



## Antarctica – Basecamp

4<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### M/V Ortelius



M/v *Ortelius* was built in 1989 it served as a special-purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science named “*Marina Svetaeva*”. The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life At Sea). M/v *Ortelius* is 90,95 m long, 17,2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,4 m, ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A), 10,5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER.

# Captain Toni Salo

**and his international crew**

Chief Officer: **Sven Holtzhausen**

2nd Officer: **Warren Villanueva**

3rd Officer: **Archie Cultura**

Chief Engineer: **Oskam Floris**

Hotel Manager: **Volodymir Cherednychenko**

Assist. Hotel Manager: **Karolina Guziejko**

Head Chef: **Heinz Hacker**

Ships Doctor: **Sebastiaan Dorst**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Laurence Dyke**

Expedition Guides: **Charlotte Taplin**

**Jakub Malecki**

**Jens Binderup**

**Juan Berenstien**

**Katlyn Taylor**

**Loel Collins**

**Lucia Romero**

**Max Cole**

**Misha Barabanov**

**Owain Jones**

## Day 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> March

### Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

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

**Wind:** NE 5, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Clear Sky, **Air Temp:** 11.1°C, **Sea Temp:** 12°C



© Sarah Jeanneret

most remote and special places on earth.

At 16:00 we all embarked the ship feeling incredibly excited for what laid ahead. We found our cabins, then were called to the lecture room for a safety briefing. We donned our bright orange life jackets and were escorted to deck 6 to see where our lifeboat is in case of an abandon ship situation. It was then time for Captain's welcome and cocktail where we met all the expedition staff and heard how the next 12 days would pan out. This was followed by a delicious buffet dinner and lastly with an IAATO briefing so we knew the rules and regulations of beautiful, pristine Antarctica.

Today was a beautiful day in Ushuaia, the weather was warm, and the sun was shining as we prepared to set sail for our Antarctic Basecamp voyage. A perfect setting to begin our journey. The town motto of Ushuaia is: *The end of the world, the beginning of everything.* What a perfect phrase to take with us on board as we travel to one of the

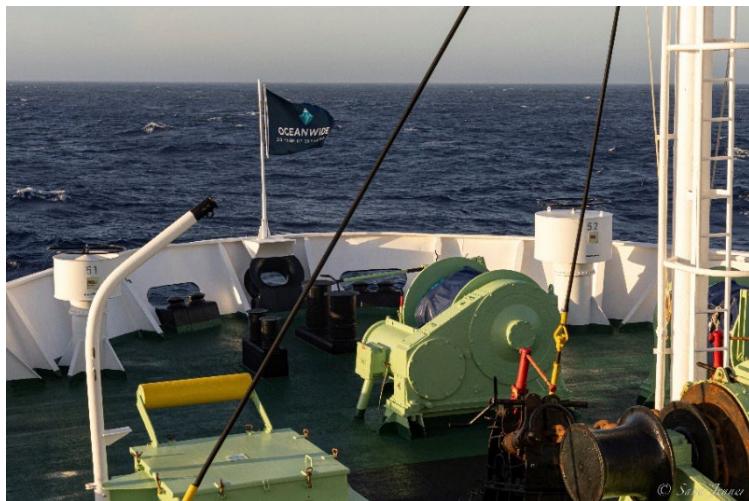


## Day 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> March

### At Sea towards Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 57°38.1'S / 065°18.9'W

**Wind:** N 20, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5.4°C, **Sea Temp:** 9°C



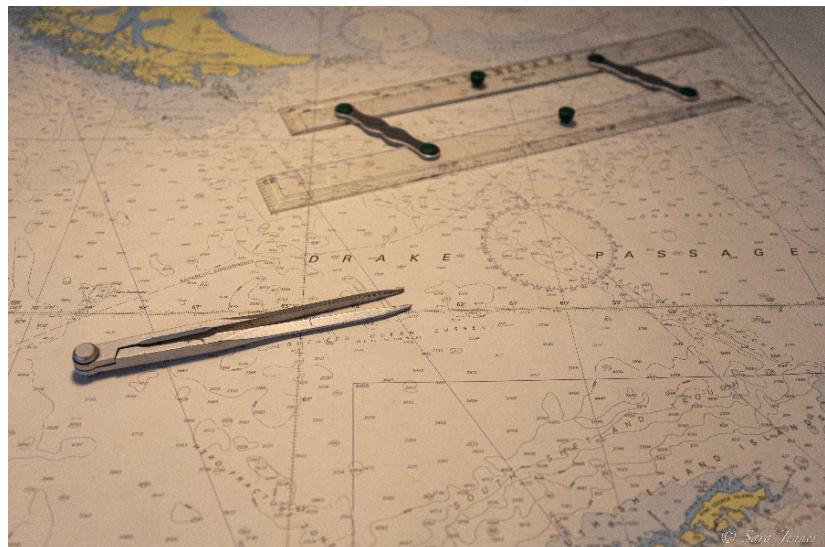
across the Antarctic hills, snowfields and mountains.

Next, Loel, the kayaking leader, invited us for a similar briefing regarding water-based activities. After lunch, Misha and Charlotte hosted another meeting in the lecture room, this time about camping under the Antarctic sky. Soon afterwards mountaineers called us again to divide us into groups, to advise about the gear and to fit crampons to our boots. We can't believe this is happening and we just can't wait to experience all those crazy things!

Later in the afternoon Juan presented his lecture introducing us to polar photography. Before dinner we had our first recap, a daily event where we go through what we have seen and plans for tomorrow and we receive short talks from the expedition staff members on different subjects. This time Sara visually presented wingspans of birds we are likely to see on the voyage with the help of a rope

The day was jam-packed! After our first night on Ortelius we had our first wakeup call from our expedition leader Sara. Just after breakfast, today's program started with handing over muck boots, that we will use over the entire expedition.

Next on schedule were numerous mandatory briefings about safety and operation details during various activities. First, our mountaineering guides Owen and Max told us what to expect during hiking and trekking



with dedicated markers. Charlotte talked about the Drake Passage and its oceanography.

