



OCEANWIDE
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica - Polar Circle

25th of February – 07th of March 2024



M/V Plancius

MV Plancius was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and vicar Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named Hr. Ms. Tydeman. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. Plancius is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Romanas Vicas**

2nd Officer: **Don Buren**

2nd Officer: **Martin Hansson**

Chief Engineer: **Jerry Olsson**

Hotel Manager: **Ingrid Van der Loo**

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

Head Chef: **Yvan Yuriychuk**

Ships Doctor: **Ninette Van Es**

Expedition Leader: **Claudio Ghiglione**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Steffi Liller**

Expedition Guides: **Alexis Bellezze**

Carina Ketterer

Clara Iacchetti

Duncan McGregor

Koen Hoekemeijer

Koen Jongerling

Marco Rosso

Matthias Kopp

Michael Green

Valeria Sainz Herrera

Day 1 – 25th February

Ushuaia – Embarkation Day

16:00 GPS Position: 54° 55.6'S / 67° 25.4'W

Wind: W-4, Sea State: Smooth, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 11°C, Sea Temp: 10°C



Eventually our departure day to the Antarctic Peninsula had arrived and a bit earlier than 16:00 we were queuing in front of the gangway that would lead us to the Little Blue Ship.

Amongst the other giants that were moored in the port of Ushuaia, it looked like a Cinderella with her blue and white coloration. Perhaps not majestic but surely a very reliable and sturdy ship to explore the Polar regions.

At the top of the gangway we were greeted by the enthusiastic members of the expedition team, and the hotel manager quickly checked us in. There was not a lot of time to relax as at 17:30 a mandatory safety drill was scheduled so our presence in the lounge was required. We were first welcomed by expedition leader Claudio and then the chief officer Romanas guided us through a safety video and the drill procedure. Before we knew it, we all sat in the lounge wearing our big and bulky orange life vests and when we heard the abandon ship alarm we all made our way outside to the life boats



where the second officer, Don, informed us further.

With the ship freed of the mooring lines, we left the city at the end of the world behind our stern and started our long journey South. Captain Ernesto came down to the lounge where he greeted us with a glass of Italian Prosecco, while speaking some warm welcome words. Claudio followed with more information about the program and the planning for the days ahead.



Soon it was time for dinner. The galley team had prepared a delicious buffet and the dining room was buzzing with excitement. As the evening crept in we plied our route to the Eastern section of the Beagle channel, eventually getting into the open waters of the Drake passage.

The fun had just begun!!



Day 2 – 26th February

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 57° 14.8'S / 63° 36.0'W

Wind: W-3, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Part. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

The morning in the Drake started with a gentle rolling and a calm sea. Overnight we had exited the southeastern end of the Beagle channel and had started our voyage down South with a straight 170 bearing.

Heading towards the restaurant the overall atmosphere was quite different from last night, however, the majority of us was queuing for a delicious breakfast.

Shortly after we were invited to join Claudio and the rest of the Expedition Staff for a quick introduction, followed by the mandatory IAATO briefing. This introduction was meant to oversee rules and regulations for visiting the White Continent. Some of the most important parts are safety distance from wildlife and avoiding introducing invasive species into the continent.



In order to breath some fresh air a walk up to the bridge was a must. Here we were welcomed by our friendly captain and the smiley and sociable officers who were eager to share with us their knowledge and experience in the polar regions.

The day was gorgeous with an intense blue sky dotted here and there by thin alto cumulus. Wind conditions were ideal for observing and photographing, massive seabirds such as Black-browed,

White chinned petrels and beautiful Light-mantled Sooty gliding past the ship. These birds belonging to the order of the *Procellariiformes* are adapted for living at sea. Massive wingspans and high Lift-to-drag ratio allow them to fly with the minimum use of energy, while being a tube-nose helps to find the right direction and intensity of the wind to harness its power.



Lunch was followed by a restful nap, before the lounge was filled up with excitement when Marco introduced us with a captivating talk, to the unique world of the White Continent and the Antarctic Peninsula.

Later in the afternoon we had our first official Recap. Claudio presented the plans for the next day together with the weather forecast and afterwards Carina, Steffi and Koen intervened with topics related to the opening of the Drake passage, the Antarctic convergence and the birdlife we had seen during the day.

In the end a day filled with new information and a great preparation to get ready for our first landing in Antarctica. Hopefully tomorrow the weather will be as compliant as today and our sea legs will improve.

Day 3 – 27th February

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 61° 47.5'S / 64° 00.5'W

Wind: NW-4, Sea State: Moderate, Weather: Part. Cloudy, Air Temp: 4°C, Sea Temp: 2°C

On our third day of the expedition to the Antarctic Circle, the sea and wind conditions continued to cooperate. M/V Plancius kept on steaming on the way South across the Drake passage at a good and constant pace of 11.5-11.8 knots. That on the ground would be roughly the speed of a cycling trip, however across the waves and swell of the Southern ocean it meant for us all quite an adventurous speed.



After a good breakfast and a small stroll outside the outer decks to enjoy some fresh air; the expedition team handed us over the Muckboots that we will be using during the next week in the Antarctic Peninsula. That was followed half an hour later by the Biosecurity process during which we were asked to clean and

vacuum all our outer layers (jacket, pants, boots, backpacks, poles, beanies and gloves) that we were intending to use during the landings in Antarctica. This is a mandatory process required by IAATO to avoid introducing invasive species into the White Continent.

Meanwhile outside we started to observe the first icebergs in the distance, however birdlife was still poor due to the lack of wind. A few black-browed albatrosses, some Cape and Blue Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrel. A toll to pay to have a Drake lake.

Lunch was followed by Koen's Photography lecture and immediately after the galley team surprised us offer gelato in the bow whilst enjoy the comfortable breeze.



Marco and Valeria gave their briefing for those brave travelers willing to join them for an overnight stay in the continent, and eventually it was time for the Recap.

Claudio presented us with the plans for the next day; Koen talked about baleen whales migration, Marco about the wind patterns we could experience while crossing the Drake and everything was wrapped up by Steffi explaining the way albatrosses are able to harness wind energy to fly for free.

