women aboard ships. Rose concluded with an enlightening recap on Antarctic Peninsula mapping,



acknowledging the contributions of various Antarctic explorers to our understanding of the region. The day ended with a plated dinner served in the Dining room, featuring the classic dessert tiramisu. With the first day at sea on the Drake Passage behind us, anticipation mounts for our imminent arrival on the Antarctic Peninsula—just one more day at sea before our grand expedition reaches its first destination!



# Day 3 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## At Sea, Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 62°14.5' S / 064°10.7' W

Wind: NW 3 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +2°C Sea Temp: +4°C



Our second day on the Drake Passage. Around 10am, we already spotted some of the first icebergs! Quite exciting, and soon more came into sight. Not only that, some purpoising penguins were also spotted in the morning. The conditions were excellent to go outside, nice blue sky and clear visibility.

At 9:15, Sasha gave us an excellent geographic introduction to Antarctica (not geology!). The next lecture was given by Ursula at 11:00, one of our marine

mammal specialists on board. She told us all about the seals, in her lecture called '*Living on the land and sea*' in the observation lounge.

Not only lectures were on for today, but we also had to pick up our boots. Just before lunch we went down to get our pair of *muckboots*, which we would rely on heavily the coming weeks for keeping our feet warm and dry. We had to do more preparation for the following morning; biosecurity! As explained by Pippa before, biosecurity is very important as we want to conserve the places we visit and have as little impact as possible. Thus, this is being done by making sure we don't carry any unwanted biological material ashore. With the help of staff members, we all got to know how useful a paperclip can be when cleaning out the velcro of our outergear...

After lunch, Pippa called everyone on the ship together for a brief announcement. Unfortunately, one of our fellow passengers was having a medical problem and an evacuation was needed as soon as possible. The person in fact was stable, but they needed to go to a nearby hospital to get the right treatment. This meant that our itinerary had been changed: we were heading to the South Shetlands, towards King George Island, so a medical evacuation could be carried out. Lucky in an unlucky situation, our position granted us minimal delay for our own voyage.



During the afternoon at 16:00, one of our birders onboard, Meike, gave a lecture about what a penguin exactly is. Some of us were quite surprised to know the answer! This was good preparation for seeing penguins up close, in the nearby future. Meanwhile, heavy fog was setting in. This is quite common in the Drake Passage as different waters converge at the Antarctic Convergence Zone.

During recap, Pippa told us about the plans for tomorrow. Pelin told us a little bit about the first sighting of Antarctica, Ursula more about breathing behaviour of the whales that we find here. However, the recap was multiple times interrupted by sightings of purpoising penguins and whales. During dinner, Pippa announced a change of plans, going towards plan D, which was the preferred plan of landing at Penguin Island in the following morning! We got some beautiful humpback sightings during dinner to finish the day.

# Day 4 – Friday 23rd February 2024

## Penguin Island, South Shetland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 62° 05.4' S / 057° 54.9' W

Wind: SSE 4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: -1°C Sea Temp : 3°C



Today was our first landing day at our first destination! Despite a slight adjustment in plans required by a medical evacuation, we made the most of our time by embarking on an insightful morning excursion to Penguin Island, our inaugural landing spot! Thus, the day started early to maximize our onshore experience. Following breakfast at 8 AM, the first group disembarked for the island, while the second group prepared for a scenic zodiac cruise.

Situated off the coast of King George Island, Penguin Island boasted numerous penguin colonies, including

both chinstraps and gentoos. Brown skuas soared overhead, keenly eyeing the colonies for potential meals, while small storm petrels and blue-eyed cormorants dotted the landscape. The shoreline was covered with fur seals, interspersed with occasional sightings of elephant seals. A trek along the island's path ascended 170 meters to Deacon Peak, affording panoramic views of the crater below, within which nested a smaller secondary crater. You could walk all the way around it, where the highest point was most definitely windy and cold!

Around 10 AM, the groups swapped, ensuring all participants experienced the island's highlights both on foot and by sea. Returning to the ship for a nice and warm lunch, we cruised towards King George Island, and it provided a great view! Meanwhile, at approximately 2:30 PM, Pelin delivered an engaging lecture on Gerlache and the Belgica expedition. Suddenly, amidst the presentation, a majestic blue whale surfaced, around 300 to 400 meters off the ship. As we entered the bay of King George Island, glimpses of the Chilean and Russian research stations provided insight into scientific endeavours in this remote location. Overall, King George Island boasted numerous research facilities alongside an airstrip facilitating transportation to and from the region.



At 6:15 PM, the daily briefing and recaps commenced, offering insights into the forthcoming day's plans. Annelou provided an interesting overview of the volcanic features of Penguin Island, a captivating reminder of our morning exploration. Subsequently, Rose enlightened us further about King George Island, delineating the various onshore research stations. Meike concluded the recaps with an informative presentation on the Chinstrap penguins encountered earlier, enhancing our understanding of the local fauna. With recollections shared, we went on for



dinner. We concluded the day in the lounge with leisurely activities, nice conversations, and taking everything in before the next expedition day starts from the beginning.





# Day 5 – Saturday 24th February 2024

## Foyn Harbour and Orne Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 64°32.5' S / 061° 57.6' W

Wind: S 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +4°C



Having spent the day prior in the South Shetland Islands, we were eager and excited to arrive at the Antarctic Peninsula this morning. For many this trip was years in the making and you could feel the energy onboard skyrocketed. Our bridge team navigated us wonderfully to our first activity location, Foyn Harbour. This fantastic day started even before breakfast was called! Our first true look at Antarctica. The ship was surrounded by towering snow-capped and glaciated peaks, offering spectators no doubt as to the harsh, yet pristine, environment we will be exploring in the coming days. Foyn Harbour is situated on the east side of Enterprise Island and in addition to the whale filled waters and stunning scenery, this site also has the remains of an old shipwreck, the Governoren. For our scuba divers onboard, the opportunity to dive

amongst the wreck is a once in a lifetime.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1915, just 800 miles away from Shackleton's shipwrecked Endurance, the Governoren had a similar demise. She was one of the largest whaling factory ships as it could catch and process the whales onboard, making this design and construction more economically viable. She was known for producing more than 22,000 gallons of oil and was one of the most technically sophisticated. The crew threw a party to celebrate one of the biggest catch seasons they had before returning to Norway. The dancing was held below deck and perhaps got a little out of hand when someone knocked a lamp off the table and the ship caught fire. As the ship was carrying gallons and gallons of whale oil, the fire was quickly fuelled by the whale oil and become out of control. All 85 crew members were able to escape and watched the ship ablaze from the shoreline. The cruise was filled with beautiful deep blue icebergs, striking towers of glacial walls, and curious humpback whales! What a fantastic first activity on the true Antarctic Peninsula.



In the afternoon we headed for a landing site called Orne Harbour. The landing comprises of a moderate climb to a vantage point overlooking the Errera Channel, Gerlache Strait, Anvers and Brabant Islands. The scenery here is breath-taking but the second reason behind this landing is that it is located on the Antarctic continent! For many of our guests, landing on the continent is important for them! A zig-zagged route leads you up the steep cliff side with the prominent rocky headland of Spigot Peak dwarfing you.

At the top while looking over the vast expanse of the Errera Channel, there is also a Chinstrap penguin colony at the top, mosses, and lichen on the approach up, and views of blue-eyed shags during the zodiac cruise. Our zodiac cruisers were also fortunate to have views of calving glaciers and veracious avalanches as well! We made it back to the ship just in time before the evening storm came rolling in. Anchor weighed, compass heading to the south, and to the Antarctic Circle we go!





# Day 6 – Sunday 25th February 2024

## Fish Islands & Antarctic Circle Crossing

12:00 GPS Position: 65°59.6' S / 065°25.1' W

Wind: SW 5 Sea State: Rippled Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: +3°C



When we were woken up by Pippa this morning, we didn't know that the morning zodiac cruise would turn out this amazing. We had made good progress overnight so we arrived at the Fish Islands in time for our morning activity. While at breakfast at 07:30 we sailed through a wide channel with some icebergs in the distance, but not much at first. Where were we and what were we going to explore? That was a question we saw in many eyes. It was overcast outside with some light snow/rain, so we had to dress up warmly.

Around 08:45 the first group was called down to deck 3 to board the zodiacs. And there we went. Out on our adventure. We headed for big icebergs. One more beautiful than the other. Everywhere you looked there was something quite extraordinary. The different patterns of the ice and the colors. From snow white to so many shades of blue. Especially when a foot of the iceberg stretched out into the water, you could see the aquamarine blue just below the surface. Sometimes reflecting back on the ice hanging above. There were some real pieces of art floating around here. A few of the zodiacs passed a growler (official name of a small piece of an iceberg) which looked like it had different air bubbles, big and small that reflected different colors depending at which angle you look at it. Just amazing.

And so many Adélie penguins. They were everywhere. With nice backdrops of icebergs, on the snow and hopping around on the bare rocks. Some with their Mohican like hairdo, as they were still molting. Some of us even saw Crabeaters and a Weddell Seals in the water. A surprise came to the end of the cruise when we made a landing on one of the islands. Extremely special, as not many visitors to Antarctica get to land on these islands. Some of us landed on Mackerel Island and with other six zodiacs we landed on Trout Island, where we stepped up the rocks and could get up close with the Adélie penguins that were chilling there.



The Skua couple were protecting their youngster. When we came too close, as they were blended in so well with the colors, they would call out. After almost 3 hours of cruise, we returned back to Hondius, but we could have stayed out for even longer. It was just an amazing trip for every zodiac, but as for real exploration goes, everybody had their own special moment in this fabulous area at 66° South. Especially when there was no wind, flat calm water and a mysteriously grey cloud covered the sky. A real Antarctic experiences!



Back on board we went for another delicious lunch. Then the sky opened up and the sun came out, shedding light on beautiful icebergs that we were passing through. Many of us went outside to get some fresh air and take photos of the stunning scenery. At 15:30 many of us gathered in the Observation Lounge to listen to the story of Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott and their respective expeditions to the South Pole, given by Saskia. By the time she finished we were almost at the Antarctic Circle. Pippa announced that some festivities would happen on the bow.

At 17:15 we arrived at the Antarctic Circle and crossed it at 66°33'S / 67°08'W. The weather could not have been better. Most of us were at the bow watching the expedition team getting ready to celebrate the crossing. By tradition a lot of us kissed a fish and got stamped on the cheek with special Antarctic circle crossing stamp prepared by Pippa. We were treated with good dance music and hot chocolate, rum, and cream. And a decorated photo frame was provided to take pictures on this memorable place on earth. As all evenings we ended the day with a recap given by expedition leader Pippa and some of our burning questions in the question box were answered by Sasha. Then off to dinner and a last drink in the bar before everybody went to bed after another amazing day here in the Antarctic Peninsula.



# Day 7 – Monday 26th February 2024

## Detaille Island

12:00 GPS Position: 66° 51.5' S / 066° 48.3' W

Wind: N 5 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: +3°C



Today was a day of adventure and discovery as the Hondius set sail into the breathtaking Lallemand Fjord, with our sights set on Detaille Island as our morning destination. The early morning greeted us with a spectacular surprise as a pod of Orcas gracefully accompanied our journey, setting the perfect tone for the day ahead. As the anchor lowered, we eagerly prepared for a day filled with activities both on shore and aboard our trusty zodiacs. Despite the cloudy and overcast skies, with light snowflakes

dancing in the air, excitement buzzed through the air.

Detaille Island awaited our arrival, and navigating through some brash ice, we reached the landing site where Pippa warmly welcomed us ashore. A small hike up the hill led us to a historic site and monument left behind by the British in the late 1950s. Base W, as it was known, served as a British research station focused on surveying, geology, and meteorology, with a particular emphasis on contributing to the International Geophysical Year of 1957. This morning, our historians Saskia and Pelin provided insightful interpretations of the station's history. We learned about the purpose of the Base and its significance during its operational years. It was fascinating to delve into the scientific endeavours undertaken at this remote outpost in Antarctica.

However, as we explored the abandoned hut, we were reminded of the harsh realities of life in such an extreme environment. The British ultimately evacuated the station due to the challenges posed by sea ice and harsh weather conditions, rendering it inaccessible for much of the time. While some explored the island on foot, others were out on the zodiacs to discover the surrounding waters, where we were greeted by Antarctic wildlife: from fur seals to Weddell seals, Adelie Penguins to several Humpback Whales. Towering icebergs, ranging from tabular to growlers, added to the awe-inspiring spectacle of the Antarctic landscape.

As we returned to the comfort of the Hondius, we were greeted by the warm hospitality of our hotel manager, William, and treated to a delicious lunch prepared by head chef Bawa and his talented team. Meanwhile, Captain Arthur and Expedition Leader Pippa made the decision to sail north in search of better weather for tomorrow, leading to an afternoon filled with captivating lectures that enriched our understanding of the region.



Pelin guided us on a captivating journey through history, recounting the fascinating tale of Operation Tabarin, a Top-secret mission during World War II, and the intriguing story of the post office at Port Lockroy. Followed by Rose who shared stories of Antarctic explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot, man who wintered in Port Charcot, in Booth Island, the place we are going to visit. As the day drew to a close, we gathered for drinks at the bar, savouring the moments shared and reflecting on the incredible experiences of the day. Recaps offered insights into the day's highlights, from the charming story of Steve the Dog to the facts about the unique significance of visiting the South of the Circle. Following this eventful day, we sat down to enjoy a lovely four-course dinner together, appreciating the delicious food. As we wind down for the night, looking forward to the adventures of tomorrow, we can't help but smile, knowing it's been good day.





# Day 8 –Tuesday 27th February 2024

## Pleneau Island & Port Charcot

12:00 GPS Position: 65°06.3' S / 064°02.0' W

Wind: ESE 1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +3°C



Wakeup call 0645h, breakfast 0700h. Early morning again as we planned to do two operations today. The weather looked good in the first part of the day deteriorating during the afternoon.

The morning belonged to Pleneau Island, a place where the icebergs came to die. It would be a long zodiac cruise with no landing. Conditions were perfect, no wind, the surface of the ocean looked like a mirror, and there were beautiful icebergs everywhere. Loading the zodiacs was easy today, we divided ourselves into three groups, each one led by our EL Pippa and our AELs Chris and Adam. The area felt

like a gigantic maze, drivers needed to pay attention to navigation, little rocks kept popping here and there and it was a matter of team work to make the trip safe. The black mountains contrasted with the white snow and the blue icebergs, water was clear and everyone was in high spirits for what the day could bring. Every now and then we switched the engine off to hear the silence and the little noises that the ice made. Cracking, dripping, splashing. We heard thunder and a little wave disturbed the surface, pointing towards the origin of the sound, a piece of ice just broke off one of the icebergs.



Suddenly we saw through the corner of our eyes a shadow of something bigger. A leopard Seal!! Whoa! A huge, beautiful animal splashing around our zodiacs... She was in a playful and curious mood, so we gathered around her and it felt like she knew that we were watching her carefully as she swam underneath the zodiac and popped her head out a few times. She was extremely curious about these strange devices that showed up in her environment. But there was more to come, we kept cruising and saw two more leopard seals having a nap on a rock and on a piece of ice. They looked so quiet and innocent when they slept. It was hard to convince ourselves that

was indeed an apex predator not an animal we could pet. At the end of the cruise, we spotted 8 leopard seals. Magic. Someone asked if they only had a raft of penguins jumping around to end the morning on a high note, and before we knew it, there they were. A raft of penguins saying goodbye on the way back to the ship. Lunch is prepared for 1130h. A quick lunch as we were heading to a split landing early in the afternoon.

