



Antarctica – Polar Circle

16th - 29th 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: **Dirk Houtman**

Expedition Leader: **Sara Jenner**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Laurence Dyke**

Expedition Guides: **Charlotte Taplin**
Jakub Malecki
Jens Binderup
Juan Berenstien
Katlyn Taylor
Gonzalo Sabattini
Lucia Romero
Mike Pumm
Misha Barabanov
Dimitris Sotirakis
Andre Fahrni

Day 1 – 16th March

Ushuaia - Embarkation Day

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

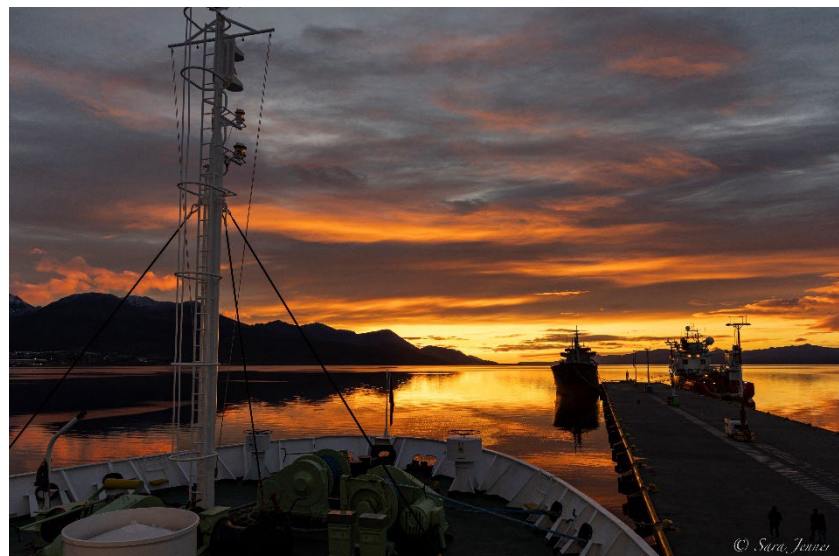
Wind: SW 6, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 12°C



What a wonderful day to embark M/V Ortelius, it was a clear, sunny day with a chilly wind, which only reminded us where we were; at the end of the world near to the continent of Antarctica. Some of us had arrived in Ushuaia a few days ago and had the chance to explore the region, some of us had only arrived today, so it was a quick

look around the town to do some souvenir shopping. At 4pm it was time to head to the pier to meet our home for the next 13 days.

We were warmly welcomed by the staff and crew and were shown our cabins. We immediately had a safety briefing which involved donning our giant orange lifejackets and heading to the muster station. We were then called to the bar for Captains cocktail which gave us a chance to meet the Expedition Team which was followed by an introduction to the trip. We were all quite peckish, luckily for us it was buffet, so we piled our plates high. The day finished with an IAATO and zodiac briefing last night in the lecture room, we were all exhausted, but Sara made sure we were all awake, so we were clued up on everything! As the ship sailed away down the Beagle Channel, we felt a sense of relief and excitement, we were finally heading off to the Antarctic!



Day 2 – 17th March

At Sea towards Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 57°37.5'S / 066°03.0'W

Wind: E7, Sea State: Slight, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 3.3°C, Sea Temp: 11°C



Today it is quite the emotional rollercoaster as we make our way down to Antarctica through the infamous Drake's Passage. The night is rough with waves causing some turbulence, but it was nothing compared to the rogue wave that hit in the early hours of the morning, sending belongings flying off shelves and waking up half of the ship. Despite the shaky start, as the day

goes on, the waves begin to calm down and the weather turns surprisingly sunny with moderate winds. After breakfast, the Expedition Team handed out rubber boots for our upcoming Antarctic adventures and by 10 AM, the divers gathered for a briefing and gear fitting. We are all eager to explore the underwater world of the Southern Ocean. Katlyn, one of our guides, then gave a captivating lecture on the Whales and Dolphins of the region, filling our minds with wonder and excitement.

Lunch is a welcome break before another group of divers have their briefing, and during that time, the Expedition Team spotted incredible wildlife from the bridge - Black Browed Albatrosses, Light Mantled Sooty Albatrosses, and even a massive male Orca! We rushed to the outer decks to catch a glimpse of these



majestic creatures in their natural habitat. Later in the afternoon, Juan talked to us about Photography in the polar regions, followed by Laurence's introduction to Antarctica. As the day drew to a close, we are treated to the sight of Wandering albatrosses and Grey-headed Albatrosses soaring gracefully through the sky with their awe-inspiring 3.5-meter wingspans. During the evening recap, a daily event where we go through what we have seen and the plans for tomorrow, Sara amazes us with demonstrations of the wingspans of birds common in the Drake's Passage and Antarctica, while the other guides share fascinating insights about whales and albatrosses. The night concludes with a sumptuous plated dinner and lively conversations in the bar, as we bond with fellow guests and the friendly expedition staff. Today may have had its challenges, but the beauty and wonder we experienced made it all worthwhile. Antarctica, here we come.

Day 3 – 18th March

At Sea towards Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 62°26.1 S/ 64°44.9 W

Wind: NE 3 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** 4°C



We awoke to snow blowing sideways across the ship. Sea conditions were still quite calm, so it felt like we were sailing in a snow globe. After breakfast Lucia gave a lecture about some of the stars of Antarctica – penguins. As we steamed South the snow continued to fall, by the time Jakub gave his lecture on glaciers and ice, the decks were turning white. Occasional seabirds circled

past the ship throughout the morning. After lunch it was time for biosecurity. Everyone brought their outer gear to the lecture hall for inspection and cleaning. We used brushes, paperclips and vacuums to make sure that all of our gear was free from any potential invasive species. This is one of the necessary preparations we must do before landing in the remote habitats of Antarctica. During biosecurity the bridge notified us that they had seen our first iceberg. Last night at recap we opened up a friendly bet among the passengers about when we would see the first iceberg.

After biosecurity, the sky was clear for miles, icebergs and whale blows were scattered on the horizon. We spent the next few hours enjoying the views and wildlife. Dozens of Fin Whales were feeding outside the South Shetland Islands and we could see Smith and Low Islands on the horizon. In the late afternoon Sarah and Chief Engineer Floris gave a lecture about how things work on Ortelius. Our water systems,



waste management, food storage and more! It takes some creative thinking and interesting innovations to run an expedition ship in remote areas. At recap in addition to covering the plans for tomorrow from Expedition Leader Sara and some information about the Drake Passage from Charlotte, the winner of the iceberg bet was announced. The winning guess was only 3 minutes off from the actual sighting! Amazing guess that has been rewarded with a complimentary cocktail from the bar. During dinner we had views of a stunning sunset, several people snuck outside for photos between appetizers and the main course. By the end of dinner there was just enough light to see the mountains under a layer of clouds – our first fleeting glimpses of Antarctica.