The sea conditions we had today are excellent with wave heights about 2 meters. Not bad for the Drake Passage, one of the most notorious stretches of water on the planet! These calm conditions allow us to be out on deck safely and observe different sorts of wildlife around the ship spotted by the expedition team from the bridge, like Southern royal albatross, black-browed albatrosses and giant petrels in the morning, and hourglass dolphins in the afternoon!

After delicious plated dinner in the restaurant some of us retired to our cabins, but others move to the bar. We spend the evening chatting and mingling with other guests and the expedition team members in a state of some excitement about what tomorrow is going to bring.

## Day 3 – 6<sup>th</sup> March

### At Sea towards Antarctica

**12:00 GPS Position:** 62°04.3 S / 62°39.10 W

**Wind:** NE 20 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Fog **Air Temp:** 2.7°C **Sea Temp:** 5°C

We started the day with a positive wake up call: we had been doing great progress in navigation during the night, and the Drake was calmer than yesterday. Some expedition guides even called this “a Drake lake”. Even though some guests are still not feeling great, we started seeing more faces at the dining room and roaming around. The excitement to be closer to Antarctica can be felt in the air.

It is extremely foggy outside, but still most of us are on the outer decks observing the mysterious and vast southern ocean that some albatrosses and petrels seem to own. We want to see whales; we have seen a few blows at the distance, but the visibility doesn't help.

In the morning, the bar filled up with guests and cups of coffees as we were ready to attend the two first lectures of the trip: “Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean” by our marine mammal specialist Katlyn and “On the Thin Ice” by our glaciologist Jakob.

After an abundant lunch in the dining room, we prepared to face our last mandatory and probably the most important activity if we want to set foot in Antarctica:



biosecurity! The expedition team takes it very seriously, which is spreading among us a sense of responsibility and willingness to take care of this pristine environment.

Once all our outer gear was cleaned and biosecured, most of us spent some time at the bridge, just in time to see our first iceberg! It was a very exciting moment. That was a massive iceberg that looked just magical in the middle of the fog. Bridge officers said we may see land by mid-afternoon.

Meanwhile, we headed up to the bar again and got ready to learn about penguins with a great lecture from Lucia.

The visibility after all didn't allow us to see land, but daily recap started on time to remind us all what was going to happen soon: tomorrow we will wake up in Antarctica. Sara encouraged us to be out on decks before sunrise and the crowd is full of nervous, excitement and anticipation for the first day of operations in Antarctica on this once in a life-time trip.

## Day 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> March

### Orne Harbor, Cuverville & Damoy Point

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°37.1'S / 062°33.4'W

**Wind:** NE 9, **Sea State:** Smooth Wavelets, **Weather:** Overcast / Fog, **Air Temp:** 1.7°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C



© Sara Jenner

We awoke to rather dramatic view, the clouds hanging heavy above the water. Our first day in Antarctica, we have reached Orne Harbour, and everyone got ready to face the first day of activities. Having gorged ourselves on a voluptuous breakfast, mountaineers and kayakers went to get into gear, and the rest went for a landing and a small zodiac cruise.

At Orne Harbour, people could observe a colony of Chinstrap Penguins at the top of the landing site, while Antarctic Fur Seals and Crabeater Seals were playing around next to the zodiacs, curious about the unannounced visitors.



The backdrop was Spiget Peak, climbed by the mountaineers, an impressive rock rising steeply from the waters, on which the Chinstraps made their home. On the small zodiac cruise, people immediately acquainted a couple Humpback Whales, feeding in the small sheltered cove. These immense animals glided seemingly without effort in the water, breathing huge fountains, their bodies slicing the water. As far as first mornings go, we experienced an amazing array and diversity of both landscape and animal sightings.



before, we then headed to Cuverville Island, where we engaged in another split landing, half of which went to the landing site swarming with Gentoo Penguins, waddling about their business, whilst the other half went on a zodiac cruise amongst the impressive iceberg graveyard, regaling in all hues of blue. In amongst those icebergs, Humpback Whales were swimming about, and close to the shore, the Gentoos were filing in and out of the water, flying through the icy waters of Antarctica, showing a grace and elegance you

wouldn't believe.

Having overeaten at lunch and weighing significantly more than



wouldn't assume from observing them on land. A few Fur Seals and Weddell Seals were lounging on the rocks, relaxing from a prolonged feeding bout, before heading back out.



However, the day wasn't over yet, as today marked the first day of camping! Sixty courageous souls set off after dinner in their warmest clothes to spend the night on Antarctic soil. Landing in amidst the sunset colours, they dug shallow graves in a sheltered spot, slid into their sleeping bags, and admired the milky way coming in and out of the mist. It was a beautiful night, not too chilly, on which people experienced first-hand the beauty of Antarctica.

## Day 5 – 8<sup>th</sup> March

### Damoy Point & Goudier Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°48.5'S / 063°31.3W

**Wind:** Light >5, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 2.1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



Some were up very early this morning! 60 campers spent the night in their small dugouts and cozy sleeping bags under starry skies, going to sleep to the sound of penguins, whales breathing in the bay and glaciers calving in the distance.

The rest of us were waking up as usual to Sara's soft voice; Good morning, good morning, good morning – rushing to the porthole –

is it weather for kayaking and mountaineering? And yes, it was – kayakers set off on a calm sea with their little armada, mountaineers showing their line of silhouettes on the pristine white glacier, near the runway and Damoy Hut.

In the hut, known as the “southernmost waiting room”, there was a bit of storytelling – scientists and equipment would be shipped there, but needed to be flown another 180miles/350km’s south to the British Rothera scientific station – weather permitting!!! So, anything from a few days to more than a week, this little – but cozy hut – would be “home” for up to 15 people. 20 years of “service” from 1973 till ’93, until it no longer was needed, and it was left from one day till the next, leaving food stores, tools, sleds, everything! And no, there were no more chocolate in the drawer, labelled “chocolate” 😊



After getting all the active groups together for a delicious lunch, where experiences were discussed, we were ready for the second half of the day at Port Lockroy on Goudier Island.