Gentoo penguins populate Port Charcot. We were welcomed with raft of penguins coming in and out of the rocky landing site and you could smell them before you saw them. The landing area consisted of a steep icy walk followed by a nice gentle walk towards the penguin colony, where the penguin highway was busy with birds going up and down. The most adventurous of us took the hike up the hill where the 'cairn' was built and you could have a beautiful view of the channel and the bay. Towards the end of the afternoon the wind kept picking up and the walk up the hill got a little bit more challenging but nevertheless we did a fantastic job enjoying the walk and the views.





# Day 9 – Wednesday 28th February 2024

## Mikkelsen Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 63°56.7' S / 060°54.5' W

Wind: NE 6 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +2°C



Today is the day of Antarctic challenges. Antarctica showed its more common face of fall with winds, rain and 100% cloud cover. Possibly that quite a number of us thought: “I will skip this landing and enjoy a quiet morning on board.”

However, as we entered Mikkelsen Harbour Pippa announced that a landing and the long-awaited polar plunge will be offered on the small D’Hainaut Island. Drivers carefully navigated the zodiacs through the waves while avoiding the rocks in the very shallow waters. It didn’t take long for the wind and rain to soak our jackets, pants, and gloves. Soon an impressive number of us stepped on land

withstanding the challenging conditions during the morning.

On the landing beach hundreds of whalebones of various sizes and shapes covered the gravel. In-between and around the rotting remains of a wooden water were numerous Gentoo penguins. Many of which were in the middle of the moulting process. Not aware that these remains are witness of the dark times of Antarctica more than 100 years ago. Carefully we found our way through the bones to walk up a gentle snow-covered slope. On the ridge we got a nice overlook over the small island, the small rookeries of penguins, the little beach, and the Argentine refugee hut. From this elevated position Giant petrels could be observed chasing the penguins to separate one out. They grabbed the chick by the head when an adult penguin came running to save the chick from its certain death.

Before heading back to the ship, about 50 of us took the courage to run into the cold water. Screaming equally out of shock and joy. Some were faster back on the beach, yet their faces expressed some degree of joy. Others did prolong in the cold water as long as possible to let this rather special moment to sink in. Then things went fast. Put on the clothes, ride back on the zodiac, sign in, walk to the cabin, take off clothes and run into the warm shower. Given how cold and wet the plungers were when taking off their clothes, the expedition team later declared today’s plunge to be a TPP: A True Polar Plunge. And a great *Well Done* to all the brave who came on land to expose themselves to cold and wet Antarctica.



Soon Hondius set sail again. After the well-deserved lunch and some rest, we met in the observation lunge to listen to Meike’s lecture presenting *Euphausia superba*, the Antarctic krill. These tiny shrimp-like zooplankton of about six centimetres in length, are the key species of the Antarctic food web as all live feeds directly or indirectly on them. Yet the industrial krill fisheries are growing jeopardising once again the complex ecosystem which has not yet recovered the uncontrolled exploitation of seals and whales in the last century.

Later Pelin presented the story of a forgotten adventure that took place in the area of the Antarctic Sound where we had planned to pass through. But bad weather kept us away. From 1901 to 1904 the Swede Otto Nordenskjöld led the Swedish Antarctic Expedition to explore the east side of the Peninsula. He and his men as well as the retrieving party led by Carl Anton Larsen were both forced to overwinter in the continent. Johan, our Swedish dive guide, calls Nordenskjöld another hero, yet his story is rarely told.





# Day 10 – Thursday 29th February 2024

## Elephant Island & A23A

12:00 GPS Position: 61°04.0' S / 054°46.6' W

**Wind:** WNW 4 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +3°C



The 29<sup>th</sup> of February – what a strange day it is. It happens once every four years, so we just had to live it in the most special way possible. And, jumping far ahead, we made it!

The morning was calm and sunny. By taking a more attentive look it was possible to see that Hondius was located right in the eye of a cyclone. The sky above us was blue and there was almost no wind, but closer to the horizon in all directions the sky was heavily clouded.

We were sailing North-East approaching Elephant Island, a large piece of land with steep shores, peaky mountains and glaciers covering the rest of it. Ironically enough, when we were close enough to start seeing the details, nobody in fact wanted to watch the shores, because of a much more interesting view around the vessel: Fin Whales. First, our guides spotted a single blow from the bridge and soon the number of blows increased. There were if not hundreds, but at least dozens of them. Fin whales were feeding, swimming back and forth, opening their mouths and swallowing swarms of Antarctic krill. It was just amazing to witness this spectacular scene. We all put on our jackets and went to the outer decks to watch them. Some of the whales approached very close to the ship, which is a rare thing to do, because Fin whales usually prefer staying away from the vessels. Besides whales, there were other representatives of Antarctic fauna to join the feast such as Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins, White-chinned and Giant petrels and even Grey-headed as well as Black-browed Albatrosses.

Hondius sailed along the shores of Elephant Island anticlockwise. Late in the morning, we approached the famous Point Wild, a small cape where Shackleton's Expedition got stranded for several months till they got successfully rescued by Chilean Captain Luis Alberto Pardo. Our captain led the Hondius as close to Point Wild as possible so that we could get a better view of this tiny piece of land. With binoculars we could even see the bust of Luis Alberto Pardo, erected there to commemorate the rescue of the people. The expedition team treated us with hot chocolate and rum on one of the outer decks. After lunch we continued our voyage sailing North-East. The weather slightly deteriorated, the sky became overcast and sometimes we had to navigate through patches of fog and rain. Our guides gave lectures in the main lounge in the meantime.



Right before dinner, when the daylight started to dim little by little, we had one more amazing thing to see. Instead of sailing directly towards South Orkney islands, Hondius made a small detour in order to pass by A23a, the biggest iceberg on the planet at this moment of time. And there it was, an enormous piece of ice drifting slowly, driven by the current. We went to the outer decks to take photos and just to look at this giant. The iceberg stretched from the horizon to the horizon. Waves and wind carved numerous caves in its vertical cliffs of ice. It is hard to believe that one day this colossal body of ice would get dissolved by the ocean. When darkness fell, our ship continued making its way towards South Orkneys. We had dinner and soon went to rest, thinking about Fin whales, Point Wild and A23a. What a day!





# Day 11 – Friday 1st March 2024

## Shingle Cove, South Orkneys

**12:00 GPS Position:** 60° 38.9 ' S / 045° 32.7 ' W

**Wind:** WNW 4 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +4°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C



The sun greeted us again this morning when sailing the Scotia Sea. While having breakfast from 07:30 we again passed some impressive icebergs. Although after seeing the gigantic A23A tabular iceberg yesterday evening, all icebergs from now on would feel tiny, it still was amazing to see the white giants of the Ocean. Our destination for today was Shingle Cove on Coronation Island, part of the South Orkney Islands. This group of islands, more than 85% glaciated, consist of four big islands and some smaller islets. It

rises up in the middle of the ocean, about 1440 km southeast of Tierra de Fuego.

Just before Annelou began her lecture, few Hourglass Dolphins were spotted. They were enthusiastically jumping in two small groups at 11 o'clock from the ship. After that spectacle, we were all ready to listen to Annelou's lecture 'Antarctica as comparison to Mars and Outer Space'. It was really interesting to hear and learn how some form of possible glaciers, that look like the ones that are in Antarctica, have been spotted on Mars. Getting closer to the South Orkney Islands, we started to see more beautifully shaped icebergs. They were scattered all around us. On approach, the sky was painted with this mysterious light grey color. Sun was trying to find some spots to shine through. Later the mist went away and the peaks of Coronation Island, reaching up to 1265 meters, came into view right at the bow of the ship. Coronation Island is one of the four main islands of South Orkneys, besides Signy, Powell and Laurie. Laurie Island is one of the two inhabited places on these barren islands, the 'Orcadas' station is located here. It's an Argentine meteorological research station, established in 1904 which houses up to 45 people in summer.

We made good progress overnight and arrived earlier than planned. The blue group was taken out first, while the orange group enjoyed lunch on board. After lunch we swapped groups at our landing spot, Shingle Cove. We were welcomed by a few large Elephant seals, who were resting on the pebbles ashore. Arriving at the shore, we followed a path up and over the boulder field to a junction to go and see the penguins to the left. To the right we followed the pole marked route to the glacier at the far end. We had to cross a lateral moraine, the rocks that were taken by the glacier moving down and pushed aside, to get to the ice. At the beach a few Gentoo penguins jumped out of the surf, while seven chunky Elephant seals were resting on the beach. The metamorphic rocks along the whole route were marked with wonderful patterns, but many bright orange and green lichens gave the landscape a special colorful look. At some points fur seals were resting, well camouflaged, in between the boulders.



What a midday we had! Bright and sunny, with some large icebergs around the bay. Just beautiful. Back on board the anchor was lifted and we set sail to north, heading into the open ocean again towards South Georgia.



With a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate many of us came down to the observation lounge at 16:00 to listen to the lecture 'Weather in the Southern Ocean' from Chris. He explained the different weather patterns and how to read clouds. During our daily recap in the evening Pippa informed us about tomorrow's plans, while we passed some pretty spectacular icebergs again. The light was just beautiful, with a small yellow band of light across the horizon. After another delicious dinner almost all of us went up to the observation lounge to watch the second part of the Shackleton movie accompanied by delicious popcorn.



# Day 12 – Saturday 2nd March 2024

## At Sea, sailing to South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 57°57.2 ' S / 039°59.5 ' W

Wind: NW 4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fog Air Temp: +4°C Sea Temp: +5°C



In the early morning, accompanied by the gentle wake-up call from Pippa, the broadcast informed us of today's weather outside the ship, outdoor temperature, and the day's activities onboard. Breakfast started at 8 o'clock, giving everyone a chance to sleep in after several days of intense landings. Leisurely enjoying the morning meal, we then proceeded to the observation lounge for a mandatory briefing on South Georgia Island. As we were set to arrive there tomorrow, this briefing provided a better understanding of the island's unique natural landscapes and diverse wildlife.

At 11:00 in the morning, Annelou presented her lecture, focusing on the geology, rocks, and ice of South Georgia Island. This would provide us with a better

understanding as we approach the island tomorrow. As we were nearing South Georgia Island, we adjusted our clocks forward by one hour at noon. Lunch was served at 1:30 in the afternoon and concluded at 2:30. After enjoying lunch, at 2:30 in the afternoon, our expedition staff began preparing for the biosecurity vacuuming activity. Broadcasting by deck, we informed everyone to bring all their outerwear, hats, gloves, backpacks, life jackets, and waterproof boots to the deck 3 for vacuuming and biosecurity checks. All guests cooperated enthusiastically with the checks, and many have already tidied up their gear in their cabins before we inspected it. We thanked them for making the vacuuming process simple and efficient. Throughout the entire process of biosecurity vacuuming, we played music and engaged in cheerful conversations, creating a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

After the biosecurity vacuuming concluded, expedition leader Pippa delivered a lecture on the history of whaling in Antarctica. The lecture excellently covered the whaling history of the entire Southern Ocean, allowing everyone to better connect with the fact that South Georgia Island was once a major whaling area. Since James Cook discovered South Georgia Island in 1775, he documented the abundant resources of whales and seals here and brought the news back home, attracting countless sealers and whalers to come up here and initiate the subsequent whaling boom. It wasn't until Svend Foyn invented the modern whaling gun that the entire whaling history underwent a significant change. Various modern whaling tools greatly increased the success rate of whaling but also led to a sharp decline in the number of whales in the waters around South Georgia Island to the point of near extinction. Thousands of whales were processed and rendered for oil in whaling stations on South Georgia Island until the last one was closed in 1965. The lecture provided a wealth of information about the unforgettable history here, allowing us to better immerse our guests in the experience of past historical periods during subsequent landing activities.



After dinner, Adam hosted the evening talk in the Observation Lounge, sharing his life experiences working at a British research station in Antarctica. Everyone listened attentively to his captivating stories.



# Day 13 – Sunday 3rd March 2024

## Cooper Bay & St. Andrews Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°47.3 ' S / 035°48.3 ' W

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



As today's trip log writer, I could not help but think "How I am going to fit today's wonders into a single page?" Having made good progress during the night we had reached our next destination early in the morning. The clouds hung low. Only giving sight was a small strip of green vegetation above the water line. At first. Then, slowly, and gradually, the clouds lifted, exposing a place of pure beauty: Cooper Bay at the Southeastern tip of South Georgia.

By the time all zodiacs were loaded with guests, cameras and binoculars, the sun was shining. Mist went away and set free a marvellous landscape of green slopes, little

bays, and large floating icebergs. Who would have thought that South Georgia, the remote mountainous island in the Southern Ocean, would offer such an astounding palette of colours, textures, and sounds? Soon the drivers carefully navigated the zodiacs into tiny bays surrounded by dark rocks. Kelp floated in the breaking swell like long human hairs. Soon we spotted our first Macaroni penguins. A big group of chicks were standing on a large rock near the water; hesitant to go for their first swim, or not. There was so much to discover: Gentoo Penguins, Snowy Sheathbills, Leopard and Elephant Seals, cute Fur Seal pups and countless impressive Giant Petrels sitting on the water. Their heart-warming calls will be one of the sounds, which will escort us while in South Georgia. Later we drove into a narrow channel framed by subtle colours of green tussock grass, orange lichens and black rocks blending harmoniously together. In between we discovered a Fur Seal pup and a moulting Chinstrap Penguin. At the end, vertical rocks reached into the sky making us feel very tiny. No wonder that this place is nicknamed Gondor. Then we drove back into the open space heading over to a long beach where the gentle swell made the gravel sing. Morning cruise offered a unique, diverse, and fulfilling experience no words can truly describe.

After a short sail further north, we reached to St Andrews Bay. Although this site was closed for landings the extended zodiac cruise along the long and open beach became another highlight. Driving slowly in the gentle swell we had lots of time to observe various behaviours of the King penguins. Standing still or walking in pairs with head raised and chests expanded. Once in a while some entered the water. So much to see. So much to enjoy. It became almost overwhelming. Eventually we had to break off the magic and leave. As we approached the ship, a mixture of unexpected smells filled the air: It was a Barbecue and party night! The cooks and stewards had prepared various delicacies served on the aft deck. Soon a medley of music, voices and laughter filled the air and dancers appeared. As daylight began to vanish, we moved the nicely running party to the observation lounge to reduce the danger of attracting seabirds by the deck lights. As feared by some the relocation did not break the fun as dozens were jumping, dancing, and singing on the





small dance floor. Meanwhile Hondius sailed along the Southwest coast to our tomorrow's historical destination while the observation lounge fell quiet and all guests asleep.



## Day 14 – Monday 4th March 2024

### Cape Rosa & Peggotty Bluff

12:00 GPS Position: 54°10.6 ' S / 037°24.6 ' W

Wind: ENE 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +8°C Sea Temp: +5°C



Not all travellers are destined to visit the southern side of South Georgia Island. We initially had no plans for such an endeavour, but as they say, every cloud has a silver lining. The day before, it became evident that an approaching storm on the northern coast of the island would prevent us from landing on shore, arranging a Zodiac cruise, or even observing the coastline from the ship's open decks. That's why Pippa, our expedition leader, after consulting with the captain, made the only right decision – to head south, where secluded spots could still be found, sheltered from the hurricane-force winds by the towering barrier of island ridges. One of these places was King Haakon

Bay, a large and picturesque fjord located closer to the western tip of South Georgia. That's where we headed. During the night, Hondius rounded Cape Disappointment and continued its journey while already being sheltered by the island's mountain range.