Day 4 – 19th March

Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot and Booth Island

12:00 GPS Position: 65°06.6'S / 064°02.1'W

Wind: NE 2, **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 0.1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

The day dawned with a whisper of excitement, the crisp Antarctic air tingling with anticipation as the M/V Ortelius cut through the icy waters. In the Antarctic Peninsula, the world seemed to shimmer with possibility, and our expedition team was eager to embrace every moment. Our morning journey led us through the majestic Lemaire Channel, a corridor of frozen grandeur where towering cliffs of ice framed our passage. It's one of the narrowest passages a cruise ship can go through in Antarctica and one of the most photographed. As the sun cast its golden glow



upon the pristine landscape, we embarked on a breathtaking zodiac cruise. Along the way, nature unveiled her wonders in spectacular fashion – Leopard Seals feasting on unsuspecting penguins, crabeater seals lounging on ice floes, and colossal icebergs sculpted by millennia of wind and wave. Beautiful encounters with Humpback Whales were the cherry on the cake to start our amazing expedition day. The

first dive of the trip is a mandatory check dive for every diver. This way, the diver can get used to the new environment and the special conditions, for example the amount of weight or the cold water. The check dive had been conducted close to Pleneau Island - a perfect place for a first dive, as the water is around 5 to 10 Meters deep, no currents or wind. However, this rather easy dive resulted in one of the divers favourite dive, as they were visited by a few Leopard Seals as well as some Penguins. After 30 to 40 Minutes underwater, the divers surfaced with a huge smile on their face - this is why we Dive Guides love our job!

With hearts full of wonder and cameras brimming with memories, we returned to the Ortelius for a well-deserved lunch. But our adventure was far from over. In the afternoon, we made a landing at Port Charcot, a hallowed ground steeped in Antarctic history. Here, amidst the remnants of Charcot's famed French expedition of 1904, we encountered an enchanting array of

penguin life. Gentoo and chinstrap penguins dotted the landscape, their comical antics a testament to the resilience of life in this unforgiving realm. It was also a great opportunity to stretch our legs on a hike to the top cross for an amazing view of the iceberg graveyard and the penguin colonies uphill.





The second dive of the day was on the South West side of Port Charcot. The conditions were once again perfect - no wind and clear visibility underwater. During the dive, the divers encountered a lot of different Antarctic Marine life, for example Nudibranch, Crabs, Sea stars and Kelp Forests. Most of the Underwater Marine life here is, besides the Seals and Penguins, rather small. After the dive, the divers had time

to enjoy Antarctica above the surface and go for their first landing. As evening descended upon the frozen horizon, we gathered for our daily recap, eagerly discussing the wonders we had witnessed and the adventures that lay ahead. With charts and information spread before us and dreams of tomorrow in our minds, we plotted our course through the endless expanse of ice and sea towards even southern waters. We concluded our day with a hearty dinner, sharing stories and laughter in the cozy embrace of our expedition family. For in this land of ice and snow, every moment is a treasure, every experience a testament to the indomitable spirit of exploration. And as the *Ortelius* sailed ever onward, we knew that our journey had only just begun.



Day 5 – 20th March

Crossing the Antarctic Circle and Detaille Island

12:00 GPS Position: 66°52.5'S / 066°49.5W

Wind: S 4, Sea State: Smooth, Weather: Cloudy, Air Temp: -1.2°C, Sea Temp: 0°C



At 05:45 we heard Sara; good morning, good morning, good morning announcing we were about to cross the Antarctic Circle and at 06:20 we finally crossed the circle with 35 guests joining to celebrate.

After breakfast we were ready to embark the zodiac's for a visit

to the British Base at Detaille Island. Built in 1956 scientists studied meteorology, geology and mapping which also participated in the Geophysical Year 1957/58. The scientists collected geological samples, weather data and mapped the area for three years. It was planned to continue, but in late March 1959 it became clear that their support ship wouldn't be able to get close to the base due to heavy ice. Subsequently the stores of food, coal and fuel for the generator was not enough to keep the 8-10 scientists going through the approaching winter so a quick decision was made by the base commander; gather up your things we are leaving now! Scientific

work and geological samples were taken on the sledges with the men while they crossed 30 miles of ice to get to their supply ship. The base was never reopened, but it stays today completely as it was left (in a hurry) as a time capsule.





A happy story from the 'evacuation'; when the men were bringing the sled dogs back onboard the supply ship, one of them 'Steve' escaped and disappeared – and the ship had to leave. However, Steve went back to the hut, accessed the stockpile of seal meat, and survived for three months by himself. Eventually he decided to look for his human and canine friends at the other British station at Horseshoe Island more than 60

miles/110km's away – and made it, fit and well. Must have been a happy reunion!! The visit was followed by a short zodiac cruise among majestic icebergs, followed by resting Crabeater and Fur Seals. The divers prepared for their third dive in Antarctica. This dive site looks a bit like a stair made of rocks. These rocks are covered with so much marine life once again and the highlight of the dive were two Crabeater Seals at the end of the dive.

A few of the divers encountered some difficulties - from leaking glove systems, free flowing regulators or lost dry suit valves - that day, we had it all.

Quote of the day: 'Dry Suit - The most expensive wetsuit on the market'. However, the wind was picking up quite a bit, so today we got a taste of the true Antarctic experience with a bit of spray in the zodiac's! As we enjoyed our lunch, we set sail to go further South on our



expedition and in the afternoon, we could enjoy Charlotte's lecture about the Seals of the Southern Ocean. Timing was fantastic for the interesting lecture, as we saw crabeaters, Weddell's, Leopards and Fur Seals on our way further south. Navigating through the narrow "Gullet" was also a treat – the bridge was full as we zigzagged our way between icebergs and along majestic high and completely snow-covered mountains, having snow showers every now

and then. With a truly special encounter with a group of Orca and Humpback Whales which passed right passed the ship! A truly spectacular day in the Antarctic.