The restaurant was buzzing with excitement of our first day in Antarctica and we couldn't be more thankful to Chef Ivan and the galley team for yet an amazing dinner.



Day 4 – 28th February

Melchior Islands and Damoy Point

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 29.7'S / 62° 52.2'W

Wind: VAR-1, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Rainy, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

The day started with a delicious breakfast, and an amazing announcement from our expedition leader, Claudio. WELCOME TO ANTARCTICA!! From our portholes and windows we could see our destination for the morning activity: Melchior Islands!

The Melchior Islands are a group of many low, ice-covered islands lying near the center of Dallmann Bay in the Palmer Archipelago off the West coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. These islands were first seen but left unnamed by a German expedition under Eduard Dallmann, 1873–74 on board of the whaling boat *Groenland*. The islands were resighted



and roughly charted by the Third French Antarctic Expedition under Jean-Baptiste Charcot, 1903–05. Charcot named what he believed to be the large easternmost island in the group "Île Melchior" after Vice Admiral Jules Melchior of the French Navy, but later surveys proved Charcot's Île Melchior to be two islands, now called Eta Island and Omega Island.

The morning was quite wet, with low but constant precipitation; however this did not discourage us from going outside on our first zodiac cruise. We had the chance to see beautiful icebergs with incredible shapes, a lot of Fur Seals, just swimming, napping or "fighting" among each other. Besides, the Melchior archipelago harbored some of the first infrastructures built in the Antarctic Peninsula in representation of territorial claims. Here it is where Argentina in 1942 built the first lighthouse, followed by a Naval base named "Base Melchior" in 1947.

While lunch was served, M/V Plancius sailed through the narrow Neumayer channel, a narrow passage between Anvers and Wiencke islands and after noon, we arrived at our next destination: Damoy Point had been chosen for our first steps in Antarctica.



Damoy Point is a headland 900 meters west-northwest of Flag Point, the northern entrance point to the harbour of Port Lockroy. Another place discovered and named by Charcot. Here we landed and started a nice hike up to Tombstone hill where we encountered our first rockery of Gentoo penguins. We followed the marked path downhill and approached Damoy Hut. Damoy hit is a well-preserved hut containing scientific equipment and other artifacts; It was built in 1973 and used for several years as a British summer air facility and transit station for scientific personnel. It was last occupied in 1993. It has been designated a Historic Site or Monument (HSM 84).

To finish our first day at Antarctica an amazing ship cruise through the Lemaire Channel. As we sail through Lemaire Channel, we enjoyed a spartan wilderness of snow and ice amid rugged peaks rising 1,000 meters high. These incredible landscaping gave us a perfect end for our first day in the white continent.



Day 5 – 29th February

Fish Islands and Antarctic Polar Circle

12:00 GPS Position: 66° 00.5'S / 65° 24.6'W

Wind: NW-4, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

We started the day with a lovely surprise; Claudio told us that we made excellent progress throughout the night and will be arriving earlier at the Fish Islands. This made it possible for us to do a Zodiac cruise around Perch and Flounder Islands. Therefore, right after breakfast everybody was invited to be ready at 09:00 to head out and explore the waters around.



Our first find of the morning were a bunch of Adelie penguins that were moulting on a small rocky outcrop. There was also a Weddell Seal haul out and some boats saw a leopard seal swim around. After we made our way around Perch Island where we found a lot of brash ice in a bay. Here there were many stunning crystal-clear growlers floating around looking like diamonds. Small groups of around 3 to 4 crabeater seals were swimming through the brash ice coming up in the wake of our zodiacs. Further towards the main land of Antarctica

there were some concrete pillars that were left over from an old research station, Base J, built in Prospect Point in the 1956 for meteorological and oceanographic studies.

The cruise kept on following shorelines of the islands and some zodiacs had found some leopard seals swimming that were getting quite close to the zodiacs. Not long after a snowstorm started to come in a natural turn around point was created to get safely back to the ship. Perfectly timed.

For the afternoon we had no activity planned outside of the ship as we had to make our way down south to get across the Polar Circle. A moment that many people had been looking forward to and something that not many people get to do in life. As we were going to cross the Antarctic Circle around Recap time Claudio had moved it to 4 o'clock in the afternoon to announce the plans for the following day. We also had time for some of the guides to explain some subjects in more detail. Steffi talked about the breeding cycle of the Brush tailed Penguins (Adelie, Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins). Marco explained us about the life of Icebergs; and conveniently for him a giant tabular iceberg just floated by at the time he started to give a good example. Clara explained the colours in the snow. Not about the yellow colour but the pink and green colours.

Snow algae that have quite an interesting life cycle. As last KJ gave us an introduction about the research station in Antarctica.

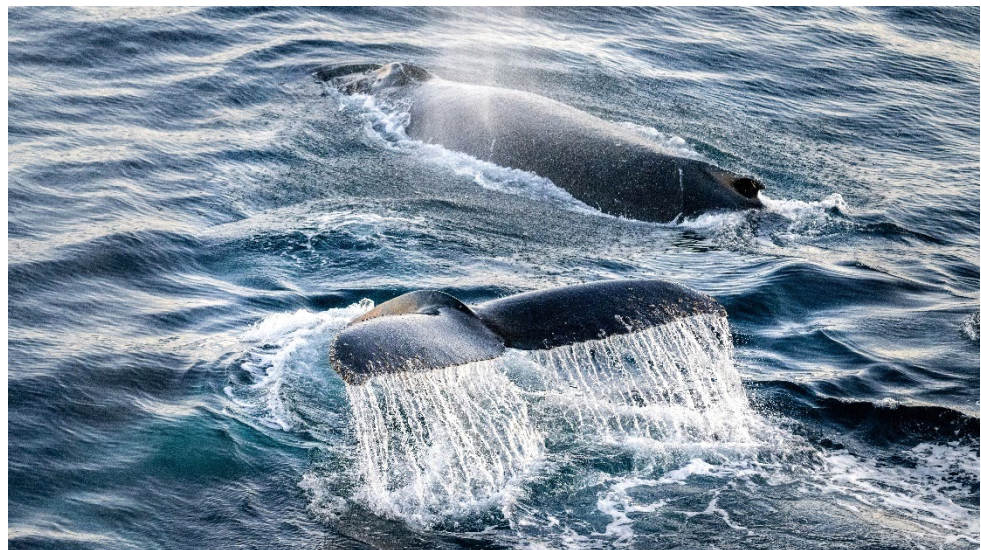


Just before 18:00 we were all invited to the lounge to celebrate the Antarctic Polar Circle. The bar had prepared glasses of Prosecco for everybody and as decoration large pieces of ice were laid out around the bar for a real Antarctic feeling. Some of the staff members also had prepared a picture frame with lots of funny

details on it. This way everybody was able to take a photo inside the bar after we had crossed the Circle. This was quite useful as the wind was blowing really hard outside. Some did take a photo outside in the sunshine but were soon blown back inside.