The morning started with a surprise that no one had expected at all. Instead of the usual wake-up call through the speakers, we heard Pippa's cheerful and slightly excited voice announcing that we had spotted two Blue Whales! None of the expedition team members had ever seen Blue Whales in the waters of South Georgia. A hundred years ago, this region was the site of barbaric hunting of these sea giants. Small boats with heavy harpoon cannons on their bows roamed everywhere, tracking their prey. Killed whales were towed to whaling stations, where their bodies were cut into pieces, yielding a valuable product, whale oil! Unfortunately, hunters did not stop until they had slaughtered all the whales. The miraculously surviving animals dispersed throughout the Southern Ocean. And now, finally, we could gradually observe the whales returning to South Georgia. Standing on the open decks, we watched as these huge creatures, the largest ever to have lived on Earth, spouted fountains of spray into the air, exhaling, and showed us their backs with their comically tiny dorsal fins.

The southern coastline differed significantly from the north. There was much less vegetation here, and the huge glaciers covering most of the mountains didn't terminate in the middle of valleys but reached all the way to the sea. Hondius dropped anchor not far from the famous Cape Rosa. It was here that Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton brought James Caird. It was here that he first set foot on solid ground since leaving Point Wild. And now, solely due to the bad weather on the northern coast of the island, we were presented with a unique opportunity to visit the very place where Shackleton and his comrades rested and gathered strength before embarking on the final leg of their desperate journey and walking to the whaling station at Stromness.





The Zodiacs were lowered into the water, we set off on a Zodiac cruise. The bay where Shackleton found shelter was tiny, no more than 30 people could be there at once. Therefore, it was decided to establish a strict order. Pippa gradually invited us, two Zodiacs at a time, for a short landing on the shore so that we, like Shackleton, could set foot on South Georgia and take a photo against the backdrop of the very cave where he and his faithful companions set up camp. To be fair, it wasn't really a cave, but rather a deep niche in the rock. Nearby, baby elephant seals frolicked in the grass, and South Georgian Pipits chirped cheerfully in the air.

The landing on the shore took no more than ten minutes. For the rest of the time, we explored the coastline of Cape Rosa from the water. Several fairly large icebergs drifted nearby, ambassadors of the giant iceberg A23a, which we had seen a few days earlier. We had to navigate around them, maintaining a safe distance. The shores of Cape Rosa were sometimes low but steep, sometimes even sheer. There were even two real caves, each of which could be entered by Zodiac. If the first, located not far from Shackleton's landing site, was only about ten meters long, the second was much larger and represented a much longer corridor. At its end, there was dense semi-darkness, the roar of the engine, greatly amplified by the echo, reverberated heavily through the vaults. It was, to be honest, quite eerie, but we, being absolutely confident in the skill of our guides, didn't worry at all.

By noon, the Zodiac cruise had come to an end. We returned to the ship and, removing our outerwear, headed to the restaurant for lunch. Meanwhile, Hondius weighed anchor and headed deeper into the fjord towards a small cape called Peggotty Bluff. It was decided to arrange another Zodiac cruise there to get closer to the glacier descending into the sea. Once again, we boarded the Zodiacs and set out to explore this section of King Haakon Bay. The landscape was quite different from what we had seen in the morning: sheer mountain walls, topped with glaciers, cascading waterfalls, fur seals, and giant petrels, brash ice, and small icebergs. The terrain resembled one of the fjords of Spitsbergen so much that it felt like taking binoculars and scanning the area to see if a Polar Bear was lurking nearby. Peggotty Bluff itself was a small hill, inhabited by King penguins and fur seals. It was here that Ernest Shackleton once made his final stop before embarking on his heroic trek across the mountains and glaciers to the whaling station at Stromness. Back on the ship, we gathered in the main lounge for a daily recap. Pippa briefed us on the plans for the next day. Later, as the sunset rays painted the icebergs and coastline golden, Hondius ventured into open sea to circumnavigate South Georgia from the west and return to its northern coast. The sea became rough, so some of us even needed seasickness medication. It was a very unusual and wonderfully surprising day!





# Day 15 – Tuesday 5th March 2024

## Grytviken & Godthul

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 17.5' S / 036° 28.5' W

Wind: ESE 4 Sea State: Rippled Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +5°C



Our second full day in South Georgia was met with excitement and jubilee! Our bridge team navigated us into Cumberland East Bay and upon arrival we were met with an amazing number of icebergs. Captain Artur has been coming to South Georgia since 2007 and has said this is the most ice on the east side of South Georgia that he has ever seen! It is likely the icebergs are coming from A23a, the biggest iceberg in the world currently, which we sailed passed on our way Northeast to South Georgia. Once we were in position, just off King Edward Point, we brought on

representatives from the South Georgia government and then South Georgia Heritage Trust. They checked to make sure our biosecurity requirements were being fulfilled and gave a presentation about the conservation work, past and present, on this beautiful island. We were happy to hear the ship received 100% on our biosecurity; thank you to all the guests for cleaning their gear so diligently!

Next, we headed to shore to explore Grytviken and learn about its troubled past. It is an old whaling station, which is open to visitors to walk around the buildings and get a feel for what life was like back then. Tens of thousands of whales were caught out at sea and brought to shore here to be processed and sold for parts. It is a tragic history, and the feeling of sadness is undeniable when onshore at Grytviken. Guests also could explore the museum and the post office, sending a plethora of post cards back home for friends and family. However, for some, the previous whaling was not the most important piece of Grytviken's history. It is the location where Shackleton is buried. At the church, guests were able to take part in a toast to Shackleton, and coincidentally we were at Grytviken on the anniversary of his funeral. On the way back, each zodiac stopped by the cemetery to see his gravestone and pay their respects. Despite an ugly history, it is a beautiful place. The shoreline is littered with playful fur seal pups desperately chasing their mothers asking for food, endemic pintail ducks and pipit birds, as well as the towering peaks of Mt Duse, Mt Hodges, and Brown Mountain situated around the bay protecting this significant place.

We transited out of Cumberland East Bay and towards our afternoon activity site, Godthul, on the Eastern shore of Barff Peninsula. Here we did a split landing and zodiac cruise and both activities offered stunning views of the natural cliff amphitheatre around the harbour and more of the wildlife South Georgia has to offer. From the beach guests could choose to have a good leg stretch and walk up an incline with tussock grass and to a flat area of mixed vegetation. There they could get views to overlook Lake Aviemore and a gentoo penguin colony. The beach also had whale bones and the relics of the old whaling station located at Godthul. The views from the top of the walk were stunning! Equally as exciting, on the water the



zodiacs zigged and zagged through kelp forests to access beaches that could not be seen from the landing site. The beaches are home to outstanding number of wildlife, and it is possible to just sit in the zodiac off a beach and watch the wildlife go about their daily lives.

What a beautiful full day in South Georgia! Two landings, a historic whaling station visit and a toast to the boss on his anniversary. Guests were back onboard with smiles on their faces, just in time to reconvene in the lounge and find out plans for tomorrow, another action-packed day!





## Day 16 – Wednesday 6th March 2024

### Fortuna Bay, Anchorage & Whistle Cove

12:00 GPS Position: 54°08.2' S / 036°48.5' W

Wind: NNE 2 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +7°C Sea Temp: +5°C



With Pippa's words in mind, the early raisers got up in the morning to check the conditions themselves as we all have become experts in assessing the weather of the Southern Ocean. While the *Hondius* slowly sailed into Fortuna Bay, they knew that today was going to be a good day. Although there were high clouds in the sky, the sea was calm and the swell at the beach was as gentle as it gets. There was no time to waste. After a quick breakfast we carried out a unique and ambitious plan for the day: To do two landings in Fortuna Bay offering plenty of time to enjoy the landscape and wildlife and to walk on the very same ground where Shackleton and his men had walked 108

years ago. Shackleton, Crean and Worsley hiked over a mountain ridge to reach out today's landing site at Anchorage Bay. I doubt they had noted the penguins at all, being totally exhausted and of low spirit. As they walked along the beach they heard the whistle of the whale ships of Stromness, the whaling station situated in the next bay where they finally found the help they needed.

Arriving at the landing site we once again walked between countless curious and playful Fur Seal pups and King Penguins and hiked towards a glacier. Soon we left the wildlife behind walking over uneven ground with rocks of various sizes and colours. We surely discovered a new face of South Georgia. Not even lichens nor mosses grew on them as the retreating glacier only recently has set free this landscape. Those who reached the end of the glacier were treated with a live mini lecture from Annalou who was visibly excited to talk about her favourite subject. We learned about the formation of this glacially shaped landscape and the exposed frozen permafrost. After lunch we headed out again. This time we were dropped off at Whistle Cove which offered a very different experience. Here, wildlife was teeming, and the ground was covered with green and soft vegetation. Fast hiking was not possible as countless sleeping, calling, and playing Fur Seal pups grabbed our attention repeatedly. About halfway we discovered a sleeping leucistic pup of creamy colour lacking the colour pigmentation in its fur. Eventually we reached the end where a huge colony of King Penguins tightly stood together.



After lunch we headed out again. This time we were dropped off at Whistle Cove which offered a very different experience. Here, wildlife was teeming, and the ground was covered with green and soft vegetation. Fast hiking was not possible as countless sleeping, calling, and playing Fur Seal pups grabbed our attention repeatedly. About halfway we discovered a sleeping leucistic pup of creamy colour lacking the colour pigmentation in its fur. Eventually we reached the end where a huge colony of King Penguins tightly stood together.

We too stood still and watched in awe. Overwhelmed by this sight it took us a while to focus on details. Like those penguins with expanded pouches and standing on their heels. Patiently watching, we observed one lifting the pouch giving sight to a large white egg. Shortly after, a tiny naked chick became visible on the feet of another one. Sadly, these chicks won't survive as the harsh winter is approaching fast. Again, we had to rush ourselves from this place to continue our walk along the poles leading us behind the colony of 7000 breeding pairs standing closely together. As

our eyes have become well trained during the past two weeks, we soon discovered countless dark brown patches within the colourful adults: Their cute and fluffy chicks. Standing still we closed our eyes to listen to the beautiful cacophony of calling penguins. Trying to remember Pippa's recap. A-B-A-B for females and B-B-A-B-B-A for males? Or was it the other way around?

Then it was time to leave this place of overwhelming beauty. Aware that it will again take extra time to hike back to the landing site as the same cute pups we had passed earlier were just waiting for us to catch our attention and to make us stand still. Eventually everybody made it back to the landing sites and the ship. It was time again to meet in the observation lounge to learn about tomorrow's plan. Once again, the weather caprioles had made Pippa's head spin but once again, she came up with the optimal plan: To start our journey to the Falkland Islands. After an informative, entertaining, and diverse recap-session and diner most of us disappeared in their cabins to either look at photos, share stories and impressions or to simply to fall asleep dreaming of today's extraordinary wonders.





## Day 17 – Thursday 7th March 2024

### At sea, sailing towards the Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 53°15.3' S / 041°40.3' W

Wind: S 4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +8°C



This morning we woke up to a beautifully calm sea with a nice morning to sleep in. By popular demand there was no wakeup call this morning from our expedition leader Pippa. As we made our way to the breakfast Captain Arthur and his bridge team sailed the MS Hondius closer to the Falklands while Ursula invited us to the lounge for her lecture on the incredible feeding strategy of whales and the oceanic food web. This seaday had many interesting lectures offered throughout the day and we had to plan our outside wildlife watching wisely. After the coffee and tea break Aitana took the stage for lecture on the way the water moves around the Antarctic Continent. So much we learned, things we had no idea of their

existence. She also mentioned her personal experiences as an Oceanography researcher, with unique stories shared.

Just as lunch was served the first pod of Hourglass Dolphins showed up next to the ship, it was called out by the team members on the bridge watch but most of us kept on looking at our plates... as if we knew we would have another chance of seeing them later that day. At one o'clock the sun came out, together with the few knots of wind the perfect conditions for wildlife watching. Although with less wind it would be less likely to sight Albatrosses (most of the time) Chris started the afternoon with sharing information the importance of making islands predator free and the removal of nonnative species from our sub-Antarctic islands. And suddenly there they were again, two very large pods of Hourglass Dolphins, at our bow and on both sides of the Hondius, making everybody flock outside to be smitten by the fast movements and high jumps of these amazing marine mammals.

While watching the dolphins the marathon friends doing their daily 5 km walks on the ship, this afternoon was a double highlight. They completed a marathon this afternoon by walking 5 km in 8 days, making it 42 km. After the group of Hourglass Dolphins joined us for a bow-ride, Joyce presented her lecture on benthic communities in the Antarctic region. She told us about the diversity of the benthic communities and showed us some examples of those that live there, including isopods, worms, anemones, and how they could live in such cold waters. She ended by elaborating on her previous research in Greenland, showcasing how benthic habitat maps are made. Outside the first Albatrosses of the day



started to appear. Not just one, within the hour the Wandering-, Northern- and Southern Albatross came soaring by on the winds that the ship produced. Antarctic Prions, the occasional Common Diving petrel and even King penguins were seen in the waters we crossed and all just before our daily recap started.

Once in the dining room just as we got our lovely meals served a younger Wandering flew by the window on starboard side, with the sunset light coloring its wings with the evening glow. The sight everybody must see once in their life, the Wandering Albatross on its wings soaring on the wind. Finalizing the splendid dinner with a bailey's chocolate-mousse dessert making our more than 2000 taste buds very satisfied. Another beautiful dinner was prepared by Chef Bawa and his galley team. For those of us who were keen for a personal talk about living in Antarctica's and New Zealand's Scott Base, the evening talk with Chris was the place to be in the lounge.



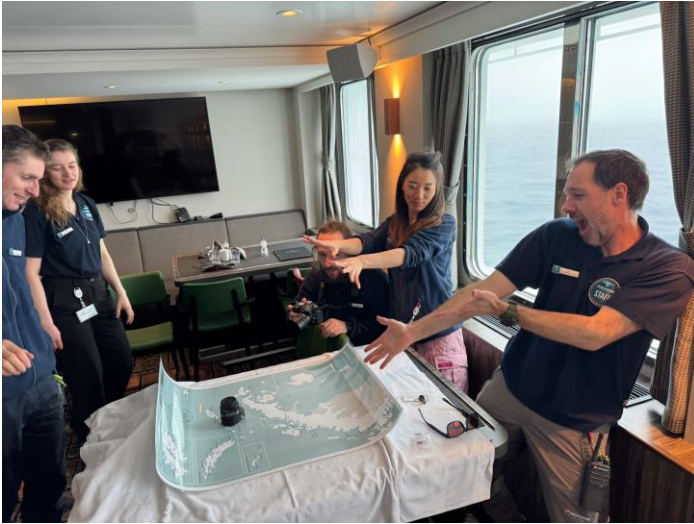


## Day 18 – Friday 8th March 2024

### At sea, sailing towards the Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 52°21.7 'S / 050°24.5 'W

Wind: NW 5 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +6°C Sea Temp: +8°C



As the sun rose above the horizon, we kept sleeping. No wake-up calls, no weather updates over the PA system. Though some missed Pippa's soothing voice and headed early for breakfast, many of us decided to take advantage of the slow day and just kept on snoozing. Whether woken by their stomachs, already very much used to the regular dining hours, the "gentle" rocking of the ship as we reached over 14 knots in speed, or the eagerness to listen to Martin tell us all about the life of a policeman in Port Stanley, by 9:30 most of us were out and about. And good it was. If you were one of those looking out through a window or out on deck, you had a chance to spot Black-browed Albatrosses, White-chinned Petrels, Soft-plumage Petrels, Great Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm Petrels, and Imperial

Shags! What a day for bird lovers.

Between the cheeky jokes and captivating intimate life stories, Martin entertained in the lounge for a good part of the morning. The weather outside did not allow for much wildlife watching, and no landscapes were to be seen, so we went on to engage in an activity that everyone by now has grown to love biosecurity! Even with the loose regulations of the Falkland Islands, we all take great care and pay attention not to bring any viral infections to the lovely bird colonies we aim to visit. So, we all dug deep into the boot threads, bottoms of our trousers, and ensured all was clean and safe. By lunch, all squeaky clean, we filled the dining room for another remarkable buffet and, just in case anyone was still hungry, the most adorable, sprinkled donuts awaited in the lounge.