Day 6 – 21st March

Porquois Pas and Horseshoe Island

Position: 67°44' 5S / 067°51' 7W

Wind: N1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** -1.8°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C



The day started with a zodiac cruise at Porquois Pas island, named after the ship that the French explorer Jean Baptiste Charcot used for his second Antarctic expedition. We knew already that unfortunately this landing site is closed due to avian flu, and we also knew it was going to be really cold: -6°C! the coldest forecast we have had so far. So we wrapped up warmly and got in the zodiacs just on time; Orcas

have been spotted from the ship! The Expedition Team drivers quickly headed to where they were last seen and effectively, a group of at least 6 orcas were swimming right next to us! What an amazing and unforgettable experience! After that, we started exploring the coasts of that magnificent area, full of males and juveniles Fur Seals resting and plenty of variously shaped icebergs that kept us astonished as we were approaching the island called Porquois Pas. Once we got there we found Adelie Penguins, finally! For some of us it was the first time we saw them, so we had fun for a while looking at them walking on the beach, swimming, jumping on the small ice floes and more. After more than two hours, with frozen hands, but warm hearts, we headed back on board to enjoy a hot



chocolate and an abundant lunch at the dining room as usual. The fourth dive was the next highlight - the divers were going to dive an iceberg for the first time. To dive a iceberg, you have to make sure that it is safe. For example the iceberg should not move in the water or it should not have some ice formations that could fall. The one for that day was considered safe from the



Dive Team Leader - it was (above the surface) approximately 10 Meter high and around 25 Meter wide. As we all know the majority of an Iceberg is below the surface, so the total depth of the iceberg was 60 metres. Diving the iceberg was spectacular in itself and we also had Sea Butterflies and Comb Jellyfish to add to the beauty.



The afternoon activities were awaiting us; Horseshoe island, a more sheltered place with an old British hut from 1956. The island was just amazing, we could walk into the hut and travel 60 years back in that

time while looking at the different daily objects and research tools that had been left behind after it was abandoned. In this case we could also roam freely around the island, where we found several Adelie Penguins hanging out in the small patches of snow, a Weddell Seal resting at the coast, and a few Fur Seals again playing and enjoying their relaxed time, seeming unbothered by our presence. We also had the chance to walk all the way up to a viewpoint with the most spectacular view we have probably had of the Antarctic Peninsula. A magical place to remain silent and enjoy the views for as long as you wanted and take tons of photographs. None of the current Dive Team had ever dived at Horseshoe Island before, therefore, it was an Exploration

Dive for everyone. The ground was slightly steep, but because a lot of icebergs had been grounded there was not a lot of marine life, only several Seastars. The divers who choose not to dive were more lucky - they were greeted by a Humpback Whale very close from the zodiac!



The sun was starting to lower as we boarded our zodiacs back to Ortelius and left behind the beautiful Horseshoe Island. We all headed to the bar to warm up and for the daily recap with the expedition team. Afterwards, a magnificent dinner in the dining room was served to finish this successful and perfect day of expedition in Antarctica.

Day 7 – 22nd March

Stonington Island

12:00 GPS Position: 68°06.4'S / 067°50.6'W

Wind: NE 7, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Snow, **Air Temp:** -1.9°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

Today was a day we will never forget. The early wake-up call at 6:45 by Sara was worth it as we opened our eyes to the breathtaking sight of Stonington Island outside our windows. This place, so rich in history and significance, had captured our hearts even before we set foot on Antarctica. As we gathered for breakfast, the sky outside put on a show like no other. The colours of the sunrise painted the sky in shades of red, orange,





and pink, creating a magical backdrop for the majestic mountains and glaciers of Stonington Island. It was a moment of pure awe and wonder, a reminder of the beauty and power of this remote continent.

Our Expedition Team was already on their way to the landing site, eager to explore the abandoned bases on the island. We followed them, stepping onto the icy shores surrounded by brash ice. The two bases, UK Base E and US East Base, stood as silent witnesses to the incredible feats of exploration and research that had taken place here. It was humbling to walk in the footsteps of those who had come before us, to imagine the challenges they faced and the discoveries they made. We explored every corner of the bases, soaking in the history and the stories that echoed through the empty rooms. For the divers there was quite a lot of wind this

morning so operations could not take place as planned, we had to choose a different dive site than originally planned. We found a spot and in the divers went who managed to see



beautiful Sea Stars and Amphipods.

The wind started to pick up, a reminder of the harsh conditions that can quickly descend upon Antarctica. We knew our time on the island was limited, but we made the most of every moment, savouring the experience and the



knowledge that we were standing in a place that had shaped the course of Antarctic exploration.

Back on Ortelius, Jens gave a riveting lecture about the race to the South Pole between Amundsen and Scott. We listened with rapt attention, feeling a deeper connection to the struggles and triumphs of those early explorers. Misha followed with a fascinating talk about marine mammal acoustics, opening our eyes to the hidden world of underwater sounds. Lucia rounded out the day with a discussion about krill, the cornerstone species of the Antarctic ecosystem. As we gathered in the bar for our daily recap, the emotions of the day washed over us. Today we had a recap from Alan and Peter Tonkin the two sons of John Tonkin; the man who first visited Stonington Island in 1946 and built the British Base E. Peter told us all about his father's life there over the next 2.5 years from looking after the dogs to venturing out across the snow. A fascinating and moving story. As we drifted off to sleep, the memories of Stonington Island and the spirit of exploration that filled the air lingered in our dreams, a reminder of the incredible journey we were on together.

Day 8 – 23rd March

Fish Islands and Crystal Sound

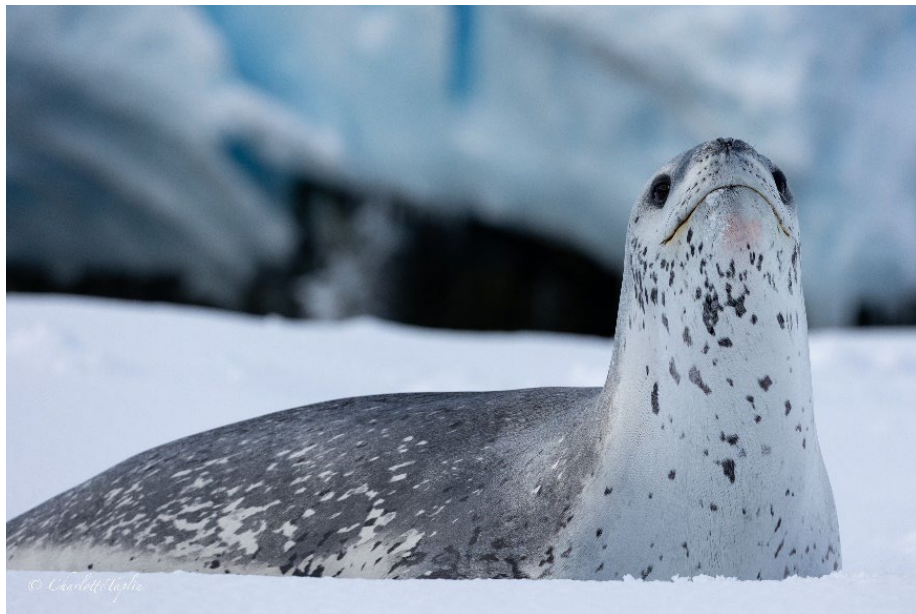
12:00 GPS Position: 66°00.6'S / 065°25.6'W

Wind: E3, **Sea State:** Smooth, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

As we entered Fish Islands, we can feel the excitement bubbling within us. This is a new place for us to explore, a small group of islands at the western shore of the Antarctic Peninsula. The names of the islands - Mackerel Island, Flounder Island - evoke images of the icy wilderness that surrounds us. After a hearty breakfast in the dining room, we eagerly boarded the zodiacs for a cruise around the islands.