Again, the activity level was high – the brave mountaineers set off with their ropes, ice axes and snowshoes, and the equally brave kayakers could enjoy yet another magnificent trip in calm conditions. Those of us on the water – zodiac cruising as well – had the privilege to see the “speedy” and often slightly skittish minke whale stay in our area for an extended time, which doesn’t happen often.





© Sue James

Unfortunately, the “post office” at Port Lockroy was not open for us to send a post card to our loved ones, but instead we could enjoy all the energetic gentoo penguin chicks around the buildings and their first “swimming lessons” in the ocean – cute little creatures!

Silence was enjoyed near the glacier – only the sounds of the Antarctic nature were heard – until we carried on and found an Elephant seal, Weddell seals - and a single Leopard seal – the first of many to be found in the days to come!

Late in the day - the timing was perfect – everybody came back from their activities just as it started raining a bit, enjoying a hot drink in the bar, recap, and sharing all the experiences with all our newfound friends – what a wonderful day!

## Day 6 – 9<sup>th</sup> March

### Lemaire Channel & Port Charcot

**Position:** 65°04.4'S / 064°02.1'W

**Wind:** NNW 12, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 1.3°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



An early start to catch the sunrise and best of the Lemaire Channel, a cathedral of volcanic peaks and glaciers. The glassy reflections were stunning as we weave through belts of brash ice and icebergs. The Lemaire is one of the most scenic passages on our voyage and this morning was an especially scenic transit.

Just after breakfast we moved carefully through the iceberg graveyard up to Port Charcot and anchored for the day. We spent the day exploring the area by zodiacs and kayaks while the

mountaineers scaled Hovgaard Island and we visited the Gentoo colonies in the back of Charcot Bay. Those that took the time on Port Charcot, and had a keen eye, could spot all three species of brush tail penguin together near one of the penguin highways. Two Adélie penguins and one chinstrap penguin were mixed in a group of moulting gentoos. The magnetic hut from the Charcot expedition was also visible as much of the snow had melted this late in the summer. Jens was spinning wonderful stories about life in this hut checking the bearing of compasses every day.



© Sara Jenner

A magnificent back drop for the iceberg graveyard, was Booth Island, with exposed peaks and grey skies accentuating the Antarctic blues and greys of the water punctuated with the shades of white in the pinnacles and spires in the graveyard.



The zodiac cruises found 7-8 different leopard seals, a few who seemed curious and playful. There was a great flurry of activity with a group of crabeater seals on a larger iceberg as well.

The kayakers found some slightly more laid-back leopard seals who continued to lounge on their icy beds while the kayaks paddled for a close view. A great day with some spectacular wildlife, leopard and crabeater seals, minke and humpback whales, Antarctic shags,

terns, skuas, gentoo and Adélie penguins all in a stunning natural setting.

## Day 7 – 10<sup>th</sup> March

### Danco Island & Paradise Bay

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°44.1'S / 062°36.8'W

**Wind:** Light >5, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Snow, **Air Temp:** .3°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



The mountaineering group headed out first into a damp morning with Sarah navigating the Zodiac through the brash ice. On landing site, the group fitted snowshoes due to a soft and wet snowpack. They enjoyed a lovely counterclockwise circuit around the Island, with a two-minute silence at the most isolated spot of the journey to hear the natural sounds all around and fully appreciate the magnificent environment.

While the mountaineers were climbing, the rest of us came ashore to explore the lower features of Danco Island. Gentoo penguins were scattered among rocky outcrops at all levels of the island. A few had nests on the beach this year, and despite the risk of losing the eggs at high tide, they successfully reared fluffy chicks that were running around on the beach as we came ashore. The

snow had melted enough this season to expose the foundations of the hut that used to stand at British Base O and the cairn up on the hillside. A few whale bones lay on the beach near the concrete foundation of the hut, reminders of our human impact in this place. Molting penguins stood near the ruins and bones, their feathers covering the ground in large patches.

Kayakers prepared for a breezy paddle through the icy currents coursing through the Errera Channel. They explored the shoreline of the island where skuas and kelp gulls were chasing each other near the molting penguins. After their paddle, they came ashore to join in for the polar plunge!



The brave among us took the opportunity to strip off their layers and take the plunge, whilst the eagle-eyed doctor stood by with the defibrillator. Nearly everyone participated in the plunge while onlookers laughed and cheered.

In the afternoon we repositioned through heavy ice as we made our way to Paradise Bay. Once we arrived the expedition team assessed the conditions for our afternoon activities. Unfortunately, visibility was too

poor to send out the mountaineers, but kayaking and zodiac cruising went ahead.

As we set out on the water the clouds dropped even lower, and snow began to fall. Zodiacs and kayakers alike searched for whales, seals and penguins among the ice. We were also in the vicinity of Base Brown, an Argentinian summer station for research. The zodiacs cruised by to say hello throughout the afternoon and a few scientists came out for a friendly wave or a chat. A large calving came from a nearby glacier while some zodiacs were in the area – a spectacular sight! A curious leopard seal visited others. The biggest showstoppers of the afternoon were the



Katlyn Taylor

humpback whales. Two individuals in particular held four of our zodiacs hostage while they interacted with them. They danced under water and lay next to the zodiacs almost as if to hold the boat in an embrace.

We all returned to the ship with big smiles and covered in snow. The large heavy snowflakes started accumulating at the surface of the water creating a white icy layer on top of the sea.

## Day 8 – 11<sup>th</sup> March

### Palmer Station, Stoney Point & Paradise Bay

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°54.2'S / 063°00.3'W

**Wind:** WSW 35, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** -3°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

The morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> greeted the expedition team with high winds and challenging sea conditions. Despite the valiant efforts of Sarah and Laurence, who ventured out into the elements to check conditions in their Zodiacs, a safety call had to be made!



We were due to visit the US research base Palmer Station on the southern coastline of Anvers Island. An opportunity to visit the base is very rare but alas it was not to be.

In search of calmer seas Ortelius headed eastward hoping to find calmer conditions in the vicinity of Paradise Bay at a location called Stony Point.