Meike told us about the life and likes of the albatrosses, thoroughly explained how to distinguish them, and in the end, quizzed us all on our species recognition capabilities. The afternoon continued with Joyce explaining how in the world species survive and thrive in subzero environments. As if that was not enough, at the recap, we celebrated International Women's Day with a short yet impactful and powerful story by Pelin about the first woman hired on polar expeditions and the first American woman to set foot on the Antarctic Continent - the inspiring Edith M. "Jackie" Ronne.



Though the day came to an end as the sun set over the horizon at dinner, we were just getting warmed up as it was today that we auctioned off some amazing items for the South Georgia Heritage Trust! The impeccable presentation and Adam's, Martin's, and Pippa's auctioneering skills triggered bidding wars that escalated quickly. With 17 items sold, we raised 4,712 pounds. The most valuable item of the night was a unique piece of art created by the Expedition Team's own Annelou at a whopping price of 1,000 pounds. What an amazing way to finish the night with great fun and fundraising for an important cause. We still encourage you to find ways to give back and continue supporting local and global endeavors aimed at protecting fauna and flora all over the world.

# Day 19 – Saturday 9th March 2024

## Port Stanley, the Falklands

12:00 GPS Position: 51° 41.2'S / 057° 51.0'W

Wind: NW 4 Sea State: Rippled Weather: Overcast Air Temp: +14°C Sea Temp: +12°C



After two days of sleeping in, we went back to our regular schedule. With a warm wake-up at 7:15, we were all finally ready to set foot on the Falkland grounds. But before heading out, we took some time after breakfast to learn from Martin about the birds of the Falkland Islands, many of which we got to see in the afternoon. An early lunch set us up for good few hours in Port Stanley, a settlement established in 1843. Stanley was awarded city status in June 2022, and after over two weeks in the pristine wilderness of Antarctica and South Georgia, it indeed felt like a city vibe for us. Reminded to look both ways before we crossed the street, by 12:30 we all made it to the Jetty, and everyone scattered. For the next four hours, we roamed not only the streets of Port Stanley, but many of you took the

opportunity to visit some Magellanic Penguins, head over to the lighthouse, or simply walk off without supervision for the first time in weeks. Port Stanley proved to be the place to be as we learned the history of the Falkland Islands in the Museum, visited the church and cathedral, snapped photos of vintage Land Rovers, and sent out tens or maybe hundreds of postcards.

Four of us (congratulations Erin, Scott, Mark, and Rickey!) finished a Hondius Marathon that consisted of a bunch of 5Ks around the ship, and some staff and guests decided to stretch their legs with a lovely 7-mile run around town. Others decided to either soak in the history or enjoy a tasting of local beers in the brewery. And apparently, we bought all the gin from the distillery, even though it closed within one hour of our arrival. Whether you were wandering around town or headed out, there were plenty of chances to notice the richness of birds all around. With at least 18 species spotted by the staff and guests, even the most bird-blind among us had plenty of opportunities to appreciate some lovely Falkland birds. With the last Zodiac leaving the jetty at 17:45, we left Port Stanley behind. Two lovely Southern Royal Petrels followed us out, and we headed into the observation lounge for yet another recap.



Ursula shocked everyone as the team brought out the biggest of her handmade animals we have seen on the ship - a 1-year-old humpback whale of 8.5 meters! We all had a chance to appreciate her creations and get really close to the wildlife we had spotted on the trip, so this was a true treat! As Sasha tried to answer as many questions as possible from the official question box, we had some fun-loving, frivolous visitors - Commerson's and Peale's dolphins surfed the waves and showed off their skills on the starboard side of the ship. Their energy was clearly infectious as many people enjoyed the show, running out of their t-shirts. After such a busy day, only a few stayed up playing games and swapping stories about the day. With the blinds closed to protect the birds of the Falkland Islands from striking onto the ship, it was time to regenerate and get ready for the next day's adventures!



# Day 20 – Sunday 10th March 2024

## Saunders Island & Carcass Island

12:00 GPS Position: 51° 18.8'S / 060° 14.9'W

Wind: WNW 6 Sea State: Slight Weather: P.Cloudy Air Temp: +11°C Sea Temp: +12°C



We woke this morning at 6.45 to another wakeup call from Pippa. Those that were already up or those that were straight out of bed witnessed a beautiful sunrise, a specialty of The Falkland Islands. The skies were largely clear and the sunrise above the hills that make up Saunders Island, our destination for the morning. Breakfast was yet another feast, by now several people are trying to cut down on their food intake, a struggle, particularly today.

After breakfast it was time to don our outdoor clothing and our waterproofs in readiness for what was possibly going to be a choppy zodiac ride to Saunders Island. One by one the zodiacs took us onto the beach in the area of

the island called The Neck. The beach that we landed on was covered in kelp due to the direction of the wind along with a large group of Magellanic Oystercatchers, Kelp and Dolphin Gulls feeding on the invertebrates in the Kelp. From the beach we walked up past Gentoo, King and Magellanic Penguins all moulting or in the case of The Kings, trying to raise the chicks and get them big enough to cope with the harsh winter weather that would be coming their way soon. Three moulting King Penguins also gave us the opportunity of getting an unusual photograph of Penguins with sheep! For some, the walk also involved seeing a beautiful Variable Hawk scavenging on a dead Gentoo Penguin. Everything has to eat!

The walk then took us to the beach on the other side of the neck, which was much longer and, as the tide dropped, revealed a stunning white sandy beach on which there were Falklands Flightless Steamer Ducks, Falklands Skuas and a few Striated Caracara or as we now know them, Johnny Rooks. From the beach it was time to walk up the hill to the Rockhopper Penguins and beyond them to the Black-browed Albatross. The Rockhoppers were all stood in the colony finishing their moult and getting ready to make the journey back down the cliff and back out to sea for the winter. The moult is known as the catastrophic moult as the birds change all their feathers at the same time, replacing them with brand new, strong, waterproof feathers to keep them alive in the coming months. The Albatross chicks were magnificent sitting on top of their nests that resemble chimney pots and thus give them their names. The chicks are now beginning to develop their flight feathers, exercising their wings, and generally beginning to look more like the adults.



Of course, we had to get back to the ship in time for lunch but more importantly to enable the ship to relocate to Carcass Island for our afternoon activity. After lunch the zodiac shuttle to the Island was choppy and a little wet for some time but before long, we were in the shelter of the settlement bay and landing at a jetty for a change. The walk around the settlement is beautiful through the gorse bushes and even past some palm trees! It seemed like there were small birds flitting around everywhere, Dark Faced Ground Tyrant, Black chinned Siskin, white bridled Finch, Tussac Birds and Austral Thrush to name but a few. At the settlement we could wander around at will but



most of us carried on walking around the bay past Upland Geese, Johnny Rooks, Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins out towards Leopard Beach. Turning round to walk back was right into the wind which was heavy going for some but well worth it as when we got back to the guest house the staff had arranged for tea and coffee and the most incredible table of cakes and biscuits or as it's called in The Falkland Islands, Smoko.

All too soon it was time to go back to the jetty and the zodiac shuttle back to Hondius. After recap it was time for another lavish spread for dinner and then a well-earned rest. What would our last day of operations have in store for us tomorrow?



# Day 21 – Monday 11th March 2024

## New Island

12:00 GPS Position: 51° 43.9'S / 061° 17.2'W

Wind: W 6 Sea State: Slight Weather: P.Cloudy Air Temp: +9°C Sea Temp: +11°C



This morning we once again woke up to the announcement from Pippa. Pippa informed us that we had successfully travelled south during the night towards our intended destination of New Island. New Island is situated to the Southwest of the Falkland Islands, it is an Island that not too many people get the chance to visit, even those living in The Falkland Islands. The Island is a wildlife sanctuary. The late Ian Strange MBE formed The New Island Conservation Trust to ensure that the Island remains a centre for conservation. Falklands Conservation merged with The New Island Conservation Trust and now has the responsibility of carrying on the great work started by Ian and his family.

The Island is 238km from Stanley, there is a short airstrip which is difficult to land on, as a result most visitors are from expedition ships such as Hondius. The island has a population of two wardens, irregular volunteer staff, scientists and, sometimes, film crews. After breakfast we donned our waterproofs, trying to gauge how many layers to put on underneath. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, the wind was blowing, and we were told that we would be climbing a hill to see a Black-browed Albatross colony.

The zodiac shuttle to the Island caused the first excitement of the day with Peale's dolphins swimming alongside as we drove towards the Island. Once there, we were greeted by Pippa and the team but this time they were accompanied by the wardens, Jenni and Tim and one of the volunteers, Pat, who was running the little shop inside the beautifully presented museum. The museum is inside the recently renovated Barnard building which incorporated the oldest building in The Falkland Islands, a stone hut built by Capt. Charles Barnard in 1813 after he was marooned on the Island.

Most of us took some time to view the museum and spend some money in the lovely little shop before making our way up the hill, past the Johnny Rooks and the Upland Geese towards the main goal, the Black-browed Albatross colony. We weren't disappointed. The colony was on top of the cliffs on the west side of the Island, the views were spectacular, there were Imperial Cormorants and Rockhopper Penguins nesting alongside the Albatross and there was even a Macaroni Penguin amongst the Rockhoppers who had come to visit. The wind blew in our faces taking the heat of the sun away, but we didn't care the whole experience was exhilarating, such a privilege. It was difficult for some of us to drag ourselves away.





During lunch on board, the ship was repositioned further North and again we went ashore on New Island. This time we walked across the Island, past a large pond and through an area of dense Prion burrows to a beautiful beach on the North side of the Island. New Island has the largest colony in the world (around 2 million pairs of Slender billed Prions). The dolphins were surfing the waves and the Gentoo Penguins were swimming in the shallows, it was yet another stunning experience. We weren't finished yet, the walk carried on up the hill to cliffs nearby and Albatross Bay, between Precipice Hill and Cathedral Cliffs, the Black-browed Albatross glided around the bay giving us fantastic views of these magnificent creatures as they came into land near the nests of their hungry chicks. The views along the coastline added to the most spectacular way to end our last landing ashore. It was time to go back to the landing site, board the zodiacs back to Hondius and start the journey back towards Ushuaia.



# Day 22 – Tuesday 12th March 2024

## At sea towards Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 54° 39.9'S / 064° 49'W

Wind: NE 2 Sea State: Slight Weather: Rain Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +10°C



Our last day at sea.. A very last day of the wonderful voyage we had to the Antarctic Circle, Antarctic Peninsula, Elephant Island, South Orkneys, South Georgia and the Falklands.... We all woke up with mixed feelings, sad to leave soon the vessel that became a home for us during these three weeks but also happy to have seen few of the most unique places of our Planet Earth. We were very much aware that we were part of a privileged minority that had chance to visit such places and we would carry these memories with us. Morning started rather slow with a long and hearty breakfast prepared by our wonderful galley team. Then we proceeded to our cabins to start packing. We had to return our muck boots and rental gear to the Expedition Team who were busy cleaning

our well-used gear. Expedition Team had prepared a wonderful presentation program for us. Elizabeth started today's talks with Endangered species, a difficult but very important topic that made us think our impact on the wildlife.

After another delicious meal, presentation program continued with Ursula's long-requested talk on Minke Whales. It was fascinating to learn about Minke Whales as well as Ursula's personal story of becoming a whale researcher. Ursula's thought-provoking talk prepared the scene for another difficult yet very important topic. Several Expedition Guides together hosted a climate and conservation mini-series. Each of them took the stage and talked about what was in our power to do in the face of current climate challenges. Mini-series ended with a well-attended discussion session. Then we took a short break before gathering again in the lounge for Captain's Farewell cocktail. For those of us who were late in packing, rushed to their cabins to pack. Others wandered in the outer decks while we sailed beautiful Beagle Channel. Sun finally showed itself from the clouds and we could appreciate the beauty of Tierra del Fuego Island.



Captain's Farewell cocktail was another spectacle to remember. We had a chance to toast to the wonderful trip we had together but also watched the end of voyage slideshow prepared and presented by our Expedition Team. To see wonderful images of the voyage brought tears to our eyes. We certainly would cherish all those precious memories until the very end of our lives. After the bitter-sweet farewell cocktail we head down to restaurant once more to have our final dinner on board. As always Galley Team did not disappoint! Another delicious meal to celebrate our voyage!



# Day 23 – Wednesday 13th March 2024

## Ushuaia

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

**Wind:** NNW 2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** P.Cloudy **Air Temp:** +9°C **Sea Temp:** +11°C

Early in the morning we arrived back in the port of Ushuaia. Our bags were packed, and we were ready to disembark the Hondius for the last time. We were feeling a mixture of sadness that our journey to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and the Falklands had come to an end, but also a feeling of satisfaction that our travels were over, and we could head home to rest. We waved goodbye to the crew and staff and then dispersed into the city. Over the last three weeks we have seen some incredibly remote and wild places and the creatures that defy the odds and called them home. We have learnt inspiring new things about the polar environment and our precious oceans, and we have memories that will live forever in our minds.