The Expedition Team was just as eager as we were, for almost none of them had ever visited this place before. The sense of anticipation is palpable as we set off into the unknown. Setting foot on the mainland Antarctica for the first time is a dream come true for many of us, so we set off to Prospect Point to do so. Laurence, who spent his whole morning alone at this remote location, warmly greeted us with an Antarctica flag. We took photos with the flag which added a special touch to the moment, symbolizing our journey to this icy paradise. As we continued our cruise around the Fish Islands, we were greeted by the sight of Adeli Penguins, Fur Seals and Humpback



Whales. Before the dive, the Dive Guides André and Mike were exploring the area around Fish Island in order to find some interesting Wildlife for example Penguins and Seals, which the divers could encounter during their dive. However, the dive guides couldn't find much, so it had been decided to dive another iceberg.

Once again, the Iceberg had to be checked for safety reasons and after release from the Dive Team Leader, the divers descended into the depths for their second Iceberg. The visibility was



way better than with the first Iceberg and the divers were impressed by the dimensions of it, as it formed some interesting formations below the water.

After a delicious lunch on board the ship, we set out for another cruise in the afternoon. This time we moved to the North, as during the lunch our brave vessel Ortelius repositions and unloads us around

Duchaylard Island. The icy landscape is breathtaking, with a towering mountain in the center of the island and Leopard Seals and Crabeater Seals dotting the ice floes and icebergs. The Adelie penguins on land bring a smile to our faces, their playful antics a reminder of the beauty of nature in this harsh environment. The dive guides did some exploring today to find a dive site. One spot had been found which was slightly sloping down to approximately 20 metres. The ground had a lot of Kelp around and the divers had once again seen Seastars, Mussels and a few other interesting macro life. After the dive, we did a zodiac Cruise around the area to also enjoy this place from above the surface. After two or three hours we came back to the ship, a bit chilly but happy. Soon afterwards we were hit with a surprise – another pod of Orca had been spotted just next to Ortelius! We rush to outer decks equipped with binoculars and the longest camera lenses on the market to get the perfect Killer Whale photo. We acknowledged how lucky we are to have the third opportunity to meet them during our voyage.

In the evening we gathered for a recap with Sara and the Expedition Staff, sharing our highlights and memories of the day. Another delicious dinner awaited us, followed by a relaxing



evening in the bar, reflecting on the incredible experiences we have had. This day in Antarctica

has been a day of true expedition and exploration, a journey into the unknown that has left us in awe of the beauty and majesty of this frozen wilderness.



Day 9 – 24th March

Neko Harbour and Cuverville Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64°50.8'S / 062°33.4'W

Wind: S4, Sea State: Smooth, Weather: Cloudy, Air Temp: 1.9°C, Sea Temp: 3°C



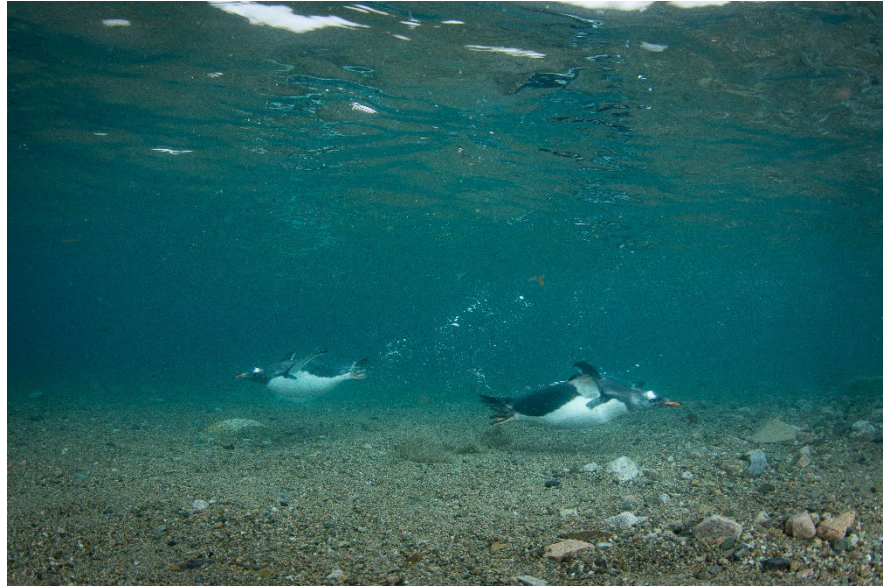
Today began with the anticipation of another thrilling day exploring the pristine landscapes and unique wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula. After a hearty breakfast, we geared up for a split landing and zodiac cruise in the enchanting snowy surroundings of Neko Harbour. As we approached the harbour, the majestic sight of Humpback Whales greeted us. Their

graceful movements in the icy waters left us in awe. The shimmering blue ice and the echoing sounds of cracking ice of the glacial calvings created a surreal atmosphere. A highlight of our time at Neko Harbour was undoubtedly the visit to a Gentoo Penguin colony. Watching these charismatic creatures go about their daily routines was a delightful experience. The divers all wanted to experience Penguins on a dive, so the dive team took this mission up to try and find a perfect dive site to fulfil this wish. At Neko Harbour the divers descended directly in front of the Gentoo colony. They did not have to go deep to see Penguins and they had to patiently wait for the Penguins to occur. When they did, it was an amazing experience for everyone and after the dive, the divers ascended with a huge smile in their face. A truly Antarctic Experience.

After our morning adventure, we returned to the M/V Ortelius for a satisfying lunch, refuelling our energy for the afternoon activities. Our afternoon expedition took us to Cuverville Island, home to the largest Gentoo Penguin colony in the Antarctic Peninsula. The island's rugged beauty and abundant wildlife did not disappoint. As we



explored the area, we were greeted by curious Leopard Seals, their sleek bodies gliding effortlessly through the water. The Humpback Whales made another appearance, their spouts visible in the distance as they surfaced for air. For the afternoon dive, we dove at a wall close to Cuverville Island. During the dive, there was huge kelp towering above around which looked like a mystery underwater



forest. In between these leaves, the divers encountered Seastars, Amphipods, Nudibranchs and Sun Stars. You always have to keep your eye open underwater for the small stuff as there is life on every rock and in every hidden corner. After the dive, there was the chance for the divers to go onshore as well and get close to Gentoo Penguins.