The expedition team spent most of the transit on the bridge looking for wildlife as we cruised back to the Gerlache Straight. The time spent behind binoculars paid off – killer whales were



spotted! Scattered among growlers, 10-15 small type b killer whales were traveling near the coast line. Ortelius weaved through the ice as best as she could so we could enjoy these animals before continuing to our next destination.

On arrival we continued to face challenging conditions. Loel had to make the safety

call and cancel his kayak group for another day. The mountaineers also elected to delay their next mountaineering excursion until more suitable operational sites could be found.

Despite the conditions, the hardy Oceanwide zodiac team ran a full bumpy and windswept cruise, still finding beautiful wildlife sightings and calm leeward coves.





At the end of a long day the camping guides successfully located an alternative more sheltered venue for our second camping session. With this camp made possible due to their hard work and resilience everyone who wished to experience a night under the stars was now able to do so!

## Day 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> March

### Orne Islands & Foyn Harbor

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64°39.7'S / 062°38.5'W

**Wind:** ESE 14, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 2.1°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C



Today the second group of campers were picked up at 05:30. It was beautiful as the pink light started to slowly appear out of the mountains, bringing light upon us as our sleepy heads were still adjusting to the 04:30 wake up from Misha, Jens and Charlotte, our camping guides. It was a beautiful night as we slept under the Antarctic stars with a huge mountain looming over us as we slept. To make it even more amazing we had several Gentoo

Penguins happily stood on the rocks below our sleeping spot. Once we were back on the ship we filled up with coffee and pastries whilst the ship repositioned to Orne Island.

The weather was absolutely stunning; blue sky, flat glassy seas and the sun was sprinkling its rays. We spent the morning watching Gentoo Penguins and Chinstraps waddling around being their usual funny selves, the chicks chasing after the parents, can they ever get boring...No. To top the

morning off we had a Humpback Whale cruise right past the landing site! At 11:00 we were all back on the ship and as we sailed to our next destination; Foyn Harbour. We could see constant blows from Whales near and far, it was a magical site and a typical Antarctic scape.

Foyn Harbour really proved to be the winner for whale action this trip, we had several groups of feeding humpbacks lunge feeding again and again. One whale in particular was throwing its pectoral fins and tail out of the water as it lunged forward, wow what a spectacle. As we looked in the water, we could see krill everywhere; the reason for so much continuous lunge feeding. After watching this and just feeling in awe it was time to leave. We passed by the *Governoren* on the way back to the ship, a whaling factory vessel which ran aground in 1915 because the whole ship started to burn down. The wreck at over 100 meters in length is still partly out of the water and one that can be seen very clearly as you look beneath you.



© Sara Jenner



© Sara Jenner



© Charlotte Haze

That evening it was really time to get the party started with an Antarctic BBQ! It was held on the helideck with benches and tables and of course music. We ate sausages, chicken, steak, corn on the cob, garlic bread the list goes on and so does the size of our waistbands.... Once we ate the important part came, the dancing! And boy did we dance. All night long until 1am, it was so much fun, and we all really let our hair down, some had a few tequila

shots, but we didn't worry about the hangover by this point. The staff brought the speaker into the bar, so it felt like a true nightclub; sweaty, loud and dark and a night we will remember forever.



© Sara Jenner

## Day 10 – 13<sup>th</sup> March

### Deception Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 62°55.5'S / 060° 39.3'W

**Wind:** NE 35, **Sea State:** Smooth Wavelets, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 2.1°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C



Today is our last day in Antarctica, and what a day it is! Deception Island, one of only two active volcanoes in the Antarctic, stole our hearts with its stunning beauty and rich history. The island is a rocky ring with only one narrow entrance to its interior – the infamous Neptune's Bellows.

After we sail through Neptune's Bellows early in the morning, we then set foot on Telefon Bay, we were overcome with awe at the power of nature and the resilience of life in this harsh environment. This place is so

different from everything else we saw during the voyage – glaciers of the island are very small compared to those on the Antarctic Peninsula, so moderately inclined and smooth hills and mountains are exposed, covered only with a thin layer of fresh snow. The hike around the volcanic crater was nothing short of magical, with the sun shining down on us and the sound of waves crashing against the shore. We felt so small in the vastness of this place, yet so connected to it in a way we can't quite explain.



The lunchtime transfer to Whaler's Bay was equally mesmerizing. Whaler's Bay is a bittersweet reminder of the human impact on this pristine wilderness. Seeing the remnants of the Norwegian Hektor whaling station and the graves of those who had come before us is a sobering experience. Back in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, about 150 whalers slaughtered hundreds of whales here

every austral summer. In the period 1944-1969 a research base (known as Base B) was operated by the UK, until a volcanic eruption destroyed it, forcing scientists to abandon it. And yet, the beauty of the wildlife around us reminds us that nature always finds a way to thrive, no matter the obstacles, as gentoo penguins and fur seals present along the Whaler's Bay beach.



© Sara Jenner

We also took the opportunity to cruise around the area with zodiacs! As we leave the calm water of the caldera, we go outside of Neptune's Bellows to more swelly Bransfield Strait. The sheer majesty of the volcanic geology and abundance of wildlife take our breath away – from the playful fur seals basking in the sun to the gentoo and chinstrap penguins marching along the shore, we feel like we are witnessing a true miracle.

As we headed back to Ortelius, the weather took a turn for the worse. The wind picks up, and we knew it was time to say goodbye to this unforgettable place. But as we set sail for Ushuaia, our



© Sara Jenner



hearts were full of gratitude for the memories we had made and the beauty we had witnessed. Antarctica, you will always hold a special place in our souls.

## Day 11 – 14<sup>th</sup> March

### At sea, crossing Drake's Passage

**12:00 GPS Position:** 60°23.8'S / 063°34.6'W

**Wind:** N 25, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 3°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

After a night with a bit of movement of the ship – after all our calm days down around the Peninsula, we woke up to a relatively calm day in The Drake. For those who were up early and maybe spending time on the outer decks or near windows, they had the pleasure of seeing about 10 fin whales “waving goodbye” as we headed north at almost 12 knots, pushed by a gentle 30 knot southerly wind.