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 4430 Nautical Miles**

**Furthest point south: 66° 43.8'S 067°08.2'W**

**Your Expedition Team!**



**On behalf of everyone on board we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home.**

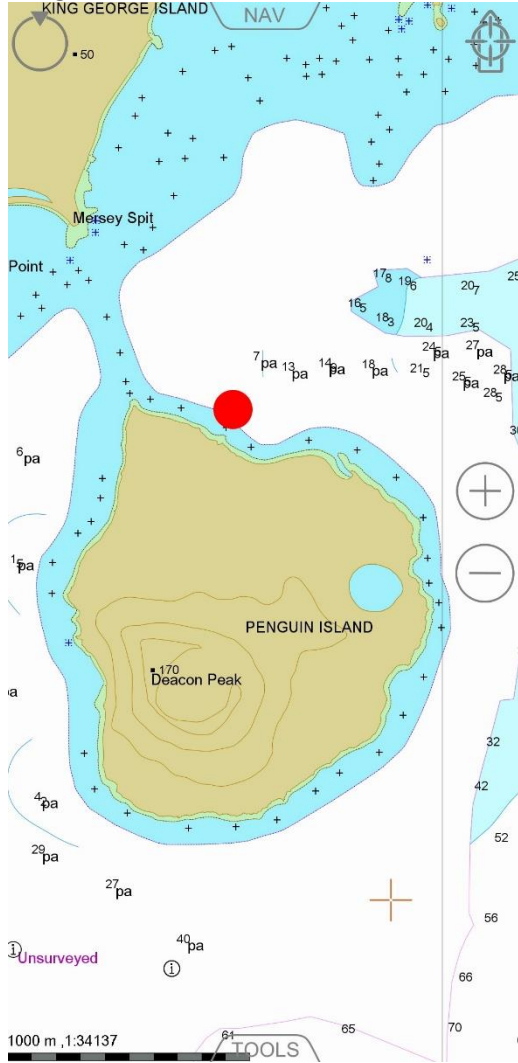


**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

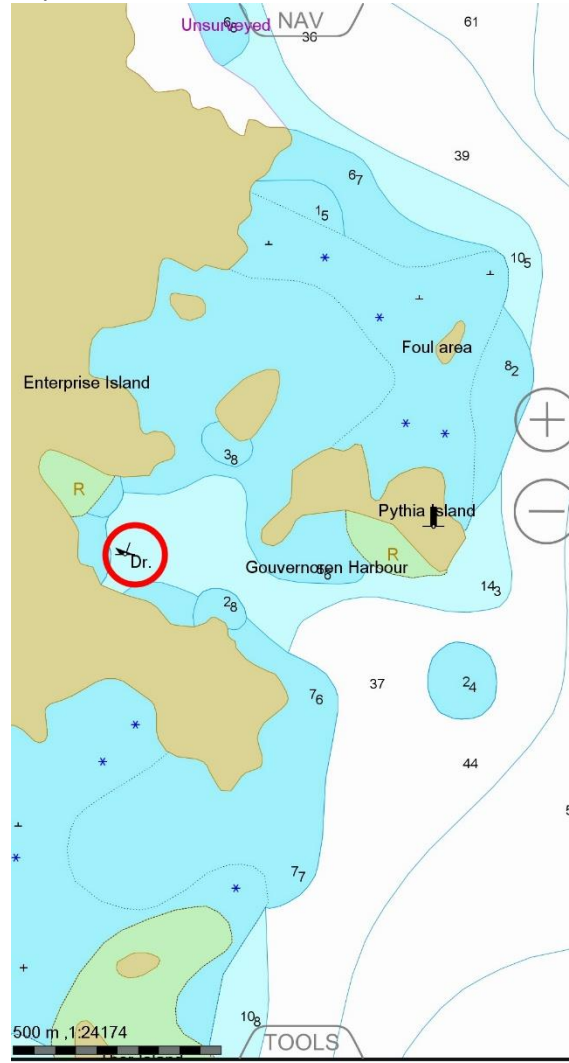


Dive no.	Date & Time	Location	No. of Divers
1	23 Feb / am	Penguin Island, Check Dive, West of landing area	7
2	24 Feb / am	Foyn Harbour, Guvernoren wreck	8
3	24 Feb / pm	Oyne Harbour, wall below Spigot Peak	3
4	25 Feb / am	West of Perch Island, Ice berg	7
5	26 Feb / am	Detaille Island, West side below caves	7
6	27 Feb / am	Pleneau Island, East side South of landing site	4
7	27 Feb / pm	Port Charcot, Francais Cove	2
8	28 Feb / am	Mikkelson Harbour, slope below hut	4
9	1 Mar / pm	Shingle Cove, East side, ice berg	9
10	3 Mar / am	Cooper Bay, Southern tip	6
11	4 Mar / am	Cape Rosa, wall Southern side	7
12	4 Mar / pm	Vincent Islands, reef West of islands	5
13	5 Mar / pm	Godthul, Ice berg and kelp	6
14	10 Mar / am	Saunders Island, kelp beds	7
15	10 Mar / pm	Carcass Island, kelp beds	4
16	11 Mar / am	New Island, South Harbour, Glen Gowan wreck	7
17	11 Mar / pm	New Island – Snorkelling in North Harbour	(4)
		TOTAL DIVES :	83
		TOTAL SNORKELS :	(4)