A great celebration for an exceptional latitude to cross. The Hotel Manager Ingrid told us that there would be a happy hour after dinner in the bar to keep on celebrating. We were happily surprised with an amazing sunset in the Isacke Passage near to the Gullet. This giant bay gave us

an incredible 360 view over the Arrowsmith peninsula and its nearby islands. The weather was perfect with high lenticular clouds and little wind that was very comfortable to enjoy a stunning sunset with the company of a few Humpback whales.



Together with the happy hour people were out till quite late for a very good reason. This warm or really quite cold welcome within the polar circle gave us a incredible start of this part of our expedition.



Day 6 – 1st March

Hanusse Bay and Detaille Island

12:00 GPS Position: 66° 57.4'S / 67° 21.9'W

Wind: VAR-1, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Another day in paradise – it was an early morning wakeup call, as we were hoping to see the most beautiful sunrise deep south in Antarctica. The light was stunning but sadly it was cloudy, so we missed the red and purple colors (which we then got the next day) but it was still a breathtaking scenery. We were sailing to our southernmost point of our voyage – to Hanusse bay.





After breakfast it was time for a Zodiac cruise to explore this bay. During our Zodiac cruise we could go even more South. Right after the beginning of our operations we already saw the first blows. The whales were around – a lot of humpbacks were in the area next to those amazing icebergs. We could observe them surfacing (logging) and sometimes even fluking. We moved on across a thick layer of brash ice, occasionally stopping and glancing at some Antarctic Fur seals or Crabeater seals who were resting on ice floes. Eventually when the ice stopped our course South we detoured and found ourselves yet again surrounded by Humpback whales. It was a wonderful start of the day.



After we returned from our cruise the lunch was waiting for us and the ship was sailing already a bit back North and then East to our next destination – Dettle Island. Dettle Island is situated in the entrance of Lallemand Fjord. It was the place chosen in 1956 to build a summer research station during the International Geophysical Year (IGY). For three years a group of 12 scientist occupied the base, carrying on

geological and topographic surveys of the area, as well as meteorological and oceanographical measurements.



Base W was then abandoned at the end of the summer 1959 due to the persistent presence of sea ice in the bay which impeded the supply ship to get to the base. The base commander gave the order to evacuate using dogs and dog sledges across the sea ice. Since then everything has been untouched. Base W is now owned by the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust

(UKHAT) and they maintained it during this summer for visitors.

Right after Lunch we were able to do a split landing and Zodiac cruise. As the Island is not so big, it's only allowed to bring 50 visitors at a time ashore. So some of us went first on a Zodiac cruise before they went ashore. We saw a lot of different pinnipeds: Antarctic Fur seals, Weddell Seals and Crabeater Seals. Also some Adelie Penguin were spotted uphill moulting.



On land after a steep slope up towards the hut, it was time to go back to 1950th to have a look inside the hut to see how the scientist lived there. After the entrance there was a workshop and a little office with a bed. In the corridor there were some skis and some cabinets with food in there. We found some old coffee, HP-Sauce and other cans with food. In the living room there were still some empty alcohol bottles, and a very old sleeping bag. In the bag of the hut there was the kitchen, the toilet, the radio station and a little office with some measurements taken by the scientist during their stay.

After discovering this hut we could go for a little stroll around the island. The scenery was stunning as we were surrounded by icebergs of all colours and shapes. The dinner was buffet tonight, then the day wasn't over yet. There were 40 brave campers going back to Detaille Island to enjoy a night under the stars in a sleeping bag (no tents needed). So after dinner at 8:30pm the campers got picked up and went ashore for their adventure. All the others were enjoying the colourful sunset and a drink in the bar.



A memorable overnight stay was done in Detaille island, the Southernmost of this season for the guides on board of M/V Plancius. During the night the silence was often interrupted by a distant rumble when here and there chunks of ice the size of a automobile were calving off bigger icebergs, making the experience even more memorable. When the night fell upon us and right before the moon started to cast its light in the horizon, the Southern Cross together with a few others constellations of the southern hemisphere, popped out.

Day 7 – 2nd March

Crystal Sound and Cape Tuxen

12:00 GPS Position: 66° 05.2'S / 66° 05.7'W

Wind: SW-3, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Sunny, Air Temp: 2°C, Sea Temp: 1°C



For at least half of us, the campers it was a very special early morning wakeup call because they had to come back to the ship after spending a night on Detaille Island. The Campers had spent a great time on land, with clear sky, no wind at all, surrounded by icebergs. Some of those icebergs broke apart with big noises during the quite night. Beside that we enjoyed the Antarctic

silence. All returned to the ship and our reliable M/V Plancius started to sail North. We enjoyed a beautiful sunrise and later on the blue sky. All of us who stayed on the ship for the night had the possibility to sleep longer, however most enjoyed the early morning scenery as well.

The passage we use used for sailing North is called Crystal Sound, a scenic in most parts protected area. Huge icebergs, calm sea and in the background the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula with its impressive piedmont glaciers and pristine snowfields. In the area we had a lot of Humpback whales making the cruise even more interesting.

Our expedition team offered us a lecture in the morning about marine mammals while we sailed north to our next destinations. We passed massive icebergs and thanks to the great weather conditions we could observe a lot of Humpback whales feeding or cruising alongside the ship.