On land, the Gentoo Penguins welcomed us with their characteristic calls and waddling walks, offering us more opportunities for close-up encounters and photographs. As the day began to wind down, we returned to the M/V Ortelius to relax and reflect on the incredible experiences we had. To celebrate another successful day in Antarctica, the crew

organized a special BBQ on the helideck. The atmosphere was lively with laughter, dancing, and camaraderie among fellow expedition members. Underneath the vast Antarctic sky, we enjoyed delicious food, shared stories of the day's adventures, and marvelled at the beauty of our surroundings. As we retired to our cabins tonight, we are filled with gratitude for the unforgettable experiences and the incredible wildlife encounters that Antarctica has offered us today. Looking forward to what tomorrow's adventures will bring!

Day 10 – 25th March

Foyn Harbour and Palaver Point

12:00 GPS Position: 64°20.5'S / 061° 48.1'W

Wind: NE 3, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Clear, Air Temp: 2.4°C, Sea Temp: 2°C



What a wonderful morning to wake up to – sunshine and calm waters for a zodiac cruise. Maybe a good opportunity to get some fresh air after the memorable BBQ yesterday! Foyn Harbour was our first “destination”, named after Sven Foyn, the inventor of the first automatic harpoon used in the whale hunting era. We visited

the remains of “Guvernoren” (Norwegian for “Governor”) a former cattle transport ship, that was turned into a “state of the art” whale factory ship” early 20th century. Disaster struck at the end of the whaling season in 1915, when the crew celebrated a long, hard, and dangerous season with 22.000 gallon/80.000-liters of whale oil onboard. As they were ready to go back to Norway with a fortune in whale oil, the celebration ended in disaster, as an oil lamp was knocked over at a party and the whole ship – and oil set ablaze.

Fortunately, the captain was quick enough to run the ship on a reef, thereby saving the lives of all the crew members – but they stayed wet and cold on the nearby rocks for many hours, until they were rescued by another whaling ship! From wealth to poverty in a few hours!!



As the zodiac cruisers had their share of the “Governor”, the divers



went in and had a chance to see a bigger part of the more than a 100-meter-long whale factory ship. The divers had a beautiful dive diving the shipwreck, the visibility was spectacular and there was so much life over the whole wreck.

The rest of us who stayed at the surface, had a very whaley morning with lots of Humpbacks, either logging on the surface or slowly travelling, giving us all a good chance to enjoy the majestic animals. The afternoon – still in sunshine and calm seas – we went to Palaver Point. The route up the steep hill covered in fresh snow gave us a chance to “warm up” before the Polar Plunge. Chinstraps and Skuas welcomed us, and from the top of the hill, we had the most stunning view over the bay with multiple Humpbacks visible, the glaciers and the snow-covered mountains in the background – what a stunning view! The afternoon dive was at a wall again. Some divers found a smartphone underwater, which someone may have lost on a previous trip. However, the highlight of the dive was at the end, when some divers had the chance to dive / snorkel with Fur Seals. After the dive, there was one more mission; the Polar Plunge. Only a handful divers were brave enough to jump into the water without their comfortable and warm dry suits - well done! The beautiful day gave us the most magnificent sunset, and just as starters were served, a full moon was rising and quite a few of us went outside again to enjoy the view – a lovely sunny day gave way for an equally lovely starry night!

Day 11 – 26th March

Whalers Bay, Deception Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°59.35'S / 060°35.7'W

Wind: SE5, **Sea State:** Slight, **Weather:** Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 0.1°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C



The day started earlier on the outside decks as we were approaching our first and only destination in the South Shetland Islands: an active volcano called Deception Island. The Neptune's

Bellows, entrance to Foster Bay, is very narrow and provided us with spectacular views as the fog added its touch for the dramatic scene. We knew the weather was going to pick up at midday, so we started the operations in Whalers Bay for landing and zodiac cruise as soon as we were at anchor.

The landscape at Whalers Bay seemed a different planet with its dark coloured sand, whale bones everywhere and hundreds of Fur Seals resting on the beach as we walked in a snow blizzard. The human and historical factor in this area was shocking, with destroyed old huts and rusty abandoned calderas and tanks that used to be used during whaling times at the beginning of 20th century. This has been completely different from everything we saw during the trip so far, and finishing our Antarctic exploration



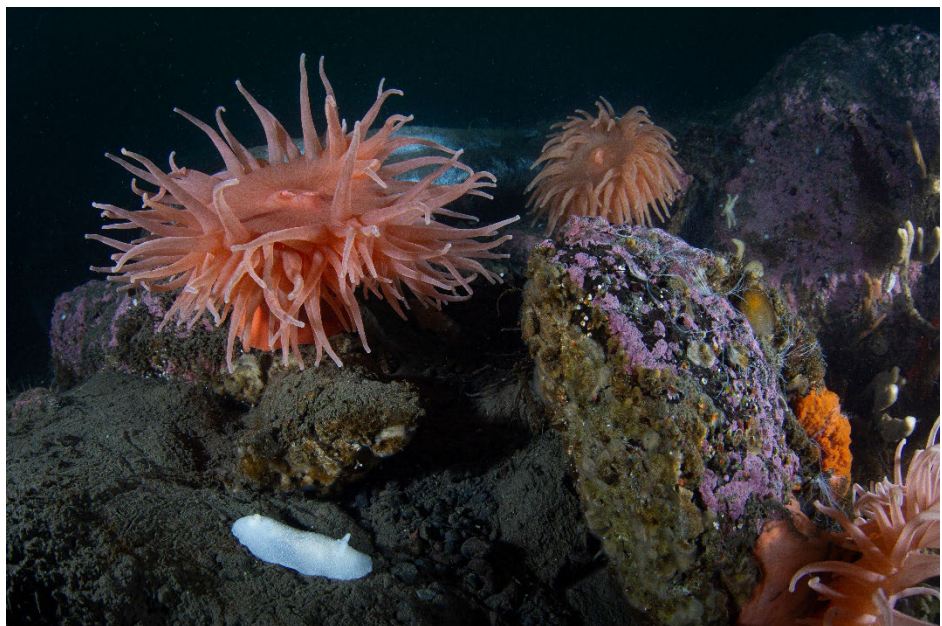
there made us think about all the history and slaughter that happened as well. It made us appreciate much more of the amazing and close whale encounters we have had. We also had the chance to zodiac cruise through the bellows (entrance of Deception Island) to the towering cliffs up close. Our guides mentioned that usually we don't cruise there, so we felt really special to be able to do it.



Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and it was already time for the last dive. The divers had the opportunity to dive here at Deception Island. This history can be seen underwater. A lot of bones from the Whales are still laying on the ocean ground and they create an eery feeling, knowing what happened at this place during

earlier years. Otherwise, this dive site was different than the ones more south as it had more soft corals and a lot of brittle stars which covered the ground. Some divers even had the chance to snorkel with Fur Seals at the end of their dive. After the dive, there was the possibility to quickly go onshore and after returning to Ortelius, the divers had to clean all their equipment, bring back their weights and store the equipment for drying. Another amazing trip comes to the end and there are 24 more divers which has experienced this continent from below the surface.

After that, we came back onboard Ortelius for lunch. We already knew that there would not be any afternoon operations outside as the weather forecast for the Drake passage seems horrible and Captain Toni wanted to do his best to try to outrun the purple monster, where winds of over 70knots and waves of 10m could be hitting us. We all understood and appreciated the idea of making the last



Drake crossing as pleasant as possible, so we finally said goodbye to Antarctica and started

heading North. During the afternoon, our Expedition Leader Sara gave a wonderful and worrying presentation about marine threats, so we finished our day with even more reflective thoughts. Daily recap, dinner was the last order of the day before hitting the Drake's Passage.

Thank you for everything Antarctica.

Day 12 – 27th March

At Sea heading to Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 59°25.7'S / 063°29.3'W

Wind: SW 10, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



Today we woke up after being a little shaken in the night, the waves were between 3 and 5 metres which unfortunately some were feeling more than others.

Nevertheless, we plugged on, went to breakfast and did our best to attend the lectures. First up was Juan on photo editing, it was very interesting to learn how he edit the photos as he is a professional. Next on the lecture

programme was Charlotte, who told us about feeding, breeding and diving capabilities of Whales.

Then came the famous 'lunch is ready, lunch is ready please join us in dining room', not that we needed it, but we still managed to fill our plates and our stomachs with the buffet. The divers had to have a debrief, so they cracked on with that while the rest of us restocked our energy supply with a short nap. Late afternoon Jens told us the fascinating story of Shackleton and the Endurance, we were



completely gripped by this triumphant story. At recap Mike showed some beautiful images from the diving this week which showed colourful Sea Stars, Nudibranchs and Limpets. We had a relaxing and quiet dinner as the sea joyfully rocked us during each course.

Day 13 – 28th March

At sea towards Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 55°35.8'S / 65 53. 5'W

Wind: NNW 8, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 8°C, **Sea Temp:** 12°C



This morning we woke up feeling a million times more human than yesterday, we were ready to face the day and just wanted to enjoy a relaxing day on the ship without feeling the motion of the ocean. It started with breakfast; tea, coffee and eggs. Then Laurence gave an interesting talk on Bathymetry

where he delved into the realm of mapping and detailing the ocean floor. Katlyn then spoke to us about Whales as ecosystem engineers in the worlds' oceans. Lunch followed shortly after, did we really need more food? No, but did we eat more food? Yes. We then auctioned the flag which went for The money would go to the crew fund. We had our final lecture from Jakub with 'Future of Ice' he is such an intelligent man. At 1815 dressed up in our suits and gowns we went to the bar to have our Captain's farewell, to say thank you to the staff for taking us on this voyage and to watch the slideshow, the phenomenal piece of art Misha had put together. At dinner we said our thank you's to the crew and ate and drank in smiles and laughter as we rolled into the Beagle Channel.

Day 14 – 29th March

Disembarkation, Ushuaia

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

Wind: NW 4, **Sea State:** Rippled, **Weather:** Cloudy and raining **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 12°C

Well, here we are back in Ushuaia, and it is time to leave Ortelius. At 0830 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.

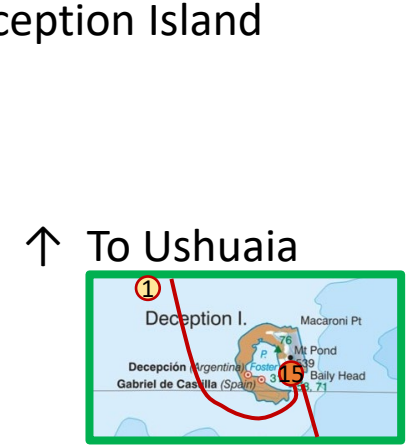
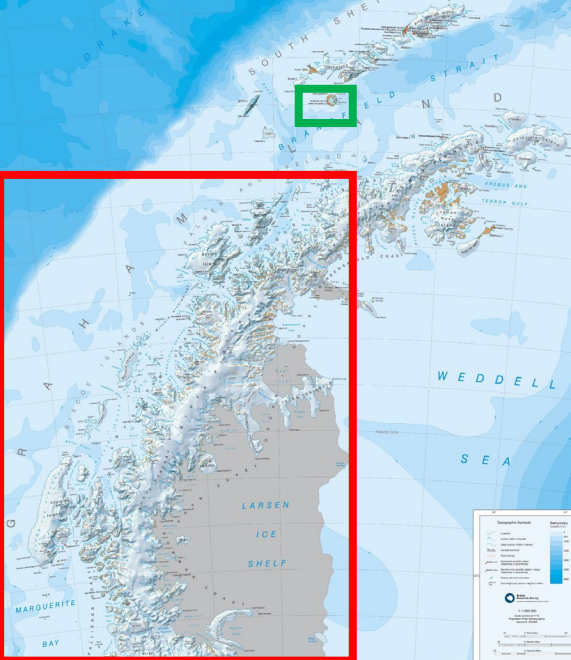
Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous Antarctica voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!



Total distance sailed: 2255 nautical miles
Farthest south: 68°12.77'S / 067°16.4'W

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





Site number	Date	Place
1	16/3	Ushuaia – Embarkation
2	19/3	Pléneau Island and Iceberg Graveyard – Zodiac cruise
3	19/3	Port Charcot - Landing
4	20/3	Detaille Island - Landing
5	20/3	The Gullet – Ship cruise
6	21/3	Pourquoi Pas Island – Zodiac cruise
7	21/3	Horseshoe Island - Landing
8	22/3	Stonington Island – Landing
9	23/3	Fish Islands and Prospect Point – Zodiac cruise and Landing
10	23/3	Duchaylard Island – Zodiac cruise
11	24/3	Neko Harbour – Landing and Zodiac cruise
12	24/3	Cuverville Island – Landing and Zodiac cruise
13	25/3	Foyn Harbour – Zodiac cruise
14	25/3	Palaver Point – Landing
15	26/3	Deception Island – Whaler’s Bay – Landing and Zodiac cruise
16	29/3	Ushuaia – disembarkation

Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		x										x	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>			x								x	x	
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>												x	x
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>													
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	x												x
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				x	x	x	x			x	x		
Snowy (Pale-faced) Shearwater	<i>Chionis alba</i>				x							x		
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	x												
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>													
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	x												
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	x												
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	x												

Marine mammals		16-Mar	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>													
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>				x	x								
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>													
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>			x								x	x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>													x
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>												x	
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>													
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>		x			x	x		x					
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>					x						x		
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>													
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>													
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>													
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				x	x			x	x				
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>				x	x	x	x	x					
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>					x	x		x	x				

Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Laurence Dyke – Assistant Expedition Leader



Laurence is from Cornwall in the far southwest of the UK and grew up on the coast, never far from the water and boats.