Gathering at the bar later in the morning, Max and Owain told – and showed – us all the tips, tricks and gear needed in crevasse rescue. One time after the other, poor Max “fell into crevasses” in the bar but was fortunately rescued by Owain in different ways. 😊 All sorts of rings, carabiners, pulleys, and ropes were needed – but so comforting to know, that we were in the safe hands of specialists, when we were doing our mountaineering!

Then it was time to say goodbye to our trusted sturdy Muck boots, which kept our feet dry during wet landings and carried us to pristine lookouts and on top of volcanic crater rims.



In the midafternoon a small flock of Kerguelen petrels were sighted following the ship. A fairly rare sight in The Drake, some of us came out on deck to enjoy them for a few minutes as they swooped up and down on the wind.

After a delicious lunch, Charlotte took us into the world of whales – how they feed and breed, the food chains- and webs, and where the millions of tons of krill in the Southern Ocean are the foundation of

almost all the wildlife, we have seen down there. Now more enlightened about our friendly giants – the humpbacks – of whom we have seen so many on our Zodiac cruises.

Later, our own Iceman – Jakub – told us about “the future” of ice in the climate change – how glaciers are affected and the polar ice in general. Not always a positive story unfortunately!

After our dinner, it was time to find the winners of the photo competition – by applause! The bar went slightly more noisy than usual, as people were cheering their



favorites, but well-deserved winners were found in the 3 categories: Landscape, Wildlife and Funny pictures.

Then quite a few dressed up for the occasion and went to the top deck to see the stars. Again, the weather played tricks on us, sending showers over the ship – but eventually it cleared, and we finished the day by having an hour of beautiful clear skies – stars, satellites, and a shooting star. Time for wishing!

## Day 12 – 15<sup>th</sup> March

### At Sea heading to Ushuaia

**12:00 GPS Position:** 55°42.6'S / 065°52.7'W

**Wind:** SW 65, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 11°C

This morning our wake-up call found us leaning inside the ship slightly. We had finally caught up with the windstorm raging off the West Coast of Chile. As the storm passes Cape Horn it brings a band of winds up to 60kts with it for this last section of the Drake Passage. The outer decks are closed for the first part of the day for our safety.

After breakfast we began our onboard lecture program with Laurence talking about bathymetry and what is happening below the sea's surface in these polar regions that we love to explore. Who knew icebergs and glaciers did such cool things to the sea floor!

In the mid-morning Sara gave a presentation about Marine Threats. A tough but necessary topic. We have just spent an incredible week in a fragile and remote place, hopefully becoming inspired to preserve these wild places. But there is plenty of trouble closer to home, and there are things we can all do to reduce our impact on the planet.

During lunch heavy winds keep the ship leaning hard on starboard as we continued to steam toward Cape Horn. Winds gusted over 70 knots during lunch and as Jens presented his afternoon lecture on the failed Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition. We were enthralled with the Shackleton story and the greatest small boat journey of all time.



Just when we thought we couldn't walk sideways any longer - the ship's heading finally changed. We had begun our approach to the Beagle Channel. Strong winds still prevailed with rain and hail, but the ship now had the wind on the bow and the sea state was calmer in the sheltered waters of Tierra del Fuego. The expedition and hotel team had a little surprise for us as we entered the lee of South America, hot chocolate with whiskey and whip cream on the deck with a side of brisk, fresh air. We put on our jackets and drank our warm drinks while taking in the first views of trees on the hillsides in almost two weeks.



Oceanwide Team. The Expedition Team also shared in the memories and thanks as we finished the event with the trip slideshow put together by Juan and Misha. It was an amazing trip showcased in music, photo, and video.

Warmed up by chocolate and spirits we piled into the bar for one last lecture from Lucia. She shared some of the history and culture of her home country Argentina. A perfect final topic for our voyage as we passed the Argentinian coastline on the starboard side of the ship.

It was then time for Captain's Farewell. Glasses of juice and sparkling wine were served in the bar and Captain Toni came down to say a few words about our voyage and express thanks on behalf of the

The seas calmed significantly, and all decks were opened as we prepared to go to the dining room for one last dinner. Volodymir brought the hotel team into the dining room before dessert was served. We cheered and clapped for the wonderful crew that have been taking care of us while onboard.



## **Day 13 – 16<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Disembarkation, Ushuaia**

**12:00 GPS Position:** 54°48.561'S / 68 18.070'W

**Wind:** SSW 2, **Sea State:** Rippled, **Weather:** Sunny and Partly. Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 12°C

Well, here we are back in Ushuaia, and it is time to leave Ortelius. At 08:30 after our last buffet breakfast the Expedition Team carried our luggage outside for us and we disembarked the ship. We said our goodbyes to the crew and staff and either hopped on the bus or went into town for last minute souvenir shopping. It has been a phenomenal trip with so many activities happening, we have met some fascinating and incredibly inspiring people who are doing amazing things in the world. We only hope to cross paths in the future.