The outside decks were bursting with life right after lunch when a delicate cruise into the Mudge passage led to the entrance of the Grandidier channel. This area was extensively explored and surveyed by the French polar explorer Jean Baptiste Charcot who led two Antarctic expeditions in the area. The second of this on board of the sailing boat *Porquoi-Pas* during the year 1908-1910, after the party had wintered in Petermann island, they led an exploratory voyage into the Grandidier channel and Marguerite Bay.

The first expedition led by Charcot on board of the schooner *Français* explored for the first time the area where we did our Continental landing. Cape Tuxen is jagged and rocky promontory located right in front of the Argentine islands, at the very Northern stretch of the Grandidier channel. So far we landed only on islands, so this short noticed activity was something special. It was a landing on rocks, right next to a Gentoo Penguin rookery and numerous South Polar Skuas.

A special dinner on board of M/V *Plancius* had been prepared by the fantastic galley and restaurant team. It was time for a delicious BBQ party on the outside decks while cruising in the Lemaire Channel.

We could have not asked for a better place to do this. It was absolutely amazing light during the sunset and we even met Minke and Humpback whales in the channel. During the night we continued sailing north in calm waters.



Day 8 – 3rd March

Wilhelmina Bay and Cierva Cove

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 34.3'S / 61° 57.8'W

Wind: NW-1, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Part Cloudy, Air Temp: 1°C, Sea Temp: 1°C



Good morning Plancius! Another windless day, although today it led to a very foggy morning and this jeopardized our operations. With poor to no visibility we cannot operate and on top of that we simply won't see much during our zodiac cruise.

We decided to be patient and hope for the sun to use its warmth and burn the fog away. The area Claudio had picked up for the zodiac activity was Wilhelmina bay. This bay was named by the Belgian Antarctic Expedition led by Adrien de Gerlach, after the then ruling queen of the Netherlands. A bit strange you might say, but it was the Dutch government that supported this expedition whereas the Belgian government didn't do so. This bay also has a nick name, it is often full with whales and as such it is not uncommon to hear the name "Whale-mina".

While we enjoyed breakfast, the sun did just that. We were about to leave in search of fog free areas when all of a sudden the fog lifted. We were treated with the most stunning landscapes and in the distance we could observe whale exhaling. Time to get ready for a now already legendary zodiac cruise. Once we were on the water, we found whales in good numbers so all zodiacs had their 'own' whales. Some whales were resting like logs in a river and only their regular breathing reminded us they were truly alive. Some other zodiacs had whales that



were a bit more curious and they even decided to check us out from very close vicinity. We could look the whales in the eyes and seeing these intelligent and gentle giants from up close is just an incredible experience. Some of us risked damaging their expensive phones by filming underwater, but they were rewarded with some amazing videos. Humpback



whales might not be the largest whales, but they are definitely the most charismatic ones. Together with no wind, stunning sceneries and a friendly and warm sun, the morning could not have been better.

In the afternoon we prepared for another zodiac cruise. Yet again it would become a legendary one... We received information from another ship that the bay was full with whales, but instead of whales, we found large numbers of Weddell and Leopard seals. Our AEL Steffi mentioned on the radio the presence of a friendly leopard seal, but moments later the leopard was chasing a Chinstrap penguin and the friendliness had disappeared.

Unfortunately the chinstrap was unable to escape the leopard seal and soon it was tossed around. Leopard seals do not necessarily kill their prey and today this was the case. It was tossing the penguin around to remove its skin and feathers, but while this was happening we could clearly see the poor penguin still being alive. This process went on for maybe more than 10 minutes before the leopard seal had eaten the skinless penguin that finally had found its peace.

After this brutal yet intriguing display of nature, we decided to check out the chinstrap colony



and have a look at Primavera Base. On the way we found more Weddell seals and leopard seals, while the sun was slowly setting coloring the sky with beautiful and soft pastel colors. The way back to ship was fun, lots of brash ice forced us to zig zag our way through. What a fantastic day we had today with lots of photo opportunities and unforgettable moments.

Day 9 – 4th March

Deception Island and Fort Point (Greenwich Island)

12:00 GPS Position: 62° 46.6'S / 60° 03.3'W

Wind: NE-2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Par. Cloudy, Air Temp: 0°C, Sea Temp: 2°



At 6:15 we were listening to the lovely voice of Claudio telling us we were approaching the entrance of Deception Island. An active volcano with a shape of a doughnut, or something else depending on your imagination. M/V Plancius was pointing its bow towards the only narrow passage that connects the outer waters of the Bransfield strait with the calm sea of Port Foster. This entrance is called “Neptue’s

bellows” and it’s only possible to cross it on the east side of it. On the left side there is a rock and this was discovered by another ship which hit it.

Deception Island is one of the most active volcanos of Antarctica and over the past century it had undergone several eruptions, the most recent ones happened in 1969-70. It is located on the Bransfield basin, where over the last 4 million years rifting (of a rate of 10mm/year) has caused the opening of the Bransfield Strait, together with persistent volcanism in the area. The rifting is connected to trench-rollback which is related to the adjacent subduction zone. The volcanism is mainly below sea level but three of these volcanic centers make it above sea level: Deception, Penguin and Bridgeman islands. These islands form the youngest emerging land of the South Shetland archipelago.

Our landing for the morning was Telefon Bay, named after the whaling ship that used to be moored in this bay during the summer season. Located about 9km on the northeastern shore of Port Foster, we set foot on the ashy and rocky landscape of Deception island; a drastic change compared to the snowy terrain of the past days. A short hike led us to the ridge of a lateral moraine carved out by glacier erosion; from here we appreciated the dark layers of different



eruptive events deposited on the ice over the past decades, and a very unique glacier feature, several pyramidal cones of ice and snow that gets covered with insulated debris material ejected from the bottom or the side of a glacier.

The trail led us up on the rim of a small cinder cone, one of the many that dotted the inner part of Port Foster. From here we could enjoy a nice view of the whole caldera with the two research bases of Gabriel de Castilla and Deception looming on the horizon across the bay. Back at the shoreline the traditional Polar Plunge started right away. The water temperature was around 2 Celsius as well as the air temperature. It was a nice refreshment and then we headed back to the ship and out of Deception Island to our afternoon activities.