Laurence has a background as a geographer with a special focus in glaciology, a choice inspired by seeing a glacier up close for the first time in the Austrian Alps.

For the last 7 years he has worked in science, both in the UK and Denmark, working to understand how and why huge glacier systems in Greenland have changed in the past. Understanding how the cryosphere has changed is crucial for predicting what will happen in the future.

Laurence first visited the Arctic in 2010 whilst undertaking research for his PhD and was immediately captivated by the wild landscapes of the high latitudes. His subsequent research has taken him on numerous expeditions to remote areas of Greenland, Svalbard, and Arctic Canada.

Laurence is also a passionate advocate for polar science, when time allows he produces videos and articles about research from Greenland and the wider Arctic. Laurence lectures in glaciology and geography.

Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide



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.

Jakub Małecki - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



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.

Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide



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.

Gonzalo Sabattini - Dive Guide



Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star

Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenty's Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top off diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



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.

Mike Pumm - Dive Team Leader



Mike was born in Switzerland in 1987. He is the managing director and diving instructor at Tauch-Treff Zug in central Switzerland. In his free time he dives several times a week, preferring technical diving and cave diving in different regions of the world.

He had the opportunity to live in Honduras on the island of Roatan for a few years and managed a dive resort there.

Since his time in the Caribbean, he has preferred the colder regions of our world and in 2016 he had the privilege to travel

to Antarctica for the first time, as a guest with Oceanwide Expeditions. Since then he has been traveling every year as a dive guide, dive team leader or regular expedition guide with Oceanwide Expeditions - no matter if he is in the Arctic or Antarctic, he just loves ice and the cold!

He is really looking forward to sharing this special part of the world with you, and especially sharing his love of what lies beneath the surface!

Mikhail Barabanov – Expedition Guide



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.

Dimitris Sotirakis – Dive Guide



Dimitris is a scuba diving instructor from Greece. He has 5 years' experience of teaching, leading and driving Zodiacs in the Mediterranean sea.

Most of his career work has been at one of the most popular and busy dive centres in Greece, located at Naxos. His responsibilities there, ranged from teaching the introductory 'Discover Scuba' programme to Dive Master courses. Whilst working there he gained invaluable Zodiac driving experience, driving in some of the worse conditions that the Mediterranean sea can throw at you. He was also responsible for the

servicing of the regulators, BCD's and tanks.

Since leaving Greece he has been working as a tour guide in Silfra in Iceland, leading snorkelling, and diving tours into the fissure between the two tectonic plates. This is where he has found his new passion for a cold environment and polar diving.

Besides diving Dimitris is also very passionate about motorcycles. He likes to drive his motorbike around the islands of Greece and is always exploring new places on two wheels.

During the winter months he also enjoys leading Snowmobile tours at the second largest glacier in Europe located in Iceland, langjökull, which means long glacier in Icelandic.

Dimitris is really looking forward to sharing this incredible adventure with you and helping to explore new places, both above and below the surface.

André Fahrni – Dive guide



André grew up in Switzerland – a country used to snow and the cold but not a very obvious place to dive. In 1999 it happened anyway: Even though it was in the warm waters of Indonesia he started to dive and fell in love with the underwater world.

Becoming a dive instructor a few years later opened the door for André to work and live abroad. So he did on the Philippines, Maldives and Sweden.

It was 2012 when this passion brought him to Antarctica. First as a guest and ever since as a dive guide for Oceanwide Expeditions. He probably spent more time diving or supervising other divers than being on shore.

Since the opening in 2017, he is co-owner of a dive shop and dive school in Zurich. So today he is enjoying working as a guide as well as leading a business and bringing his own clients to the Oceanwide Expeditions family.

The team spirit within the crew, the mind-blowing beauty of Antarctica and the priceless experiences he can help to offer to the guests are only two reasons to come back over and over again.

André is a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, Emergency First Respond Instructor and holds several Specialty Instructor certifications. He is also a certified Trimix diver and recently fell in love with his Horizon Semi Closed Rebreather.

Dirk Houtman – Ship’s Doctor



Drs. Dirk Houtman is an experienced emergency physician from the Netherlands with has had a love for watersports and diving since his childhood.

He has been a volunteer doctor on board of “De Eendracht” a three-masted schooner for several years and is, among other credentials, an Advanced Wilderness Life Support (AWLS) and Dive and Marine Life support (DMLS) certified medic.

Besides the above he takes fulfilment in practicing medicine in remote areas and events. He has worked in different hospitals in the Netherlands and the Caribbean and recently travelled to the Amazon to work as a volunteer in a regional hospital.

He also gives lectures about emergency critical care and physician wellbeing and occasionally attends sporting events as a medic.

Set aside his medical skills, he enjoys reading, cooking, soccer and exploring different cuisines. He lives in the Netherlands with his fiancé and his three daughters.

Whilst onboard the M/V Plancius in the Arctic, he caught the ‘Polar Bug’, and decided he wanted to spend more time in the beautiful polar regions, and can’t wait to share this adventure with you.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage Welcome aboard!

Date: 16th 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



Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 17th 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.
- 09:15 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.
- 10:00 Please could the **Divers from TSK Zürich** meet the Dive Team in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Dive briefing**; this will be followed by a gear fitting session in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6.
- 11:30 Katyln invites you to join her in the Bar for a presentation about Whales and Dolphins in the Southern Ocean.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30 Please could **all other Divers** meet the Dive Team in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Dive briefing**; this will be followed by a gear fitting session in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6.
- 14:30 Please join Juan in the Bar on Deck 6 for an Introduction to Polar Photography.
- 16:15 Please join Laurence in the Bar for an Introduction to Antarctica.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen 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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 18th 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 Lucia in the Bar for a presentation about Penguins.
- 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.
- 14:00+/- Please could **the divers** meet the Dive team up in the Heli Hanger once they have completed the IAATO biosecurity inspection.
- 16:15 Sara and Chief Engineer Floris invite you to the Bar for a presentation about the M/V Ortelius, a look behind the scenes of how a polar expedition vessel works.
- 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.

"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

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 19th March 2024

Day 4: Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot, and the Iceberg Graveyard.

06:45 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 Kodak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photographic parts of the Antarctic Peninsula.