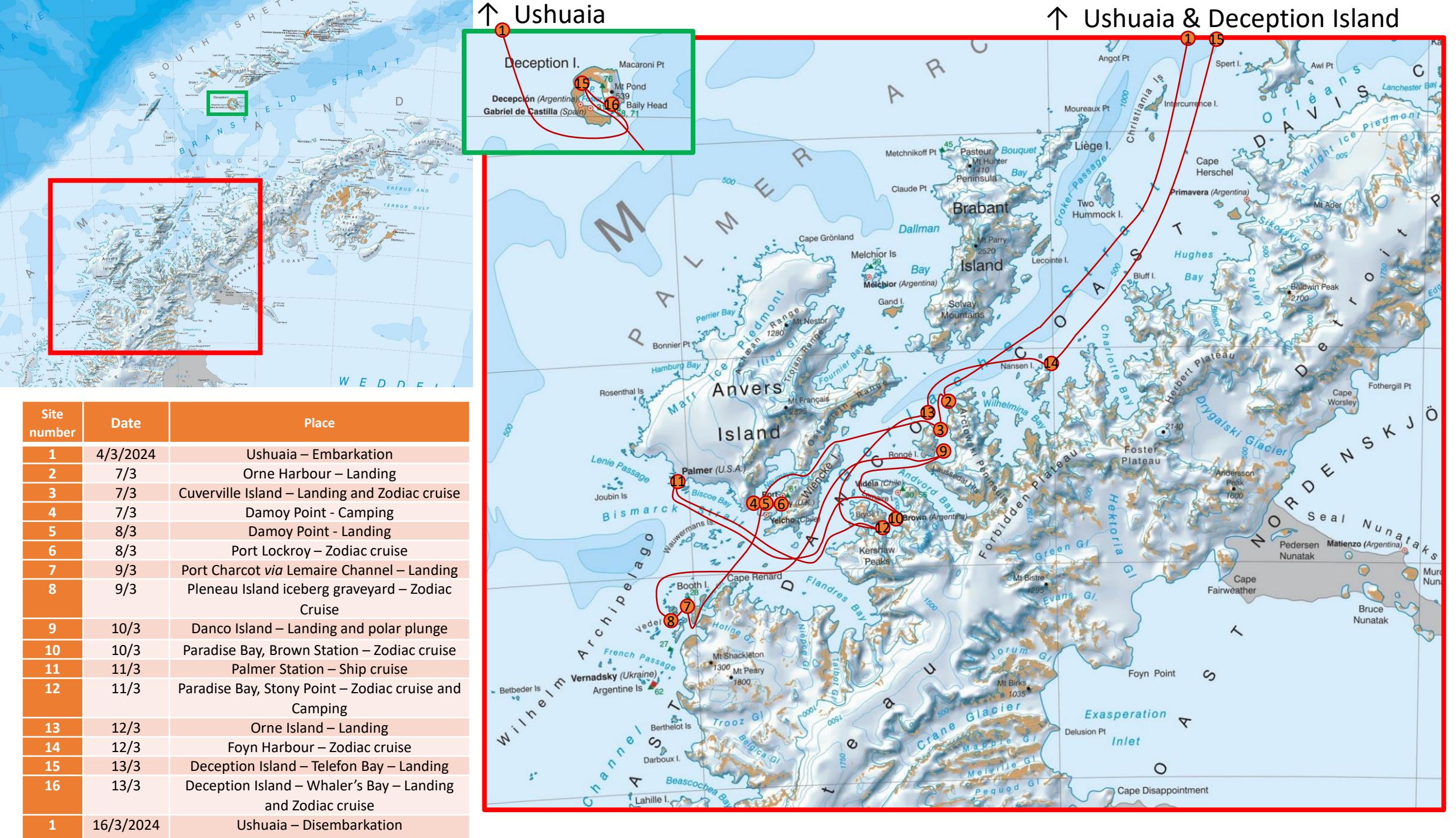
Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous Antarctica voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!



**Total distance sailed: 1813 nautical miles**

**Farthest south: 65°04.4'S / 064°02.1'W**

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



## Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

Ortelius: Antarctica Base Camp 4th - 16th March 2024

English	Latin	4-Mar	5-Mar	6-Mar	7-Mar	8-Mar	9-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	13-Mar	14-Mar	15-Mar	16-Mar
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>													
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>													
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>						x							
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			x	x	x	x			x	x			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysophous</i>													
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>													
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>			x										
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>													
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		x								x			
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x	x										
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		x	x										
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>			x										
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>													
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>				x				x	x				
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>			x										
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>													
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>							x						
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>													
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		x	x							x			
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		x	x							x			
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>		x								x			



# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

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

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

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# Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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# Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina. He is embarking on his first Antarctic Expedition Cruise with Oceanwide Expeditions.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying outdoors and on the mountains. His hobbies are trekking, camping, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country

on holidays. Nowadays he enjoys discovering new landscapes around the end of the Andes chain with his friends.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in tourism for more than 5 years in Ushuaia and has amazing skills related to guest management, being a sociable and talkative person. He speaks natively Spanish, English and some German as he did an exchange back in 2014 after finishing high school.

Going to Antarctica has been a lifetime dream of his, as being born at the southernmost city in the world and the nearest city to the white continent really set the path for the years to come. He plans on starting a Polar career learning from every aspect, from wildlife to history, and someday become an Expedition expert.

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# Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide

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Katlyn is an Expedition Guide originally from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She grew up learning tidepool animals on the Oregon Coast.

She comes from a background as a captain and guide on whale watching boats all over the US. She has worked in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific for over 9 years. In 2023 she shifted her career to expedition guiding and has worked in Antarctica and Alaska. She has guided trips in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska throughout the past summer.

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

She received bachelors' degrees from Oregon State University in Marine Biology and International Studies. She's a Junior Fellow with the Safina Center of Stonybrook University. Her biggest passion and love are marine mammals, especially whales. She co-hosts a show called The Whalenerd's Podcast, a science communication project about whales and other ocean related topics.

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# Loel Collins – Kayak Guide

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Loel comes from a small village in the mountains of Snowdonia National Park, North Wales in the UK. Over a forty-year career he has worked around the globe, in North and South America, Europe, Artic Greenland and Canada, the middle and far East as a kayak and canoe guide and coach. In the winter you can find him telemark skiing and training other outdoor professionals in rescue and emergency care.

He has a background as a performance psychologist with a

focus on performance in expedition and adventure. He lectures at The University of Edinburgh in Moray House, the School of Education and Sport where he teaches and researches in adventure sports coaching and leadership.

He has several first kayak descents of remote gorges to his name as well as many expeditions to wilderness areas, among them the highland rain forests of Papua New Guinea, the Himalaya in Northern Pakistan and Nepal, and the Artic of Northern Canada and Greenland.

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# **Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide**

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Lucia is an extroverted and curious person always looking for new challenges and experiences worldwide.

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide.

She loves sharing her passion for exploration, learning, discovering, conservation and wildlife.

With over 12 years of experience on leading groups around Patagonia, she is now focusing on the wonders and biodiversity of the polar environments.

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# Max Cole – Mountain Guide

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Max has been rock climbing, mountaineering and skiing for over forty years. He has climbed in New Zealand, Yosemite, Morocco, Norway, Kyrgyzstan and extensively throughout the European alps and within the U.K.