Back onboard we could enjoy a Brunch with Fish 'n' chips and a lot of fruits. And after a bit of rest the expedition staff went out to check the landing site. They found a lot of Antarctic Fur seals, Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins. So because of the density of the wildlife the decision was easily made to split the landing into a cruise and a landing.



Ashore we could see a lot of Gentoo Penguins molting and fledging, as well as some Chinstrap Penguins walking around. The Fur seals were making their noises and fighting a lot to become stronger for the upcoming mating season in November. During the cruise we were really lucky to even see a Macaroni Penguin standing on top of a rock. A little king. It was an excitement for all of us (included the expedition staff). And then the moment came we

were a bit sad, we had to go back to the ship and say goodbye to Antarctica. Sailing back into the Drake passage towards Ushuaia.

Day 10 – 5th March

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 59° 33.3'S / 62° 23.5'W

Wind: NW-6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 4°



Claudio did our last wake-up call at 7:45 and at 8:00 breakfast was ready in the dining room. It was our first day on the Drake passage, going back to Ushuaia. The swell was bigger than when we first cross it 10 days ago, but we could still cope with it.

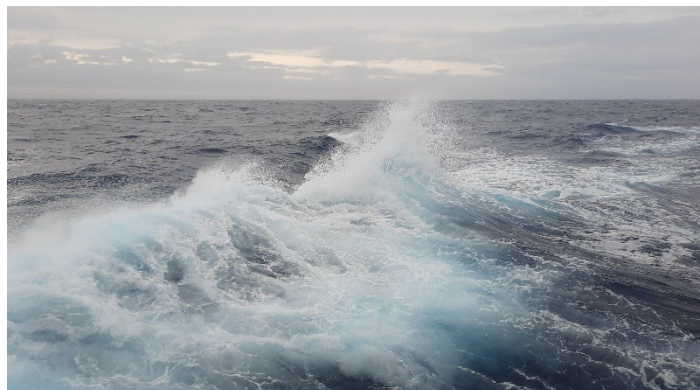
Around 9:30 Carina, gave us a talk on Penguins. With her beautiful pictures, she told us all about the

4 species of penguins that we saw in Antarctica: Adelie, Chinstraps, Gentoo and Macaroni! She told us about the breeding cycles, distribution, some fun facts on mating and swimming speeds, they can swim up to 35km/h! She also told us about a fifth species on Penguins in Antarctica, the Emperor Penguins, those are on our list for our next trip to the Weddell Sea!

At 11:00 Koen (KJ), gave a very interesting talk on polar explorers. He introduced us to the exploring fever of those times, researchers, explorers, great sailors all attempting to have their names written in the history books. We could barely imagine being in these latitudes with wooden sail boats, on wool and leather garments, so impressive!

At midday, we went for lunch that our head chef Ivan and all the gally team had kindly prepared for us. As the swell increased and Plancius was pitching more, the movement was ideal for lying in bed for a *siesta* or a movie, so we slowly started disappearing from the lounge.

At 15:30 Clara, one of the dive guides, gave a talk on Plankton, tiny but mighty creatures. She also told us about the impact of climate change on diversity of phytoplankton and life cycles and distribution of krill. Her lecture gave a lot of information on plankton, key for Antarctic food webs, and alerted us on



the urgency of thinking and pursuing systemic solutions for reverting climate change.

After Clara's talk, at 18:15 Claudio and the expedition team gave the daily recap. Claudio showed us the weather forecast for our last day in the Drake and Steffi, Koen and KJ gave us our last mini lectures on Antarctic Fur seals, Whales and Penguins.

Finally, plated dinner was served in the Dining Room and as the movement increased, we all went to bed. A day at sea, nonetheless interesting!

Day 11 – 6th March

At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 56° 16.9'S / 65° 45.4'W

Wind: NE-5, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

We awoke for our final day of navigation on board of M/V Plancius accompanied by the hammering noise of the persistent pitching movement of the ship. Overnight the wind had decreased its intensity, however, around 5 am gales of 28-30 knots started to buffet the poor ship from the Northeast and the pitching was resumed.

Breakfast was a bit more noisy than the previous morning, although still quiet compared to the activity days in the Peninsula. Soon after the expedition team collected our boots and waterproof bags that had been lent us over for the trip. At 11am sharp, Michael gave us an interesting lecture about the whaling era and the impact it had in the Antarctic waters; followed by the usual delicious lunch.



A lazy afternoon crept in whilst the protected waters of Tierra del Fuego were getting closer; a good time to listen to Alexis sharing his passion for the nowadays disappeared indigenous tribes of the southernmost islands of South America. The Yamanas people were nomadic canoers who roamed the waters of the Beagle channel and Tierra del Fuego for several thousand years before the contact with Western Europeans settlers wiped them out.

We gathered for a final time in the lounge for our Captains farewell. After a rousing speech, the captain offered a toast to this incredible voyage and Claudio thanked the team and crew for their efforts. The festivities finished with a beautiful slideshow – a fitting memory of a truly amazing Antarctic voyage beyond the Polar Circle. Meanwhile M/V Plancius had reached the calm and protected waters of the Beagle channel, and she was lingering around waiting for the pilot to come aboard and finally escorting us to the port of Ushuaia.

Day 12 – 7th March

Ushuaia - Disembarkation Day

08:00 GPS Position: 54° 48.6'S / 68° 17.'W

Wind: VAR, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 14°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

With our bags packed and left outside our doors for the staff to collect, we enjoyed our final hearty breakfast from the galley team. Following breakfast, we disembarked and said goodbye to Claudio and the rest of the fantastic team who had accompanied us down South. Whilst many of us leave with some sadness, we are grateful to be back on solid ground and with our hearts full of fond memories and unforgettable experiences from our exploration of the Antarctica Peninsula.