### Penguin Island, Check Dive

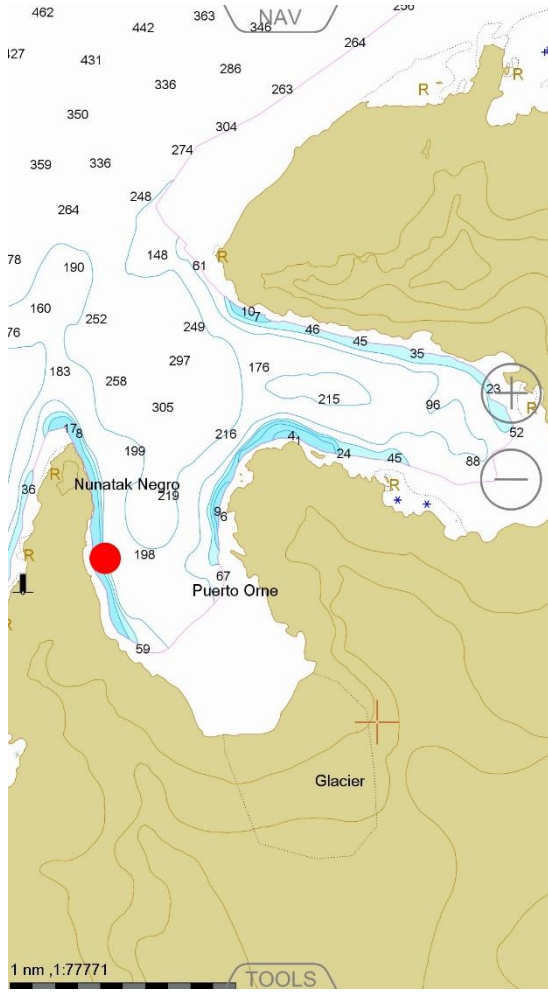


### Foyn Harbour, Governoren wreck

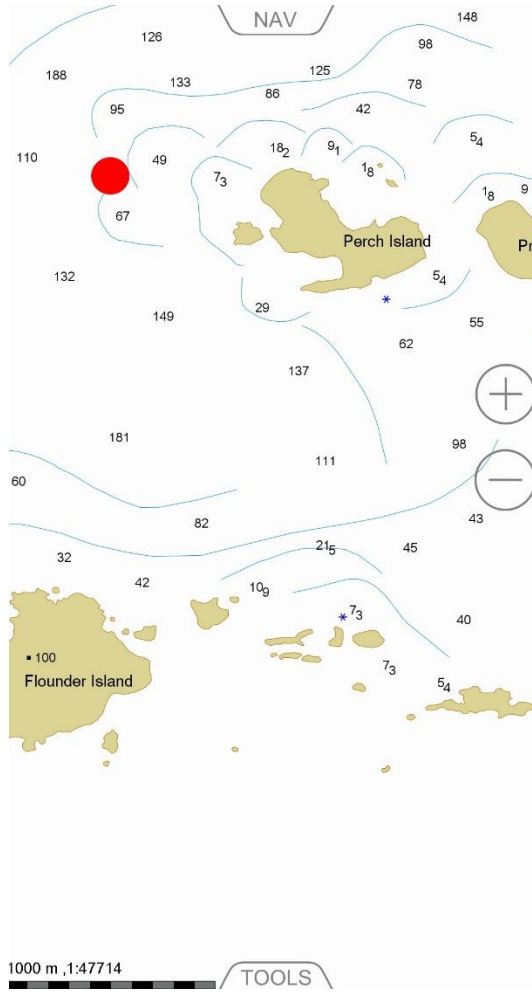




# Orne Harbour



# West of Perch Island





### Port Charcot, Francais Cove

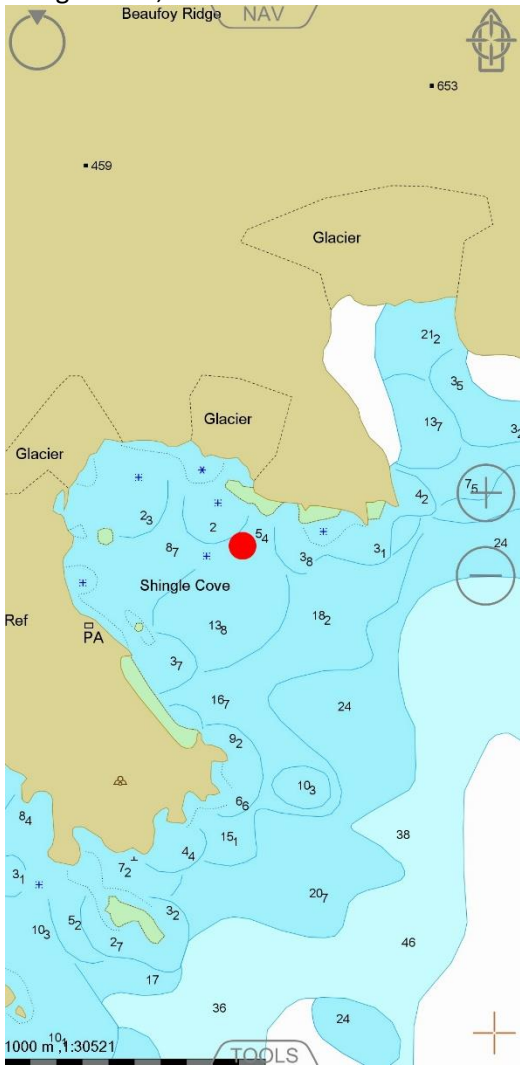


### Mikkelson Harbour

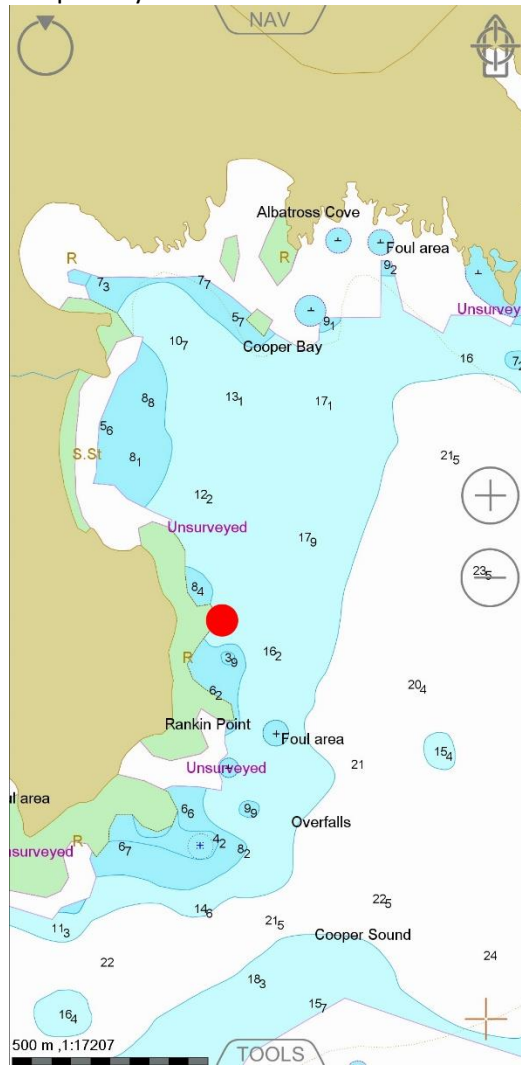




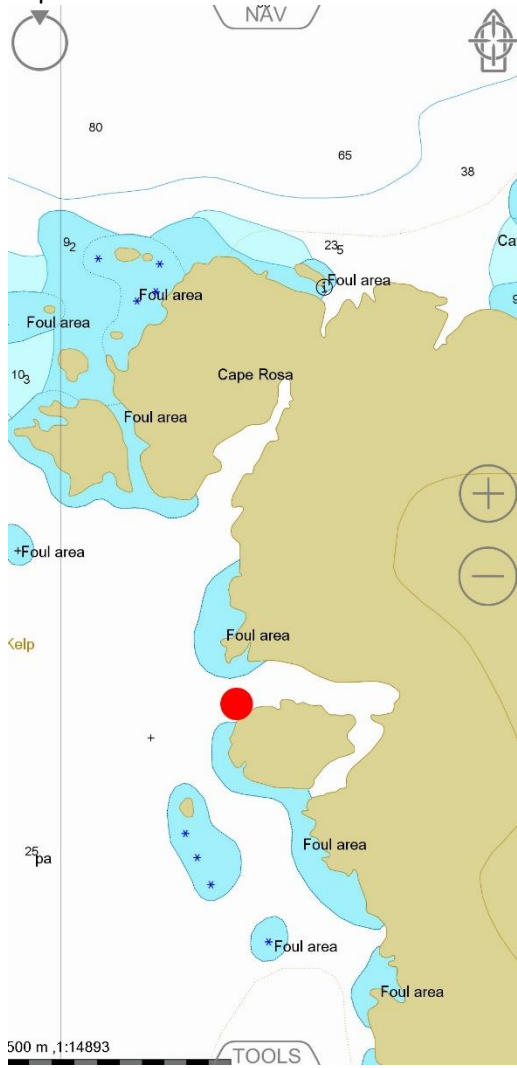
# Shingle Cove, East side



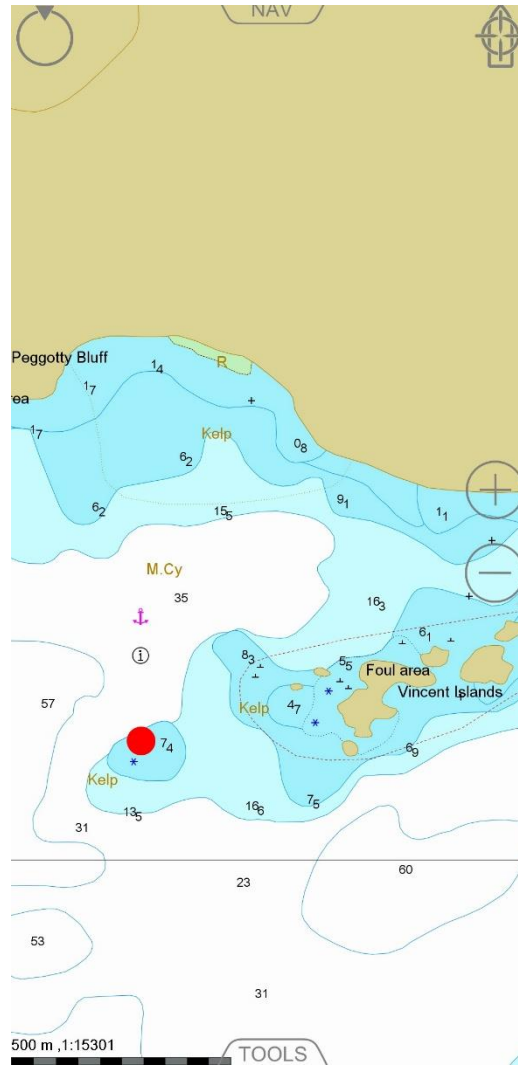
# Cooper Bay



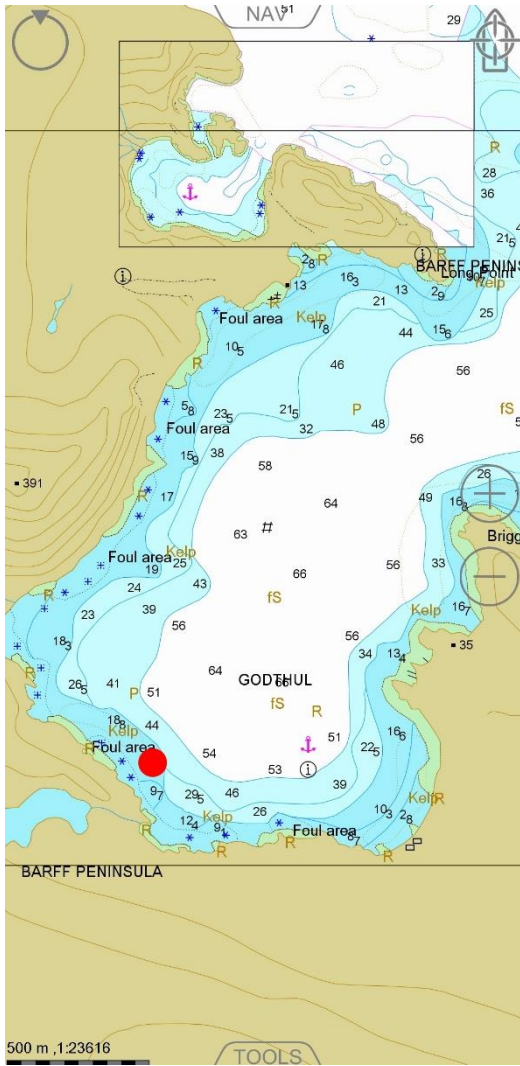
# Cape Rosa



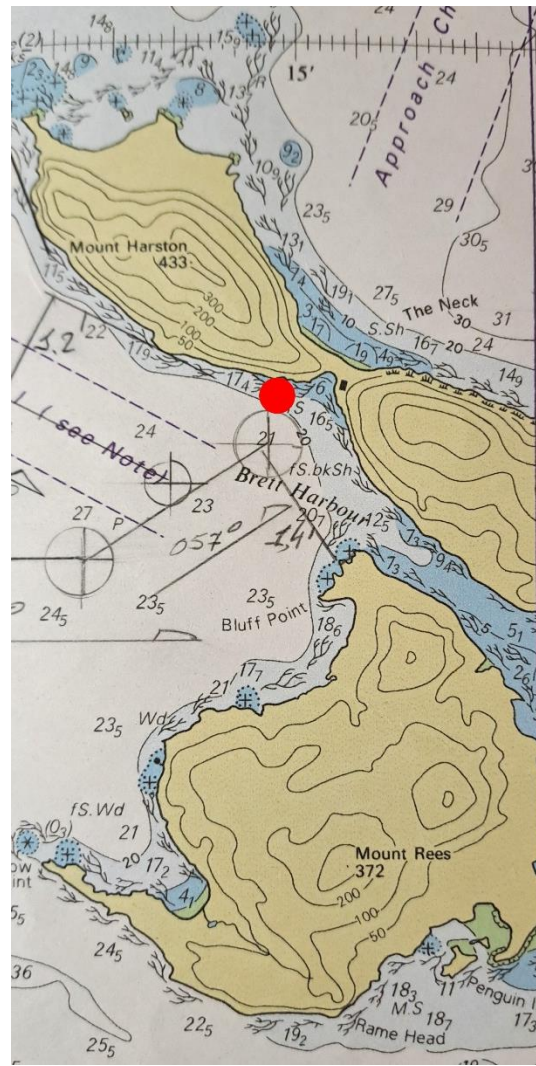
# Vincent Islands



Godthul

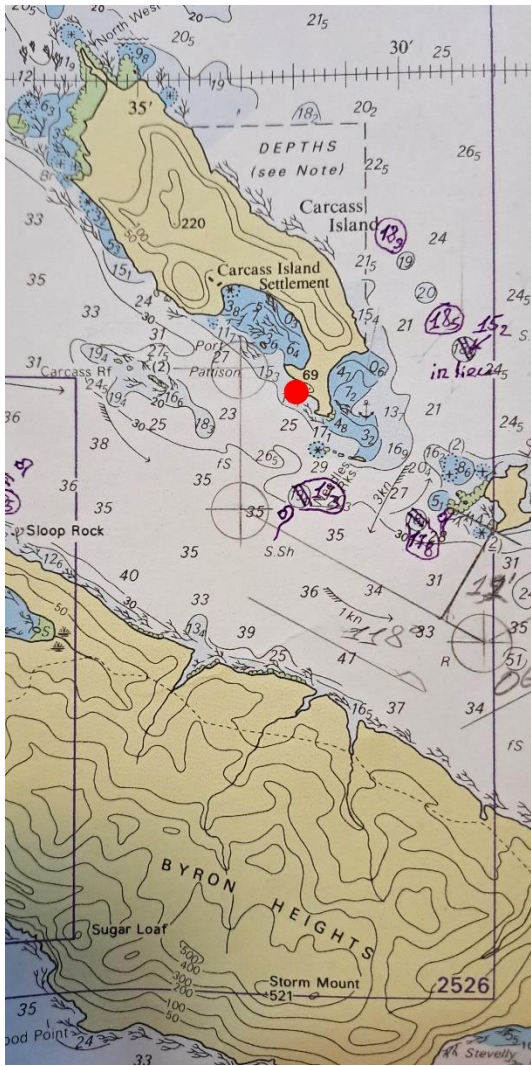


Saunders Island

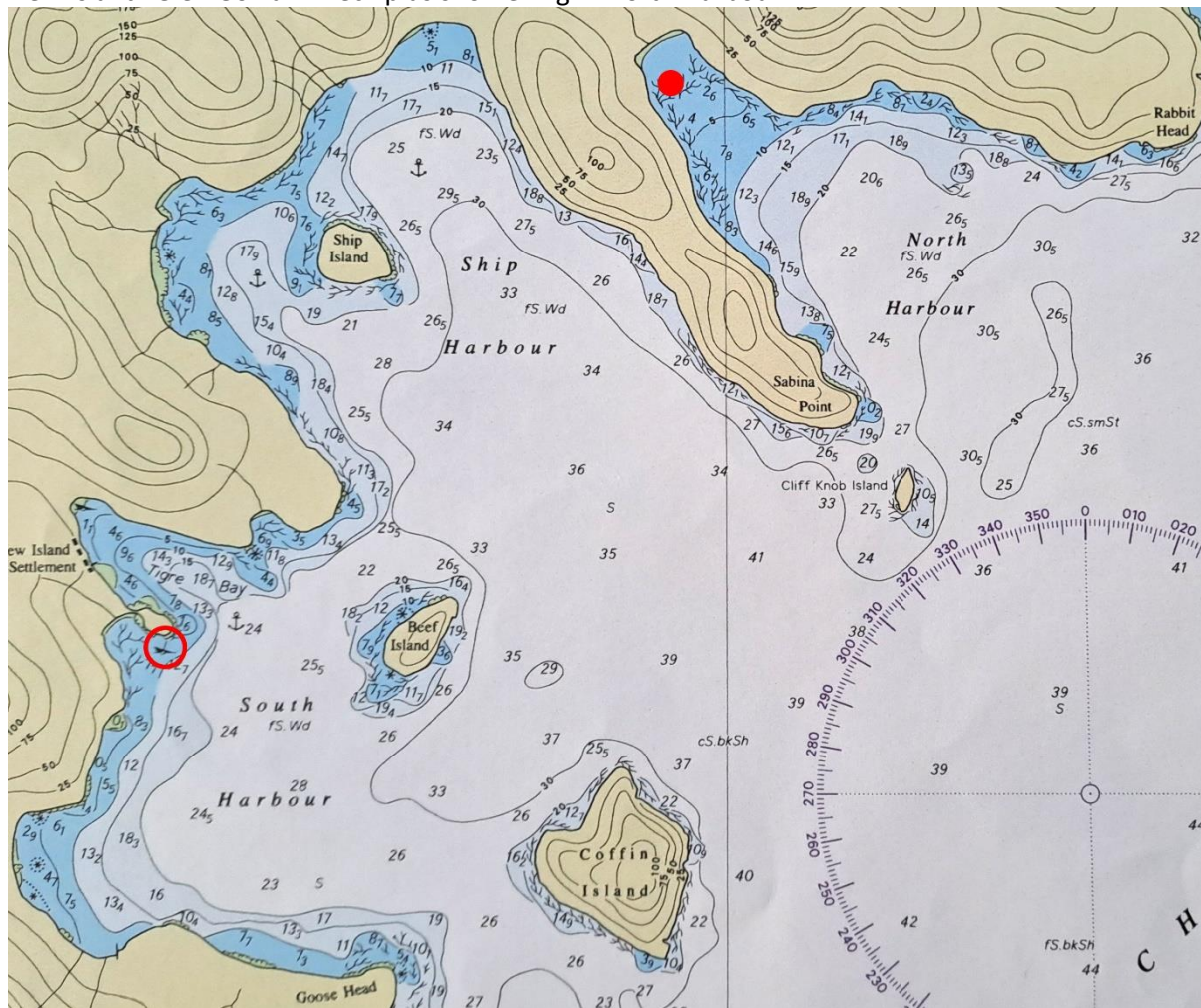


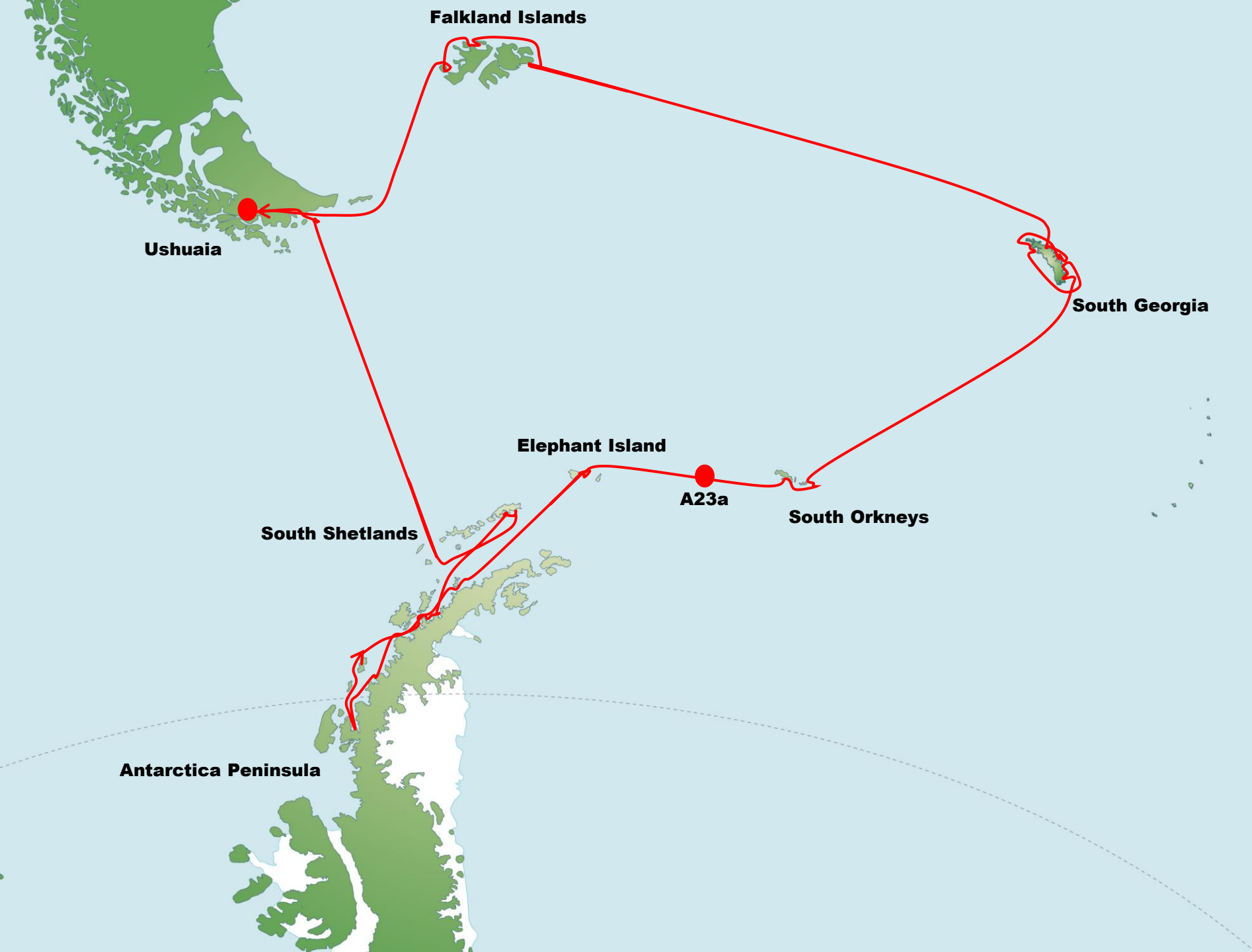


# Carcass Island



New Island. Glen Gowan wreck plus snorkelling in North Harbour.





- Ushuaia**
- South Shetlands**
- Antarctic**
- Peninsula**
- Elephant Island**
- A23a**
- South Orkneys**
- South Georgia**
- Falkland Islands**
- Ushuaia**



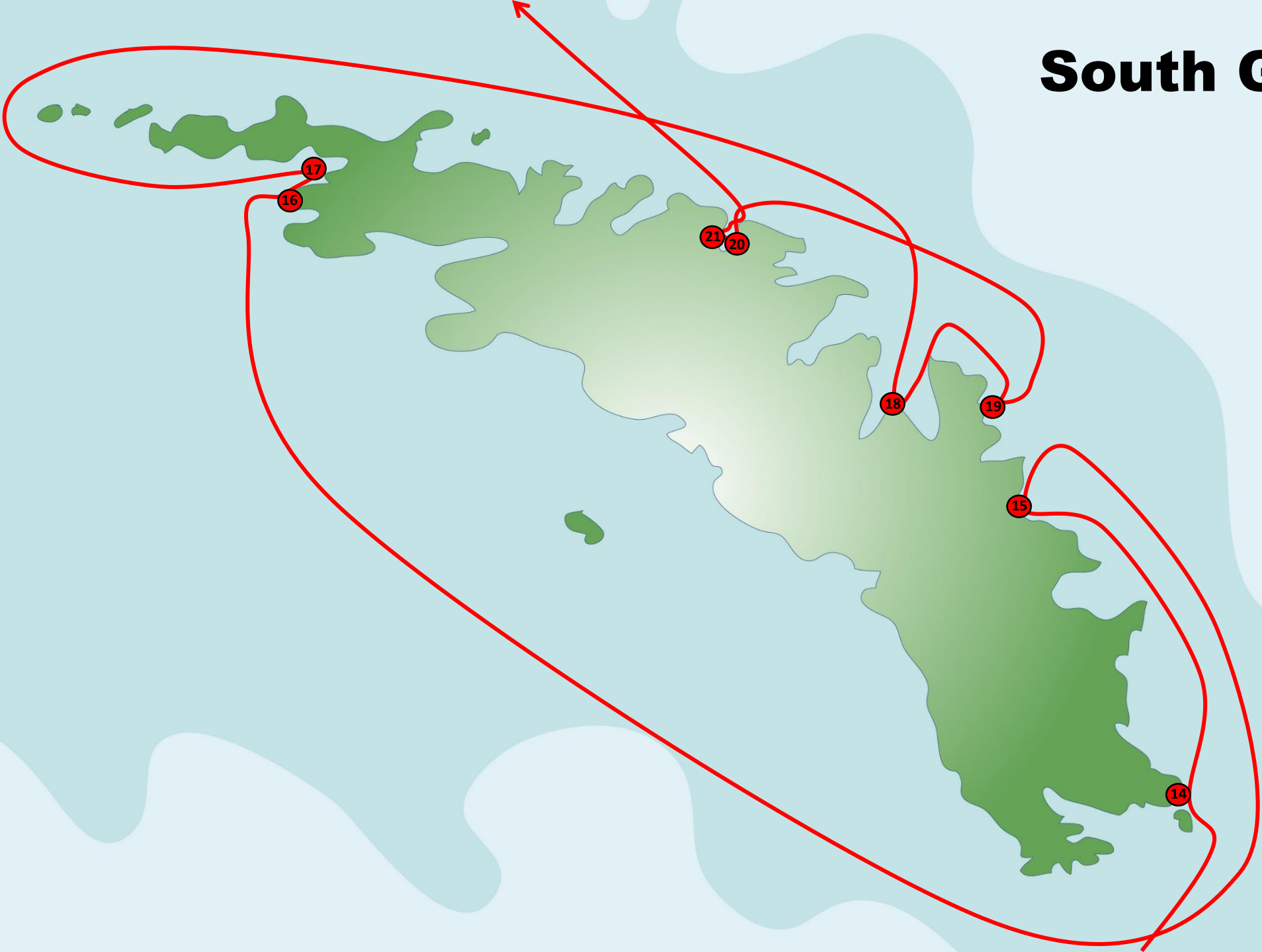
# Antarctic Peninsula



- 1. Penguin Island
- 2. King George Island
- 3. Foyen Harbour
- 4. Orne Harbour
- 5. Fish Island
- 6. Antarctica Circle