Max is a qualified IFMGA Mountain Guide and Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor.

Over the last 10 years Max has spent more time in the Arctic, Northern areas of Norway, Lyngen Alpes, Finnmark and Svalbard, taking clients ski-touring, ski-mountaineering and ice climbing. He

has done this when both land based and aboard sailing boats. Max enjoys experiencing the untouched wilderness and visiting less travelled places.

Max is most happy when searching out new venues and adventures, seeking out sea cliff climbs in the remote Scottish Highlands and Islands. Max is also happy in winter being showered with spindrift in the Scottish mountain gulleys. His lifelong passion for adventure in the mountains has motivated him to become a British Mountain Guide. He is keen to share his passion to others and his infectious enthusiasm means he is a great person to have on your team in the mountains.

Max is based in Rossendale, Lancashire with his family. When he is not in the mountains he is a keen rock climber, boulderer, fell runner, mountain biker and orienteer. He also enjoys long distance running and has completed multiple 100 mile events. In recent years competing for the English Vets Orienteering Team in international competition. His passion for all mountain activities makes him eager to share with people the wonder of the wilderness.

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# Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide

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Born in St Petersburg, Russia, but raised in Luxemburg, Mikhail now lives in Switzerland, where he delights in camping all over the local mountainscape.

He spent quite some time in the academic world, obtaining master's degrees in Marine Mammal Science and in Ecology and Nature Conservation. After working for several field seasons as a scientist in distant places on marine mammals and birds, he was keen to pursue a way to combine his passion for travelling, outreach and the higher

latitudes.

His deep interest for the polar regions was formed on a visit to Antarctica with Oceanwide in 2018 as part of a university course. At the time, he was stunned by the pristineness and the vibrance of life found in the Southern Ocean and wanted to find a way to return in a professional capacity. As he prefers the world's colder regions, Oceanwide provided the opportunity to immerse himself in the polar world.

No stranger to adverse weather and difficult living conditions, Mikhail is always looking to find places and moments that exude true calm and serenity. As an avid photographer and videographer, he is always seen carrying his gear around from place to place, trying to improve his craft and capture wildlife in their natural behaviour.

Usually in high spirits, he works as a guide on a variety of expeditions, on which he can be found always ready to help and looking to increase his savoir-faire in all things ocean and wildlife.

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# Owain Jones – Mountain Guide

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Owain is a fully certified IFMGA Mountain Guide and full member of the British Association of Mountain Guides.

Owain started climbing and mountaineering with his father at the age of nine and the passion continues to this day. He has led several mountaineering expeditions and glacial treks in the Indian and Nepalese Himalaya. On ski he has led remote first ascents in East Greenland.

His experience as a mountain guide in the European Alps, on foot and ski, spans many seasons and includes more than fifty successful summits of Mont Blanc with his clients.

Rock climbing and ice climbing are his foremost passions, and he has made several first ascents across these disciplines in the United Kingdom. Owain takes great pride in helping others fully experience the mountain environment; not just leading but using every available opportunity to share his knowledge and top tips!

In addition to his work as a Mountain Guide, Owain is a professionally qualified youth worker and safety consultant for outdoor educational activities with young people in the United Kingdom.

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# Sebastiaan Dorst – Ship's Doctor

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Sebastiaan is a family medicine doctor based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Sebastiaan completed his medical training and specialisation at the Erasmus Medical University in Rotterdam. He has long had an interest in working in remote regions and low resource settings. During his basic medical training he completed a minor in tropical diseases in Malawi and an expedition medicine course in Keswick, Wales.

He has worked at the emergency ward and intensive care at the Admiraal de Ruyter hospital in Goes, and as one of two doctors working at the Kikori District Hospital in Papua New Guinea.

After returning to the Netherlands he completed his family medicine specialisation and now works in the south of Rotterdam.

Outside of work Sebastiaan is an avid traveller having most recently spent several months travelling Central and South-east Asia with his wife.

He looks forward to meeting everyone on-board, and welcomes anybody with any queries to not hesitate to approach him.



## Antarctic Basecamp Welcome aboard!

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the bar located on Deck 6.

### **PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

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

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 2: Drake Passage

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30 The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called deck-by-deck to the Lecture Room on Deck 3, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you.
- 10:15 Please join Owain and Max in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Mountaineering briefing**.
- 11:45 Please join Loel in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Kayak briefing**.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please join Charlotte and Mikhail for the **Mandatory Camping Briefing** in the Lecture Room.
- Please note that we will be checking attendance to all the mandatory activity briefings, if you do not attend, you will not be able to participate in the activity. Unfortunately, we cannot make any exceptions to this rule.**
- 15:15 Please can all **mountaineers** meet in the Lecture Room to sign up for their groups, please bring your mountaineering boots.
- 16:30 Please join Juan in the Bar on Deck 6 for an Introduction to Polar Photography.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen and plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 3: Approaching Antarctica

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Katyln in the Bar for a presentation about 'Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean'.
- 11:30 Jakub invites you to join him for his lecture titled 'On Thin Ice' in the Bar.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+/- During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY IAATO Biosecurity in the Lecture Room**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure everything is clean before proceeding to the Lecture Room and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:15 Please join Lucia in the Bar for a presentation about Penguins.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30 Please could the **mountaineering groups 1 & 2** meet the mountain guides in the Lecture Room to get crampons fitted, please bring your mountaineering boots.
- 20:30 Please could the **kayaking groups 1 and 2** meet on the Heli Deck on Deck 6 to be kitted up.

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 4: Orne Harbour and Cuverville Island

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 1** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 08:00+- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a Continental Landing at Orne Harbour.
- 08:30 Please could **Kayak Group 1** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.
- 11:30-12:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 12:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 2** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 12:45+- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Cuverville Island. Please note, the last three Zodiacs leaving the ship will do a short Zodiacs cruise before coming ashore, all other guests will get a chance to do that during the afternoon.
- 13:15 Please could **Kayak Group 2** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.
- 17:00 **Kayak Groups 3 and 4** meet Loel on the Heli Deck to be get their kit fitted for the following days kayaking.
- 18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 18:45 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 1** ashore for a night on the ice. This will take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at the daily recap.