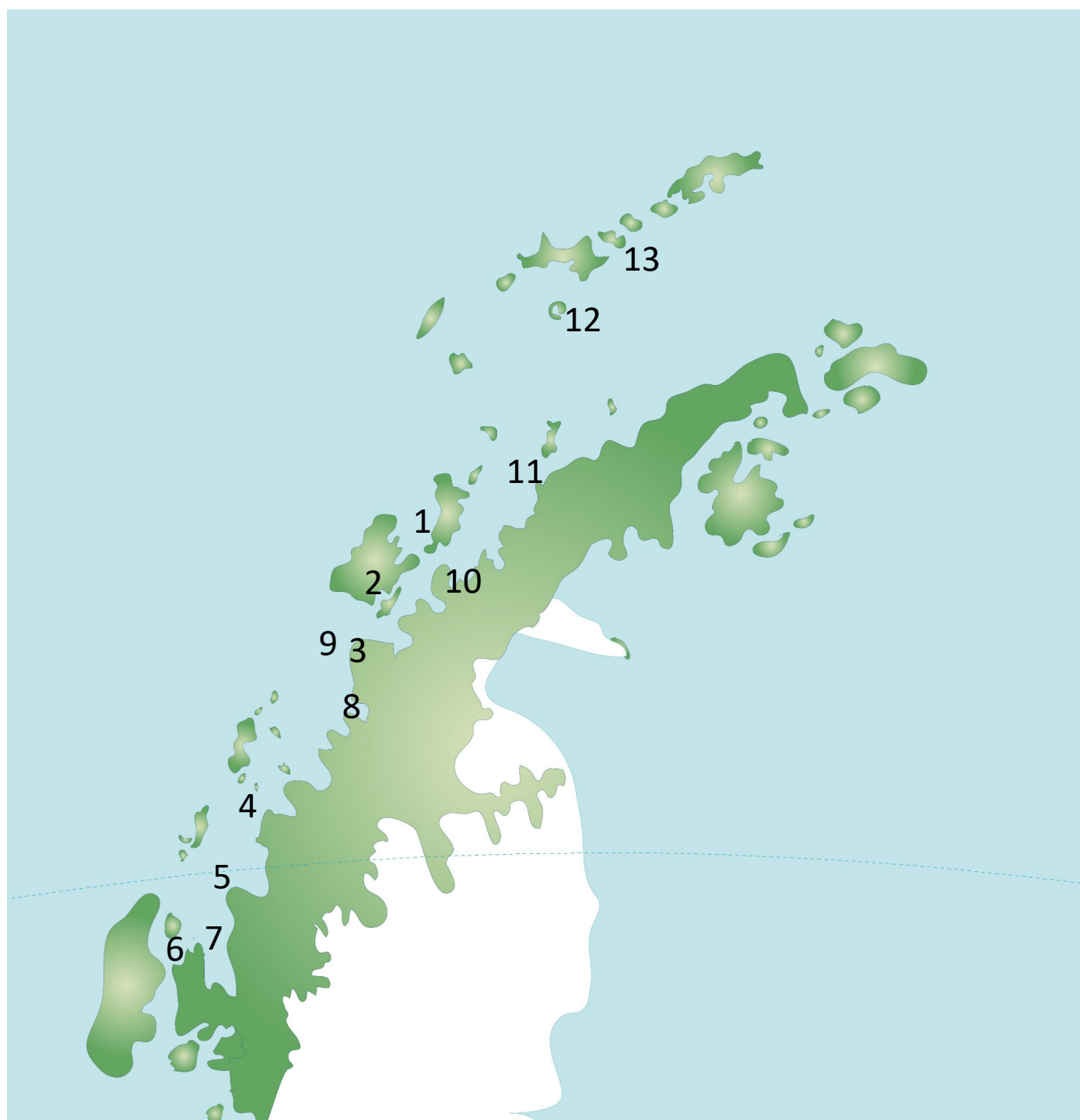
Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous Antarctic Polar Circle voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 1970 nautical miles

Farthest South: 66°58,6'S / 67°24.3'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Claudio Ghiglione and his team, Hotel Manager Ingrid Van der Loo, and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure traveling with you!

1. Melchior Island – Melchior Argentinian Scientific Base
2. Damoy Point
3. Lemaire Channel
4. Fish Islands
5. Antarctic Polar Circle – Crystal Point
6. Hannus Bay
7. Detaille Island
8. Tucksen Point
9. Lemaire Channel – From South to North
10. Wilhelmina Bay
11. Cierva Cove – Primavera Argentinian Scientific Base
12. Telefon Bay – Deception Island
13. Fort Point – Livingston Island



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	29-Feb	1-Mar	2-Mar	3-Mar	4-Mar	5-Mar	6-Mar	7-Mar
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>												
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>												
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>					X	X	X	X				
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				X			X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>						X		X	X			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>									X			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>												
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>												
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>												
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>												
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X	X		X		X			X	X	
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	X	X						X		X		
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	X											X
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>					X	X	X	X	X			
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>				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							
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>			X									
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X										X
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>										X		
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>												
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>												
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>												
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>												
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X										
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>												
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>												
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>			X									
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>												
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>												
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>												
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X											
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X		X	X			
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>								X	X			

Claudio Ghiglione – Expedition Leader



Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK).

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective is to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide Oceanwide.

Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book 'Polar Lights' with whom he shares the passion for nature photography.

Stefanie Liller – Assistant Expedition Leader



Steffi Liller was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1978. After completing her apprenticeship as a biology lab technician at the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute in Langen, Germany, she earned a degree in Biology and Meteorology at the Universities of Darmstadt and Freiburg in Germany. Alongside her studies and her love of nature, Stefanie developed an interest in and a passion for skydiving. This eventually changed from being a hobby to her profession. While working at drop-zones and indoor skydiving facilities throughout central Europe, Stefanie enjoyed sharing her passion for the sport with other people.

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveler by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Alexis Bellezze – Kayak Guide



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal

“Dick” Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Clara Iachetti – Dive Guide



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

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

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

Duncan McGregor – Dive Guide



Duncan is a BSAC instructor and TDI technical diver, qualified on both open circuit and rebreather set ups, who loves exploring different under water environments, and teaching diving to new divers and more experienced divers alike. mostly in the cold waters around Scotland. He has a BSc honours degree in Geology and petroleum geology but has never pursued a career in that field preferring to work outside as a gardener then as boat crew and dive guide. When at Aberdeen university and for many years after he instructed for the university dive club also building experience driving ribs and running trips.