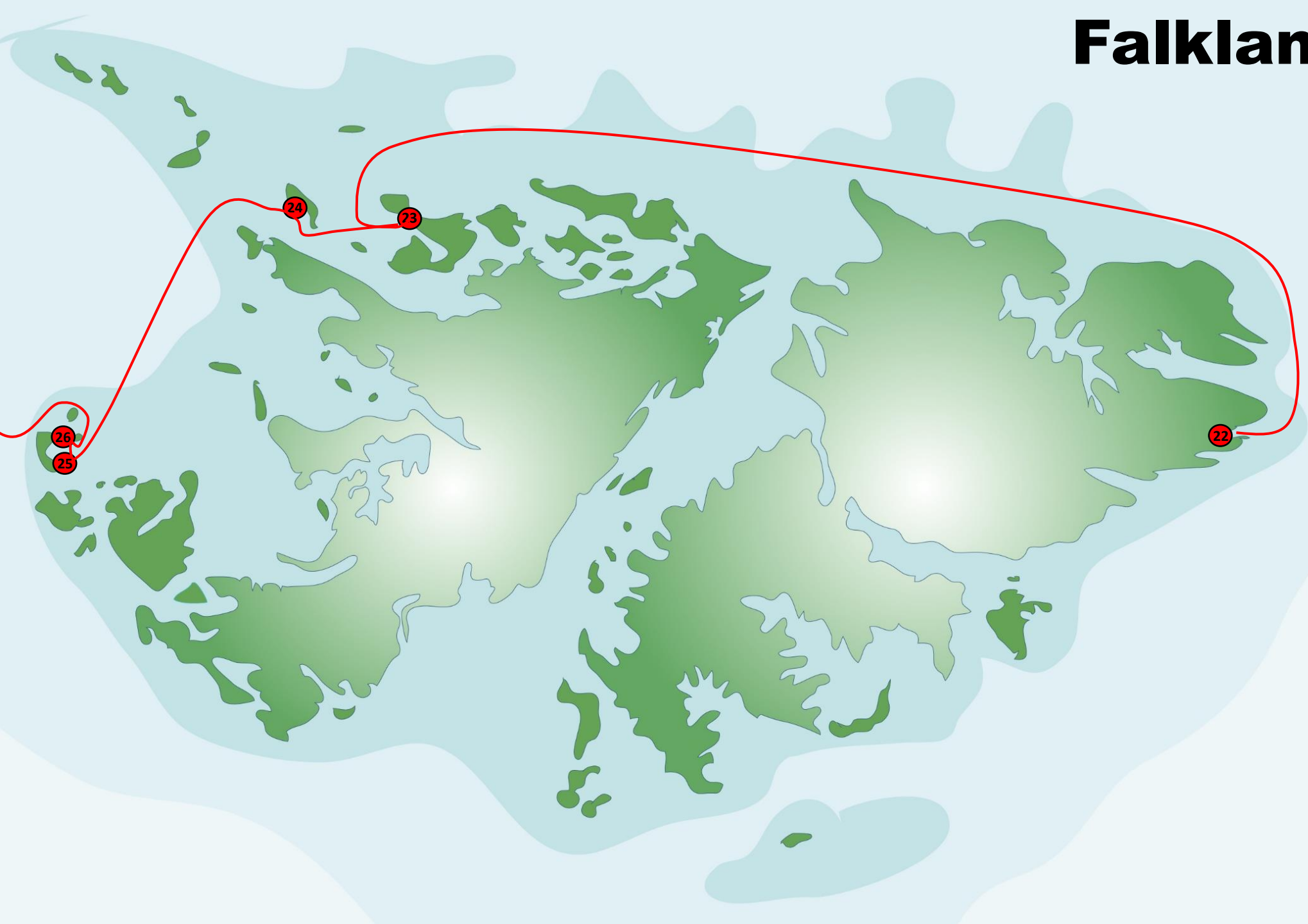
- 7. Detaille Island
- 8. Pleneau Island
- 9. Port Charcot
- 10. Lemaire Channel
- 11. Mikklesen Harbour

# South Georgia



- 14. Cooper Bay
- 15. St.Andrews Bay
- 16.Cape Rosa
- 17.King Haakon Bay
- 18.Grytviken
- 19.Godthul
- 20.Fortuna Bay
- 21.Anchorage Bay

# Falkland Islands



- 22. Stanley
- 23. Saunders Island
- 24. Carcass Island
- 25. New Island Settlement
- 26. New Island North



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Region Including Falkland Islands and South Georgia: February 20nd - March 13th 2024

English	Latin	20-feb	21-feb	22-feb	23-feb	24-feb	25-feb	26-feb	27-feb	28-feb	29-feb	1-mrt	2-mrt	3-mrt	4-mrt	5-mrt	6-mrt	7-mrt	8-mrt	9-mrt	10-mrt	11-mrt	12-mrt	13-mrt
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>																				x	x		
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>																			x	x	x		
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>																					x		
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patagonicus</i>																							
Falkland Flightless Steamer	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>																			x	x	x		
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>																					x	x	
Silver Teal	<i>Spatula versicolor</i>																							
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>																					x		
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica georgica</i>													x	x	x	x							
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>																							
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>												x	x	x	x	x	x						
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>						x	x																
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>					x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x					x	x	
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>		x	x	x				x	x	x	x		x	x									
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>												x	x									x	
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>																					x	x	
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	x																		x	x	x		
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	x													x									
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																			x				
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>																			x				
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x							x	x					x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		x								x	x												
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>										x		x											
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>														x	x	x	x						
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>						x	x	x		x	x												
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>											x	x											
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>																							
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>						x			x														
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>										x				x	x			x	x				
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>																		x	x	x			
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>																			x				
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>																							
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>																							
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	x																			x	x		x
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>																							
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>											x			x		x	x						x
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>															x								
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>											x												
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						x
Fuegian Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus chilensis</i>																							
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>		x	x												x			x					x
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>											x												
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>		x											x					x					
South Georgia Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>																							
Snowy Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				x	x	x		x	x				x	x	x								
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	x																			x	x	x	
South Georgia Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax georgianus</i>																							
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	x			x																			
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x		x									x	x	x	x
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>																					x		
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>																				x	x	x	
Red-backed Hawk	<i>Buteo polyosoma</i>																							x
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalacrocorax australis</i>																					x	x	
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>																					x	x	
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>																					x	x	



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## Pippa Low – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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



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# Chris Long – Assistant Expedition Leader

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

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

what the rest of the world had to offer.

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

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

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

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# Adam Burke – Expedition Leader

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Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

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# Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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



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# Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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# Ursula Tschertter - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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# Pelin Asfuroglu – Expedition Guide

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Pelin was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey.

Growing up in a very big city, she was amazed by the stories she read about the adventures of early explorers and mountain climbers who travelled to the most remote places in the world.

She discovered her real passion for great outdoors at age 17 when she first started paragliding.

Thanks to the great extracurricular student activities offered in her University, she ended up spending most of her time paragliding, mountain climbing, caving and sailing. During the long summer holidays, she worked as a trekking/mountain guide in diverse locations throughout Turkey.

Her love of outdoors has taken her so many wonderful places in the world; from the Himalayan Mountains to the Amazon rainforests. Pelin finally settled in Chilean Patagonia in 2013 where she has worked as an outdoor guide leading multi-day hiking and wildlife trips.

Her interest in Polar Regions was kindled when she first travelled to Antarctica. In other words, she caught the Polar Fever.

Pelin holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Leiden. She specially is interested in Polar Exploration history and loves to share her knowledge with the guests.



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# Saskia van der Meij – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

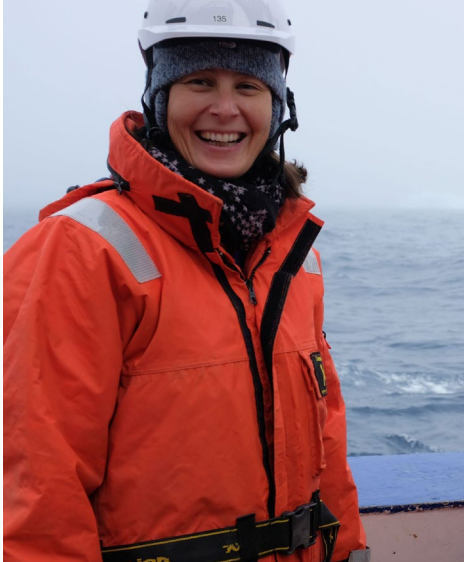
Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these breathtaking destinations.

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# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez

## Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide

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Meike Sjoer, a dedicated birder, nature enthusiast, and polar expedition guide, has spent her life immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Growing up in the heart of the Dutch forest, Meike developed a profound love for nature from a young age, a passion that would shape her extraordinary journey as a birder and wildlife explorer

She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Utrecht. During her studies Meike discovered a natural inclination towards sharing her wildlife experiences with others.

For the past 26 years, she has devoted her talents as a television director for the Dutch National Television. In this role, she dedicated herself to directing programs that involved stories of nature, wildlife, and environmental conservation. Meike's talent for filming and editing led her to directing the renowned Dutch National Wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels* for the past 15 years. Beyond her television work, Meike is a certified nature guide for the Dutch Institute for Nature and Education. When she is not sailing across polar waters, she takes

great pleasure in guiding birding and wildlife tours within the second largest National Park of the Netherlands.

Additionally, driven by her deep concern for the well-being of our planet, Meike was part of the Sea Shepherd media team for 5 years and played a role in raising awareness about the urgent need to protect marine life and preserve delicate ecosystems.

Yet, it is in the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic that Meike finds her greatest fulfilment. Here, surrounded by icy vastness and majestic wildlife, she is happiest creating outdoor experiences that challenge individuals to connect with their inner selves and develop a profound respect for the planet we call home.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing her passion and knowledge for wildlife with you.



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# Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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# Joyce Mulder – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide

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Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geoecological researches.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

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# Gabi Kolodko - Expedition Guide

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Having been exposed to the pristine wilderness of Alaska, Canada, and Lapland before turning ten, she developed a deep-rooted passion for cold climates and the great outdoors. She has dedicated every summer to sailing, a journey highlighted in 2012 when Gabi crossed the Baltic Sea from Poland to Scandinavia and back aboard the Zawisza Czarny, a historic 42-meter vessel originally built in 1952.

Her draw towards art, culture and history has led her to explore and focus on the rich tapestry of Antarctica's past and present. From archaeological

excavations, the secrets of early explorations, up to modern conquests and continent's preservation.

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond mere travel; she is a dedicated practitioner of the Wim Hof method, engaging in ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A significant encounter in 1993 with a herd of Musk Oxen at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast solidified her fondness for this majestic Arctic animal. In Antarctica, the jury is still out (but Emperor chicks are top on the list).

As an alumna of the Nature Outdoors Leadership School, she is a certified Wilderness First Responder and an esteemed member of the Polar Tourism Guide Association.

Her journey, marked by a profound connection to the Arctic wilderness and a lifelong pursuit of adventure, positions her as a passionate advocate for the natural world and its preservation. Through this lens, she aims to share the beauty and challenges of the polar regions with others, fostering a deeper appreciation for these extraordinary landscapes.

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# Jerry Sutton - Dive Team Leader

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Jerry grew up running around the country side, reading Tintin & Famous Five and watching Jacques Cousteau on the TV, all of which spawned a taste for outdoor adventure.

University was the springboard into many activities that involved leaving the safety net of modern society, and he's is just as happy rummaging through a wreck, squeezing through a cave, scaling a mountain cliff or jumping out of a perfectly serviceable airplane.

In real life, when not guiding, Jerry is an engineer with the oil and gas industry,

living in the granite city of Aberdeen.

Always hankering for adventure and something a bit different, a love for extremes has lead from bug infested rain forests, to the high dry deserts, and on to the ice of the polar regions.

Jerry has also been lucky enough to work on several expeditions over the years. He has built bridges & cut trails in the Bornean rain forests, carried out coral reef surveys in the South China Sea, and worked directly and indirectly with the BBC natural History Unit in such things as trekking in search of various seeds & plants in Borneo, fixing ropes, platforms and cameramen into the forest canopy whilst filming the elusive mandrill in Gabon, or ice diving with the Frozen Planet 2 team.

Jerry has taught scuba diving since university, just for fun, and holds instructor ratings through the British Sub Aqua Club across many diving related activities.

Diving has led to many interesting activities from hacking through solid ice, to supervising music videos and even snorting vodka in remote Scottish bars with well-known TV personalities.

Back at home, Jerry has a young family who in no way take the constant wish to leave home personally (yet!).



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# Johan Petersson - Dive Guide

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Johan works for Oceanwide Expeditions as a dive guide but does the occasional trip as a guide and lecturer.

He has studied history and comparative religion at university and worked as a history teacher. He is a dive instructor and has worked with marine archaeologists mapping Viking Age harbours. Johan has worked as a crewmember on a dive ship exploring the well-preserved shipwrecks of the Baltic Sea. He has also mapped coral reefs in Queensland and in 2010 he started to work as a dive guide in the Polar Regions.

When not diving or messing about with boats, Johan works as a self-employed carpenter.

He lives in Lund in the south of Sweden with his wife and two daughters.

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## Ruth Gussenhoven – Ships Doctor

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Ruth will be your doctor during this expedition. In the Netherlands she is currently in training to become a Global Health and Tropical medicine doctor. This training brings together her greatest passions, namely helping people improve their health and discovering new places around the world. Going to remote areas where no healthcare facilities are available and providing the best possible care is what challenges her the most.

As a doctor she graduated almost ten years ago. The past years she has worked in the emergency department of several hospitals in the Netherlands. Abroad, she has worked in an African hospital and refugee camps in Europe. Moreover, she has gained experience in pre-hospital and outdoor medicine while working at several sport events, music festivals and she guided repatriations of patients to the Netherlands.

She was born and raised in a small village in the southern part of the Netherlands. In her spare time she loves to be outside, spending time in the nature which she preferably combines with sports. If the weather allows it she likes to go out for a mountain bike ride. As an enthusiastic skier and snowboarder she also does not fear the snow and cold.

Ruth is very much looking forward to a great and healthy expedition together. Please contact her for all questions or concerns regarding your health. Stay safe but most of all enjoy this unforgettable expedition!

## WELCOME ABOARD!

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

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

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

### **Lifeboat Drill**

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 will go to MUSTER STATION A which is the Restaurant on Deck 4.

All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to MUSTER STATION B which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5.

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

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

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

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

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



- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915      **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac and IAATO briefings
- 1030      **Muck Boots** - We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3**. *Please bring your thick socks to make sure you have the perfect fit! **Please listen for announcements.***
- 1130      Join Simon in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a lecture on **Birds of the Drake passage**
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400      **Biosecurity:** We will call you by deck to **deck 3** to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1600      Please join Felicity in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a lecture about **the whales of Antarctica.**
- 1800      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*

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

- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915      **Geographical Introduction to Antarctica** – Please join Sasha in the **lounge** for his lecture to learn more about our polar destination.
- 1100      **Living on Land and at Sea** – Please join Ursula in the **lounge** for her lecture on the seals of Antarctica.
- 1200      **Boots** - We will call you by deck to **deck 3** to collect your rubber boots – ***please listen for announcements.***
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1330      **Biosecurity:** We will call you by deck to deck 3 to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, muckboots and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. Please clean your gear beforehand – this is meant only as a check.  
***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1400      **Diving briefing** – Divers please join Jerry & Johan in the **lecture room** for your mandatory dive briefing.
- 1530      **What is a penguin?** – Please join Meike in the lounge for her lecture to learn more about the cute, feathered, waddling wonders.
- 1700      **Pioneers of the Antarctic Exploration** – Please join Pelin in the **lounge** for her lecture on De Gerlache and the *Bélgica* Expedition (1897-1899).
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*
- 2030      **Photography** – Please join Martin in the **lecture room** for his lecture on photography.