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 5: Damoy Point and Goudier Island

- 05:45 Wake- up call for the **Mountaineering group 3** (Fruit, pastries and juice will be available in the Bar).
- 06:00+/- Pick-up campers.
- 06:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 3** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We would like to invite all guests to the gangway for a Landing at Damoy Point.
- 08:45 Please could **Kayak Group 3** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.
- 10:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 4** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:10+/- We would like to invite all those who have signed up to be in the **photography boats** to the gangway.
- 14:15 We would like to invite **all other guests** for a Zodiac Cruise of Goudier Island and Jouglia Point.
- 14:45 Please could **Kayak Group 4** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered." - G. K. Chesterton*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Day 6: Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot and Iceberg Graveyard

06:30 Wake-up call.

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

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

08:30+/- We would like to invite all guests to the gangway for a Landing at Port Charcot.

09:00 Please could **Kayak Group 5** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

13:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 5** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

14:00 We would like to invite all those who have signed up to be in the **photography boats** to the gangway.

14:10+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** for a Zodiac Cruise of the Iceberg Graveyard.

14:30 Please could **Kayak Group 6** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.

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

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

*“Why then do we feel this strange attraction for these Polar Regions, a feeling so powerful and lasting, that when we return home, we forget the mental and physical hardships, and want nothing more than to return to them?” - Jean-Baptiste Charcot*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 7: Danco Island and Paradise Harbour, Brown Station.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 6** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

08:45+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Danco Island.

09:15 Please could **Kayak Group 7** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.

We hope to offer a **polar plunge** at the end of all activities, please wear your swim wear underneath your expedition clothes. We provide the towels, do not bring the ones from your cabin.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

14:40 We would like to invite all those who have signed up to be in the **photography boats** to the gangway.

14:50+/- We would like to invite all other guests for a Zodiac Cruise of Paradise Harbour and Brown Station.

15:15 Please could **Kayak Group 8** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.

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

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

*"It must be remembered that the men whose desires lead them to the untrodden paths of the world have generally marked individuality." - Sir Ernest Shackleton*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 8: Palmer Station and Arthur Harbour.

- 06:45 Fruit, pastries & juice will be available in the Bar.
- 07:00 Wake-up call.
- 07:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 8** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 07:45 Please could **Kayak Group 9** meet Loel at the gangway, ready to go.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30+/- We invite guests from **Decks 3 & 4** for a tour of Palmer Station.
- 09:30 Mikhail invites **Deck 5** guests to a lecture about Marine Mammal Acoustics in the Bar.
- 10:45 We would like to invite guests from **Deck 5 and the mountaineering and kayaking group** for a tour of Palmer Station.
- 11:15 Mikhail invites **Deck 3 & 4 guests** to a lecture about Marine Mammal Acoustics.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 9** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 13:20 We would like to invite all those who have signed up to be in the **photography boats** to the gangway.
- 13:30+/- We invite all other guests for a Zodiac Cruise of Arthur Harbour.
- 17:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 18:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 2** ashore for a night on the ice.

*"I fear the worst too, but only because fearing the best is an absolute waste of time!"*  
- Will the krill in Happy feet 2.



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 9: Orne Islands and Foyn Harbour.

- 05:30+/- Pick up campers.
- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 09:45+/- We invited **all other guests** for a landing at the Orne Islands.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Sara will give a short presentation in the bar about the MV Ortelius, a look at how things work on an expedition ship in the polar regions.
- 15:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 15:30+/- We would like to invite all those who have signed up to be in the **photography boats** to the gangway.
- 15:40+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** for a Zodiac Cruise of Foyn Harbour.
- 16:00 We invite **the kayakers** to be ready at the gangway.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served.

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



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 10: Deception Island.

07:00 Wake-up call.

07:15 We will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.

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

08:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.

08:45+/- We hope to take everyone else ashore at Telefon Bay in Deception Island.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

13:15 We will show a short film (10 mins) about the last eruption of Deception Island and its whaling history in the Bar.

14:00 We hope to take you ashore for a landing at Whalers Bay in Deception Island, if weather permits, we may be able to offer a short Zodiac cruise into Neptune's Bellows as a part of the afternoon's activity, this will be confirmed on arrival.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*"Anything more wonderful than the polar night does not exist. It is a dream-like sight. It is a light poem of all the finest and most delicate tones of the soul. - Fritjof Nansen*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 11: Drake Passage.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:30 Please join Juan in the Bar for his lecture about Photo Editing.

11:15 Owain and Max invite you to the lecture room for a technical rope workshop with a crevasse rescue demonstration.

12:15 We will call to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots, please listen for announcements.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

13:30-14:30 Summit your photos for the competition with Juan and Mikhail in the Bar.

14:30 Charlotte invites you to the Bar for a presentation about the 'Feeding, breeding, and diving capabilities of whales.'

16:15 Jakub invites you to the Bar for his lecture about the Future of Ice.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! There will be some important information given about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.

19:00 Dinner will be served.

20:45 Juan will announce the results of the photo competition up in the bar.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 08:30 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00, you do not need a luggage tag for this, merely ensure it is placed on the luggage truck when you disembark. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 12: Approaching South America.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

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

09:15 Join Laurence ion the Bar for a presentation about High latitude bathymetry – exploring what lies beneath the waves.

11:30 Sara would like you to join her in the Bar for her presentation about Marine Threats and what we can do to reduce them.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

14:00 Jens invites you to join him in the Bar for a presentation titled 'Shackleton – The Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition'.

16:15 Lucia invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Argentina.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices.

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

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



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Day 13: Ushuaia.

**Please ensure all your large luggage is outside your room before 07:00.**

07:15      Wake-up call.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 08:30 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00, you do not need a luggage tag for this, you merely need to ensure it is placed on the luggage truck before you leave the pier. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

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

08:40+/-      We invite all other guests to disembark. You can either choose to take your luggage with you into town or you can place it in the luggage truck which will take it to a storage facility in Ushuaia.

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

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