Although Duncan's time working as a diving crewman on a Scapa Flow dive boat has fuelled his love of wreck diving and allowed him to develop his technical abilities, his primary passion has remained with instructing and dive guiding, taking great pleasure from helping others to get the same enjoyment from the sport as himself.

When not diving, Duncan likes to spend time in the wilderness climbing hills and mountains enjoying the challenge and the wildlife, preferring the snowy environments available during the Scottish winter. He looks forward to meeting new people and helping them to enjoy the spectacular sites around Antarctica.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Marco Rosso - Expedition Guide



Marco was born in the country of Pasta & Pizza. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city in Italy, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

After a few years working in the industry, he decided to embark himself on a quest. For two years he carried his tent and camping equipment; backpacking from the steamy jungle of Mexico and Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Peruvian Andes and the dry highlands of Bolivia. Rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfy his innate curiosity, thus self-teaching Earth Science natural processes such as geological volcanism, sea ice and glaciers formation and dynamics, wind patterns and oceanic currents.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natales, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leaders in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia, such as Torres del Paine, Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre circuits as well as the southernmost trekking in the world, Dientes de Navarino.

One step further from Patagonia lies the Antarctic peninsula, where he is willing to share with you an incredible camping experience in this truly pristine and untouched environment.

Matthias Kopp – Expedition Guide



Matthias live most of the year in Thuringia/ Germany. After school he started an apprenticeship to become a wholesale dealer but decided after a couple of years settled work right next to the home village, to do a great step in direction uncertainty. He started studying biology at the University in Jena. Matthias' main interests were Ecology and Ornithology. He wrote a diploma thesis about the breeding biology of Antarctic Skuas in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula. But also after that degree,

Matthias kept on studying those impressive animals for a couple of years. While studying both, his interest and his network brought Matthias all over the world. Thereby most impressive for him were the Polar Regions. Matthias stayed for his studies with the Skuas in total 5 summer seasons at Antarctic bases and meanwhile 10 seasons in the high Arctic as a Tour guide onboard vessels.

Currently Matthias is predominantly settled, based again in the village of his childhood, but now with wife, 3 young girls, 2 cats, a couple of bee colonies and a wide-ranging garden, who all need him. However, his wife knows that for Matthias the high summer in Germany is much too warm. For that reason, he is together with you in the high north – also to escape the heat.

Michael Green - Dive Team Leader



He began diving in 1980 learning with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour. Leaving the Navy, he continued to dive mainly around the U.K. dive into the wrecks always looking for a new story to learn.

He is qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. He has worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the Last eight years. He enjoys spending time giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions.

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

Look around you, enjoy these beautiful flames they are amazing. He is looking forward to spending some time with you over the coming days. Please ask any questions you may have as soon as you have them, we are here to help!

Valeria Sainz Herrera- Expedition Guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentinian photographer with almost seven years of business background. She grew up in Buenos Aires, which is the capital of Argentina, a beautiful place with a lot of culture and interesting things to do. Throughout the years she founds that one of her biggest passions is to travel. So, travelling as much as she could, she found in photography a profession that defines her in so many ways and gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations around the world.

Nowadays she spends her life between Argentina and Brazil; working during the summer season as a Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island named Ilhabela in Brazil, working in the tourism area or in Ushuaia (Argentina) as a photographer at the Ski Center.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or trekking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like diving, kayaking and sailing.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream for her, and now are part of her life.

Ninette van Es - Ship's doctor



Ninette was born in the southern part of the Netherlands and undertook her medical training at the University of Utrecht. After completing medical school and 6 clinical years of residency in the Department of Surgery at the University of Utrecht and Amsterdam she served as a surgeon in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam.

Feeling the need to widen her horizons further she changed her specialization towards a general practitioner. Also interested in travelling she was excited when an opportunity came up while she was finishing her studies to travel as a ship's physician to the South Pole in 2011. Since then she has been bitten by the Polar bug and has returned back each summer and winter to the North and South Pole since. More recently she has had a permanent job in two different GP practices which enables Ninette to combine her time

with opportunities to travel to far away places with, often as ship's physician.

Currently she is chairman of a Medical Committee to improve medical treatment on board of the expedition ships and besides this is a member of the Dutch Medical Nautical Society. When time permits she enjoys reading, running, traveling and skating.



Antarctica - Polar Circle
Sunday 25th of February 2024
Embarkation - Ushuaia

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 welcome to the voyage, followed by a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill.

Lifeboat Drill

All guests will go to the MUSTER STATION which is the lounge on Deck 5.

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

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

1930 **Buffet dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

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 3).
- 0930 We will introduce the Expedition Team followed by the **mandatory Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac and IAATO briefings.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1430 Alexis, our Kayak guide, will do the **mandatory Kayak briefing** for those who **pre-booked the Kayak Programme** in the library at deck 5, next to the lounge. The Kayak programme is fully booked.
- 1600 Marco will give you – **An introduction to Antarctica** – in the lounge. Join him on deck 5 for his lecture.
- 1815 **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 3). *This will be plated so please arrive promptly.*

*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.*

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0930 We will hand out the **rubber boots** you will use during the landings in Antarctica. We will call you by deck. Please listen to announcements.
The Boot room is located at deck 3 forward.
- 1030 We start with our **mandatory Biosecurity** before we arrive at the Antarctic Continent. We will call you by deck. Please listen to announcements.
Please bring all your outer gear, your backpacks, walking sticks, boots and tripods.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1400 For those who missed the **mandatory Zodiac and IAATO Briefing**, we will meet for a repetition in the library at deck 5, next to the lounge.
- 1500 **Koen** will talk about **Wildlife Photography**. If you want to get the last tips for taking pictures before we reach Antarctica. Join him in the lounge on deck 5.
- 1630 Marco and Valeria invite you for the **mandatory Camping Briefing** into the Lounge on Deck 5. This briefing is for all that pre-booked this activity.
- 1815 **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 3). *This will be plated so please arrive promptly.*