*Please walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship.*

0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

*This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise and a landing at Penguin Island – A spectacular volcanic island awash with wildlife. The views from the top of this steep sided 170m crater viewpoint is stunning and the 2.5km round trip over volcanic landscape is a spectacular experience. **The Orange group** will go to shore first, while **the Blue group** will cruise first. We will then swap over so both groups will get to see this wonderful location from the land and the water.*

0800      **Orange** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a Landing at Penguin Island.

0815      **Blue** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Penguin Island.

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

### ***Expedition Afternoon***

*This afternoon we will sail to Maxwell Bay, King George Island. On the way we will keep a look out for wildlife inhabiting the waters of the Bransfield Strait. When we arrival to Maxwell Bay we hope to offer a zodiac cruise in this area. Once we have confirmation of our medivac timings; we will inform you of our options and timings for the afternoon.*

1400      **Pioneers of the Antarctic Exploration** – Please join Pelin in the **lounge** for her lecture on De Gerlache and the Bélgica Expedition (1897-1899).

1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.



0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

*This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island in Wilhelmina Bay. Frequented by humpback whales, seals, and penguins. It is also home to the wreck of the Governoren.*

0945      **Divers** – Please come to the zodiac deck to prepare your gear.

0945      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island.

1000      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island.

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

*In the afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour. A continental landing, home to Chinstrap penguins, with a short but steep hike up a 75m slope. The **Orange Group** will go to shore first, the **Blue Group** will zodiac cruise, we will swap halfway through the afternoon.*

1445      **Divers** – Please come to the zodiac deck to prepare your gear.

1500      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Harbour.

1520      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Orne Harbour.

1915      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily briefing.

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

0715      **Wake up call.** Good morning!

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

*This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at the Fish Islands. This group of islands are named after fish (Flounder, Mackerel, Salmon and Trout), are host to Adelie penguins and will give us a chance to view a variety of seals. Our timings for this morning will be dependent on our progress through the Grandidier Channel. Please standby for updates.*

TBA      **Divers** – Please come to the zodiac deck to prepare your gear.

TBA      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Fish Islands.

TBA      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Fish Islands.

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

*This afternoon we will make our first attempt to cross the Antarctic circle. The time we cross the circle will depend on the morning and our progress south through the Crystal Sound. Please standby for updates.*

1530      **Race to the South Pole:** Please join Saskia in the lounge for her lecture about Amundson and Scott's concurrent expeditions to the south pole.

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

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.



Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
Detaille Island and Hanusse Bay

*Today we will be spending all day south of the Antarctic circle. We hope to do a zodiac cruise and short landing at Detaille Island in the morning and a zodiac cruise at Hanusse Island in the afternoon.*

- 06:45      **Wakeup call**
- 0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0800      **Divers** – Please come to the zodiac deck to prepare your gear.
- 0800      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise/landing at Detail Island
- 0815      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise/landing at Detail Island
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1445      **Divers** – Please come to the zodiac deck to prepare your gear.
- 1445      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Hanusse Bay
- 1500      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Hanusse Bay
- 1845      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1930      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.





Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Salpetriere Bay, Port Charcot  
& Lemaire Channel

06:45      **Wakeup call**

0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to zodiac cruise Salpetriere Bay, an iceberg graveyard that is often home to Antarctic seal species, Gentoo Penguins & whales.*

0800      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Pleneau.

0815      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Pleneau.

1130      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to land at Port Charcot, where we hope to visit a Gentoo Penguin colony and view the remains of Charcot's 1903 expedition.*

1300      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Port Charcot.

1430      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Port Charcot.

*We then hope to transit through the Lemaire Channel – one of the most picturesque passages in Antarctica.*

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

1830      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

06:45      **Wakeup call**

0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to land at D'Hainaut Island and zodiac cruise around Mikkelsen Harbour where we hope to see Gentoo Penguins, whaling remains, and Seals. The **Orange Group** will come to land first, the **Blue Group** will zodiac cruise first, we will swap halfway through the morning.*

*We also hope to offer a **polar plunge**, so please wear your swimming costume under your waterproofs in preparation for your polar dip! The Polar plunge will take place at the end of the second landing. **We will provide the towels!***

0800      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at D'Hainaut Island.

0815      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Mikkelsen Harbour

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

1500      Meike invites you to join her in the **Lounge** for her lecture all about the lynchpin species of Antarctica - **Krill**.

1630      Please join Pelin in the **Lounge** to hear of the incredible story of the **Swedish South Polar Expedition**.

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

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2030      Sasha invites you to the **lecture room** for an evening talk on **How to get to Antarctica**.

*We have left Antarctica and are heading northward. This morning we hope to visit **Elephant Island**. This location played a major role in the aftermath of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition during which Shackleton's ship the Endurance was lost. So, to commemorate this epic journey, the failure and success, we have decided that **Today is Shackleton day** onboard Hondius.*

0715      **Wakeup call**

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

*This morning we hope to visit Elephant Island. We hope to pass Cape Valentine where Shackleton & his men originally landed and on to Point Wild where they survived for four and a half months until Shackleton managed to reach South Georgia and organise rescue for the remaining men.*

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

*This afternoon/evening, we will be heading towards A23a, the largest iceberg in the world measuring about 3,800 sq km (1,470 sq miles) and has been afloat since 1986. Once we are in sight of this huge iceberg we will announce it so you can enjoy this breathtaking spectacle.*

14:30      **Endurance: Shackleton's Saga of Survival**. Pelin invites you to the **lounge** for her lecture. An amazing story of the best-known polar explorer and his unsuccessful but famous expedition.

16:00      **The Ross Sea Party**. Saskia invites you to the **lounge** for her lecture about Shackleton's men on the other side of the Antarctic continent.

+/-1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

+/-1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2030      We will be showing part one of **Shackleton**, the movie, in the lecture theatre.





Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

At Sea & Shingle Cove, South Orkney Islands

*Today we head towards the South Orkney Islands. This morning we will be at sea, and we hope to view sea birds and wildlife of the area, whilst delivering a lecture program.*

0715      **Wakeup call**

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

0900      **Antarctica as a comparison to Mars and Outer Space** – Please join Annelou in the **lounge** for this informative lecture of interstellar geology.

1030      **Weather in the Southern Ocean** – Please join Chris in the **lounge** for this lecture explaining some basic weather principles and how our weather forecasts are made.

1130      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*In the afternoon we hope to offer a landing and a zodiac cruise at Shingle Cove, with a walk to the Adelie penguin colony and a short walk to a land terminating glacier.*

1430      **Blue Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Shingle Cove.

1445      **Orange Group** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Shingle Cove.

1745      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1830      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

+/-2000      Part 2 of **Shackleton**, the movie, will be shown in the **lounge**.

*Today is our final day at sea towards South Georgia. Besides a mandatory briefing we also have to do another biosecurity cleaning before we are allowed to land on South Georgia. As you have all done the biosecurity before we got to Antarctica, you know what is required. **Therefore, please clean all your outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks before the check in the afternoon.***

- 0745      **Wakeup call.** Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915      **South Georgia Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** for our **mandatory** South Georgia briefing.
- 1100      **South Georgia; Rocks & Ice** – Please join Annelou in the **Lounge** for her lecture introducing the physical geographical aspects of South Georgia.
- Time change: At 1200 the clocks will change forward. At 1200 it will be 1300.**
- 1330      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430      **Biosecurity:** We will call you by deck to **deck 3** to complete our biosecurity check – and if needed; cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1615      **History of Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa in the **Lounge** for her lecture on whaling history in the Southern Ocean, as well as an introduction to current research.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2030      Please join Adam in the **lounge** for an evening talk on **Living in Antarctica**.

0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

*This morning we hope to offer a full ship zodiac cruise inside the **spectacular Cooper Bay**. There is a wealth of wildlife in this site. We hope to see chinstraps, gentoo and macaroni penguins as well as light mantle sooty albatross.*

0930      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay.

0945      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay.

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

1330      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.

*This afternoon we hope to cruise at **St Andrews Bay**, which is best known for its huge breeding colony of king penguins, numbering about 150,000 pairs, the largest in South Georgia. But the beaches of St. Andrews Bay are also great for viewing fur seals, elephant seals, and mountainous snow-capped surroundings.*

1530      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at St. Andrews Bay

1545      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at St. Andrews Bay

1830      **Dinner** will be served, dress warm for your meal this evening!





Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
King Haakon Bay  
Cape Rosa and Peggotty Bluff

0715      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

*This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise inside around the incredible Cape Rosa. Incredible geological formations including coves, caves and bays make up Cape Rosa; famous as the site where Shackleton and his men first landed after their perilous journey from Elephant Island. If conditions allow, we hope to offer a short landing at this very site and see the cave where the men sheltered.*

+/-0900      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise, and short landing, at Cape Rosa.

+/-0915      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise, and short landing, at Cape Rosa.

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

*This afternoon we hope to cruise near Peggotty Bluff, which is best known as the site where Shackleton and his men then took the James Caird to in order to prepare for their traverse across South Georgia. We hope to see busy beaches and rocky islands filled with wildlife and views of the glaciers pouring into King Haakon Bay.*

+/-1430      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Peggotty Bluff.

+/-1445      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Peggotty Bluff.

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

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

0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning we hope to land at Grytviken. Here you can expect to see the old whaling station, church, cemetery and visit the museum, shop & post office. We have invited the museum team on to the ship to give a presentation about their work. After this presentation we will call you by colour group for a landing at Grytviken.*

***We will be inspected on disembarkation- please insure all your equipment is clean.***

0815      **South Georgia Heritage Trust presentation.** A representative from the Heritage Trust Museum will come on board to give a short presentation about their current projects.

0845      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Grytviken.

0900      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Grytviken.

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

*This afternoon we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Godthul, a beautiful, secluded cove teeming with life. **Groups will swap ashore halfway through the afternoon.***

1500      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Godthul.

1515      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Godthul.

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

1930      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.



Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Whistle Cove & Anchorage Bay  
Fortuna Bay

0715      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

*Today we hope to take you for two landings in different parts of Fortuna Bay. Fortuna Bay is home to around 7000 king penguins, many fur seals and elephant seals as well as lots of other bird life. We hope to take you on a short hike to their breeding colony as well as exploring other areas of the bay.*

0815      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whistle Cove, Fortuna Bay.

0830      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Anchorage Bay, Fortuna Bay.

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

1400      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whistle Cove, Fortuna Bay.

1415      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Anchorage Bay, Fortuna Bay.

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

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



Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Fortuna Bay?

- 0715      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0815      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whistle Cove, Fortuna Bay.
- 0830      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Anchorage Bay, Fortuna Bay.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400      **Blue Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Whistle Cove, Fortuna Bay.
- 1415      **Orange Group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Anchorage Bay, Fortuna Bay.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.
- 1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.





Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
At sea towards the Falklands

**No Wakeup call** - Enjoy your lie in!

- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930      **Feeding Ecology.** Ursula invites you to the lounge to learn about the incredible feeding strategies of whales and the oceanic food web.
- 1100      **Antarctic Circumpolar Current.** Aitana invites you into the lounge to learn more about the way the waters move around the Antarctic Continent.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1500      **Making Islands Predator Free** - Please join Chris in the lounge to **learn more about the removal of nonnative species from our sub-Antarctic** islands.
- 1630      **Antarctica Below.** – Please join Joyce in the lounge to learn more about what lies below the ocean waves in Antarctic waters.
- 1800      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.
- 1900      **Dinner** will be served in the dining room. Bon Appetit! - *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly*
- 2030      **Living in Antarctica** – Please join Chris in the lounge for an evening talk about his time living in Antarctica at New Zealand's Scott Base.

*We are heading back out to sea so please remember to walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors carefully and keep fingers away from door frames.*

- 0715      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0900      **Birds of the Falklands**
- 1100 +/-    Around this time the captain his bridge team will navigate Hondius through a narrow passage to enter Port Stanley.
- 1130      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to explore Stanley- maps of the town can be found at the reception. You can wear your own shoes but please make sure they are clean of any dirt, seeds, etc- you will be asked to walk through disinfectant at the jetty. You can walk freely through the town – but please respect the local traffic and peoples' homes. We will have Zodiacs available to take you back to the ship throughout the afternoon from the jetty.*

**The very last zodiac will leave the jetty at 1745.**

- 1230 +/-    **Orange Group** - please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Stanley.
- 1245 +/-    **Blue Group** - please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Stanley.

**The very last zodiac will leave the jetty at 1745.**

- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our briefing and recap.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands Georgia  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Saunders & Carcass Islands

0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*In the Falkland Islands, we can all land at once. This morning we hope to land at Saunders Island; offering a walk up to visit Magellanic, Southern Rockhopper, Gentoo & King Penguins, as well as Black-browed Albatross. We also hope to visit the beautiful North beach. Please follow the poles/flags and remember to **keep a safe distance from wildlife**.*

*There may be the opportunity to buy some locally made souvenirs – cash only.*

0800      **Blue group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Saunders Island – *listen for announcements.*

0820      **Orange group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Saunders Island – *listen for announcements.*

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

*This afternoon we hope to land at Carcass Island, offering a long walk (approx. 4-5km) from the Carcass Island settlement to see bird life and take in more of the island. Those not venturing on the long walk can enjoy the bird life at the settlement and small beach. In addition to wildlife, we will also enjoy a delicious selection of local cakes at the settlement. If you would like to give a contribution for the delicious cakes, there is a tip box at the settlement. There may be the opportunity to buy some locally made souvenirs – cash only.*

1430      **Orange group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Carcass Island – *listen for announcements.*

1450      **Blue group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Carcass Island – *listen for announcements.*

1845      **Recap & Briefing** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

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



Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands Georgia  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
New island

0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*Today we hope to explore New island. We would like to land at the North Harbour of New Island; home to Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, and a range of other bird species. We also hope to land at the Settlement of New Island; home to Rock hopper penguins, Black Browed Albatross, Gentoo Penguins and the islands museum. Please follow the poles/flags and remember to **keep a safe distance from wildlife.***

0800      **Orange group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island– *listen for announcements.*

0815      **Blue group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island – *listen for announcements.*

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

1400      **Blue group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island – *listen for announcements.*

1415      **Orange group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island – *listen for announcements.*

1815      **Recap & Briefing** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2030      Join Joyce and the expedition team for a night of trivia fun in the lounge for the **end of trip quiz!**



- 0745      **Special Wakeup call** – This morning you will be awoken by one of your fellow passengers!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0900      **Oceanwide Destinations** - Join us in the lecture room for a brief overview of the oceanwide voyages that we provide.
- 0930      **Muck Boot & Rental Gear Collection** – We will call you by deck to return your muck boots and any rental gear **on deck 3**. Please listen for announcements. Please make sure all boots are clean before returning.
- 1030      **Endangered** – Elizabeth invites you to the lounge for her lecture explaining the IUCN red list and what this means for wildlife conservation.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- After lunch you will receive your bill in your cabin. We will call you by deck to make payments at reception – **Please listen for announcements.***
- 1400      **Minke Whale** – Please join Ursula in the lounge for her lecture all about the fascinating and shy minke whale.
- 1530      **Climate & Conservation miniseries** - Please join Pippa and the team in the lounge for the miniseries that will cover human impacts on our planet followed by some take home messages.
- 1800      **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join the captain and the expedition team in the lounge for a toast to our voyage through the Southern Ocean and a slideshow of our expedition.
- 1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.



Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715      **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

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

**Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than 0730.**

*During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will be **your responsibility to identify and collect each item.***

0830      **Disembarkation** – Please make your way to the gangway to disembark Hondius.

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

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

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