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

09:00 Please could **the divers** meet the dive team on the Zodiac deck on Deck 5 to help load the Zodiacs with kit.

09:00+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of the Iceberg Graveyard.

Please ensure you are dressed in waterproofs and your life jacket is fastened securely before approaching reception. Remember to swipe out with your cabin card and disinfect your Muck Boots in the Virkon solution provided at the gangway.

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

13:15 Please could **the divers** meet the dive team on the Zodiac deck on Deck 5 to help load the Zodiacs with kit.

13:30+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** for a landing at Port Charcot.

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



Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 20th March 2024

Day 5: Detaille Island and the Gullet

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:30 We would like to invite you for a landing at Detaille Island. We are limited to 12 people inside the historic hut at once so please be patient. We advise you bring a torch or head light with you to use in the hut. You will be required to clean your boots before entering the hut and will need to leave your rucksacks and camera bags outside. All guests will also be offered a short Zodiac cruise, either before or after visiting the hut.
- 09:45 Please could the divers be ready at the gangway.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 15:00 Charlotte invites you to the Bar for a lecture about Seals of the Southern Ocean.
- During the later part of the afternoon, we will be sailing through The Gullet. This scenically stunning channel runs between the southern edge of Hansen Island and Adelaide Island and offers dramatic scenery and the chance of iconic wildlife, we encourage you to enjoy this navigation from the outside decks.
- 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.
- 20:30 Please can the divers meet the dive team in the Bar for a pre dive briefing.

"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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 21st March 2024

Day 6: Pourqoui Pas Island and Horseshoe Island

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite all guests for a Zodiac cruise around Pourqoui Pas Island
- 09:00+ Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:15+/- We would like to invite you to the gangway for a landing at Horseshoe Island.
- We are limited to 12 people inside the historic hut at once so please be patient. We advise you bring a torch or head light with you to use in the hut. You will be required to clean your boots before entering the hut and will need to leave your rucksacks and camera bags outside.
- 14:45+/- Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 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.
- 20:30 Please can the divers meet in the Bar for a pre dive meeting.

"I have often had the impression that, to penguins, man is just another penguin, occasionally violent, but tolerable company when he sits still and minds his own business." - Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 22nd March 2024

Day 7: Stonington Island

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

07:30-08:15 We invite all guests to the gangway for a landing at Stonington Island.

07:45 Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.

Please note all plans and timings are dependent on the weather and we expect changes tomorrow so listen to announcements before getting ready and coming to the gangway.

10:45 Jens will give a presentation in the Bar titled 'A Race to the South Pole'.

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

14:30 Misha will give a lecture in the Bar about Marine mammal acoustics.

16:15 Luisa will give a presentation in the Bar about Krill, the cornerstone creature of Antarctica.

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.

*"The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is incomprehensible."
- Albert Einstein*



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 23rd March 2024

Day 8: Fish Islands and Crystal Sound

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:45+/- We would like to invite all guests for a Zodiac cruise around Fish Islands.

09:00+ Please could the divers be ready at the gangway.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

An expedition afternoon in Crystal Sound. We will be looking for wildlife and seeing if there are any options for any off-ship activities so please listen to announcements.

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.

20:30 Please can the divers meet in the Bar for a pre dive meeting.

“The first great thing is to find yourself and for that you need solitude and contemplation -at least sometimes. I can tell you deliverance will not come from the rushing noisy centers of civilization. It will come from lonely places”.
- Fridtjof Nansen.



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 24th March 2024

Day 9: Neko Harbour and Cuverville Island

- 07:15 Wakeup call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite all guests for a landing at Neko Harbour. The last three Zodiacs will do a short Zodiac cruise before coming ashore, all other guests will be given this opportunity during the morning.
- 09:00+ Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:15+/- Please be ready at the gangway for a landing at Cuverville Island. The last three Zodiacs will do a short Zodiac cruise before coming ashore, all other guests will be given this opportunity during the afternoon.
- 14:30+/- Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap. **The divers** will meet directly after recap in the Bar for their pre dive meeting.
- 18:45 Dinner will be served outside, please dress warmly.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide a free bus to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests on afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center (1163 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. No tags are required, indicate your luggage at the pier, and ensure the stewadors load in the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or are 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.

"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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 25th March 2024

Day 10: Foyn Harbour and Palaver Point

- 07:15 Wakeup call.
- 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 for a Zodiac cruise of Foyn Harbour.
- 08:45+/- Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:30+/- We would like to invite you to the gangway for a landing at Palaver Point.
- 14:45+/- Please could **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 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.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:15 We will show a short film (10 mins) about the last eruption of Deception Island and its whaling history in the Bar.
- 20:30 Please can **the divers** meet in the Bar for a pre dive meeting.

*"How can you expect a man who's warm to understand one who's cold?" -
Alexander Solzhenitsyn*



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 26th March 2024

Day 11: Deception Island, Whalers Bay.

- 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.
- 08:30+/- We hope to take you ashore for a landing at Whalers Bay inside Deception Island. If the weather permits, we may be able to offer a short Zodiac cruise into Neptune's Bellows as a part of the mornings' activity, this will be confirmed on arrival.
- 08:45 Please can **the divers** be ready at the gangway.
- 12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 13:00 We will call to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots and Zodiac Lifejackets, please listen for announcements.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Marine Threats.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

"This we know, the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."
- Chief Sealth



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 27th March 2024

Day 12: Drake Passage

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Please join Juan in the Bar for his lecture about Photo Editing. After this Mikhail and Juan will be available to collect your photo submissions for the competition in the Bar till 11am.

11:15 Charlotte invites you to the Bar for a presentation about the 'Feeding, breeding, and diving capabilities of whales.

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

13:30 Please can the **Belgium divers** meet in the Lecture Room for a debrief.

13:45 Please can the **TSK** divers meet in the Lecture Room for a debrief.

16:15 Jens invites you to join him in the Bar for a presentation titled 'Shackleton – The Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition'.

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.

20:30 Mikhail will announce the results of the photo competition up in the Bar.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide a free bus to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests on afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center (1163 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. No tags are required, indicate your luggage at the pier, and ensure the stewadors load in the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or are 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*



Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 28th March 2024

Day 13: 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 in the Bar for a presentation about High latitude bathymetry – exploring what lies beneath the waves.

11:30 Katyln would like you to join her in the Bar for her presentation about Whales as Ecosystem Engineers.

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

16:00-18:00 Silent Auction bidding for the Signed Ships' Flag - Please place your top bid, with your name and cabin number in the question box in the Bar.

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 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



DAILY PROGRAM

Antarctica - Polar Circle Deep South Discovery Voyage

Date: 29th March 2024

Day 14: 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." - Thorton Wilder