*We will sail into open sea 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.*



Antarctica - Polar Circle
Wednesday 28th of February 2024
Melchior Island & Cuverville Island

- 0715 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0830 We do your first activity in Antarctica. We explore the **Melchior Island** during a **Zodiac cruise** in search for wildlife and enjoy glaciated surroundings. Please dress warmly.
- Kayakers**, please be ready around 8:45 at the gangway, ready to go.
 Please listen to announcements
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1400 In the afternoon we plan to do our first landing. We would like to visit **Cuverville Island**. This island is home to one of the **biggest gentoo colonies** in the area. Please join us and enjoy the penguins.
- Kayakers**, please be ready around 14:45 at the gangway, ready to go.
 Please listen to announcements
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 2030 We plan to bring the **campers** to their exceptional night.
 Please listen to announcements



Antarctica - Polar Circle
Thursday 29th of February 2024
Travel South & Fish Islands

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- Morning This morning we travel further south towards the Antarctic Circle. We will watch out for wildlife.
- Depending on the conditions we might offer a lecture.
 Please listen to announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- Afternoon We plan to do a Zodiac cruise and explore the area around the Fish Island. The exact time will be announced. Dress warmly!
- Please listen to announcements.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

The conditions in the south are harsh and unpredictable.

- TBA **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
The time of the wakeup call depends on our progress in the night and the conditions on arrival.
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- Morning In the morning we would like to explore **far south** and enjoy this incredible area.

Please enjoy the view on the outer decks and listen to announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- TBA We try to offer you a **landing** at **Detaille Island**. We will find an old research station from the British Antarctic Survey, it was evacuated in 1956. A visit to this hut feels like a time travel.

The place is small, so we offer a Zodiac Cruise AND a Landing. The first boats get to land first, the next boats go to cruise, after half of the time we will swap. Everybody gets to do both.

Please listen to announcements.
- 1830 Please join the Expedition Team for a recap and the plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinnerbuffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 2030 Campers get ready for your night out beyond the Antarctic circle.
Please listen to announcements

For the campers, there will be in the morning Pastries and Juice in the Bar.

0745 No **Wakeup call** this morning.

0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

We had travelled far south. We will use the morning to travel nautical miles north again. Enjoy the travel on the outer decks.

1100 If you wanna learn something about **the whales** we saw. Steffi will offer a **lecture** on the lounge on deck 5, please join her.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

TBA The activities on the afternoon depend on the progress during the morning.

Please listen to announcements.

1830 Please join the Expedition Team for a recap and the plans for tomorrow.

1900 The **Dinner** will be served on deck 3.

- 0715 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0830 We plan to explore **Wilhelmina Bay**. The panorama of this protected bay is stunning, and we hope to see a lot of marine wildlife. Dress warmly and join us for a **Zodiac Cruise**. **Kayakers** please be ready at 0845 at the gangway, ready to go.
- Please listen to announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1500 **Recap** with the plans for tomorrow.
- 1700 We hope to be able to explore with you the area around Spert Island. The rock formations are unique. Join us for a Zodiac Cruise. **Kayakers** please be ready at 1715 at the gangway, ready to go.
- Please listen to announcements.
- 1900 **Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

There will be pastries and fruits in the lounge. Coffee and Tea are always available.

0615 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning! SUNRISE IS AT 06:44

0630 The morning we will spend inside a volcano.
' We will pass the **Neptunes Bellows** and enter the caldera of Deception Island. Do not miss this!

0730 In Deception you will find a completely different landscape. We plan to do a landing at **Telefon Bay** and you get the chance to walk to a nice viewpoint.
At **0900** we will offer you the chance to make a polar plunge. You will bring the courage and we will bring the towels.
Please listen to announcements.

1030 We will offer you a **Brunch** at the dining room. The Brunch will be available for one hour. (deck 3).

1530 Before we enter the Drake Passage. We hope to offer you another landing. We try to make a **landing** at **Robert Point**, which offers penguins, seals and a great landscape.
Please listen to announcements.

Afterwards we will be sailing into the southern part of the Drake Passage to start our voyage home. It is advisable to take seasickness medication at this moment or earlier.

1800 Please join Claudio and the Expedition Team in the lounge for a **recap** and the plans for the next days.

1830 **Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

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

- 0745 **Wake up Call.** Maybe a good chance to record it for home.
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 We saw many **Penguins** in Antarctica. **Carina** likes them. Join her in the lounge to learn more about the flightless bird.
- 1100 We discovered our personal Antarctica.
If you wanna learn about **the Exploration of Antarctica**, please join **Koen** in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1530 **Clara** will talk about **Plankton**, the base for the foodchain in the ocean, and its role in **climate change**. If you wanna learn more about it, join her in the lounge.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and plans for the next day.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**. It will be a plated dinner, please be in time.

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



Antarctica - Polar Circle
Wednesday 6th of March 2024
Drake Passage – heading North

There will be **no wake-up** call. We call you for breakfast.

- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Boots.** We will be collecting the boots and orange bags we gave you at the beginning of the voyage. This is the time that we will also collect the waterproof bag and the rental equipment you used. We will be calling you by decks. Please listen to the announcements. Thank you.
- 1100 We had incredible whale encounters. In the past these animals have been hunted almost until extinction. If you want to learn about the **whaling**, join **Michael** in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1530 **Alexis** will talk about **the Yamanas and other indigenous people of Tierra del Fuego**. Please join him in the lounge.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Ernesto Barria in the Lounge to toast our voyage to Antarctica and have our last re-cap.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**. It will be a plated dinner, please be in time.

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

0700 **Wake-up call** from your Expedition Leader Claudio!

- Before breakfast at 0730 please could you **put your large check in luggage outside your cabin** so that we can get it onto the pier for you. Please place hand luggage on the floor or table so housekeeping can begin stripping the beds.
- At the pier after disembarking, please identify your luggage and indicate accordingly where do you want it: storage building, bus to the airport or private arrangements. Luggage at the storage building must be collected before 1400.
- Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.

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

0830-0900 It is time to leave M/V Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception you may keep the card as a souvenir of your voyage.

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